

Summer Camp 2011

Overview

For the 43rd consecutive year, our troop will be attending Summer Camp at Pioneer Scout Reservation from July 10th through the 16th. We have reserved Beard Campsite for our 2011 camping experience. This site has platforms and camp tents and overlooks the COSA Area near the parking lot. Though we hope it does not rain while we are at camp, we do use these camp tents that are more durable than those previously owned by the troop.

The first year at summer camp is always a concern for parents and scouts alike. As with all endeavors, a scout will get out of camp what he puts into it. Above all, summer camp is an opportunity to have fun while learning new skills and becoming more self reliant.

As a troop, we are registered as a "Plan B" unit. This means that we will cook and eat at our camp site with our patrols. The food is provided by the camp and will be dropped off before meals for the scouts to cook. This may sound like a daunting task, but with all scouts working together, with guidance from the adults, we do survive. As the week progresses, so does the quality of the meals prepared. Cooking our own meals also reduces cost for attendance at camp and provides opportunities toward rank advancement.

Fees

Summer camp fees this year are **\$233 per scout (minus \$53 paid by troop committee) = \$180**. Erie Shores Council is offering an additional reduction of \$20 per scout discount if paid in full before May 13, 2011, reducing the fee for summer camp to **\$160.00**. There is an additional \$10 reduction for a second or third brother that may attend camp. In summary:

Final Summer Camp fees if paid before 5/09/2011 at our meeting:

First Scout: \$160

Second scout \$150

Note that the above listed fee does take into account offset provided by Troop 167 committee for each scout of \$53. Fees paid after the early bird deadline will increase by \$20.00.

Merit Badge (MB) fees are based on the current MB schedule. Fee amounts will be noted at the scout meeting on **6/20/11** with MB fees being paid to the Troop cashiers before departure to camp.

General Schedule:

- **Sunday Departure** for Summer Camp will be from the parking lot near Sears (next to Kroger's) at 11:30 A.M. with our arrival @ Pioneer Scout Reservation approximately an hour and a half later.
- **Sunday afternoon** includes camp set up, orientation and the required swim test along with the opening campfire prepared by the camp staff.

- **All week** the scouts participate in MB classes and activities including: troop swims, working to achieve the Baden Powell Award, a service project, and opportunities for repelling and hiking.
- **Wednesday evening** is Family Night beginning @ 4:00 P.M. Parents and family can visit with the scouts and tour the camp; then have dinner, cooked by our scouts, at our campsite @ 6:00 P.M. followed by the Order of the Arrow Call Out Ceremony which will occur at dusk. Family members can attend, then return home. The Root Beer Float Cantina opens following the ceremony. Bring additional money for these floats as they come in souvenir mugs. Pizza and possibly other items will be sold as well.
- **Saturday A.M. Departure** includes camp breakdown and departure for home as close to 9:45 A.M. as possible
- **Saturday Arrival** at St. Rose Church in Perrysburg on Saturday near noon. All scouts are requested to return to church to assist in securing all gear from the week's activities and sort out any misplaced items.

Advancement Opportunities

As highlighted above, there are several areas in camp that are open to the scouts. For the new scouts, there is the starting place. As mentioned, it is our goal to work with the scouts and provide the opportunity to reach the rank of First Class Scout within one year.

The scouts will also have the opportunity and be encouraged to participate in activities in open times at the pool and at the lake along with all other activity areas.

During our time at camp, the first year scouts will be encouraged to work toward requirements for ranks through First Class. Activities that we will participate in include: a 5 mile hike, a 1 mile compass course, and a special outpost, which will provide them the opportunity to prepare and cook a meal over an open fire.

The program guide developed by the camp provides a list of "Recommended Merit Badges" for the first year scouts. I would recommend that this list be reviewed and scouts try to limit their MB experience to a maximum of 3 MBs to allow work toward rank advancement.

We have set time aside each day to meet at the "Starting Place." The area includes all materials to allow leaders and older scouts to provide hands on instructions for new scouts. This is a five minute walk from our campsite.

I strongly recommend that all new scouts take the swimming MB. Being a swimmer provides opportunity to participate in all aquatic activities at the pool, as well as, at the lake including: open swims, canoeing, rowing, enjoying the zip lines, "the iceberg," and the "Blob."

I have attached a planning list for scouts to use in determining their individual programs for the week. Many MBs are offered at more than one time. If a scout wishes to take a MB at same time as a friend of his, it would be a good idea to coordinate. We will be able to submit MB requests electronically as of May 1, 2010. As one would expect, the older scouts working toward Eagle will be given priority with respect to many of the required Eagle Scout MBs. We will be advised about three weeks before camp begins if

any scout was not placed in a selected MB class. If that occurs, a list of open classes will be provided.

Please be aware that some MBs have fees. This may be due to materials that are needed or kits which need to be purchased so as to complete the merit badge. In addition, there may be "pre-requisites" that must be completed for a selected MB before attending camp to complete the work. If your son does not finish all work for a MB, they will be awarded a partial for their efforts, but will not receive the MB. We will scan all forms after camp to insure we have records for future reference.

Family Night

Wednesday is family night. Camp is opened to all family and guests as of 4:00 P.M. All are invited to attend dinner @ 6:00 P.M. with the troop at our site. The scouts will cook the main course. All families will be asked to bring a dish to pass. A pot luck sign-up sheet will be available at the final Monday meeting or via an e-mail before the scouts leave for camp. Families will have the opportunity to tour camp with their sons and spend the evening together. There will be an Order of the Arrow Call Out Ceremony at dusk which will last about 60 minutes. We suggest that families bring flashlights and bug repellent.

What to Bring to Camp

I have attached a list of equipment that all scouts should bring to camp. It is important that as parents, you review the list of articles and help your son decide what he needs. All scouts will be required to carry their own gear to and from the camp site which is next the main parking lot.

It is also important that you take a few minutes and label your son's equipment and clothing. Each year we collect clothes and equipment that are unclaimed by scouts, if labeled with your son's initials, it improves the chances these items will be returned.

Please remember that ALL electronics are required to be left at home. If your son is found to have an electronic device with them, it will be confiscated and returned upon arrival at St. Rose Church on Saturday afternoon. It is very possible for a scout to enjoy camp without them and it also prevents possible loss or damage to the items.