

# Summer Camp 2009

Well, summer camp is here once again.

Here is a list of recommended items to take to camp.

## *What to Bring to Camp*

Pack everything in a lockable trunk or duffel bag and, please, put your name and troop number on all clothing and gear. This will make it easier to take home what you brought with you. (Well...)

### **Scout Uniform**

- Shirt - Insignias, Patches in correct positions
- Scout Shorts (or Long Pants) - Green.
- Scout socks
- Scout belt
- Hiking shoes/boots/casual shoes
- Wire Coat Hanger (So the shirt will look semi presentable by Tuesday!!)

### **Clothing**

- Socks - plenty
- Tee-shirts – a lot.
- Extra underwear - many
- Extra shoes – Just in case. Yes....specially for inner tubing!!
- Rain gear – Although the rain is usually welcomed in August!
- Bathing suit – Health regulations forbids going into the pool just with your birthday suit.

### **Toiletries**

- Soap in a carrier (just in case you use it)
- Towel for swimming (never swan on a towel?)
- Towel and washcloth – For those occasional showers at night!
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste (Guarantee! will be almost brand new by Sunday)
- Comb or brush (For what?)
- Shampoo and conditioner (yeah...)
- Shaving cream and razor (for those that *may* need it, bring extras....we need them)

**· SUN BLOCK, SUN BLOCK, SUN BLOCK,  
SUN BLOCK**

**Camping Gear**

- Flashlight & Batteries
- Utensils (for the Raman soup!)
- Water bottle (very important)

### **Bedding**

- Mattress (inflatable, of course) or foam pad
- Sleeping bag
- Blankets (Although is August, one can never be sure)
- Pillow(s) and case

### **Other Optional Items**

- Pocket knife (one is enough!)
- Notebook and pencils (For Merit Badges)
- Books (Catch up in your Summer reading!)
- Compass
- Camera
- Scout Handbook (ha!!)
- Baseball Glove & Ball, football, soccer ball....
- Musical Instruments.
- **Cards, board games**
- **Fishing gear.**

### ***What NOT to bring to camp***

- An attitude! Leave it at home.
- Video players, electronic games, portable computers etc... this is the time to rest from these every day conveniences! These items will be confiscated if you use them. MP3 players are allowed as long as you don't disturb others.
- Pets. Please leave Fido at home!
- Cell phones are ok to have at camp in case parents need to get a hold of their scouts. Service is not the greatest and we will encourage the boys NOT to call home just to say hello. We would like parents to avoid calling their scouts every day, several times a day. You can email your scout by following the link "Email to a Horseshoe Camper" on the Camp's website at <http://www.hsr-bsa.org/> Also a camera, which snaps pictures of the parade field at regular intervals, can be accessed at above mentioned web address. We will be at Sherwood Forest Campsite.

### **Information for Leaders and Parents (\*)**

#### *Sunday Drop-Off and Pick-Up*

Please plan on arriving no earlier than 1:00 pm or later than 2:00 pm to drop your Scout off. A staff member will direct you to a drop-off point where gear should be promptly unloaded and the car immediately returned to the main parking lot.

You may then return to the site to visit your son. Please help us make check-in as smooth as possible for you and other parents by strictly following these guidelines.

At the end of your Scout's week in camp, please be to camp by 12:45 pm and pick up your son at the same point you left him. Again, please observe our "no parking" signs and keep traffic moving. Your cooperation is appreciated.

#### *Visiting and Leaving Camp*

As part of the BSA Child Abuse Prevention Program we ask that all visitors sign in at our headquarters building.

If a scout is to leave camp for any reason he must sign out at headquarters. If he is to leave camp with anyone who is not his parent/guardian we must have a signed parent/guardian release form. Any individuals removing a Scout from camp must identify themselves with adequate identification prior to leaving camp.

Saturday from 2:30 pm until the awards campfire is over (usually 10:00 pm) parents are invited to visit camp to see what your Scout has been doing all week. There is a Camp wide Inter-Troop Contest in the afternoon, a retreat ceremony at 5:45 pm, and an awards campfire at 8:30 pm. Plan on a lot of walking, bring a flashlight and a jacket, be prepared for rain, and bring along a picnic dinner. We encourage you to make an effort to come out and spend the afternoon and evening with your son, this is a special day and it culminates with a truly impressive campfire and awards ceremony. However, ***The scouts are not to leave camp at this time as camp departure is on Sunday August 16th after Chapel Service, Camp cleanup and lunch.***

Visitations at any other times than Sunday check in/check out, Thursday evening and Saturday afternoons are allowed only in extraordinary circumstances or for emergencies. Please contact camp prior to arrival for such visits. Under no circumstances may children or adults not registered as Scouts or Scout leaders spend the night in camp. **For youth protection and liability issues, there are no exceptions to this rule.**

#### *Why attend summer camp?*

A comprehensive study conducted for the BSA by Harris Interactive shows that a week of Boy Scout summer camp is more than just six days of good, clean fun. In fact, a summer camp environment provides Scouts with significant opportunities for growth in six critical areas necessary for healthy youth development.

The study covered 106 camps across the country, analyzing input from 10,034 on-site daily journals completed by Boy Scouts and post-camp surveys of 4,491 volunteer camp leaders and 5,299 parents of Scouts who attended camp.

The camper journals specifically reveal how Scout camp addresses all six key elements for healthy youth development:

**Strong personal values and character.** At camp, boys are encouraged to take a part in decisions that affect others, contemplate their relationship with God, reflect on personal values, and participate in patriotic activities.

**A positive sense of self-worth and usefulness.** Boys help by cleaning up campsites and after meals and by serving food. A majority received praise and compliments from others, and 78 percent reported that they "accomplished something worthwhile" during camp.

**Caring and nurturing relationships with adults and peers.** Most Scouts reported making a new friend or becoming better friends with someone at camp. Many also talked with an adult leader to seek advice.

**Learning.** Camp is a fun and challenging outdoor classroom where 86 percent of boys tried something they had never tried before; 71 percent said they tested their mental/thinking abilities.

**Productive and creative use of time.** Nearly 90 percent of boys said they worked with others on a task or badge, and 83 percent reported completing a merit badge at camp.

**Social adeptness.** Team-building activities and situations resulted in 73 percent of campers collaborating with other youth on accomplishments, 64 percent participating in group decision making and activities, and 53 percent helping to resolve interpersonal conflicts. Leaders and parents The study found that adult leaders also grow and learn while at camp. Most felt they "played a role in helping young people succeed/grow" (96 percent), and 82 percent said they increased their understanding of today's youth while at camp. Most of them also reported building friendships with and learning from other adults, feeling close to nature, reducing stress, and having fun.

Parents reported that camp resulted in a positive change in their sons (81 percent), noting growth in self-esteem and skills learned, and increased levels of personal responsibility.

And 96 percent said they would recommend to other parents that their sons attend Scout summer camp.

(\*) From the 2009 Horseshoe Camp rules and regulations.