

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHILE PREPARING FOR SUMMER CAMP

CONTACTING YOUR SON: First and foremost: there will be no cell phones carried by youth or adult in the campsite. In the past, youngsters have decided to “phone home” when they start to get that old “homesick” feeling. This has created problems for Scouters, boys and parents. Encourage your son to WRITE HOME if he feels homesick. Just like the old days in the military, mail call takes place nightly at dinner formation. PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR SON! It means more than you know even if they don’t tell you that. To hear their name called out, and to run out in front of the assembled masses to get a LETTER FROM HOME is a real treat. Send your first letter on Friday BEFORE HE LEAVES for camp so he has mail early in the week. Don’t send any after Wednesday.

MONEY, ETC.: Scoutmasters cannot control what your sons spend money on at Summer Camp. What often happens is parents send money for the week to be used for Merit badge supplies, etc. and the Scout “misappropriates” the funds for soda or candy at the Tradin’ Post. Scoutmasters will not “loan” money to boys who don’t have it at camp. The boy must be responsible for his finances and if the cash is squandered and it keeps him from earning a badge because he can’t buy the materials, then that is a consequence of his decisions.

I strongly urge you to set limits and expectations on the use of money brought to camp. Every boy will want to go to the Tradin’ Post for a soda or a Milky Way and it’s OK for them to do so. It’s Scout Camp, not Boot Camp. However, blowing \$15.00 by Tuesday buying candy is not only unwise, it’s unhealthy. Yes, some of us have been at the sink in the middle of the night with boys who are taking a second look at a pound of Sweet Tarts.

SOUVENIRS: T-shirts are a great souvenir of the week and generally run between \$10 and \$15 dollars. Hats and mugs are also available. Count on your son wanting to bring home some reminder of his week.

KNIVES AT CAMP: I strongly urge you to **PROHIBIT** your son from purchasing any knives while at Camp. First of all, the quality of the product is terrible. Second, newly purchased knives just will not stay in pockets and end up lost. Using knives safely is a privilege, not a right. Scoutmasters will confiscate any knife being used in an unsafe manner.

MERIT BADGES: Boys must expect to take care of themselves to a large extent. Scoutmasters will be rotating among all of the activities each day to make sure boys are where they should be. However, this does not guarantee the boy is accomplishing everything needed for the badges. The boys must take care of themselves, getting to class on time, participating and doing what is needed to earn the Merit Badge. We will be told if a boy is not showing up, but often they have already missed out on a critical skill.

If a boy is struggling with a skill or needs to test/practice in camp, tell your son that they must alert their Senior Patrol Leader so appropriate help can be given. Some badges cannot be completed in camp. We will be given a sheet of requirements met and not met for each boy at the end of the week. All unmet requirements must be completed upon returning home.

COMMUNAL LIVING: Please put your sons name on everything brought to camp!! This will greatly reduce the probability of loss. We will be hanging towels and swim trunks on clotheslines to dry; make sure your son knows where to look for his name. Camp chairs are very inexpensive and very popular with the boys, but not every boy has one. Many arguments take place over folding chairs at the campfire. Please put an identifying mark on your son’s camp chair and the carrying bag to prevent arguments.

LAUNDRY: I encourage you to provide a breathable mesh bag for your son to put dirty laundry in. We will inspect the tents to see to try to maintain a semblance of order. Providing a means of storing dirty clothes is the one thing that will help keep a tent neat. Plastic coat hangers will allow some things to be aired out for use the next day. There are very limited laundry facilities in camp, but the competition for use is fierce. Plan on a full load of laundry upon our return.

CAMPFIRE FRIDAY NIGHT: Everyone is welcome to come up and visit at camp any time. Friday night has a very entertaining campfire program with awards and recognition. Feel free to come up this night.

HOWEVER, if you feel your son may have a traumatic experience and might beg to return home with you on Friday night, you may want to consider visiting earlier in the week. A requirement for consideration in the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s honor society, is that the boy must have spent 6 nights at summer camp. Leaving on Friday will cause that requirement to be missed.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN URGENT NEED TO CONTACT CAMP, CALL THE
CAMP DIRECTOR AT (865) 354-4740**