



CAMPING

The Outdoor Adventure Continues



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Where, but in the great outdoors, can a boy hear the midnight hush of the deep woods...breathe the sweetness of distant wood-smoke...look down in awe at where he's been, and look up in wonder at where he still must go...glimpse the deer drinking at first light...watch eagles soaring in a cloudless sky...feel the warmth of the campfire as it glows orange against the thickening darkness...and at the end of a long day, hear the hooting owl under a sky flashing with stars? Who can say that in such an atmosphere a boy's mind is not reached, his faith not freshened, or his heart not stirred? Or that, in ways that are a mystery to us all, he will not grow closer to the man he is becoming? When you witness these experiences that help start a young boy on his journey into manhood, who can say that you, his guide and mentor, will not be changed in some small way, as well? To be a part of that experience is one of the greatest rewards that adults can reap from their leadership roles in the Boy Scouts of America. Don't miss out – share the adventure of summer camp with your troop!



What Is Boy Scout Camp?

Boy Scout camps come in all sorts of sizes and locations. Some lie in deep forests, or at the base of high, windy peaks. Others are tucked back in the woods along rivers and lakes. Still others may lie in a desert or along a seashore. But they all have one thing in common—they offer as much adventure and excitement as a Scout can have anywhere.

At summer camp, the boys come closer to the natural world and to one another. They explore trails and sharpen skills together. Here, in the outdoors, Scouts learn to understand and respect the environment we all share, and develop an active concern for the health of the planet and a desire to help keep it healthy.

They share triumphs and troubles, and learn important values as a group—values like patience and respect for others' points of view, and doing their fair share and helping others in need—life skills that are part of the personal growth we want for every Boy Scout.

Boy Scouts are challenged by real problems that sometimes don't have easy solutions—problems as important as getting their patrols fed and sheltered, and keeping them warm and safe. But through problem solving, they grow, mature, and bond with one another.

Remember, Scouting is camping, hiking, canoeing, bicycling, reading a map and compass, practicing first aid, and many other challenges. Boy Scout camp is Scouting and outdoor adventure at their best!

Is It Important for Me to Attend Boy Scout Camp?

You've had an essential role in helping members of your troop hone and polish the skills they'll take to camp. And while another qualified adult leader could take over for you, why miss out on the unforgettable experiences that are the high point of the year for you and your troop?

Don't miss seeing your young troop leaders meet challenges and solve problems. Take quiet pride in them as the leadership skills you helped foster deepen and grow stronger. Enjoy with your fellow Scouters the adventures and experiences that unite your troop as you share in this grand adventure.

Preparing for Boy Scout Camp

Now is not too early to begin preparations for summer camp. You may want to consider some of the following questions as you plan for camp.

- Which campsite do we want?
- Which leaders will be attending?
- Will we need to raise funds?
- Should we reserve our site now?
- Which week are we going?
- What activities do we want to do?

Once these decisions are made, it's time to actively encourage members of your troop to register to attend. Your Order of the Arrow lodge and council camping committee can help you promote camp attendance and assist you in planning.

In addition, use Preparing Troop Leaders for Summer Camp, No. 20-114, available from the Boy Scout Camping Service, S230, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

How Can My Troop Promote Attendance?

All year long, the Scouts in your troop have been involved in activities to prepare themselves for the weeklong experience that is Boy Scout camp. Beyond the sheer fun of the adventure, attending camp has many advantages, so you'll want to make sure as many of the Scouts as possible can attend.

- To help build excitement and anticipation, plan monthly program activities that build up to summer camp.
- Invite parents to a special winter meeting to inform them of the many benefits of sending their son to camp (such as swimming, gun safety, special training, and advancement) and to heighten interest among your Scouts.

Remember, excitement is contagious! The enthusiasm you and your leaders exhibit will be the key to your troop's summer camp attendance.

Capture the adventure of a weeklong camping experience with your troop. Remember, Scouting helps boys grow into good young men through a vigorous program of outdoor activities and the leadership of outstanding Scoutmasters.



New Scouts Attend Summer Camp

More than 60 percent of Scouts who attend summer camp are going for the very first time. They take enthusiasm and energy with them as they go to camp seeking adventure and action. These new Scouts are a lifeline for the troop, and often bring with them additional adult leadership, who are willing to join the troop and spend time with their son and his friends.

A troop should add at least 10 new Scouts a year to keep its vitality and enthusiasm alive. To achieve this, a troop should have a membership growth plan. A troop committee member should be empowered to implement a year-round growth plan by using the following methods of recruiting new Scouts:

- Graduating Webelos Scouts into a Boy Scout Troop
- Hosting a troop open house
- Encouraging boy-to-boy recruiting

New Scouts can join a troop any time of year, and membership growth should be encouraged year-round. A steady flow of new Scouts into a Boy Scout troop is essential to maintaining the troop's health.

Numerous resources are available to support membership growth. Troop Membership Tools includes a high-energy music video, a troop open house video, and a Webelos-to-Scout video. Also included is recruiter information to encourage Scouts to invite a friend. These resource highlights are available at www.thescoutzone.org.



Courtesy of your Order of the Arrow Lodge