

Getting Ready For Summer Camp 2007

The PLC and Advisors of this troop are very excited about our Summer camp program for this summer and we hope everyone will be able to attend. We want to share with you the details of camp this year, so you can start preparing for a great time.

We will be going to Canyon Camp located outside of Stockton Illinois. Camp will be July 15th – July 21st.

Highlights of Camp

As its name implies, Canyon Camp is nestled in a canyon between Stockton and Apple River, IL. It has been visited and revisited by many scouts from throughout the States for over 65 years.

The camp offers programs for the first year camper which gets them started along the right Scouting trail. There is a "First Class Emphasis" program for those Scouts working on advancement in rank. And, for the "experienced" Scouts and Scouters, there is the Operation O.W.L. program which offers high adventure experiences such as river canoe trips, rappelling, and woodsman camping.

Troop Leadership

Leaders are teachers, listeners, motivators, disciplinarian to mention just a few roles of a Scout leader. The leader's role in camp is probably the most challenging; it is also the most rewarding.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are part of the experience. Every scout is encouraged to earn some of these at camp and we will help the scouts pick the ones he will be most successful at. See separate list for merit badges.

Older Scout Programs

The Outdoor Wilderness League offers new ideas and skills for your older Scouts and Leaders. Scouts must be at least First Class **and** be at least 14 years old or older. Leaders and Scouts wishing to use canoes in the program **must** pass the "Swimmer" test. Operation O.W.L. is comprised of a variety of activities. Scouts and Leaders who would like to participate in this challenging program should register Sunday evening.

NOTE: A \$20.00 transportation/participation fee will be required from all participants for the trip.

Younger Scout Programs

1st CLASS EMPHASIS PROGRAM

Various activities and instruction will focus on completion of requirements toward 1st Class. Scouts who have NOT earned 1st Class may participate.

CANYON RANGER

This program is available only to 1st year campers (Scouts). Activities will be geared to completing advancement requirements, as well as those "**Just For Fun**". The intent of this program is to familiarize

1st year Scouts with the program areas of the camp. Upon completion of the program, a special camp award will be presented to participants. No charge for Scouts participating in this program.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AT CANYON CAMP

Aquatics

Swimming Instruction
Safe-Swim Defense Plan Instruction
Safety Afloat Instruction
Recreational Swimming
Recreational Boating
Scout Lifeguard Instruction*
Mile Swim
Rowing and Canoeing Instruction
B.S.A. Snorkeling

*Because of the intensity of the Scout Lifeguard Program, it may not be possible to complete it in one week at camp. It is preferable to complete as much training as possible prior to camp.

Outdoor Skills

Knife and Axe Safety
Map & Compass
Nature Hiking
Rope work
Lashings

Shooting Sports

RIFLE RANGE
Safety and Fundamentals Instruction
Recreational Shooting
ARCHERY RANGE
Safety and Fundamentals Instruction
Recreational Shooting

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*All personal weapons, bows, arrows and shells must be left at home! Only camp equipment will be used.

*There is a charge for lost arrows.

Handicraft

Open activity times are available to all Scouts. Each Scout will need additional money to purchase materials used in handicraft projects. Depending upon individual selection of projects, the cost could range from \$5.00

Medical Forms

Scouts need Class 1 & 2 Medical Form Signed by physician within last 36 months prior to camp

Adults 18 – 40 years of age need Class 3 Medical Form Signed by physician within last 36 months prior to camp

Adults 40 years of age or older Class 3 Medical Form Signed by physician within last 12 months prior to camp

Medicine needs to be sent in original containers with troop name on the bottle.

Homesickness

Homesickness can be prevented. Parents are the best preventers. Parents must not promise their child that if he doesn't like it, he can come home. This promise sets the boy up for defeat. Parents must try to transmit positive messages about camp, emphasizing that his days at camp will be worthwhile experience and they are happy that he is going. If a child wishes to take something special with him that reminds him of home, such as a pillow, blanket, or toy, he should be encouraged to do so. This special object will be a reminder of and a link to home. Do not tell a Scout to telephone if he needs anything. Such advice could be contrary to the policy of the camp against indiscriminate use of phones. When the Scout is ready to leave, avoid a dramatic departure scene. While the boy is at camp letters are generally sent. They provide a bond with home during separation. The tone of the letter and its contents have a great effect on the production of homesickness. The letters should be conversational about events at home and ask questions about his experiences at Scout Camp. They should never contain such lines as: "We all miss you very much; we love you so." "Your dog hasn't eaten since you left." "We served your favorite meal last night; too bad you could not be with us to eat it." Items that may cause jealousy between the children at home such as, "Yesterday, we bought your brother a new bike that is much better than yours," should be avoided. Campers sometimes break into tears after reading such well intentioned letters from home.

Homesickness is a common occurrence and if faced with understanding and care is just another step in the process of growing up. Parents, members of the troop, and the Camp Staff should all be aware of its causes, means of prevention, and above all, its cure, which is simply a great deal of understanding and willingness to help another person deal with his feelings and get involved with the Scouting Program

Family Night

On Wednesday night, camp is open to parents and friends. Everyone is invited to observe the flag lowering at 6:00 p.m. and afterwards share a barbeque supper, which will be available until 6:40 p.m. Please inform parents that after 6:40 pm food will not be available in the camp dining hall. Picnic tables are available for troops wishing to organize family or troop picnics.

Following supper, there will be an "open house" where parents and friends can visit camp program areas.

The evening program will conclude with Native American dancing and the Call-Out Ceremony for the Order of the Arrow.

Leaders must inform the Camp Director at check-in on Sunday as to the total number of additional family members that may be expected for the evening meal on Wednesday.

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL FEES

Visitor's Meal \$6.00

Children under 12 \$4.00

Visitors should be reminded that they are not permitted to drive to campsites or activity areas. All vehicles must remain in the parking lot. Camp is not capable of providing transportation

Mail

Mail for your Scout(s) should include: **Name and Troop #, c/o of Canyon Camp, B.S.A., 4856 East Townsend Road, Stockton, IL 61085**. Outgoing mail leaves by 9:00 a.m. The mailbox is located at the Trading Post. Incoming mail may be picked up by a troop leader at the camp office during the afternoon.

Parents should be warned that mail sent on Thursday or Friday may not reach the Scout before he leaves camp on Saturday.

Scout's Name and Troop #

C/o Canyon Camp, BSA
4856 East Townsend Road
Stockton, IL 61085

Telephone

In case of an emergency, parents can reach the Camp Director at (815) 492-2175. Fax number is (815) 492-2533. the camp telephone is located in the camp office and is for camp business and emergency use only. The telephone is available to Scouts only when accompanied by an adult leader. When placing a long distance call, you must either call collect, use a calling card, or place the call on your credit card. Leaders using cell phones may find it difficult to receive a signal.

Camp Cost

Total cost of camp is \$185.00.

Please give all payments to Sandy, so they can be applied to your balance.

Refunds of camp fees are considered on an individual basis. In the event of illness, injury, death of a family member, or other emergency, the Scout's parents must ask for a refund in writing, stating the reason why the Scout did not attend. Written request must be received no later than two weeks after camp ends. A service fee of \$50.00 will be assessed and the balance refunded.

Requests received after two weeks will not be considered. Scouts and leaders who do not attend because of "changing their mind at the last minute" will receive NO refund.

Equipment

Tenting includes wall tents that include cots with 2" mattresses. Sheets and a blanket or a sleeping bag are necessary. See separate sheet for individual equipment needs. Put your name on everything.

Trading Post

Hours of operation will be posted. The Trading Post stocks and sells refreshments, patches, camp tee shirts, neckerchiefs, notebooks, Scouting literature, Scouting equipment, stamps and postcards.

Merit Badge pamphlets may be purchased, but are also available on a rental basis if needed. Each Scout is responsible for his own spending money while at camp.

Camp Swim Test

We will take our swim test shortly after arriving to camp. Please pack your swimsuit and towel in a bag that they will carry on their laps in the vehicles they travel in.

Transportation

We will transport the youth to and from camp. Any electronic device the scout brings for the car ride will remain in the vehicles during camp. Only the scout will be responsible for any damage or loss to the item. No Electronics are to be brought out of the vehicles including cell phones.

Closing comments

We want all of our scouts to attend summer camp. Advisors will be taking their time and abilities to put into your sons week at summer camp. Camp is a huge part of our program and we want all to participate.

The troop spends 51 weeks of the year planning for the week of summer camp and that in his one week at camp he will receive 144 hours of concentrated Scouting...while a Scout attending only Troop meetings for one year accumulates about 75 hours of Scouting.