

# Summer camp 2015

## Winnebago Scout Reservation

### Merit badge info

Dear Scouts

Please go to our Troop website to view the Winnebago merit badge info you will need to make your selections. Check on the time and any prerequisites that will need to be completed prior to camp, also any additional money needed for supplies, kits etc. Also you will need to purchase merit badge books for each merit badge you are taking. These should be purchased in advance so you will have time to review what is expected of you to complete the merit badge. All Scouts must take a minimum of three merit badges and no more than 5, if you finish all of your selections early and there are available merit badges we can issue cards at camp. This will give Scouts time to take advantage of all of the activities at camp as well as allow some down time.

We highly recommend that new scouts and 1<sup>st</sup> year campers take swimming, basketry and leatherwork. Please note that extra money will be needed for leather and basketry to purchase the kits and there will be clothing needed for swimming which will be listed in the merit badge book. We have found that the Scouts usually complete these merit badges and end up with some nice souvenirs to take home. This will also allow the scouts to work on Tenderfoot, second class and first class requirements with the scoutmasters. All new Scouts attending summer camp should make tenderfoot.

There are a few merit badges that WE DO NOT RECOMMEND Scouts taking at summer camp – First aid, citizenship in the nation, citizenship in the community, personal management, and family life. We feel that Scouts will not get the most out of these badges at summer camp and will most likely end up with partials which will have to be finished up when they get home. Also we have merit badge counselors for them within the Troop which would allow them to take other merit badges. We also recommend that any Scout that does not have the swimming merit badge take it while at camp and if any scouts have partials bring your blue card to camp so you can complete it. This is one of the most important badges your Scout will earn.

Please don't pick merit badges because it sounds fun or another Scout is taking it make sure that it is something that you are interested in, review the requirements and make sure you are prepared to complete it while at camp.

This year it will be **the Scouts responsibility** to pick their merit badges and make sure there is no time conflict with other scheduled merit badges and that they can meet the requirements and prerequisites.

They will not receive an approved merit badge statement from me as in years past. They must hand in their choices and keep a copy for themselves to bring to summer camp. All new Scouts will be given guidance as has been done in the past. Any Scouts having questions can always call me or see me during our Troop meeting and I will be happy to help 732-671-8769.

All paperwork regarding merit badges must be handed in no later than May 21, 2015 to ensure that your selections can be filled. If your paperwork is handed in late you may not get to take the merit badges you signed up for and will have to take what is available. Please remember how hard all of the Scoutmasters and committee work to make summer camp a memorable experience for your Scouts and take that into consideration when paper work is due. Handing in stuff late causes a lot of problems for the people running the events and trying to coordinate the activities.

I hope that I have covered the merit badge information completely but if not please feel free to call me and I will be happy to answer any and all questions.

Yours in Scouting,

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