

Troop 122's New Parents Guide to Summer Camp

Summer Camp is one of the single-most important events that a Boy Scout can attend in Scouting. It can be one of the great experiences in the life of a Scout. Each program, merit badge, and evening campfire will linger in their memory for years to come. Scouts will have the opportunity to put their outdoor skills to the test, to work with one another and to make lifelong friends. There is much to experience, to learn, and to enjoy on a summer camp adventure.

Troop 122 attends summer camp every year. We start our adventure to summer camp by polling our Scouts and letting **them** decide where the Troop will attend camp each year. This year our Scouts have chosen to attend **Winnebago Scout Reservation. We will be attending July 12-18, 2015.**

The Troop recommends First year Scouts attending summer camp attend the Dan Beard program and work on swimming, basketry and leatherwork merit badges.

During our stay at camp, Scouts will be paired with Scouts within their age bracket to tent with for the week. The camp provides tents as well as cots to sleep on.

While at camp your Scout will eat three well balanced meals in the dining hall each day. While we do encourage the Scouts to take a few snacks along, we ask the parents to not pack too many. Also, camp will have a Trading Post where the Scouts can purchase snacks, souvenirs and merit badge books and kits. We ask that you send your Scout with some spending money in small denominations.

A typical day would consist of Scouts waking up at 7:00 AM making their beds and getting ready for breakfast. After breakfast the Scouts will return to our campsite and get their tents, personal gear and our campsite ready for inspection and then head off to their merit badge classes. Scouts, even though in camp, must utilize the buddy system and the Troop has implemented a buddy board which consists of a board with eye hooks labeled with the most visited areas in camp. Each Scout must place their buddy tag on a hook so that in case of an emergency the Troop can easily locate our Scouts. Lunch will be served in the Dining Hall followed by some afternoon merit badge classes and free time. For dinner the Troops line up in front of the Dining Hall in full Class A uniform and the retiring of the colors. After dinner there will be camp provided programs, free time and lights out at 10:00 PM. Prior to lights out, each evening the Scoutmasters will select a 'Scout of the Day' based on their uniform and tent inspection scores as well as any other good turns that may have been noticed. The Scout who has been selected 'Scout of the Day' will receive a special prize that has been picked

out by the Scoutmasters. At the end of the week we will have a 'Scout of the Week'. The 'Scout of the Week' is based upon the same criteria as 'Scout of the Day' except we add up the scores they received each day.

While the Scouts are enjoying their stay at summer camp the Scoutmasters will be hard at work :) making sure the Scouts are attending their merit badge classes, providing instruction and aid in the completion of their projects and keeping an ever watchful eye over them. The younger Scouts will be escorted to and from their merit badge classes until they feel comfortable enough to get their on their own.

Since the Troop has been in existence there have only been two Scouts who were picked up by their parents for homesickness. There have been no major medical issues. Not a bad track record for over 20 years!

We know that it can be hard as a parent to send your son off for a full week of summer camp but it is part of the growing process. Just realize that he will be in good hands with trained leaders who have several years of dealing with Scouts as well as with their own children.

Also note that we will be holding a mandatory parent meeting to discuss summer camp where we will address any issues or questions that you or your Scout may have.

The cost for summer camp is **\$361** if paid by April 30th, \$399 after that payable to BSA Troop 122.

Yours in scouting,
Mr. Ramirez SM T-122