



SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

APRIL 13TH, 2020

I would like to take a few minutes to provide you an update on this year's summer camping season.

First, we are listening to the CDC, the State of Illinois, and local authorities to get their most current notice on when restrictions will be lifted and **HOW WE CAN BEST KEEP YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE** this summer. Summer camp is an important feature of the scout program. Baden-Powell thought that youth learned by doing, by achieving, by being outdoors, and by experiencing new things. He believed in using the outdoors as a classroom for learning, leadership, citizenship, and service. This is really what camp is about and why it is important.

So, what are we doing to make camp safe:

- First, we will be reviewing health forms and taking temperatures before people leave the parking lot to their campsites.
- We will be providing campers and staff disinfectant and making sure it is used.
- We have a full-time health officer on site who holds a current medical license.
- We looked at last year's merit badge classes, and with few exceptions, they were under 10 participants. We will be working to keep classes small to provide for social distancing.
- We are looking at our food preparation program and are considering providing hot meals in the camp sites. We will keep you informed.
- We are looking at how we can conduct campfires and maintain social distancing.
- Camp visitors will go through the same screening (temperature, interview) before they leave the parking lot to enter the camp property.
- We are considering not having a "Family Night" this year to control the number of people on camp at one time. We will keep you informed.
- If we cannot run camp based on external factors and are forced to cancel part or all of the camping season two-weeks prior to your arrival at camp, you will receive a full refund. If we are forced to cancel or close camp after the two-week window, you will receive a prorated refund based on expenses we have incurred.

Things we have changed:

- We recognize families will wait as long as possible before committing to camp this year. Therefore, troops who have registered and paid their deposit before April 22nd will only be charged the early-bird fee for youth (\$300) and adults (\$120), no matter the date when individuals can commit and pay to go to camp.
- **If your unit signs up after April 22nd**, we will charge the standard registration fee: \$325 for youth and \$140 for adults. We will not be charging a late fee this year and groups may sign up no later than two-weeks before their planned arrival date.
- We will help troops that may be challenged by the two-deep leadership requirements, to find another troop they can share a campsite and leadership within order to provide a camp experience for their youth.
- We are also looking at providing individual scouts with an opportunity to camp as a Provisional Scout with another troop. We will help to “hook them up.”
- Finally, we are looking at the possibility of forming Provisional Troops where we provide the leadership. We would look to doing this week three and four (June 28 and July 5) if there is interest, we can expand this.

We are also looking into means to provide up to the minute information to you and your parents during the camping season. We will be putting this information memo out on a weekly basis for your help.

CORRECTIONS:

It has been pointed out to us that there is a discrepancy between the Program Guide and the Merit Badge sign-up WEB page. The merit badge schedule provided in the Program Guide is the correct information. We will get the Merit Badge sign-up corrected by the end of the week. I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Jim Thuot
Summer Camp Director

