

BAITING HOLLOW SCOUT CAMP 2009 - INFORMATION & TIPS

Sunday, July 19 (1:00 PM) to Sat., July, 25 (10:30 AM)

ARRIVAL & LOCATION

- Arrival Time: Encourage everyone to arrive at 1:00 PM. This way, all the Scouts can do their medical checks, swim test and camp tour together and at the same time.
- Camp location: Troop 7 will be located at the Baden Powell campsite, which is on the left side of the road just past the parking area. Bathrooms are just across the road within a few yards of the campsite. The meeting/mess hall is located to the northeast of the campsite and the camp offices are adjacent to the campsite. The swimming/boating lake is down the (steep) hill to the east.
- Tent Buddies: Encourage the boys to pre-arrange their tent buddies, so there are no issues upon arrival at the camp.
- Buddy system: The boys get the hang of the buddy system very quickly and should always ask to go to the bathroom or take a walk in pairs.

ADULT HELPERS

- Aim to have 4 adults stay each night in hopes of actually getting at least 2, which is the required minimum needed to be in camp at all times.
- Adults can trade off and stay one or all nights if they so wish, as long as enough adults are in camp each night. A schedule will be made well in advance.
- A parent should be designated to send out e-mail and/or photo updates to the families during the week.

BROWNSEA PROGRAM

- The Brownsea Program is a BHSC-organized program for first year Scouts to introduce them to camping and their first Merit Badges. The entire week is geared towards this introduction.
- One night (usually Thursday) is an overnighter down at the Brownsea field (away from their normal campsite) without any parent helpers, just the camp staff with them. This may create issues with some of the boys that are homesick or insecure, but the tents that are used are the zippered vinyl ones to keep out the critters. They should remember to bring duct tape to close up any holes in the tents.

BUGS & CRITTERS

- Mosquito Netting: Mosquito netting is a MAJOR necessity. It creates a cocoon for each Scout to protect from critters. The netting can be tied directly to the walls of the camp tents or a wood frame made from dowels or slats can be duct-taped to each bed frame post. Tying the netting to the tent gives more height in each cot area.
- Some of the younger boys were squeamish about bugs in their tents. They must be reminded to keep the inside of their tents clean and keep the mosquito netting tightly closed at all times but the tent flaps must remain open for daily inspection.
- Bring a broom (and/or a bug vac!) to rid tents of bugs.
- Mosquito bites can be very prevalent. Bring spray and salves.

CAMP EQUIPMENT

- Remember to bring enough lanterns and/or lights to illuminate the camp at night. Tiki torches seem to be used by other Troops.
- Gateway: The Troop will need to make a "gateway" into their campsite. This should be prepared for ahead of time and the Troop should bring flags, rope, etc. to make it happen. They can lose inspection points if they don't have one (although they do very well with the rest of the inspections).

CLOTHING

- Scouts are required to wear Class "A" (dress) uniforms to breakfast and dinner. Class "B" uniforms and t-shirts/shorts/bathing suits should be worn at other times.
- It is very important to maintain dry socks, shoes and towels at all times. The boys will quickly learn how to keep their gear in the tent or in dry containers.
- Most Scouts bring one or two weatherproof containers (Tupperware, etc.) to store gear. Keep the containers as low-profile as possible to fit under bunks.

HOMESICKNESS

- If a boy is homesick or upset, allow him to call home and get reassurance from a parent or older sibling. Parents SHOULD NOT say they will come and get them. Let the adults in the camp work it through with each boy and encourage each boy to help and console each other (without overdoing it).

- Although some of the boys were permitted to call home on cell phones to relay their fears, no one left to go home. The adult leaders play a big part in calming the boys down - it's all part of the learning process.
- The boys are especially tired after the first full day of activities. They will do a lot of climbing up and down the hill to the lake and a lot of swimming exercises. They will be excited the first night (after the parents leave the campfire) but be very tired the second night.

MAIL

- Families are allowed to send mail to the boys at the camp - this was a big hit. Be sure to send letters from the parents, siblings, grandparents, pets, etc. It usually takes 1-2 days for delivery, so mail early in the week.

MEALS & SNACKS

- All boys must be encouraged to eat the meals that are prepared in the dining hall. Some boys refused to eat certain meals and only ate bread or Jell-O. This only contributed to their fatigue, especially during the first few days.
- It is more important to have 2-4 adults stay each night than during the day. The boys are not in camp for most of the day, and the adults basically just sit around and get to know each other (which is a good thing!). At night, the boys need some familiar adult reassurance without overdoing it.
- Boys are discouraged from buying/eating too many sweets and snacks, as they can get sick from overdoing it.

SCHEDULE (Typical)

Monday

Flags & breakfast (dining hall)

1st day of Brownsea (morning - at Brownsea area, near beach)

Lunch (dining hall)

Work on merit badges (afternoon)

Dinner (dining hall)

Tuesday

Flags & breakfast (dining hall)

2nd day of Brownsea (morning)

Lunch (dining hall)

Work on merit badges (afternoon)

Dinner (dining hall)

CPR class for all Scouts (evening)

Wednesday

Flags & breakfast (dining hall)

3rd day of Brownsea (morning)

Lunch (dining hall)

Work on merit badges (afternoon)

Family dinner at beach

Free time in evening, Troop campfire, Capture the flag

Thursday

Flags & breakfast (dining hall)

4th day of Brownsea (morning)

Lunch (dining hall)

Work on merit badges (afternoon)

Swamp-o-ree (competition with other Troop)

Dinner at Brownsea (Scouts help cook their own)

Stay overnight in Brownsea area

Friday

Flags & breakfast (dining hall)

5th day of Brownsea (morning)

Lunch at Troop camp

Work on merit badges (afternoon)

Dinner (dining hall)

Free time

Saturday

Breakfast (dining hall)

Closing ceremony (9:45 AM)

Clear out by 10:30 AM

TROOP EVENTS & COMPETITIONS

- One night (usually Tuesday) is the CPR class, which all the boys sit in on.
- On any given day, our Troop may be challenged by another older troop to a "swamp race", where each troop tries to sink the other in canoes. In 2008, Troop 7 originally declined due to the age discrepancy between Troops, but decided to go ahead anyway (they were swamped...)

- A Troop boat building (and sailing) contest is usually held on Thursday and the boys need to plan out either a Troop boat or individual boats ahead of time. Construction materials can only be those found in camp (can be anything).
- In 2008, the boys challenged another Troop to a game of capture the flag in the evening. This was a more appropriate age-level activity for them (they also won...).

WEATHER

- Scouts and adults should expect very warm and humid weather for most of the days, and plan for possible thunderstorms at any time.

...AND MOST OF ALL...have fun in the outdoors!