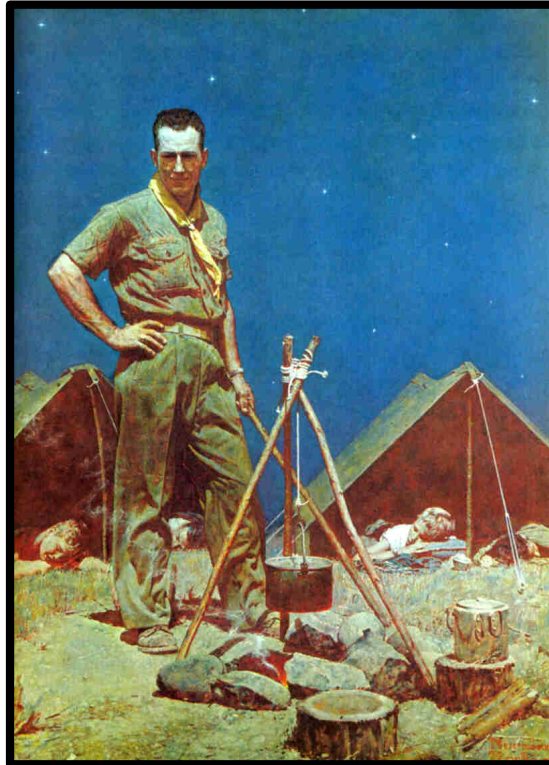


Everything You Need to Know About Summer Camp

(but might not know to ask!)



Boy Scout Troop 883



Prepared. For Life.®

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Why Summer Camp?

IT UNDERWORLD

by Phil Johnson



According to Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, the greatest adventures of a Scout's life begin at Boy Scout camp.



Where but in the great outdoors can a boy hear the midnight hush of the deep woods, breathe the sweetness of distant wood-smoke, look down in awe at where he's been, and look up in wonder at where he still must go, glimpse the deer drinking at first light, watch eagles soaring in a cloudless sky, feel the warmth of the campfire as it glows orange against the thickening darkness and, at the end of a long day, hear the hooting owl under a sky flashing with stars.

Who can say that in such an atmosphere a youth's mind is not reached, his faith not freshened, or his heart not stirred. Or that, in ways that are a mystery to us all, he will not grow closer to the man he is becoming.

The packet is designed to provide Scouts and their families with the tools they need to maximize the summer camp experience.



Details for This Year's Camp

Where: Horseshoe Scout Reservation
Rising Sun, Maryland



When: Sunday, July 31 to Sunday, August 7, 2016

What to Wear/Bring to Drop Off:

- BSA Field Uniform (erroneously called the Class "A" uniform) – Scout shirt (tan – with all patches sewn on properly), Scout shorts, Scout socks, hiking boots or shoes, red wicking Troop t-shirt, Troop 883 neckerchief and hat, neckerchief slide, etc.
- Patrol Leaders – make sure you bring your Patrol flag!
- Medications (prescription and over-the-counter)
 - Unlike prior years, the Scout will take all medication (prescription and over-the-counter) to the Health Lodge during check in. **Please make sure medications are in a Ziploc® bag with the Scout's name and Troop 883 prominently displayed – and that the bag is easy for your Scout to grab when we arrive at camp.**

What NOT to Wear/Bring to Drop Off:

- Cell phones or any electronic devices
 - **Please make sure your Scout does not bring a mobile phone to camp. There is absolutely no reason to do so. All adults will have a mobile phone for emergencies, and having a mobile phone is likely to make homesickness worse.**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Fireworks
- Firearms, air guns, toy guns, bows
- Pets (except guide dogs)
- Illegal drugs
- Ammunition of any type
- Sheath knives
- Lighters

Things to Give the Scoutmaster When You Arrive at Drop Off:

- Combination for foot locker (or spare key for keyed lock)
- Money (if you would like the Troop to hold your Scout's money)

Please help us out!
Make sure you take possession of your Scout's mobile phone before you drop him off!

T-Shirts (What to Wear on What Days)

IMPORTANT: Use a Sharpie® to write your son's name on the tag of each cotton shirt and on the back collar hem of the wicking t-shirts (since there is no tag).

- Sunday (arrival in camp) – red wicking (Troop t-shirt)
- Tie dye/rainbow cotton
- Blue wicking
- White wicking
- Grey wicking
- Orange cotton
- Sapphire (light blue)
- Sunday (departure from camp) – any BSA t-shirt (“old” cotton Troop shirt, OA, High Adventure, etc. – no Cub Scout shirts)
 - If Scouts have another BSA t-shirt, bring it – that way, we don't have to wash shirts during camp.
 - If not, make sure the Scout provides the red wicking Troop shirt to Melissa during camp, and we will wash it during camp.

Preparing Parents for Summer Camp

Parents are usually less prepared for summer camp than their sons. Parents concentrate on preparing children for summer camp but may be unaware how much they will miss and worry about their child.

You might feel uncomfortable turning over full-time care to people you have just gotten to know. You might worry about what kind of food your son will be eating, who will be looking after daily concerns like clean clothes and taking a shower, and if the other boys will tease him.

What happens if he just doesn't like camp? Can he call home or can we call him?

This anxiety is often heightened in parents of Scouts headed to camp for the first time. Many of them find the experience more difficult than their sons ever will. They usually don't find a whole lot of solace in the first letter home either; it may sound pretty miserable.



Here are some techniques that might help you make your son's week of camp positive for you:

- Being separated from a child for this length of time is a new challenge for every parent, even though many others have gone through it before. Acknowledge that this causes most parents at least some distress - it's a normal part of growing up. It's temporary, and you will feel better!
- This is part of that conversation we have had over and over again since your son joined our Troop. Take a step back – everything will be OK!
- Most Scouts will encounter some homesickness and some ups and downs over the course of the week. Understand that his fellow Scouts, adult leaders, and camp staff are all working hard to make this a positive experience. It is a measured challenge that Scouts overcome year after year.
- We expect some homesickness and other difficulties and are prepared to deal with them. They are part of a healthy process of growing up that all Scouts encounter in one way or another.
- **In almost all cases, having the Scout call home is counterproductive. The leaders in camp will do everything possible to "manage" your son's homesickness without having him call home. When appropriate, the leaders will communicate with you (without the Scout's knowledge) to keep you informed.**

As you prepare your Scout for camp, prepare yourself too:

- Think positively. Scouts almost always thrive at summer camp and return home happy.
- Instead of discussing your worries or how much you will miss him, talk about the new experiences your Scout will have. Accentuate the positive – and don't talk about the potential negatives (rain, mosquitos, etc.)
- Ask all the questions you would like. There are no silly questions (really!). It is always better to ask than to worry.
 - You can reach the leaders at any time:
 - **Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer** – Scoutmaster – 443.929.0162
 - **Matt Carteaux** – Summer Camp Coordinator – 410.440.7431
 - **Marc Fischer** – Committee Chair (not at camp) - 410.977.2956
- Understand and respect the way we will be communicating with you at home while we are at camp.
 - The very best way to stay abreast of our summer camp experience is to follow our Twitter feeds:
 - @T883Scoutmaster
 - @T883ScoutWM
 - @T883CommChair
 - Keep an eye on your email – information that we choose not to share on social media will be sent via email.
- Understand and respect the rules and times for dropping off, picking up, and visiting camp.
- Plan something interesting or special to do while your son is at camp.

Homesickness

Night falls on the first day at summer camp. The big opening campfire is over. The Troop has returned to the campsite, and the Scouts are preparing for Taps.

Just after we end the Patrol Leader's Council meeting, a young Scout, at camp for his first time, is hovering around the edge of a pool of lantern light. We know exactly why he is there. He and his brethren have been there for as long as there have been summer camps. He is our homesick Scout.

Homesickness can be light and passing or dark and difficult. When separated from familiar surroundings or people for an extended period of time, Scout-aged boys may become homesick. Homesickness manifests as a sense of dread or helplessness and can bring on depression, sadness, frustration, anger, and hopelessness. Extreme cases may even cause physical symptoms like stomach pain, indigestion, headaches, nausea, and – of course – tears.



Homesickness, while relatively easy to cure in a vast majority of cases, is a very real problem and it will not be trivialized. Here's our plan for managing homesickness at summer camp:

- Parents are expected to support their Scout's commitment to spend a full week at camp. There is a full schedule of shared responsibility that begins on the Sunday we arrive and continues unbroken until we leave a week later.
- If a Scout must arrive late, leave early, or spend time out of camp during the week, please let Melissa and Matt know as early as possible so the corresponding arrangements can be made. That being said, arriving late, leaving early, or spending time away from camp during the week is **actively discouraged** as it tends to compromise the experience - not only for the individual Scout but for the rest of his Troop.
- A week at camp is often the longest time our first year Scouts have spent away from home and family. It is natural that some Scouts find this experience difficult to endure (as do their parents). Our experience with hundreds of Scouts (and parents) of all temperaments assures us that they not only endure, but flourish and return home having gained a great deal from the experience.
- Experts recommend sending a couple of mementos from home (such as photos) to serve as transitional objects that will help relieve uncomfortable feelings.

Adults at camp will treat homesickness by:

- **Talking** – Homesickness involves feelings of dread and helplessness that often dissolve simply by talking them out.
- **Keeping Scouts Active** – Staying active and involved is important. Homesick Scouts are often reluctant to participate in much of anything. There are program activities from Reveille to Taps. Believe me, there are plenty of things your Scout can do to keep his mind off of home. We do all we can to keep the Scouts busy at night (when homesickness usually intensifies). If the Scouts do not have time to think about being homesick, it is less likely to become a problem. From a Scout's point of view, homesickness is also rooted in a fear of the unknown, so the SPL (through the Patrol Leaders Council) will let the Scouts know what is planned for the day and week ahead.



- **Keeping Scouts Engaged** – Loneliness feeds homesickness. We will encourage lots of group activities and responsibilities. The SPL and ASPLs will be actively looking out for homesick Scouts – and making sure they stay engaged in activities.
- **Writing Home** – Writing home can be helpful. It is OK to send letters and post cards to your Scout – but be sure to start sending them before we arrive in camp. You can also provide your Scout with paper, pens, and postage so he can write home frequently. And, just like the old song, "Hello Mother, Hello Father," what you read in your Scouts letter home is often viewed through a different lens – particularly if the Scout is homesick. If there is anything in a letter home that concerns you, please call Melissa, Matt, or Marc.
- **Calling Home** – As a last resort, we will allow the Scout to call home. In many cases, having the Scout talk with his parents makes this situation worse. We will do everything possible to manage the homesickness without having the Scout call home. Before you speak with your son, we will speak to parents first so we can explain the situation and make sure they (the parents) support the idea of the Scout staying at camp. **Remember: Scouts are not permitted to have cell phones or electronic devices in camp.**
- **Going Home** – Unless this is an absolute emergency, we will do everything possible to keep the Scout in camp. Going home early is the absolute, last resort – when all else has failed. If the Scout goes home early from Summer Camp, time and time again this means he will never come back to Scouting – he is often too embarrassed to show up at another Troop meeting.

Packing for Camp

The Goal: *Parents may have an active role in helping first year Scouts pack for summer camp. After the first year, step back and allow your son to pack on his own. Parents of all Scouts should spend a few minutes a week or so before the boys leave for camp to make sure the Scout has all of the items he needs for camp.*

In order to ensure that your son has an enjoyable time, please pay close attention to what is REQUIRED, SUGGESTED, and OPTIONAL.

Foot Locker

- We HIGHLY SUGGEST you purchase a foot locker and lock. If you use a combination lock (which is preferred over a keyed lock), please provide the combination to Melissa when you check in on the departure date (in case your son forgets the combination). If you use a key-type lock, provide Melissa with a spare key.
- Mr. Matt suggests one of the following foot lockers available from Wal-Mart (many Scouts use these – they are about \$35-40 each):



- Now that you have your foot locker, you will want a supply of large Ziploc® bags (Ziploc® makes 2-gallon bags and a line of Ziploc® Big Bags (in L, XL, and XXL sizes)). These are great for storing your clothes (and everything else) in your foot locker. You will most likely use 15-20 2-gallon bags (and fewer of the Big Bags) for your packing. They work great for keeping your clothes dry and, once you put your clothes and other items in them, you can compress the bags to get the air out of them - that way they take up less space.



Bring a good quantity of dryer sheets. There are numerous uses for them:

- Put a dryer sheet inside each Ziploc® bag with your clothes - it will keep them smelling fresh
- Put several of them in your storage locker to keep it smelling fresh AND to keep the bugs out (bugs do not like the smell)
- Tie them onto your day packs to help ward off bugs
- Tie them to your bed netting and put them in your bedding to help keep the bugs away

What to Pack in Your Foot Locker

Now that you have your foot locker and Ziploc bags, it's time to start packing. There are two ways to pack your clothes – which one you choose is your personal preference.

- You can pack all like items together in the Ziploc® bags (i.e. all socks in one bag, all undergarments (underwear and/or t-shirt) in 1 or 2 bags, all shorts in 1 or 2 bags, etc.)
- You can also pack a day's worth of clothes into each bag. This is the way that Nathan and Mr. Matt pack. You simply place a pair of socks, underwear, shorts or pants, and a shirt into one Ziploc bag and compress the air out of it. That way, you only have to take one bag to the shower house when you go to take a shower.

Before you put anything in your foot locker,
make sure every single item has your last name on it.
NOT KIDDING – label every...single...item...

So how much clothing do you need? Remember that we are going to be there for 7 nights, so (at a bare minimum) you need at least 7 sets of everything. However from experience, most Scouts pack extra clothes above and beyond the minimum. Remember the Scout Motto: Be Prepared.

The Goal:
Pack enough so you have what you need when you need it –
but not so much that you over pack.

Here are the REQUIRED items you must bring:

- Shorts
- Jeans and long-sleeved flannel shirt (not a sweatshirt)
 - If you are taking Swimming merit badge, you **MUST** have a pair of jeans and a long sleeve shirt. We **HIGHLY SUGGEST** you bring clothing that is not tight-fitting - it is harder to tie a knot in the legs of the pants and the arms of the shirt when creating a flotation device. A good suggestion is to borrow clothing from your big brother or even your dad for this evolution.
- Undergarments
 - Scouts should bring their red Troop shirt and all of the shirts in the "Summer Camp Pack." The Troop will all wear the same color shirt on each day of camp. It is not a bad idea to bring a few extra shirts – when it is really hot, it feels really nice to put on a clean shirt that smells nice.



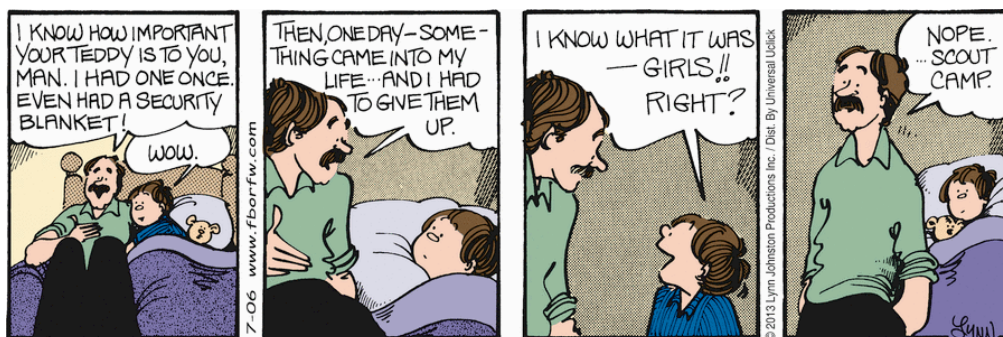
- Wear a t-shirt under your uniform every night for dinner. Uniform shirts tend to get stink by the end of the week.
- It's probably not a bad idea to send some Febreze® – things get kind of “ripe” over the course of the week.
- Socks
 - Besides regular socks, you may want to bring hiking socks
 - Don't forget your Scout socks - at least 2-3 pairs
- Bathing suit
 - You will not be allowed into the pool in regular shorts
- Sweater, sweatshirt and sweatpants, and/or a jacket
- Hangers for your uniform.
- 15-20' of rope to hang your clothes up in your tent.
- Day pack or small backpack and a water bottle to carry around throughout the day
- Water shoes (even if you are not planning to take a water-oriented activity)
- A watch
 - Many Scouts do not wear a watch routinely – but they need a watch in order to be at merit badge sessions on time
- Medications
 - Plan to give any medications to the Health Lodge. Scouts are not permitted to have medications in their possession during camp (with the exception of inhalers and Epi-pens as appropriate)
 - As for over-the-counter (OTC) medications such as aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, diphenhydramine, etc., we will have these items in the adult area. Any OTC medications must be obtained from an adult - Scouts are not allowed to self-administer OTC medications.
- Bedding
 - Consider bringing sheets and a flannel blanket as they are light enough for the warm nights. You may alternatively use a summer sleeping bag.
 - Pillow(s) as you deem necessary
 - Consider bringing 2-3 large plastic contractors' trash bags – if it rains, they are a great way to keep your stuff dry!
 - You will be sleeping on wood platforms in the Adirondack shelters. We highly recommend you bring a twin-sized mattress (air mattress, foam pad, etc.).
- Poncho or rain gear – your preference
- Water shoes or old sneakers for any type of boating activity (no flip flops or open-toed shoes)
- Laundry bag
 - Avoid bringing a garbage bag - if you put wet stinky clothes in a garbage bag, they are REALLY STINKY by the end of the week
 - Use a simple fabric laundry bag – available at Wal-Mart
- Sunscreen – protect yourself
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sturdy hiking shoes or boots
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol) - preferably with DEET to keep the ticks away



- Toilet kit (something that can be carried to/from the shower house) containing:
 - Soap in a box (body wash is acceptable)
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - Comb or brush (for those of you who have hair!)
 - Bath towel (required) and washcloth (if desired) – you might want to bring two of each
 - Shower shoes
- Boy Scout Handbook
- Notebook and pens/pencils
- Canteen, water bottle, or water bladder
 - We will have ice water available throughout the week for the Scouts to drink. You can optionally bring a drink mix such as Gatorade or Kool Aid. If you bring a drink mix, make sure that you store it in a Ziploc® bag so that bugs do not get into it.
 - ***We will encourage your Scout to drink water throughout camp. Please make sure he comes to camp with a means to remain hydrated!***

Here are the OPTIONAL items you should consider bringing:

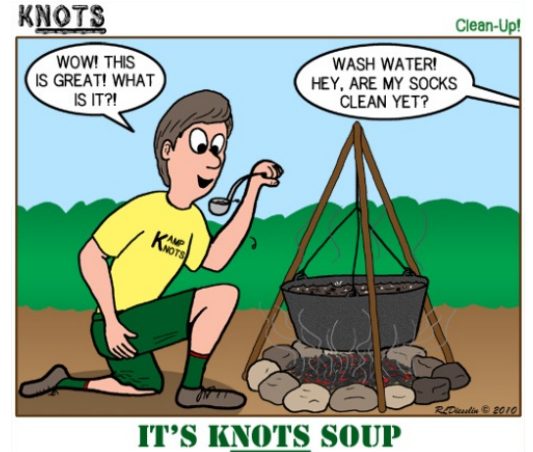
- Camera - Put your name and Troop number on the camera with either a label or permanent marker (preferred) in case it is lost
- Bible or prayer book
- Money – for the Trading Post.
 - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE – do not send your Scout to camp with bags of candy. Not only do we have some significant allergies to consider, but there is nothing worse than 30 Scouts who dig into the sugary candy at 9:30 PM at night. If you send your Scout with candy, we will stop on the way home from camp for Pixie Sticks and Monster Energy Drinks. Enough said.
- The Troop will provide mosquito netting for each Scout/leader.
- First Aid Kit – several MBs require that you have a first aid kit. The Troop will be bringing the Troop first aid kit as well.
- Merit Badge worksheets
 - You DO NOT need to obtain a copy of a merit badge pamphlet/book from the Troop librarian. Go to http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page and print out the worksheet for each of the merit badges you are taking. Print them on only one side so you have room for additional notes. I would also suggest that you put each merit badge in either its own tabbed binder or put them all into a small (one-inch or less) 3-ring binder.



Eating at Camp

Do not worry about your picky eater. There is almost always a large enough variety of food that the Scouts and adults will have plenty of choices. Most camps provide some “other” food at each meal to help make sure the picky eater does not go hungry. The bottom line: most of us will have to worry about not gaining weight during summer camp – the food is usually very good, and there is plenty of it!

PLEASE COMMUNICATE (IN WRITING) SPECIFIC FOOD ALLERGIES TO MR. MATT NO LATER THAN JUNE 30. WE MUST NOTIFY CAMP PRIOR TO OUR ARRIVAL!



Merit Badges and Camp Program

Scouts and Parents – please carefully review the merit badge schedule and prerequisite list to make sure your Scout is prepared for camp.

Buddy System

All Scouts must travel in pairs (using the buddy system). No Scouts should ever be at any location in camp without a buddy.

Uniforms



- All Scouts and leaders are expected to be in a full Field Uniform (erroneously called a Class A uniform) when we leave and when we come home. This means all uniform components!
- All Scouts and leaders are expected to be in a full Field Uniform (erroneously called a Class A uniform) – but not the neckerchief/slide – for dinner in the dining hall.
- Horseshoe recommends all Scouts and leaders wear an Activity Uniform (erroneously called a Class B uniform) while at camp.
- Swim suits should not be worn throughout the day – change into dry clothes when you leave the pool or waterfront.
- Closed toe shoes and a shirt must be worn at all times – camp rule! Water shoes or sandals can be worn in the pool or bath houses – but closed toe shoes must be worn to/from. (No Crocs, no sandals, and no Keens!)

Monkey Butt



No matter how many times we talk about this, campers will get the legendary “Monkey Butt” while at Scout Camp. Monkey Butt is a rash that usually develops from chafing in the “swimsuit area” – almost always when the Scout wears wet swim trunks throughout the day.

You can prevent the scourge of Monkey Butt by simply changing out of your wet swim trunks immediately after the activity ends. Dry clothing “cures” Monkey Butt. It’s also a good idea to use powder to keep things “fresh” throughout camp.

In the event you are attacked by Monkey Butt, the Troop has a variety of creams in the First Aid kit. In addition to putting cream on the chafed area, the Scout will need to change out of wet clothing as soon as possible – and use powder several times per day.

Trailblazers (First Year) Program

The Trailblazers program is designed specifically for first year campers. It is an all-day program, in which the boys will work on Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class requirements. From fire starting to lashings, the boys will get introduced to all aspects of Boy Scouting. The program is set up using the Patrol Method.

Participants will have a chance to earn Pulp & Paper merit badge and one other merit badge (Swimming, Oceanography, Basketry, Art, or First Aid) as part of the program. ***(It is highly recommended the Scouts take Swimming merit badge at camp!)*** They will also participate in an overnight trek (Thursday night) and cook breakfast for themselves one morning. As part of the Trailblazers program, the boys will get a taste of all the program areas in camp. Each Scout will have the opportunity to earn their Totin’ Chip and Firem’n Chit.

Each Trailblazer (First Year) Scout will need to bring:

- Pocketknife
- A day pack
- A canteen/water bottle
- Sleeping bag and ground cloth
- Flashlight

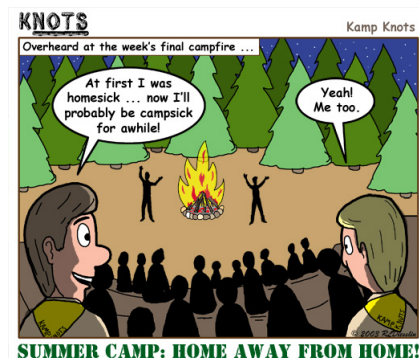
Visitors

Per camp policy, visitation is limited to Saturday. *The camp highly discourages visitors during the week.* See below for more information.

Family Night

Parents and guests are invited to visit camp on Saturday, from 2 PM until 10 PM (the end of the campfire). Visitors must bring picnic dinners for their family.

**PLEASE DO NOT ANTICIPATE TAKING YOUR SON HOME FROM
CAMP ON SATURDAY NIGHT!
WE WILL LEAVE AS A UNIT ON SUNDAY MORNING!**



Swim Test

We will do the swim test on a Monday night (in place of a Troop meeting) at South Carroll Swim Club. Mrs. Kalmbach is qualified to administer the test. Please make sure your son attends this swim test – it will save a bunch of time when we check in at camp!

In the event your family is on vacation when the swim test is administered, please contact Mrs. Kalmbach as soon as possible – well before the swim test is scheduled. We will make a reasonable effort to accommodate vacation conflicts, but it is up to you to make alternate arrangements with Mrs. Kalmbach prior to camp!

Troop Photos

Troop photos are taken at check in. The Troop's \$25 Summer Camp fee includes a 4x6 photo for all campers and adults.



Mail Call!

Scouts love to receive mail while at camp. Parents also enjoy receiving mail as well. Please send your Scout to camp with his own stamps if you expect to receive mail from camp. There are usually postcards for sale at the Trading Post. If you wish to write your son, please address it to:

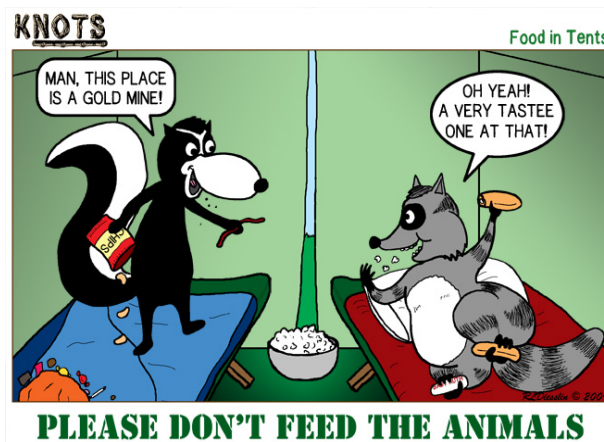
Scout Name, Troop #
Roberts Campsite
Horseshoe Scout Reservation
1286 Ridge Road
Rising Sun, Maryland 21911



Please remember to mail letters early enough to ensure your Scout receives them before the end of the week. If you want, you can write a letter and give it to one of the adult leaders with instructions to pass it along to your son on a specific day.

Please – especially parents of First Years – plan to send a few letters to your Scout (and encourage family members, friends, and neighbors to do so too). The more letters the Scout receives, the more connected (and less homesick) the boys will be.

Please note: Horseshoe **HIGHLY DISCOURAGES** “care packages” – particularly packages containing food! Food in the tents encourages four-legged friends to join your Scout in his tent.



BTW – Adults who attend summer camp also like to receive letters too! Spouses, you will earn major “brownie points,” if you send something to camp!

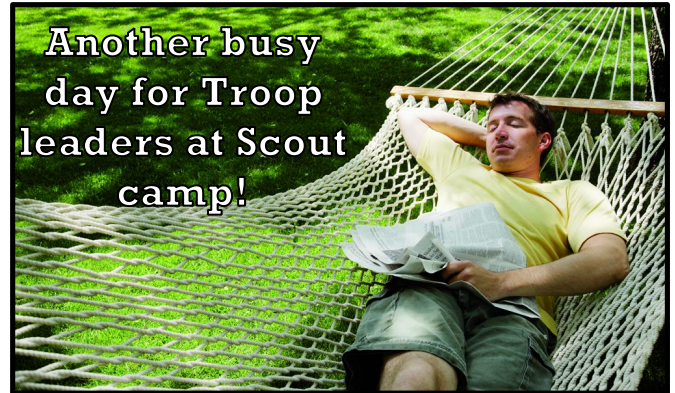
Religious Services

A scout is Reverent. Camp will host a vespers service. All Scouts and leaders are expected to attend. It will be a non-denominational service. If there are special religious requests please let the camp administration know in advance. There will be a chaplain on duty, and area clergy are on 24-hour call.

Adult Leaders

Remember – adults who go on outings, including summer camp, are there as adult leaders and not parents. Although you will most likely spend some time each day with your son, you will not tag along with your son throughout the day.

- An adult leader training schedule will be distributed on Sunday – this is a great time to get trained in both required and optional training courses.
- Adults are welcome to wade in the shallow area of the pool and watch MB classes in action.



Camp Horseshoe on the Web!

- View your Scout via webcam from the Parade Field each night at 5:45 PM as the Troops form up for dinner.
- Send an email to your Scout (emails are printed and placed in our mailbox at camp) as a way of saying “Hello!”

<http://webcam.cccbsa.org>

