

TROOP 88
BRIDGEWATER NJ
SUMMER CAMP 2018
PARENTS GUIDE

This guide is intended to assist you and your son in planning for camp this summer. We will provide additional information as we approach camp.

Questions should be directed to Mr. Ken DeGraw, 908-203-1464 or 908-420-8687 cell, or kdegrow@optonline.net

Questions on Merit Badge signup-Mr. Ken DeGraw

Questions on Medical issues-Mr. Toros Kapoian

Questions on Rank Advancement-Mr. Walter Keller

Questions on the Dan Beard program (new Scouts) Mr. Ken DeGraw

First the basic facts

Where's Camp?

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation,
Schuylkill Haven PA

Directions for those of you driving to camp will be provided day of departure.

The drive time is about 2 hours and is located off route 78 exit 19 in PA, a bit past Cabella's

Mail should be addressed:

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation
You're Sons Name, Troop 88
402 Blue Mountain Road
Schuylkill Haven PA 17972

Camp phone number (for emergencies)

570-754-7552

Cell phone numbers of all adults will be provided day of departure

Camp web site

<http://www.hmc-bsa.org/camping/meade>

Visiting Camp

The camp has a no visitor policy. Please do not stop by to check in, you will be turned away at the office, this is a significant contributor to home sickness.

Packing list

A general list is included with the camps parents' guide, and a home grown version is attached at the end of this guide. Some general suggestions:

The boys should consider the merit badges they are working toward when packing. There may be some specific items they will need to complete the badge.

Please do not let your son pack "energy drinks".

We recommend that the boys bring a laundry bag to hold their dirty (toxic) clothes apart from the rest of their clothes. A couple of hangers are recommended. In addition plastic bags should be used to waterproof their clothes in the event we get a rainy week.

Please label your son's clothes and gear. The fresh air causes them to grow legs.

Open toes shoes/sandals can be major foot hazard. We strongly recommend that they be left home. Should you decide to bring them please also bring gauze pads, tape and Band-Aids.

Electronics in camp

Electronics, we realize that your son will likely have a cell phone with him; our rule is simple if we see it or hear it we take it. Tablets, radios and other electronic or digital devices other than a camera are not permitted.

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class candidates-The boys should consider what requirements they can complete at camp in order to advance. Generally everything but cooking is very doable. They should bring with them any specific equipment including their handbook note pad and pens (in a ziplock bag to keep dry) with their name on it.

Hint: Large Zip Lock bags are good for organizing clothes and keeping them dry. Make sure that scouts know where things are packed so they can find them! Please pack everything in a back pack or duffel bag **DO NOT PACK IN** plastic garbage bags - they will rip and your son's clothes and equipment will be on the ground.

Bugs: Bug repellent is recommended. We did not have ticks or mosquitoes last year.

Bugs & Spiders

This is going to come as a shock but there are bugs in the woods! We on the other hand are visitors in their house. The tents we will be using are canvas tents atop a wood platform. They are open to the elements and because its dry inside the tents bugs like them too. Typically, the biggest pest is the Daddy Long Leg Spider. They will hang out on the side walls of the tents. This will strike fear in the heart of an 11 year old who is convinced that he will wake up in a cocoon and be served for breakfast to a family of spiders.

First despite being unpleasant to look at they will not bother your son. However, experience has taught us that netting around their cot will alleviate the fear. Bug repellent does not work on spiders and all the Yard Guard in the world is not going to stop them.

An internet search for “mosquito net for bsa tents” will give you some hits to consider. If he has not spent time in the outdoors we recommend that you obtain this or a similar product.

There are lots of variations, keep in mind that there may not be tie off's inside the tent, we're happy to help the selection process, you may need to improvise a little. Don't forget that the spiders can come up through the floor as well. The only other insect that presents issues for us is ticks. We will alert your son to them and deal with them as they come up. Mosquitos are generally not an issue.

Mess Kit: A mess kit is required for all scouts. Everyone should bring a plate and cup as well as utensils as we will have a meal in our site. A personal cup or canteen/water bottle is suggested for drinks that the troop will have at the site. Everyone should have a water bottle.

Knives: A jack knife may be brought. Do not bring any other type. However, they may not be unpacked or carried without a Boy Scout Tote-N-Chit (not Cub Scout) which they will have an opportunity to earn.

Snacks: Scouts do not need to bring any snacks. The camp will be providing all meals. There are snacks available in the trading post. We prefer to not have food in the camp because it attracts very large animals.

Towels: Since there is a lot of water activity, I suggest extra towels in case they don't dry quickly. You will be shocked to know your son will not hang it up to dry.

Program

The week at camp

Our week at camp is spent with the scouts attending merit badge sessions during the day and attending other activities in the evenings. The scouts start most days with a 'Polar Bear' swim at 6:30am followed by breakfast. They will then attend merit badges in the morning, have lunch and a break, and then have more merit badges in the afternoon. The camp has an open evening program when we plan to emphasize rank requirements. In addition there are merit badges, troop contests, campfires and other activities every night of our week at camp. Every scout will have some free time to do fun activities such as swimming, volleyball, campfires, canoeing, shooting rifles, archery etc.

The scouts will not be alone at camp. They will spend some time in a group at merit badges, some time doing fun things with a buddy, and some time doing things as a troop. It is structured enough to keep them engaged but still allows free time to do fun things of their choice.

Merit Badges

The choice to be made by the boys is dependent on their age (camp restricts certain badges) and the time of day. Once chosen the boys then need to go to the Troops web site and review the prerequisite requirements for the badge. In order to complete the badges at camp the boys must bring with them the pre-requisite requirements completed.

Tonight we will ask the boys to identify the badges and rank advancement they will be working on.

Many, if not most merit badges have prerequisites. These must be completed prior to camp to complete the merit badge. Troop 88 Leaders and Camp Counselors will not “take your word for it”.

Prerequisites can be found on the Troops web site:

Should the scout not have his prerequisites with him or for some other reason not be able to complete the merit badge he will be given a “partial”. This will enable him to complete the badge once he returns home with a local counselor.

Scouts should speak with Mr. Archibald to obtain the name of a local counselor.

The Troop as a matter of policy will request that for any badge that is required for Eagle a local counselor review the completed badge with your son,

First Year Scouts

All first year scouts will participate in the Pathfinder Program. I will provide more details to these scouts as we get closer.

This weeklong program teaches scout skills to new scouts. The scouts are formed into patrols and the patrols work on scout skills and merit badges. The Pathfinder program includes one merit badge in the program. The merit badge is First Aid. Swimming lessons are available if your son is not a strong swimmer. One of the Assistant Scoutmasters will be working with our Pathfinder scouts helping them get to and from the program areas and looking after these scouts during the week.

Meals

The camp provides all meals while scouts are at camp. The Troop goes to all meals together and eats as a group. The food is served family style. The food is good and the menu varied. There are always options to the main course, such as salad bar and peanut butter and jelly, if a scout does not like the main course for a sitting.

Allergies and Special Diets

Scouts with severe allergies and who normally carry an EpiPen, should continue to do so at all times at camp. If the Scout brings an extra EpiPen, this extra unit must be stored in the Health Lodge. Scouts that suffer from an allergy attack must report this to the Health Lodge. Campers may seek treatment for non-emergency food reactions at the Health Lodge.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available at every meal, and every meal has food available beyond the entree if a single meal or course is not appropriate for a camper. The kitchen can attend to simple menu changes like an uncommon ingredient allergy, the need for a vegetarian alternative, or a common allergy that's regularly planned around if properly informed during med rechecks on arrival at camp. It is important that your son speak up and alert us to the situation.

Scouts who need simple replacements to single or rare ingredients should visit the kitchen counter during meal setup (15 minutes before the meal starts) to inform the kitchen staff of the needed substitution and if this need was reported during med rechecks the kitchen will prepare a replacement that will be available early in the meal time.

Scouts with very stringent food requirements such as being allergic to large classes of foods or digestive issues should contact the Health Lodge before the week of their arrival. While the camp will make reasonable efforts to accommodate dietary needs, resources are finite, and campers with stringent dietary requirements may need to bring food to supplement camp's offerings. This food must be marked with the camper's name and unit and must be packaged for refrigerated storage. A medium-sized Igloo cooler or large lunchbox can be easily accommodated, anything larger may require special arrangements. Campers who need these special replacements must also inform the kitchen during meal setup (15 minutes before the meal starts) so they may prepare the alternative from the provided food in a timely manner.

Please note, picky eating is not a sufficient reason to request alternate meals for a Scout. The Dining Hall efficiently serves nutritious meals to hundreds of campers and staff a week with little extra staff to prepare alternatives. Should a camper need a last minute replacement, an alternative beyond what's available in the Dining Hall may not be possible. Questions about food allergies may be discussed with the Health Officer prior to your camp week.

Please notify Troop leadership of the restriction, we will connect you with the camp health office, who will in turn see that you're connected with the dining hall to address the issues. The restriction should be noted on the medical form. Please emphasize to your son that he need to communicate with us and the dining hall to assure that his requirements are being met.

Sleeping Arrangements

The camp provides a campsite where our troop will camp as a group. We do not yet know what site we will have. The campsite provides tents with cots (2 people). There are separate tents in the site for adults. We will work with the scouts to help them find another scout to share a tent. The tents have cots. Scouts should bring a sleeping bag and pad. On May 17th at the meeting we will have the scouts select their tent mate.

Troop Leadership

The adults on the trip have yet to be determined however Mr. Ken DeGraw will be the camp Scoutmaster, in addition Mr's Keller and Kapoian have confirmed.

The youth leadership will be determined based on the Spring elections and the boys attending.

We will provide parents with the leader's cell phone numbers prior to departure.

Medicals

All Scouts and Leaders must have a current medical prior to camp. The form will be sent separately. Please have this completed and returned to Mr. Toros Kapoian prior to

departure. Instructions for completion are in the package. A copy of your insurance card is also necessary. Please use the current BSA form, no other form will be accepted.

Medications also must be indicated.

If your son has medications that he needs to take while at camp, you **MUST** attend the Summer Camp Parents Meeting. Please make sure that those medications are correctly listed on the medical form. Please compare your son's medications with the list that is on the medical form and make sure they match exactly. This means DRUG NAME, DOSE, and FREQUENCY. Please provide Mr. Kapoian with the medications prior to departure. All medications should be in their original container enclosed in a 1-gallon zip-lock bag with the boys name and Troop 88 on the outside. Do not over-stuff the bag. Use two if needed.

Note that medication that must be listed on the medical include over the counter medications as well.

Your son's temperature will be taken on arrival, if it is 101 or higher he will be sent home.

Other Information

Swim Test

The Troop will hold a swim test prior to departure for camp. Boys who cannot attend will take their test at camp. See below.

What to Wear to Camp

Boys should wear their Class A uniform to camp, and be prepared to carry their gear to the campsite, pack accordingly. In addition those taking the swim test at camp should wear their swim suit under their uniform and have a towel accessible.

Spending Money

Scouts are recommended to bring some spending money to camp. There is a scout shop with souvenirs and snacks. The amount of money to send is up to the parents. Approximately \$20-30 is probably enough.

The number 1 thing that your son will buy while he is at camp is candy and sugar laden drinks. We have seen NUMERIOUS instances year after year of your sons taking advantage of their new found freedom and money and quite literally binging on sugar products, particularly those who have it limited or restricted at home. This gets to the point where they run through all of their money in the first few days of camp and start requesting other scouts to loan them funds. We are not in a position to be sugar monitors or to watch them when they are at the trading post. I STRONGLY urge you to have a discussion with your son on moderating his intake as well as the appropriate uses for the money you are providing.

Departure and Return

Currently we will meet at the trailer at 10:30 on June 25st. It is approximately a 2 hour drive to camp. Please bring a brown bag lunch that can be eaten along the way. We will not stop for lunch. We will confirm the times as we get closer. Scouts in leadership positions will be asked to come an hour earlier for a leadership meeting.

Scouts should be picked up at camp at 9:00am on Saturday June 30. Please let me know if you can transport additional boys home. We should be back at the trailer around 11:00.

Due to distance and parking issues we are going to attempt to coordinate car pooling so that we have 3 or 4 boys to a vehicle. Regardless you are welcome to drive your son to and from camp. Drivers not staying with the Troop must leave camp by 5:00 pm, meals are not provided.

Scouts leaving camp

If your scout needs to leave camp prior to Saturday morning then you must let Mr. DeGraw know. When picking up your son come to the camp office they will page us to the office. My cell phone is 908-420-8687 please call me in advance of your arrival so you're not left waiting as I will likely be in the farthest reaches of the camp. Together we will then sign out the scout from the office. Scouts are not permitted to leave camp unless they are signed out by their adult leader at the Camp Office in the presence of either parent or legal guardian. In general, it is recommended that scouts come to camp for the week and stay for the entire week. This maximizes their summer camp experience and helps to build patrol and troop bonds.

A missing Scout at camp is taken very seriously and causes an urgent emergency procedure. The procedure includes canceling camp wide activities, return all scouts to campsites, and conduct a camp-wide search for the scout. This is very disruptive to camp operation and can be avoided by parents working with the Scoutmaster and camp regarding scouts leaving camp.

Home Sickness

We have found many first time parents come down with home sickness. We encourage you to speak with your son on the issue and I'm sure he'll be able to provide some comfort. While a bit tongue and cheek, particularly if he's never been away before, encourage him to stick with a buddy for the week and let him know its ok to speak with the adults on site. While it may seem illogical, we discourage the use of a cell phone or calling/texting, it actually makes the problem worse. We'll do everything we can to keep your son engaged in lots of fun and exciting activities every day. The week will pass in a blink.

The Fees below are subject to change

Pictures

Pictures will be taken of the Troop on arrival they are available for \$TBD (8X10). We will collect the money the day of departure.

Other Fees that may apply

Rifle Shooting \$5=25 rounds, non-merit badge only

Shotgun \$10 per 25 rounds, non-merit badge only

COPE \$20

CPR & First Aid Certification \$25,

Pre-Camp Checklist

- Final fees paid for camp, see Mr. DeGraw for Scout bucks balances
- Merit Badges selected
- Swim Test completed
- Tent mate selected
- Medical turned into Mr. Kapoian along with
 - Non-prescription medicine
 - Prescription medicine
 - Food allergy
 - Emergency contact form
 - Copy of insurance card
- Special activity forms completed if applicable
 - Cope
- Camp additional fees paid
- Merit Badge pre-requisites completed!!!!!!

Packing List

Clothing Quant

Item
 Underwear
 T-Shirts
 Socks
 Shorts
 Long Sleeve Shirt
 Long Pants
 Sleeping clothes
 Hat
 Sneakers
 Hiking Boots
 Socks for Boots

 Sweatshirt
 Jacket
 Rain gear
 Water shoes
 2 Swim Suit
 2 Towels
 Uniform

Toiletries

Toothbrush and paste
 Soap (unscented)
 Washcloth
 Towel
 Comb/Brush
 Mirror
 Spare Contacts/Glasses
 Shampoo
 Antiperspirant

Miscellaneous Quant

Item
 Hanger
 Sun Screen
 Insect Repellant
 Compass
 Cash

Equipment Quant

Item
 Plate
 Utensils

 Flashlight
 Spare batteries
 First aid kit
 Sunglasses
 Aloe
 Spare Ziplocs
 Sleeping Bag

 Sleeping Sheet
 Sleeping matt
 Kleenex
 Pillow
 Pocket Knife
 Day Pack
 Water Bottle
 Laundry Bag
 Chair
 Drinking Cup

Optional Quant

Item
 Spare rope/twine
 Small Tarp
 Matches
 Mess kit
 Camera
 Sports equipment
 Cards
 Watch
 Alarm Clock

Advancement

Rank Req.
 Materials
 MB Prerequisites
 Handbook
 Paper/Pens

Special

Boating MB's need water shoes

