

TROOP 88
BRIDGEWATER NJ
SUMMER CAMP 2016
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. Kelly Pollard

Questions on Medical issues-Mr. Toros Kapoian

Questions on Rank Advancement-Mr. Walter Keller

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

First the basic facts

Where's Camp?

Bashore Scout Reservation,
Jonestown PA

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

The drive time is about two hours and is located outside of Jonestown PA off of route 81

Mail should be addressed:

Bashore Scout Reservation
You're Sons Name, Troop 88
160 Moonshoie Road
Jonestown, PA 17038

In the event you wish to mail a letter to your son or a care package to the adults, please do not mail it after Wednesday or we will not receive it in time. If you wish to provide the adults with the letters when we depart we will deliver them during the week.

Camp phone number (for emergencies)

(717) 865-4583

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

Camp web site

<http://padutchbsa.org/camping/bashore/>

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, further this is a significant contributor to home sickness.

Packing list

A general list is included with this guide. The boys should consider the merit badges they are working toward when packing. Please do not let your son pack "energy drinks".

We also 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, with his name. 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 and the camp specifically bans them for walking around. They can be beneficial in the shower house. Should you decide to bring them please also bring gauze pads tape and band-aids.

Electronics, Camp is an outdoor experience, it's an opportunity for the boys to interact with each other and adults without the aid of 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 are not permitted.

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! He should pack his own gear. Please pack everything in a duffel bag ***DO NOT PACK IN*** plastic garbage bags - they tend to rip, also avoid packing in rigid sided containers as they are hard to pack.

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 his name on it.

Bugs

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.

Below are two links to possible solutions for your son. If he has not spent time in the outdoors we recommend that you obtain this or a similar product.

http://www.amazon.com/SansBug-Free-Standing-Pop-Up-Mosquito-Net-Floor/dp/B003BWF9WI/ref=pd_sim_468_2/191-4056542-2725643?ie=UTF8&dpID=41Vknk1sl6L&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL320 SR320%2C320 &refRID=1FBBXSD2C03EKQN6JZRN

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 first year scouts. All others should bring a plate and cup as well as utensils we may 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 7am 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

Below you will find the list of available merit badges and attached to this document is the daily schedule. 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.

On May 5th at the meeting 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”.

First Year Scouts

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

Note that these scouts should have a backpack and mess kit with them. If you son does not have a backpack we may be able to assist.

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 BMM program includes three merit badges in the program. The merit badges are Art, Basketry, Leatherwork, or Mammal. Swimming lessons are available if you are not a strong swimmer. One of the Assistant Scoutmasters will be working with our BMM 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. 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 Ockanickon 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.

There is a separate dietary restriction form that should be submitted with your paperwork.

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 (2 people) and Adirondack's (4 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 or Adirondack. The tents have cots. Scouts should bring a sleeping bag and pad. On May 5th 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 Pollard, 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 at 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.

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.

We need these returned by the 9th of June

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.

Other forms

Several activities have separate forms that must be completed. If your son is participating in any of these activities please see one of the adults for the additional forms.

- Cope

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. Merit Badges kits are included in the fee. The amount of money to send is up to the parents. Approximately \$25-35 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 bingeing 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.

Departure and Return

Currently we will meet at the trailer at 10:00 on June 26st. It is approximately a two 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 10:00am on Saturday July 2nd.

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 7:00 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.

Pictures

Pictures will be taken of the Troop on arrival they are included in the fee.

Pre-Camp Checklist

- Final fees paid for camp,
- Merit Badges selected
- Swim Test completed
- Tent mate selected
- Medical turned into Mr. Kapoian along with
 - Non-prescription medicine
 - Prescription medicine
 - Food allergy form
 - Emergency contact form
 - Copy of insurance card
- Merit Badge pre-requisites completed!!!!!!

MERIT BADGES

Check your prerequisites at the following link:

http://www.troop88bsa.org/SummerCamp/Pre-req_2016.pdf

The following changes were announced at the leaders meeting

Merit badge and program updates:

- Earlier this year we had to drain our lake, so the fish that are in it are not viable for fishing. Because of this, we will not be able to offer the Fishing merit badge.
- As well, requirement 7 of Fish and Wildlife Management will need to be a pre-requisite. (We typically do 7c at home.)
- We are excited to offer the new Signs, Signals, and Codes merit badge. Having the book is strongly encouraged (it has a Braille insert in it). Prior knowledge of Morse Code and Braille is helpful.
- Since the requirements for Cooking merit badge were updated in January, the requirements in the leader guide are outdated. The correct pre-requisites are 6D and 6E.
- New this year, we are offering a STEM program! Specifically, we are offering the Shoot! award. Pre-requisites are #1 and #2.
- Also new this year is the Medicine merit badge. Just thought I'd highlight that a bit. :) More info can be found in the leader guide.