

# Summer Camp

## Frequently Asked Questions

### BSA Troop 165

#### **Medications:**

Q. How will meds be handled at Camp?

A. All of the medications that your son needs (with the exception of an emergency inhaler or an EpiPen) must be in the original container that shows the dosing and your son's name. Please do not use the daily pill boxes. All meds will be turned over to our troop's medication coordinator with your medication permission slip. Your son will be reminded to take his medication when it's indicated. Since there are many Scouts in the Troop that are on daily meds of one form or another, they will be called as a group

#### **Personal Gear:**

Put the Scout's name & "Troop 165" on EVERYTHING even individual socks and each pair of underwear. It's an excellent point that was stressed prior to last year's camp & with so many new scouts, it may be a good reminder for tonight or tomorrow. Iron on label tape rolls worked well for us in the past & can be found at Hobby Lobby or Joann's.

Q. What does my son need to bring to camp?

A. Great question. Please see the Pack Inspection List.

Q. Would you please clarify exactly how the extra spending money brought by each Scout to summer camp is dealt with ie: do they hold on to it themselves, do we have a Troop "banker" who holds onto it for all the Scouts during our stay at camp, or does the Camp have accounts for the boys to put their money into for use during camp?

A. The Scout is responsible for his own money. This helps to teach them responsibility and consequences. It's that whole "Scout is Thrifty" part of the program.

Q. Does the hat also have to be scout related?

A. If you do not have a Scout Hat, I'd prefer that the hats be Scout related or plain.

Q. Please can you tell us the official kind of knives the Scouts and Adults are allowed to have in their possession (esp. length of blade). Can you please clarify if the first year scouts can bring them, as they'll be working on their toten chit?

A. There is no BSA policy regarding knives. The Guide to Safe Scouting does recommend against large fixed blade knives because they are awkward to carry. So this is just from my personal experience. My recommendation is that the knives should be folding locking blade knives versus fixed blade (sheath) knives. For Scouts really nothing over 6" open is fine. They really do not need anything bigger than that. Now that has been stated, each council has the authority from the BSA to set their own policy and that of their camps. I couldn't find any statement in the camp's Leaders Guide. So, really any good quality small sharp knife is fine. The purpose of the Totin' chip training and card is to teach Scouts how to safely use knives, axes and saws.

First year scouts should bring their knife to the backpack inspection. With the rest of their gear being put into the troop trailer, the knives will be collected by an ASM and after they have completed their Totin' Chip Training at camp they will be given their knives to use safely.

Q. Can the Scouts bring musical instruments such as a guitar?

A. Assuming this is either an acoustical nylon or steel string guitar. Some of the scouts will be working on the music merit badge, so for that I would say yes. But there are a few things to consider. 1) we are camping, 2) it will rain and things will get wet, and 3) it will be the sole responsibility of the scout if anything happens to his musical instrument. The Troop will not be responsible if it gets ruined, stolen (yes – even at summer camp) or broken. One final thing, it will probably have to ride on their laps. It's unlikely there will be room in the trailer. We will just have to wait and see about the configuration in the vans.

### **Shirts:**

Qa. It was stated that activity t-shirts can be any kind of scout shirt--does this include any of the cub scout t-shirts the boys may have had previously OR just official Boy Scout Troop 165 t-shirts.

Qb. Shirts that we can get from the BSA scout store OR other Scouting events we may have attended as Boy Scouts or Boy Scout Leaders (i.e. NYLT, Jamboree, Wood Badge etc...)

Qc. Can the T-shirts be hand-made (i.e., a t-shirt we buy and mark with Troop 165)?

A. Any kind of Scout shirt, cub scout, boy scout, or really any blank t-shirt in any color. The reason we do not want to see shirts with logos other than scouting on them is that in the past scouts (and parents) have pushed the line to see how close to inappropriate you can get. Let's just keep it simple and keep it at Scout shirts or blank t-shirt.

Qd. Do the color of the t-shirts matter?

A. The Troop 165 activity shirt colors are generally red, gray or tan. Any other color t-shirt is fine.

Qe: Can the Scouts do laundry, or should they pack enough for the whole week?

A. Plan to pack enough for the week. That doesn't have to mean a clean set of clothes for each day. Realistically, they will probably re-wear several items over the course of the week. If needed there's always the BSA Washing machine (Plunger and 5 gal bucket), if they want to use it.

Qf. This year's activity t-shirt will be for purchase, correct? Does that mean that the Scouts don't get any for free (i.e: paid for in the registration fees)

A. Yes they need to be purchased and are not included in the fees. The Troop does not make money on the shirts. We provide it to the boys who want to buy them.

#### **Food / Diet:**

Q. My son is on a special diet and does not eat (fill in the blank), will the camp make special consideration?

A. Absolutely. Please let me know as soon as possible whatever the concern is; food allergy, vegetarian, whatever. Just need to let the camp know as soon as possible.

Q. The personal list has a mess kit listed. Won't the scouts be eating all their meals in a dining hall?

A. Yes, we will be eating our meal in a dining hall but they should still bring a mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork, spoon) just in case we do an Iron Chef competition, your scout is working on their cooking rank requirements or merit badge requirements, etc. Also, we usually will be cooking a dinner at our campsite one night of the week, so they will need something to eat off.

Now for the easy way to make this mess kit – plate (frisbees makes a great plate and are pretty cheap), bowl (any plastic food storage container work great), mug (a cheap plastic cup will work good for the week). For utensils – you can go cheap here too – thrift stores sell odds and ends. Just make sure everything is labeled and pack them in a Ziploc bag to keep them clean.

#### **Merit Badges**

Q. What merit badges are available for my son to take?

A. Great question. Please see the Merit Badge Schedule.

Q. Why are the scouts limited on which merit badges they can sign up to take?

A. This is only the case for our first year scouts because our primary goal for them at their first summer camp is to accomplish many of their tenderfoot and even second class and first class advancement requirements. There should also be time for them to accomplish one or two merit badges, but we will designate a few for them to choose from that are within their current capabilities and can be fully completed during camp (some have requirements that need to be completed at home before or after camp). We also want our youngest scouts to have other merit badges to look forward to in future years. Older scouts will also receive counsel from an ASM or the Scoutmaster about their choices to ensure that they are maximizing the opportunities to earn badges that hard to complete aside from being at summer camp. Also, scouts of first class rank and above should be aware of which eagle-required badges they need for rank advancement.

### **Troop Gear:**

Q. Will the scouts be using our troop tents or tents at the camp?

A. We will be using our troop tents. The camp does have canvas wall tents but it would require us to go out and buy mosquito netting and are pretty hot to sleep in. Having had scouts use both in the past, you'll have to trust me on this, our tents are much, much better. Personal tents are only allowed for ASMs.

### **Adult Visits:**

Q. Can we come up during the week and stay with the Scouts?

A. Sure, come on over and spend some time with the Troop. Wednesday is usually a "Parent's Night" at the camp. We will release more details about this night as we get closer to the date. Since it's a long drive, you may want to consider camping out at their family section. There is more information about this on their website.

Q. Are the Scouts OR Adult leaders allowed to bring any non-electronic games? (i.e. board games/dice games/card games/balls/ladder golf....)? The list says no playing cards or dice games allowed.

A. There are often many chess sets and other types of card games (eg. Uno) being played around camp. We also have a few games in the trailer for them to use that were donated to the troop.