

**BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL  
PARENTS' CAMP PROMOTION  
MEETING**



**Canyon Camp**

**Camp Lowden**

## **FOUR STEPS IN SETTING UP A SUMMER CAMP PARENT'S NIGHT**

***If you follow this plan,  
you will have a minimum of 80% of your scouts attending summer camp***

- I. Meet with the unit committee to lay definite plans for camp.
  - A. Select camp period and campsites
  - B. Determine camp leadership
  - C. Request help from the District Camping Committee for this meeting.

- II. Take a positive approach in your thinking and promotion.

Don't ask – INFORM. Example: "Our unit will go to Camp on June 17<sup>th</sup>."

- III. Camp Promotion

Too often, we spoil our opportunity to sell our parents because we're sloppy in our planning! Be thorough, be brief, and show evidence that your committee knows what it is doing. In a word - **Be sure your meeting has polish.**

- A. Stay on schedule
- B. Don't lag
- C. Follow your plan

- IV. Promotion of Attendance (Unit Committee Secretary)

Get the "word of the meeting around to everyone. Don't just call a Parent's Meeting ...tell them why" ...it's a camp information meeting...give them plenty of hints as to what you're going to do. Make it so important that they can't stay away.

Have your Scouts talk it up a couple of weeks in advance. Have the unit secretary prepare a neat written invitation-mail it out to everyone two weeks in advance of the big night. Form a telephone committee to put it in the bag -- one final phone call reminder will do the job.

In all of your promotion, be free with details – mention camp fees, dates, transportation, savings plan, equipment, etc.

Parent's Nights are always fun and interesting if you organize the parents into your plans. A potluck or spaghetti supper, when organized, is always a success...if you supply the leadership to start the ball rolling. Dads like to be asked to decorate tables and even wash the dishes, if they know this is their "fair share of the camping load" for the Parent's Night. You never worry about a turnout when everyone is a part of the basic program. Friendships and a willingness to serve are developed in one short evening when everyone takes an active part. Plan your work and the parents will work your plan, if asked.

## SUGGESTED PARENTS' NIGHT AGENDA

<b>Pre-Opening Activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping Display</li> <li>- Outdoor Related Game</li> </ul>	Scouts
<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	Honor Patrol
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Troop Committee Chairperson
<b>The Summer Camp Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight Program Opportunities</li> </ul>	District Representative
<b>When We Are Going</b>	Scoutmaster
<b>Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who Will Be At Camp</li> </ul>	Scoutmaster
<b>Fees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Payment Plan</li> <li>- Deadline Dates</li> <li>- Money Raising Projects</li> </ul>	Treasurer
<b>How Parents Can Help</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support Money Raising Projects</li> <li>- Follow Payment Plan</li> <li>- Provide Leadership</li> <li>- Provide Transportation</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Troop Committee Chairperson
<b>Sign-Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do Tonight Before Leaving</li> <li>- Put Name on Chart as Commitment is Made</li> </ul>	Scoutmaster
<b>Closing/Refreshments/Answer Questions and Talk to Parents</b>	Honor Patrol does closing

## QUESTIONS MOST PARENTS ASK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

**Q. Will my boy be safe at camp?**

A. Records show that boys are safer at camp than at home. He is required to have a medical examination before he goes. He will have a check-up when he arrives. Either a nurse or qualified first aider is available at all times. Written agreements are made with local doctors and hospitals. Qualified adults trained by the National Council, BSA, are present at all times when boys are swimming or using firearms or archery.

**Q. Our boy gets homesick easily. Won't he have a bad time?**

A. Most boys get homesick sometime or other. However, each boy will be with his own Scout leader and with boys he already knows. Evidence shows that when a boy comes with his own troop, homesickness is rarely a problem.

**Q. My boy is new in Scouting, in a brand new troop. Does he know enough to go to camp?**

A. Summer camp is a training experience where he can learn Scouting skills and how to work with others in his patrol. At summer camp the things each Scout will do depends on his own interest and ability. On each step of the way either his camp leader or a member of the camp staff will be there to give him help.

**Q. Will my son be able to do Scout advancement at camp?**

A. Most of the program in camp is centered around the out-of-doors. He will learn skills of hiking and camping and the merit badge subjects, pertaining to the out-of-doors. Any boy should be able to pass a great deal of advancement in these fields. Advancement is easier at camp, because of living Scouting 24 hours a day and also because of the qualified trained camp staff available to help him.

**Q. Isn't a week at camp expensive?**

A. Camping is one of the greatest bargains around. Where else can you send your son where food, shelter, trained instructors in swimming, boating, canoeing, cooking, archery, rifle shooting, and all the other skills of Scouting are provided. The camp fee covers only the cost of food, expendable program materials, and staff. Cost of land, building improvements come from other sources.

**Q. Doesn't the camp provide leaders? Why is our unit required to have two leaders?**

A. Yes, the camp does provide staff members, but they are specialists in camping, aquatics, riflery, and Scouting skill, and are not there to provide unit leadership, but are available to assist your unit in the program you plan to fit your own needs. National policy requires at least two adult leaders on every Scout activity.

**This 60 Minute Presentation is jammed packed  
with the information parents need to know  
about their son attending camp.**

**Here are some detailed things to do and say - - - - -**

**I. Pre-Opening Activity ---- Scouts**

Display pictures of previous year's summer camp, merit badge work campsite.

Parent Handouts - Give to parents before the program starts.

- Medical form
- Personal equipment list
- Map on how to get to camp
- Map of camp
- List of merit badges available
- Equipment list

**II. Opening Ceremony ---- Honor Patrol**

Make it good, peppy and inspirational. Presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath – all or part may be used.

**III. Welcome and Introductions**

Troop Committee Chairperson should act as the Master of Ceremonies. His job is to keep the program moving, introduce the leaders and committee members.

Thank parents for their attendance.

Introductory Remarks: Set the stage.

- Tell the parents what will be covered in tonight's meeting.
- Tell them how far the committee has gone in planning.
- Tell them that this meeting is being held so all families will know the complete story of camp.
- Aim your remarks in such a way that all parents understand that the committee just naturally assumes that their son is going to camp.

**IV. The Summer Camp Story ---- District Representative**

- Explain to the parents the purpose of summer camp. Tell them about the exciting program opportunities, advancement, food, camp safety, and camp staff.
- Explain parent handouts.
- If the troop has a Scout who can talk well in front of an audience, have him give a short story of a typical day at camp.
- If the troop or council has slides or video about camp, show it while you talk about camp.

**V. When Are We Going? ---- Scoutmaster**

Give the dates the committee has selected.

They are going to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.  
Camp Date Date

**VI. Leadership ---- Scoutmaster**

Introduce the adults who will be the leaders at summer camp.

## **60 Minute Presentation continued - - - -**

### **VII. Camp Fees ---- Troop Treasurer**

- Explain the camp fees and deadline dates using the Camp Leader's guide as a reference.
- Our troop plan includes \$ \_\_\_\_ per Scout.
- Tell about using the Camp Savings Plan. This is a tool which, if used properly used, will enable every Scout to save a big portion of his camp fee himself.
- Explain any fundraising projects to help the Scouts earn money for camp.
- Explain camperships.
- It is your job to show parents how it can be done financially. Finances may be difficult. Often parents give this as an excuse, but rarely is it an insurmountable obstacle. The difference between living at home or in camp, weighted against the camping advantages, places a summer camp experience within the reach of every Scout family.

### **VIII. How Parents Can Help ---- Troop Committee Chairperson**

Explain to parents that their support is important to their son and the troop to have a successful summer camp experience-support money raising projects so their son can help pay his own way; follow troop camp savings plan; help with camp leadership, if needed; and provide transportation to and/or from camp.

### **IX. Sign Up ---- Scoutmaster**

Have the Scouts put their name on their camp attendance chart making their commitment to attend camp.

### **X. Camp Leader Tells Why**

This talk should be given by the lead adult who will serve as the Camp Leader in camp. The Camp Leader should give the closing talk, asking for the cooperation of the parents to insure the attendance of each Scout at camp with the unit. This talk is of great importance! Do not hurry it, and do not shy away from it. A simple and friendly statement of your position is what the occasion requires. You should make it very clear, without the slightest embarrassment, that you are undertaking a service which will be a tax on your time and ability; that in fairness to you, the parents must allow and encourage their sons to go to camp just as they take part in the regular unit activities; that this is a part of their Scouting obligation; that this camp, like everything else a boy goes into, will involve some expense and some adjustments.

Explain that the troop spends 51 weeks of the year in preparing for this week in camp. That just one week in camp provides a Scout with 144 hours of concentrated Scouting ...while a Scout attending troop meetings for one year, accumulates about 75 hours of Scouting.

You will never have a better chance to say these things, you can say them more effectively than anyone else can. Don't waste this opportunity with vague generalities, say the things suggested above – say them vigorously, with an air of friendly confidence in the outcome.

### **XI. Announcements ---- Troop Committee Chairperson**

There will be a second Parents' Meeting in the spring to cover final details, such as personal equipment, transportation, health checkup, etc.

### **XII. Closing Ceremonies ---- Honor Patrol**

Scouts retire colors and use unit's favorite closing ceremony.

### **XIII. Informal Question Period**

Questions come easier if parents are asked to direct their questions to committee members and leaders during refreshments at the close of the meeting. Refer to the parents question sheet for possible answers.

### **XIV. Refreshments**

Refreshments, if dinner is not served.