

## THE TROOP GOES TO SUMMER CAMP

### IF – The Troop Committee Organizes to Meet Its Responsibilities

The Troop Committee has a number of responsibilities that it must fulfill. It must organize and assign temporary responsibilities to its various members. This may best be accomplished by calling a meeting of the Committee and all adult leaders to discuss the camping plans. The discussion should include the securing of adult camp leadership; selecting dates; reserving your dates with the council office; securing funds, transportation, and equipment; informing parents and getting their help; and, planning for the medical examinations.

### IF – It Selects Leadership for Summer Camp

1. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster should be the first choice.
2. In the event that the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmaster cannot attend Camp, the committee proceeds to list the best-qualified adults in order of their desirability from among the Unit Committee, parents, and the chartered organization.
3. Two members of the committee (as appointed by the Chairman) will call upon the candidates, beginning with the top of the list, to explain the plan and dates for camping, tell of Committee and Council help, emphasize the importance of camping to the boys in the unit, and request that he or she be **one** of the camp leaders for the unit.
4. If the candidate needs time to consider the proposal, the committeemen should call back at the agreed upon time to get his or her answer (two to six days should be sufficient).
5. The same procedure is followed with Candidate #2, #3, or more, until **two** adult leaders are secured.
6. The Council office should be notified of this selection so that unit camp leadership may be invited to camp training sessions.

### IF – It Adopts the Savings Plan

Attending summer camps costs money. Boys and their parents are responsible for camp fees, medical exams, expendable program material, and money for the Trading Post. An additional share of the total expense for the Council Camp is borne by the Council Budget. It is recommended that boys earn their own funds for camping and set aside some of their earnings in a unit-sponsored savings plan. Some units have found ways for all boys to earn and save the necessary funds for summer camping and high adventure activities. (Review the Scoutmaster's Handbook.)

**Here are suggested ways of raising funds for Summer Camp:**

1. Participate in Council Popcorn Sale (some troops have made over \$2000)
2. Troop Pancake Breakfast, Fish Fry, Spaghetti Supper, etc.
3. Troop Car Wash
4. Part-time jobs. Encourage Scouts to set aside a portion of their earnings for camping.

**IF – It Informs Parents of Summer Camp Plans**

Parents must be completely informed regarding the Troop's Summer Camp plans. While the Council will provide a general information guide for the unit leaders, the Unit Committee should furnish parents with all of the information about the Unit's plans. In some instances, it may be necessary to do an all out selling job with parents so that they not only endorse the camping program of the unit, but actually become involved by providing help for the unit Committee and unit leaders with transportation and leadership.

In your process of selling parents the Summer Camp Plan, it is well to stress the real values that come from it. Explain to them how the Troop is aiding Scouts in the development of a sense of responsibility, resourcefulness, self-reliance, habits of health, a love and appreciation of the out-of-doors, and a sense of loyalty to the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. It is important for parents to understand that Scouting's aims are to build character, train in citizenship, and make our boys physically and morally fit.

A Parents' Night for Summer Camp should be held in February or March. The main purpose of this meeting is to gain general acceptance by parents and boys of the Summer Camp Program of the Troop. You may wish to copy and hand out the enclosed "Importance of Scout Camping" sheet.

At times, it may be advisable to hold a split meeting with the adults giving consideration to policies and procedures while the boys meet in a separate part of the building to discuss plans on a boy-to-boy basis.

If you need help with any part of your Troop's camping promotion, or have any questions, contact your District's Camping Committee or the Scout Office.