

August 15, 2016

Dear Parents and Scouts,

Troop 344's high adventure experience next summer will be a return backpacking trip to the amazing and beautiful Ansel Adams Wilderness in California. The dates for the trip will be July 10 – July 20, 2017. Specifically, we plan to backpack in the Garnet Lake, Thousand Island Lake, Waugh Lake, and Clark Lakes region. For those who participated in the 2015 trip, Garnet Lake and Thousand Island Lake are worth a repeat visit while the rest of the trip will cover new ground. Trout fishing is encouraged. Anyone 16 or older and wanting to fish will have to purchase a license on their own.

Scouts must be 14 years old by December 31, 2017 and have the rank of Star to be eligible for the trip. Due to trailhead quotas, we may be limited to 15 people total. Priority will be given first to eligible scouts and registered adult leaders. Parents may join us providing space is available. Space will be reserved by placing a deposit on a first come first serve basis. Keep in mind that all participants will be required to carry approximately 25% of their body weight for 45+ miles and at elevations between 8500 and 10200 feet.

Any participants who are new to backpacking with us out west are required to take part in all shakedown hikes. These shakedown hikes are highly recommended for the more experienced participants to gauge level of fitness and preparedness. The most important shakedown hike will be to the Girard Backpacking Trail near Oil City, Pennsylvania on Memorial Day weekend.

**Estimated cost** for the 11 day trip is \$750. This cost is all inclusive except for 4 meals while on the road and souvenirs. **To reserve a spot, complete the information below and return this entire form along with a \$100 deposit per person.** We are requesting that any interested individuals make their deposits by September 13, 2016 so that we may begin the reservation process. Plane tickets need to be secured by the end of September to obtain the best rates and other deposits will need to be made to reserve vans and campground sites. Individuals reserving a spot after plane tickets have been secured will be charged any additional cost incurred in making their plane reservations.

If your family is having financial difficulties that make the cost of the trip or placing a deposit difficult, please call or talk to the Scoutmasters privately to see what options are available. We do not want to see anyone excluded for financial reasons.

Should anyone decide not to participate after reservations have been made, we will return any money deposited so long as a replacement for the individual can be found. Once we have the total participant numbers and the cost of the trip finalized, a payment schedule will be provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are interested in participating in this year's trip to the Ansel Adams Wilderness in California. Enclosed is a \$100 deposit per person.

Number from your family requesting to participate: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Names (Please Print):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_