



Scout-O-Gram

Troop 344

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April 2014



Summer Camp

Scouts planning on attending summer camp at Camp Berry from June 22-28, 2014 will need to have their final payment of \$175 paid by April 29, 2014. If more than one boy is coming to camp from the same family household, the 1st brother will pay the full fee with each additional brother receiving a 10% discount of \$25. Any Scout making payments after the due dates will be charged the full \$275. The only exception to this is Webelos crossing over. They have until May 27, 2014 to receive the discounted rate of \$250. A new physical is required each year for Summer Camp and all high adventure trips. A blank form has already been sent home. If you have lost yours, you can download another one from the troop website (bsa344.com) under the Forms and Resources tab or the Summer Camp tab.

Court of Honor

There will be a Court of Honor on May 27, 2014 at Harrison Park. The festivities will begin at 5:30PM with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share. The troop will provide the drink and table service. We will use this time to finalize all details for Summer Camp, White Water Rafting and the Uintas Backpacking Trip. Mark your calendars now as this event is important for all Scouts and their parents to attend.

White Water Rafting 2014

Troop 344 is planning a mini high adventure trip open to all Scouts. It will include white water rafting on the New River in West Virginia. The trip will be from July 6-9, 2014. We will depart Sunday, June 6 around noon, camp for three nights in West Virginia, and return late afternoon on Wednesday, June 9. The Scouts will be working on their white water merit badge during this experience. The Scouts will be on the river with guides on Monday in small kayaks where they will take care of most of the requirements for the merit badge. On Tuesday, the adults will join them for a full day of white water rafting. The cost will be \$275 for Scouts and \$190 for any adults that want to join us. The costs will cover all trips on the river (two for the Scouts and one for the adults), transportation, camping fees, and food while in West Virginia. Scouts will need money for meals while traveling to and from West Virginia. Payments for the trip are due by May 1, 2014. If you have any questions about this experience, contact one of the Scoutmasters.



High Adventure 2014

This year's high adventure trip will see Troop 344 travelling to Utah to backpack on the Highline Trail from July 12-24, 2014. The Highline Trail runs 78 east-west miles through the 456,705 acres High Uintas Wilderness of northeast Utah and seldom drops below 10,500 feet. The often-bouldery track crosses nine major passes. What hikers see is the very best of alpine and subalpine Utah. It's the perfect aerie to

spy the wilderness's 26 summits above 13,000 feet, an estimated 1,000 glacier-formed lakes and ponds, 36 major streams, and megafauna galore. The Uintas' long, brick-red ridgelines of billion-year-old quartzite, gradually being swallowed by their own talus, have a powerful majesty that 19th-century explorer Ferdinand Hayden singled out among all the mountain ranges he'd seen. Compared to others, he wrote, the Uintas stands alone for its "contrast so pleasing to the eye."

We will hike a portion of the Highline Trail from Hayden Pass and exit before Anderson Pass by way of Swift Creek Trailhead. Time permitting; we will drop packs and dayhike over Anderson Pass to Kings Peak, Utah's 13,528-foot highpoint.

Scouts must be 14 years old by December 31, 2014, hold the rank of Star, and participate in the shakedown hikes this spring to be eligible for the trip.

The cost for the trip is \$600. Final payments are due by May 15, 2014. We will have a parents meeting May 27, 2014 after the Court of Honor at Harrison Park to discuss the trip itinerary and other important details. If your Scout is participating and you cannot make the informational meeting, contact Assistant Scoutmaster Terry McKibben for all of the necessary details.



Website Members Area

To log in and access the Members Area of the Troop website you must have a user name and password. Each Scout's username is their first initial and last name (no spaces). Their password is their numeric birthday. For example, if the Scout's name was Joe Scouter and he was born on July 6, 1998, his user name would be jscouter and his password would be 070698. Please check over your Scout's information to make sure that it is all correct. Any inaccuracies should be brought to our attention so that they may be corrected. You can print out a Troop phone list from the reports section of the Members Area. **In addition, please go over your Scout's individual history (also found in the Members Area of the Troop website) on a regular basis and continue urging him to make progress.** The younger Scouts can come prepared to any meeting

ready to check off on their Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class requirements. We have several older Scouts and adults in attendance that can accommodate them. Participation in Troop outings can help as advancement opportunities are built into these events. Some activities the Troop has planned do have a rank requirement and working on advancement continuously will help ensure the scout's ability to participate. The key point is that the Scout must want to advance. We provide the opportunities for advancement; the Scout must take the initiative.



"I'LL NEVER TAKE YOU BACKPACKING AGAIN."

Upcoming Events of Note

We have prepared an online calendar which covers the Troop's activities for the next year. Please check the Troop website frequently for any calendar updates. The following are upcoming events. Additional information including times, locations, and driving directions can be obtained from the calendar on the Troop website.

April 25-27, 2014

Baden Powell Campout at Oak Openings

May 23-26, 2014

Backpacking Shakedown Hike at Oil City, PA

May 27, 2014

Court of Honor at Harrison Park

June 22-28, 2014

Summer Camp at Camp Berry

July 6-9, 2014

White Water Rafting on the New River, WV

July 12-24, 2014

Backpacking in Utah