

December 3, 2024

Dear Parents and Scouts,

This summer's high adventure trip will be a backpacking trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. The dates for the trip are July 12-24, 2024. This trip will begin with the group taking two days to drive to the Black Hills. We will basecamp for the first three nights and tour Devils Tower National Monument and Crazy Horse Memorial along with a day hike to Little Devils Tower and the Cathedral Spires in the Black Elk wilderness. Once backpacking begins, we will hike approximately 40 miles over 7 days in the Black Elk Wilderness, averaging about 6 miles per day. Keep in mind that all participants will be required to carry approximately 25% of their body weight while hiking on the trail. This backpacking trip also includes hiking into Mount Rushmore for a short visit.

Scouts must be 14 years old by December 31, 2025 (or have the approval of the trip leaders) and have the rank of Star to be eligible for the trip. Any participants who are new to backpacking with us are **required** to take part in two shakedown hikes. The shakedown hikes are also highly recommended for the more experienced participants to gauge level of fitness and preparedness. The first shakedown hike will be at Oak Openings sometime in April. The second shakedown hike will be at Oil Creek State Park in Pennsylvania over Memorial Weekend. We will also have a mandatory pre-trip meeting in early July to discuss the final details and answer any questions participants or parents may have.

Due to limitations in vehicle seating space and backcountry regulation limits on the number of hikers in a group, we can accommodate up to 20 people. Reservations for participating in this trip are on a first come first serve basis. Priority will be given to eligible scouts and currently registered leaders. Parents may join us providing space is available. BSA regulations require all adults on a trip such as this (including parents), fill out an application form which includes a background check, pay a registration fee, and take the online Youth Protection Training.

The estimated cost for this amazing adventure is approximately \$750 and is all inclusive except for souvenirs. **To reserve a spot, complete the information below and return this entire form along with a \$150 deposit per person.** The first deposit will need to be made by January 14, 2025 so that reservations can start to be made. The second payment of \$300 will be due by March 11, 2025 and the final payment of \$280 will be due by May 13, 2025. The last payment amount may be adjusted once the final costs of the trip and the total number of participants are known. If an individual makes a deposit and later decides not to go, to help maintain costs for everyone, any deposits made are nonrefundable unless a replacement can be found for the withdrawing individual. No one likes to have their fees increased at a later date because someone backed out.

If your family is having financial difficulties that makes the cost of the trip or placing a deposit difficult, please call or talk to the Scoutmasters privately to hear about the options we have available. We do not want anyone excluded for financial reasons.

Number from your family requesting to attend: _____ X \$150 = _____
Total amount of first deposit

Scout Name

Additional Participant

Additional Participant

Parent's Signature

Additional Participant

Additional Participant

Date

Troop 344/9344 Black Hills Itinerary

July 12-24, 2025

Saturday, July 12, 2025

5:00AM ET Depart from Pemberville Elementary School parking lot.
6:00PM CT Arrive at Myre-Big Island State Park, 19499 780th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507) 668-7060

Sunday, July 13, 2025

8:00AM CT Depart Myre-Big Island State Park
6:00PM MT Arrive at Sylvan Lake Campground, Custer State Park, 24581 SD-87, Custer, SD 57730 (800) 710-2267

Monday, July 14, 2025

8:00AM MT Depart for Devil's Tower National Monument, WY-110, Devils Tower, WY 82714 (307) 467-5283
10:00AM MT Arrive at Devil's Tower National Monument, WY
1:00PM MT Depart Devil's Tower National Monument, WY
3:00PM MT Arrive at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD 57730 (605) 673-4681
5:00PM MT Depart Crazy Horse Memorial
5:30PM MT Arrive at Sylvan Lake Campground

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

8:00AM MT Dayhike to Little Devil's Tower, Cathedral Spires, Sylvan Lake Loop, and Sunday Gulch Trail. 7.8 miles
2:00PM MT Swimming at Sylvan Lake.
4:00PM MT Leaders stage vans at Spring Lake Trailhead. Truck will be left at Sylvan Lake Trailhead

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Sylvan Lake Trailhead to Willow Creek Loop. Camp about 1/2 way on the loop. 6.0 miles

Thursday, July 17, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Willow Creek Loop to Grizzly Creek Trail. Camp where the creek meets the trail. 7.2 miles

Friday, July 18, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Grizzly Creek to Centennial Trail and camp where Grizzly Bear Creek joins the trail. 6.6 miles

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Grizzly Bear Creek on the Centennial Trail to Mt. Rushmore. Tour. 0.8 miles
9:00AM MT Tour Mt. Rushmore.
12:00PM MT Depart Mt. Rushmore and hike to Pine Creek on the Centennial Trail. 4.2 miles

Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:30AM MT Hike from Pine Creek to Battle Creek. 2.2 miles
No water for 9.6 miles after this point.

Monday, July 21, 2025

7:30AM MT Hike from Battle Creek to Calumet/Flume Trailhead on Sheridan Lake. 9.6 miles

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Sheridan Lake to Spring Lake Trailhead and board vans. 2.1 miles
11:00AM MT Arrive at Sylvan Lake Campground
Dayhiking Mileage ~8 miles. Backpacking mileage ~39 miles. Total Mileage ~47 miles.
6:00PM MT Dining at Pizza Works 429 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, South Dakota 57730 (605) 673-2020

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

7:00AM MT Depart Sylvan Campground
6:00PM CT Arrive at Motel 6, 2019 E Main St, Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507) 377-0591

Thursday, July 24, 2025

6:00AM CT Depart Motel 6, Albert Lea, MN
7:00PM ET Arrive at Pemberville.

Estimated Trip Expenses

Van Rental	Van Rentals (2-12 passenger)	\$3600
Trailer Rental	U-Haul	\$270
Gas	3000 miles/15 MPG = 200 gallons gas x \$4.00/gallon x 3 vehicles	\$2400
Camping	Myre-Big Island State Park	\$100
Camping	Sylvan Campground	\$315
Food	\$12/person/day x 15 people x 12 days	\$2160
Motel	1 night x 5 rooms x \$75	\$375
Miscellaneous	Maps, equipment, parking, tolls, etc.	\$600
Troop Backpacking Equipment Replacement Fee	(\$50 per person)	\$750
T-shirts	\$25/person x 15 people	<u>\$375</u>

Total Expenses \$10945

Subtotal cost per participant (based on 15 participants) \$730

Cost with 16 participants	\$705
Cost with 17 participants	\$680
Cost with 18 participants	\$660
Cost with 19 participants	\$645
Cost with 20 participants	\$630

1. The trip expenses are estimated and are to be used for planning purposes only. We will have a more accurate cost per participant when reservations have been completed and the trip roster is known.
2. Trip costs are based on the use of a personal truck being donated to the troop for transporting Scouts, equipment, luggage, and towing a U-Haul trailer. Gas for the truck will be provided by the troop.
3. We currently are planning on collecting \$750 per participant to make sure all expenses are covered.
4. A deposit of \$150 will need to be made by January 14, 2025. Due to limitations on vehicle space and backcountry limits on the number of hikers, we can accommodate up to 20 people. Regulations in this area allow our entire group to hike and camp together. Reservations are first come first serve and will be cut off when we reach 20 participants.
5. Should an individual that makes a deposit and later decides not to go, to help maintain costs for everyone, the \$150 deposit is nonrefundable unless a replacement can be found for the withdrawing individual. No one likes to have their fees increased at a later date.
6. Second payment of \$300 will be due by March 11, 2025.
7. Final payment of \$280 will be due by May 13, 2025. The last payment amount will be adjusted once the final costs of the trip and the total number of participants are known.