

Troop Four Summer Camp Adventure 2006

One of the highlights of the scouting year, and often one of the highlights of a scout's time in Boy Scouts, is taking part in the annual summer camp experience.

The primary goal of our troop's outdoor program is to provide each scout with a wide variety of exciting and challenging opportunities for adventure and learning while he is part of the troop. To meet that goal with the summer camp part of the program, our troop annually attends the Knox Trail Council's Camp Resolute. In addition, on an every other year basis, our troop does a troop-level high-adventure weeklong activity.

The 2006 year is one of the years that the troop will be participating in both Camp Resolute and a high-adventure event.

The two summer camps that Troop Four will be attending for 2006 are:

- Camp Resolute in Bolton, MA the week of Sunday July 16 through Friday July 21
- The 50 Miler Great Adirondack Canoe Adventure Saturday July 29 - Friday Aug. 4

Scouts may attend either or both camps. 2006 Webelos crossovers to Boy Scouts will be allowed to take part in the Adirondack Adventure only on a scoutmaster approved basis.

The following is a summary of both events. **Also, there will be a parents meeting (held during our regular troop meeting) for any parents interested in learning more about the Adirondack Adventure on Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting will run about the length of regular troop meeting. If you can not make the meeting, please call Dave Kirchner if you have any questions.

Summer Camp 2006 Survey

Running both a traditional Camp Resolute and a troop high adventure trip in the same year takes a tremendous amount of planning and co-ordination with the adult volunteers. **To help make the process easier, we are asking all parents to complete the attached survey and return it by the January 19 troop meeting. The survey can be dropped off at any prior troop meeting or you can email the information to Dave Kirchner at kirchner5@comcast.net Please help us out with this information.**

Camp Resolute

This year for Camp Resolute the Troop has reserved the Char - Mur troop campsite. The site is large enough to accommodate the entire troop. As is the past, this will be the traditional summer camp experience of sleeping in two-man platform tents with cots and eating meals in the dining hall.

The Camp will be offering its regular complete selection of summer camp merit badges as well as programs for the older scouts including Scout Life Guard, Mountain Man, and COPE. The Troop will work with scouts who need Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements for advancement.

Camp ends on Friday night after a camp-wide barbeque and a camp-wide campfire. The Troop will participate in both the barbeque and the campfire. Families are invited to stay for both. Because summer camp ends on Friday, we will not be able to have a Court of Honor at camp.

Instead, we will announce the awards that the scouts have earned and have the awards presented at a Court of Honor in September or October.

The Troop will have the regular adult leaders for the week, including John Rowan, Dave Kirchner, Phil Bedard, Donald Maynard, and Peter Lanciano. **However, many of the adult leaders are also taking an entire vacation week for the Adirondack Canoe Adventure, and their vacation time to commit to Camp Resolute is limited. Parents, we need your help to take a day/night or two to attend camp to help meet the adult requirements for the camp. We will have an adult leader with you, and all you will be required to do is be present.** Meals are at the dining hall and there are hot adult showers. Many adults actually commute to camp from/to work for a day or so. If you can help out please indicate on the attached Summer Camp Adventure 2006 Survey.

How to Sign Up for Camp Resolute: Although Camp Resolute is operated by the Knox Trail Council, the Troop will be collecting the summer camp fees and remitting them to the Council. The fees for 2006 have not been set yet, but will be in the \$275 per scout/\$200 for second brother range. Please see Dave Kirchner if the fee is a hardship (confidential). Once the fee is set we will advise the parents. Each scout should also get the Camp Resolute flyer in the mail in the spring. **The camp fee will be due no later than the April 13, 2006 troop meeting. For new scouts and Webelos cross-overs, the deadline for the camp fee is the May 25, 2006 troop meeting.**

50 Miler Great Adirondack Canoe Adventure

This is a high adventure experience that will have scouts canoeing 50 miles of rivers and lakes in the Adirondack wilderness and camping over a seven day, six night period, venturing into outpost towns, and earning outdoor merit badges. Scouts and adults will earn the rare and highly regarded BSA "50 Miler Afloat Award".

Occasionally, the Council will offer or some troops will do a 50 mile canoe trip. However, these trips are rarely offered, offered only to scouts over 14 years old, and are expensive. This will probably be the only chance a scout will have to do a week-long canoe trip into the wilderness.

We will leave Milford by chartered bus on Saturday morning, July 29 and arrive in the town of Long Lake, New York (about 250 miles away) to start our trip. We will canoe and camp along a route that takes us through lakes and rivers of the Raquette River/Tupper Lake region. Besides being able to explore the trading post town of Long Lake, there will be one other trading post stop. We will canoe during parts of the day and camp at pre-determined campsites along the route. The total water route will be a little over 50 miles. The following Friday, August 4, we will finish up at Tupper Lake and take a chartered bus back to Milford. We will be home in time Friday night for a family barbeque (the Lanciano family has generously offered to host at their home) and 50-Miler Award presentation to each scout and adult participant.

We will be sleeping in troop tents and cooking patrol size groups for the trip. The cooking will be on a mix of open fire/troop backpacking "Coleman" stoves. The food that we eat will be a planned menu and will be a top-rate expedition menu that we are developing over the next several months (the meals will be excellent!). The food and specialty gear will be purchased by the troop and packed by the scouts prior to leaving for the trip.

There are many areas of planning, logistics, specialty gear, and food that are required for the trip. Venture scouts and other scouts will be working closely in assigned positions with adult leaders for these areas. This is a great learning and leadership opportunity for the scouts.

Adult leaders for the week will be John Rowan, Dave Kirchner, Phil Bedard, Donald Maynard, Peter Lanciano, Tony Fasulo, and several other adult leaders. The trip leaders all have extensive experience with canoe trips and other high adventure activities. As with all of our activities, the

Troop will follow all of the BSA regulations for the trip and we will meet or exceed the requirements for training, water safety, first aid, etc.

This trip will be a great opportunity for scouts to earn outdoor merit badges. The adult leaders will be counselors for the badges and we will have time built into the trip to allow for scouts to work with the counselors earn the badges "in the wilderness". We are planning to offer the following merit badges: Backpacking, Canoeing, Camping, Cooking, First Aid, Hiking, Mammal Study, Nature, Orienteering, Pioneering, Soil & Water Conservation, Weather, Wilderness Survival, and Woodcarving.

The complete cost of the trip (food, troop and specialty equipment, transportation, etc.) for scouts, adult leaders and parents is projected to be about \$400. Scouts will only need to bring their personal camping gear (which they already have) and some pocket \$ for the trading post stops and lunch on the bus trip up/back. Included in the cost of the trip will be a special Troop 4 Adirondack Expedition t-shirt!

Pancake breakfast tickets can be used to reduce the cost of the trip! Any scout who sells at least 30 tickets will get a dollar for dollar reduction in the cost of the trip for each ticket sold. For example if a scout sells 32 tickets (32 X \$5) \$160; then the cost of the trip will only be \$140 (\$400 - \$160).

How to Sign Up for the Adirondack Adventure: The deposit of \$100 per person for the trip is due no later than the March 9 troop meeting. The balance due for the trip, less any \$ from the sale of the pancake breakfast tickets, is due by the May 18 troop meeting.

Importance of Scouts Selling the Pancake Breakfast Tickets

We try to make the annual pancake breakfast our only fund raiser for the year. The proceeds from the breakfast are used for: keeping our high adventure trips affordable for all scouts, troop equipment purchases, and troop supplies. Selling the tickets can lower or actually eliminate the scouts cost of this years high adventure trip - and help the scouts finance their own troop activities. It is important that all scouts sell tickets, not just the scout going on the high adventure - all scouts benefit from the breakfast fundraiser.

The Troop really wants the scouts to sell the tickets - not just the parents purchasing the tickets. Scouts should go with parents to friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. The \$5 per ticket is a great value and the troop does a great time putting on the event. There is a prize for each scout who sell at least 30 tickets (a folding knife) and a folding knife plus a high-tech folding knife for the scout who sells the most tickets.

Besides the ticket sales, our Communications Merit Badge group sells business sponsorships/advertising for the breakfast. Last year, the merit badge group of seven scouts raised over \$1,500 in a little over an afternoon efforts.

Thanks for all of your support. We are looking forward to a great upcoming year for Camp Resolute and 50 Miler Adirondack Canoe Adventure! Please call or email Dave Kirchner if you have any questions.

Troop Four
Summer Camp Adventure 2006 Survey
Please Complete and Return no later than the Jan. 19, 2006 troop meeting
Or email Results to Dave Kirchner at: kirchner5@comcast.net

Scout: _____

Camp Resolute
July 16-21, 2006

50 Miler Adirondack Adventure
July 29 - August 4, 2006

My son will attend _____

My son is interested in attending _____

I can help at Camp Resolute
(# days/nights) _____

I may be able to help at
Camp Resolute (# days/nights) _____

I will attend the 50 Miler _____

I am interested in attending
The 50 Miler _____

My son will not be attending either camp/trip for 2006: _____

Parent: _____

Please remember that this is only for planning purposes. Decisions are not final until the \$ due dates of March 9, 2006 for the 50 Miler and April 13, 2006 for Camp Resolute.