

Troop Four Summer Camp Adventures for 2008

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 2008 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 the Troop Four will be attending for 2008 are:

- Camp Resolute in Bolton, Ma the week of Sunday July 6 through Friday July 11
- CampTahosa in Ward, CO (north of Boulder, CO.) the week of Saturday August 2 through Saturday August 9

Scouts may attend either or both camps. Webelos crossovers to Boy Scouts in 2008 will be allowed to take part in the Camp Tahosa trip only on a scoutmaster approved basis.

The following is a summary of both events. Additional information will be presented at the high adventure parent's meeting on November 29, 2007. Also, we will be going out with our regular Camp Resolute information package in March/April and there will be several informational handouts for scouts taking part in the Camp Tahosa trip. Please call or email Dave Kirchner if you have any questions about either camp.

Summer Camp 2008 Survey

Running both a traditional Camp Resolute and a troop high adventure trip the same year takes a tremendous amount of planning and co-ordination with adult volunteers. **To help make the process easier, we are asking all parents to complete the attached survey and return it by the January 31 troop meeting.** *The survey is for estimating participation only – it is not binding anyone to commitments.* 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, we need everyone to respond to the survey by the deadline.**

Camp Resolute

This year the troop has reserved the Nomalos campsite. The site is large enough for accommodate the entire troop. As in 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 offers its regular complete selection of summer camp merit badges as well as programs for older scouts including Scout Life Guard, Mountain Man, and COPE. The troop will work with scouts who need Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class advancement.

Camp ends on Friday night after a camp-wide barbeque and camp-wide campfire. The troop will participate in both the barbeque and campfire. Families are invited to stay for both.

The Troop will have the regular adult leaders for the week. However, many of the adult leaders are also taking a full vacation week for the high adventure Camp Tahosa trip and their vacation time to commit to Camp Resolute is limited. Parents, we need your help to take a day and/or night or two during the week to attend the 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/from work for a day or more. If you can help out please indicate on the attached Summer Camp Survey.

How to sign up for Camp Resolute: Although the camp is operated by the Knox Trail Council, the Troop will collect the summer camp fees and remit them to the Council. The fees for 2008 have not been set yet, but will be in the \$275 per scout range and \$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 will probably get a Camp Resolute flyer in the mail in the spring. ***The camp fee will be due by the April 17, 2008 troop meeting. For Webelos crossovers the deadline for the camp fee is the May 29, 2008 troop meeting.***

Camp Tahosa High Adventure

Camp Tahosa was selected because it offers a combination of classic scout camp activities, real high adventure backpacking, western day and overnight hikes, all in a unique Rocky Mountain setting.

There is a complete “basic camp program” with merit badges and ranges similar to Camp Resolute – all set in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

For scouts 13 years old by January 1, 2008 (no exceptions and the scoutmaster further limit participation) there will be the option to complete 5 day, 4 night backpacking trip up to 12,000 ft evaluations going over the Continental Divide and returning to the base camp. We have done these types of wilderness backpacking trips in the Rocky Mountains before and they are truly a “once in a lifetime opportunity” for most scouts.

Camp Tahosa is a Denver Area BSA Council 320 acre camp located north of Boulder, Colorado in a fairly remote part of the state. The elevation of the camp is almost 9,000 feet. The website for the Denver Area Council to learn more about Camp Tahosa is www.denverareacouncil.com

The troop will have its own campsite. The scouts will sleep in two-man platform tents – same as Resolute, except the scouts will have to bring air mattresses/foam pads. There is a trading post, hot showers, and a nurse’s office. Each patrol will be cooking its own food at the site for most of the meals. The camp provides the ingredients from the camp commissary 3 times a day for the meals (the same format is used at National and World Jamborees –when there are up to 50,000 scouts in a camp). Cooking will be done on Coleman gas stoves.

The troop will have many adult leaders on the trip, most who have many years of leadership and high adventure experience. As with all of our activities, the troop will meet or exceed the BSA requirements for the trip.

Transportation to/from the camp will be: bus from St. Mary’s parish center to airport (Boston or Providence), fly to Denver airport and bus to camp, bus from camp to Denver airport and fly to airport back home, and bus to return to St. Mary’s in Milford.

The cost of the trip, including all camp fees, food, transportation and troop supplies to be about \$600 per participant. The actual cost of the trip is reduced by the amount of pancake breakfast tickets that the scout sells.

How to sign up for the Camp Tahosa High Adventure: A deposit of \$100 per person for the trip is due by the February 14 troop meeting. A schedule for the remaining balance will be sent out as the planning continues.

The 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 use for: keeping our high adventure trips affordable to all our scouts, troop equipment purchases, and troop supplies. Selling tickets can lower or actually eliminate the scouts cost of the high adventure trip. – and help scouts finance their own troop activities. It is important that all scouts sell tickets, not just the ones going on the high adventure – all scouts benefit from the 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. There are prizes for the top 3 sellers of the tickets and prize drawings for all scouts who sell any tickets.

Besides the ticket sales, our Communications merit badge group will be selling advertising for the breakfast.

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

Summer Camp 2008 Survey

Please complete and return by the January 31 troop meeting

Scout: _____

	Camp Resolute	Camp Tahosa
My son will attend	_____	_____
My son may attend	_____	_____
I can help out at Resolute	_____	
I may be able to help at Resolute	_____	
I will attend Camp Tahosa		_____
I may attend Camp Tahosa		_____
My son will not attend either camping trip for 2008	_____	

Parent: _____

Please remember that this is for planning purposes only Decisions are not final until the \$ due dates of February 14 for Camp Tahosa and April 17 for Camp Resolute.