

# ***Troop Four Summer Camp Adventures for 2012***

## **Summer Camps Introduction**

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 2012 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 2012 are:

- Camp Resolute in Bolton, Ma the week of Sunday July 8 through Friday July 13
- CampTahosa in Ward, CO (northwest of Boulder, CO.) the week of Saturday July 21 through Saturday July 28

Scouts may attend either or both camps. Webelos crossovers to Boy Scouts in 2012 will be allowed to take part in the Camp Tahosa trip only on a scoutmaster approved basis.

The letter summarizes both planned summer camp experiences. Additional information will be presented at the high adventure scout/parent meeting on January 5, 2012. Due to our need to make early air-fare and trek reservations to Colorado, it is strongly recommended that all interested scouts/parents attend this January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Even scouts/parents that are currently not interested should attend, as we hope our planned scout-led presentation will give cause to consider this exciting opportunity. For those that want to participate, a \$100 deposit will be required at the following January 12<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. The ability to add scouts to the trip roster after this date, and at the expected price, may be limited.

Camp Resolute (the local summer camp) does not require an early deposit. We will be mailing out our regular Camp Resolute information package in March/April. Please call or email Phil Bedard if you have any questions about either camp.

## **Camp Resolute**

This year the troop has reserved the Char-Mur campsite. The site is large enough to 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.

Regular troop adult leaders will attend camp, 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. Therefore, we will need parent help for 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. We will contact families to arrange the "help schedule" later this spring.

***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 2012 have not been set yet. Last year, it was \$340 per scout and \$269 for second brother. Please see Phil Bedard if the fee is a hardship (confidential). There will likely be a modest price rise this year. Once the fee is set in stone we will advise parents. ***The camp fee will be due by the April 26, 2012 troop meeting. For Webelos crossovers the deadline for the camp fee is the May 24, 2012 troop meeting.***

### **Camp Tahosa High Adventure**

The troop has traveled on six previous high adventures. Previous destinations included the Adirondack rivers and mountains, the Penobscot River in Maine, and the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Camp Tahosa was selected this year because it offers a combination of classic scout camp activities, real high adventure backpacking, western day-trip & overnight hikes, all in a unique Rocky Mountain setting. The troop attended this camp in 2008, and was so impressed; we've decided to return again.

Tahosa will feature a traditional "basic camp program" with merit badges and activities similar to Camp Resolute – all set in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

*For scouts 13 years old by January 1, 2012 (no exceptions and the scoutmaster may further limit participation) there will be the option to complete 5 day, 4 night Alpine Adventure trip up to 12,500 ft elevations 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. There is no age requirement for other camp adventure activities.*

The troop expects to field a small team of experienced and physically fit scouts on the Alpine Adventure, and a moderate size team that will operate out of base camp. In 2008, the "base camp" crew completed the rock climbing merit badge (on real rock cliffs!), 2 or 3 day backpacking treks, fished the camp lake for wild trout, and did a side visit to Rocky Mountain National Park. We also had memorable "wild west" canoe and kayak races with other attending troops. The camp is situated on the edge of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, and has a national forest trailhead right in camp. The troop really enjoyed the laid back and unregimented camp atmosphere, and very friendly and accommodating professional guides. These guides went out of their way to let our scouts design an adventure program tailored to their specific interests.

Camp Tahosa is a Denver Area BSA Council 320 acre camp located northwest of Boulder, Colorado in a fairly remote part of the state. The elevation of the base camp is 9,000 feet. The website for the Denver Area Council to learn more about Camp Tahosa is [www.denverareacouncil.com](http://www.denverareacouncil.com)

The troop will have its own campsite near the shore of an alpine lake. Scouts will sleep in two-man troop tents as we do on regular troop camping trips. There is a rustic dining hall, trading post, hot showers, and a nurse's office. While the camp property is huge, they limit attendance to just a few troops, which adds to the wilderness feel of the camp.

The troop will have many adult leaders on the trip, most of whom 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 leadership and supervision for the trip.

Transportation to/from the camp will be via charter bus from St. Mary's parish center to airport (Providence), then via air to the Denver airport, and then charter bus again to camp.

The cost of the trip, including all camp fees, food, transportation and troop supplies is expected to be between \$550 and \$600 per participant. The actual cost of the trip is much higher, but will be reduced to this expected price range by our successful 2011 and upcoming 2012 pancake breakfast fundraising. Scouts can further reduce the price of their trip (dollar for dollar) by selling beyond their \$100 pancake ticket allocation.

***How to sign up for the Camp Tahosa High Adventure: A deposit of \$100 per person for the trip is due by the January 12th 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, since all scouts benefit from the equipment purchased by the proceeds.

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. Ticket selling incentives are detailed in the troop newsletter.

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 Phil Bedard if you have any questions.