

Information: 2017 Summer High Adventure

Tahosa High Adventure Base, Ward, CO



November 6, 2016

Parents/Scouts,

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 summer camp.

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, biennially our troop participates in a troop-level high adventure.

The 2017 year is one of the years that the Troop will be participating in such a high adventure event. We will attend Camp Tahosa in Ward, CO (northwest of Boulder, CO) the week of Saturday July 15th through Saturday July 22nd.

The letter summarizes our planned summer camp experience. Additional information will be presented at a high adventure scout/parent meeting on November 8, 2016. Due to our need to make early trek reservations in Colorado, it is strongly recommended that all interested scouts/parents attend this meeting on November 8th. Even scouts/parents who currently are not interested should attend, as we hope our presentation will give cause to consider this exciting opportunity. For those that want to participate, a \$50 non-refundable deposit will be required at the Troop meeting on November 10th. The ability to add scouts to the trip roster after this date, and at the expected price, may be limited.

Tahosa High Adventure Base

Camp Tahosa was selected this year because it offers a combination of classic scout camp activities, high adventure backpacking, and western day-trip & overnight hikes, all in a unique Rocky Mountain setting. The Troop attended this camp in 2008 and 2012 and was so impressed that we have decided to return.

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.

Some useful links to for the Denver Area Council are:

Tahosa Alpine Trek: <http://www.denverboyscouts.org/camping/boy-scouts/tahosa-high-adventure-base/alpine-adventure-trek/44271>

Tahosa Trek Link: <http://www.denverboyscouts.org/camping/boy-scouts/tahosa-high-adventure-base/tahosa-trek/50477>

Tahosa Link: <http://www.denverboyscouts.org/camping/boy-scouts/tahosa-high-adventure-base/eaglepoint/11111>

Tahosa Programs

Tahosa features two programs: Eagle Point Base Camp (with Tahosa Trek) and Alpine Adventure Trek.

Eagle Point Base Camp & Tahosa Treks

Eagle Point Base Camp features a traditional “basic camp program” with merit badges and activities similar to Camp Resolute - all set in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. There is no age requirement for other camp adventure activities.

In 2008 and 2012, the “base camp” crew completed the rock climbing merit badge (on real rock cliffs!), a 3 day backpacking trek (a Tahosa Trek), 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.

This year 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 also will take part in a Tahosa Trek.

Tahosa Trek was created to provide an introduction to backpacking for those Scouts too young for Alpine Adventure Trek, or, who do not yet feel ready for an extended backpacking trip. Tahosa Trek is comprised of classroom time and a three day, two night trip in the Roosevelt National Forest just off the Tahosa High Adventure Base property.

Over the three days, Scouts will learn about packing a backpack, clothing and footwear choices, as well as learn about pacing and choosing a campsite. Scouts will also learn about cooking over a backpacking stove and the principles of Leave No Trace. At the end of the program trekkers will have the skills and confidence to tackle larger trips or return to the troop to teach those Tenderfoots and Second Class Scouts.

Treks are limited to 11 participants and must include a minimum of 1 adult. Scouts must be second year campers to participate in this program. All but the WEBELOS who cross over this year will satisfy this requirement.

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.

Alpine Adventure Treks

For scouts 13 years old by January 1, 2017 (no exceptions and the Troop may further limit participation based on fitness) there will be the option to complete 5 day, 4 night Alpine Adventure trip up to 12,500 foot 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.

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.

Transportation

The Troop will solicit volunteers to transport our scouts and leaders to either Providence International Airport or Boston/Logan International Airport. The Troop will travel via air to Denver International Airport, and then via charter bus to camp Tahosa.

Program Cost

The cost of the trip, including all camp fees, food, transportation and Troop supplies is expected to be between \$900 and \$1,000 per participant. The actual cost of the trip is much higher, but will be reduced to this expected price range by our successful 2016 and upcoming 2017 pancake breakfast fundraising. Scouts can further reduce the price of their trip (dollar for dollar) by selling beyond their \$100 pancake ticket allocation.

Signing Up for the Camp Tahosa High Adventure

A deposit of \$50 per person for the trip is due by the November 10, 2016 Troop meeting. A schedule for the remaining balance will be sent out as the planning continues.

Reducing Out-of-Pocket Costs – The Importance of Fundraising

We try to make the annual pancake breakfast our only fund raiser for the year. The proceeds from the breakfast are used to help keep our high adventure trips affordable to all our scouts as well as to purchase Troop equipment 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.

This year, we have planned three fundraising events in addition to our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. Many thanks to Ray Norris who has been quietly working in the background to plan these events in time for the brief holiday season.

For two consecutive weekends, November 12-13 and November 19-20, our scouts will take orders for Christmas wreaths following each mass at the vestibule of Saint Mary of the Assumption Church. The wreaths will be offered in two sizes: approximately a 22” diameter at a sales price of \$15.00 and approximately a 28” diameter at a sales price of \$20.00. Unlike

our annual pancake fundraiser, scouts asked not to solicit sales of wreaths door to door. Of course, if a friend, neighbor or family member would like to purchase a wreath, we would accommodate their request; however, our goal is to focus our efforts on these two dates within the community of our Troop sponsor, Saint Mary's. Wreaths that are ordered on either of these two weekends will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 4th. For more information about this fundraiser and the ways that you can help please contact Ray Norris or me. Ray may be reached at raymond.norris@comcast.net. I may be reached at brian_p_weber@comcast.net.

On Thursday, November 17th, 5 Guys Burgers and Fries, located at 9 Medway Road, Milford - Hannaford Plaza will donate to Troop 4 a percentage of its net sales between the hours of 5pm and 10pm. What better way to show your support for the Troop than to share this amazing opportunity with all of your hungry friends and their families.

Similar to 5 Guys, on Tuesday, November 29th, Dairy Queen, located at 190 West St, Milford, MA 01757 will donate to Troop 4 a percentage of its net sales between the hours of 5pm and 8pm. DQ has been a perennial supporter of Troop 4's pancake breakfast through its contributions to our advertising campaign. Once again, I ask you to share this DQ opportunity with all of your friends and their families.

Thanks for all of your support. We are looking forward to a great upcoming year for Camp Tahosa! Please call or email Brian Weber or Mark Hobart if you have any questions.

Brian/Mr. Weber