

Some final notes from the Scoutmaster before summer camp

- 1) The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared". New campers invariably forget some items, but let's try to **Be Prepared** and have at least the basics... adequate sleeping bag, pillow, ground pad or air mattress, chair if you want one, jacket or sweats for cool evenings and mornings, swim suit & towel, money for the various expenses outlined below, hat, flashlight, extra batteries, Class A uniform, Class B for on the bus, Scout Handbook, merit badge books, container for personal items, etc. **Parents:** please be sure your son has at least these basics and help him go over the list of equipment in the handout. Remember also, Scouts are responsible for *carrying* their own gear. Adults will not do this for you. They have their own gear to deal with.
- 2) Every bus passenger should use what is commonly referred to as an 18-gallon storage tub (Rubbermaid or similar). The dimensions should be approximately 23½" L x 15" W x 16½" H. You might use duct tape to secure the lid to the bottom and write your name in permanent black marker on both pieces. This tub and the carry-on back pack (see item #3), should hold all of your clothes, extra shoes, toiletries and other personal items
- 3) Each bus passenger will be allowed a carry-on bag like a backpack to keep small items (book, pen or pencil, camera, CD players). I suggest also a jacket or small blanket, we will be traveling at night and it may get a bit cool. It might be nice to have one to make sleeping more comfortable.
- 4) If a Scout wants to have a chair to sit in he must bring one and it must be of the collapsible type that folds into a bag. With duct tape and permanent black marker put your name on it.
- 5) Each Scout may bring up to ONE 12 pack of soda. Leave cans in the 12-pack container for the bus ride to camp. Each patrol will be able to bring ONE cooler to be *shared* by patrol members and it will be stocked with ice daily. A Scout is **TRUSTWORTHY** – do not help yourself to another Scout's drinks. Patrol leaders show your leadership here. Twelve sodas over a five day period is only a bit over two per day, but the troop will provide some for the bus trip and during special periods, AND there will always be WATER and KOOLAI DE available in addition to the drinks provided with meals. If this isn't enough, you may purchase drinks at camp.
- 6) With each Patrol being allowed a cooler for drinks we will need some extra coolers. I anticipate us needing 5 extra coolers (the Troop has 3). The ideal size is 25"L x 14"W x 15"H, I think this is a 40 qt size.
- 7) Adults may bring a folding type lawn chair if preferred.
- 8) *Recommended* amounts of "spending money" are:
 - a) **\$25** for meals during the bus trip (breakfast on the way to camp, lunch, dinner and breakfast for the ride home). Mr. Dunajcik has volunteered to hold onto meal money for the trip home while we are in camp (to assure it is not spent at the P-X).
 - b) **\$40** for spending at the P-X during the week at camp (shirts, hats, souvenirs, ice cream, snacks and cost associated with merit badges – see item #9)
- 9) The cost associated with merit badges are covered in the summer camp booklet. Here is a quick review: shooting merit badges range from \$8 - \$21, craft lodge merit badges range from \$.75 - \$16. You might want to read the description of each merit badge you will be taking to find out how much money you might need to bring for that.
- 10) Total spending money should then be around \$65 – use your own judgment, you know your son.
- 11) You may bring a fishing pole if you wish. We recommend that the reel be removed and stored in your container and the fishing pole be either a collapsible type or be able to be stored in two sections. The troop will not be responsible for

any equipment that becomes broken. Tackle boxes should be as small as possible and stored in your container.

- 12) If you wish to fish, anyone **over the age of 16** will need to purchase an out of state fishing permit. Estimated cost is thought to be around \$30. The lake in camp is stocked by the South Dakota dept of fish and wildlife. You can get more information and perhaps even purchase a permit online here: www.state.sd.us/qfp/fishing/
- 13) The busses will depart from Washington Middle School at 8:00 pm Saturday July 13th. You should arrive by 6:30 pm so that we can organize gear and bus seating.
- 14) There are **absolutely no campfires** allowed at Medicine Mountain camp by orders of the Governor of South Dakota. **Do not bring** any citronella candles, matches, or any other fire making materials with you. The Troop leadership will closely monitor lighting of the propane stoves.
- 15) All Scouts should wear a red Troop 824 'class B' shirt for the bus ride up. This is for safety reasons (we can spot you in a crowd more easily).
- 16) Full class A will be required for opening/closing ceremonies and for the Wednesday trip to Mt. Rushmore.
- 17) Wednesday's trip to Mount Rushmore will begin after breakfast and return in time for dinner. There is no admission cost to the park, but there is a visitor's center there that sells souvenir items so consider this when determining spending money for your Scouts.
- 18) For the families donating tents for use during summer camp, **please bring them to the July 8 Troop meeting** at Suson Park. Paul Anderson will load all tents into a lockable trailer so that he can bring them all up for loading into the bus.
- 19) I suggest that your sleeping bag be packed into a "stuff sack". This will compress it and keep it cleaner. Most quality sleeping bags include a stuff-sack. With duct tape and/or a permanent marker put your name on it.
- 20) The Troop will not be held responsible for any gear lost or broken. Think twice before bringing electronic equipment, do so at your own risk.

Now, some information on where we are going

Summer Camp, as we all surely know by now, will be "out of council", meaning it will be away from the Greater St. Louis Area Council. In this case, we are going to Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch which is under the auspices of the Black Hills Area Council in South Dakota. For those of you interested in such things, the web site for BHAC is <http://bsa-bhac.org>

If you check out this site, you will see links to a 2002 Boy Scout Summer Camp Information document. You already have most of this document which we've re-produced and added to over the last few months.

In our checking on the web for information about this area, we've also come across several web sites you might want to visit before we leave. You parents who are NOT coming along might want to visit these sites just to see where your son is going.

First, a link to information about Custer, SD which is the town closest to MM Scout Ranch.

<http://www.ohwy.com/sd/c/custer.htm>

Here you will find links to attractions, lodging, and other points of interest that will give you an internet tour of this area.

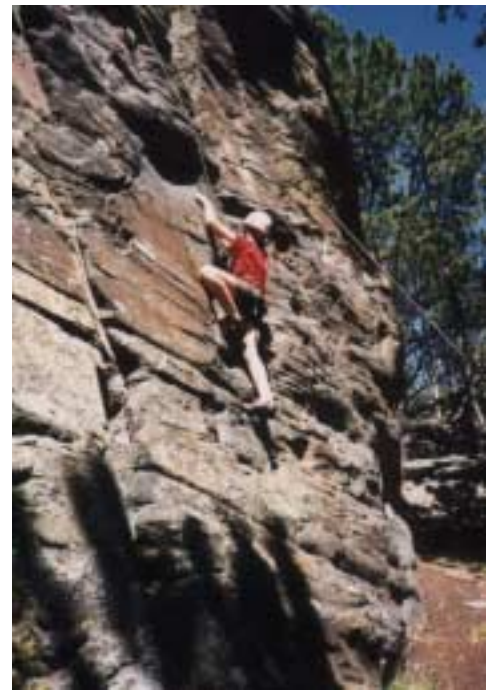
Next, some links to other troop sites that have been to Medicine Mountain. This is just so you can get a general feel of what it's going to look like and what others experience there was like.

www.bsa171.org/ is a troop almost a big as ours.

www.troop69.com/pastact.htm has a few pictures. They actually had much better ones just a couple of weeks ago.

Along the way (or on the way home, depending on the time of day we are in the area) will be an interesting "tourist trap", the "World Famous" Wall Drug Store www.walldrug.com/ Here they have a lot of interesting things for us to check out while we sip our "Free" ice water. If the buses go thru Rapid City on I-90, Wall drugs is just a few miles East of Rapid City.

If you are interested in tracking the weather in the Medicine Mountain area, you can simply go to www.weather.com and use the zip code 57730. This should give you weather information for Custer, SD which is just a few miles from camp. I'm not certain what the altitude difference is which can affect temperatures, but I'm sure it will be close.



Above: a few pictures from another troop's web site. On the left is the water front swimming dock. This is where you will take your swim test when we first arrive, and where most aquatic merit badge activities will be. The Scout in the middle is panning for gold (looks like maybe he forgot his hat). On the right is rock climbing. Just like our climbing tower only rocks.

Below: A map of the camp. This is also in the handouts we've given to you. If you look in the NW corner of the camp, just above the lake and below the COPE area, you will see a camp site named Ogala. This is where we'll be setting up tents and making camp for the week

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Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch South Dakota

