

WILDERNESS PATROL -- (FIRST YEAR CAMPER PROGRAM)

This camp program has been designed to help support your troop program with opportunities for Scouts working on the Tenderfoot through First Class requirements. The program experiences and activities will enable Scouts to develop their outdoor skills, practice the Patrol Method and help Scouts learn to work in groups and thus help them grow as individuals. We strongly urge troops to enroll Scout through Second Class Scouts in our Wilderness Patrol.

The purpose of this summer camp program is to provide each Scout with the opportunity to enhance their Scout skills and work toward a rank. This program is not designed to complete a specific rank, but to complete requirements toward a rank. We realize advancement is key and we also realize that a Scout's summer camp experience should be fun and action packed. As a result we will provide a fun environment in which Scouts will learn and practice essential Scout skills.

While in small patrols, led by a staff of superb staff members, your Scouts will face a number of challenges that will require learning skills. By the end of the day the boys will realize they have learned an extraordinary number of skills while having a blast and working as a patrol. Boys will be given the opportunity to help design their own program, guided by their staff member, giving them the ability to work on the skills they really need.

The Wilderness Patrol meets everyday during the week from 9:00 am – noon and from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. In order to make this week long experience as good as it can be, we ask that all Scouts in the Wilderness Patrol program be in attendance from 9:00-12:00 everyday.

9:00-12:00	2:00	3:00-5:00
Wilderness Patrol Activities	Merit Badge Period	Directed Open Program

The Wilderness Patrol Scouts will be participating in an overnight as well as daily hikes. To be prepared, we ask that the Scout and his troop work together to provide the following necessary equipment:

Sleeping bag, tent (which can be shared with other members of his troop in this program), ground cloth, mess kit, flashlight, daypack, water bottle, sunscreen, bug repellent and sturdy shoes or boots. Scouts must also bring their handbook and pocketknife.

In the afternoon we will have Directed Open Program for the Wilderness Patrol. This is a slightly more hands-on approach to afternoon activities. There will be a member of the Wilderness Patrol Staff at designated program areas from 3-5:00 pm. If your Scout is interested in that area, please have him meet up with the Wilderness Patrol staff member. This will give the Scouts the freedom to choose their activity, but it will also avail them to special guidance that will help them maximize the benefits of each program area. There will also be a Wilderness Patrol staff member in the Pine Grove to cover First Class rank requirements for those Second Class Scouts who did not want to enroll in the Wilderness Patrol program.

Throughout the week, the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster for the new Scouts should have conferences with each Scout in the program as well as the Director of the Wilderness Patrol Program in order to get input on how the Scout is doing and what additional support may be needed. Wilderness Patrol staff will evaluate and sign off the activities they feel the Scout has mastered during the program on a camp issued form. The unit leadership should review the Scout's proficiency and sign off in his Boy Scout handbook or unit achievement log when they believe the Scout has satisfied the requirement.

All Scouts participating in Wilderness Patrol must register with the Wilderness Patrol Program Options form instead of the Merit Badge registration form. The form is available on page 15 in the Appendix of Camp Forms and will list all merit badges that Scouts may take at 2:00 pm.

The following merit badges/activities are available to Wilderness Patrol Scouts at 2:00:

- Leatherwork
- Art/Fingerprinting
- Fire Safety
- Nature
- Textile
- Learn to Swim is available at 2:00 and should be a priority for Scouts who need to develop swimming skills.

Diligent Scouts should be able to complete at least one merit badge.

We are always looking for leaders to assist with this program. To help us provide quality leadership, we request that for every five boys a unit sends they also send an adult. This is an excellent opportunity for parents new to Scouting to practice their skills as well. Volunteer instructors will be recognized at the closing ceremony.

