

TROOP 451 CAMP RAVEN KNOB CONTINGENT
Camp Raven Knob, July 25 through July 31, 2010
Karen Hassett, Troop 451 Contingent Leader
2601 Tanglewood Drive, Durham, NC 27705
Home Phone: 489-2203
E-mail: khassett@nc.rr.com



January 15, 2010

Dear Parents and Scouts,

Our primary week for summer camp this year is at Camp Raven Knob (CRK) from July 25 to July 31, 2010. If you are unable to attend summer camp at CRK with Troop 451, then we encourage you to attend an alternate summer camp with Troop 451 at Camp Tuscarora from June 27 to July 3, 2010.

If you are conflicted out of our dates, and you wish to attend summer camp, please see Brendan Turner, and he will assist you in making arrangements to attend summer camp during a different week with another troop. Raven Knob offers seven weeks of summer camp from June 20, 2010, to August 7, 2010. We have good relationships with several Durham Boy Scout troops. Many of our Scouts, who have been conflicted out of Troop 451's weeks at summer camp in years past, have attended summer camp with other troops.

Camp Fees: All camp fees are 100% refundable until June 1, 2010. The total camp fee will be approximately \$260, plus additional program fees which may apply, and paid in three installments. The first installment of \$10 is due when you register for camp. The second and third installments dates will be announced.

Additional program fees may apply. For example, the Art, Leatherwork, Rifle Shooting, Snorkeling BSA, and Wood Carving Merit Badges each have an additional \$5.00 program fee. The Space Exploration Merit Badge has a \$7.00 program fee. Cooking, Basketry, Indian Lore, and Pulp & Paper Merit Badges each have an additional \$10.00 program fee. Photography/Cinematography Merit Badge has a \$20.00 program fee. The RK Golf Academy has a \$20.00 program fee. The Outback High Adventure Programs such as Climbing, Mountain Biking, and the Mountain Man Rendezvous each have an additional program fee of \$20.00 and a minimum age of 14. The Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge has an additional \$25.00 program fee.

Minimum Ages and Rank Requirements: BSA Lifeguard and the Outback programs have a minimum age of 14. The Shooting Sports merit badges have a minimum age of 13. The Trail to Eagle merit badges have a minimum age of 13 and require the participant to be at least the rank of Star.

CAMP RAVEN KNOB REFUND POLICY:

No matter which week you attend summer camp at Raven Knob, all cancellations made after June 1, 2010, are subject to a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 unless we find a Scout who can take your slot.

PARENTS AND ADULT LEADERS:

All parents and adult leaders are welcome to attend summer camp with the troop. Some adults will stay in camp all week. Other adults may choose to stay in camp for just a few days either at the beginning of the week or near the end of the week.

In years past, we have never charged parents and adult leaders for camping with the troop at summer camp. However, we may be forced to charge adults this year. At this point, we are guestimating the cost to be somewhere around \$5.00-\$10.00 per day. We will have a better idea as to the amount we may have to charge adults after the Registration Night on March 2, 2010.

Training opportunities for adults during the week at Camp Raven Knob include Climbing Instructor Certification, Climb-on Safely, CPR, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, and Risk Management.

See me or Brendan Turner if you have any questions or concerns regarding summer camp. You can also find the leaders guide and additional information about Raven Knob Summer Camp at www.ravenknob.com

Merit Badge Schedules: Each Raven Knob camper MUST complete and turn in to me, no later than the troop meeting on May 18, his merit badge schedule for the week. There are more than 40 merit badges and non-merit badge offerings. The merit badge and non-merit badge subjects are divided into nine main areas of activity: Aquatics, Handicrafts, Health, Nature, Scoutcraft, Shooting Sports, Trail to Eagle, Raven Scout and Outback.

The Raven Scout Program is basically a duplication of our own Troop New Scout Program, condensed into a week, and we discourage our Scouts from taking it.

The Outback program is a non-merit badge (except for Climbing MB) adventure program only for Scouts at least 14 years old. Most of the merit badges in the Trail to Eagle section are offered in our troop, and these badges should ONLY be taken by older Scouts, if at all. Rampage is Raven Knob's ultimate high adventure program. However, Rampage is open only to Scouts age 14 and above. There is an additional \$50.00 program fee for Rampage. Rampage delivers a buffet of high adventure packed into one week including white water kayaking, caving, climbing, bouldering, backpacking along the Appalachian Trail, mountain biking, fly fishing and river boarding. River boarding is one of the newest adventure sports. Imagine riding Class II+ whitewater on a boogie board.

Troop 451 encourages our Scouts to take a "full course" of merit badges to occupy them for the week, as well as get a great start on advancement. The merit badges are offered in one or two hour course blocks from 9AM through 5PM each day, with a two hour lunch break. Some merit badges have pre-requisites, meaning that you have to either earn another badge first, or work on some requirements, before taking that badge at camp. The Merit Badge NOTES appearing below should tell you which badges have prerequisites.

Subject to prerequisites or certain physical ability requirements, Scouts are allowed to take whatever merit badges may interest them. See the Merit Badge Notes appearing below for some pointers. We generally recommend that Scouts finish Swimming MB before camp, and consider taking Pioneering MB for the detailed instruction in knots and lashing, and then take one or two other merit badges that look interesting to you. A New Scout merit badge schedule would look something like this:

<u>Merit Badge</u>	<u>Time of Day Offered</u>
Leatherwork Merit Badge	9-10
Swimming Merit Badge	10-11
Mammal Study Merit Badge	11-12
Pioneering Merit Badge (2 one-hour blocks)	2-4

The 4-5 PM block could then be something like the Mile Swim (for GOOD swimmers), another merit badge, or just free time.

MERIT BADGE NOTES:

1. The aquatics badges of Canoeing, Lifesaving, Rowing and Small-Boat Sailing require that the Swimming Merit Badge be earned before coming to camp. The troop generally offers the Swimming MB (for GOOD swimmers) during one Saturday or Sunday morning a couple of weeks before camp.
2. In previous years, several of our smaller Scouts wanted to take Archery or Rifle Shooting. We let them sign up, but on the first day of the badge, they learned that they were either not physically strong enough to pull the bow for Archery MB, or didn't have the appropriate arm length for the Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting badges. Keep in mind that Troop 451 is blessed with leaders who offer several opportunities during the year for Scouts to earn all the Shooting Sports badges, so we recommend not taking these at summer camp unless you are physically up to Raven Knob's requirements.
3. For Swimming MB, be SURE to bring long pants (preferably khakis, not jeans), long sleeved shirt, socks, belt and shoes that can be gotten wet for the "inflated clothing" requirement.
4. Geology MB Requirement 2, Nature MB Requirement 5 and Reptile/Amphibian

Study Requirement 8, are difficult if not impossible to complete at camp. If you take any of these badges, try to complete those requirements before coming to camp and bring a note from home that you did them.

5. We recommend that Scouts NOT take Camping MB at camp, as this badge is earned naturally through participation in Troop 451's active camping program.
6. If a Scout does not complete all the requirements of a MB while at camp, the camp will provide the Scoutmaster with the badge worked on and the requirements which were completed. This is known as a "partial." A "partial" badge can be completed after camp is over, and we will provide details on how this is done post-camp.

IMPORTANT - Medical Forms: Camp Raven Knob REQUIRES that each Scout and adult attending camp have a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record completed by a physician who has examined the camper within 12 months next preceding camp.

Departure and Return Times: All Camp Raven Knob campers will meet at the Shannon Road Post Office Parking Lot (across the street from the church) at 10:00 A.M. Sunday, July 25, 2010. We will depart at 10:30 A.M., eat lunch at a fast-food place in Mount Airy (bring \$\$, this is NOT included in the camp fee), and arrive at Camp Raven Knob for check-in around 1:15 P.M. We will depart Camp Raven Knob on Saturday morning, August 1, 2010, by 9:30 A.M., and arrive back in Durham by noon.

Drivers: Travel time is approximately 2.5 hours one-way. Drivers on take-up Sunday morning should plan on a longer day, leaving Raven Knob around 2:30 PM after we have completed off-loading, setting up camp, and registration. Drivers on pick-up Saturday morning can usually count on eager Scouts ready to leave and go home!

Medications: One of our adults at camp will coordinate the administration of medications to Scouts. Parents are requested to write down specific instructions about the medication and give these instructions and the medications to Karen Hassett either before camp or the day we leave for camp. Even if your son is self-administering his medication, we would like to know what he is taking and when he is supposed to be taking it.

Troop Photographs: CRK will take a picture of all the Scouts and their leaders on Sunday afternoon during the check-in. This picture is an 8x10 color photograph, and the cost is \$10. Pictures from previous years are hanging in the Scout Hut. If you are interested in buying one of these photographs, please provide Karen Hassett with your name and your \$10 either prior to camp or on the day we leave for camp. Checks made payable to Troop 451 are always preferred over cash. If you wish, you can add the \$10 to your second or third installment.

Roommates: I would like the Scouts to try and "pair up" before we get to camp. The boys will be camping in two-man wall tents, each equipped with two bunks, and will be camping as roommates for the week. If Scouts do not pair up prior to camp, they will be assigned roommates when they get there.

Scout Uniform: We travel TO Camp Raven Knob in the Boy Scout uniform. This should be the short-sleeved khaki shirt with all insignia correctly sewn on, the dark-green shorts or pants (not the tan activity pants), a Scout belt (either the webbed green belt or a Scout leather belt), and Scout socks. The Scout uniform will be worn TO THE EVENING MEAL ONLY every day at camp, as well as the three evening campfires, so Scouts will need to keep it neat and clean during the day when they are not wearing it. At all other times, casual clothes, such as shorts and T-shirts, are worn.

Things to Bring and Not to Bring:

1. Do not bring sandals or flipflops except for wear in the showerhouse. Camp Raven Knob does not permit movement around the camp in bare feet or open-toed shoes.
2. Do not bring water guns.
3. It is recommended that radios, tape players, etc. not be brought to camp. However, if a Scout decides to bring such items, they must be used with discretion and are subject to confiscation for the week by the adult leaders who might be disturbed by their use! Our basic rule is that if the adult leaders can hear the music, it's too loud.
4. Add to the prohibited list cigarette lighters. Because of the extreme danger of fire, particularly in tents, all lighters will be confiscated.
5. Two items not on the list that many Scouts like to bring are electric lanterns and hammocks. Electric lanterns are nice to use inside the tents at night, while reading or socializing with friends. There are a number of trees in our campsite where hammocks can be strung out. However, hammocks sometimes cause friction among the boys, and if this becomes a problem, we will deal with it at camp accordingly.
6. Order of the Arrow members should pack their OA sashes to wear on Wednesday night, and should also consider volunteering to participate in the Wednesday campfire ceremony staged by the OA.

Spending Money: The "required" money is about \$5 for lunch on the day we drive up, and money for supplies which may be charged for some of the handicraft area badges (see the detail on the merit badges for any charges for materials). Beyond that, there is a Trading Post open every day which sells drinks, snacks, scout items, T-shirts, etc. The Trading Post will be more than willing to take every dime a Scout brings, and usually does. We generally recommend total cash spending money of around \$25 per Scout, plus quarters to feed the drink machines. **IMPORTANT:** The adult leaders at camp do NOT bank money or valuables. Each Scout will be responsible for the security and spending of his own money and valuables.

Mail: Scouts can send and receive mail while at Camp. The mailing address is:

Scout Name, Troop 451, Camp Raven Knob
266 Raven Knob Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030

It is strongly recommended that a return address be put on any mail, in the event it does not reach the camp for some reason before we depart.

E-Mail: One of the joys of the modern age is to receive e-mail at camp. The camp receives the e-mail, prints it out, and distributes it at mealtimes. Scouts really enjoy receiving e-mail messages, and they do have the ability to send/reply to e-mail. Take the extra effort to put your scouts name and Troop 451 in the body of the text. Several years ago CRK's mail server got terribly confused and put the wrong names and troop numbers on the e-mail. Many messages were delivered to the wrong people and lost. I believe this problem has been corrected, but better safe than sorry. The e-mail address for camp is accessed through a form available on the website: www.ravenknob.com.

Fax: The camp has a fax machine that can be useful if an important piece of paper (such as a medical form) is missing or deficient in some way. It should NOT be used for personal communications (use mail or e-mail instead). The camp fax number is 336-352-3445.

Telephone: Several adults will be carrying personal cell phones to camp, which will be switched on at alternate times so that one is available as needed. The cell phones will be for use by parents to contact the troop as necessary, as well as Scouts to call out as necessary and as determined by the Scout leaders. We will also have a pager at camp. A roster, which will contain all of our contact numbers, will be given to parents on Sunday morning just prior to our departure to camp.

There is a pay telephone near our campsite that Scouts can also use to call home, but its use by Scouts is discouraged by the camp. In the event a parent needs to reach the camp, the phone number is 336-352-4307. The main camp phone is manned each day from 7 AM to 10 PM, but may be unattended at mealtimes.

Parent's Night on Wednesday: Each week on Wednesday evening, the camp has a parent's night beginning at 5:30 PM and lasting until the end of campfire around 9:30 PM. The parents of some "local" troops often stage a picnic for their Scouts on Wednesday night and then attend the spectacular Wednesday night campfire. Since our troop is from much further away, we generally have some parents come up and take their sons and perhaps some other Scouts to dinner in nearby Mount Airy (for a welcome break from camp food).

If you plan on coming up Wednesday for parent's night, please keep in mind a couple of things: First, you may find that your son has been homesick or, even if he is not, your presence may trigger homesickness. Be prepared for this and do not give in and take him home. The adult leaders at camp have years and years of experience caring for homesick Scouts. Our experience over the years is that a Scout who leaves summer camp mid-week because of homesickness often does not return to the troop, or, if he does continue in the troop, he is not successful in it. Second, remember that this will be a LONG night. The round trip is about 5 hours, and the evening campfire doesn't end until about 9:30-10:00, putting you back in Durham past midnight.

Rosters and Directions: When we depart on Sunday morning, we will distribute to each family a Raven Knob roster with names and phone numbers, as well as printed directions and maps to the camp.