

TROOP 451 CAMP TUSCARORA 2010

Camp Tuscarora, June 27 through July 3, 2010
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Dear Parents and Scouts,

Troop 451 is staging TWO different weeks of summer camp this year. Our primary camp week is at Camp Raven Knob (CRK) from July 25 to July 31, 2010. Our other camp week is at Camp Tuscarora from June 27 to July 3, 2010. Scouts are welcome to attend either or both summer camps. A separate information letter is provided about our week at Camp Raven Knob. The remainder of this information letter will deal with the specifics of our week at Camp Tuscarora.

If you are unable to attend either of our Troop 451 summer camp weeks, then we encourage you to attend Boy Scout summer camp somewhere, either "provisionally" or with another Scout troop. Please see me about your options, and I will assist you in making arrangements to attend summer camp during a different week.

Camp Tuscarora Special Features: Camp Tuscarora is a Boy Scout camp, just like Camp Raven Knob. It is a resident camp for a relaxed week full of Scouting, and offers a quality outdoor merit badge program. It also has some special features of note. There is a BMX Track and a skateboard park, open to all Scouts during free times at camp. Scouts are allowed to bring bicycles to ride around camp. There is a stocked lake, with plenty of opportunities for Scouts interested in fishing. The waterfront area is being fully renovated, and includes a cool new water slide 30 feet high and 100 feet long. The camp also stages special events and activities during the week for Scouts, and will often announce to Scouts the possibility of taking merit badges not on the schedule.

Camp Fees: All camp fees are 100% refundable until June 1, 2010. If there is a cancellation after June 1, 2010 (but one day before we go to camp), the camp will retain \$65 of the deposit and refund the balance. The camp fee is \$230, there are no other additional costs (except some minor material costs for handicraft badges of Basketry, Leatherwork, Indian Lore and Woodcarving, which are paid at camp and will be discussed below). The \$230 camp fee is paid either in full, or in three installments, at your choice. The first installment of \$65 is due at the troop re-registration night, March 2, 2010. The second installment of \$65 is due no later than the troop meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. The final installment of \$100 will be due no later than May 25, 2010.

All payments are to be made payable to Troop 451 and timely delivered to Troop Treasurer Steve Musick.

Minimum Ages: As a general rule, even the youngest and newest Scout can take and earn just about any merit badge or program offered at Camp Tuscarora. However, Camp Tuscarora does have a 13 year old minimum age requirement for the following merit badges: Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Climbing, Communications, Cycling, Personal Management, and Shotgun Shooting. There is a 12 year old minimum age requirement for the evening Hunter Education program.

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. There is no charge for adults to camp with us at Camp Tuscarora.

Training opportunities for adults during the week at Camp Tuscarora include: Climb-on Safely, Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. Other training opportunities may present themselves while we are at camp - Camp Tuscarora is VERY flexible!

Camp Tuscarora offers Internet Wi-Fi service for those adults who want to bring their laptops and stay connected. However, cell phone service is spotty and not always reliable at Camp Tuscarora.

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 Camp Tuscarora Summer Camp at www.bsanc.org/campsummerinfo2010.html

Merit Badge Schedules: Prior to attending camp, each Camp Tuscarora camper must complete and turn in to me his individual merit badge schedule for the week. Attached to this document is the schedule of available merit badges for this year. There are almost 30 merit badges and non-merit badge offerings. The merit badge and non-merit badge subjects are divided into six main areas of activity: Shooting Sports, Aquatics, Ecology, Campcraft, Scoutcraft and Select Programs. There is no "Trail to Eagle" merit badge program such as exists at Raven Knob.

The Tkasaha Scout Program allows first year Scouts to earn the First Aid Merit Badge and all but one of the requirements for Tenderfoot. The Tkasaha Scouts also build in activities such as BMX/Skateboard, Shooting Sports, Tomahawk, Knife Throwing, and "bull riding." However, the bulk of the Tkasaha Scout program is a duplication of our troop's New Scout program, condensed into a week, and we discourage our Scouts from taking it. We generally encourage new Scouts to take a full merit badge program.

The Select Programs, in addition to Tkasaha, are Biking, BSA Lifeguard, Climbing and Instructional Swim. Biking and Climbing, as noted above, both have minimum age requirements. BSA Lifeguard does not have a minimum age requirement, but participants must have already earned their Swimming, Lifesaving, and Rowing merit badges prior to coming to camp.

Free-Time Badges: There is a unique Free Time Merit Badge period at Camp Tuscarora, from 3:45 to 5:00 PM each day. Free time in general is discussed later in this document, but during the 3:45-5:00 PM slot, Camp Tuscarora offers additional merit badge classes not on the schedule. Some of these badges are announced on Sunday when we arrive, and Scouts have to make a decision about taking them early in the week. Sometimes we learn of these in advance and will inform the Camp Tuscarora Scouts accordingly.

Before Hours/After Hours Programs: Please note that Scouts wishing to take the Mile Swim (the Mile Swim is a special award, not a merit badge) do not register for it, they show up at the waterfront each morning before breakfast for their training. The start time gets earlier and earlier each morning, because the Scouts are swimming increasingly longer training laps Monday through Wednesday. The final set of laps equal to a full mile of swimming takes place on Thursday morning.

Also note that the Biking program (Cycling merit badge) can be taken in a two hour slot prior to breakfast, freeing up time for other badges. However, you have to get up REALLY EARLY, like around 5-5:30 AM.

Finally, some badges or programs are offered in the evening. Most of these, if any, like the free-time badges referred to above, will be announced on Sunday or Monday. The only evening program of which are currently aware is the Hunter Education program, which takes place at 7PM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Four “paired” merit badge sessions. What this means is that Scouts signing up for a “paired” badge will earn 2 merit badges, not 1. The “paired” merit badges are Mammal Study/Reptile & Amphibian Study, Fish & Wildlife Management/Soil & Water Conservation and Weather/Oceanography, and Forestry/ Plant Science. All four “paired” badges are offered in a 1 hour time slot, so two possible badges with the investment of one hour class per day. Not a bad deal!

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. As you can see from the schedule, the merit badges are offered in five one hour course blocks from 8:45 AM through 3:25 PM each day, with about a two hour lunch break between the 3rd and 4th periods. 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 on the following page, as well as the enclosed merit badge detail information from the camp, should tell you which badges have prerequisites. Also remember that some badges have minimum age requirements, as set forth above. 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 unless newer Scouts have earned Swimming MB before summer camp, that they take Swimming MB at camp. Newer Scouts should also consider taking Pioneering MB for the detailed instruction in knots and lashings, and then take one or two other merit badges that look interesting to you. Last year, the instruction in all of the Scoutcraft Badges (Orienteering, Pioneering and Wilderness Survival) was excellent.

Assuming that a new Scout was not taking the Tkasaha program, a New Scout merit badge schedule would look something like this:

<u>Merit Badge</u>	<u>Time of Day Offered</u>
Basketry Merit Badge	1 st Period
Pioneering Merit Badge	2 nd Period
Mammal Study/Reptile & Amphibian Merit Badge	3 rd Period
Swimming Merit Badge	4 th Period
First Aid Merit Badge	5 th Period

MERIT BADGE NOTES:

1. The Aquatics badges of Canoeing, Lifesaving and Rowing require that the Swimming MB be earned before coming to camp. Kayaking BSA requires that both Swimming and Canoeing MB be earned before coming to camp. In recent years, Troop 451 has offered Scouts the opportunity to earn Swimming MB before camp, to free Scouts up to take these other waterfront badges. We expect that the Swimming MB will be offered in 2010 before camp as before - stay tuned.
2. In previous years, several of our smaller Scouts wanted to take some of the Shooting Sports badges, such as Archery or Rifle Shooting. We let them sign up, but on the first day of the badge, they become discouraged or are asked to leave the class because they are 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 sure you are up to it. There are no minimum age requirements for Archery, but Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting have a 13-year old minimum age requirement at Camp Tuscarora.
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. Reptile/Amphibian Study Requirement 8, must be completed before or after camp - it cannot be completed in camp. If you take this badge, try to complete Requirement 8 before coming to camp and bring a note from home that you did it.

5. 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.

Camp Tuscarora Free-Time Activities: If you’ve never been to Camp Tuscarora before, you will come to appreciate the special “free times.” Camp Tuscarora has two free times and one “Top Troop” challenge time. The Top Troop challenge time, from 12:45 to 1:20 PM each day after lunch and before 4th period class, are a series of friendly competitions where one or more Scouts from each troop represent the troop for the Top Challenge activity of that day. Last year, Top Challenge activities included shooting sports at all three ranges, a kayak race, a lifesaving/rope toss challenge, and basketball free-throw shooting.

The other two free times are in the afternoon, from 3:40 PM to 5:00 PM, after 5th period class and before the flag retreat/dinner, and again in the evening from 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM, after dinner and before the 7:30 “campwide activity” (which could be a campfire, scavenger hunt, etc.). During these two daily free periods, Scouts can do whatever they want. The BMX course and the skateboard park will both be open and lighted for both free periods, and, as noted above, Scouts can elect to take merit badges that become available for instruction (and are usually announced by Sunday night or Monday morning) during the first afternoon free period from 3:40 PM to 5:00 PM.

IMPORTANT - Medical Forms: Camp Tuscarora REQUIRES that each Scout and adult attending camp have a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record which has been signed by a parent and by a medical doctor who has examined the camper no more than 12 months prior to camp.

Activity Control Form and Waiver: Probably because Camp Tuscarora has special facilities such as a BMX track and a skateboard park, Camp Tuscarora requires that, in addition to the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record referred to above, each Scout also have a completed Activity Control Form and Waiver. This form will be provided at a later date.

Departure and Return Times: All Camp Tuscarora campers will meet at the Shannon Road Post Office Parking Lot (across the street from the church) at 11:00 A.M on Saturday, June 28. We will depart at 11:30 PM, eat lunch at a fast-food place on the way down, (bring \$\$, this is NOT included in the camp fee), and arrive at Camp Tuscarora for check-in around 1:00 P.M. We will depart Camp Tuscarora either Friday night (July 2) after the campfire, or Saturday morning (July 3) after breakfast. We will find out the correct departure time this year, and advise drivers accordingly.

Drivers: Brendan Turner is coordinating the Camp Tuscarora drivers. Travel distance is 81 miles, almost all interstate, so the driving time is about 1.3 hours. Drivers on take-up Sunday morning should plan on a longer day, leaving Camp Tuscarora around 2:30 PM after we have completed off-loading, setting up camp, and registration. Drivers on pick-up Friday night/Saturday morning can usually count on eager Scouts ready to leave and go home!

Medications: Scout medications are turned over to and administered solely by the medical staff on-site at the Camp Tuscarora Health Lodge - there is no self-medication or medications supervised by an adult leader. 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. Karen will then turn it over to the Health Lodge when we check-in.

Roommates: We 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 cots, 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 Tuscarora in the full Boy Scout field ("Class A") 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 full Scout uniform will be worn TO THE EVENING FLAG RETREAT FOLLOWED BY THE EVENING MEAL every day at camp, as well as the three evening campfires, so Scouts will need to keep their uniforms 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: Here is a suggested pack list for Camp Tuscarora:

Full Scout Uniform

T-shirts

Shorts and a pair of long pants

Swim trunks

Underwear

Socks

Hat

Light Sweater or Jacket

Extra Shoes or Boots

Poncho, Umbrella or Rain Gear

Merit Badge Pamphlets

Notebook and Pencil or Pen

Scout Handbook

Watch

Showerhouse Items - Bath Towel, Soap (in Soap Container), Shampoo, Washcloth,

FlipFlops

Other Toilet Articles - Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant

Flashlight with new batteries

Electric Lantern (for use in tent)

Sleeping Bag or Sheets & Blankets

Pillow

Pocketknife

Footlocker or other similar container

Trash Bag for Laundry, or Laundry Bag

Day Pack/Bookbag

Water Bottle
Insect Repellent
Sun Block

In addition to this list, here are some additional suggestions and/or prohibitions:

1. Do not bring water guns.
2. It is recommended that radios, iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, 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 if these devices substantially interfere with the camp experience for the Scout and others around him. Also, these electronic toys tend to be expensive and disappear easily.
3. Add to the prohibited list cigarette lighters. Because of the extreme danger of fire, particularly in tents, all lighters will be confiscated.
4. Because of the flat, sandy terrain, Scouts are allowed to bring bicycles to camp. If you bring a bicycle, you must arrange for its transportation to and from camp, and you must bring a helmet. Wide, mountain-bike tires are strongly suggested.
5. 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 \$30 per Scout (\$35 if we need the \$5 extra for Wednesday night dinner - see below). **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, Tuscarora Scout Reservation
1433 Scout Road, Four Oaks, NC 27524

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: Camp Tuscarora does not yet have a method to send e-mail to campers. If e-mail becomes an option, we will notify parents accordingly.

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. Cell phone service at Camp Tuscarora is unreliable and spotty, so if you don't get through to us, try again or leave a message. 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 in the center of camp that Scouts can use to call home. It is off-limits to Scouts after 10 PM. In the event a parent needs to reach the camp, the phone number is 919-934-9538 (which will also be listed on roster).

Wednesday Night: Each week on Wednesday evening, the camp has a parent's night beginning at 5:00 PM and lasting until the end of campfire around 9:30 PM. We generally have some parents come up and take their sons and perhaps some other Scouts to dinner in nearby Newton's Grove or Goldsboro (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 will need to come to our campsite (Mohawk, Campsite 7, next to the dining hall) to check your son out with us, as well as any other Scouts you may be taking with you. Second, 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. Third, remember that this will be a LONG night. The round trip is just under 3 hours, and the evening campfire doesn't end until about 9:30-10:00, putting you back in Durham around 11:00-11:30.

IMPORTANT: Camp Tuscarora will not open its dining hall for Wednesday dinner.

This means that, for any Scouts who are not going out on the town, we will need to make arrangements for their evening meal. For those Scouts, we will probably go into town to buy food to make dinner in the campsite, or we will take the boys out for dinner. Either way, we will need about \$5 extra per Scout. We will collect this from the Scouts on Wednesday afternoon after we know who is and who is not leaving camp, so please plan the spending money accordingly. If the Scout doesn't have the money, we will feed him anyway and settle up with the parents when we return.

Rosters and Directions: When we depart on Sunday morning (see above), we will distribute to each family a Camp Tuscarora roster with names and phone numbers, as well as printed directions and maps to the camp.