

# *Troop Summer Camp Parent's Night*

## **Suggested Agenda**

\*Have a camp display and any previous camp pictures available.

\*Start on time!

- ✦ Greetings, Committee Chairman
- ✦ Opening Ceremony, Senior Patrol Leader
- ✦ Introduce Camp Promotion Team Members, Committee Chairman
- ✦ Opening Comments, District Promoter
- ✦ Video or Slide Show, O.A. Member
- ✦ A Day in Camp, Scout
- ✦ Highlights of Camp, District Promoter
- ✦ Questions

## **Outline Troops Plan for Summer Camp**

- ✦ Week and Site, Scoutmaster
- ✦ Advancement Program, Camp Leader
- ✦ Food/Health & Safety, Committee Member
- ✦ Equipment, Committee Member
- ✦ Transportation, Committee Member
- ✦ Camp Fees, Troop Treasurer
- ✦ Fee Payment Schedule, Troop Treasurer
- ✦ Camp Savings Plan Incentive Plan, Troop Treasurer
- ✦ Review Parents' Role, Scoutmaster
- ✦ Medical Form, Committee Member

## **Wrap Up**

- ✦ What Camp Means to Me, OA Member or Older Scout
- ✦ Camp Leader's Comments, Camp Leader
- ✦ Announcements - Questions
- ✦ Closing Ceremony, Scouts

## **The Details**

Detailed information on what to cover in each section of the suggested agenda for the Parents' Night program.

### Greetings

The Troop Committee Chairman should act as Master of Ceremonies. His job is to keep the program moving, introduce the leaders and committee members, and explain the job and the duties of each. Thank the parents for their attendance.

### Opening Ceremony

Good, rehearsed, and in proper Scout fashion -- get the boys up front! The Senior Patrol Leader's job is to lead the Troop -- so let him!

### Introduce Camp Promotion Team Members

These are volunteers giving of their time to help our Troop have a great experience at Summer Camp. Let the parents know of their dedication to Scouting and our Troop.

### Opening Comments

Set the stage! Tell them the things you're going to cover in tonight's meeting. Tell them about the careful plans the Troop Committee has made and the efforts already expended by the leaders of the Troop. This meeting is for the parents to "get the facts" about camp early enough so their son will not miss out on the free Special Edition Camp T-shirt. Aim your comments in such a way that all parents will understand that the committee assumes that their boy is going along with the others to camp.

### Video

The Nevada Area Council has prepared a video tape for each troop. Take this opportunity to let parents see where their son will be staying for a whole week.

### A Day In Camp

If you have a boy who can talk well in front of a group, have him give a short story of a typical day in camp with your Troop. If you are a new Troop, ask an OA member to handle this part for you (but let him know in advance -- not five minutes before he goes on).

### Highlights Of Camp

Let the parents know Camp Fleischmann are rated by the National Organization of the Boy Scouts of America as an "Accredited Scout

Camp." Tell them about the camp staff of experienced older Scouts that will be available to lend first-hand assistance to their Troop. Tell them about the many Scouts who had their first experience in a canoe, or learning to swim, or shooting a rifle at camp. Let them know of the opportunities their son will have to meet and live with other Scouts from all over the council during this week at camp. Remind them that as they believe weekly meetings and monthly outdoor activities are important Scouting activities, a week at Summer Camp is the top of the mountain!

### Questions

Answer any questions the parents might have at this point. If you are unable to give enough of an answer, write the question down and tell them you will get the answer and be sure the Troop leader has the needed information.

### Outline The Troop's Plan For Summer Camp

Troop \_\_\_\_\_ has selected to attend Summer Camp at Camp Fleischmann during the week of

\_\_\_\_\_.

### Advancement Program

Review camp advancement programs and how the Scouts should prepare to take full advantage of the opportunities.

### Food / Health & Safety

Safety is the utmost concern at camp in all areas -- waterfront, field sports, etc. All areas of the program are supervised by trained staff members. Arrangements have been made with local hospitals and both camps have a resident health officer.

### Transportation

Will the Troop meet at camp or car pool (or bus) from your area? Be sure parents know where and when to have their son for arrival at camp, and when and where to pick him up at the end of camp (Saturday morning).

### Camp Fees

Show it can be done financially. Finances may be difficult, but too often parents give this as an excuse when rarely is it an insurmountable obstacle. The difference between the cost of living at home or in camp, weighed against camping advantages, places a long-term camping experience within reach of every Scout family. Money earning projects can be discussed at this meeting.

Be sure every family knows you want their son in camp. If money is the only hold up, be sure they know to discuss this in private with a troop committee member so something can be worked out. Camperships are available through the council office, the request form is linked at the top of this page.

### Review The Parents' Role

Review the parent's role in preparing for camp. Pass out a copy of the individual equipment list -- point out that no "new" or "special" equipment is required for attending camp -- a Scout can go with what he has at home. Do you need additional leadership? Now is the time to let them know. Parents can help in many ways if only asked. Pass out medical forms and explain how they are to be filled out and turned in.

### Camp Leader's Comments

(Given by the main adult who will actually be in camp and "in-charge.") The camp leader should give the closing talk, asking for the cooperation of the parents to insure the attendance of each Scout at camp with the Troop. This talk is of GREAT IMPORTANCE! Do not hurry it, and do not shy away from it for an imagined lack of oratorical talent. A simple and friendly statement of your position is what the occasion requires. You should make it very clear, without the slightest embarrassment, that you are taking on a service which will be taxing to your time and ability, that the troop leaders are putting a lot of effort into making this a great experience for their son, and that the parents must see this as an important part of the Troop program in which their son needs to participate.

Explain that the Troop spends 51 weeks of the year planning for this final week of summer camp and that in this one week, each Scout receives 144 hours of concentrated Scouting... while a Scout attending Troop meetings for one year accumulates about 75 hours of Scouting. You will never have a better chance to say these things. You can say them more effectively than anyone else -- you are the adult giving of

your time for their son. Don't be vague, be specific, and say them as strongly as you mean them!

### What Camp Means To Me

A short testimony from an older, experienced Scout or an OA member (again, let him know ahead of time) about the value they place on camp and how it has effected their Scouting career.

### Announcements -- Questions

Any last minute announcements not covered earlier and a last chance for questions.

### Closing Ceremony

The Troop's favorite ceremony or simply retiring the colors, but don't forget this important step.