



DeVos Family Center for Scouting

Gerald R. Ford Council, BSA

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Gerber Scout Camp

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A complete copy of this guide can be found at our website:

WWW.BSAGRFC.ORG

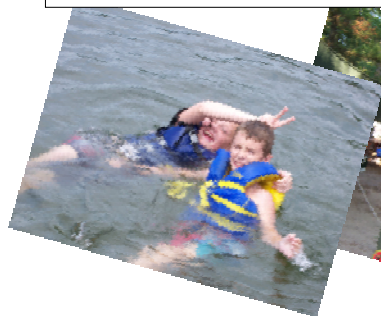
"In the operation of the summer camp program, no child, as defined by program regulations, will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, or handicap. Any person who believes that a child has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250."

Are you a Team Player?!

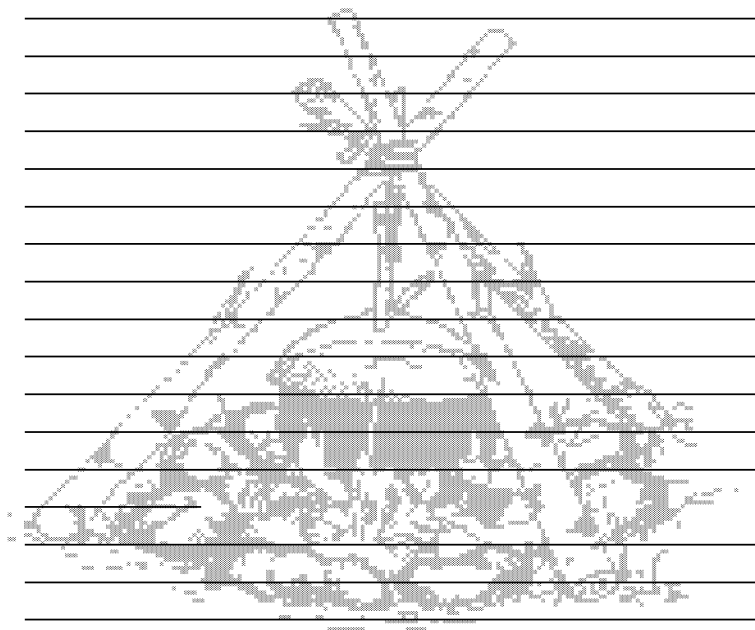
Gerber Scout Camp 2008 Leaders Guidebook



**This guide provided by
Nacha Tindey Lodge Order of the Arrow**



Notes:



Gerber Staff Mission Statement

We, the staff of Gerber Scout Camp, are deeply dedicated to providing an experience that will stay with our campers for a lifetime. Our programs are proven to provide enthusiastic leadership, set good examples and strengthen unit programs.

In addition, we will contribute to rank advancement and the invaluable merit badges, two vital aspects in the life of every Scout.

Through our efforts, we open the door to the building of self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. Most important of all, the Gerber Staff aims to share the "Gerber Experience" with all who venture into our woodland haven. We will strive, at any cost, to make camping fun for those who we share our home and hearts with, here, where camping is the best!

BSA Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future Scouting will continue to:

- offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- instill in young people life-time values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Motto

Be Prepared!

Scout Slogan

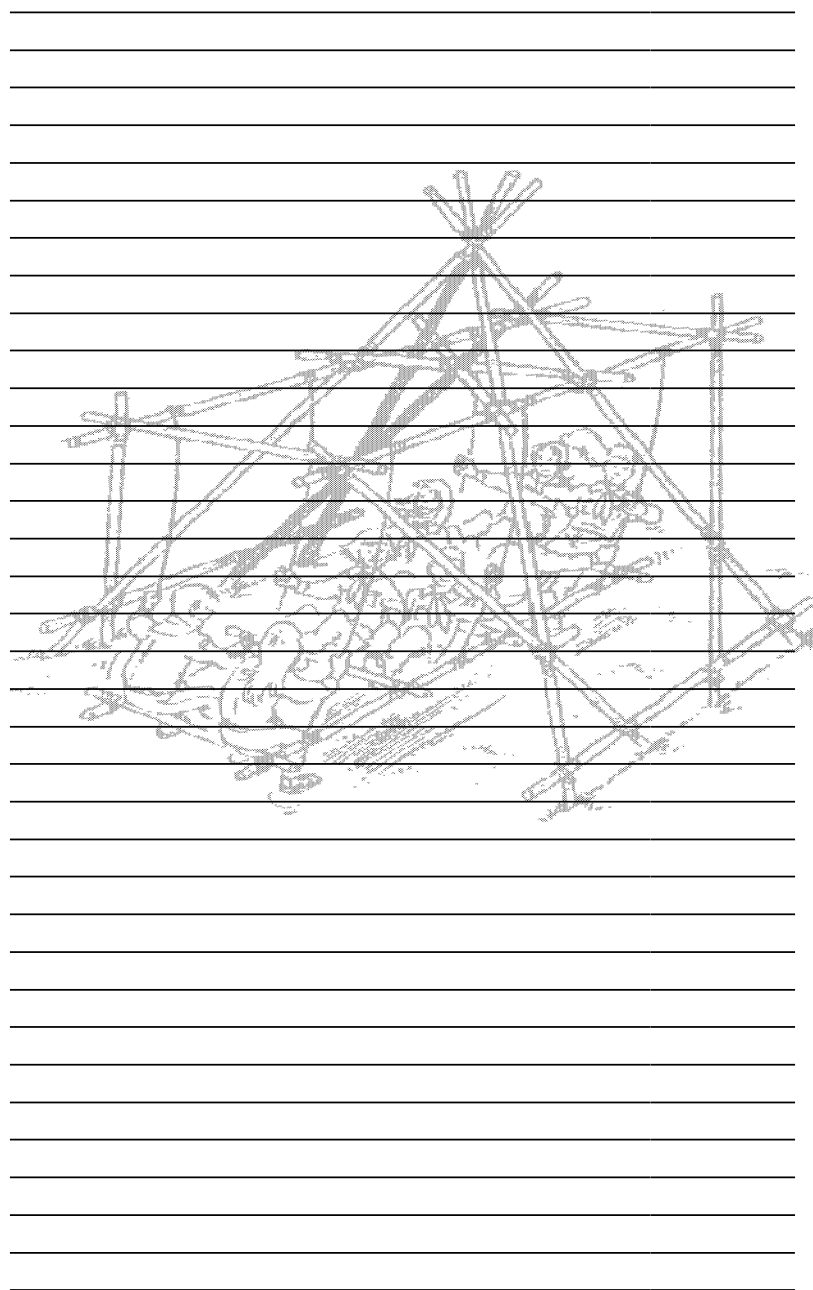
Do a Good Turn Daily



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Notes:



2008 Photo Request

Scoutmaster,

Please fill out this form if you wish to receive troop photos. Turn in the completed form to the camp office no later than 3:00pm on Monday. Photos will be taken at 5:05 pm in front of Evans Dining Hall. In the event of poor weather you will be directed to an alternate location.

Campsite: _____ Session _____

Unit # _____ District _____

Adult Leader _____

Number of Photos _____ @ \$9.00 Each

Number of DVD's _____ @ \$9.00 Each

Amount Due:\$ _____

Signed _____

Total Paid \$ _____

For office use only.

From The Camp Director

Dear Fellow Scouters,

Congratulations! If you are reading this then you must be coming to Gerber Scout Camp in the summer of 2008. I know that my staff and I are really looking forward to the up and coming summer camp season.

If this is your first year with us, I will be the first to say that you are really in for a treat. We have a very strong staff and an even stronger program. Every minute that you spend at Gerber Scout Camp holds new adventures for you and your Scouts. My staff works all year long to ensure that every moment you spend in “our house” is filled with fun and excitement.

If you have been with us in years past, I welcome you home. I can assure you that you will see some new faces and many of the old ones. It is my hope that you will experience the best program in the history of Gerber Scout Camp!

As your Camp Director, I ask you to leave your work at home. Hang out with the Scouts that you invest so much time with and enjoy the fellowship. Let us worry about getting everything done so you can relax. You go out and enjoy the program and have some fun; we will take care of everything.

Thank you for your leadership, we look forward to serving you and your Scouts this summer!

Scott Herrick
Camp Director
Gerber Scout Camp
(231) 894-4928



Are you new to Gerber Scout Camp?

Here are some little tips that will be useful for new leaders or units.

- We provide standard Boy Scout wall tents, cots and mattresses for every camper and leader who attends camp. All other tents must be approved by the Camp Director.
- Wednesday lunch will be provided by the camp but you will be preparing it in your campsite. Wednesday evening is family night and dinner is a troop planned potluck dinner completely provided by the unit and parents.
- We do not do merit badge sign-ups. Show up to the merit badge on Monday morning and we will adjust our staff to meet your needs.
- Health forms that you provide to the camp must be kept on file after you leave (they will be sent to the council) so we encourage you to **send copies and retain the originals.**
- For all of your aquatics needs, we have Britton Lake (no swimming pool).
- Units are expected to participate in all of the evening activities. If your unit is planning to deviate from the scheduled program, it must be approved through the Camp Director.
- There will be a leaders meeting every day at 9:30 a.m. (except for Sunday when the meeting is at 5:00 p.m.) Important information is shared at these meetings so **we expect every unit to send at least one leader.**
- Scouts leaving camp early must provide a Scout release request signed by the parents of that Scout, the unit leader and the Camp Director.
- Check-in starts at 2:00p.m. If you plan to arrive early, you must make special arrangements with the Camp Director prior (three weeks and in writing) to arriving in camp.
- Please ensure that any Special Needs issues are addressed by submitting a letter to the Camp Director three weeks prior to arriving in camp.
- Early departures (your Troop is leaving on Friday) should be addressed at the opening leaders meeting so that our staff can make appropriate arrangements for check out.

Gerber Scout Camp Honor Troop Program

The Gerber Scout Camp Honor Troop program is designed to assist youth and adult leaders in building the quality and character of their troop and its individual members. The staff will be happy to assist troop leaders to achieve this award, but the Honor Troop Award remains most valuable to the troop leader who is already well acquainted with the needs of his troop. Troops qualifying as an Honor Troop will be recognized at the closing campfire and their troop number will be added to a listing that will be kept in the dining hall. This is not a competition – every troop that participates...WINS!

To qualify, a troop must do all of the following:

Before Camp

- Send at least one representative to the Leaders Orientation in November.
- Send their health forms to Gerber Scout Camp before June first.
- Conduct a pre-camp orientation meeting with Scouts, parents and leaders. Invite a Camp Staff member to answer any questions you might have.

During camp

- Demonstrate use of the patrol method in camp.
- Do an approved service or conservation project while at camp.
- Conduct a daily flag ceremony in your campsite.
- Conduct a patrol leader's council while at camp.
- Troop and patrol flags are displayed.
- Scouts are in Scout or camp uniform.
- Campsite and restroom are clean and neat.
- Bulletin board is used and fireguard plan is posted.
- Axe yard is properly set up and marked.
- Attend and participate in camp programs.
- Encourage leaders to attend appropriate leaders trainings.
- Leaders must have at least one representative at the daily leaders meeting with the Camp Director.
- SPL is in attendance at the daily 12:05 pm SPL meeting at the main camp pavilion.
- At least 65% of the registered youth in the troop are in attendance at camp.
- Register for next year's camping season at Gerber Scout Camp.
- Invite a staff member to the Wednesday night dinner at your campsite.

SCOUTS RELEASE REQUEST FORM

Request is made that Scout _____

Scout's Home Address _____

Council _____ Unit No. _____

Be permitted to leave camp for the following reasons:

Scout to leave-Date _____ Time _____ Method of Travel _____

Accompanied by: _____

In signing this request, BSA and parents or guardians mutually acknowledge that there will be no refund of camp fee unless deemed appropriate by the camping committee and only after appropriate forms are completed on time; the Council's health and accident insurance terminates with the Scout's departure from the Scout Camp; the BSA or its representatives shall not be liable for any loss or injury to the Scout's person or property. Request made by: (Parent's or guardian's signature required except as noted for emergency departure requests.)

Parent's or Guardian's signature _____

Address _____

Telephone (H) _____ (B) _____

Request made (date & time) _____

Approval Unit Leader Signature _____

ON SITE RELEASE

Before leaving Scout Camp, the Scout and Unit Leader must receive approval from the Camp Director.

APPROVALS: _____ Unit _____ Date _____

Unit Leader

Camp Director or Authorized Representative

Preparation Timeline

A schedule for proper unit planning

Right now

1. Inform all Scouts, second year Webelos and parents about your summer plans.
2. Recruit adult leadership that will commit to staying the entire week with the Scouts of your unit. Two deep, adult leadership is required at all times while your unit is in camp.
3. Ensure that your unit has a payment plan and stay on target with the due date.
4. Make arrangements for leaders from your unit to attend the Camp Kick Off meeting in November.
5. Get your leaders trained. History tells us that troops with trained leaders have a better camping experience. All leaders should have youth protection and fast start training before attending camp.

January, February and March

1. Schedule your Order of the Arrow unit elections with your local Chapter. Out of Council units please ensure to collect the necessary approvals to be called out at Gerber Scout Camp.
2. Schedule a Camp Promotion with the Natcha Tindey Lodge or contact the Camp Director to assist you in promoting camp. Many troops hold a parents meeting or camp promotion night. This is an important opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn what camp is all about. If you can't answer a question, contact us at 616-785-2662 and ask for Linda or visit the Council website: www.bsagrfc.org

April and May

1. Meet with your Patrol Leaders Council to go over the camp preparation process.
2. Send out final camp notices to parents.
3. Provide Scouts and parents with a list of what to bring.
4. Work with each Scout in planning a camp advancement schedule and get them started on pre-camp requirements.
5. Turn in all Campership Applications (**due by April 15th**)
6. All fees must be turned in to the Gerald R. Ford Council by the close of business on May 1st.
7. Review all health forms and ensure that they are filled out completely (and that you have all necessary signatures).
8. Mail your health forms to camp (certified mail). This will greatly speed up your check-in process.

Two weeks before camp

1. Get troop equipment ready for camp.
2. Prepare multiple copies of your troop roster.
3. **Ensure your troop health forms are accounted for and send them to camp** (certified mail, before June 1st for the Honor Troop Award). A well prepared Troop makes copies of their health forms and keeps the originals on file.
4. Ensure transportation has been arranged for all scouts.
5. Remind Scouts of behavior standards at camp.
6. Check up on pre-camp advancement work that Scouts have done to ensure that there will be no problems with merit badges.
7. Remind Scouts to pack a lunch for the trip to camp. No lunch will be served on Sunday.

Before you depart for camp

1. PANIC! Just kidding, but you might want to check your gas gauge.
2. Hold an inspection of all personal gear and equipment.
3. Collect any remaining medical forms and make sure they have all of the appropriate signatures.
4. Leave all medications in their original containers and label them with the Scout's name and troop number. This includes aspirin, cold medicine and inhalers.
5. Make sure parents are aware of how to contact camp in case of emergency and be sure that they know your troop number.
6. Plan to arrive at Gerber Scout Camp around 2:00pm. Registration starts promptly at 2:00pm and ends at 3:00pm.
7. Ensure that transportation is planned for Saturday mornings departure before 10:00 a.m.
8. **Be prepared to have the best camping experience of your life!**



RELEASE REQUEST

Scouts desiring to leave the camp prior to their unit's departure (or not as a part of a unit) must have a release signed by their parents or guardian and approved by the unit leader. Scouts should normally only be permitted to leave when accompanied by their parents or guardian. **The form should be used in handling the exceptional cases.**

In an emergency it may not be possible for a parent or guardian to sign the release. In this event, sufficient information must be recorded attesting to the telephone call or means of communication by which word arrived asking for the release of the Scout. This information should document the person from whom the call was received, verify telephone confirmation of the parent or guardian asking for release of the Scout, and give detailed reasons for the release. All release requests must be approved by the Camp Director or his representative.



Incentives to bring everyone

85% Club:

If you bring 85% of the registered Scouts (as of your last recharter) from your troop, we will provide steak for all participants from your unit for your Wednesday lunch. All will be eating in their campsites and maybe you can have steak instead of hamburger.
(Official Council roster required)

65% Club:

If you bring 65% of the registered Scouts (as of your last recharter) from your troop, the Nacha Tindey Lodge will recognize you at the Friday Night Campfire. These troops are recognized and rewarded with a banner to hang on their troop flag.



What should we bring to camp?!?

What campers should bring

<u>Complete scout uniform</u>	Swimsuit	Rain Gear
Hiking Shoes	Towel	T-Shirts
Extra Pants	Long Sleeve Shirt	Hat
Socks and Underwear	Sleeping Bag	Canteen
Sweatshirt or jacket	Pocket Knife	Shorts
Insect Repellent (non aerosol)	Pajamas	Watch
Small Pillow	Extra Blanket	Sunscreen
Scout Handbook	Religious Publications	Compass
Flashlight/batteries	Fishing Gear	Backpack
Notebook/pen/pencil	Camera/film	Medication
Spending Money	extra pair of shoe	
Mosquito Netting		
Bathroom Stuff (Soap, toothbrush, washcloth, etc)		
*Please bring any items needed for pre-requisite requirements to the merit badges (merit badge books, reports, informational items, etc.)		
*Arrowmen should bring their regalia for the OA ceremonies.		

What your unit should bring

Lantern	Maps and Compasses	US Flag
Troop Kitchen	Troop Flags	Wood tools
Troop Library	Extra Sleeping Bag	Patrol flags
Dutch oven	First Aid Kit	Scouts
A GPS Unit (or 2)	A positive Scouting attitude	

What we will supply for you

Campsite restrooms	Running water	Dining Flies
Toilet Paper	Picnic Tables	Flagpole
Cleaning Supplies	Bulletin Board	Tents
Metal Cots	Mattresses	Tent Platform
Fire Rings	Trash Cans	Shower house
Fire tools	Broom	Hose
*If your troop has any special needs or requests, please contact the Camp Director in writing three weeks prior to arriving in camp.		

Damaged Equipment

Gerber Scout Camp puts a very high value on its program and campsite equipment. Any damage to camp-owned equipment through negligence or abuse will be the sole responsibility of the Troop. Replacement cost will be assessed to the troop based on replacement cost and payment must be made before leaving on Saturday. Please help us make camp equipment last!

Planning Checklist

The What's	The When's
Attend Summer Camp Orientation	November 28, 2007
READ THIS BOOK	Right now would be okay
Promote camp to Scouts and parents	All year long!
Inform Scouts of medical information, equipment needs, advancement and program goals	Camp promotion and/or election night
Distribute lists of what to bring	Spring troop meetings
Schedule Order of the Arrow elections and Camp Promotion	No elections will be held after April 1 st
Review programs and activities	Spring Troop Meetings
Plan your programs with patrol leaders council	Spring Troop Meetings
Scouts plan merit badges, advancement, etc.	Spring Troop Meetings
CAMPERSHIP DEADLINE	April 15, 2008
FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE	May 1, 2008
Deadline for Team Player discount	May 15, 2008
Double check for medical release forms, medications and parent consent	Prior to sending them to camp (June 1 st deadline)
Certified mail medical forms to Gerber Scout Camp to ensure a speedy check in	June 1 2008
Select a week and site for 2009. Pay \$50.00 reservation fee	Before you leave camp

The 2009 Camp Leaders Orientation is set for November 26, 2008

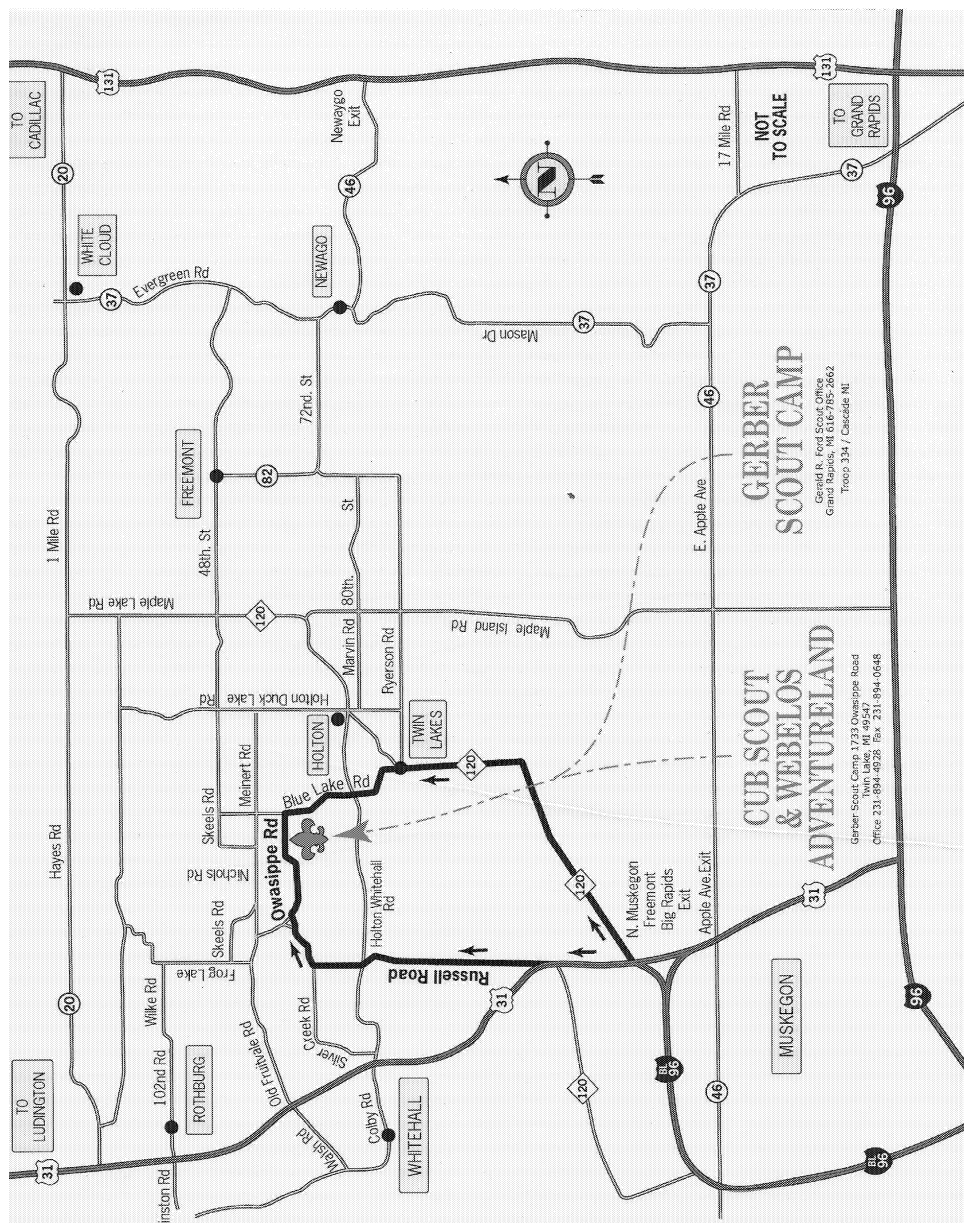


Understandings

- Camp policies are made for the safety of the campers, protection of equipment and to provide fairness to all. Please follow them!
- No vehicles will be parked in campsites unless approved by the Camp Director.
- No fireworks of any kind are permitted in camp.
- No smoking outside of designated smoking areas.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted in camp
- No pets are allowed in camp.
- No fires or open flames are allowed in tents.
- Shoes or sandals are to be worn at all times while in camp.
- Anyone leaving camp during their stay must check out at the camp office.
- All troops must have "two deep leadership" in camp at all times.
- Medication is to be brought to the attention of the Camp Health Officer at the time of check in.
- Parents and youth are expected to sleep in separate tents.
- All campers and leaders are expected to attend evening programs unless approved by the camp leadership.
- Deviations from any camp program must be approved by the Camp Director.
- Alternate modes of transportation (golf carts, etc.) must be approved by the Camp Director, three weeks prior (in writing) to arrival in camp.
- Any special needs (special diets, disabilities, etc.) must be addressed to the Camp Director three weeks prior to arriving in camp. This will allow us time to make arrangements.
- Per-requisites for merit badges are the responsibility of the individual Scouts.
- Items such as personal firearms, sheath knives, personal bows and laser pointers are to be left at home.
- Any changes to your troop roster should be reported to the camp office immediately.
- All Scouts and leaders attending camp must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America.

- During all other meals visitors are welcome to purchase meal tickets at the camp office.

GETTING TO GERBER SCOUT CAMP



Camp Dates and Fees

Gerber Scout Camp Summer Schedule

Session 1:	June 15 th to June 21 st
Session 2:	June 22 nd to June 28 th
Session 3:	June 29 th to July 5 th
Session 4:	July 6 th to July 12 th
Session 5:	July 13 th to July 19 th
Session 6:	July 20 th to July 26 th
Session 7:	July 27 th to August 2 nd
Session 8:	August 3 rd to August 9 th



Camp Fees

Camping Opportunities	Regular Fee	Team Player Fee**
Campsite Registration Fee	\$50.00	N/A
Boy Scout Fee (per Scout)	\$210.00	\$180.00
Out of Council Scout Fee	\$210.00	N/A
Adult Leader Regular Fee	\$110.00	\$80.00
Mayo Lake Lone Troop Fee (per Scout)	\$160.00	\$150.00
Mayo Lake Lone Troop Fee (per Adult)	\$85.00	\$75.00
Daily Fee	\$50.00 per Scout \$25.00 per Adult	
Visitor Meal Fee	\$10.00 per meal	

Any unit that "pays at the door" will be charged an additional \$25 per person fee. If there are special circumstances to be considered, you should contact the Camp Director (in writing) prior to arriving in camp.

Camp provides dining hall meals, some campsite equipment, program areas and gear, plus the best camp staff in the nation!

**** Registration must be received in the DeVos Family Center for Scouting by the close of business on May 1st to qualify for the Team Player Fee.**

More About Camp Fees

- **Registration fee:** The first \$75.00 of each Scouts camp fee is considered to be his reservation fee and is non-refundable. This fee may be transferred to another scout in the same troop as a new reservation in the event that a scout can not attend camp. Fees must be paid to the DeVos Family Center for Scouting by May 1st.
- **Gold Medallion:** In addition to the year round benefits, Gold Medallion troops will receive an additional 5% per Scout discount toward their summer camp fees. This discount is credited after the camp season and **after all fees have been paid in full.** (Gold Medallion is a Council Friends of Scouting recognition program)
- **Team Player:** Troops that fairly share in the council's direct unit service by participating in Friends of Scouting and sell popcorn will pay this fee until May 15th, then they pay the regular fee.
- **Adult Leader Fees:** Leaders attending camp for the week will pay \$110.00 per person. Adults staying part of the week will pay a daily fee of \$25.00 per day to cover the cost of food. All leaders attending camp must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America and must be included on the troop roster.
- **Camperships (Financial Assistance):** Limited financial assistance may be available on an individual basis for Scouts who could not otherwise attend summer camp due to financial hardship. If you know of a legitimate case in your troop, please contact the DeVos Family Center for Scouting to receive a Campership Application. These forms are to be filled out and approved by the unit leader before being sent to the DeVos Family Center for Scouting for review before April 15th. **The Scout applying for the Campership is responsible for half of the camp fee (\$105.00) and must submit this amount with the application.** Please be sure to consider other financial resources, such as your charter partner, unit fundraisers and other outside sources before applying for a Campership. No Scout will be denied the opportunity to attend any of the Gerald R. Ford Council's summer camp programs due to financial hardship.

**Deadline for Campership Applications to be submitted:
April 15th**

Campership forms will not be accepted after June 15th

Camp Departure

Check out procedures: (w/ staff guide)

1. Sweep floor and walls in campsite restroom.
 2. Scrub and clean urinal, toilet seats, and wash basin with bleach. (Be sure to wear rubber gloves).
 3. Wash and rinse off picnic tables.
 4. Return shovel, rake, broom and other campsite supplies to storage area located on the side of the campsite restroom.
 5. Leave a complimentary wood pile for the next troop.
 6. Pick up all litter along the road and trail as you walk from your campsite.
 7. Return all borrowed equipment to the Camp Commissioner.
 8. Return all leaders forms to the camp office.
 9. Pick up your check out packets at the camp Office. **Make sure you go through your check out packet before you leave camp.**
 10. Resolve any outstanding money issues.
 11. Check troop mailbox.
 12. Take a minute to go over merit badge paperwork with your Scouts. **Make sure that all advancement paperwork is in order before you leave camp.**
 13. Pick up patches and sign up for next year.
- Troops can reserve a site for next year by filling out the site reservation form and submitting to the Camp Business Manager along with a \$50.00 site fee. This fee is separate and not renewed or rolled over year to year or for your troop fees.

VISITORS

Parents and friends are always welcome at camp and we invite them to visit the camp and see what their Scouts have been doing throughout the week. While visitors are welcome at any time, we suggest certain times over others as it coincides with camp activities that would allow visitors to see some special activities.

- Wednesday Parents' Night and Troop Potluck supper starting at 4:30 pm. Visitors may tour camp, check out various areas and displays, and visit your campsite. **Dinner is a troop planned potluck dinner completely provided by the unit and parents.**
- The evening is highlighted by our Order of the Arrow Call Out ceremony starting at 8:00 pm. Please be on time.
- All visitors are asked to use the designated parking area where they will be greeted by members of our camp staff.
- All visitors are asked to sign in when they arrive.
- No vehicles are allowed in main camp or in the campsites.
- Visitors with disabilities should notify the Camp Director, in writing, prior to their arrival.

Refunds

In the case of hardships and emergencies, refunds may be requested. The refund policy of the Council Camping Committee reads as follows:

Individual camp fees are refundable except for \$75.00 of the fee, which is non-refundable, but transferable toward a new reservation. Refunds must be requested by the Scoutmaster before their departure date for camp. Each refund request will be reviewed by the Council and if approved, the money will be refunded based on the request of the person submitting the form.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE IF REQUESTED AFTER AUGUST 30TH



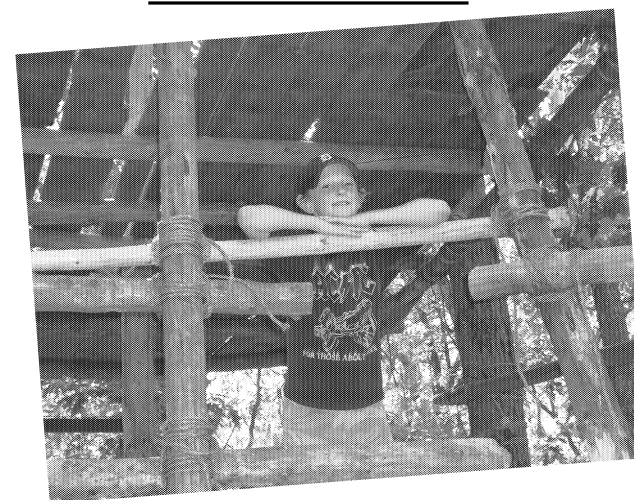
COMMISSIONER CHATS

What a great resource of knowledge we have in all our leaders! Keeping in mind our goals of helping individual units with their year-round program, we will be holding Commissioner Chats. These will be very informal, where you can sit with a cup of coffee and tell others about what works for your troop. We ask that you bring any information including flyers, troop pamphlets, info sheets, booklets, pictures, etc. with you to camp that you can share or give to other leaders.

Some topics we thought troops might be interested in sharing ideas about are:

- Different places you go camping
- Ideas for troop meetings
- Troop Leadership
- How to recruit new scouts
- How to have effective Webelos Cross-Overs
- Leader recruitment
- Fund Raising
- Youth training methods
- Other topics limited only by your imagination

*Commissioners are always available to discuss these topics with you and your troop.



Campsite Registration

- We will continue accepting reservations at the Summer Camp Orientation.
- All forms will be dated and time stamped
- All forms must be accompanied by a \$50.00 campsite registration fee. This fee is separate from all other youth and adult fees (no rolling over or transferring this fee).
- Camp reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis.
- We will do our best to assign you the campsite that you request but we can not guarantee any specific campsite to any unit due to special circumstances, troop size, and special needs Scouts.
- We will do our best to give top priority to Gold Medallion FOS units for campsite choices as long as circumstances allow.

MAYO LAKE TROOP / PATROL EXPERIENCE

This year we will be offering a unique program for strong Scout troops to participate in.

The Mayo Lake Troop / Patrol experience is for those stronger troops that want to **provide their own summer camp program**. We will provide your basic campsite items (showers, food storage, limited refrigeration / freezer, and water). Your troop will provide the food and troop gear at our remote Mayo Lake Campsite. Troops will have the opportunity to fully participate in all Order of the Arrow programs and all merit badge program areas. Troops are expected to provide all of their own food and have the option of providing their own evening program or participating in the activities already provided by our staff. This program is designed for Troops with strong leadership and a strong program foundation. Is your Troop up for the challenge?

Regular Fee:	\$160 per Scout	\$85 per Adult
Team Player Fee:	\$150 per Scout	\$75 per Adult

Only Mayo Lake Troop Scouts will be allowed bikes in camp to help them to participate in the camp program areas at Gerber Scout Camp.

Helmets are required at all times.



How can you help?

We know that many of you have wonderful skills and knowledge in various aspects of camp. We want you to know that we always welcome your assistance to improve the program. Please let us know of any special skills that you have that would add an extra dimension to the week.

Some areas that come to mind include:

- Eagle Quest (advancement) support
- Merit Badge support
- Song Leading
- Medical (Nurse, Doctor, EMT)
- Lifeguard support
- Order of the Arrow Support
- Takachsin Long house

Flag Ceremonies

Every morning and evening the camp conducts a flag ceremony. Scouts will have the chance to be part of the color guard by signing up at SPL meetings. Troops are encouraged to be at the evening ceremonies in **full Scout uniform**. A flag pole is provided in each campsite for individual troop ceremonies.

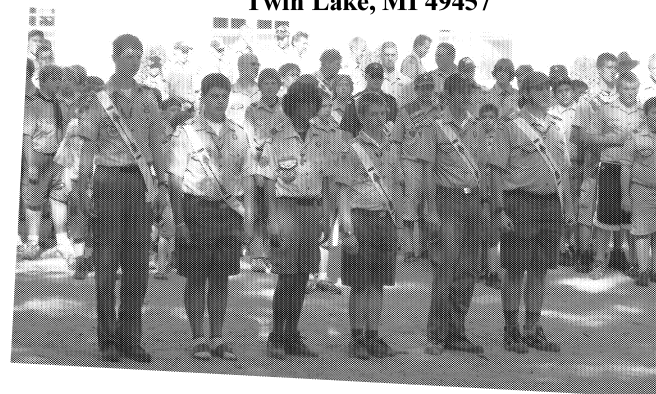
Rest

Sleep can make or break a week. It is essential that everyone gets the rest they need. Please help insure "quite time" is enforced between 10:30 pm and 7:00 am. Noise travels very well at night- please respect your neighbors.

Mail

Please have mail addressed in the following manner:

Scout's Name, Troop Number
Gerber Scout Camp
1733 Owasippe Road
Twin Lake, MI 49457



Sports Competition. The events will be explained more during the
DAILY ADULT LEADER MEETINGS.

Leaders Meetings with the Camp Director

We realize that a daily Scoutmaster meeting is an important way to get information to you and receive feedback in return. Usually each meeting will evaluate the past day's events and be a source for conveying information about the day's activities. Each meeting will start at 9:30 am (except Sunday which is at 5:00 pm) and will be in a different area as follows:

Sunday:	Main Pavilion (5:00 PM)
Monday:	Waterfront
Tuesday:	Eagle Quest
Wednesday:	Climbing Tower
Thursday:	Takachsin Longhouse
Friday:	Main Pavilion (with the Scout Executive)

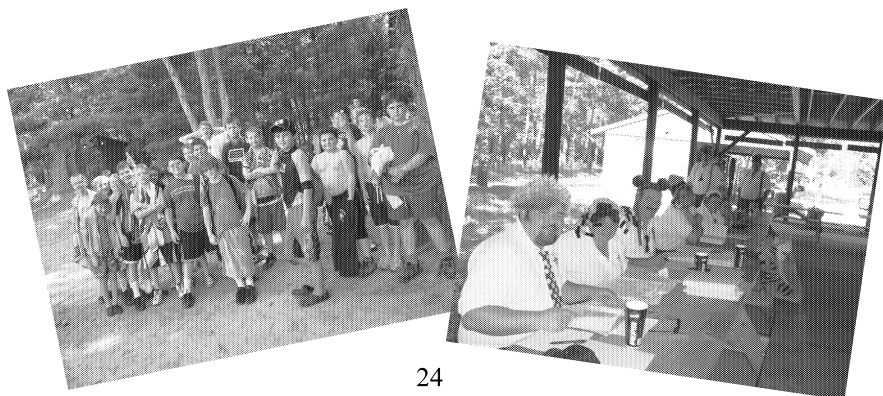
Adult Leader Training

Once again adult leaders will have the opportunity to sit in on a training program conducted by our qualified camp commissioners or an outside trainer. While the session will have titles, discussion is informal and we will answer questions that will help you and the group during these times. Training times will be announced at the leader meeting.

Some training topics include:

- Fast Start Training
- Leaders Specific Training
- New Leaders Essentials
- Safety Afloat / Safe Swim Defense
- New Leaders Aquatics Training
- Youth Protection
- Climb on Safely

Please let us know prior to your arrival if you have other topics you'd like covered.



Pre-Camp Training

The State of Michigan requires all adult leaders who attend camp to have three hours of pre-camp training before your camp session. Here is a list of training that will help you meet the criteria as an "in camp leader".

- ☐ Youth Protection – 1.5 hours
- ☐ Pre-Camp kickoff – 1.5 hours
- ☐ Safe Swim Defense / Safety Afloat - .5 hours
- ☐ Climb on Safely - .5 hours
- ☐ First Aid Training – 3 hours
- ☐ CPR Training – 3 hours
- ☐ Basic Leaders Essentials – 3 hours
- ☐ Scoutmaster essentials basic training – 12 hours
- ☐ Camp promotion by Order of the Arrow - .5 hours
- ☐ Wood Badge
- ☐ Commissioner Basic Training.

If you can check any of these boxes and your total is over three hours then you are all set. **This training must occur before you arrive at camp.**

All units must conduct a Youth Protection Training with Scouts and leaders prior to arriving in camp to be in compliance with BSA national policy.



HOMESICK SCOUTS

What causes homesickness? It is a product of a happy home life, and it occurs often in a Scout who misses the warmth and security that comes from a good relationship with family and friends.

Homesickness is also a problem for a Scout whose parents are anxious about his welfare. A parent who will miss the Scout while he is at camp or worries that the camping experience will be unhappy often transfers this fear to the Scout. In short, while at camp, the boy often feels the anxiety of his parents and fulfills their expectations that he will miss home and not enjoy camp by becoming homesick.

Homesickness often produces regressive behavior in a Scout. In order to cope with the situation he will revert to behavior used at an earlier age to gain attention. Sometimes a Scout will cry easily, wet the bed, or withdraw from others. When a boy who is normally sociable and active suddenly becomes quiet, alone and disinterested in what is happening around him, this can be a sign of homesickness.

The treatment of homesickness is not simple. It involves the active participation of the Scoutmaster, troop members, camp staff, and often firm, but understanding parents.

When homesickness is detected, the Scout must be listened to and his feelings understood. Often an understanding person, willing to listen and empathize is all that is needed. Any unusual behavior patterns that have developed, such as bedwetting, must be taken in stride and not be overly emphasized.

Next, the Scout must be kept active and interested in some phase of camp life. An effort must be made to make the Scout part of the Troop and a part of all the camp's activities so that he can make friends. If parents are contacted, they should do all in their power to avoid promising that the Scout may come home, unless advised to do so by the Camp Director. Once a Scout leaves camp because of homesickness, he probably will not return to the scouting program.

Homesickness can be prevented. Parents are the best tool to use. Parents must not promise their Scout that if he doesn't like it he can come home. This promise sets the boy up for defeat. Parents must try to transmit positive messages about camp, emphasizing that his days at camp will be a worthwhile experience, and that they are happy he is going.

If a Scout wishes to take something special with him that reminds him of home, such as a pillow, blanket or toy, he should be encouraged to do so. This special object will be a reminder of and link to home. Do not tell a Scout to telephone home if he needs anything. Such advice could be contrary to the camp policy against indiscriminate use of phones.

Quickly inform a member of the camp staff if you think a Scout may be homesick!

continue to occur. The Camp Director has the final approval for all violations.



Some Adult Things

Adult Leaders Rest Area: The adult leaders rest area is located at Tryon Lodge and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for adults to relax, do paperwork, or converse with other leaders. (Please no smoking)

No Smoking Policy: All buildings or facilities of the camp are designated as non-smoking facilities. Smoking outside entrance/exit doors is not permitted at any location.. All Scouting functions, meetings or activities must be conducted on a smoke-free basis with permitted smoking areas located at the old Eagle Quest Area (behind Tryon Lodge). This is the only smoking area provided in camp.

Shower Facilities: The camp has shower areas for adults, both male and female. These are to be used by adults only. Scout age campers have their own area. No youth may use the adult shower areas at any time. Leaders are reminded to insure that youth and adult areas are cleaned throughout the week. SPL's will be signing up your troop at their meetings.

Leaders are required to sign in and out of camp at all times

Adult Leader Events

Daily adult leader activities will be offered in camp. These events are purely for fun. It's a great opportunity to meet other adults and establish lasting friendships. Events may include: COPE Course, Leaders Roundtables, Leaders Cook off, new Aquatics Training and Shooting



Gerber Scout Camp Behavior Management Policy

1. It is the policy of Gerber Scout Camp that no campers shall be deprived of food or sleep, shall be placed alone without staff supervision, observation and interaction, or shall be subjected to ridicule, threat, corporal punishment, or excessive physical exercise or excessive restraint.
2. It is the policy of Gerber Scout Camp, the Gerald R. Ford Council, and the Boy Scouts of America that all Scouts in attendance at Gerber Scout Camp whether they are campers or staff members under the age of 18, will be in a safe environment at all times, and can expect that all adult staff members including adults that come to camp will adhere to the opening paragraph stated.
3. In the event that a camper is subject to a violation of one of the above policies the camp director will be notified.
4. When there is a violation of the policy from one camper to another, the Adult leader or Adult Staff member in that program area, or campsite has the authority to settle the problem, but the Camp Director must be notified, and approve the disciplinary action taken. When there is a violation of the policy from an Adult Staff member to a youth, the Camp Director will be notified, and give the appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include time in campsite, unable to participate in program area(s), parental notification, no more interaction with that youth or staff member, or dismissal from the camp property. Again all disciplinary actions will be approved by the Camp Director. This is to ensure that no policy violations will

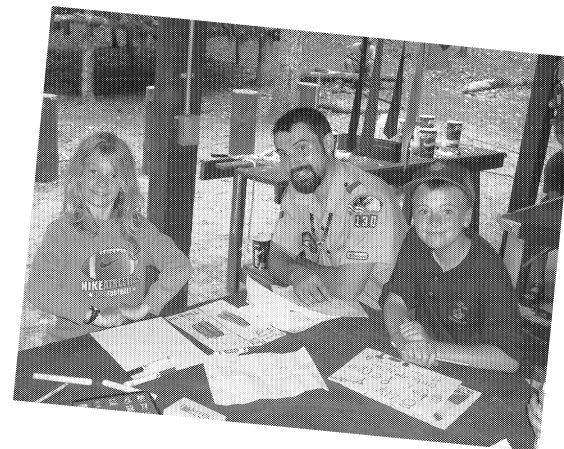
Campsite Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster

Qualifications:

- Registered in the Boy Scouts of America
- Be at least 21 years of age (18 for Asst. Scout leaders)
- Have Participated in Youth Protection Training
- Have Participated in Boy Scout Fast Start Training
- It is highly recommended that Scoutmaster Essentials training are taken by "in camp" leaders.

Qualities of Unit Leadership:

- Acceptance of BSA and chartered organization ideals and principals; possesses unquestioned integrity.
- Set a positive example as a role model through appearance and exhibit consistent ethical behavior (fairness, honesty, trust and respect for others)
- Willingness to delegate tasks that permit the use of adult and youth resources.
- An advocate of youth. Enjoys seeing development and growth.
- An appreciation of the outdoors. Enjoys nature.
- Some experience in group activity leadership in civic service, club, lodge or religious organizations.
- Stature that wins confidence of parents, youth and community.
- Good listener. Easily builds rapport with others in a counseling role.
- Willing to invest a definite amount of time in training and unit leadership.
- An active member of the chartering organization or its affiliates. Is well known and would be approved by the chartering organization.





Adopt a Scout

There are some Scouts who can not attend camp with their troops. Please contact your District Executive if you would like to help out and bring another Scout to camp with your troop.

Responsibilities of leaders in camp:

- Oversee troop program through the youth leadership and patrol leaders council.
- Monitor each Scout's advancement goals and progress throughout the week.
- Maintain the camp health and safety policies in the campsite throughout camp.
- Supervise the activities of each Scout in program areas, phone facilities, eating and cooking facilities and general camp areas.
- Monitor medication schedules for each Scout.
- Inform camp leadership of any behavior issues that occur.
- Maintain at least "two deep" leadership in camp at all times with one adult in the campsite at all times.
- Advise Scouts of security measures that should be in place while at camp.
- Attend daily adult leader meetings every day.
- Report any damage to camp property immediately.
- Report any accident or injury to the camp Health Office immediately.
- Inform camp leadership if you have to leave camp early for any reason.
- Don't forget....have fun with your Scouts!

All leaders in camp must be registered with the Boy Scouts

Training and Supporting Campers

It is the policy of the Gerber Scout Camp that all units coming to camp must conduct training with the Scouts planning on coming to camp. At this training all campers are informed of the basic rules and guidelines of Gerber Scout Camp. These can be found in the Leaders Guide book. Things that are included are what to bring, what not to bring, etc. .

Upon arrival at camp, all campers are advised of the camp rules again at the check in process, as well as at our opening campfire.

We expect Scouts and leaders to live by the Scout Oath and Law while in camp.

Plans for Training and Supporting Staff

The Gerber Scout Camp staff will be advised of the policy and procedures for situations that may arise in camp. Staff members will also go through training that is specific to the age group of the campers. This will be done through the staff guidebook and youth protection training. This training is a national publication of the Boy Scouts of America. All staff members will have Youth Protection training during staff week, which is the week before the summer camp season starts. All other adult leaders (who are considered staff members by the State of Michigan) who have not had the Youth Protection training in the last two years (Boy Scout policy states that all registered leaders must have the youth protection training every two years) must go through the training within the first 24 hours at camp.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency in camp:

The camp siren will be sounded. When the siren is sounded, everyone is to immediately return to their campsite, take a head count and send two runners to the camp office with a count of both youth and adults from the Troop. When all Troops are accounted for, we will take appropriate action in dealing with the emergency.

Emergencies

If someone needs to contact a camper in the event of an emergency, contact the camp office and a message will be given to the requested party immediately.

**The camp phone numbers are: (231)894-4928,
(231) 894-4990 or fax (231)-893-0648.**

For non-emergencies, campers can make the call from the camp pay phone located on the front porch of the Camp Office. Please discourage incoming calls that are not of an emergency nature as it ties up the "business" phone lines in camp.

Health Lodge Information

This page is designed to help you understand how the Health Lodge will run this summer. Please read this carefully.

PARENTS: The State of Michigan requires that all medications are in their **original** bottles. Please send only medications that your scout takes on a regular basis. We have the basic nonprescription medication (Pepto, Tylenol, etc.) available at the Health Lodge. **To help out, put your Scout's medications in a ziplock bag. On the front of the bag, write your Scout's name, Troop number and a schedule of when they are taken.**

Note about Asthma inhalers and bee sting kits.

If your Scout requires one of these, they are allowed to keep it with them. However, if they use them, they need to report to their leader and/or Health Lodge immediately. We have found that sometimes these items get lost at a campsite. It is **highly** recommended that you send a second one that can be kept at the Health Lodge as a back up. For bee sting reactions, an epi-pen is encouraged over a traditional kit. Once again we request that you send two. One for your Scout to keep and one for the health lodge.

Daily Procedures

- Unless it is an emergency, the normal operation hours are 7:30 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. The health lodge is closed for flags and meals.
- There will always be a sign posted on the bulletin board of how you can reach a Health Officer.
- In case of injury or sickness, the health lodge is open 24 hours a day. Please be sure to immediately report any injury or sickness no matter how minor it may seem at the time.
- It is a good idea for parents to send a note, informing our medical staff of any special conditions or instructions that will help us prepare for Scouts with special needs.
- We are looking forward to a great week with your Scout! Thanks for taking the time to fill out your health forms completely.



Uniforming

There is only one complete Official Boy Scout field uniform does your troop wear it? Please Do! Please be proud of your uniform and encourage the same from your Scouts. Everyone being in full official Boy Scout uniform can have a huge impact on your troop's performance, morale, identity and spirit. Please at least try!

(Shirt, socks, belt and shorts or trousers and Takachsin -that's all...)

Scout Advancement Planning Guide

1. First year Scouts are encouraged to take the Eagle Quest rank advancement program.
2. Second year Scouts, not yet First Class, may want to sign up for both merit badges and Eagle Quest rank advancements.
3. Older Scouts participating in COPE or Order of the Arrow should be careful not to schedule merit badges that conflict with either.
4. All Scouts should be given their own copy of the Eagle Quest, Merit Badge and COPE Program Schedules. (Copy from this booklet)
5. All Scouts should be made aware of pre-requisites and pre-camp preparation items.
6. Leaders should make sure that the Scouts have chosen programs according to their interest, ability and age appropriate guidelines.

All Scouts taking merit badges should have their blue cards filled out before arriving at camp, so they can be turned in at their first day of attendance in the respective program area.



Express Check In

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, READ THIS:

With up to 400 Scouts and leaders checking in during any given week, we want to make this the easiest, fastest and most efficient check in process you've ever experienced. The plain and simple truth is, we need your cooperation. We will have all the staff available at various check-in points to assist wherever needed. We need you to:

Arrive between 2:00 and 3:00 pm –no sooner, no later

- Arrive with your entire Troop at 2:00.
- You will be greeted by the Camp Director and the staff when you arrive. You should provide a prepared unit roster at this time. It must include the name, address, age and leadership position of all Scouts and leaders in your Troop, as well as the unit number. Please include on your roster the maximum number of seats that your troop will need in the dining hall (don't forget people who will be coming in later in the week).
- A staff guide will be assigned to your troop. He/she will assist and lead your Scouts throughout the entire check in procedure and provide a packet of information related to your stay.
- Move into your campsite with your gear and do only essential setup procedures. (Troop trailers are allowed and can be parked within the confines of your site. All vehicles have to be moved out to the main parking lot for the remainder of the week. This is a local fire and emergency regulation so that emergency vehicles can get through if needed). Special arrangements should be addressed to the Camp Director prior to your arrival in camp.
- As soon as you reach your campsite, change into your swimming suits and shoes, grab a towel and move to the health area for medical recheck. Be sure you have all medical forms (if not turned in already) and medications. These should be in alphabetical order and ready to turn in at the medical recheck stations (there will be more than one). Fill out provided buddy tags with your staff guide.
- Move to the dining hall for your seating assignments and dining hall procedures. Remind the Scouts to pay attention because you will be here for fifteen meals during your stay.
- Next move on to the swimming area where Scouts and leaders will take a swim test. They will be assigned a specific swimming level based on their ability to complete the swimming requirements. Each camper will receive a "buddy tag" which they will use every time they enter the swimming or boating area.
- Return to your campsite, change clothes for the evening meal (Scout Uniform) and finish campsite setup.
- At 5:00 pm a leader's meeting will be held at the Program Pavilion.

It is essential to make sure your troop is represented at the 5:00 pm leaders meeting.

Letters to Employers

The Gerber Scout Camp stands prepared to send a letter to your employer or company telling them about your leadership in Scouting and how it is important in the lives of our youth. You may request this employer letter from the Camp Director.

Medical Forms:

Each Scout who attends camp must have an annual health history attested by parents or guardian within 12 months and supported by a medical evaluation completed (Physical) within the last 36 months (3 years) by a physician licensed to practice medicine. Personal Health and Medical Record-Class 1 and 2 is for youth and adults 39 and under. Class 3 is for adults 40 and over and must be completed within and signed by a physician within the past 12 months. This is the law in Michigan and a National BSA Policy.

Our health form is designed to comply with both the BSA National standards and the State of Michigan policies. This form needs to be filled out completely. There must be a signature on page four. If we do not have a signature, then your scout will not be allowed to stay overnight on camp property.

The separate page inside the health form has a listing of the people your scout can be released to. **By state law, without this authorization, your Scout may be released only to his Scoutmaster or parent.** If both parents are not listed then the Scout may only be released to the parent whose signature appears on the form. The Boy Scouts of America requires that people participating in a long term camping experience must have a medical evaluation by a licensed physician, physicians assistant or a nurse practitioner. If the camper/leader is 39 or younger, then the medical evaluation must be within the last 36 months. If the participant is 40 or older, then the medical evaluation must have been within the last 12 months. In addition, the parent or guardian must complete the health form for minors. We must have a health form for each adult leader.

NEW!! This year we are asking that your health forms be turned in before your Scout's arrival at camp. The deadline is June 1.

These forms need to be sent to Gerber Scout Camp, Attn Health Officer by certified mail. Send copies and keep the originals on file with your Troop.