



Summer TIMES

YOUR MONTHLY SOURCE FOR MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COUNCIL SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

VISIT US AT WWW.MISSISSIPPIVALLEYBSA.ORG OR CALL 319-754-8413

Older Scout Programs

Looking for ways to keep your older Scouts coming back to camp?

Ever hear "I've already earned all those merit badges" or "I've been to camp and it's the same 'ol thing" from one of your older Scouts? Well, we have a few possibilities that you can promote to all of your Scouts and hopefully keep them coming back to camp and give them some adventure that they are craving! 2012 will introduce a NEW program and a greatly ENHANCED program for all of your youth.

X-Treme Scouts- Scouts will be organized as a provisional troop and taken on an adventure that spans two camps and the Mighty Mississippi! Adventures may include: High Ropes COPE Course, Mississippi River canoe trip, Jet Skis, "Scout vs. Wild" Wilderness Survival, Mountain Boarding/ Biking, And more...**There will be charge for this adventure, in addition to the regular cost of summer camp.**

Crew Week-Under the direction of our Camp Rangers, Crew Members will focus on conservation projects during their week. The program is not simply building trails and work, but a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically and spiritually. Space is limited and participants must be at least 14 years of age. Your opportunities may include: trail building, conservation, Leave No Trace, patrol method, leadership training, and opportunities to experience programming at SSR and CE. **Cost is only \$80.00 for the week by and due by April 1st AND that amount will be subtracted from your regular summer camp fee.**

Staff-Your Scouts could attend camp ALL SUMMER and become one of the elite! Serving on staff means spending your summer at camp, helping younger Scouts, creating memories for yourself and others, creating adventures, and possibly GETTING PAID to do it! Encourage your older Scouts to apply today by visiting www.mississippivalleybsa.org and downloading the summer camp staff application. Interviews are 12/28 and 1/7.

Leaders Guide

Complete Guide to your Summer Camp Adventure Coming Soon

The 2012 Summer Camp Leaders Guide is almost done and will be published in the first part of January. This guide will feature all of the new changes to the summer camp program as well as a way to help you prepare for summer camp. Included will be: how to sign up for camp (including complete "Camper Savings Plan"), rules and regulations, schedules, what to pack for camp, services offered, and more. The guide will be available online for downloads and sharing as well as CD.

Summer Camp Backdating

Suggested steps to help you get to camp!

- With Troop committee plan Camp Kick-off and Friends of Scouting presentation for "Camper Savings Plan"
- Promote "older" Scout opportunities before their summer fills up with other activities and make sure younger Scouts see as well.
- Sit down with all Scouts and review Scout accounts from popcorn and other fundraisers to see how much more they need for summer camp. Make a plan for each Scout to sell Camp Cards and earn their way to camp.

Merit Badges

Some new twist and new merit badges being offered

2012 will see some new changes to the merit badge program at camp. We will be offering some new merit badges (chess, photography, oceanography, weather, and more...) and we are also looking at rotating merit badges so your Scouts have different choices every year when they come to camp. We hope to list all rotating merit badges so you and your troop can plan future weeks at camp and see what might be offered.

Also, new to 2012 will be ONLINE merit badge registration. This registration will be required and many merit badges will have "caps" so they don't get over filled and we can get a great program (appropriate number of staff, program materials, safety regulations, etc) to every Scout. We are investing in a software program that will hopefully make it easy for you, as a leader, to register Scouts and maintain your summer camp records even after you leave camp. Full instructions and caps will be announced in early 2012 so stay tuned to this newsletter, the website, and leaders guide. Start today by working with your Scouts on what they might want or need while at camp so you have a better understanding when it is time to register.