



Yawgoog Summer Camp for First year Scouts and Parents Quick Start Guide

There is a lot of information to absorb when attending Yawgoog Summer Camp for the first time. There are forms, permission slips and a whole slew of other information. We thought it might make things easier to have a **Quick Start Guide** for scout and parents who are experiencing this for the first time.

What is Yawgoog Summer Camp?

- Yawgoog Summer Camp is an official Boy Scout camp located in Rockville, Rhode Island. Every July, our troop spends one week earning merit badges, learning camping skills, fishing, swimming and many other outdoor activities. Historically we are “Week 3”. This is important to know as you review other information in this document. Our camp site is Medicine Bow – Weemat.
- The cost for the trip is \$410.00 per scout. All checks are made out to *BSA Troop 482*. There is no cost for a father who wishes to attend.
- Mr. Brian Cody is our Summer Camp Trip Coordinator. He can be contacted at bcody@troop482.com for any questions or concerns you may have.

Important Dates:

- **March 31st, 2014:** The non-refundable \$50.00 deposit is due.
- **May 19th, 2014:** The final balance is due.
- **June 30th, 2014:** The completed Health Forms must be returned to Mr. Cody
- **July 13th, 2014:** We leave for summer Camp

What will my son need to attend Yawgoog Summer Camp?

- As per Camp Yawgoog's requirements, you will need to fill out a BSA medical form (provided by the troop). This form will be completed by your son's physician confirming your son's physical fitness for camp activities. It should be noted that any parent wishing to attend summer camp must also provide a completed medical form signed by their physician as well. ***It is important to note that the BSA form is the only form that the camp will accept. In addition, no scout or father will be permitted to attend camp without the BSA form.***
- Your son will also need a trunk to store his clothes and personal items. Please visit our website (www.troop482.com) for more information. Click on 'Camping' on the main menu and then select 'Yawgoog Summer Camp' from the dropdown menu. From here you can print the 'Checklist' and view the 'Packing for Camp' video.

- Some of our scouts are required to take medications on a daily basis. You will need to provide Mr. Cody with a one week supply of your scout's medication no later than Saturday, July 12th. They will be turned over and stored at the camp infirmary and dispensed by certified EMTs.
- Most scouts bring some electronic device for listening to music during the evening or 'down time'. ***This device should be some type of MP3 player and not be a cell phone.*** We will not allow boys to be walking around the camp or our campsite using these devices during the day. A week at camp is an opportunity for your scout to free himself from video games and the internet. Your help in explaining this to your son in advance would be appreciated.

What will my son do the first time he attends Yawgoog Summer Camp?

- In his first year at summer camp, your son will be required to work on three merit badges (Swimming, Leatherworks and Fishing). If your son has a fishing pole, he should bring it to camp. Your scout will also need to bring a pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt to demonstrate survival skills in the water. Our suggestion would be to bring clothes that are a little baggy or oversized as he will have to jump into the water wearing them and then take them off in the water.
- Your scout will complete training on the proper use and safety for fire building, use of a camp stove and the proper usage of a knife, ax and saw. If you should send your son to camp with a pocket knife, he will not be allowed to use it until he completes the course. ***Also you as his parents will have the final decision as to whether he is mature enough to carry one even after he completes the course.***
- All scouts and adults are required to pass a '**Swim Test**' if they are participating in any water activities. Since your scout will be taking the Swimming Merit Badge he will need to take the test. The test consists of four laps which equals 100 yards.

It is important for your scout to understand that '**This is not a race.**' Your scout only has to complete the four laps. It does not matter whether he finished first or last. Most first year scouts complete the test. If your scout does not complete the test the first time he will have other opportunities to try again. If your son is not a strong swimmer, we recommend that you practice with him at a local indoor pool to build his strength and confidence.

Can I send mail or other items to my son while he is at camp?

- If you are going to send a letter or "care" package to your son at camp, you should mail it before we leave for camp. The mail usually takes an extra day or two to get to us. You can help mail get there faster by addressing it properly, for example:

<Scouts Name>
Medicine Bow - Weemat - Week #3
Troop 482, Floral Park
Yawgoog Scout Reservation
61 Camp Yawgoog Road
Rockville, RI 02873

Behavior and Home Sickness

Home Sickness can be quite common for first year scouts. As Troop Leaders we are always on the lookout for the usual symptoms: Failing to eat; Sitting alone in their tent or away from others and just by their face. Historically, once a scout gets past Tuesday they are settled in and raring to go. However, if your scout refuses to eat or drink, we would need to contact you and have you come take your scout home for his own safety.

A scout is Kind. We generally have over 40 scouts attending summer camp. That is a lot of different personalities. Your son will be sleeping in a tent with at least 5 other scouts. We do our best to enforce a 'Zero Tolerance' policy for bad behavior. This is important for not only your scout but others as well. If your son is involved an incident in which he has intentionally hurt another scout, you will be called to come pick up your scout.

We also do not want our scouts using foul language. We have had incidents where a scout's water privileges were suspended by a lifeguard for the use of profanity. Please help us by speaking with your son about our behavioral guidelines.