

BOY SCOUT RESIDENT CAMP



ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

MERIT BADGES

The core of the scout's week at camp is the opportunity for advancement through earning merit badges and completing requirements for rank advancement. There are five sessions for scheduled merit badge classes per day with opportunity for others during free time. The BSA has developed its Merit Badge Program to give scouts an experience in a diverse set of areas, experiences he may not receive anywhere else, allowing them to discover their talents and abilities and activities of further interest. Therefore, it is the practice and belief of the Housatonic Council, as well as all Staff at Camp Strang that each scout maximizes their experiences by completing all the requirements in order to earn a merit badge by doing **no more, no less** than the stated requirement. Certain merit badges also require prerequisites. It is beneficial to the scout to complete them **prior to the beginning of camp**. Scouts will need to show the work that they completed for the prerequisites to the assigned Merit Badge Counselor. However, some merit badges simply cannot be completed at camp. To be recognized at the Saturday Court of Honor for the completion of the merit badge, scouts must have proved that they have completed *all* the requirements.

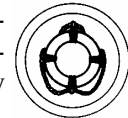
Be sure that your merit badge pamphlet is up to date!!

FIRST YEAR CAMPER: Brownsea Island Program

Camp Strang offers a comprehensive program for first year campers. Utilizing the patrol method, this program is focused on teaching the necessary skills that can set a young man off on a successful scouting career. Select skills for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks will be taught. In addition, participants will be given the opportunity to complete the requirements for a merit badge. Scouts are to get one application for merit badge (blue card) from their scoutmaster during the week to be used toward one of the many badges offered at Camp Strang.

RANK ADVANCEMENT:

We recognize that many scouts will work towards advancing in rank during the week. The staff is committed to work with unit leaders to allow scouts to advance at camp and be recognized at the court of honor on Saturday Morning. More information will be provided at the pre-camp meeting and during your week at camp.



OTHER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Totin' Chip can be done individually by appointment or scheduled by the troop. Scouts should bring their own pocketknife. Instruction will take place at the Outdoor Skills Area.

Firem'n Chit can also be done individually by appointment or scheduled by the troop. Some scouts will build the fires for the Friday evening campfire. Instruction will take place at the Outdoor Skills Area.

Paul Bunyan will be instructed at the Outdoor Skills Area. Some requirements should be completed prior to camp.

Mile Swim practices will be held Monday through Wednesday at 4pm.. The actual mile swim is held on Thursday. Those who wish to swim the mile must participate in all the practices.

Snorkeling, BSA will also be instructed at the waterfront. All interested scouts should contact the Waterfront Director in advance. Scouts **must** bring their own equipment to participate.

BSA Lifeguard is an ambitious award for the scout who has all the Aquatics and the First Aid merit badges. A large time commitment is required to earn this award and interested scouts should contact the Waterfront Director as early in the week as possible.

Kayaking, BSA— provides an introduction to kayaking skills and safety procedures. All interested scouts should contact the Waterfront Director in advance.

TROOP PROGRAM

THE SENIOR PATROL LEADER (SPL)

As the BSA is a **youth-led organization**, during the week at camp, the individual responsible for most troop activities and decision is the SPL. The SPL is charged with coordinating the troop's activities and ensuring the troop completes its responsibilities like campsite clean up and arriving on time to retreat. The SPL may approach the adult leadership for advice and assistance, but it must be remembered that the adults are at camp on vacation and the SPL is the true leader.

It is instrumental that the SPL attends the pre-camp meeting the Tuesday prior to camp. All program related information and decisions will be given to them rather than the adult leaders present. Once the week at camp begins, frequent meetings will be held between the program director and all SPL's present to ensure a smooth week at camp. The first of such meetings will take place after dinner on Sunday during the Cook's Tour. Further meetings will be scheduled when necessary.

As SPL it is your responsibility to meet with your Patrol Leader's Council prior to camp and make some decisions about your summer program prior to coming to camp. These pages have been designed to help you with your task. You should decide what activities your troop would most like to do during the troop time each day. If your troop is large, you may need to plan two activities per evening or may decide your troop wants time off from the hustle and bustle of camp and take a night off.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

Troop activities will be held 7:00 – 7:45 PM daily, except when special programming takes precedence. Prior to the pre-camp meeting, use Form 3, included at the end of this packet, to plan your possible week. A final schedule will be handed out to you on Sunday. Each program area has a wide offering of troop activities available. The following list by department is only a suggestion. Other ideas can be arranged and we always encourage inter troop and inter patrol competition.

Aquatics

Troop Boating
Troop Swim
Water Games
Canoe to Beaver Dam
Swim Instruction
Greased Watermelon
Canoe Tug of War Canoe the Bog

Field Sports

Rifle Shoot
Archery Shoot
Softball
Capture the Flag
Soccer
One Pitch Wiffle Ball

Outdoor Skills

Orienteering Skill Instruction
Fire Building Skill Instruction
Totin' Chip Award
Pioneering Skill Instruction
Firem'n Chit Award
Paul Bunyan Award
Knot Relay

Ecology & Conservation

Plant ID/Nature Trail Hike
Conservation Projects
Discussion of Environmental Effects

Handicrafts

Sign making
Patrol Flag Making

OTHER TROOP PROGRAMS

Service Projects around camp can be completed by troops, patrols, and individuals for fun or for rank requirements (except Eagle). Interested scouts, units, and leaders should contact the Camp Commissioner.

Campfires should be conducted by troops within their own campsites (observing quiet hours). If so desired, troops should invite staff members or other campsites to join in. Two camp-wide campfires will occur on Sunday and Friday evenings. The staff will run the campfire on Sunday. However, we strongly encourage troop participation in the Friday night campfire. Troops should start practicing their songs and skits early in the week and SPL's should inform the Program Director of their choices by Thursday at dinner.



Campsite Cooking is strongly encouraged. Especially at times when the dining hall is very full, troops may find it a nice change to cook one meal during the week in their campsite. If they so desire, troops should notify the camp administration at the pre-camp meeting. Food will be provided by the camp upon filling out the Food Requisition Form (Form 4) located at the back of this guide. You are responsible for providing most cooking equipment. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the camp administration.

Patrol Leader's Council Meetings are also strongly encouraged. If the SPL would like assistance in coordinating one of these important meetings within his troop, the Program Director will be glad to help.



Baden Powell Patrol Award

This award is issued to Patrols who participate in all troop functions, display scout spirit, and complete a service project as a patrol. See your scoutmaster or SPL for details