

WHAT IS AN OUTDOOR PROGRAM?

Definition of an Outdoor Program – An exciting and essential element of the Boy Scouts of America. The outdoor program will deliver adventure, challenge, teamwork opportunities, confidence building, fun and other new and exciting experiences. Outdoor program activities will lead to self-reliance, self-confidence, and leadership, and will enhance the traditional aims of Scouting: citizenship, character, development, and mental and physical fitness consistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law

Review of Camping for Tigers, Cub, Webelos & Parents:

1. Day Camp is an organized 1 to 5 day event during daylight or evening hours, but not overnight. – National Standards No. 13-108.
2. Resident Camp which is a council organized theme-oriented camp of at least 2 consecutive nights. Typically includes showmanship, sportsmanship, craftsmanship, waterfront, fitness, campcraft and nature – National Standard No. 19-108.
3. Webelos Den Overnight Camping – Webelos should be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. Each Scout is responsible to a specific adult.
4. Webelos-See – District or council sanctioned overnight camping experience for Webelos with parents and dean leaders at a council approved location.
5. Cub Scout Family Camping consists of two different overnights – Council-organized Family Camp where the council provides all staffing, food service, housing and program - these must be approved by the council in accordance with National Standards for Council Family Camping No. 13-408. You also have Pack overnights which are organized by the pack and at a council approved site. Adults giving leadership must have BALOO and be present on campouts.
6. Resident Camping Formats:
 - A. 2nd and 3rd graders: To strengthen the parent-son relationships, from 2 to 5 nights, must have a dining hall, each boy is responsible to one adult, program facilities are to be developed around Cub needs & skills and should be imaginative and theme-oriented, program literature is four-year program.
 - B. 4th and 5th graders: From 2 to 7 days and 2 to 6 nights, camping facility should be the best the council has available and meet all Cub Scout camping standards, Cub Scouting-trained staff member is to be on hands for the Webelos resident program, also centers around a 4 year cycle.
THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE SITE FOR A RESIDENT CAMP IS A PROPERLY STAFFED COUNCIL CAMP – MAYBE SHOULD CONSIDER HAVING FAMILY CAMP AT THE SAME TIME AS RESIDENT CAMP.
7. Family Camp which is a council organized event involving more than one pack which may be an overnight event.
8. Other Camp Suggestions:
 - A. Special Needs Camp
 - B. Urban Scouting Camp – Reach out to those youth who have no outdoor experience and have not had the benefit from volunteer or youth leadership. Camping in a box resources that includes sleeping bag, camp equipment, clothing, eating utensils, etc. Involves seasoned Scouter mentors to undertake the training on the unit's first outdoor experiences.
 - C. Provisional camp

Program should be fun and adventuresome, embody the basic objectives of the BSA—character development,

citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness. They should have new program elements each day and given the chance to repeat favorites.

Sample Cub Scout Activities are: field trips, day hiking, picnics, field/game days, pack day adventures, swimming, campfire programs, outdoor cooking, ceremonies, nature and conservation experiences, service projects, camping opportunities, resident camp and special Webelos weekend events at resident camp.

Outdoor programming for Boy Scouts consists of:

1. Day hikes
2. Service Projects
3. Patrol Activities
4. Weekend Overnights
5. Camporees.
6. Resident camp – **perhaps utilization of the camp during school breaks and holidays**, weekend special event camps, outdoor adventure experiences.
7. Jamboree
8. Council high adventure.
9. National high adventure.
10. Unit high adventure

Opportunities for outdoor Venturing could include:

Scuba diving, water skiing, rock climbing/rapelling, caving, horseback riding, backpacking treks, sailing, photography, computer science, forestry, first aid, line dancing, beach volleyball. Youth leaders must be involved in this planning process.

Some of the things we should consider offering for the adult leaders when they are in camp:

1. CPR.
2. First Aid.
3. BSA High Adventure Base Awareness.
4. Trek Planning.
5. Severe Weather Training.

Suggestions:

1. Calendar must be online 18 months out according to unit leaders I have talked with.
2. We need to have printed materials going out to the scout families and what about a camp website and saturation on social media sites.
3. Units are given the opportunity to make their reservation for next year before they leave camp even cub scouts.
4. Need to have a camp promotion committee that is visible and getting out there to council wide events or even making drop ins at unit meetings.
5. Market our camps to be used for retreats.
6. Need to implement program for returning campers for Cubs like we do for Boy Scouts.
7. Need to add one new program feature each year which is highly promoted.
8. **WE SHOULD HAVE A 5 YEAR LONG-RANGE PROGRAM PLAN THAT IS REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY.**

Programming Ideas that the New Visions Task Force came up with:

No technology – Leave No Trace

Technology weekend

Gaming weekend

Career weekend – Game building

Various trades – electrician, carpenter, plumber, mason, auto mechanic

Potential to lead into Eagle projects

Klondike with technology

Equestrian games

Scout sports league

Cub level: Baseball, soccer, shooting sports

Venturing: Shooting sports, marital arts

High adventure: Rappelling, caving, rock climbing, mountain bike, biatholon, triatholon

Cub Olympics

Council wide Pinewood Derby – Lakeland already does this

Short-term activities – week long stuff is over

Broader array of choices

Embrace technology to deliver the activity

Become more tailored by age with the programming

Traditional skills will be game
Focus on conservation/ecology
Council boundaries will blur to allow for camp specializations
We are the family program
Allow the kids to breathe (pull merit badge focus from camps)
Variety in offering to diverse population
Become more intuitive to ethnic diversity – programming materials
Leadership experiences
White water rafting on Cedar River
Expand on auto maintenance by motor restoration or body shop repair
Hunter safety course at summer camp
Venture pistol shooting sports
Tournaments – baseball, flag football, soccer
Freshwater programs
Snorkeling & scuba at resident camps
Partnership organizations in doing programs – Tanglefoot/Ventura gun club
Build technology program – nature, communication, forestry, geocaching
IT programs – working on LANS, routers, hubs, etc.
CAD Program
Back 40 adventure
Climbing tower
Parent/Child sessions & options
Mom oriented sports sessions – teach mom about the fundamentals of a sport
New leader weekend retreat – No kids or kids with programs for the kids
Scout built programs – they choose what they want to do for their resident camp
Culinary programs
Cultural programs – music, drama, art
Photography program expansion – working on photoshop, editing photos, working with area photographer to produce a portfolio, utilize teachers from Hawkeye Community College
Base camp – day programs off-site
Rendezvous
Merit badge offerings change yearly – keep a handful of the basics but offer something new each year – possible 3 or 4 year rotation