

Troop 648
Summer 2009
Camp Geronimo Information Sheet

Greetings!

Camp Geronimo is just a little bit more than a week away, now. I hope that you are getting excited; I know that I am! I want to take a few moments here to give you some final logistical information about camp that will help to make everyone's experience the best that it can be. If you have any questions about any of the enclosed or anything else relative to camp, please feel free to either contact me, or see me at the meeting on Tuesday.

- 1) **Departure/Return:** We will meet at the church by the shed Saturday, July 11th. We WILL leave precisely at 8:30am, so please plan to be there no later than 7:30am to allow time to load, process paperwork, etc. I anticipate that we will return from camp between 12:00pm and 1:00pm, on Saturday, July 18th. We will call as we get close to town.
- 2) **Saturday Lunch:** We will stop at a park in Payson to eat lunch; so please pack a lunch for this meal. We will NOT be stopping anywhere else on the way up to camp. The first meal at Geronimo is Saturday dinner, so plan on a good lunch.
- 3) **Campsite:** We are going to be in Campsite 20. This is a good location, but it is a little bit more than a mile walk from the parking lot. We are allowed ONE vehicle into camp, towing our trailer. As such, please pack responsibly and try to condense things into (1) large duffle bag or backpack, if you are able. This will limit what we need to carry in.
- 4) **Packing:** Attached is a PDF document with "Things to Bring to Camp". Please review this, as it is a good guide on what to have for camp.
- 5) **Uniforms:** It is essential and mandatory that each boy have his full "Class A" uniform with him for camp. This includes Shirt (with correct patches) and NEW Green Epaulets and Troop Number, Boy Scout Pants (Long, Short, or Zip Pants), Neckerchief, Slide, Scout Belt, and Scout socks if wearing shorts. All of these items are available at the Scout Shop if you do not have them. (The new Troop number and epaulets can be attained at the next meeting, if you did not get yours at the Court of Honor. We will wear the uniform traveling to and from camp. Please arrive at the church on Saturday with the full uniform on. We will also wear Class A uniform for Scout's Own Service, Dinner daily, and Campfires.
- 6) **Class B:** When not wearing the Class A uniform, we will wear our Class B (Red T-shirt) and Scout pants (any of the above mentioned) around camp. I would recommend that each boy have at least (2-3) Class B T-shirts and (2) pairs of scout pants. We can wash clothes in camp, but the boys will need a minimum of two pairs of everything to be able to wash what is not being worn. Again, the Class B is mandatory; if you do not have enough, these can be purchased at the next meeting and/or prior to departure on the 11th; \$5/shirt.
- 7) **Troop Hat:** Also mandatory is the Troop hat. They can be purchased for \$15 at the Court of Honor. The Troop hat is part of our Class A uniform, and is also highly functional in keeping sun off of everyone's face, neck, etc. It is easy to get sunburned at high elevation, so the hat will go well with sun block to help mitigate sunburns.
- 8) **Shoes:** Summer Camp involves a lot of walking. Please make sure everyone has a good pair of sturdy shoes. This will help to keep everyone's feet in good

shape. It is also important that the boys change their socks daily! This helps to prevent foot injuries during the week. It might also be good to have separate shoes that can get wet to wear in the shower, at the pool, at the lake, etc.

9) **Water:** The most important component of a successful week at camp is hydration. Dehydration can be devastating to morale, as well as the ability to function. Each boy should have AT LEAST two (1) quart water bottles. If you have a hydration pack, I would highly recommend this as well. However, if you bring that, the boy should still have at least (1) hard bottle, in the event the pack should develop a leak.

10) **Cots:** We will be staying in canvas tents with wood platforms. Therefore, I would recommend bring a cot. This serves two functions. First, it is more comfortable. Second, it provides a place, (underneath) for the boys to stash their personal gear. There is a campsite/tent inspection daily, so having everything neatly under a cot is a good way to keep things organized.

11) **Aquatics:** Everyone will be swimming/getting wet at some point during the week, regardless of whether or not they are taking swimming merit badge. As such, please have swimming trunks and a towel.

12) **Hygiene:** There are showers at camp. While the boys often don't take advantage of this facility, we will have at least one or two mandatory showers, (likely when the smell warrants it.)

13) **Money:** There is a trading post in camp. This has a snack bar, as well as various things the boys can buy. Certain merit badges (particularly the handicraft ones) require the boys to buy supplies. These can be found at the trading post. Depending on the merit badges they are taking, I would recommend between \$40-\$50 / boy. Before we leave for camp, we will give each boy an envelope to put this cash into. All the money will be kept in a strong box, and will be passed out upon request. This helps to avoid money getting "lost" during the week. If possible, I would recommend sending smaller bills, \$5's and \$10's, rather than \$20's... This way, the boys are not having to carry around larger amounts of money.

14) **Health Forms:** EVERYONE must have a current Class 1 and Class 2 medical form on file or the new Annual Health and Medical Parts A, B, & C. I have communicated with everyone individually about this. Please make sure that your forms are up to date. There is no exception to this; they will send home anyone without these forms with no refund.

15) **Medication:** Medications required for camp should be provided with CLEAR instructions from the parent as to how the medication should be administered. Please provide medication in labeled containers, preferably with the original bottle with prescription information on it. We will collect all medication prior to leaving for camp.

16) **Merit Badges:** Each boy is signed up for a series of MBs to take while at camp. It is important that they have the Merit Badge book and look through it, prior to heading up to camp. Some MBs have pre-requisites... This information is all included in the packet I sent out this past Spring. If you have any questions about which Merit Badges your son is signed up for, please let me know.

17) **Food:** If you want to bring snacks, you can. However, be aware that there will be a lot of squirrels, chipmunks, etc. in camp. They WILL find your food. As such, I would recommend limiting the extra food in camp.

18) **DO NOT BRING:** A few things not to bring to camp... Electronics: iPods, CD players, Game boys, various portable gaming systems, cell phones, etc. Leave these at home, there is no need to have them in camp. If we find these items, they will be confiscated. However, our strong box is not large enough to

accommodate these things, and we cannot be held responsible for them if they get stolen.

19) **FIRE:** Due to high fire danger, Geronimo has mandated that there will be no fires in camp. As such, there is no need to have ANY fire implements; hot sparks, matches, lighters, flint/steel, etc. Please leave these items at home!

20) **Emergency:** In the event of an emergency, the contact numbers for camp are: 928-474-4688 or FAX: 928-474-3582

21) **Mail:** It is possible to send mail to Camp Geronimo. I would strongly recommend doing this, particularly if you have a younger son in camp. Nothing cures homesickness like a care-package or letter from home. (The adults are more than willing to accept care-packages as well; particularly large quantities of cookies, etc.) Do NOT send anything to camp that needs to be signed for. These generally get returned, as the camp doesn't have staff to deal with that. Please note that it can take several days for mail to make it into camp. As such, I would recommend mailing things either the Thursday or Friday before we leave, or on Monday by the latest. The address is as follows:

<Scout's Name>
Troop 648
Campsite #23
Session #7
Camp Geronimo
HC7 Box 390
Payson, AZ 85541-9568

I am anticipating that we will have a fantastic week at camp. Geronimo has a great program, with lots of activities to be involved in. We are going to have 21 boys in camp this year, so it should be a great experience. As I have stated previously, please do not hesitate to inquire about any questions that you might have regarding camp.

Thanks!
-Mr. Benyi

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING ITEMS

- Pajamas
- Scout uniform*
- Sweater or jacket
- Poncho or rain gear
- Troop Hat or visor – must have
- Rugged pants (Levis)
- T-Shirts
- Underwear
- Hiking boots and proper socks
- Tennis shoes or moccasins with proper socks
- Swim suit and towel
- Old tennis shoes

CAMPING GEAR

- Sleeping bag or blankets
- Ground cloth
- Pack or duffel bag
- Cot or air mattress
- Canteen – about 1 quart or liter

TOILET KIT

- Handkerchiefs
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb
- Shaving gear
- Bath soap
- Bath towel and wash cloth
- Deodorant

MERIT BADGE ITEMS

- Merit badge books
- Scout handbook
- Writing items: paper, pencil or pen
- CPR pocket certificate

CAMP NECESSITIES

- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Clothesline and pins
- Personal First Aid kit
- Drinking cup
- Pocket knife (NOT a sheath knife)
- Fishing gear
- Compass

VERY IMPORTANT

- Signed medical release
- Spending money -about \$35 - \$40

SUGGESTED EXTRAS

- Sunglasses
- Camera& Film

LEAVE AT HOME

- Fireworks
- Radios
- Sheath knives
- Weapons
- Water balloons and Water balloon launchers
- Matches, Hot Sparks, Flint & Steel
- Sling shots
- Wrist rockets
- Two-way radios

*The Scout Uniform consists of the following: Official Scout Shirt; Official Scout Pants (long or short); Official Scout Socks worn with shorts; and a Scouting belt, Scout Shirt with patches sewn on, Neckerchief, and our Troop Hat.