

Deseret Peak District
May 2017 Round Table
Unit Commissioner

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Scout Law:

A Scout is Helpful

Theme:

Cub Scout Camping

LET'S TALK ABOUT CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP

The Great Salt Lake Council of the BSA says this about summer camps: "Summer camp is the culmination of the scouting year, providing the ideal laboratory for a boy to put into practice the camping and scouting skills that he has learned throughout the year". At day camp the boys work together as a den to develop team work, strengthen friendships, make memories, explore spirituality while out in nature, and have fun while overcoming challenges. The May-June Scouting magazine has an article entitled "Day-camp Dividends" that outlines 10 ways day camps help strengthen the cub scouting experience. Over the years as a parent helping out by going with my sons to day camp and later taking my den of cub scouts to camp I wonder who had more fun, them or me? Laughing, running and the fun of friendly competition were the order of the day. In the quote above they use the word "laboratory". This word perfectly describes the opportunity for learning that day camps provide. I will never forget examining owl pellets looking for tiny rodent bones! And where else can the boys safely shoot BB guns and bows and arrows? Unfortunately, there is today a culture of "I don't have time" and "What a pain it all is to organize". The cost is an issue but there are ways around that with early, or better yet, yearlong effort. A well-organized committee, good communication with parents and a yearly calendar have a purpose: Provide the boys with the best program possible. Be mindful of the importance of keeping good leaders in place because the boys deserve good leaders. They are our future, they are the future of the world. The skills they are learning in the scouting program will serve them well and hopefully keep them safe and happy throughout their lives.

Our local day camp will not be available this summer but will return next year. Local volunteers will be needed to provide this very affordable and exceptional camp experience for the boys. Any camp that the boys attend they will need to stay hydrated so provide plenty of water. [Each unit will need to provide lunch for their boys.](#) Money comes in handy for the boys to buy things at the scout store. Leaders need money to purchase patches (Webelos Summer Camp Duty to God patch for example) and den class B t-shirts are a fun alternative to the scout uniform. Please review official BSA website for available camp information and uniform guidelines.

[www.saltlakescouts.org-camps-cub scout camps-Millcreek Canyon Camp leader guide](http://www.saltlakescouts.org-camps-cub-scout-camps-Millcreek-Canyon-Camp-leader-guide)
[www.saltlakescouts.org-camps-cub scout camps-Millcreek Canyon Camp email #4 Dress for success](http://www.saltlakescouts.org-camps-cub-scout-camps-Millcreek-Canyon-Camp-email-#4-Dress-for-success)

11-Year-Old Camps

In our district, many of the LDS sponsored zones offer an 11-year-old camp for their patrols. These camps range from a single day camp to a 3-day camp with an overnight option. The zone unit commissioners are responsible for planning these camps, if you're lucky you are part of a 3-zone rotation. There are several things to keep in mind when planning these camps. The information below are just some of them:

Safety

As with all scouting activities we must use the Guide to Safe Scouting when planning the camp. The most up to date version can be found here:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

The event safety checklist "provides guidance on safety issues that you may encounter at a Scouting event. This is a tool, not a list of mandatory guidelines. The intent of the checklist is to

create conversations among event organizers around risks and ways to mitigate or eliminate them.”

Leadership

Your zone leadership and those that you ask to help with the camp should take youth protection and provide you with a copy of their youth protection certificate.

As with all scouting activities two deep leadership is a requirement. If you are planning an overnight camp the scouts and leaders must not share a tent. If you have units with female 11-year-old leaders they are not allowed to camp overnight with the scouts per the LDS church scouting handbook section 6.2. In this situation, a father of one of the scouts may serve as the other leader for two deep leadership.

Registration/permission slips/health forms

As part of your camp registration you should include both the BSA Health form part A and B for camps less than 72 hours found here:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>

And the LDS Church permission slip found here:

<https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/english/pdf/callings/young-men/parental-permission-medical-release.pdf?lang=eng>

Both leaders and scouts should have the BSA health forms on file as well as anyone that you have asked to help with the camp.

If you are providing food for your units you will also want to make sure that you are requesting a list of food allergies that the scouts might have.

Activities

This is a wonderful time to work on requirements for advancement. Some of the activities you could have are:

A knot relay – the boys are given a list of knots. The boys are divided up in to two groups and they race back and forth, each boy has to tie a knot on the list before the next boy can go.

Map and compass course – plan a map course using a map of the area around the location you are using. This could also be a good time to work on the Orienteering merit badge requirements

Hike – you could complete some of the hiking requirements for advancement by planning a local hike. You could also combine this with a map and compass course.

First aid – you could get a local EMT to teach the first aid requirements for the rank advancements and/or the first aid merit badge. This could also be turned in to a relay race like the knot relay or a mock emergency drill.