

THE PURPOSE OF SUMMER CAMP

The purpose of good Scouting and Scout camping is to train boys in good character, vital citizenship, and personal fitness. The objectives of the Camp Staff and of the camp program are to serve the needs of the troop and the boys. In outdoor Scouting activities, simple skills of campcraft, woodcraft, aquatics, personal fitness, and living in a democratic society are at a premium. They are important because:

1. Learning skills and advancing bring self-confidence.
2. Solving immediate camping problems brings self-reliance.
3. Vigorous outdoor exercise promotes personal fitness.
4. Knowing what to do and doing it promote personal initiative.
5. Making group decisions and implementing them develop cooperation.
6. Facing certain hardships with buddies makes life-long friends.
7. Experiencing nature develops outdoor appreciation and spiritual awareness.

Lord Baden-Powell wrote in 1919, "The objective of a camp is: (a) to meet the boy's desire for the open air life of the Scouts and (b) to put him completely in the hands of the Scoutmaster for a definite period of individual training in character and in physical and moral development."

The basis for this training and character development is the boy's participation and acceptance of responsibility in his patrol. Baden-Powell emphasized this in 1936 when he wrote, "The patrol is the character school for the individual. To the patrol leader it gives practice in responsibility and in the qualities of leadership. To the Scouts it gives subordination of self to the interests of the whole, the elements of self-denial and self-control involved in the team spirit of cooperation and good comradeship."

At Camp Squanto, we intend to reproduce and strengthen the processes by which a troop ideally operates when it is in its home community. We do not intend to replace the Scoutmaster, the Troop Leaders' Council, or the Leadership Corps but, rather, to work with them and through them in determining the needs of individual troops and of the Scouts in them.

Camp will be more than out-of-doors; it will bring an intense and vital training session for the troops that come and for the boys they bring. It is a vital part of the Scouting program and will endeavor to build Scouts and troops by supplying them challenges, opportunities, and rewards of Scouting, in an intensive and reinforcing way. This, in turn, assists the Scouts and troops to continue to determine their own program and effectively operate through their own leadership.

Rules for acceptance and participation in all sessions of this camp are the same for everyone, without regard to race, color, or national origin.

