



SLS ALGONQUIN CANOE CAMP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LEADERS

1. DO I HAVE TO ACCOMPANY MY TROOP?

NO!!! This is a composite Scout Camp and your Scouts will be supervised by the Camp Leadership Team.

2. CAN I GO TO THIS CAMP?

YES!!! Just remember that you are there as part of the Camp's Leadership Team, not as your Troop's Scouter. There are a number of ways in which you participate:

- Trip Leaders are Adult Scouters, at least 21 years old, who are experienced in canoeing and wilderness camping. They have completed the SLS Water Skills course and in fact have enough knowledge that they would be capable of teaching it.
- Assistant Trip Leaders are Adult Scouters, at least 18 years old, who are experienced in canoeing and wilderness camping. They have completed the SLS Water Skills course. In some cases their experience and knowledge may be equal to that of the Trip Leader.
- Base Camp Staff are Adult Scouters who are experienced campers. In some cases they are former Trip Leaders. They are responsible for the operation of the camp and participate in its planning.
- You may also go as an Offer of Service for a fee of \$150. Offers of Service assist Base Camp Staff, have less responsibility for the operation of the camp and are not expected to participate in camp planning. They are expected to assist the Chef, and assist Trip Leaders with base camp activities on Friday.

All Adults attending the camp must have a current Police Records Check on file and must abide by the Scouts Canada Duty of Care requirements.

All Scouters interested in attending the camp should apply to the Camp Chief, Mark Hayes.

3. CAN PARENTS ATTEND AS STAFF?

No. Only qualified experienced Scouters who have undergone the Scouts Canada screening process and have a current police records check may work at the camp.

4. WHAT PROVISIONS ARE MADE FOR FEMALE PARTICIPANTS?

Scouting is a co-ed organization and girls have been attending the camp for a long time. Care will be taken to ensure the girls' (and the boys') privacy. Trips with girls will include a Female Scouter or S.I.T.

5. HOW OLD DO THE YOUTH HAVE TO BE TO GO?

They must be between the ages of 10 and 15. They must be registered as a Scout, or be a Cub who will be a Scout in the fall. Younger Cubs will have to wait a year or two. Venturers can apply to be S.I.T.s.

6. WHAT WILL MY SCOUTS DO AT CAMP?

After they arrive on Saturday morning they will set up their tent at base camp and then spend the afternoon familiarizing themselves with the canoes. They will set out on their trip on Sunday morning. For the next 5 days they will paddle a canoe through the wilderness of Algonquin Park. They will camp at a different site each night. They will return to base camp on Thursday. On Friday they will participate in various fun activities at base camp. Friday night there will be a group campfire. They will return home on Saturday.

7. THERE ARE SCOUTS IN MY TROOP WHO HAVE NEVER PADDLED A CANOE – CAN THEY STILL GO?

We have a Beginners Trip where they will learn some paddling fundamentals, travel a shorter distance and have easier and shorter portages. We have trips for paddlers of all abilities. Our Intermediate and Advanced Trips increase in length and difficulty. They give the youth something to build up to in the future.

8. WHAT IS THE X-TRA ADVENTURE TRIP?

The X-tra Adventure Trip is the camp's most challenging trip. The trip leaves earlier and gets back later than the other trips. Trip participants travel farther and longer each day. The trip may include cycling, (participants must bring their own bikes and

approved bike helmets) hiking or trekking, as well as canoeing. Scouts should be in good shape, have some experience tripping and really want to go on this one. Participants must be approved by the Trip Leader and Camp Chief.

9. WHAT IS THE BACKPACKING ADVENTURE?

This is a multi-day hiking adventure. It is geared for youth who may not want to do a full week of canoe tripping. Scouts will get an opportunity to try out some of Algonquin's premiere hiking trails. While no special equipment is required, youth will need a sturdy and comfortable pair of shoes. Trip Leaders will discuss all this at the Parent/Participant Orientation Night. Yes, Hikers get a dry bag too!

10. WHY DO YOU RESTRICT ACCESS FOR SEVERE ALLERGIES OR ILLNESSES?

A Trip Group may find itself as much as 3 days away from the nearest hospital. In the case of a severe allergic reaction (i.e. One that requires an epi-pen) the distance to the nearest hospital may be factor in successful recovery.

11. WHAT BENEFITS DOES THE CANOE CAMP PROVIDE FOR MY SCOUTS?

Scouts attending Canoe Camp acquire leadership, wilderness camping, and canoeing skills. They also develop social skills as they make friends outside of their immediate Troop. This social aspect becomes increasingly important as they progress into Venturers and Rovers. They will see more wilderness in this one week than most people see in a life time – an increasingly important benefit as our wilderness areas get more developed. Most importantly they will have fun. Scouts who have fun are more likely to continue in the movement.