



## **SLS ALGONQUIN CANOE CAMP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **PARENTS**

#### **1. WILL MY CHILD HAVE ANY FUN?**

Scouts that go to this camp consider it to be the highlight of their scouting experience. Most campers can't wait until next year, and when they become Venturers they want to return as S.I.T.'s. This camp is all about having fun in a wilderness setting –they will make friends, eat great food, and see more wilderness in one week than most people see in a lifetime.

#### **2. WILL MY CHILD EAT WELL?**

Yes – no one leaves this camp hungry. The food is nutritious and tasty. They will learn about meal planning for wilderness travel (ie. No fridge, light weight).

#### **3. WILL MY CHILD MAKE ANY FRIENDS?**

The friends he or she will make at this camp will last a lifetime. They will make friends with Scouts from Troops other than their own. The Scouters and Venturers who run the camp will be great role models as well as friends.

#### **4. WHAT DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BRING?**

Your child will need to bring their own paddle, pfd, water bottle, broad brimmed hat, bathing suit, mess kit, toothbrush, and clothing. Participants in the X-tra Adventure Trip will have to supply their own bike and approved bike helmet if the trip includes cycling. A full list will be provided prior to the camp. It will also be discussed at the Parent/Participant Orientation Night. It is important to remember that a very limited amount of gear will be allowed on the canoe trip. So make sure they pack light. They will also need to bring a tent for base camp. Most Scouts share one with other Scouts coming from their troop, or with friends they've made at last year's camp.

#### **5. WHAT WILL MY CHILD 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.

#### **6. WHAT IS THE STAFF TO CAMPER RATIO?**

There is a minimum 3:1 ratio of staff to campers on each trip. There is a maximum of 9 participants on each trip – 6 Scouts, 2 Adult Scouters, and 1 Venturer who is a Scouter-in-Training (S.I.T.). The ratio at base camp is higher as there are a number of very experienced Scouters who have various jobs at Base Camp and do not go out on the trips.

## **7. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE STAFF?**

The Trip Leader is an Adult Scouter, at least 21 years old, who is experienced in canoeing and wilderness camping. He or She has completed the SLS Water Skills course or equivalent and in fact has enough knowledge that she or he would be capable of teaching it.

The Assistant Trip Leader is an Adult Scouter, at least 18 years old, who is experienced in canoeing and wilderness camping. He or She has completed the SLS Water Skills course or equivalent. In some cases their experience and knowledge may be equal to that of the Trip Leader.

The S.I.T. is a responsible Venturer, aged 14 – 17, who is learning how to be a Scouter. He or She is an experienced canoeist and wilderness camper, and was very likely a camp participant while they were in Scouts.

Base camp staff are Adult Scouters who are experienced campers. In some cases they are former Trip Leaders.

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

## **8. IS THERE A COST FOR TRANSPORTATION?**

There is no additional cost for transportation. It is included in the camp fee.

## **9. CAN I VISIT MY CHILD AT CAMP?**

This will not be possible for most of the week as they will be in Algonquin's wilderness interior from Sunday to Thursday. On Friday they will be busy with Base Camp activities. This is their opportunity to grow up a little without Mom or Dad cramping their style.

## **10. CAN PARENTS CALL CAMP TO TALK TO THEIR KIDS, OR HAVE THE KIDS CALL THEM?**

This is hard to do. In Algonquin Park cell phones do not work more than 3 km from Highway 60. We do not want Scouts to bring cell phones to camp and will not be responsible in any way for their loss or damage. At base camp the closest phone is located at the entrance to Whitefish Lake Group and Pog Lake Family campgrounds. An emergency number will be provided prior to the camp.

## **11. CAN PARENTS ATTEND AS STAFF?**

No. For safety reasons only qualified experienced Scouters who have undergone the Scouts Canada screening process and have current police records check may work at the camp.

## **12. MY CHILD HAS NEVER PADDLED A CANOE – CAN SHE OR HE 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. Make sure that you indicate your child's canoeing experience on the camp application form.

### **13. 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) and hiking, as well as canoeing. Your child should be in good shape, have some canoe tripping experience and really want to go on this one. Participants must be approved by the Trip Leader and Camp Chief.

### **14. 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!

### **15. 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.

### **16. HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD 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.

### **17. 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 a factor in successful recovery.