

Troop 157 Summer Camp

Important Information

We meet at Oakwood UMC Parking Lot at 6:30 a.m. We travel in private automobiles and caravan to Ardmore Oklahoma. Stopping usually in Matador for a break and then for lunch in Vernon. You will need lunch money for McDonalds, KFC, Brahms, and maybe something else. We arrive in camp about 3:00 p.m. and it will be hot. Bring the items on the list of things to bring to camp that is in our newsletter and on the website “troop157.com”

Some Very Important Things To Know:

1. Don't leave camp without permission.
2. Don't leave camp without an authorized adult. Even if someone is home sick, please tell your son not to leave camp or go off by themselves. Counselors are available and watching for home sick scouts and willing to help. Most home sick feelings are over by Monday evening.
3. Everyone leaving camp, whether scout or scouter needs to sign out and sign in at the trading post. It is important that each person can be located at all times.
4. No one-on-one activities are allowed. No adult will be with any scout by themselves. There must always be at least three people in a group such as one adult with two or more scouts, or two or more adults with one scout. If a class has just one scout, then those classes meet in a common area such as the dining hall where other adults and scouts are in the same room, so it is not a one scout and one adult by themselves.
5. No illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco are tolerated. Offenders will be sent home.
6. No fireworks or matches or lighters are allowed.
7. No food is to be kept in the cabins since it attracts unwanted varmints.
8. Don't go to the waterfront when adults are not present at the water front.
9. Don't go swimming or on a boat or in the water without lifeguards on duty.
10. No spraying bug spray or insect repellent while inside the cabins.
11. Write your name on ALL of your belongings. Your stuff can look exactly like other boy's stuff.
12. Keep your stuff on or under your bed. Keep everything zipped up.
13. Leave other people's stuff alone. Don't mess with other boy's stuff.
14. No pranks such as raiding another cabin.
15. Wear sunscreen and apply it several times a day.
16. Drink water every hour whether or not you feel thirsty. Dehydration is the root cause of many problems.
17. Don't bring electronic items except a fan and a power strip/extension cord.
18. Don't call home during camp. This adds to feeling home sick, it doesn't alleviate it.
19. Your family can write you letters & you can write home. Mail is received at camp.
20. Adults and Scouts will not be in the Bathrooms and showers at the same time. A sign posted outside each one shows whether men or boys are inside.

Cabins:

1. We don't assign cabins to scouts. The scouts work this out themselves. It is very common for the boys to decide to share a cabin with the boys that ride to camp together. This can be a little confusing to first time campers, but the method has worked for years with a few exceptions. The boys make friends and enjoy sharing a cabin with other boys who they may not know that well before camp.
2. If a scout is disruptive or tries to be a bully during this process, the scouters will step in and maintain order and civility.
3. The first afternoon and evening at camp allows for a good amount of free time. If a scout is prepared for this, the time goes by more smoothly.
4. Get your gear into your cabin and set up your fans and bedding. Keep your stuff on or under your bed.
5. Afterwards, this is a good time to take your swimming test at the waterfront.
6. Offer to help setting up with one of the interpretive camps.
7. Bring a game (non electronic) or deck of cards.
8. The cabins are not air conditioned. Please bring a box fan and a power strip/extension cord. This is very important.
9. The beds have a plastic covered mattress. A mattress cover and sheets work better than a heavy sleeping bag. The cotton mattress cover you bring will reduce heat build up between your body and the plastic covered mattress. A blanket might be used on a very few nights if we happen to catch a cool breeze during the night.
10. Hammocks are not allowed in the cabins.

Bank and Trading Post:

1. Bring at least \$35. The scouts will buy their lunch on the way to camp and on the way home. We have a convenience store at camp that we call the trading post. We don't take cash, we use a "debit card account" in our own little camp bank
2. Sunday evening, after supper, scouts turn in all of their money. We record the amount each scout turns in. When the scout wishes to buy a drink, snack, batteries, etc., he simply debits from his account. We track how much each scout spends. They are not allowed to spend the last \$10 in their account so that they will have lunch money for the trip home.
3. At the same time that the money is deposited, each scout receives their class schedule. This tells them which merit badge class they have and when each class begins.
4. The trading post will not be selling candy and cokes during the hour before and the hour after each meal. I know it may surprise you, but sometimes scouts eat candy and drink cokes right before a meal, and they don't eat at meal times.
5. Ice water is available all over camp in orange dispensers. This is free and the scouts are encouraged to drink water every hour. Even while swimming.
6. Bottled water is available for purchase at the trading post.

Water Front:

1. Safety is paramount. Know the waterfront rules and obey them at all times.
2. Lifeguards are on duty, but we use the buddy system. Keep track of your buddy.
3. No scout is allowed in the deep portion of the swimming area without first demonstrating the ability to swim. This is done by taking a swimming proficiency test. The boys must swim three segments that are about twenty five yards long. The fourth twenty five yard segment is done swimming on their back.
4. Once the scout is finished with the swimming test, his swim tag is color coded. They are then allowed to swim in the deeper designated swimming area and water trampoline.
5. This swim tag is very important. It allows the waterfront director to know exactly who is in the water and whether or not they are swimming or on a boat or canoe. When used properly, the tag shows exactly which power boat the scout is on, or which type of sail boat or canoe the scout is on. When you leave the water or a boat, put your swim tag back on the board beside your name.
6. We have a water trampoline in the deep area. The lifeguards will decide how many boys can be on it at a time. Also, do not swim under it or surface inside the inner tube.

Interpretive Camps:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings afford each scout with the opportunity to choose which interpretive camp they visit and the length of time spent there. They may wander back and forth among all the interpretive camps. Those camps are Indian Camp, Cadet Camp, Mountain Man Camp, Ropes Camp, Music Camp and possibly scout skills and sports camps in some years.

Daily Schedule:

1. Don't worry, we will show you where events occur and you won't get lost. The older scouts will help the newer scouts find every place they need to go.
2. Be on time.
3. Reveille is at 6:30 a.m..
4. Scouts fall in at the flag pole at 7:00 a.m.
5. Breakfast follows the flag ceremony and announcements.
6. Adults eat first, then camp staff, then the scouts. Adults help serve food and drinks. Rotate with other adults.
7. The first merit badge class begins at 8:00 a.m. Everyone meets in front of the dining hall where they meet their instructors. The class schedules are distributed on Sunday evening when the scouts deposit their money in the camp's bank.
8. Each class meets in front of the dining hall on the first day. All other days, the scout is expected to arrive in the same location where each particular class met on day 1.
9. Classes involving water activities will meet at the water front.
10. The Daily schedule is as follows:

6:30	Reveille
7:00	Roll call and flag ceremony at the flag pole
7:10 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00	First period

9:15 – 10:15 Second period
10:30 – 11:30 Third period
11:30 – 12:30 Fourth period
12:45 - 1:45 Lunch
2:00 - 3:00 Fifth Period
3:00 - 6:00 Free time (waterfront is open only from 3:00 – 5:00)
6:15 7:00 Supper
7:00 - 9:00 Interpretive Camps (Indian, Cowboy, Mountain Man, Ropes, Music)
9:00 - 10:00 Free time and also Astronomy Class for those who sign up for it
10:00 10:15 Must be in cabins or bathrooms getting ready for bed.
10:15 10:20 Lights out and get quiet

11. For those scouts who have difficulty getting quiet, they will be counseled about the reasons that it is important to be quiet and considerate. Any persistent problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Free Time and Other Information:

Classes for merit badges are offered and provide a great opportunity to achieve the merit badges required for the rank of eagle. Free time is a time for scouts to have fun and spend time however they choose. They can do things at the water front, or the arts and crafts building or sports camp or resting in their cabins. This occurs between 3 and 5 each afternoon. The arts and craft are in a separate building and any work there needs to begin by Wednesday to allow time for the craft to be completed by Friday.

The waterfront activities include many fun activities. You can ride in a motor boat or go inner tubing, water skiing, or other fun activities on the water. If you don't know how, we'll teach you. Be sure and always wear a life jacket while on a boat of any kind.

While the waterfront provides relief from the heat, there are other fun activities that are not at the water front. The arts and craft building is air conditioned with evaporative coolers and fans. It's great fun to bring home a memento from camp to remember the fun times, or make a gift for your family members. The sports area provides basketball, ping pong, the trampoline or just hanging out with friends.

After supper you can shoot the bow and arrow, throw a tomahawk, make Indian bead work or dance around the camp fire. In Mountain man camp you can throw knives, be in a root beer chugging contest, or a two-man saw contest. Earn your tot n' chit card which allows you the right to carry a pocket knife. At Ropes camp, learning climbing skills and go down the zip line. At Music camp, hang out with friend while the bands play, or better yet, get up on stage and play music. Bring your instruments if you like. At Cadet camp, learn how to rope and brand. It's all great fun. While doing all of this, earn wooden nickels to be used in bidding on great prizes awarded Friday night after the O.A. ceremony.

Thursday night is the water rodeo. Sign up for all sorts of fun activities on the water. Friday night is the big barbeque dinner. Families are invited to come join us. After dinner we have the camp program and awards ceremony. Just after dark, the Order of the Arrow Ceremony begins and is the highlight of the week.

Saturday Departure:

After a week at camp, everyone is ready to leave on Saturday. If the families of scouts could help us make the departure day go as smoothly as possible, we would certainly appreciate it. Just knowing what to expect to happen on Saturday morning goes a long way in making a smooth departure.

1. Everyone must be signed out of camp by a family member or the driver of the car in which the scout will ride. We must know where every scout is, when they left and with whom they left. The scout's safety is extremely important.
2. Please work with our schedule. Departure time is noon on Saturday. We understand that sometimes families want to pick up their scout early so that they can be on their way early. Please understand that we need every scout help in loading, packing, cleaning, and everything else involved in leaving the camp ground. If you must pick up your scout early, it can cause various problems, so we ask that you be patient and not pick up your scout until everyone is released at the same time. Usually this is noon, but can be a few minutes before noon.
3. Keep in mind that it will be hot on Saturday morning. For your comfort, please don't arrive at camp before 11:00 a.m. When you arrive, it distracts the scout and they don't want to keep working and helping us get everything done.
4. If you arrive at 11:00 please don't ask to take your scout until we release everyone.
5. Many parent ask what they can do to help get us on the road sooner rather than later. There may be opportunities to help, but there may be times that we are not able to use your gracious offer of assistance.
6. Please park on the grass and not near the buildings. We have many vehicles and trailers coming and going. When families park their vehicles nearing the camp buildings, they can be an impediment to safe traffic flow.
7. With that heavy traffic, please keep your children away from the traffic for everyone's safety.
8. The bank will disburse the cash to the scouts immediately before departure.
9. We will go straight to the Warehouse on 47th & MLK to unload. WE need the scouts and adults help to unload. WE will call you when we are about an hour away from LBB on the pickup time. When the luggage trailer reaches Lubbock, it is very important that you pick up your stuff immediately as we do not have a desire to store it. Any unclaimed property could be lost or damaged, or it may take a long time to arrange for you to pick it up from our warehouse. Every effort you can make to help would be appreciated.
10. Arriving home will be sometime Saturday evening around 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Your scout will call you when we are finished at the troop warehouse.