



Northern Star Council Cub Scout Camping

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Can Tigers who join Scouting in the Spring attend Cub Resident Camp during the summer?

All Cub Scouts, including Tigers recruited in the spring may attend Cub Scout Resident Camp. The programs at our Cub Scout Resident Camps are age progressive. Each scout rank- Tiger through 1st year Webelos completes different activities based on their skill level. Every Tiger Cub must attend with an adult partner (1:1 ratio) Attending camp right after a scout joins is the perfect activity to keep them involved and excited about scouting into the fall. Northern Star Council has three Cub Scout Resident Camps:

- Kiwanis Cub Camp; located at Kiwanis Scout Camp
- Stearns Cub Camp; located at Stearns Scout Camp
- Camp Akela; located at Phillippo Scout Reservation

Have day camps been phased out?

Day camps have not being phased out. Since 1995, attendance at Council Day Camp has decreased by 47%. In 2007, we served less than 4% of our available Cub Scouts with Council run, summer day camp. While summer day camp at Fred C. Andersen is no longer available, non-summer day camp opportunities will be expanded to ensure that there is quality programming for Cub scouts year round. Northern Star Council believes that attending resident camp during the summer is the best option for Packs, and will strengthen the Pack program. District Day Camp and Day Camp during the fall and winter will be supplemental programming for Packs the rest of the year.

The ratio required for adults to Cub Scouts is 1:2 at Cub Resident Camp, why?

Cub Scout Resident Camp is designed by the BSA to be an adult/child experience. This is different than in Boy Scouting when Scouts often attend camp with only a few leaders. Cub Scout Resident Camp is designed for adults and Scouts to do the activities together. Both the Scouts and adults will benefit from having more adults present at camp. The required ratio of adults to scouts is 1:2 but **we strongly recommend a 1:1 ratio**. If a Unit is having trouble filling the required ratio of Adults to Cub Scouts, they should contact the reservations desk. The camping department will do what it can to help your Scouts get to camp if the ratio is a problem. The required ratio of adults to youth at Webelos Resident Camp is 1:4, but we still strongly encourage youth and adults to attend at a 1:1 ratio.

The flyer I received states that we should attend camp as a Pack. Many of my Dens or families have different schedules, can we sign up separately?

Attending Cub Scout Resident Camp together as a Pack is the preferred method for attending camp. Going to camp this way will strengthen the health of your Pack by providing a summer activity you can do as a group. It also helps with retention of younger Scouts, because they see the fun and exciting things the older Scouts and 4th grade Webelos are doing and can look forward to in future years.

With that said, we will not turn anyone away who cannot attend as a full Pack. Many Packs have to split up into Dens or smaller groups of families because of busy summer schedules and other commitments-this is fine. Your Pack can even split up and attend different camps if needed.

Summary:

- Attending camp as a Pack is good for the Pack
- Packs may split up to attend camp at different times

What is the Webelos Outpost? Is it really worth it for my graduating 4th graders to sign up for this extra program?

The Webelos Outpost is an extra, optional opportunity for 4th grade Webelos attending Cub Scout Resident Camp. It is a chance for these Scouts to travel to a more remote part of camp, set up tents and cook their own food while learning some more advanced skills. This opportunity is definitely worth the extra time and cost! The Scouts will enjoy the extra challenge, and younger Scouts will look forward to the outpost in future years.

What is different about the Webelos Outpost at Navajo & Stearns Webelos Camps?

The Outpost program at Navajo and Stearns is similar to the Outpost at Cub Resident Camp. Scouts will do special activities designed to get them even more ready & excited for Boy Scout Camp the next summer.

What is expected of parents while a camp?

Our Cub Scout Camps do all the planning for you, parents who come to camp with their Cub Scout are expected to have as much fun as the Scouts! Almost all activities at Cub Scout and Webelos Resident Camp are designed for the adults to help, or do along side the Scouts in their group.

Only two leaders from every group at camp need to be registered with the BSA, the rest of the adults do not need to be registered adult leaders, but it doesn't hurt to have more registered leaders at camp.

Where can we find out what requirements will be earned by Scouts at camp?

All things relating to your Unit's stay at camp will be mailed to the adult leader who made the reservation by the end of March. Information could include, theme, what to pack, when to arrive, health forms etc.

Scouts will work on the same requirements based on their rank and age at each camp, so it doesn't matter if they attend Stearns instead of Akela, the advancement will be the same. 5th grade Webelos at both Stearns and Navajo will work on transitional skills meant to prepare them for Boy Scouts the next year.

What are the major differences between the facilities at each of the camps?

There are a few differences between each of the facilities that offer Cub Scout Camping Programs. Scouts eat in a dining hall at Kiwanis, Navajo and Camp Akela (at Phillippo Scout Reservation). At Stearns Cub Resident Camp and Webelos Camp Scouts eat in a dining pavilion. Scouts at Akela and Navajo sleep in canvas tents on raised platforms, while at Kiwanis Scouts sleep in a mixture of small cabins and tents., Stearns uses high tech tents similar to a canvas tent. While there are some minor differences in each of the facilities, each Scout will receive the same quality program at each camp.

What non-summer day camps are offered?

The Council offers Fall Day Camps in late September and October called Fall Festival. These are usually offered at Phillippo Scout Reservation and Kiwanis Scout Camp.

Winter Day Camp is called Polar Cubs, and currently is offered at Phillippo Scout Reservation. Plans are currently under way to expand Polar Cubs to Stearns Scout Camp after 2008.

Some of my Scouts cannot afford to go to camp, is there financial assistance available?

Yes, financial assistance is available for Scouts who have a financial need and who apply. This assistance is called a Campership. You can ask your District Executive to give you a Campership form, or download a form of the website on our camping page, our website is www.northernstarbsa.org/camping. Information about who has a campership is known by the family, the Scoutmaster or Camping coordinator and the Scout office only.

Selling popcorn through the annual Trails End fundraiser is also an easy opportunity to help cover the cost of attending camp. If you need more information about the Popcorn sale, email popcorn@northernstarbsa.org.

What is online registration? How do I use it?

Our online registration system is at www.goscouting.org. Anyone can visit this site and see up to the minute availability of our Cub Scout Camping Programs. Leaders with usernames and passwords may make their reservations online; it's a very easy way to sign up for camp.

Usernames and passwords will be mailed mid November to all Cubmasters and Den Leaders. These usernames should not be passed on to other people in the Pack to make reservations. If you do not have a username and password it's easy to get one, call our Reservations Desk at 651-254-9167.

What is the payment policy for the Cub Scout summer camp programs?

- A non-refundable \$25 dollar deposit per person is required online or upon receipt of your reservation confirmation from Northern Star Council
- Deposits are transferable to NEW 2009 summer cub camp program reservations only.
- Deposits are not refundable and may not be applied to remaining session balances
- Final payments are due March 16, 2009. If full payment is not received for all reservations, reservations will be reduced to reflect payments or cancelled-any deposits made will be forfeited.
- Reservations made after March 16, 2009 will require full payment online or within 10 days of invoicing.