

Troop 763 Update On Outing Policies for 2005-2006

We've worked hard this summer to improve the troop equipment so that we can have even more fun on outings. We've also changed how we do some things because of the new equipment and as part of our shift to cooking by patrols. Please carefully read this information and call Jared Clapsaddle or Mark Hoffman with questions.

New Tents

The troop has purchased new tents for our outings. We'll probably put 2-4 scouts and their personal gear in each one on most outings. If properly used and cared for these tents will last for several years. Scouts will determine their own tent mates on each outing, just as we currently do. They will be shown how to set up and maintain the tents. At the end of an outing, one of the scouts in each tent will be responsible to check the tent and tarp out from Quartermaster Jacob Hesch and take it home to clean and dry out. The tents will then be checked back in with QM Hesch at the next meeting or as soon as possible after that.

Parents: When it is your son's turn to dry and clean the tent, please help inspect the tent before it is packed back up. It is critical that the tent be completely dry to avoid mold. The inside of the tent needs to be clean of any dirt, debris, etc. Please inspect for any tears or rips and make sure both tent and tarp get returned.

Paying for Outings

Since food is being purchased within each patrol, the cost of troop outings will be handled a little differently. From now on, the cost will be stated as "\$XX plus food." The cost will be our actual cost of lodging, transportation, any special equipment, admission, and a couple of bucks to go toward the equipment replacement fund. This amount will be paid to the troop treasurer (Ben Hassankhani) or deducted from the balance in an individual scout account. We ask that this be paid in advance of the outing, whenever possible. In addition, each patrol will determine their own food cost, based on the menu they select and how the purchasing is done (usually about \$10 for a typical weekend). Patrol parents will receive more information on how each patrol is handling this issue. For September, since it our first outing, we are setting a budget of \$10 per scout for each patrol's meals.

Parents: AS ALWAYS, NEVER LET LACK OF FUNDS KEEP A SCOUT FROM PARTICIPATING IN A TROOP ACTIVITY. See Treasurer Ben Hassankhani or Scoutmaster Mark Hoffman if there are financial circumstances.

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Patrol Cooking

Each patrol is responsible for deciding a menu for each outing, buying the food, paying for the food, and all food preparation and cleanup during an outing. While this will take a few outings to get running smoothly, this approach was selected by the boys and will provide more fun within the patrol and additional opportunities for patrol leadership. The patrol leaders will be in charge of the food purchasing and finances for the September outing and then it will rotate.

Each patrol has been issued a patrol box with basic cooking equipment. There is also a troop kitchen chest with oversize and extra equipment. The scouts are encouraged to personalize the contents of their patrol box to fit the preferences of the individual members. Troop leadership, both youth and adult, will work with each patrol to expand the menu choices and ensure safe food preparation.

Each patrol has also been issued a patrol food tub (green) for non-perishables. This will serve as a pantry during each outing and also as a way to store non-perishables between outings. The tub goes home with a member of the patrol after each outing, ideally the scout who is coordinating food for the next outing. The tub is in the trailer only when being transported to and from outings.

The patrol menu for each outing will be decided by the members during patrol meetings. The scouts will be given some freedom in developing these menus, though we will work to with them to include balanced meals. We are developing a troop library of camping meal ideas and we will work with the patrols to try new recipes. The adults will form a patrol for purposes of outing meals and will also be used as a source of introducing new recipes into the troop.

Patrol leaders will develop a duty roster for each outing that shares the work throughout the patrol. Scouts who are particularly interested in cooking or who need the cooking requirements signed off for rank advancement should let their PL know. Everyone in the patrol is expected to help with cooking, setup and cleaning.

The PLC may decide to have us all function as one troop kitchen for a particular meal on an outing. This will be determined ahead of time and discussed in patrol meetings. The cost for that meal will be built into the base price for the outing, separate from patrol funding of the other meals.

Parents: We'll need your help when it is your son's turn to be the patrol food coordinator for an outing. The patrol food tub will come home with your son and eventually he will have a list of what the patrol has decided on for the outing menu. The patrol tub will include information on how to organize the patrol's food in advance of the outing. It will also include tips on safe food preparation and storage. You may need to help him determine quantities, buy the food, and pack it for the trip. The non-perishables go in the green tub. Perishables should be packed as compactly as possibly and labeled with the patrol name. Bring chilled perishables and the packed non-perishable tub to the troop outing meet point. The perishables will be put in one of the troop coolers (provided on site with freezer blocks).