



Longhorn District Venture & Boy Scouts to Attend West Point Camporee

On-Line Registration Available Now on Armadillo and Bee Cave Web Sites

Each year the cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point sponsor one of the largest camporees in the country. A limited number of Boy Scout troops and Venture crews from all over the nation are invited to attend. The Longhorn District (and the successor Armadillo and Bee Cave Districts) has been invited to send a contingent of Venture and Boy Scouts to the 2008 West Point Camporee to be held May 9-11 at West Point.

Our contingent is limited to 25 Venture and Boy Scouts and 10 adults. Gene Youngerman (Venturing Crew 36), who will be the scoutmaster for the contingent and Ron Luke (Troop 30), who will be the assistant scoutmaster are responsible for organizing the trip. Scouts and adults interested in attending should register on the District web site.

On Thursday afternoon, May 8, the contingent will take a 5:00 pm flight to Newark. On Friday morning we will drive to West Point and spend the day touring the West Point Museum and the cadet area. For older scouts interested in attending West Point there may be opportunities to meet with admissions office staff. Friday afternoon we will drive to the Camporee area on the post to check in.

CAMPOREE EVENTS: Some of the West Point Camporee events are similar to those at our district Camporees, but some are unique to West Point. The planned events are:

- **Combat Compass:** This site tests basic land navigation skills under a challenging environment. Each patrol will have to negotiate several obstacles.
- **Pioneering:** Scouts will use basic lashings to make a field expedient structure such as a chariot, stretcher, etc.
- **Stretcher Carry:** Five members from each patrol will compete in this event. 4 people will carry the stretcher while one serves as a casualty.
- **Knot Tying:** This site requires members from each patrol to tie several scouting knots. The criteria are correctness of knot and speed.
- **Kim's Game:** This site requires memorization of objects flashed for only a few seconds. Each patrol works together to figure out what those objects were.
- **LRC (Leadership Reaction Course):** This site will have the scouts complete a difficult mission across a simulated treacherous obstacle. Scouts will have to use some creative problem solving in order to complete the mission.
- **Canoe:** Water race in which 2 members from a patrol race against each other and time to see who will finish first.
- **Fire Bucket Relay:** This site is a race against time in which the members of the patrol take water from a stream and fill up a bucket. The highest water level wins.

- Communications: Scouts must be able to identify basic features, landmarks, and symbols used on common maps. In addition, scouts must demonstrate their knowledge of basic direction and emergency signals.
- First Aid: At this site, scouts will be required to pass off knowledge about proper treatment of casualties under various conditions.
- Drill: At this site the scouts learn the fundamentals of military drill which they will use in the parade on Sunday. Scouts will also learn a little more about the Army.
- Static Display: Here the scouts will get a hands-on look at some of the equipment and weapons in use by the Army today. Cadets at the site will give short briefings on the capabilities and use of the different pieces of equipment.
- One Rope Bridge: The rope bridge is a fun and exciting site where the scouts actually learn how to tie a Swiss seat and climb across a one rope bridge.
- Campfire Skit: Each troop is highly encouraged to come to the Camporee with a good skit rehearsed. The troops will audition and the best skits will get to perform at the Campfire for the entire Camporee.

The Camporee concludes early Sunday afternoon. The contingent will return to Newark and take a flight arriving in Austin about 11:30 pm Sunday night.

ELIGIBILITY: Venture Scouts and Boy Scouts may attend. Boy Scouts must be 13 years of age and have achieved First Class rank by April 1, 2008. Female Venture Scouts may attend. Adults must be registered Scouters. All must have the current physical examination records required for CAC camps. Mr. Youngerman and Mr. Luke will determine the make-up of the contingent.

COST: The cost for each scout and adult will be \$600.00. This amount covers air and ground transportation, Camporee registration, lodging and all meals (including those in transit). It does not cover spending money for snacks and souvenirs. Payment must be made to the Council by April 1, 2008. Some financial aid is available for scouts. Contact Mr. Youngerman or Mr. Luke for additional information.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EXAMINATIONS: It will be necessary for scouts to miss one day of school on Friday, May 9 to attend this event. The Council will be happy to provide a letter explaining the educational value of the trip and certifying the scout's attendance. However, there can be no assurance that a school will not treat this as an unexcused absence. While the dates fall before final examination periods, they fall between weekend testing dates for spring advanced placement courses. Scouts considering attending the West Point Camporee should check their academic schedule and talk to teachers and administrators before applying.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT: The contingent will travel in Class A uniforms to and from the Camporee site and at certain Camporee events. Class B uniforms will be worn during most Camporee activities. The District will provide a contingent T-shirt or pullover. Note that temperatures in this part of New York in early May average a high of 65°F and a low of 45°F. Rain and even light snow may occur.

The contingent will follow the "Lightfighter" camping option. This category of campsite is more along the lines of backpacking and low impact camping. Campers will be expected to carry everything in on their back and will be evaluated accordingly. In addition to standard grading criteria of neatness and cleanliness, campsites will be graded based on other criteria such as absence of gateways, kitchen area, etc. See the BSA leave no trace guidelines. These sites are less accessible and will be generally located further from parking areas than the *Normal* campers. *Lightfighter* campers may receive an additional token recognizing their *Lightfighter* status.

This means the contingent will take backpacks with individual and patrol equipment. Food will be purchased and distributed on Friday in New York. Scouts and scouters should provide as much of their equipment as they can, but we will be able to borrow equipment to fill any gaps.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Some additional information on the Camporee can be found on the West Point web site at www.usma.edu/uscc/dca/clubs/scou/index.html. Mr. Youngerman can be contacted at eyoungerman@gmail.com. Mr. Luke can be contacted at rluke@rpcconsulting.com.