

Hello Troop 1 Summer Campers & Parents, and Happy New Year!!!

That's right - only 154 days before we head for Summer Camp 2010 at Camp Alexander, Colorado. I thought I'd start the year out by sending out some reminders and updates so we're all on the same page as we prepare for this summer's big trip. There is a lot of information here...recommend you print the attachments and save this email for reference.

**First, a short recap of the basics:**

We're planning to depart Albuquerque on Friday June 4th. We'll camp that night at Great Sand Dunes National Park (near Alamosa, CO). We'll spend Saturday exploring the area, and spend Saturday night somewhere in the vicinity before checking in at camp on Sunday, June 6th. We'll leave Camp Alexander on Saturday (June 12th) and plan to return to Albuquerque that afternoon/evening. That's the plan for right now...but stay tuned for updates as we get closer.

The cost per camper is \$425 per scout and \$325 per adult. This payment includes camp fees, transportation & other costs such as \$30 spending money at camp. So far, everyone has paid \$100. The remaining payment schedule goes like this:

January 15th: \$100 due for scouts & adults  
March 15th: \$100 due for adults  
April 15th: \$25 due for adults, \$125 due for scouts\*

\* The final payment amount is a rough estimate, and will vary as we account for final expenses, t-shirt orders, whitewater rafting, etc. For example, an additional \$62 will be also be due on this date for anyone wanting to go on the whitewater rafting trip - see below for more details on that.

I recommend everyone - especially parents - visit the Camp Alexander website at: <http://www.pikespeakbsa.org/campa/>. You'll find lots of information about how the camp works, recommendations for this & that, and various requirements & prerequisites. Actually, it's all a bit overwhelming at first glance...so I've summarized some of the more salient points below. **Please read these carefully!**

**Medical Forms & Medications:**

Camp Alexander requires every camper - scout and adult - to have a current "Colorado Boy Scout Camps Health & Medical Record" form with them at check-in. This is the only medical form required. Note that the form must be signed by a medical doctor, M.D., D.O., R.N.P. or P.A./C. "Chiropractic doctors, and D.P.M. signatures are NOT acceptable under Colorado requirements." The form must be signed within 24 months of arrival in camp for those under 40 yrs of age, and within 12 months for those of us over 40. Make sure you make a copy and send the original with your scout. The form is attached,...it's time to get those physicals scheduled!

Note the rules regarding medications: "All medication & herbal supplements must be checked in upon arrival and may only be distributed by the Camp's medical staff. All medications and supplements, *whether prescription or over-the-counter*, must be in the original container, marked with the camper's name and Troop number (don't cover up the instructions on the container)." Scouts need to show up in camp with their own medications in-hand, along with a completed medication log sheet. Even vitamins or herbal remedies require a letter or a prescription from a licensed medical practitioner (MD, DO, PA-C or RNP), with the name of the camper, the dosage and the times of distribution. I recommend you send only the minimum medicines necessary; the camp staff will be able to administer typical over-the-counter stuff such as ibuprofen or tylenol. Adults are required to keep their medications secured & locked up.

### **Adult Leaders Forms:**

The State of Colorado requires this form from all adults attending camp. These forms will be collected at check-in. They require recommendations/references from 3 different people. Every adult please fill one of these out and return it to me.

### **Merit Badges:**

The merit badge schedule & pre-requisites are attached. We'll be entering each scout's choices on-line in May, but it's a good idea to start thinking about what badges & activities you want to do. I'll be collecting your choices via the worksheet below later on. Think about your 2nd & 3rd choices, too...chances are good that schedule conflicts & full classes will occur.

Notice that in addition to the standard merit badges, Camp Alexander has some special programs for older scouts. The "Outback Adventure Program" for scouts 14 & older consists of things like black powder shooting, tomahawk throwing, cross bow shooting, hiking, archery, etc. This program is available for adults, too, but only on a space-available basis. They also offer mountain biking, mountain boarding and hiking. Info on both programs attached below for your use in selecting merit badges & activities.

### **Whitewater rafting trip:**

The whitewater rafting trip will be offered to all troops attending camp. The cost is \$62 per person, and each participant must pass a swimming test and be classified as a "competent swimmer" ahead of time (We plan to conduct our swim classification testing here in Albuquerque prior to going to camp - standby for more details on that).

I'm collecting names from those interested now, but we'll need \$62 per person as part of the April 15th payment. The \$62 includes transportation, gear and a lunch. Note that the trip will take up almost the entire day on Thursday - so be sure to take that into account when you're signing up for merit badges. A flyer and the liability release form is attached - I'll be collecting forms in April when we know who is going.

### **T-Shirts & Baseball Caps:**

We can pre-order t-shirts & ball caps. Shirts will be olive green with "Troop 1, Albuquerque, New Mexico" on the left sleeve, and "Camp Alexander" on the front. See the flyer below for pictures & more info. If you want to order a shirt or cap so it's ready when we arrive, let me know and plan to include payment (\$14 for a shirt, \$12 for a cap) in your final payment.

Whew! As I said...lots of information! Please read through these attachments and take a look at the Camp Alexander website. If you still have questions, I'd be glad to try to get an answer for you.

Kent Wood  
Summer Camp Coordinator for Troop 1