

January 16, 2012

Dear Provisional Scouts and Parents:

It is crucial to the Scouting experience that every Boy Scout should enjoy a long term camping outing every year, even if circumstances arise where the youth cannot attend with his troop.

In this letter it is my intent to provide useful information that I typically imparted to the parents within my old Scout troop so your son can enjoy a fun filled summer camp experience to the fullest extent. So please read this information because it is important. If you wish more information concerning the Hawkeye Area Council or the Howard H. Cherry Scout reservation you can view the website at www.hawkeyebsa.org. Also included on this website are other important information such as the provisional information form, special dietary request form, and Campership application form.

It is your responsibility to drop off your Scout and pick him up at the end of camp. Please have your Scout at the parking lot at Howard H. Cherry Scout Camp promptly at 1:00 PM on Sunday July 17th. We will be meeting by the flagpoles. Please don't be late. We have a busy day with all the check in activities. Please make sure your son is dressed in his class A Scout uniform as we will be taking pictures during the check in. Scouts, have your swimsuit and towel at the top of your backpack so it will be handy for swim check. Also have a class B Scout shirt handy to change out of you class A shirt once pictures have been taken. And please remember your Scout is responsible for packing in all his personal gear to the campsite so please assure he packs accordingly. I have enclosed with this letter a recommended list of items for summer camp; please review at your convenience and make the appropriate recommendations to your son.

All Scouts must have a completed and signed long term summer camp medical health history form, (parts A, B and C), form 680-001 to attend summer camp. If for some reason this was not done we cannot admit your son to summer camp. This is very important so please be aware of this requirement. If your Scout attended an earlier camp this summer please make a copy of the medical form from your troop and assure it is included with your Scouts gear. All medicines must be turned over to me so I can check medication in with the camp medical staff when we do the medical check on Sunday. All medicines (prescription and non-prescription) must be in their original containers with the dosage and administration information on the container. No plastic baggies full of pills will be accepted so please do not attempt this. If you have a question please contact the Scout office and they will explain the proper procedure.

All Scouts like to have mail during the week. If you wish to send a letter(s) to your Scout please allow about 3 days for delivery and if sending more than one letter please space them apart by a day or so. Make sure Grandparents, other family members, and friends are aware of this too. Please send all letters to:

“You’re Scout’s Name”
Provisional Troop
Howard H Cherry Scout Reservation
4521 Boy Scouts Road
Central City, Iowa 52214

If you absolutely must contact your Scout during the week you may do so by calling the camp telephone number at 319-.438-1837. This is the only line into camp so please understand this is for emergency purposes only. We do not allow Scouts to carry cell phones at summer camp. Please help me by following this request.

If an emergency arises during the week and you must check your son out of camp, when arriving please go straight to the camp office located at the Troop Service Building (TSB) directly behind the dining hall. The Scout camp office staff will explain the procedure for checking your Scout out of camp and checking him back in. To improve the safeties of the check out procedure please provide a list of people authorized to check your son out of camp. Under no condition are you to bypass this procedure as during our daily Scout attendance check your Scout would come up missing which would put a damper on the entire week, not only for our troop but the entire camp contingent.

Wednesday night is Family Night and parents, extended family, and friends are welcome. Please come and join our troop at the Dakin Dining Hall starting at 5:30 PM with dinner. Visitor meal prices are approximately \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 11 years of age. These prices change yearly and were not available at the date of this letter so they are estimated so parents to plan for the expenditure. Troop pictures will be available for your review and purchase at the Troop Service Building during family night. The purchased pictures will be available at final checkout and will be included with your son’s packet. I urge you to please come out and enjoy this night with your son as Scouting is a family oriented activity.

All Scouts seem to like to spend money at camp. Certain merit badges and other activities have a fee schedule so make sure your Scout has enough money for those activities. If you have any questions as to the activity fee schedule please consult the Family Guide or contact the Scout office. If you wish to have your Scout’s money somewhat controlled so these activities can be paid for please provide clear plastic sealable bags with your son’s name written on the outside of the bag and the spending instructions accompanying the money. I’ll make sure all funds are distributed per your instructions. If you wish your son to take responsibility of his own money the ninth point of the Scout Law is a Scout is thrifty.

Summer camp will be ending on Saturday July 23rd. Parents, please be in the parking lot promptly at 9:00 AM that morning to pick up your son and if you wish to come a little earlier your more than welcome to come back to Eagle campsite to experience our checkout procedure. I will be there until the last Scout has left. On occasion I have been there fairly late so please as a favor to me, please remember the 5th point of the Scout Law and do not forget this time. I will provide you all of your Scouts specialty awards, photographs, remaining medicine, and camp patch if available at that time. If possible Merit Badge blue cards and Eagle Quest sign off sheets will be provided to you as well, however if time does not permit they will be mailed to your sons unit at a later date. Make sure your son has all his gear. I have had to run gear back to Scouts who in the rush to leave Saturday morning left parts or all of their gear at camp, so please go over this with your son before getting into your vehicle.

Well, thanks for reading this letter. I hope I have provided enough valued information to you however if I have left any questions unanswered you can call the Scout office 319 862-0541.

One last word in parting; I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me the opportunity and your trust in leading your son's 2012 provisional troop at the best Scout camp in the nation. It is personally gratifying to see Scouts fulfill their expectations through achievement, activity, and just plain having fun at a very special place, the Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation.

Sincerely,

Provisional 2012 Scoutmaster
Hawkeye Area Council
Boy Scouts of America