

Troop 144 - Changes for trips & campouts in 2009

We have noticed that during 2008 it had become more difficult to plan outings. We have identified the following items as areas for improvement.

- Scouts are not responding by deadlines. We have spent hours tracking down boys to determine if they are going on a certain trip or campout.
- People shopping for patrols without an accurate count of campers. It makes no sense to shop for 5 but only 4 scouts attend and split the cost.
- Collecting the money after a campout is very difficult since we are relying on the Scouts to communicate the total due (when divided among patrol) and then be responsible enough to get the money to the shoppers.
- There has not been an even division of the shopping duties among all patrol members.
- Hours have been spent trying to determine rides for trips. This could be eliminated by better communication.

We are going to implement the following changes to attempt to fix these issues.

1. There will be a signup sheet for each trip or campout with a deadline listed on the sheet. We will also remind deadline dates by email and at meetings. Some campouts the deadline will be the Tuesday before the campout but we have several campouts or trips where we need a count weeks in advance to make accurate reservations.
2. The Scouts will have to prepay \$20 for a weekend campout to cover food costs (we have found the average cost going from around \$15 dollars to being closer to \$20 per weekend). This payment must be made when signing up for the trip.
3. If a scout is not signed up and paid by the deadline HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO. Our goal is for every Scout to attend every event and we certainly don't want to limit any Scouts from attending events but it comes down to the responsibility of the Scout to sign up.
4. The patrol leaders will use a list of patrol members and they will go down the list to determine who is next for shopping. If you are unable to shop for a certain trip please discuss this with your patrol leader and you should be able to be skipped until the next campout you attend.
5. We encourage the patrol leaders (or other patrol members) to bring in a sales circular for that week and be thrifty with the money when planning meals.
6. Adults - parents that are going on a campout also need to sign up (by deadline) and include the number of scouts you can take. We would like a count of seats available for scouts - please include your son in this count.
7. Adults - If you are not attending an event please put your name down if you are available for transportation, please circle if you are available for transportation going to the event or returning from event or both. Please also include the number of seats that you have available for scouts.

We would like to thank you in advance for assisting us to make these new procedures help eliminate wasted time and make our jobs much easier when planning campouts.