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CAMPING EMPHASIS *March 2015*

Attention All Pack, Troop & Crew Unit Leaders and Committee Chairs:

Scouting is known for its emphasis of outdoor activities as a program feature. Of the five primary topics in the annual unit evaluation known as “Journey To Excellence” or JTE, the program section directly involves outdoor activities.

Cub Scout Packs:	Outdoor activities and summer camp
Boy Scout Troops:	Short term camping and long term camping
Venture Crews:	Adventure activities, Tier II &/or III

As units plan, conduct and review their annual program plan, I have created two informational, quick reference brochures as helpful tools. At times, every unit struggles with what to do when an outdoor activity is being planned. The two brochures are:

National BSA Outdoor Awards

For Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops
None Currently Exists for Venture Crews
The brochure outlines award requirements for:

1. The Cub Scout Pack Summertime Award at 3 levels - Pack, Den and Cub Scout
2. The Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award - ***NOTE***: Requirement changes occur on May 1, 2015 and will be released from the National BSA office at that time.
3. The National Outdoor Challenge Award for Boy Scout Troops
There is a unit award, individual badge with segments and a medal.
4. The JTE Pack & Troop unit requirements from the forms Program Section.

There are no specific set of requirements for Venture Crews because of the nature of the Venture program, JTE requirement #4 “Adventure” activities, provides much more flexibility for Crews to identify and define what an outdoor adventure is.

3/4 of Scouting is Outing

For ALL Cub Packs, Scout Troops and Venture Crews

1. The brochure outlines various awards & recognitions that directly involve the outdoors & are outlined using the logo for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing.

The two brochures list the National BSA Website, which contains the various award requirements and recognition forms. The wording, “Outdoor Activities”, leaves a great deal of room to include any rank requirements that can be conducted in the out-of-doors. When any Pack, Troop or Crew is developing their annual plan, “outing” can easily be used from year to year, and further emphasize the Scouting’s philosophy.

Should any unit have questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

Vaughn L. Neiley
Indian District Camping Chair