

SCOUTS-L

SNOWBASE

Message-ID: <FM1000101822@OFS.UWEC.EDU>
Date: Tue, 17 Oct 1995 14:49:22 CDT
From: Todd Norman Tingblad <tingbltn@uwec.edu>
Subject: 1996 Snow Base Winter Camping -- (Long)

Forwarded from Mr. Rob Schultz, Co-Snow Base Director:

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**High Adventure Winter Camping
at the Snow Base
Operated by the Indianhead Council, St. Paul, Minnesota**

In less than two months, the Indianhead Council's High Adventure Winter Camp, "Snow Base", will open for it's 18th season of snow camping. Located at Tomahawk Scout Reservation near Birchwood, Wisconsin, the Snow Base is the BSA's largest high adventure winter camp in the United States. During the winter of 1996, over 1,200 Scouts and Scouters from throughout the upper Midwest are expected to participate.

BACKGROUND

The Snow Base was first opened in 1979, shortly after the Okpik program was started at the Sommers Canoe Base in Ely. The programs offered at both Okpik and Snow Base are nearly identical. There are five comparable BSA high adventure camps in the country, they include, "Snow Base" operated by the Indianhead Council, "Okpik" at Sommers Canoe Base, "Okpik" operated by the Denver Area Council, "Kanik" at Philmont Scout Ranch, and "Snow Treks" in New Hampshire. Several other councils also run smaller variations of winter camping programs.

Most often, we are asked the question, "What is the difference between Snow Base and Okpik?" The Okpik program takes place in the remote wilderness

areas of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, whereas, the Snow Base program occurs on the 3,000 acre Tomahawk Scout Reservation. Additionally, extreme sub-zero sleeping bags and winter clothing are provided for campers at the Snow Base - at Okpik, Scouts are provided inserts to be used in their regular summer sleeping bags and individuals are asked to use their own clothing (only a limited supply is available for check-out).

The cost for a Friday night-Sunday afternoon weekend at the Snow Base is \$42, the same program is offered for \$70 at Okpik (Sommers Canoe Base), or, \$70 at Kanik (Philmont).

PROGRAMS/CAMP FEES

There are four different programs offered at Snow Base, they include Snow Huskies for Scouts ages 11-12, Spearhead Limited Service and Spearhead Full Service for Scouts ages 13-18, and Winter Camp School training for adult leaders and Scouts ages 16+.

Snow Huskies

The Snow Huskies program is open to Scouts up through the age of 12. It is designed to give younger boys a winter camp experience complete with skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor initiative games and winter skills training.

Snow Huskies campers arrive on Saturday mornings and begin the weekend with an orientation that includes training in how to dress for cold weather, frostbite and hypothermia awareness/prevention, activities overview, etc. Next Scouts are issued the clothing they will need for the weekend before heading outside to spend the rest of the day participating in activities.

As of October 16th, the Snow Base administration was still finalizing the 1996 program activities. In past years, Snow Huskies participants have

enjoyed such adventures as underwater exploration using periscopes and ice augers, a snow golf course, the wild 2 mile Klondike race, downhill sledding on Snow Mountain, star study, ice fishing, a scavenger hunt, an indoor campfire, skiing, snowshoeing, and more.

On Saturday evenings, they return to the central lodge for a campfire and vespers service. Saturday night is spent inside the central lodge bunk rooms. On Sunday mornings, Snow Huskies campers return outdoors for many more adventures. After lunch, they arrive back at the lodge for a closing awards ceremony before heading home.

Snow Huskies campers are provided full use of the winter camp clothing and equipment. The following clothing is provided for each Snow Huskies Participant: Sorel boots, extra boot liners, wool socks, polypropylene sock liners, heavy sub-zero wool pants, suspenders, wool mitten liners, wool mitten shells, water flask/cloth flask bag, nose/cheek protector and a wool hat. Additionally, the following equipment is issued to each crew: arctic crew sleds, Coleman Peak 1 stoves and cold-weather lanterns, cooking pots/utensils, a first aid kit, plastic sleds, Klondike racing sled, ice fishing bait and equipment, skis w/ poles, snowshoes, golf clubs, and other outdoor recreation equipment. A certified trail guide and complete food service are also provided.

Up to 70 Scouts and leaders may attend each of the nine Snow Huskies weekends which begin January 6 and end March 3. The cost of the weekend, which includes all camp fees, housing, equipment/clothing usage, food service, program, a trained guide and a camp patch is \$31 per person. Advance reservation is necessary.

Spearhead Full Service and Limited Service

Spearhead High Adventure Winter Camping is open to all Boy Scouts at least 13 years old and in good health. Units may choose one of two options: either Full Service or Limited Service.

Units participating in the full service plan receive use of camp equipment, all meals, housing, a camp patch for each participant and a certified trail guide to accompany them throughout the weekend.

Limited service units receive use of all camp equipment, housing, a camp patch for each participant, and a limited meal plan that includes only meals served in the central lodge. No camp staff accompany them throughout the weekend and units must bring their own trail foods. Please note: To register for limited service, a unit must have camped at Snow Base in 1995 or have a minimum of one Winter Camp School certified adult leader attend camp with the unit.

Scouts arrive on Friday evenings no later than 8:30 p.m. and spend the first evening inside the central lodge. After indoor training on basic winter camping skills, they depart Saturday mornings into camp. The afternoon is spent building snow shelters, skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, cooking and participating in the "Hunt for Blue Diamond" program. Saturday evening is spent camping in a snow shelter.

They return to the central lodge on Sunday mornings for a camp vespers service and hot lunch. Following an awards ceremony, they depart for home.

Up to 80 campers attend each of nine weekends that begin January 5 and end March 3.

The following equipment is provided to each Spearhead participant: A North

Face sub-zero sleeping bag rated to -35oF, insulating ground pads, Sorel boots, extra boot liners, wool socks, polypropelene sock liners, heavy sub-zero wool pants, suspenders, wool mitten liners, wool mitten shells, water flask/cloth flask bag, nose/cheek protector and a wool hat.

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The cost per person is \$42 for units utilizing the full service plan and \$32 for units under the limited service plan. All campers receive a 1996 Spearhead participant patch.

Winter Camp School

Two Winter Camp Schools are offered at the Snow Base for adult leaders and Scouts ages 16+. Participants learn about the many aspects of winter camping, including outdoor first aid, sub-zero food preparation, equipment selection and operation, emergency communications and procedures, crew leadership, cold weather dress, wilderness survival and other advanced winter camping skills.

Upon completion participants receive winter camp school certification and are able to successfully lead their unit in sub-zero camping environments. The course is one weekend in length (two courses are available: Dec. 15-17 or Dec. 29-31) and the cost is \$48 per person. Included in the course price is all equipment usage, meals, housing, Winter Camp School training manual, camp school certification patch and certificate.

Okpik at the Sommers Canoe Base also offers a camp school. That particular camp school is one week in length (Dec. 3-9) and focuses on the same skills but in greater detail. The cost of that camp school is \$240 per person. Persons applying to participate in the camp school at Okpik must have their Scout Executive's approval before being accepted into the program.

CAMP REGISTRATIONS

Reservations for all Snow Base programs can be made by calling the Indianhead Council Scout Service Center at 612-224-1891. Full payment is required with your reservation. The fee is non-refundable and only transferable during the same weekend to another person or unit. Phone reservations are held for 10 days pending receipt of check.

Two deep leadership is required. One leader must be 21 years of age or older, assistants must be 18 years of age or older. Co-ed groups must have

one male and one female leader, both 21 years of age or older. Two deep leadership may be accomplished by two small units combining as one crew with each unit providing an adult leader. Please arrange this at time of registration.

Non-Scouting groups and/or organizations are welcome to participate. In the past, church groups, Girl Scout troops, colleges and schools, youth groups and other organizations have enjoyed the Snow Base programs.

As of October 16, many reservations had been made. Generally speaking, the camp is at least 85% full within three days of the first major snowfall in the Twin Cities area (generally around Thanksgiving). We highly recommend that units seriously considering attending Snow Base contact the council office (612-224-1891) as soon as possible to find out the availability of remaining weekend spaces. It can be extremely difficult to find open spaces after the 15th of December.

There are no extra charges for out-of-council units or non-Scouting groups. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

ADMINISTRATION

Several services are provided by the camp administration. They include health and safety, an elaborate trading post, food service, vespers programs and more.

Trained and certified EMT's are on staff. In the event of an emergency in the remote wilderness, the camp is prepared for extractions via snowmobiles and rescue litters. Staff carry battery-powered radios and electric-powered radios are also located throughout the reservation. In a typical emergency response, Scouts and/or adult leaders can be extracted within 10-20 minutes. Local, out-of-camp medical services are nearby in Rice Lake.

Food service in the central lodge is provided by volunteer campmasters. All

meals are planned for persons experiencing intense, outdoor programs.

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co-directors listed below at least one week prior to your arrival at camp.

The trading post offers souvenirs, candy/food, clothing, patches and other supplies. Checks and cash are accepted. Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards.

The vespers services are lead by camp staff unless clergy is in camp. From time-to-time, volunteer clergy are available at camp to provide religious services. Additionally, church services are available in nearby communities

for Scouts needing to meet religious requirements.

The camp telephone number is: 715-354-3841. The camp fax number is: 715-354-3497. The camp telephone is answered from 7 p.m. on Friday evenings

through 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons throughout the winter camp season. If

you have questions or need help at other times, please contact the council office at 612-224-1891.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Snow Base, please contact one of the individuals below. Brochures are available. If you are interested in serving on staff at Snow Base, please request a 1996 staff application.

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393 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
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**Rob Schultz, Co-Snow Base Director
P.O. Box 2042
Stillwater, MN 55082
Internet: robs@tcm.mn.org**

**Paul Tocko, Co-Snow Base Director
612-659-0918**

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This year, I will again take my troop to Snow Base for the Snow Huskie and Spearhead programs. Plus, I will be on the Campmaster staff on other weekend(s).

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For you warmer weather folks located south of the Wisconsin border, Snow Base has been host to Scout Troops/Posts as far south as Georgia...and they did

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