

SCOUTS-L

**NATIONAL
CAMPING
SCHOOL**

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Mon Oct 9 01:41:02 1995
Date: Mon, 9 Oct 1995 01:41:00 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: lwjones@gulftel.com
Subject: Re: BSA Aquatics Instructor

Larry,

National puts out a series of manuals for National Camping School that list all of things that are taught. Sorry don't have the order numbers handy.

NCS includes courses for:

- Cub Scout Camp Program**
- Cub Scout Camp Management**
- Boy Scout Camp Management**
- Boy Scout Camp Program**
- Boy Scout Camp Aquatics**
- Boy Scout Camp Field Sports**
- Boy Scout Camp Scoutcraft**
- Boy Scout Camp Ecology**
- Boy Scout Camp Chaplains**

There may more or less at any given session of NCS depending on what the Region could support and people signing up. The best bet would be for you to call Southern Region and ask for copies of course announcements.

Regarding your Wood Badge web site. For a variety of reasons I think you have done the right thing to pull it. The critical thing in Wood Badge is learning together as a group and developing group dynamics in the process. If someone goes with preconceptions or a feeling they have all the knowledge needed they are going to shut-off and miss out. No, its no really big secret and not anything that couldn't be shared. This method of learning is one of the most important parts of the course - the how of learning being as important as the subject matter, or more important. The method helps the leaders understand the patrol method up close and personal, etc. I look at it this way. Consider when you buy a really tough computer game. It is fun, even when you are frustrated at trying to solve a puzzle. You still enjoy it because of the challenge. Now go get a game with hint book. Soon you succumb and read a few hints, then a few more and end up reading the whole thing. Now when you go to play the game, it doesn't have any challenge and doesn't seem to be anything more than a mechanical exercise of the mouse/keys. So you quit and wait for a better game. The hint book game never gets played through to the end, you've lost interest. I see Wood Badge the same way. Another point is

that by attending, we agree to the terms of the course which are announced up front and at the end and that is a commitment not to spoil the course for others by telling too much. Making parts of the course public makes it appear that the trust has been disregarded.

I think it is clear that your intentions were laudable and praiseworthy. Consider instead of a Wood Badge page a "Leaders' Skills Page. This would allow you to selectively extract from WB, NCS, etc. bit of wisdom, ideas, etc. that you could put out to help leaders. The stuff from each course needed not be identified to the course - it should stand on its own merits anyway. Now if somebody reads the skills information, they'll take it an different light and not assume they've learned all they need to know about Wood Badge. This will also tend make them more likely to enter the course with an open-mind without preconceptions of the Course allowing the methods of WB to work. Just a thought.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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Date: Mon, 9 Oct 1995 12:22:21 -0400
From: Mark Paul Amatrucola <amatrcla@CORAL.BUCKNELL.EDU>
Subject: Re: Camp schools
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Maureen,

National Camping School is an institution under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America. Its purpose is to train the Scouters who will serve in the leadership roles in Summer Camps around the nation. All Senior Camp Staff Members must attend NCS in order to gain their certification in their field and enable their camp to gain its accreditation. The Camp Director, Program Director, Program Commissioner, Aquatics Director, COPE Director, Shooting Sports Director, and a couple others are all mandatory positions and require the NCS training in that Section. Other sections include: Scoutcraft, Ecology, Voyageur, Chaplain, Ranger, Family Camping, and possibly some others.

NCS is run through the Region and about 5 are run per region per year. The Following are the ones for the Northeast Region:

**Massawepie Scout Reservation
Heritage Scout Reservation
HR Moses Scout Reservation
Resolute Scout Reservation
Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation**

The basic idea is that the home council of each camp sends its staff members to one of these schools and they are put in a section with others being trained for the same position. They are trained by a staff of Scouters who already hold the certification and have been invited back to be an instructor at National Camping School. These people usually serve or have served on a Camp Staff for this position as well. At the end of the week, provided that they have completed all the requirements satisfactorily, they will graduate and receive their certification.

There is more to the intricacy of the National Camping School Program and if you are interested I can tell you more. Hope this helps.

Yours In Scouting,

**Mark
National Camping School Instructor - COPE Section
Massawepie Scout Reservation
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On Mon, 9 Oct 1995, Maureen H. User wrote:

**> Please excuse my ignorance, but what are camp schools? Who goes? A basic
> description of purpose and program would be appreciated. Thanks! -
Maureen**

