

“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.”

- Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the World Scouting movement

Howdy, folks!

I wanted to pass on some information about the state of plans for this year's upcoming *Minquas District Community Day Camp*! Please be aware that we are still very much in the planning stages to figure out the adjustments we need to make and the smartest ways in which to move forward to provide the safest Scouting experience we can for both our volunteer youth and adult staff and our Campers whose safety you entrust to us!

What is it? For those who don't already know, it is our annual, week long summer day camp planned, staffed, and run by registered and trained volunteer leaders from our many local Cub Packs and Scouts, BSA Troops right here in Minquas District!!

Our theme this year is a Western inspired *Cub Round-up!!!* Cub Scouts from local Packs will spend a week outdoors in fellowship with other Scouts their age in a Den level setting where together they will be hiking, learning Scout skills like cooking, first aid, knots & lashings, as well as receiving instruction in shooting sports from our certified archery and bb range masters! We are blessed to have a fantastic science teacher and an inspired engineer who work together to design an amazing hands-on STEM program for the week! Additionally, we learn and put into practice the principles of Leave No Trace, and play Scout Games and show our Scout spirit through jokes, songs, and skits!

This Camp is open to and designed for Cub Scouts entering 1st-5th grades in the Fall and younger, potty trained and independent siblings who are 3+ years of age. Campers entering 1st grade and younger siblings **MUST** have a parent volunteer on site with them. **PLEASE NOTE** – *volunteers must be registered & trained Scout leaders serving the Camp for the week. Adults who would like to be at Camp are asked to please contact the camp director at CoLMinquasDayCamp@gmail.com for details!*

Your Scout's rank will be based on the grade they will be entering in the Fall!! Ex: A 2nd Grade Wolf Scout now who will be entering 3rd Grade in the Fall will be a Bear Scout in Camp!!

When is it? We traditionally hold this Camp during the last week of June. This year that would be June 28 – July 2. We run Monday – Friday with programming ****usually**** running from about 9am – 3:30pm – **please note that those times are only approximate right now as we are still very much in the process of setting up our Camp!!!** Our goal is to be a rain or shine event, however sometimes weather conditions beyond our control could potentially impact our ability to provide the safe Scouting experience which we strive for!

Where is it? We are proud to announce we will be hosted this year by the Tyler Arboretum in Middletown Township! There we will have access to the Arboretum's 650-acre property and over 16 miles of hiking trails as well as multiple buildings for safe emergency hard shelter of our campers and staff!

Our plan is to hold all programming outdoors and to utilize the indoor shelter only in the unlikely event of emergencies – this means that space is limited and also if it is very likely we will have severe weather conditions for the day, we may be forced to cancel Camp that day.

This sounds great!!! How do I sign up (or at least find out more information)???

Everything is on-line and registration is currently live at <https://CoLBSA.org/DAYCAMP> - we are currently listed as “Tyler Arboretum – Media, PA” – and specific questions or concerns can be forwarded directly to the Camp Director at CoLMinquasDayCamp@gmail.com

If you haven’t already, you will be receiving regular promotional emails as well as a promotional post-card in the mail from Council about Summer Camp opportunities, including Resident Camp at Musser Scout reservation. Due to the changing nature of health department guidance and regulations, these emails and mailers are designed to drive you directly to the above website where the most up-to date and accurate information will be available!

... but I’m really concerned about the pandemic – SO ARE WE!!!! Things are tough right now, there are a lot of moving parts and situations are fluid and changing. We *absolutely* get that!

Re masks: All campers and staff will be required to be masked throughout the day and the continued practice of social distancing by our campers will be continuously monitored by our staff. As it is anticipated no youth campers will be eligible for an approved vaccine, all staff regardless of their vaccination status will lead our youth by example by masking up daily.

Re refunds: I can happily report that many hours have been spent carefully and thoughtfully crafting a fair refund policy to both reassure our families who want to attend but are concerned about the cost and safety aspects of this pandemic as well as to protect our Council’s ability to provide ongoing operations in support of our local Scouting movement. If it is not already posted on the Day Camp website above, it will be posted in the very near future.

Re Camperships: Because money should be no obstacle to Scouting, needs based camperships are available through application to the Council at <https://colbsa.org/camperships/>

Also, the Council Fund Your Adventure Fundraiser which runs through May 15 is a great way to help pay your way! It’s not too late to find out more at <https://colbsa.org/adventurecard> - check with your unit leaders about how to get signed up!!

Please be assured that we are currently actively monitoring all guidance from the CDC and Commonwealth and County Health Departments and we are looking at all “best practices” information available to us to learn what we can about how best to adjust our traditional Day Camp model to mitigate as much risk as we can. At the moment space is limited based on anticipated caps on participation numbers to allow for safer social distancing. Other covid specific and more general camp policies for this year will be provided as we get closer to Camp.

Are volunteers required to be vaccinated and will the percentage of vaccinated staff be published for parents? Unfortunately, no – while many of us have already been or are in the process of being vaccinated, that is a personal health decision for our volunteers to make and further that is private health information which would be inappropriate for us to share.

How is contact tracing working? All participants will be screened each morning and monitored throughout the week. Our Campers will be split into small Dens by their age group and kept together by Pack as much as is possible and practical. These Dens will travel together with very

little direct interaction with other Dens. In the event a participant develops symptoms, they will be sent home for testing, and in the event a participant reports a positive test or is presumed positive based on exposure and symptoms, then all “close contacts” to that person will be promptly notified. Thankfully we have fantastic models of best practices being currently used by school districts which we have to fall back on to make this work!!

How do I report if my Scout is symptomatic or has tested positive? A clear reporting process is being developed and will be provided to all families at check-in before camp starts.

Ok, you’ve convinced us – we’re in! Now how do we get prepared?

1) GET REGISTERED TODAY!!!

2) CHECK-IN DATE: Scouts will be given a uniform tee-shirt they will wear daily to allow our leaders to quickly visually identify all of our campers. You can pre-order extra shirts on-line in the registration process! We will be holding a pre-event check-in on the Sunday afternoon before Camp starts (June 27, times TBD) – at that check-in event we will collect your Scout’s Health Forms A & B plus a copy of a covering health insurance card in the event of emergency medical care. *Scouts should not be carrying any medication, so please provide our Camp’s registered pediatric nurse with any medications they may need – PLEASE do NOT change their regular medication cycle without consulting with your primary care physician – our nurse can make sure they receive their doses as required if needed!!!!*

Families will receive their uniform shirts for the week as well as an event patch at that time, so mark your calendars! Checking in earlier on Sunday makes our Monday start faster and lets the kids jump into the Adventure instead of waiting to square away paperwork!! You’ll also get a chance to meet our Camp staff, get answers to any last minute questions, find out about drop-off and pick-up procedures and see the Camp being setup by our wonderful and dedicated volunteers!!

3) PLAN ON BRINGING LUNCH DAILY!!! We do not have a capacity to provide food camp-wide or to store everyone’s lunches, so please plan on providing your camper with a non-perishable lunch daily! Lunch suggestions will be provided as Camp approaches. We will be practicing “Leave No Trace” Principles, so whatever they pack in they will be packing out!!

4) THEY WILL NEED REUSABLE (not disposable) WATER BOTTLES DAILY. *These should be labeled clearly with their name and Pack.* We will have water filling stations throughout the camp to keep everyone hydrated and refilling will ONLY be done by our Adult Leaders to limit the risk of water taps becoming a possible contagion vector point.

5) SUNSCREEN & BUG SPRAY – we highly suggest the use of both of these items for the health and safety of our youth, however please do NOT send your camper with bottles of either!

Experience has shown that inevitably someone’s sunscreen or bug spray will leak in their bag and potentially taint their food and/or drink with toxic substances – ***please plan to drop your scout’s off for check-in with both of these items already applied to their skin before you arrive!***

Our Camp nurse will have sunscreen and bug spray and if you provide permission can provide it to them if they start to have problems with either bugs or sun exposure.

Other specific Camp policies and procedures will be provided in full as we get closer to Camp and will be more reflective of all current Covid Guidance available at that time!