

2007 High Adventure Snow Camp

Folks... this year the scouts decided not to have a snow camp as part of the regular troop 709 activities... So this year there will not be an "official" troop snow camp. But as snow camping is in my blood... yes I'm cold blooded...I am still going to go.

This is really just a Burnham Boy's family trip... and the few brave souls that are going to go with me...

Because I'm going over the Presidents day week end and planning to go from Saturday to Monday, and because it's not an official Troop camp out, I'm going to need to ask that any young men that want to go get their Dads to go as well. This trip takes some planning and a fair amount of equipment, so I'm going to need Dads to come with their sons... and maybe drive...

When: Feb 17, 18, 19 (packed and ready to go Friday night Feb 16)

Packed and ready to go Friday night Feb 16. We will meet at 6:00 AM Saturday morning, and leave at 6:29AM Feb 17. We will return late (after 9:00PM) Feb 19

I'm not sure exactly where we are going to go... here are a few options... but it really will depend on the amount of snow as we get closer to the trip.

1) One place is at Lake Alpine <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/images/maps/lakealpinearea.jpg>

2) Another option is where we went last year, which was the Badger Pass Ski Area in the Yosemite area. <http://www.yosemitepark.com/activitylist.cfm?SectionID=81&PageID=246>

For a sneak peek, you can look here: <http://www.squeakyhinge.com/winterCamping/index.htm>.

This is a 3 day 2 night trip. You will need to be able to carry or pull all your own gear. We will be hiking up to 2 miles to our campsite. You should have a sled and back pack to carry your stuff. Please read below on how I would like it packed.

How to Pack and What Should you Bring You will want to read the attached list of gear. Please pack in the following manner:

- 1) We will pack up the cars Friday night... this means that you will not have access to your pack and gear till we get to the snow. You will want to have a SMALL sack with the snow clothes you will use in the cars. .
- 2) **YOU MUST BE ABLE TO CARRY ALL OF YOUR GEAR.** This means that you need to make sure that it will fit in a back pack and sled.

PURPOSE OF GOING ON A SNOW CAMP

The purpose of This snow camp is to train the young men and young men leaders to be proficient in the fundamentals of winter/snow camping, to provide an organized, safe, and supervised outdoor experience for practical application of winter camping training in the field, as well as to attain a high-adventure perspective and fellowship, and, most importantly, to have lots of fun.

WINTER EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST – WHAT TO BRING

How to Transport your stuff

- Backpack -- Use a large-capacity backpack. It's also very useful to attach compression straps to hold skis and/or snowshoes or other gear.
- Small Sled – This is used to carry additional gear. If you attaché two 7 foot segments of ½ inch PVC pipe to the sled and run a small rope through them, which you can attaché to a belt. This way you can pull the sled uphill, but when you go down a hill, it will not run you over.

Snow Boots and Socks

- Snow Boots -- You need to make sure you have a good, warm pair of snow boots. These come in all types and quality. Boots that come with liners are nice, because you can get an extra liner, and be able to wear one while the other is drying. Buy the best you can afford. If you have younger brothers or sisters, then they can use them later.
- Backup pair of boots or Shoes that is somewhat water proof.
- One pair of wool or thermal socks per day... Plus one more. So on a 2 day trip, you should have at least 3 pair. You can also layer your socks, with a thin nylon or polypropylene sock liner sock. Believe it or not a thin woman's 100% nylon sock works very well as a first layer.

Cloths

- One or two pair of Long Underwear Polypropylene or Polyester underwear (wicks moisture away from skin). It's best to avoid cotton. Try to get 100% Polypropylene. You could get 2 pair if you want.
- One or two Light shirts. Fleece is the best, but other synthetics will work. Cotton should be a last choice.
- One Fleece or wool jacket, sweater, or sweat shirt. This is the layer you will have on under a water proof layer.
- Waterproof / Windproof jacket. This is the shell outer layer, so it is important to keep it dry.
- One layer over the Long Underwear. It is best to have fleece, or Pile pants. Cotton sweat pants is not a recommended option... but they will work as long as you don't get them wet.
- 2 Pair Waterproof pants. The reason you should have 2, is that if you plan to dig a snow cave or build an Igloo, you WILL get wet. Especially building a snow cave.
- One pair of Gloves. Two would be recommended, again if you plan on building a Snow Cave or Igloo.
- One Bomber Hat or Fleece cap and turtle-neck fleece neck warmer

Sleeping

- One pair of something to sleep in. I would recommend baggy sweat pants, and a tee shirt or light sweatshirt. You could also have a loose pair of sox, but I tend to not like to sleep in sox... I find that I'm warmer with out them... But Loose is what you want... tight clothing only makes you cold. You MUST have dry cloths to sleep in.
- 2 Sleeping Bags. -- If you have -20° bag, then you can just bring 1, The warmer the better. In most cases, you will only have 15° degree bags, which are great for spring and summer camps, but aren't warm enough for winter. In this case I want you to bring two 15-degree bags. If you have a bag that is rated for 0 or even -20 then, one bags is enough.
- 2 Sleeping pads. Remember that you will be sleeping on the snow. One pad is not enough. The full-length, closed-cell foam work well to put on the snow for insulation, and the other a second closed-cell foam pad or a standard Therma-Rest© type sleeping pad for comfort and additional insulation
- Tarp – Optional but recommended if you are going to sleep in an Igloo or snow cave. (remember that Igloos and snow caves will be warmer than a tent)
- 1 Tent. – Bring a tent. We may not take them all, but EVERY ONE will need to have a space in a tent, even if you end up sleeping in a Igloo or Snow Cave.

Standard Camp Gear

- Headlamp Bring a spare bulb and spare set of fresh batteries.
- Sunscreen SPF 25, in accessible pocket.
- Sunglasses or Goggles Dark lenses. Best if they are polarized, 100% UV protection with side-panels. (you can get a cool pair of "glacier glasses" for \$29 at Campmor.com)
- Garbage Bags - Three to four.

Additional **Optional** Snow Camp stuff

- Candles One squatty, one tall.
- Daypack Optional. Good for daytrips if you set up a base camp, and for use when hanging food. Also, if a waist-pack, can be used to hook up to gear sled with metal clips.
- Shovel Snow shovel avalanche rescue type. (Substitute: grain scoop, homemade snow board scoops.)
- Ski Poles Good for using with snowshoes and for crossing streams.
- Cross-country skis optional.
- Snowshoes -- Rent, make, buy a pair. You can rent these at many places, like REI, Mell-Cottons, or other places.

DOs and DON'Ts

DO

- Drink plenty of fluids often
- Carry out all garbage and ashes
- "Leave no trace"
- Use the portable toilets for all sanitary needs
- Collapse snow caves completely when you leave
- Be extra courteous to others (non-scouts) in the area
- Burn only fire wood which you have brought
- Have fun!

DON'T...

- Bury garbage or anything else in the snow
- Bother snowmobilers or skiers in the area
- Climb on top of any building or structure
- Go anywhere without a buddy
- Put any garbage down the portable toilets
- Build a fire without a protective metal catch basin
- Cut or remove any tree limbs of any kind
- Sled or toboggan without permission of leader