

## GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTS ATTENDING CAMP PHILLIPS

Scouts attending summer camp for the first year should limit themselves to a maximum of 3 or 4 merit badges. They should focus on merit badges with a “BASIC” designation in an area they like. Many of the Handicraft and nature merit badges are fairly simple to do and are enjoyable.

Due to the high number of water oriented activities Troop 85 does, and the fact that most of our campouts are in an area near water, **Swimming is an extremely important merit badge for the first year camper.** All first year campers, and those scouts that have not earned the Swimming Merit Badge in the past, should take the Swimming Merit Badge. If your son cannot pass the second and first class swimming requirements, instead of the swimming merit badge, they should plan on the instructional swim offered each day at 9AM. In addition, in order to achieve first class, they must eventually pass the swimming requirements. Scouts doing the Swimming MB or the instructional swim will not be able to take the Nature/Mammal Study, Orienteering, Soil & Water Conservation (unless part of World Conservation Award), Shotgun, Bird Study or Basketry Merit Badges.

First year campers should not attempt Rifle Shooting or Shotgun Merit Badges. They will still have the opportunity to shoot at camp but these merit badges take up a significant amount of free time and require a lot of practice in order to earn the merit badge.

Second and subsequent year campers should focus on **Canoeing** and **Environmental Science** Merit badges as these badges are best completed at summer camp due to the difficulty of doing these at home. Canoeing Merit Badge is required for many of our High Adventure activities. Camping merit badge should only be attempted at camp if your son has the required 20 days and nights of camping with the Troop completed. Otherwise he is better off doing this badge at home. Older scouts that are getting bored of the usual merit badge routine should consider a combination of the in camp Climbing and Rappelling merit badge along with COPE. Another option is the weeklong climbing trip to Devil’s Lake or the weeklong canoe trip.

Scouts doing the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge will not be able to do the Forestry, Photography, Small Boat Sailing and Fire Safety/Safety Merit Badges, C.O.P.E. or the BSA Kayaking, BSA Board sailing and the World Conservation Award.

Please return merit badge selection sheets to Mr. Goodwin as soon as possible so conflicts in scheduling can be detected and resolved! **The absolute latest the sheets should be turned in is June 9th at the Troop meeting!**

Any questions please feel free to call me.

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