

Challenge Course and Rock Climbing Instructor Newsletter January, 2008

How to prevent last-minute problems when checking out gear from the Rangers:

- Have your unit's Medical History forms/Records with you when you show up at the Ranger office
- Be sure to have your Instructor card with you and your unit reservation sheet
- Have at least one person in your unit with a CPR card and one with a First Aid card. Two different people can each have one of the cards and they don't have to be adults, many youth have CPR cards (the Red Card is not a CPR certified card)

Challenge Course Instructor and Rock Climbing Instructor Recertification, Sunday, March 2, 2008

Instructors may get recertified at the Nagel Base Recreation Hall, Beaumont Scout Reservation for both programs on one afternoon. We changed the scheduled times from the past couple of years. The two sessions overlap so that if you are doing both you won't have to listen to administrative details twice. Lunch and snack times are the same as during training – whenever you can during the training.

**Times: 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM for Challenge Course Recertification
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM for Rock Climbing Recertification**

See the sign up form elsewhere on the council website for cost, etc. Please print the form, fill it out and mail back to us. We are better prepared if we know who and how many folks are coming. There is usually a good crowd at this event. You know us; we will be there rain, sleet, snow or shine and we've had them all this early in March.

Number of Instructors and making Climbing Reservations at S bar F:

We are getting better at making reservations for the proper amount of climbing equipment at S bar F but I thought I should discuss it again.

- There are two sets of gear available at the S bar F Climbing program; each set has enough for 2 rappels and 1 climb. Actually we have gear for 3 climbs, the first unit on site gets 2 rappels and 2 climbs, the second unit gets 2 rappels and 1 climb. Most units share the climbing site so that 3 kids can climb at the same time.
- Reserve equipment based on how many Instructors you will have that day. The number of kids is almost irrelevant. If you have 40 scouts and 2 instructors you won't need both sets of gear; you could only run 1 rappel and 1 climb or 2 rappels at a time.
- If you had 6 Instructors (the number needed to use all the gear to the max) and 20 scouts and had 4 rappels and then 2 climbs set up and running --- you would be tired at the end of the day.
- So... don't reserve both sets of gear unless you will have 4 Instructors available and lots of Scouts. If you reserve both sets of gear and can't use it you will deprive another unit the opportunity to go climbing that day and waste your money. **Don't be a climb hog!!**

Registration for training courses:

If Scouters show up for any training course and they are not preregistered they will be turned away. We have said this for several years and we do turn away Scouters, don't be impolite to Scouters in your unit and tell them they can register when they show up. They can at least call to let us know they want to attend. We plan for and recruit staff based on the number of folks who make reservations – please help us and ask Scouters to sign up as early as they can.

Be Prepared to Rock T-Shirts:

Both S bar F and Beaumont have adequate supplies of the white t-shirts for Scouts and Scouters. They also have adequate supplies of the grey Instructor shirts. If you want shirts, please bring a check or exact amount of cash. The Rangers are not retailers. When you arrive at camp, tell the Rangers what you want to order so they can prepare the order for you before you leave. Bring your Instructor card or Instructor patch to purchase the Instructor shirts.

Costs for white and grey shirts are:

Sml – XL \$10, no small grey Instructor shirts

XXI, \$12

XXXI, \$13

Repeat Pin:

If someone has done a Challenge Course or Climbing program several times they probably don't need another patch that ends up in the ol' shoebox (the home of most patches). Council now has a very nice carabiner shaped pin that can be used for repeaters – just attach to the first patch; several Instructor Staff members use them as hat pins. Take a look at one the next time you visit one of the offices.