

# THUNDERBIRD OUTPOST

## ATTENTION ALL OLDER SCOUTS! There's more to Tahquitz than Merit Badges

Not sure if you want to spend a week at Camp Tahquitz this summer? Before you make your decision, check out the Thunderbird Outpost program!

This program is limited to scouts who are at least 14 years old (or any registered Venture). While the cost is the same as a regular week of Central Dining at camp, the program is anything but regular.

- ✓ Instead of living in a regular troop campsite, you will spend a week in a remote outpost at the far end of the camp property;
- ✓ Instead of eating meals with younger scouts, you will be preparing your meals with other older scouts;
- ✓ Instead of going to merit badge "classes" you will be able to participate in exciting outdoor adventures.

### **"BEEN THERE, DONE THAT" - WHY SHOULD I GO TO CAMP THIS SUMMER?**

Are you sure that you have done EVERYTHING that camp has to offer? Come to Thunderbird Outpost for adventures you would never think of being available at Tahquitz.

What is most important for you, the older scout? When you arrive at the Outpost, you and the rest of your group will, with the assistance and guidance of our highly-qualified staff, be able to design a program to meet your needs and interests.

Over the last few summers, older scouts at the Outpost have been given the opportunities to experiences:

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Building a cabin          | ✓ Flint and steel                |
| ✓ Carving a canoe           | ✓ Flint napping                  |
| ✓ Expert Dutch oven cooking | ✓ Conservation                   |
| ✓ Branding                  | ✓ Branding (wood, leather)       |
| ✓ Soap & Candle making      | ✓ Advanced Indian Lore           |
| ✓ Edible Plant meals        | ✓ Geocaching                     |
| ✓ Advanced leatherwork      | ✓ Traditional map & compass      |
| ✓ Tracking                  | ✓ Trout fishing, Santa Ana River |
| ✓ Rope making               | ✓ Overnight Horse treks          |
| ✓ Tree-house Construction   | ✓ Field Archery                  |
| ✓ Knife/Tomahawk throw      | ✓ Sleeping on the Wire           |

**SOUNDS FUN – BUT WHO GETS TO CHOOSE WHAT WE DO?**

While there will be outpost staff there to help advise you and provide you with options, ultimately your crew will set the program.

**IS IT THE SAME SCHEDULE AS THE REST OF CAMP?**

While you will arrive and depart from camp with your troop, for the rest of your week you will be with your Thunderbird crew. When younger scouts set up their campsite you will be at the commissary meeting other members and staff of your crew as you start to plan your week. You and the rest of your crew will then move into Outpost, a remote area of camp set aside just for Thunderbird. You will not return to “civilized camp” until the Friday night campfire!

Time	Activity
12:30	Arrive at Tahquitz, meet at the commissary (Be sure to get here by 3:00!)
3:00	Complete health check, hike to the outpost
4:00	Campsite/Outpost orientation
6:00	Dinner at Commissary
6:30	Crew meeting, select leadership for day 1, plan weekly schedule
8:00	Campfire – return to Outpost
8:45	Review program for the next day

**OKAY, THAT’S SUNDAY – BUT WHAT IS THE REST OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE?**

Unlike regular camp, where there is an hourly schedule that is pre-planned for you, at the Thunderbird Outpost you and the rest of your crew will determine your schedule every day from a variety of offerings at the outpost.

Breakfast	<b>Prepare Breakfast</b> <i>Your crew decides the time.</i>
Morning Adventures	<b>Crew Decision!</b> <i>Your crew will select from one of the many Outpost options</i>
Lunch	<b>Prepare Lunch</b> <i>Your crew will decide the time – you might be at the Outpost or on the trail!</i>
Afternoon Adventures	<b>Crew Decision!</b> <i>Your crew will select from one of the many Outpost options</i>
Dinner	<b>Prepare Dinner.</b> <i>Your crew decides the time.</i>
Evening Adventures	<b>Crew Decision!</b> <i>Your crew will select from one of the many Outpost options</i>
9:30	<b>Roses and Thorns review</b> <i>A review of what went right (Roses) and what needs to be fixed for tomorrow (Thorns)</i>

### **WHAT ABOUT ADVANCEMENT AND MERIT BADGES?**

While you will be might be able to complete some merit badge requirements, there are no formal merit badge classes. The main emphasis of Thunderbird will be fun and excitement! This is a challenging outpost – it's not a merit badge classroom. .

### **WHO WILL BE STAFFING THE OUTPOST**

We have assembled a premier group of experienced staff members from the Tribe of Tahquitz. They will be with you the entire week. In addition, other members of the regular camp staff will drop by for additional program expertise and assistance.

### **SOUNDS GREAT! HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

You will need to sign up on the CampMaster system.

For individuals coming to camp with their troop: Your scoutmaster can register you with the Thunderbird outpost when he schedules the rest of the troop with the online CampMaster reservation system.

For individuals coming to camp without their troop: If your troop is not going to be at Tahquitz while you are at the Outpost you will need to contact Cindy Spaulding at the Scout Office (562.427-0911).

**DON'T WAIT! THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPOTS AVAILABLE IN THE THUNDERBIRD PROGRAM!**

### **GOT QUESTIONS?**

The rest of this booklet has general information, as well as information for Scoutmasters and parents. It looks like a lot to read, but take it slowly – all of the information is designed to help you have an exciting (and safe) adventure at the Outpost.

## **FOR SCOUTMASTERS/PARENTS:**

The Tahquitz Thunderbird Outpost is designed to provide older scouts a different, more challenging adventure.

### **AIMS AND METHODS**

All segments of the Scouting program have “Aims” – the goal of the program – as well as “Methods” – the specific techniques and activities used to achieve the goals. At the Thunderbird Outpost we have specific Aims and Methods that are based on the overall directions of the Boy Scouts of America.

*The Thunderbird Outpost program is not for young boys just entering scouting, but for young men who have experienced scouting. These young adults are looking for a program that will challenge them, that will enable them to do more and to go further in their scouting experience in a community of scouts closer to their own age.*

*Without such challenges many older scouts frequently begin to drift away from the scouting program. This not only deprives them of the advantages offered by the scouting, but it also deprives younger scouts of role models. An exciting summer program should help to reinvigorate older scout's dedication and commitment to the overall scouting program.*

*By providing exciting and challenging scouting adventures, under the guidance and direction of skilled staff members, the Thunderbird Outpost program will provide positive experiences to help young men mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. As they experience adventures and challenges they will be able to build upon the skills and knowledge they learned in Scouting, and to further develop their leadership skills.*

### **IS THIS A VENTURE PROGRAM? CAN VENTURES PARTICIPATE?**

While this is not a Venture Program, Thunderbird Outpost reflects many of the goals and objectives Venture program. Ventures who are also registered in a Scouts BSA troop are more than welcome to be a part of the Thunderbird Outpost. If your regular troop is not attending, please contact Cindy Spaulding at the Scout Office for information on registering for the program independently of your troop.

### **WHAT ARE THE CAMP FEES?**

The weekly fee is the same fee as the Commissary Dining scout fee. There are no partial week rates for youth

Since program equipment and food is purchased before you arrive, there are no refunds for cancellations, and no refunds if you do not finish the week at the Outpost.

### **IS THERE AN AGE MINIMUM FOR THUNDERBIRD?**

Due the specific aims and methods of the Thunderbird program we must insist on a strict age qualification. **All scouts participating in Thunderbird Outpost must be at least 14 by July 1 of this year.**

### **WHEN IS CHECK IN?**

Check in is at the commissary, from noon to 3:00. Please make every effort to arrive before 3:00, however if you are unavoidably delayed, please call the camp and let us know that you are running late.

### **WHAT ABOUT RELIGIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL?**

We want to respect the religious beliefs and practices of your faith community. If your family prefers not to travel on certain days to fulfill your religious commitments, please let us know so that we can work with you.

If you are planning on arriving Monday morning, please notify the camp office at least two weeks beforehand so that we can have a staff member to greet you at the Commissary. Please plan to arrive between 7:00 and 8:00 Monday morning.

### **ARE VISITORS ALLOWED?**

To create the sense of community, other scouts who are not registered with the program are not allowed to visit the Outpost. Under BSA Policy, parents and leaders are always welcome to observe the Outpost activities, however we require them to sign in at the Camp Office before visiting the Outpost campers.

## **IMPORTANT FORMS NEEDED ON ARRIVAL**

### **MEDICAL FORM**

EVERY participant at Thunderbird Outpost must have a current (not more than a year old) medical form with the signature of a medical professional on the form. Individuals without a signed, current BSA medical form will not be allowed to stay at camp. You are not eligible to a refund of any camp fees if you have to go home because you do not have the proper forms.

### **FIREARMS AUTHORIZATION**

Any minor who wishes to participate at the Rifle, Shotgun, ort Black powder range must have a completed, signed authorization form. This is available in the Camp Tahquitz Leader's Guide.

## **THUNDERBIRD OUTPOST POLICIES**

In addition to the regular guidelines and policies for the entire camp, there are some that are specific for the Thunderbird Outpost program. Since it would be difficult to write a specific policy for every possible scenario, a good rule of thumb: think smart! If in doubt, maybe you shouldn't do it.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Everything activity and action at the Outpost must be based on the Scout Oath and Law. Any action that is contrary to these guidelines is unacceptable.

### **LEAVE NO TRACE:**

Practice "Leave No Trace" everywhere! We will be in a pristine, untouched area of Tahquitz and we want to protect it for future generations.

### **RADIOS/ELECTRONICS:**

Radios, CD players, and I-Pods, should not be used since they disturb the natural settings. Cell phones are strongly discouraged and should only be used for emergency communications (besides, nature is not always kind to technology).

### **BOY SCOUT FACILITIES/CAMPSITES AT TAHQUITZ**

For the week that you are at the Outpost you should not plan on leaving to visit your troop. If you choose to withdraw from Thunderbird Program before the end of the week we cannot assure you that there will be a position for you in the regular scout program.

### **RESTRICTED AREAS**

To ensure safety, individuals are not allowed to enter into program areas without trained Tahquitz staff members. Being program area without a properly certified staff member can be dangerous.

This applies to all program areas of camp, but there is a special reminder that individuals should NEVER enter or use any equipment in the following areas without proper staff supervision:

- \* Climbing Tower
- \* Cope Course
- \* Pool
- \* Lake
- \* Shooting Ranges (including flagged areas behind ranges)

### **FIREARMS/FIREWORKS:**

Fireworks and personal firearms or bows and arrows may not be used on camp property. Only camp-provided equipment can be used on any of the ranges.

### **RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES:**

According to section IV in the Guide to Safe Scouting, the use of alcohol and drugs is not permitted anywhere on camp property or during a camp event. Smoking is not allowed for minors under age 18, and is strongly discouraged for everyone else. Due to fire safety, smoking will not be allowed at the Outpost; those over the age of 18 who want to smoke must do so in the main camp parking lot.