



Summer Camp Benefits



Your Scout comes home from summer camp more capable and mature than the boy you waved goodbye to a short week ago.

Outside of the normal support structure of his family, away from the solitary distractions of modernity, a Scout must both take care of himself and cooperate with his peers. He does all this in a supportive environment that permits failure without compromising safety. He'll be challenged to expand his abilities, to accept and offer help, and to function cooperatively in everyday tasks.

Here's some of what your Scout does at Camp:

- Gets up in the morning on schedule.
- Shares a tent with another Scout and keeps it neat and clean.
- Shares chores to maintain the campsite.
- Shares three meals a day served family style sitting at a table with seven other people.

- Says grace at meals.
- Serves as a waiter for his table setting, serving and cleaning up after meals.
- Manages and budgets his money.
- Sets and follows his own schedule of activities according to his own interests.
- Is responsible to find his way to and from these activities and manage his time.



- Builds character and values by attending campfires, ceremonies and reflecting on his activities.
- He is complimented by adults and peers.
- His opinions are valued and heard by other Scouts and adults.
- He has the opportunity to take on real responsibility and lead others.
- Strengthens existing friendships.
- Learns new skills.

- Tries something he has never tried before.
- Learns about the environment.
- Challenges his critical thinking skills.
- Puts what he learns into action.
- Works with others to establish and achieve goals.
- Uses his time to contribute to the goals of others.
- Trades TV, video games and cell phones for actual social interaction.

He benefits from positive peer pressure following the good example of older Scouts and counselors.

Summer camp is challenging, adventurous, it's full of possibility. Camp is an opportunity to let him go a little – let him stand on his own two feet, it's an expression of confidence, of trust in his abilities and a test of your parenting.



"The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."



Study Reveals the Value of Scout Summer Camp

Picture this:

- *Boys splash in a lake on a hot day;*
- *An archery bow stretched tight by a small hand and aimed at a colorful bull's-eye 30 feet away;*
- *Hikers on a trail stop to admire a spider forming its web in a tree;*
- *Teams of two paddling wildly in a six-boat canoe race on a lake.*

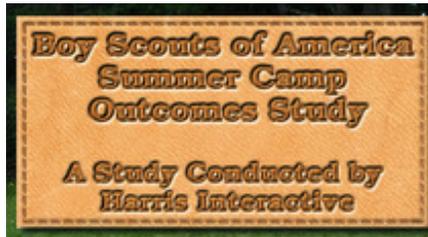
These are images of Boy Scouts at summer camp. Hidden within the camp adventure lie the true benefits of a boy's week at camp.

Harris Interactive of New York designed a study on the impact of summer camp in the lives of Boy Scouts. The research concluded that within the usual 6 days of summer camp, boys are in an environment that comprehensively provides them with critical elements of healthy youth development.

Camps are far from the hustle and bustle world of mass information, media, and technology. This type of "protected environment" provides a significant opportunity for growth among young men. Time seems to take on a different meaning when the day is not filled with TV, radio, and video games. This is the starting place for change. At camp, boys have time to consider and reflect on their place in life. *Strong personal values and character* are shaped as young boys are encouraged to take part in decisions that impact others and reflect on personal values.

Since its beginning in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has believed in personal growth through

service. At camp, boys gain a positive sense of self-worth and usefulness through serving others. They serve their peers at camp through helping clean up campsites, helping clean up after meals, and serving food.



A majority of boys at camp receive praise from others. Compliments are received from adult leaders (76%) and peers (72%). Another key finding is that 78% of boys indicate that they "accomplished something worthwhile" during camp. Camp is a place where *caring and nurturing relationships* are developed and deepened. According to the study, most Scouts made a new friend or became better friends with someone at camp. In this environment, friendships don't stop at the peer level. Adult leaders develop respect and trust among Scouts as they mentor skills and share knowledge. Also, boys mention that they talk with an adult leader for advice during camp.

Young boys seldom consider "school learning" to be exciting. *Learning* at Scout camp is a different story! Summer camp is an outdoor classroom in which boys test themselves. They test their skills, as well as their courage to try new things. Learning alone is not enough to engage young boys. It has to be challenging and fun. Ma-

majorities of boys say they feel challenged (69%) and test their mental/thinking abilities (71%) while at camp.

Scouts are *productive and creative* at camp. Young boys are motivated by the concept of mastery. It is the basis for what has driven the extreme popularity of video games. When coupled with learning useful skills, this need results in truly productive outcomes. Almost all Scouts "work with others on a badge or task" (88%) or "complete a merit badge" (83%) at camp.

Camps are structured to encourage boys to spend time working and playing socially in ways that may seldom happen outside of camp. Majorities of Scouts collaborate with other youth on accomplishments (73%), participate in group decision making and activities (64%), and help resolve interpersonal conflicts (53%).

Parents see the difference Scout camp makes. *A clear majority (81%) of parents of Scouts who attend camp say the camp experience resulted in a positive change in their sons.* They agree their sons have fun, are safe, and learn and test new skills. Moreover, a clear majority of parents (84%) say their son learned personal responsibility while at camp. *For these reasons, almost all parents (96%) would recommend camp to others.*

Make sure your Boy Scout does not miss the opportunities of Scout summer camp. The "hidden value" of Scout camp will benefit your son for a lifetime!