

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL WINTER CAMP AT CAMP MINSI

WHEN: 14, 15, 16, January 2012 – Sat, Sun, Mon [Martin Luther King Weekend]

CAMPOUT LOCATION: Camp Minsi - Athletic Field

This winter campout is an official Minsi Trails Council Winter Camp, being run by the Minsi Trails Council Camping Program in its 15th year. Check-in at Camp Minsi starts at 8:00 am on Saturday. The closing ceremony of Winter Camp will be at noon on Monday.

ACTIVITIES: Activities at Winter Camp generally include: cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding, rifle and shotgun shooting, ice rescue, winter camping survival skills, GPS, hiking over frozen Lake Stillwater, Arctic Patrol Competitions and snow tubing at Camelback!

Scout Participants: Ideally, Scouts should have experienced at least 3 campouts and be First-Class or higher in rank.

MERIT BADGES: A few merit badges may be offered, depending on interest. Candidates are Ice-Skating or Snow Sports. Partial completion of Rifle and Shotgun is possible.

PROPER CAMPING GEAR: Refer to your BSA handbook (page 224). Make sure you bring complete cold weather gear. BE PREPARED!!! It will be very cold. You should bring ice skates, hockey sticks, downhill skis or snowboard, cross-country skis and any other winter gear if available. All Scouts must bring a second pair of boots and gloves – keeping dry is important for winter camping.

HEATED WALK-IN TENTS: The tents provided are large, walk-in wall tents sleeping 8 Scouts. The tents are equipped with wood stoves that make the tents cozy in cold weather. Tents are on platforms and equipped with bunk beds. There will be seven tents for Scout patrols providing a maximum capacity of 56 Scouts at Winter Camp. There is one small leader tent for adult administrators on site. Adults leaders may sleep either in their own tents on site or at Weytrex cabin. One adult per patrol should sleep at the site.

THE COST: Winter Camp costs **\$90 per person** (all Scouts and adults attending). This provides all meals, firewood, equipment and winter campsite improvements. Each troop must reserve an entire tent for 8 Scouts (plus 2 adult leaders) for a **total unit fee of \$900.00**.

MEALS: Winter Camp provides 6 meals, including: Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday all three meals and Monday breakfast. Participants provide their own breakfast before arriving on Saturday morning. Meals are served dining hall-style and prepared by adult staff in the heated Winter Lodge at the site. Each patrol will help prepare and cleanup for one meal during the weekend.

E-MAIL RESERVATIONS: Scout Leaders – Here is what you do to register your troop on a first-come, first-served basis:

Send an e-mail indicating your interest to Jane Chase, Camping Support Staff, at jane.chase@scouting.org.

HOW TO REGISTER: The first seven troops to respond by e-mail will be registered. Registrations will be first-come, first-served basis with the following provisions:

- 1st Priority: Troops who have never participated at Winter Camp.
- 2nd Priority: Troops who have participated before but are bringing all different Scouts.
- 3rd Priority: Troops who have participated before and are bringing the same Scouts.

WINTER CAMP REGISTRATION STARTS NOW
SIGN UP NOW!!

OTHER ASPECTS OF REGISTRATION:

- Registration for Winter Camp 2012 is now open.
- Reservations are limited to one patrol per troop.
- Each patrol consists of **8 Scouts**. [Maximum capacity of tents is 8 Scouts; fewer participants still require \$900 per tent.
- Each patrol is expected to arrive on Saturday morning and stay until Monday noon.
- Troops must follow the Scout and Patrol requirements shown below.
- A smaller troop may team up with another troop to enter a complete patrol. Fill out a joint registration form.
- Individual Scout entries will be accepted if you are part of a patrol from another troop.

TROOP DEPOSIT: Once a troop is selected for Winter Camp program, a \$200 deposit is due immediately. Winter Camp will not be oversubscribed, if payment is not made within 5 working days, the troop's spot will be rolled down to the next troop on the list.

FULL PAYMENT: The full payment of **\$900.00 for the unit** for all Scouts and Adults attending is required to be paid at MTC Camping Office no later than 13 November 2011. Due to limited space at Winter Camp and expenses of presenting the weekend, refunds are not available. Troops are encouraged to create a waiting list for their unit in case a participant can not attend at the last minute.

QUESTIONS: Scouts & Parents can contact Todd Heyn, Director of Support Services at 610-465-8576 for questions about Winter Camp.

To: Scoutmasters & Scout Leaders of Each Troop in Minsi Trails Council

From: Dick Wilson

Subject: Winter Camp at Camp Minsi – 14, 15, 16, January 2012

Are you interested in taking a patrol-sized group of your older Scouts to Winter Camp? If so, we have the winter program for you. This will be the 15th year of Winter Camp! Each year the program is expanded with more additions and changes based on the feedback from previous participants. The vision for this three-day encampment is to provide Scouts with the opportunity to experience the thrill of winter camping and the fun of winter activities in a safe, comfortable environment without the work associated with on-the-ground winter camping.

Okay – so you've never been winter camping before. Sound scary? Who in their right mind would want to camp in the snow? Well, once you've done it, you'll know why. There is nothing as beautiful as waking up to new-fallen snow in the woods, where nature coats the trees and the lake - everything with a beautiful layer of white snow. Plus there are other benefits to winter camp – like no mosquitoes!

Also, this experience might be perfect for you. Instead of sleeping in a freezing tent, your tent is a huge walk-in tent, on platform with a wood stove to keep you warm and dry. Your troop is invited to participate on a first-come, first-served basis. We will have room for seven patrols, each consisting of 8 Scouts. Scouts and patrols participating in this program must meet the following requirements:

SCOUT REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Most Scouts in patrol must have completed at least one year of Scouting
- ◆ All Scouts should be at least a First Class Scout
- ◆ All Scouts should have attended at least 3 different overnight camping outings

PATROL REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Patrol Leader should be at least a Star Scout
- ◆ Patrol Leader should be at least 13 years old by 14 Jan 2012
- ◆ At least two adults must accompany each patrol for the duration of the weekend (switching adults is permitted)
- ◆ Adults will be asked to help lead a portion of the program or activity each day

KEY FEATURES FOR WINTER CAMP 2012

WINTER Lodge and KITCHEN: All meals are prepared and eaten indoors in the Winter Lodge, which is the former Econ-Lodge. This medium-sized building serves as the cooking and dining area for camp and is heated with a wood stove. It also is our indoor program area. **PATROL COOKING:** At camp, we rotate the cooking assignments among patrols, giving each patrol one meal to help prepare and cleanup for the group. This works great! Cooking gear, ingredients and menus all provided and supervised by adult staff.

PROGRAMS: Each year, the Winter Camp program is modified and enhanced. Similar to previous years, this year's program will consist of a few winter merit badges for ice skating and snow sports, winter patrol competitions, a winter survival skill program, an evening of tubing at Camelback, a GPS course, a 2-mile evening lake hike (or cross country skiing), an outdoor ice survival demonstration and fun winter activities such as ice fishing, ice skating, ice hockey and cross country skiing.

ARCTIC PATROL COMPETITION: Patrols will compete in challenging arctic patrol competition events designed to demonstrate their outdoor winter skills along with the leadership skills of the patrol leader and team listening skills by all of the patrol members.

REGISTRATION FORM
MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL WINTER CAMP
AT CAMP MINSI
14, 15, 16, January 2012

To submit this registration form
Copy this page to an e-mail and send to Jane Chase, Camping Support Staff
E-Mail Address: jane.chase@scouting.org

Yes - Our troop would like to send a patrol to Winter Camp at Camp Minsi

Submitted by:

Date Submitted:

Troop #:

District:

Council:

Please answer the following questions:

Will this be the first time for your troop to attend the Minsi Winter Camp Program?

If Scouts from your troop have attended this program in the past, will this be the first time for the Scouts who will be attending?

We are signing up a (indicate which one):

- Boy Scout Patrol of 8 Scouts
- Venture Crew of 8 Venture Scouts

We understand that there is limited space at Winter Camp of only 7 Patrols / Crews. If we are successful in obtaining entry to Winter Camp, we agree to pay the full unit fee of **\$900.00 No Later Than 13 November 2011**

We understand a minimum of two adults must attend from our troop. We understand that the Winter Camp staff presents the program and troop leadership is primary to general supervision of Scout participants. Scouts will be kept busy in a winter program for the entire weekend with some free time available.

Once accepted into the Winter Camp Program, we will provide the following information:

- Names of each Scout attending with rank and age
- Name of each adult attending
- Number of Scouts interested in snowboarding or skiing on Sunday – special arrangements must be made for this activity.

To submit this registration form
Copy this page to an e-mail and send to Jane Chase, Camping Support Staff
E-Mail Address: jane.chase@scouting.org

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL WINTER CAMP AT CAMP MINSI

GENERAL PROGRAM

FEE INCLUDES: Your Winter Camp fee includes all 6 meals, on-site activities, equipment, including cross-country skis, skates, shooting fees for rifles and shotguns, firewood for stoves, cooking equipment and a winter camp patch.

FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE: The fee for Winter Camp does not include fees for snowboarding, snow skiing or tubing. Tubing is available at a discounted rate of approximately \$20 per person at Camelback.

ACTIVITIES

ICE FISHING: Scouts can visit and participate with experienced ice fisherman in fishing through the ice.

ICE SKATING & ICE HOCKEY: A section of the lake will be prepared as an ice skating and hockey rink. This is first class skating, but depends on Mother Nature. We plow the snow off of the lake into a large ellipse providing plenty of room for ice-skating and ice hockey. Skates are available for Scouts who do not have their own.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skis are available for Scouts who want to ski across the lake or around camp. An experienced cross-country skier will provide an instruction period. Scouts should bring their own equipment if available.

ICE RESCUE DEMONSTRATION: A local emergency rescue crew demonstrates recovery of a victim through the ice. A large hole is sawed in the ice and one of the crew actually enters the water. Scouts have an opportunity to "rescue" the victim using rope and pole techniques.

WINTER CAMP SURVIVAL SKILLS: Scouts learn the importance of survival in cold weather, what to do if lost in the winter, cold weather first aid, and, of course, learning how to build a snow shelter.

USE OF GPS SYSTEM: Learn how to use a GPS instrument as you negotiate a compass course. A class is given in how GPS system works with the majority of the time devoted to using instruments.

HIKES OVER LAKE STILLWATER: Groups hike across the huge lake to see what is on the other side. The buddy system is observed.

SNOW TUBING AT CAMELBACK: Sunday evening is set aside for Scouts who want to snow tube at Camelback.

SNOW BOARDING / SNOW SKIING AT CAMELBACK: Scouts who want to spend more time on the slopes snowboarding or skiing may do so on Saturday or Sunday afternoon. This requires special arrangements for transportation to Camelback. The cost of rentals and lift tickets is extra and paid at the ski area. Adult volunteers from participating troops will be needed for supervision, transportation and provide merit badge instruction.

SHOOTING: Supervised rifle and shotgun shooting will be available both afternoons at the camp ranges.

MERIT BADGES

The merit badges available at winter camp are: Ice-Skating and Snow Sports. Partial completions will be available in rifle and shotgun

ARCTIC PATROL COMPETITIONS

Arctic patrol competitions are a significant part of the Winter Camp experience. Each patrol will compete in fun and exciting competitive winter events. Events last about one hour and require the use of teamwork by the whole patrol, leadership by the patrol leader, demonstration of Scout skills, coordination and some physical challenge. A prize will be awarded to the winning patrol for each competition.

PATROLS & SCOUTS

SCOUT PATROLS: One of the goals for Winter Camp is to strengthen use of the patrol method. Patrols are made up of boys from the same troop. This helps build teamwork and is usually more fun for the boys. Each patrol should have a patrol name, yell and bring their patrol flag. Patrols may also make their flag at Winter Camp. The patrol name selected should be in the theme of winter camping.

SENIOR PATROL LEADER: Older Scouts will serve as the SPL and ASPL's for the weekend. Any Scout who is interested to be considered for this position can request it in advance.

CAMP BUGLER: Any one of the Scouts may be the camp bugler. A bugle will be provided.

CAMP CHAPLAIN: Any one of the Scouts may be the Scout Chaplain.

MEDICATIONS / HEALTH: Scouts that require medications should report this at the time of check-in to the Camp Scoutmaster. Scouts that have special health issues should make this clear at take of check-in. Medical attention including meds will be supervised by troop adults.

PATROL ROSTER: The patrol leader will be required to make up a duty roster when it is his patrol's turn to cook and cleanup for a meal.

WINTER CAMP FACILITIES

WINTER TENTS: There are 7 large winter tents and 1 small leader tent permanently set up at Camp Minsi in the Athletic Field for Winter Camp. Eight of the large tents are for the 7 Scout Patrols / Crews. The small tent is set aside for the adult leaders running Winter Camp. The large tents are 8' by 16' and 8' high. Each tent is erected on a permanent platform. Tents are fully enclosed and are made from a high-grade canvas material including a separate fly over the top to protect against weathering. Tents have a zippered front flap. Each tent is equipped with bunk beds for 8 Scouts and room for their gear. More than 8 Scouts are not permitted in one tent.

TENT STOVES: Each winter tent is equipped with a wood stove. This stove is mounted on metal plating to protect the platform and has a metal flue that exits the rear of the tent. Scouts are instructed on the safe operating usage of the stoves upon arrival at camp. Each stove has a water bucket nearby. Fire extinguishers are also mounted outside near all tents.

FIREWOOD: A large supply of dry, split wood is provided for use in tent wood stoves.

WINTER CAMP SAFETY

SAFETY ORIENTATION: The first formation of camp includes a winter camping safety orientation to ensure all Scouts and adults know the rules of winter camping, including emergency signals. Scouts will be given instruction and reminders in the buddy system, staying dry and warm, avoiding dehydration and winter camping emergency procedures.

BUDDY SYSTEM: The buddy system for Scouts enforced strictly at Winter Camp for Scouts leaving the site.

FIRST AID: The leaders are equipped with a large first aid kit that will allow immediate first aid treatment.

MEDICAL FORMS: Because this is a short term camp and leaders will be present for each patrol, medical forms are not required.

LOCAL TOUR PERMIT FORMS: Troops are not required to submit a local tour permit since this is a Council event.

PARENTAL PERMISSION FORMS: Each troop (patrol) is required to secure parental permission for each Scout attending this event, but no form is required to be submitted to Minsi Trails Council for Winter Camp.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS: Each troop (patrol) should bring emergency contact information for each Scout in case parents need to be notified.

PATROL EQUIPMENT

No patrol equipment is required for Winter Camp. All cooking and cleanup gear is provided. Scouts only need to bring their personal gear. Scouts are not required to bring personal eating utensils and mess kit – paper plates and plastic utensils are provided for meals.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning at camp includes two types of religious services. Catholic Scouts, may attend mass at a church nearby. At camp, a non-denominational service will be provided for all Scouts. Each patrol will present a 5-minute portion of the service; either a song, a story, a skit or anything that represents the 12th point of the Scout Law – a Scout is Reverent.

HOW TO GET TO CAMP MINSI

FROM PA INTERSTATE 80:

Follow Interstate 80 east or west. Exit onto Route 380 North. Take the first Exit for Route 940. At the stop sign at the top of the off-ramp, turn LEFT. Follow Route 940 West 1.1 miles. Camp entrance is on the right. Look for the Sign for Camp Minsi.

FROM PA INTERSTATE 476, NE EXTENSION:

Follow the NE Extension of the PA Turnpike to Exit #35 (Pocono) and exit. Enter I-80 east and follow as above.



PERSONAL GEAR

Shown below is a recommended list of personal gear required by each Scout. No Scout uniforms are required for Winter Camp. The most important aspect of winter camping is staying dry. Scouts must bring a second pair of boots and gloves.

REQUIRED PERSONAL GEAR

Qty	Item Description	Qty	Item Description
1	Heavy Winter Coat	2	Blankets
3	Sweatshirt	1	Sleeping Bag
3	Long Pants	1	Backpack or Equipment Bag
1	Sweat Suit (top & bottom)	1	Personal First Aid Kit
1	Water-Proof Boots	1	Flashlight & Extra Batteries
1	Extra Hiking Boots		Toiletries
1	Sneakers (for inside tent)	1	Pocketknife
1	Warm Sleep Wear	1	Water Bottle / Canteen
	Boxers / Underwear		Compass
6	Heavy Socks		Knife, Fork, Spoon
4	T-Shirts		Lip Balm
1	Poncho / Rain Gear		Belt
2	Hat / Cap		
3	Gloves		

OPTIONAL PERSONAL GEAR

Item Description	Item Description
Scout Handbook	Camera & Film
Watch	Pens / Pencils
Notebooks	Snow Goggles
Pillow	Bugle
Merit Badge Books	Books
Merit Badge Pre-Work Done	Sun Glasses
Sun Block	Prescription Glasses
Laundry Bag	Towel
Sleeping Pad	Wallet with Money
Ice Skates	Folding Camp Chair
Fishing Pole & Tackle	Hockey Stick / Puck
Cross Country Skis	Helmet
Downhill Skis	Snowboard

DO NOT BRING TO CAMP!!!

Excess Food or Snacks	Fire Works	Radios
Cigarettes	Pets	i-Pods
Tobacco Material	Ammunition	Television
Alcohol	Squirt Guns	Electronic Games
Drugs		Computers
Firearms – unless in possession of adults	Inappropriate Un-Scout Like Literature	Valuables You Do Not Want to Lose