

Date: July 1, 2002

To: All Adults Attending Camp

From: Bob Wilde, Scoutmaster

Re: **Helping at Camp**

Help with your hands in your pockets. One of the most difficult aspects of being an adult leader at scout camp is letting the scouts do it, all of it. As an adult at camp your duty is to merely monitor as the scouts do all of the tasks involved in running the camp. This includes all of the work of setting up the camp, all of the work in running it day to day, and all of the work in taking it down. There are very few of the tasks associated with the camp that you could not do more quickly and better than the scouts can. Resist the temptation to jump in and do what you see needs to be done.

Let the scouts lead. One of the most important tasks scouts are called on to do at camp is to lead, and to follow. It is the patrol leaders' council's job to make assignments to patrols for cooking and clean up. It is the patrol leader's job to make the individual assignments to members of the patrol on what to cook, and what to clean and when. If you see something which needs to be done to cook the meal or to clean the camp in addition to resisting the temptation to do it yourself resist the temptation to grab the nearest scout and have him do it. Check the work assignment chart to find out which patrol has been assigned the job and mention it to the patrol leader of that patrol.

Scouting is not a timed event. Most of the things the scouts do they do more slowly than you would do. Add to that the time scouts required for chatting with their fellow scouts, getting off task, and correcting their mistakes and it can take what feels like an interminably long time to get anything done. However, with very few exceptions time is not really an issue. The fact that it takes two or three times longer for them to complete their assignments than it would for you to do them is of no consequence. We are all going to be here all week anyway.

Make it fun and worthwhile. Look for opportunities to help the scouts learn things they would not learn otherwise. Help them learn to sharpen an axe, how to cast a lure, and how to do other things in the outdoors they would not learn but for you. Make it fun and exciting. Make it their camp.

Monitoring the camp. The Blue Jay campsite is immediately next to the flag pole and main gathering area for Camp Steiner. This means the entire camp will gather near our camp site many times during the week. I trust our scouts, but not all the rest of the scouts. We will always have at least four adults and usually more. We need to have an adult in camp almost all the time. Besides just observing the adults in camp need to keep the scouts involved. They didn't pay their money just to lay on their bunk or to goof off around the fire pit. If any scout is in camp during activities hours (9:00-12:00 or 1:00-4:00) for more than five minutes kindly help him find something to do. Ask him what he has done and what he is going to do. Has he been to the craft shelter, the trading post, the rifle range, canoeing, rowing? What help does he need on the merit badges he is working on? Keep them doing the kinds of things they came to camp to do.

