SUMMER CAMP TRADING POST INFORMATION ON MERIT BADGE SUPPLIES

The camp trading post carries supplies to assist a Scout in completing merit badge requirement. This year, we are attempting to better serve your troop by (1) publicizing the cost of merit badge materials before camp, and (2) giving you the opportunity to purchase supplies before you go to camp.

COST OF MERIT BADGE SUPPLIES

Merit badge requirements are set by the National Boy Scout organization. Our goal is to require a Scout to complete no more and no less than what is indicated in the requirements.

Our camping department purchases supplies that we feel will help a Scout complete the requirements and we sell them in the camp trading post. Our commitment to you is that these supplies will be priced equal to or below the cost for which they could be purchased at a Salt Lake valley retail stores (excluding store sale prices). We also have standardized the prices across all Great Salt Lake Council camps.

WHY DOESN'T THE COST OF CAMP INCLUDE ALL OF THE MERIT BADGE SUPPLIES?

Most camp merit badges can be completed without any additional charge. As the camping committee considered the price that we would need to charge for camp in the event we included all merit badge supplies, the members felt that the cost would exceed the benefit for most boys — or in other words, most boys would be paying for services that they did not use.

Therefore, the committee has worked to keep the basic camp fee as low as possible and then, sell supplies purchased at the camp store for a reasonable price. We hope that this will make camp affordable for the maximum number of youth.

MERIT BADGE SUPPLIES ARE TOO EXPENSIVE

We work hard to find vendors who will sell us acceptable products at the best price. In many cases, we try to find several product options for each requirement so that a young man and his family can choose the best option for their budget.

Ultimately, the products do cost money. We hope that publicizing the cost of supplies in advance will help a young man, his family and the troop better plan for these costs or, in some cases, to make an alternate merit choice in advance of camp.

WHY SHOULD WE PRE-ORDER MERIT BADGE SUPPLIES?

First, please understand that you do not have to pre-order supplies. Our camp trading posts will have a supply of merit badge-related products. However, pre-ordering your supplies will give you two

advantages: (1) for merit badge requirements withmultiple options, you can better ensure that the product you want is available and (2) in most cases, we call pre-sell the product to you at a discounted price.

WHY CAN YOU PRE-SELL THESE ITEMS AT A DISCOUNT?

Unlike most retail stores, the camp trading post is only open for a few months each year. That means that we need to be careful when we order products – if we order too little, the boys are left without supplies, but if we order too much, we operate less efficiently, at a higher overhead and with greater waste.

By pre-selling merit badge supplies, the council can operate more efficiently by ensuring that we have the product that you want and that are order quantities are more exact. In these cases, we want to pass the savings onto the Scouts.

WHO CAN PRE-ORDER SUPPLIES?

Unit leaders or parents can pre-order supplies either online, by mail or in person at a council service center. Online orders require a credit card. Other orders may be made with check, cash or credit card.

HOW WILL THE SCOUTS GET THEIR SUPPLIES?

When the troop arrives at camp, the supplies will already have been packaged to be picked-up during the check-in process. When the order has been made by the unit leader, there will be a troop crate containing the ordered supplies. The unit leader will be responsible to distribute the supplies. When the order has been made by a parent or guardian, the supplies will already be separated in the troop crate and labeled with the Scout's name.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE PRE-ORDER SUPPLIES AND THEN, CHANGE OUR MIND?

Pre-ordered supplies can be exchanged for store credit at the camp trading post. Cash refunds will not be given.

WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

You can email Matt Monroe, Director of Camping Services, at matt.monroe@scouting.org.

HOW CAN I PLACE AN ORDER?

You can order online at www.saltlakescouts.org. Select the CAMPS link from the menu. Then, look for the trading post pre-order link. You can also print the paper order form and mail it or bring it to our office with your payment.