

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



NEW YORK & PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Scoutmaster,

2008

The Allegheny Highlands Council is celebrating the anniversaries of Camp Merz and Elk Lick Scout Reserve in 2008. Merz will be 75 years young and Elk Lick 65, which is 140 years of combined years of service to scouts! We are blessed with two very different camps, and if you've been around for a while, you know they are both really starting to shine.

We offer eight sessions of camping for boy scouts. The season opens with five weeks at Camp Merz on Chautauqua Lake in Mayville, New York, and ends with three weeks at Elk Lick Scout Reserve in the Allegheny Mountains near Smethport, Pennsylvania. This provides many possibilities of weeks to choose from, and also allows ample time for your scouts to attend a second week with our twice as nice program at a great price.

Our facilities continue to improve. Camp Merz has built a new instruction area behind our shooting sports complex, allowing us to handle more scouts at the range. Our waterfront at Camp Merz is improving with a totally refurbished aquatic center, and we added a floating trampoline, catapult and slide, affectionately named the "Blob" by the scouts. It's a blast! We added three new motorboats last year, four new rowboats, and 8 new mountain bikes. We also will have completed our new first year camper area, complete with a pavilion and four new adirondack shelters. Every building in camp, as well as latrines, got a fresh coat of paint, and that has been done at Elk Lick as well. We are most excited about our new climbing tower at Elk Lick that will be erected & ready for this summer! Our list of more improvements is ambitious, and we are working hard to make your stay with us a positive experience. Expect more good things as we move forward! Scout's honor!

Most important though, is program. Isn't that what it's all about? You bet. We have listened to your ideas and continue tweaking every year to make it better all the way around. And our older scout programs give your boys the best of all worlds.

Enclosed in this packet is the necessary information and forms to sign up your Troop for 2008 at either camp. Don't delay to reserve your favorite site for your best week as soon as possible. They do go quick. Also, take advantage of early specials and discounts. Enclosed is a staff application if any of your leaders or older scouts are interested in being part of our team.

We are preparing for you as you read this booklet. We look forward to the opportunity to serve you and your scouts with an outstanding camp season in 2008. Put our council webpage, www.alleghenyhighlands.org, in your favorites. It is updated regularly, and this booklet, along with other support materials will be at your fingertips in the convenience of your home. We now have camp pictures on the site, which you and your scouts can look at to see all the great things at our camps. Have questions? Special requests? Call us, fax us, email us....whatever works for you. We are at your service, and want you to be a happy camper!

See you 'round the campfire,

Warren Semmel

Council Camping Chairman

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