

2003 North Wind Winter Adventures

Introduction

Viking Council now offers an exciting new winter camping program for Scouts and Venturers of all ages called *North Wind*. This new program has been made possible by a generous donation that has enabled the construction of a new winter lodge at Stearns Scout Camp and the purchase of the winter camping equipment needed for the program.

Training

Camping in winter requires thorough preparation and training. The Scout motto of *Be Prepared* applies even more so to winter camping. Scouts who come to *North Wind* will receive training in the following key areas for success and enjoyment of the winter camping experience:

- Clothing (layering, wicking, warmth, and wind protection).
- Techniques for managing the cold.
- Staying warm through food, hydration, insulation and activity.
- Winter first aid.
- Equipment – what we have and why and how to “winterize” your own gear.
- Food – simple menus, easy to clean and high in calories.
- Personal hygiene and keeping dry. Learn to thrive in any weather condition!

Program

During the winter of 2003, *North Wind* will be open to Scouts in 7th grade and older and Venturers. One special weekend will pilot test a program for younger Scouts*. Here is the outline for the program:

Friday Night:

Scouts, and their accompanying leaders in crews of 8-12 will receive training on winter camping essentials and each Scout will be issued a full set of equipment and clothing for the weekend. Crews pack their food, choose their campsite, plan their route and learn about current and past adventurers. Crews will sleep indoors in the Gagner Lodge.

Saturday:

After a hearty breakfast, the crews will trek to a remote camping area and build a variety of shelters for their overnight camping. They will spend the day in outdoor winter activities and games and prepare their meals. Crews will sleep in their shelters on Saturday night and return to Gagner Lodge on Sunday morning.

Sunday:

Sunday will include a big lunch, recognitions and the great feeling of learning and accomplishment.

*Younger Scouts

On one pilot-test weekend in 2003, younger Scouts will arrive on Saturday morning to receive training and personal equipment and will participate in outdoor programs and cooking. They will sleep indoors on Saturday night in Gagner Lodge and will break camp on Sunday morning.

Activities:

Winter camping means staying active and *North Wind* will feature a great deal of activities for Scouts of all ages. These activities will include a variety of program activities such as:

- Shelter building including quinzees, thermal shelters, polar domes, parachutes, and igloos.
- Cross country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Winter cooking.
- Making snow sculptures and throwing snow snakes.
- Astronomy in the winter sky.

There will also be a variety of non-snow activities such as:

- Initiative games.
- Learning about winter nature.
- Winter survival and building winter survival kits.
- First aid and ice crossing safety.
- Building non-snow shelters.
- And much more...

Equipment

North Wind will provide a fully equipped and provisioned winter camping program for each Scout who participates. Equipment to be provided will include:

- **Clothing** including mittens and liners, boots and liners, socks, hats, pants, suspenders, and gaiters.
- **Sleeping and Shelter** provisioning including Sleeping bags, ground pads, lanterns, and shelter materials such as parachutes, tarps, tents, shovels and polar domes.
- **Food and cooking** equipment including stoves, water bottles, cooking equipment, and a full provisioning of food for three meals.
- **Activity equipment** including crew sleds, skis, poles and snow shoes.