

Summer 2020 Camp Durant



May 14, 2020

Dear Scout Leaders,

These are certainly unprecedented times for our council and Scouting in general. The Coronavirus pandemic has had a dramatic effect on how we all live and work and may continue to do so for some time to come. The health and safety of our Scouts, volunteers and staff is our top priority. Out of an abundance of caution and in-depth discussions regarding our Summer Camp Program, we have decided to cancel our Scouts BSA Summer Camp and Cub/Webelos Summer Camp programs for this summer.

This decision was not reached easily and involved a lot of conversation amongst our Executive Board Members, Risk Management at National BSA, our Council Attorney, local physician and our Vice President of Program. Our primary goal has been and will always be to operate camp in the safest manner possible.

We understand that Scouts BSA troops have been unable to meet for several months and that leaders and Scouts are ready to have more than a virtual camp out. Many troops graduated Webelos, who came to only one meeting, before face to face meetings were suspended. In support of the Scout units, families and leaders of the Occoneechee Council, Camp Durant has developed, what we believe to be a Win/Win situation for everyone involved since Summer Camp is not an option.

Beginning July 3rd and concluding August 3rd, we will be running a series of weekend troop events that will be supported by the Camp Durant program areas. These weekend unit camp outs will offer one day instruction for certain merit badges, primarily those that cannot be earned online, as well as unstructured activities that are available to everyone. The resources that we have at camp will make these weekends less stressful for leaders and more fun for scouts than just a normal troop weekend camp out. These weekend events will operate within the stated guidelines of the State of NC and the Moore County Health Department. We anticipate the following will be critical components of the safeguards for this camping opportunity:

- social distancing
- group sizes restricted to 50 and
- strict sanitation strategies

Regarding sanitation, and other safety measures, we are currently planning to follow the same guidelines of the Summit Bechtel Reserve to operate our base program. If the Moore County Health Department adopts guidelines issued by the state that are more stringent, then they will become our primary guidelines.

Troops can use this opportunity to bring their Scouts together, fellowship and perhaps earn a merit badge. Troops are encouraged to use this trip to offer new scout skills in the campsite, as well as merit badges such as Cooking and Camping. Troops will be responsible for providing and cooking their own meals in the

campsites. This will remove the challenge of social distancing in the dining hall. Each program area that is opened will be limited to 50 people. The scouts that sign up for a merit badge session will stay in that session all day. We will not be rotating to different sessions throughout the day.

Perhaps Camp Durant's greatest strength lies in the staff that brings camp to life each summer. We will be hiring Senior Staff and Area Directors and the Camp Medic for each weekend. We believe that by doing this we can insure the succession of Senior Staff Leadership for the Summer of 2021. Like the Troops in our Councils, the staff needs this opportunity to come together before the normalcy of college and school come back into the picture in early August.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp Durant this summer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry H. Goodson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Henry Goodson – Camping Director
Oconeechee Council, BSA