

Troop 380 – Scout Approval Form

Elk Trail Hike - Letter of Interest for Scouts and Adults

It is understood that by returning this SIGNED Scout Letter of Interest Form, I am aware of and authorize my son's commitment to participate in a two night primitive camping and hiking trip beginning **Friday, May 15th** and ending **Sunday, May 17th** at Elk State Forest, Elk County. This letter of Interest is to be returned to Mr. Jim Steff by no later than **Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

Where: Elk State Forest derives its name from the great numbers of elk that once thrived in the area. Located mainly in Elk and Cameron counties, it comprises 200,000 acres of northern hardwood forest.

When: Departure is on **Friday, May 15, 2015**. Please plan to meet at the Pennsylvania Military Museum at 6:00 PM. Scouts should be wearing their Class "A" shirts to and from the hike and have eaten dinner.

Requirements: All Troop 380 are welcome to participate in this event but they must be a registered member of the Troop, have a current health form, and be able to hike 15 miles over elevated terrain with a 25 pound backpack. The backpacks will be heavier than usual because the Scouts will be carrying their own food and water. Adult divers must be registered with Crystal Ramsay, if you are not registered with her then do not drive to the event.

For the Scouts and adults going to Algonquin this will be considered a training hike.

Camping Guidelines:

- Do not eat food inside your tent
- Stay together. When it looks like we are ready to begin hiking...Jacob will ask "is everyone ready" when everyone is ready....a Patrol Leader will say "hike on". **Do not take off on your own**
- Practice leave no trace
- If we see an elk, stay at a respectful distance
- Do not touch other people's gear without permission

Friday: We will travel up Route 99 to West I-80, Exit 111, take PA 153 to Penfield; turn right on to PA 255 after 6.4 miles stay straight into PA 155, after 9.4 miles turn left in Benezette and to the Benezette Hotel there is a road in front of the Hotel that runs to the parking lot for the end of the trail. We will be leaving one vehicle in this parking lot. The Troop will drive about six miles to Hick Run Camp Ground, we have reserved camp sites. The turn will be on the left hand side of the road. The Troop will set up our tents in the dark probably between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM. Lights out at 10:00 PM.

Saturday: Wake up at 6:45 AM, make and eat breakfast, tear down tents, complete police line by 8:00 AM. Put your orange knit hat on. The hike begins with a two-mile hike on a road to the trailhead. It is uphill for about an hour. We will stop for a cold lunch about 11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. We anticipate stopping the hike around 4:00 PM. We are looking for flat terrain somewhere between Dents Run and Little Dents Run. Dinner will be about 5:30 PM. We will ask whether we can build a fire. Lights out at 10:00 PM.

Sunday: Wake up at 6:45 AM, make and eat breakfast, tear down tents, complete police line by 8:00 AM. Put your orange knit hat on. We will be hiking about 5 to 6 miles to the end of the trail, the parking lot near the Benezette Hotel. At the end of the trail, we will pick up the car that we left behind on **Friday**. The driver of that vehicle will then take the other drivers to the Hicks Run Camp Ground to pick up all the vehicles. All the cars will then return to the parking lot at the end of the trail. After we have gathered all the cars, the Troop decides whether to stop at Elk

County Visitors Center, 950 Winslow Hill Road, Benezette. It's a five minute trip There is no entrance charge, but if you want to see the 22 minute movie in the theater that costs \$3.00. The Visitors' Center is worth the trip.

On the way home we are stopping at for lunch at Denny's Beer Barrel Pub.

Stuff to have in your backpack:

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|---|--|
| 1. Food | 7. Sleeping bag, 35 degree |
| ✓ Saturday breakfast | 8. Sleeping pad |
| ✓ Saturday lunch | 9. Warm sleeping cloths |
| ✓ Saturday dinner | 10. Medicines and small first aid kit |
| ✓ Sunday, light breakfast | 11. Rain gear |
| 2. Headlamp | 12. Fork/spoon/ knife |
| 3. Orange knit hat | 13. Personal items soap, tooth paste, etc. |
| 4. 2 water bottles | 14. Camera (optional) |
| 5. Tent (reduce weight by sharing a tent) | 15. Snacks to eat on hike |
| 6. 2 extra pairs of socks | |

Adults will bring first aid kits, water pump, and jet boil stoves for heating water.

Cost: The cost is \$20.00. Ten dollars for travel reimbursement paid directly to your driver and ten dollars for lunch on **Sunday**.

Drop Off: Pick-up will be at the Pennsylvania Military Museum between 12:30 to 2:00 PM. In route, Scouts will call home to arrange a pick-up as we approach Boalsburg.

Leaders: Alan Klein and Jim Steff

Letter of Interest, Elk Trail Elk - May 15th to May 17th

(Everyone who attending should return this portion to Mr. Steff by May 12th)

Scout Name: _____ Print

My Health Form is current ___Yes ___No (if No, then obtain one by May 15th)

Is a Parent or other family member attending?: please name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____