

Looking to the Past,

The strongest component of a robust, effective Scouting experience is an emphasis on the outdoor program. Since its inception in 1927, Camp Horseshoe has remained a vital part of Chester County Council's overall mission to promote Scout camping. Although the camp facility continues to grow and change, the unique program remains the same unforgettable experience it was to the first Scouts who camped here over 75 years ago.

A Scout's Experience at Camp Horseshoe is essential to the values of Scouting as communicated by its traditions. Understanding that makes Camp Horseshoe such an important resource, vital to sustaining its relevance to the future of Scouting in Chester County Council.



The Week at Camp

Camp Horseshoe is a traditional Scout camp, focusing on developing leadership in boys, training Scouts in

Planning for the Future

Scouting skills, and building teamwork in Troops and Patrols. Horseshoe is one of the only remaining 7 day camps, providing the maximum program experience to Scouts in each of the major program areas: Aquatics, Campcraft, Nature, Handicraft, Health & Fitness, Shooting Sports, Trailblazers, and COPE.

The day at camp is chock-full of activity and excitement from the Polar Bear swim at 6:45 a.m. until the camp-wide activity at 8:30 p.m. each evening. Three square meals are served throughout the day in the Allen Memorial Dining Hall where Scouts compete in cheers and sing songs led by the Staff.

Something for Everyone

The program at Camp Horseshoe is structured to provide the maximum number of opportunities to young and old Scouts alike. First year Scouts participate in Trailblazers, an intensive program which instructs new Scouts in basic skills for the first few ranks while introducing them to all of the areas in camp.

Second year Scouts and above get the most out of the merit badge program, which offers over 40 different badges in

four periods each day. Over one fourth of these badges are required for Eagle Scout. COPE and Kayaking pad the program for older Scouts, who, having finished much of their advancement, are looking for challenging opportunities beyond the merit badge program. COPE is a teamwork building experience that culminates in a high-ropes course at the end of the week. The Kayaking program focuses on moving water techniques in preparation for a morning-long kayaking trek on Friday.

Looking Forward

It is easy to lose perspective when immersed in the necessary concerns of management. Words and numbers can take us only so far in expressing the profound effect of the camp program. Rather, this effect is best seen in our Scouts as the progress through life. You will first see a growing sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and confidence. Then you will witness their transformation from youth to manhood. Finally, you will see them drawing upon their Scouting experience as they enter college.

The Camp Horseshoe Staff

The spirit of the Horseshoe only flourishes when there is a staff dedicated to maintaining that spirit. The enthusiasm perpetuated by the staff drives the energy level of the Scouts and ensures an exciting time for the Scout. The staff constitutes the backbone of the program and accounts for the attitude for which Camp Horseshoe is known.

Horseshoe attracts creative, energetic, dedicated people to serve as staff members by carefully preserving the continuity of the program. Each season, over 65% of the staff returns for another summer on staff. This provides Horseshoe with a large pool of experience from which to draw its leadership. Together with new staff members carefully selected from the leadership corps of Troops that attend camp, the experienced staff is prepared to carry on the spirit and traditions of Horseshoe.

Staff Stats

- All of the Horseshoe Area Directors are over the age of 18, and the average age of the staff is 19 years old.
- 44% of the staff are Eagle Scouts and every director holds the rank of Eagle
- The average number of years on staff of a Horseshoe Staff member is 3 years, and more than 25% have served 5 or more years.
- 3/4 of the staff are members of the Order of the Arrow, of which 18% are Vigil Honor.
- About 1/5 of the staff received the Silver Buckle as campers, the highest honor awarded to a Scout attending Camp Horseshoe for a week.



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Camp Horseshoe

Horseshoe Scout Reservation
Chester County Council, BSA



HORSESHOE

2006 Program Overview

It all began with the dreams of old...