

Spring 2019 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter
March 12, 2019

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Kiwanis Work Weekend at Canyon Camp set for May 4-5, 2019

Scouters, former Staff, and all friends are invited to Canyon Camp on Saturday and Sunday May 4-5 for the 44th annual Kiwanis work weekend!

You are encouraged to join us in helping prepare camp for the summer season. We will be doing the usual spring maintenance including painting, plumbing and wood construction projects. No matter the skills you possess, our primary work criteria is enthusiasm for service to the Scouting program! Bring your favorite gloves, painting equipment, and tools and we will definitely find a project for you!

Volunteers are needed to work together with area Kiwanis's as we open camp and prepare for another summer of outdoor programming and adventure for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will provide meals throughout the weekend. Whether you can stay only a few hours or all weekend, you are welcome to join us May 6th and 7th for the fellowship, fresh spring air and to see the Camp come to life once again.

Please call or email Lee Binkley with your questions and to let us know how many volunteers we can expect!

phone: 608.325.5540 or email: leebinkley@hotmail.com

US Grant Pilgrimage - April 26-28 in Galena

The US Grant Pilgrimage was a rite of passage for many of us as scouts and an opportunity to provide "cheerful service" for those serving on the Canyon Camp Staff. Visiting Galena first as scouts and later as Staff members, we assisted with everything from helping at the camp grounds to running the Trading Post to providing an Indian Dance pageant at the high school to running canoe races and other competitions. The US Grant Pilgrimage is still occurring – April 26-28 this spring in Galena Illinois. The theme for this year is Spirits of 1869 – in recognition of local Women's Rights leaders who ultimately achieved the right to vote for women. We hope you will take the opportunity to get reconnected with these experiences at the US Grant Pilgrimage in Galena this year.

5 weeks of Summer Camp for Scouts!

Believe it or not, the Staff has all been hired for 5 weeks of summer camping at Canyon Camp. Co-Directors Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds will welcome a full complement of Staff Directors to some early training sessions on June 9 followed by a traditional Staff week starting June 11. Scouts start arriving June 16 for 5 weeks of full bore activity and good scouting fun. Camp is at capacity this summer and it is looking like it will be the most attended summer season in recent history. The last week begins July 14 – so you will want to plan your summer trip now to include a Wednesday Visitor’s Night or just drop in when you can. This year scouts will have the opportunity to try out a new high ropes course that has been installed in Camp. This will be a fantastic compliment to the zip line that was installed in 2017. Be sure to check-in at the Office when you visit.

John Weber authors books on outdoor cooking and more!

We are always eager to share information about books written by former Staff and Friends but who knew that John Weber had authored 5 books - 3 on outdoor cooking and 2 novels! Why not pick up one of John’s books, build a fire and cook something delicious like you used to do – like a soup, a stew, a casserole, biscuits, muffins or that special dessert you used to prepare over an open fire? You know you will like it!

- The Wilderness Chef: The Art and Craft of Baking in the Outback Oven
- The Wilderness Chef: The Art and Craft of One-Pan Lightweight Trail Cooking
- The Wilderness Chef: The Art and Craft of Lightweight Cooking
- The Red Kayak
- Orphan!

Rod Simenson, 1930-2019

Rod Simenson, a valued friend of Canyon Camp, passed away on March 6, 2019. Scoutmaster of Troop 7 out of Freeport for 27 years, Rod brought lots of enthusiastic scouts to Camp for many, many summers. Troop 7 scouts were well known for their expertise in canoeing and kayaking – skills that Rod instilled in them during trips on local waterways and the Wisconsin River. More than 20 Troop 7 Scouts earned the Eagle rank under Rod’s leadership - including his son’s Scott and Marc – both of whom worked on the Canyon Camp Staff. Also working on the Staff was his grandson Eric. He was a Vigil member of the O.A. and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from Blackhawk Area Council. Rod and his wife Joyce spent countless weekends at Camp volunteering their time to repair, fix and clean just about everything that need to be repaired, fixed or cleaned! Rod’s full obituary is posted on the web site for the Staff and Alumni.

Can you still tie your knots?

The next time you are sitting around with a few minutes on your hands, why not see if you can still tie some of the knots we used at Canyon Camp? I’ll bet you can do it with a little practice. Try tying two-half hitches, a square knot, the taut-line hitch, clove hitch, sheet bend, figure eight, sheepshank and the bowline. If you can do all of those, try a sheepshank with a half-hitch and more in the middle, the surgeon’s knot, pineapple knot or the monkey fist. If you are having difficulty remembering any of these...tie an overhand knot first!

Wood Cutter's Ball - October 19, 2019

Don't forget to put the Kiwanis Woodcutter's Ball on your calendar for Saturday, October 19. The day starts with coffee and a Continental Breakfast from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Enthusiasm for supporting Canyon Camp and the desire to be in the outdoors are the things you need to bring to the Woodcutters Ball – although there will be work projects from 9:00 – 1:00, a lunch and social time from 1:00 – 2:00, and additional work projects continuing through the afternoon. We could really use your support and enthusiasm at this event – so why not come to Camp on Oct. 19?