

## Why Should Your Son Go To Summer Camp?

Ask any American what they think of when you say “Boy Scouts” and the vast majority will mention camping and the outdoors. It is as American as baseball, hotdogs, or apple pie. While the association of Boy Scouts and the fun of outdoor adventure is a natural one, it is perhaps more important to understand that camping experiences provide more than just fun.

We have been serving the youth of America for more than 100 years. While our organization recognizes the importance of providing enjoyable experiences for youth, our program is designed to accomplish much more. Specifically, the BSA is committed to providing a program that comprehensively addresses the important elements of healthy youth development. The long-term goal is to prepare young people to achieve their full potential for happy and productive lives.

In a single year, the Scouting program delivers members experiences in six critical areas of healthy youth development:

- ✦ **Strong Personal Values and Character.** Reflective and thought-provoking activities are one avenue through which summer camp helps build strong values and character.
- ✦ **Positive Sense of Self-Worth and Usefulness.** Summer camp helps to instill a positive sense of self-worth and usefulness in young people by providing them with service opportunities, as well as positive peer-to-peer and intergenerational communications. In addition, summer camp helps to build young people’s leadership skills, confidence, and self-esteem.
- ✦ **Caring and Nurturing Relationships With Parents, Other Adults, and Peers.** Summer camp builds caring and nurturing relationships by engaging young people in group activities with both peers and adults. And for a majority of Scouts, strong bonds of friendship are developed at summer camp.
- ✦ **A Desire to Learn.** Summer camp inspires young people to think about nature and consider the environment.
- ✦ **Productive and Creative Use of Time.** Summer camp provides young people with productive and creative uses for their time by offering a valuable mix of both physical and intellectual activities.
- ✦ **Social Adeptness.** Summer camp helps young people to become more socially adept by offering them opportunities to participate in and contribute to team-building activities.

These critical areas of healthy youth development are at the core of what makes Scouting a change agent in the lives of its members.

Summer camp is more than just a place to have fun. It also offers Scouts the opportunity to participate in physically and intellectually challenging activities, introduces them to new and rewarding experiences, and provides them with supportive and caring relationships.

Above all, Summer Camp is an experience that will be a part of them for the rest of their lives. It is one of the joyous youth experiences they can share with their children when the time comes.

***Give your son the experience of a lifetime. Send him to Summer Camp with our Troop.***