

VERY Helpful Q & A for Subcamp Troop Leaders

Part 1:

1. Numerous leaders have sent e-mails with questions about and asking for details on the photo IDs required for scouts and adults.

Answer: Thankfully this is not as problematic as many of us have assumed. Adults will need to have some type of official photo ID, such as a state issued driver's license. This is required by the military for access to the fort. Here is the "official" statement from our jamboree director about youth IDs...

This is not meant to be complicated. All the troop has to do is take a photo of each member as they board their bus, download the file to a zip drive and have it for the subcamp. We just want them for emergencies. Larry Pritchard, National Jamboree Director

It is still a good idea for your youth to have some form of photo ID (school issue, troop issue, etc.) while you are traveling, but I hope this settles the issue related to the actual jamboree.

2. We have been asked - since the scout uniform is the only thing that is acceptable for the Jamboree - when it comes to rain gear - do the attendees of the Jamboree have to have BSA issued rain gear?

Answer: Rain gear does NOT have to be BSA issue. But it should not display any advertisements for un-scout like commodities.

3. Any idea what happened to the "Jambo Navigator" Newsletter?

Answer: According to the jamboree office, lots of people signed up for the newsletter. The Navigator was put together by OA volunteers and they have not been able to keep up with this promise. Sorry. Hopefully my regular emails have helped fill the void.

4. For those who chose the Halla diet, is there a menu list much like the one on the jamboree website that tells what the meals will be?? I am getting hammered with questions about this.

Answer: Our food service director tells me that this will be added to the website as soon as he has that information from the food provider.

5. I purchased one of the SMART bracelets about a month ago but have not received it yet. Do you know when they are supposed to be shipped?

Answer: The brochure says just prior to the jamboree. We do not have a specific date.

6. One of the Scoutmasters who went to the last Jamboree from our area mentioned there may be an opportunity to invite Jamboree troops who are attending from other countries to share meal with our troop. Do you know the process for extending such an invitation?

Answer: The international visitors are in patrols, not troops, embedded in another 3/4 full troop. Sharing a meal would be great but there is a logistical problem...all of the food is issued to the troop in 40 person quantities. Therefore it will be difficult to make the food part of a joint dinner work. I would suggest that you bring some non-perishable "snack type" food from home and ask a patrol over for an "after dinner" treat. As you well know, youth this age are always hungry.....

There is no "formal" procedure for this process. But Ellie Morrison, our Southern Region International Commissioner, can assist you with finding or contacting Scouts from a particular area.

7. In the Leader's Guide, page 29, it references a Menu Booklet (menus, cooking instructions on preparing all jamboree meals, etc.). It states that this Menu Booklet is to be found on-line after March 2010. Under the "Food" link, it gives the menus, again; however, no additional instructions or information. Is this information in another location on the website?

Answer: The cooking instructions are almost complete. We will use the steamer pans, but not for heating up the military style tray packs, but for heating and serving better, fresher food this year. The food will be easy to prepare. We believe that the participants and adults will really like it. The menus are posted on the website with the cooking instructions should be on the website soon.

8. Can you tell me the procedure and price list for special occasion cakes? It is neither in the April nor May neither bulletins nor the food section of the BSA JAMBOREE web page. Again, these are to be ordered and paid for before going to Jambo according to the leaders guide.

Answer: This information is now on the website....under FOOD and then CATERING.

9. In chapter 7 page 27, under Site Facilities, it states that troops will be provided with flag poles. Is this correct? I just wanted to be sure. I would hate to show up without flag poles if we need them.

Answer: Yes. Each troop will be issued two flagpoles. Our equipment department is really nice to do this, don't you think?

10. The Northeast Region (jamboree) patch: can it be worn on the uniform and if so where?

Answer: Yes. Here's the official position. Youth and adult participants may wear it (or their subcamp patch) as a temporary patch on the right pocket. Adults serving on staff may wear it (but not their subcamp patch) on the right sleeve, but only during the actual jamboree.

11. Are we required to use the wire stove stands listed in the leaders guide (Century 9050/Coleman) or can we use our chuck boxes that have a separate flip down side for the stoves? Are we able to use Coleman trees or do we have to use the tank trees?

Answer: On the subject of stoves, there is not a requirement to use wire stands or the stoves offered in the BSA catalog. Any surface a stove is used on should be safe for that kind of use. Heat resistance and stability are the most important. The only requirement is for any stove is that it connects to a standard US 20 lb bar-b-queue type propane tank in some manner. If you are using 2 stoves per tank then a male "Y" connection is required or tank "trees" will work for that as well. Lanterns that use liquid or gas fuels are not allowed at the jamboree so a propane lantern attached to a distribution tree is not permitted.

12. In the check-in procedures it references that the "Scoutmaster" will be handling all paperwork for the troop. Can those duties be handled by an ASM (Records and Scheduling) vs. the Scoutmaster or, is the Scoutmaster actually required to handle those duties?

Answer: We would suggest that at the gate it should be the SM who has the primary discussion with the staff member who greets you since he will be talking about more than just paperwork. But the ASM with the paperwork could be at your elbow with the paperwork and handle that part.

When you arrive at your subcamp troop site, two adults will stay with the troop while they unload the equipment and two adults will go to subcamp HQ, paperwork in hand, for further instructions.

13. In reviewing the Leader's Guide, page 48, there is a copy of a form that we will have to complete upon arrival at A.P. Hill. I assume we will be given the "official" copy to complete upon arrival? At the bottom of the form, it references the "Troop Swim Classification Roster". Are we supposed to make a copy of our Troop Roster, including Swimming Classifications (non-swimmer, beginner, swimmer) for each youth and adult, and bring with us to present at check-in; or, will there be a "special Form" given to us to complete upon arrival?

Answer: Yes, the form will be completed by the SM and the staff member upon arrival. Bring the blank just in case our staff member doesn't have one with him. The swimming roster done by the SM will be the "official" form since it stays with the troop.

14. Will fishing gear be furnished for fishing in Fish Hook Lake? Can the youth and adults bring their own fishing gear (rods, reels, tackle)?

Answer: Fishing gear is provided but there should be no problem if somebody wants to bring their own. It's just one more thing to keep track of.

15. On the day that we arrive Monday July 26 will we be provided with lunches or just supper? I want to plan ahead.

Answer: Planning ahead is a great thing. Depending on what time you arrive, lunch will be available. It is a standard "no cook" kiosk lunch. Supper will be provided to everyone and it is a cooked meal. The specifics are listed on the menus under "FOOD" on the jamboree website.

MEDICAL APPROVALS: The jamboree medical team guys have been burning the midnight oil trying to review all of the forms that have now come in. Progress is being made on this front but there are far too many councils that haven't transmitted medical forms. Check with your council and, at this point, demand that medicals be transmitted. Failure to do so will only result in lengthy delays on your arrival.

Part 2:

1. I have a question regarding showers. I heard that the boys will have a community type shower – i.e. old style locker room with several shower heads in a room. Is that the case? I certainly hope not. We have boys that will just go the 10 days without a shower to avoid showering in a room full of other boys.

Answer: According to our BSA engineering group, all youth (and adult) showers provided by the BSA have some type of partition or curtain that provides privacy. Thank goodness! Since your question I have had nightmares just thinking about the aroma of a subcamp with a few thousand scouts who have not showered for 10 days.

2. How will prescription medication for Scouts be handled at the Jamboree? Will it be kept at the troop level with the Scoutmaster as the control point? Will there be some central dispensary at the subcamp level?

Answer: All medications are to be kept in the troop site - prescription and non-prescription. If refrigeration is needed, cold storage for meds will be available at the medical HUB facilities near each subcamp.

3. How much ice will each troop be routinely issued each day? How do we obtain more and at what cost?

Answer: A nominal amount of ice will be available to each troop daily from the subcamp commissary at no charge. There is no plan to sell additional ice.

4. I was reading through the Jambo medical service guide. Am I correct in thinking that we need to come to Jambo with some of the blank forms with us so that we have them if or when needed? Any guess on how many we should print out and bring along?

Answer: Always a good idea to bring some blanks but we can make copies available as needed.

5. Just making sure, but our troops have been told no propane lanterns allowed. Can you verify?

Answer: Correct.

6. Where and how will we get our Jamboree neckerchiefs?

Answer: Upon arrival from your subcamp staff.

7. I read in the Jamboree Leader's Guide on page 16 that we are to place a designation sign in the windshield of the bus and support vehicle, just prior to arriving at the gate. This sign is supposed to display the the region, subcamp, and troop number. Is this an official sign that is provided for us, or do I simply put that information on a sheet of paper myself?

Answer: The Jamboree Department will put together "arrival procedures" packets for all councils and mail them out on June 28th. The packets will contain the arrival/departure procedures, equipment ties, and windshield placards. The placards are specifically designed with a holograph that cannot be replicated or copied.

National Jamboree Department will send them out to the council jamboree coordinators on record.

8. We have a question regarding Ft AP Hill base access. In 2005 youth participants were asked to have a government issued photo ID for access to the base. Is this to be a requirement or was this dropped for 2010? I ask this because, if this will be required, we need to get moving notifying our contingent to ensure they have one before departure.

Answer: Every person - youth and adult - MUST have a photo ID. School IDs are acceptable for youth. Drivers must have appropriate driver's licenses.

9. We were late in submitting our medical forms. Will this be a problem?

Answer: Sad to say, many of you were late and some of you have still not yet submitted your medical forms. Other councils did not assign troop numbers to individual scouts before the forms were submitted. All of this has caused considerable difficulty for our medical staff. If you fit any of the above categories, you may be delayed in your check-in process. At this point, our medical team is doing all they can to process the thousands of forms that have now been submitted. Only time will tell what the final impact will be on the check-in process.

10. There was a specific question last time about Hometown News reporters....

Additional information: We have been assured that they were still looking for youth in this area. It is a great opportunity and there are some nice "PERKS" that come with the job. There is complete information and forms on the jamboree website.

11. When will we know where in the sub camps our two troops will be?

Answer: When you arrive. There is a tentative planned layout for all troop sites, but it will be subject to change until each subcamp actually plots out the campsites on the ground during staff preparation week. If maps were sent in advance, there would surely be some unit who would make specific plans based on that layout and then when it changed, would be upset. The only thing that we can promise is that your campsite will probably not be quite as large or quite as flat as you would like. But, you will only have to deal with it for 10 days.

12. I was part of the so-called "death march" at the 2005 jamboree arena show. What's the plan in 2010 to avoid this situation?

Answer: This situation will not happen this time around. Several major changes have been made to our Health and Safety plan. Here are the facts:

(1) The opening arena show is planned for Wednesday morning when the heat index is more reasonable. It will be over by Noon and scouts will be dismissed to go directly to their daily activities. If this show is cancelled due to weather, it will not be re-scheduled.

(2) The closing arena show ("A Shining Light Across America") is planned for Saturday evening. If the heat index is high, mobilization will be done on a "casual" basis - not an organized march - to allow units to proceed to the arena at their own pace. If cancelled, this show will be re-scheduled for Monday evening. There will be no "special guests" at this show to cause delays or special conditions of entry to the arena.

(3) ALL jamboree activities have been analyzed for the effect of heat index. We will operate under a four flag system, each color flag designating the conditions of participation in that activity for each color flag. There will be a clear chain of command on determining which flag we are under at any given time. It is a written, detailed plan and not subject to individual interpretation.

(4) The unit leadership (that's you) will have the absolute final say about whether or not your scouts participate in any activity, including participation in the mobilization for the arena shows.

We continue to be impressed with the detailed emergency action plans that have been developed by our BSA National Jamboree leadership in cooperation with the military authorities. There has been an extensive analysis to plan our detailed response to various situations. These plans have been completely coordinated with military, local, state and national officials. All of this planning is consistent with our goal to make this the SAFEST jamboree ever. If an emergency situation happens, your subcamp leadership will be able to deliver clear and concise instructions to each of you for the needed reaction of your scouts and leaders. Instructions which you can be assured were carefully discussed and planned in advance and not the result of a "knee-jerk" reaction under the stress of that moment. Hopefully, we will never have to test these plans, but it is very satisfying to know that they exist. Please pass this information along to your parents as you see appropriate.

At the BSA National Meeting in Dallas last week, there were brochures about the new "SMART BRACELET" which is now available for purchase to eliminate carrying cash or credit cards at the jamboree. Here's the link:

<http://www.bsajamboree.org/SmartBracelet.aspx>

Finally, we strongly recommend that each of you spend time going back through all of the information on the jamboree website. Especially the last bulletin dated May 2010 and the information on activities. Here's that basic home link for your convenience:

<http://www.bsajamboree.org/>