



# TROOP 175 SUMMER CAMP 2023

BSA Troop 175 | Decatur, Georgia | [www.troop175.com](http://www.troop175.com)



## Camp 175 Summer Camp Selection Process

Our troop has been remarkably stable in recent years despite the challenges of COVID, and as we have before, we once again face a recurring challenge. We have 55 slots for summer camp and roughly the same number of scouts currently registered with the Troop, so though we may be good with our numbers, it is still possible that we may end up having too few spaces to accommodate all the scouts who want to attend summer camp. The slots are limited to 55 because of sleeping accommodations, dining facility and the general operational efficiency of summer camp.

As many will recall, in June of 2020 we were forced to cancel our summer camp experience due to COVID. While we do not expect a similar recurrence for the coming year, we do acknowledge that we do not know what the future holds, what or if there will be limitations on our operations, or limitations on the number of staff and participants – which may force us to have a limit lower than our usual capacity. However, we do know as Scouts that we are challenged to Be Prepared and therefore we must address this possibility.

We will continue to apply our previously established **summer camp selection process** in case we end up with too many camp applicants and too few slots. Please understand this is not an exact science. Summer camp logistics are very complicated and the Troop leaders must take care in selecting a group of campers that will enable us to provide a fun, safe, enriching experience with opportunities for growth, advancement and leadership.

It's a big challenge for our camp staff to put together a class of 55 scouts each year. We continually have older scouts leaving the troop and younger scouts joining, and it's important to achieve the proper balance of younger boys and older boys who can help with teaching and leadership. We also have to match the campers with the trained volunteer staff, which varies every year. Because of this fluctuation, we may admit different numbers of younger scouts from year to year, rather than set a fixed limit.

After much discussion the adult leaders have developed some criteria we'll use to evaluate scouts for summer camp. We'll consider many factors. No one factor outweighs another, just as no one scout is more valuable than another. I want to emphasize that this is not a competition. We'll evaluate the scouts on their own merits, not how one scout compares to another. For example, participation is a big factor. We'll evaluate participation based on the time that's available to the scout, not just whether he participated in more or fewer meetings/activities than another scout. If he's involved in school or church activities he won't be penalized for missing the meetings/outings that conflict with those commitments. We welcome boys who have other activities, but we also expect them to put forth greater effort when they're participating in scouts. Keep in mind that boys who attend more meetings and outings have more opportunities for advancement and leadership.

# How will scouts be evaluated?

## Scout Criteria

1. **Scout Participation:** Has the scout been actively involved?
  - a. Meetings
  - b. Outings
2. **Scout Advancement:** Is the scout working diligently towards the next rank?
3. **Scout Leadership:** Does the scout show an interest in leadership?
  - a. Leadership role at camp
  - b. History of leadership within the Troop
4. **Scout Spirit:** Does the scout participate enthusiastically with significant effort and good behavior?

## Other Factors:

1. **Parent participation:** Is the scout's parent actively supporting the Troop?
  - a. Annual commitment: How much time has the parent volunteered this year? Committee positions often require 20 or more hours per year.
  - b. Summer Camp Staff: Has the parent volunteered to attend the upcoming summer camp?
  - c. Camp Staff History: Has the parent previously volunteered at summer camp?
2. **Timeliness:** Have registrations been submitted promptly?
  - a. Summer camp applications: We encourage scouts to turn in their applications as early as possible. Applications will be evaluated on a continuous basis from the time the registration period begins. However, all camp decisions will be made after the final registration deadline.
  - b. Parent camp staff commitment: Adult volunteers are encouraged to sign up for summer camp as early as possible. This helps us complete our staff assignments so we know what merit badge opportunities are available for scouts during camp.
  - c. Annual Troop registration: Have the scout and parent applications been promptly submitted?

As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kevin Wyatt  
Scoutmaster, Troop 175 & Camp Director, Camp 175