

Hello Troop Parents,

What I want to tell you is WHY your son should attend Camp Geronimo.

As a parent, I know there are competing interests with 4th of July celebrations, family vacations and other activities. All these compete with packing your son off to Boy Scout camp and having done that with two sons of my own, I understand the conflicts.

BUT Geronimo is worth the complication of taking your scout out of a few days of summer school or delaying the family vacation. He won't miss the fireworks on the fourth!

When we packed up my oldest son to go to council Boy Scout camp for the first time, we packed him carefully making sure that everything on the checklist was in the bag. We made sure he read his merit badge books and tried hard to make sure his list of merit badges and activities would help him along on his first steps to Eagle. *What wasn't on the checklist was the scout we picked up after the week a camp.*

Granted, most of the carefully packed clothing wasn't touched, but what came home was a real Boy Scout. A scout who had made a pact with another, to become an Eagle at the same time and no matter what, they wouldn't quit. A scout who had competed in the camp wide games, won the archery section for his team and learned although there is individual performance in scouting -- Boy Scouts is a team sport.

Boy Scouts is more than just the number of merit badges you get over a summer, it is about being part of the troop, - and it's about the team. You only get that experience when you go to Camp.

Geronimo is real Boy Scout camp-- there is a firing range, plenty of merit badge opportunities and a camp wide troop competition. There are plenty of opportunities for what one scout calls "dangerous fun". Camp is the time when boys can be on their own, participating in all kinds of activities and even a little "dangerous fun" supervised by BSA safe standards, of course.

I promise you - scouting goes quick - but camp memories and experiences last a lifetime. My oldest still tells stories about going to camp for the first time and every camp experience creates more storytelling.

So I urge you to look at your calendar and make Camp work -- I promise you, both you and your Scout will be glad you did.

We need your sign up quickly so we can get the merit badges registered and some deposit money. If you need a scholarship -- please ask -- there are council scholarships every year.

Thanks, Troop ASM

To Attend Camp with a Troop or as a lone scout visit:

[www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/outdoor-programs/6097](http://www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/outdoor-programs/6097)