

***BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA)  
HIGH ADVENTURE & SUMMER CAMP GUIDE WEBSITE***

*Mike Frame  
Unit Commissioner  
Etiwan District  
Coastal Carolina Council #550  
Boy Scouts of America*

***June 2014***

**Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science**

**Ridgecrest Conference Center**

**Ridgecrest, NC**

***Margaret Herlihy, Advisor***

To the Doctoral Candidate Review Board:

I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Mike Frame, entitled “Boy Scouts of America High Adventure and Summer Camp Guide Website”. I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science.

---

Margaret Herlihy

We have read this Dissertation  
and recommend its acceptance:

---

Coastal Carolina Council

---

Daniel Boone Council

---

Great Smoky Mountain Council

---

Indian Waters Council

---

Palmetto Council

---

Sequoyah Council

Accepted for the Piedmont-Appalachian College of  
Commissioner Science:

---

Chairman  
Doctoral Candidate Review Board  
and Blue Ridge Council

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Sincere gratitude is hereby extended to the following that never ceased in helping when asked or until this project was finished.

For the support of my family, friends, and fellow Scout leaders. Kathy, Katie, Will, & Cal I love you all! Gary Freeman for getting me back into Scouting. Scoutmaster Troop 502 Mr. Guy for being a wonderful Scoutmaster and guide to so many boys. Tim Knight, former Etiwan District Commissioner, for having such a great passion for Scouting. Bryan Eddings (Go Lopes) for being my right hand man these past years since Woodbadge SR 1057. And finally Mr. P & Captain Bob, may you both rest in peace, knowing you influenced not only me, but so many other boys over the years into manhood.

Etiwan District Commissioner, Margaret Herlihy, my Dissertation advisor, for her help and guidance. The members of the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science 2013-2014 Doctoral Candidate Review Board: Dr. James H. Blake. Chairman of the Doctoral Review Board; Dr. Lloyd W. Swift, Jr.; Lynn Bates; Dr. Julie Delger; Dr. Elizabeth Stoner; and Dr. Arthur Mullins.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4
III. METHODS	16
IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	22
V. SUMMARY	23
REFERENCES	24
APPENDICES	
Appendix A. SUMMER CAMP SURVEY	25
Appendix B. SCREEN IMAGES WEBSITE	27

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting, held the first Boy Scout summer camp in 1907. He brought together 22 Scouts on Brownsea Island off the coast of England. He divided those 22 Scouts into four patrols – the Wolves, Bulls, Curlews, and Ravens. The patrols then went to work setting up their tents and cooking areas. They devoted an entire week to handicraft, nature study, first aid, lifesaving, and many other Scout skills and games. In the evenings they gathered around campfires, sang songs and performed cheers and skits. All agreed that summer camp was a terrific experience.

It is with that same Scout Spirit that many a boy today experiences summer camp all across this United States of America. Today, there are so many BSA council camps that no one unit could begin to experience all that is being offered. You will find camps tucked into forests, some among lakes and rivers, a few are located in deserts or seashores, while every camp is different, you will still find a common thread through most if not all of them still today. These include but are not limited to Nature Study and Ecology, Orienteering and Pioneering, Shooting Ranges, COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) courses, water areas, Handicrafts, Scout Skills, as well as High Adventure and Primitive Camping experiences.

The typical Boy Scout camper has the following characteristics (Harris, 1990):

- Is 12.8 years old
- Has attended camp 2.7 times
- Has been in Scouting an average of 6 years (including Cub Scouts)
- Has 18.4 Scouts and 4.2 leaders in his summer camp troop.

In 1990 the BSA did a study conducted by Harris Interactive on “Summer Camp Outcomes”. They stated that as you read the study, you should know some important facts about how the Boy Scouts of America delivers its summer camp programs. The BSA believes these factors are the foundation that allows the organization to provide superior summer camp experiences and **to deliver fun with a purpose!**

**Camp Accreditation** - Annual camp visits by trained volunteers and professionals ensure the following:

- Camps are checked to ensure that health and safety standards are met through an annual BSA accreditation process.
- Camps show that important program elements required for Scouts to have meaningful learning experiences are in place.

**Camp Staff** - Highly skilled youth and adult members are recruited and trained.

- Key camp staff members are required to be certified through national training events.
- BSA camps utilize highly qualified camp staff members. Because these individuals are not responsible for taking a troop leadership role, they can utilize their unique skills and teaching abilities for mentoring purposes.
- Youth camp staff members are young enough to connect with Scouts on a social level, but experienced and mature enough to serve as a role model.

**Unit Attendance** - The fact that troops attend camp as a unit is a benefit to the experience.

- Scouts attend with their own adult leaders. Boys do not have to adjust to adults they do not know while at camp. This provides an opportunity to further extend the mentoring role of adult leaders with their Scouts.

- The patrol method is used. Boys at camp learn leadership and teamwork by living out their week in the patrol method, which is based on youth leadership. In addition, this organizational method teaches independence and interdependence among Scouts.

As stated in the Boy Scout Handbook, “Summer Camp is a week of living the Scouting life.” For so many units, a week at summer camp is probably a high point of the year. It allows Scouts 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 (Harris Interactive, 1990). So with this much importance placed on such an event should there not be a better resource available for the boys to make deciding where to go to summer camp easier? So a comprehensive BSA Summer Camp Guide would be a great place to start this process and is the emphasis of this report and project.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature incorporated mostly information gathered from two specific sources. Council Websites and Summer Camp Leaders Guides were the two most important resources I used to gather the majority of my information on the different summer camps. For the most part the BSA Summer Camps are very similar and what really is different, and so the main focus of this document, is what makes its camp special and what do they offer, do, or feel that makes them special in the eyes of the boys and leaders attending.

Most Boy Scout troops plan their summer camp a year in advance through the Patrol Leaders Council, which is normally done in August before school starts. The boys in most units decide as a group where they would like to attend and vote usually on several choices based on different areas of interest. Once the boys vote on the selected camp, the Troop Committee usually signs off on the decision with the approval of the Scoutmaster and other Assistant Scoutmasters.

My unit attended Camp Durant and got to experience a new visionary camp for the Boy Scouts of America. This camp has taken the vision that National has set and done a good job of setting the bar for other camps to follow. They have new and improved facilities and a program that incorporates not just the normal Scouter but the high adventure types as well. They are striving to provide a program and staff to meet the needs of future Scouters with their demand of technology and outdoor experiences. The facilities including the new modern bathhouses are a fantastic and modern twist on the camp experience.

During the week I got to sit down and talk with the Camp Director Henry Goodson for about an hour and a half and we discussed not only my project and its function for summer camps,



but the future of camps in America and what role they play in making Scouting more relative to our boys today as well as exciting and entertaining for the next generation without taking away from the core values that have always been important to the Boy Scouts of America. Since this project has such a wide appeal for so many Scouters, I realized in short order that with some 400 summer camps in the United States I would have to start small and work through the process. The inspiration behind this guide goes to Unali'yi Lodge in the Coastal Carolina Council and their Camping guide that they put out in the years 2009 and 2010. In it they discuss the many options of where to camp as a unit throughout the year, not just summer camps. This guide is a great resource. I questioned why the Boy Scouts of America National didn't have a similar guide for use by everyone in regards to summer camps, as it would be a benefit to all in the Scouting world.

I actually started to write the paper and doing a very concise and detailed information page for each camp in the Southern Region V and realized in short order this was going to be way to complicated and time consuming than I could ever imagine. I got through at least six different camps and realized finding out all the specific details from each camp was a real challenge, but even more that the subject material would and could change year after year. On the following pages was my initial work on the Southern Region Area 5 Guide. I include it here to show how much detail and information can be gathered for most camps and what a big difference in program one camp has versus another. This proves no two camps are alike in any way, shape or form.



## **BSA High Adventure and Summer Camp Guide**

Dear Unit Leader,

I am thrilled to be the editor for this new publication BSA High Adventure and Summer Camp Guide.

I love summer camp, and I'm sure you do! After many hours of work I am proud to present this first edition. Granted it is only a small selection (SE REGION AREA V). My intention is to grow this publication and add regions as time permits. I plan to publish the BSA Summer Camp Guide in color. It will be available to download as a PDF from a future website to be named. For troops we will make available a printed black and white version. We will continue to make changes as necessary.

Because it is our intention to fairly and adequately assess as many summer camps as possible, we have made it our foremost initiative to maintain a clear, unbiased, current, and thorough writing style for every camp that we discuss. Any corrections, which you feel would improve our *BSA High Adventure Summer Camp Guide*, should be addressed to me. Contact information for me can be found at the end of this publication. Any additions are also welcome.

I hope to see you all at summer camp! Happy Camping!

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Frame  
Unit Commissioner  
Etiwan District  
Coastal Carolina Council

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Please be advised that the information in this publication is based on information gathered directly from each camp in many different forms, which includes leader guides, interviews with select camp directors, as well as council websites. We feel this guide should be best used to find the camp for your individual unit based on activities and facilities not just on price alone. It is meant to provide a general overview of the multitude of possibilities available to units so to make the best decision based on everything that is currently know for each summer camp.

Each page will be a comprehensive look at each camp and will include the following material.

Camp Name

Council Address / Reservation Phone

Website

Camp Director

Camp Phone

Camp Address

Cost: In Council, Out of Council, Leaders

Campsite Deposit / Weeks Offered

Merit Badges, Sessions, High Adventure Programs

Adirondacks, Cabins, or Tents /Campsites & Total Capacity

Dining & Bathhouse Facilities

Water Areas / Activities

Shooting Sports

Unique & Special Offerings

Adult Opportunities & Training

# CAMP OLD INDIAN

**Blue Ridge Council** (864) 233-8363

PO Box 6628

Greenville, SC 29606

[www.BlueRidgeCouncil.org](http://www.BlueRidgeCouncil.org)

Brad Walbridge, Camp Director

601 Callahan Mountain Road (864) 895-8837

Travelers Rest, SC 29690

In-Council \$210 Boy \$240 Rangers \$110 Leader

Out-of Council \$240 Boy \$270 Rangers \$110 Leader 1 FREE adult for every 8 youth

Site Deposit: \$100 due in November Weeks Offered: 7

Cabins or 4 to 8 person Adirondacks, 16 Campsites, 450 Camp Capacity. Handicap Accommodations

Campsite Bathhouses – Large sink & mirror, separate hot water shower stalls, flush commodes, flush urinals and lighting. Triple S Bathhouse and Visitor Bathhouse units sign up for clean detail.

Patterson Lodge – Table Waiter System

75 Merit Badges (6 Sessions & Twilight), Paul Bunyan, Totin' & Firem'n Chip, Pathfinder (First Year), Trailblazer (Second Year), Adventure to Eagle (Third Year), Rangers Program.

2 lakes: 1<sup>st</sup> Lake - Learn to Swim, Swimming, Lifesaving, BSA Lifeguard, Mile Swim

2<sup>nd</sup> Lake - Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, and Fishing

Archery, Rifle, Shotgun, & Black Powder (muzzle loading)

Whitewater Rafting, Tubing the Green River, Old Indian Hike, OA Dance Pageant & Tapout, Wednesday Visitor Night

Safe Swim / Safety Afloat, Climb on Safely / Trek Safely, Leave No Trace, Motivating Youth, Awards & Recognitions in Scouting, Primitive Golf Tournament, Staff / SM Kickball Game, Horseshoes, and Volleyball



# Camp Barnhardt

**Central North Carolina Council** (704) 982-0141

32252 Hwy 24-27, PO Box 250

Albermarle, NC 28002

[www.CentralNCBSA.com](http://www.CentralNCBSA.com)

Karl Wieland, Camp Director

44184 Cannon Road (702) 422-3025

New London, NC 28127



In-Council \$190 Boy \$200 Night Hawks \$240 Mountain Man \$50 Leader

Out-of-Council \$210 Boy \$220 Night Hawks \$260 Mountain Man \$50 Leader

Site Deposit: \$190 for the specific week, \$25 extra for specific campsite

Weeks Offered: 5

Tent platform camping (steel frame systems) - 13 Campsites, 275 Camp Capacity

All campsites have electricity, a permanent program shelter with lights, latrine facilities with a shower and hot shower facilities in close proximity.

All meals (except for the Wednesday evening "family night" picnic) are served in the 350-seat William C. Cannon Dining Hall. The building is fully air-conditioned and provides a comfortable place to enjoy the nutritious meals prepared by our staff.

56 Merit Badges (5 Sessions & 2 Evenings), Night Hawks (First Year), Mountain Man

Camp Barnhardt has swimming pool/shower facilities, natural and man-made lakes for swimming, canoeing, sailing, snorkeling, rowing, kayaking, motor boating, water skiing and great fishing.

Archery, Rifle, Shotgun, & Black Powder (Mountain Man)

Sports Clash, Barnhardt Odyssey (A Greco-Roman Adventure Theme All Week), Greco Roman – The Final Quest (Chariot Race), Family Night, Movie Night, Fishing Tournament, Gateway Challenge, Prometheus Cook Off, and Greco-Roman Belly Flop

# Camp Ho Non Wah

Land of the Rising and Falling Waters

**Coastal Carolina Council** (843) 763-0305

1025 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard

Charleston, SC 29407

www.CampHNW.com

James Barton, Camp Director

2609 Boy Scout Road (843) 559-9302

Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

In-Council \$235 Early Bird \$250 Normal \$90 Leader

Out-of-Council Same as In-Council

Site Deposit: \$100 Weeks Offered: 4

Tent and platform camping, 16 Adirondacks, 8 Campsites - 350 Capacity

Six tent sites and two Adirondack fields, each with a permanent shelter, latrines with flush toilets, and showers.

The dining facility is air-conditioned and only a 4-minute walk from the farthest campsite (Carson). At Ho Non Wah, the food is never scarce, and we believe that no one should have to face the boring cafeteria-style lunch line. Waiter and Table Service.

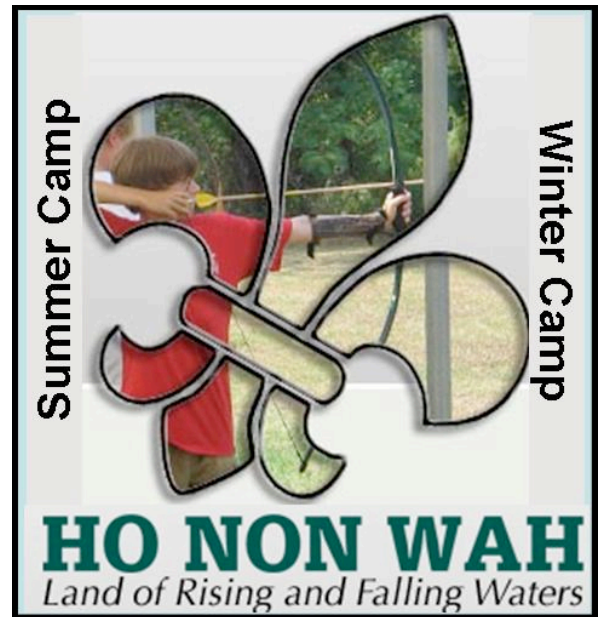
65+ Merit Badges, (5 Sessions) Woodsman (First Year), East Coast Adventure Base (ECAB)

Archery, Rifle, & Shotgun

ECAB programs are geared toward Scouts 14 years of age and older and all are based around aquatic activities. Participants can select one of three program focuses: Sea Island Adventure, Coastal Sailing Expedition, and Learn to Sail Camp.

HNW Honor Camper, Honor Patrol, Honor Troop, Commissioners Award, SM Merit Badge, Gold Star Unit, Thursday Parents Night, and OA Tapout

Out of Council Add-Ons: USS Yorktown, H.L. Hunley, SC Aquarium, Historic Trails American Revolution & Civil War Trails, Fort Sumter, SC Beaches - Folly, IOP, & Sullivan's Island, Fort Moultrie, Charles Pinckney House, Boone Hall Plantation, Angel Oak, Charleston Tea Plantation



# Camp Tomochichi

Black Creek Scout Reservation

**Coastal Empire Council** (912) 927-7272

11900 Abercorn Street

Savannah, Georgia 31419

[www.BsaSavannah.org](http://www.BsaSavannah.org)

Will Britt, Camp Director

850 Poor Robin Rd (912) 857-3348

Sylvania, Georgia

In-Council Early Bird \$225 Normal \$235 Leaders \$75

Out-of-Council Same as In-Council

Site Deposit \$100 Weeks Offered: 3

Tent and platform camping with cots. 6 Campsites. 240 Capacity

Each campsite is equipped with picnic tables, tarps or shelters, flagpole, bathhouse and washstand. Hot showers are available in each campsite that is separated into individual lockable stalls for privacy.

Camp Tomochichi uses a modified “waiter system”. There should be a fair sized serving for everyone at the table.

55 Merit Badges (5 Sessions)

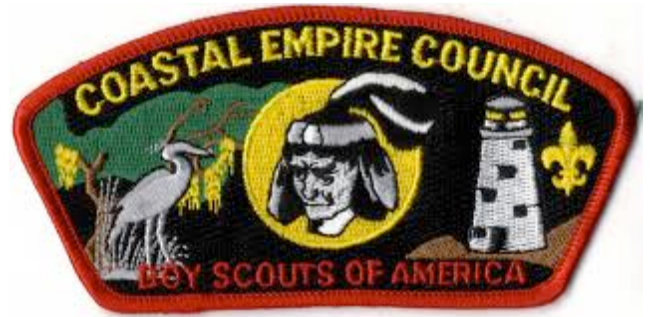
Creek Critter Program (First Class Program) and Wolf Gang Program (14 & older)

Archery, Rifle, Shotgun, & Black Powder

Beautiful Lake Activities

Scoutmaster’s Merit Badge, Underwater Basket Weaving, Skeet Shoot “TOP SHOT”, Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat, OA Night, SM Appreciation Dinner, & SM Lounge

Historical Parks, Splash in the ‘Boro, Wild Adventures, Georgia Southern Raptor Center, Historic Trails, Downtown Savannah, Tybee Beaches and many other opportunities



# Camp Daniel Boone

Home to High Adventure on the East Coast

**Daniel Boone Council** (800) 526-6708

333 West Haywood Street

Asheville, NC 28801

[www.CampDanielBoone.org](http://www.CampDanielBoone.org)

Robert Garrett, Council Program Director

3647 Little East Fork Road (828) 648-0435

Canton, NC 28716

In-Council Base Camp \$295 Hike Treks \$295 Boonesboro Village \$320 Rock School \$350

Hike & Raft Trek \$400 Whitewater Adventure \$460 Kayak Trek \$460

Canopy Tour Trek \$500 Adults: 1 Free / \$147.50 may be reduced based on #

Out-of-Council Same as above.

Site Deposit: \$220 Weeks Offered: 8 Week 8: LDS ONLY

Tent and platform camping with cots. 21 Campsites - 766 Capacity

58 Merit Badges (5 Sessions), Goin' Great First Year Program, Rafting on the Nantahala, Harrison Outpost High Adventure Programs, Rock School, Backpacking Treks (Shining Rock, Cold Mountain / Art Loeb, Linville Gorge, Bartram Trail, Joyce Kilmer / Slickrock Creek, Panthertown, Middle Prong, Troop Trek), Water Treks (Fontana Float, Whitewater Adventure, Whitewater Kayak, Rafting & Hiking Trek), Zip & Splash Canopy Tours, Boonesboro Village

Lake Allen Activities: Average temperature mid 60's all summer due to spring feed lake.

Archery, Rifle, & Shotgun, Blackpowder Rifle (Boonesboro Village)

Camp wide tug-of-war, Hoedown, Long Rifle Award, CDB Compass Course, Tsali Lodge Ice Cream Social, Patch Trading, Call-Out Ceremony, SM Lounge, Meetings, Coffees, Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills, Safe Swim Safety Afloat, Board of Review, Adult Trail to Eagle, Trek on Safely, Golf Tournament, Dutch Oven Cook-off, WFA Course, Leaders Fish Bake, Shoot-Off, LNT





# Robert E. Knox Scout Reservation

**Georgia – Carolina Council** (706) 733-5277

1450 Greene Street, Suite 150

Augusta, GA 30907

[www.GACACouncil.org](http://www.GACACouncil.org)

Ty La Valley, Camp Director

1150 Fred R. Prater Parkway

Lincolnton, GA 30817



In-Council & Out \$225 if paid by April 30<sup>th</sup> \$250 Normal Fee \$60 Leader

2 Free Leaders 1-19 Scouts, 3 Free Adults 20-29 Scouts, 4 Free Adults 30-39 Scouts

Site Deposit: \$100 Weeks Offered: 3

Nylon Dome Tent or BSA Wall Tent. Scouts are encouraged to use cots to sleep on. A limited supply of cots is available for checkout. Leg protection is required to prevent ripping of tents. Tennis balls are recommended. All camp cots have 6 legs.

54 Merit Badges (5 Sessions), National Wild Turkey Federation Conservation Challenge, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: STEM, 50 Mile Canoe TREK, Jimmie Dyess Program, Trail to Eagle (T2E), BSA Lifeguard, Fly Fishing, Weekly Camp Wide Events, Mile Swim, Knox Iron Scout Competition, COPE Course, Friday Night Family Night, SM Challenge, & Training

Water Skiing, Wake Boarding, Sunfish Sailboats, Kayaking, 20' Sea Ray Bowrider

Archery, Rifle, & Shotgun

Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Climb on Safely, Youth Protection, Trek Safely


So the best option was to then make this a project that could be updated locally through each council and its own camp administration and paid professional staff. Someone at my doctorate class offered that suggestion during my talk of making it an on-line publication, which at the time seemed impossible for me, as I did not have the programming skills necessary to make such a project happen. Where would I begin? I did a search of on-line sites that help beginners in working and creating websites for free. I started with Go Daddy and found it be hard to work and required a reasonable sum to get started. Then I found Wix.com which was much more user friendly and did not require any funds to create or even post a website once completed. So I now had a platform from which to start working through my ideas and thoughts on how this former paper was now turning into a project.

I started my website with a Welcome/Homepage (<http://mikebsa502.wix.com/summer-camp-guide>). My intention was to have an opening statement for the reason and purpose of this website. Along the top of the page is the name of the website BSA High Adventure and Summer Camp Guide with a new image of the Scout logo. The headers read as follows - Welcome, Videos Northeast, High Adventure, Southern, Central, Western, Videos II, Contact, and I.

The different Regions all include a map and links to individual council and camp websites. This allows for easy access to the most up to date material on each council website and makes it easier for those searching for a specific camp when looking for the camp of their choice. The High Adventure Page is set up to click on any of the four BSA Bases and go directly to their link on the Internet as well. I also included a Video I & II page with more than fifty videos of examples of many different camps. As you view the different videos you will find that many are professionally done while many others are not. Finally, I did a Contact Page with an attached

Blog that allows users to contact me with suggestions for improvement and as well as Blog about summer camp experiences and trips that they have taken with their units.

The website is designed to be user friendly and each link takes you off the website directly to the most specific page that could be found for that council and or camp so to limit the number of clicks for anyone searching for updated information. I would like to sometime in the future add a rating system to the website. This would allow users to rate the best camps based on

their own experiences. It would be based on a three-tent system. Three tents 

 would be excellent camp to one tent  to reflect an average camp. I would love

for there to also be an area for camp staff to discuss summer camp related material and be able to exchange ideas for better Merit Badge sessions, better learning formats, and other ways in which to improve on the way things are presented to the Scouts in a fun, exciting atmosphere.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODS

The primary method used to obtain information about the choices Scouters make to decide where to go to summer camp came from a survey I developed (Appendix A). The survey was given to 36 individuals at the first week of summer camp at Durant in the summer of 2013. Of the 36 individuals, 13 were boys and 24 were adult leaders. The majority of those surveyed had been to a BSA summer camp from one to six times as a Scouter. Thirty of the respondents had been to more than two to three different summer camps as either a boy or leader. Of the boys surveyed, most were between the ages of 14 through 18 and held a leadership position within their troop as they were given the survey after a Senior Patrol Leader meeting held by the camp staff. The adult leadership were primarily 41 years of age or older. The most common experience had by all was generally good overall when dealing with BSA Summer Camps in general.

I asked three specific questions and one ranking question of the survey participants. The first question that was asked was how far would your unit travel to summer camp? Fifty-four percent of the boys and fifty-eight percent of the adults stated that they travel less than 500 miles to attend summer camp. The vast majority of comments stated the cost of travel in addition to the cost of camp was the major reason that units did not travel farther than 500 miles. Another stated reason was because so many camps offer the same programs that it was not necessary to make such a lengthy trip in order to accomplish the same objective for the boys. Finally, supporting ones own Council camp outweighed any other benefits that going out of council would provide for the unit and boys in the program. There were a few comments about cooler weather in mountain camps versus coastal and inland camps, however not enough to make a major difference in their overall choice of camps.

The second question asked how do you learn about different summer camps? The respondents were asked to choose all that apply. The boys had a tie as their top choice, 54% for both the use of leader guides and word of mouth. Eighty percent of the adults said word of mouth was the way they chose a summer camp. Surprisingly the Internet ranked last for both the boys (8) and adults (21%). Council websites were a close second for both the boys (46%) and adults (54%). Most comments around this question were in regards to council websites. Several stated that they wished council websites worked properly and were updated in a timely manner. Uniformity of council websites was another big suggestion so boys and leaders did not have to hunt for the information in regards to summer camp and the programs. There is a need for individual summer camp websites that are user friendly and updated frequently. Keeping previous Leader Guides available to use for historical and unit data would also be useful. A centralized BSA database and blog could provide feedback and comments to others about their experiences and overall satisfaction of any specific camp. As of writing this paper, Boy's Life magazine is coming out with an App called Camp Scout!. The article in the March – April 2014 Scouting Magazine discusses how it will work. “Depending on your areas of interest, camps can be screened for amenities and activities such as backpacking, boating, climbing, horseback riding and more” (Scouting, March-April 2014). The camp database will provide information and descriptions on all of the nearly 1,000 camp properties owned by local Scout councils. Brian Gray, outdoor program coordinator at the BSA says, “One camp now in the database has a 500-foot zip line, so they put that in their description.

The final question asked was what makes a staff member important? They were asked to pick their top two choices. The choices were as follows A. Friendly and Helpful, B. Understand the subject matter, C. Know how to counsel / Teach Youth, D. Availability After Class / Free

Time, E. Age and Maturity, F. Years of Experience, G. Rank. Since camp staff ranked high for both boys and adults I was interested in what the results for this question would highlight. The boys (77%) and adults (75%) both thought being friendly and helpful were the overall traits that made a counselor good. The boy's second choice by 62% was that they know how to counsel and teach youth while the adults (75%) thought understanding the subject matter was more important. Staff was an important issue throughout the survey and most thought that staff played a major role in the overall experience of the camp and camper's view of how fun camp really was for them.

My last request of the surveyors was to rank the following in importance from 1-10 (most important to least important).

1. Location (Distance from Home)
2. Food Style (Cafeteria, Waiter, Camp Cook)
3. Swimming (Pool vs. Lake)
4. Merit Badge Opportunities
5. Facilities (Campsites, Mess Hall, Bath House)
6. Cost of Camp /Leader Fees
7. Special Activities / High Adventure
8. First Year Program (Tenderfoot to First Class)
9. Order of the Arrow
10. Camp Staff

The results of the ranking are as follows:

BOYS	ADULTS
#1 Facilities	#1 Facilities

#2	Camp Staff	#2	Merit Badges
#3	Merit Badges	#3	Camp Staff
#4	Food & Style	#4	Special Activities
#5	Cost	#5	Food & Style
#6	Special Activities	#6	Location & Cost (Tied)
#7	First Year Program	#7	Swimming
#8	Location	#8	First Year Program
#9	Swimming	#9	*****
#10	Order of the Arrow	#10	Order of the Arrow

The First Year Programs have been in place since around 1998. The programs are designed as a way for Scouts to complete requirements necessary to obtain the rank of First Class without any input from their individual troops. Summer camps many times ask for leaders to volunteer to help run First Year programs that can be named countless different names based on which camp you attend. Woodsman, Eagle Nest, Pathfinder, Night Hawks, and Creek Critters are just some examples from Area 5 in the Southern Region alone. Each is based on the Scout Handbook requirements from Tenderfoot to First Class. Scouts should be schooled in what will be offered in regards to a specific program. Leaders could be encouraged to participate if given a First Class Skills badge or some kind of bling. I would hope new leaders would see this as a chance to see how they fit into the advancement of their boys within their unit as well as others.

When it comes to camp, the camp director and his assigned staff have only one real goal and that is to serve Scouts. Most are very customer service oriented and will

do anything that is asked to meet your expectations. The problem is some leaders lose their common sense and overplay their role as a paying customer.

Yes, we as Scout volunteers are customers in the sense that we paid to attend camp. However, the fifteen-year-old camp counselor has absolutely no idea of camp budget, doesn't control the weather, or the schedule he or she has been given. So we tend to forget that most camp staff is there because they love Scouting! And they don't receive much in the way of compensation for all the weeks of preparation and 18 hour workdays that they put in. I would encourage joining in and participating rather than being a person who is judging the camp from a distance. Keep the Scouting Spirit and let it rub off on your unit as well as others. Every camp I have found or have been too is different in so many different ways so we should be accepting of it and celebrate these differences i.e. climate, geography, language, and culture. Remember to be friendly, courteous and kind which sounds familiar to the Scout Law. Once again, when choosing summer camp, base it on what appeals to the majority of your unit not on your personal preferences.

As I discussed earlier, there are many different tools available including the new Camp Scout App by Boy's Life magazine. However, the best resource and the inside scoop on a camp is the Camp Director. The Camp Director plays the most important role in determining the direction and culture of a summer camp. If contacting a Camp Director, make sure you get his/her email to discuss with them directly and to get a better overall feel for the camp and its programs. Clark Greene came up with a good list of questions from which to start the discussion.



•**What is their staff retention rate from year to year?** The more the better: it indicates the staff has a positive experience, and that's a strong predictor of a great program.

•**What is the average age of the directors in the various program areas?** Younger area directors (early to mid twenties) are more likely to bring energy and fun in the program.

•**What percentages of the staff are Eagle Scouts?** Lots of Eagle Scouts indicates a staff that knows and understands not only the Scouting program but also what it's like to be a Scout in Camp.

•**What does your camp offer in the way of special programs?** If the camp has special programs (high adventure, and younger or older Scout programs) ask how long they have been running, how many Scouts participate, and how participants evaluate them. New, untested programs or those with low participation rates may not be what you are looking for.

•**What ratings did they get on their food service last summer?** Food service problems eclipse all else: great weather and a great program in a world-class locale are immaterial if Scouts don't eat and eat a lot (Green, 2014).

As I discussed before, a good camp director should have a strong working knowledge of their program and is tracking responses from participants. They are also willing to discuss evaluations that they receive from volunteers and Scouts. As with most things, how you do anything is how you do everything and so it is with running a summer camp. If the camp director doesn't know the answers they probably are not paying attention to most other things. Great camps usually have few openings and average camps have many.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this project is a comprehensive website with active and current links to every BSA High Adventure and Summer Camp that could be found on-line. I also added regional maps and videos to help the Scouter with location and understanding what each camp thinks its strong points are to impress those trying to attend. I included a blog and hope with the help of others that they would also tell of their experiences and stories of summer camp and high adventure in the great outdoors. I hope to increase user input and website hits by getting a better domain name through a larger provider like GoDaddy.com. I have been talked about on ScoutmasterCG.com podcast 183 and am an active blogger on USSSP.com website under High Adventure.

Scoutmaster Clarke Green of ScoutermasterCG.com did an article entitled “Which Scout Summer Camp?” and in it he talks about how any two troops, same camp, same week even, can have two very different experiences. He discusses all the things discussed in this paper about facilities, location, staff, or program and how none of these have a real impact on the overall experience of any troop or set of boys. He claims the most reliable predictor of a good experience at summer camp is what you bring with you -- “a sense of perspective and a heart full of Scout spirit.” (Green, 2014).

My hope is that this website is a tool for leaders and boys to help in the search for choosing a summer camp and that others will provide input and experiences to better the site. It has been a great experience learning all there is to know about summer camps in the United States today. I encourage everyone that reads this paper to examine and offer input into my website and how it can be improved for future use.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

I started this paper as a guide to use for the Southern Region Area 5 to help leaders and boys to find and discover the different camps and high adventure bases available in the United States today. I had big ambitions to take each region and complete detailed summaries for each camp with a series of details of which I thought would be of useful for anyone that needed it.

My next step was to interview a Camp Director by the name of Henry Goodson and we had a rather detailed discussion of camps and the role they play for Scouting today and in the future. With his permission I was able to give a survey to adult leaders and quite a few older Scouts attending Camp Durant.

Once back from camp I started to work the process, based on the survey results, what was needed in order to provide a resource that could be used by fellow Scouters and leaders to help guide them through the process of how choosing summer camp be made easier. Once I got into this process I realized in short order it was too large of an undertaking and was unmanageable for future use. I soon realized that a website would provide a much better format and could be updated and corrected directly from the sources themselves. The next step was to develop and create a user friendly website that would function and promote every camp and high adventure base in the United States. Fortunately, I was able to find Wix.com, which not only allowed me to create a free website it also allowed me to make an application for use on smart phones as well. The website is <http://mikebsa502.wix.com/summer-camp-guide>.

In summary, after many months of trial and error I have completed a website entitled **BSA: High Adventure and Summer Camp Guide**. It was a lot of fun and I learned a great deal about all things summer camp.

## REFERENCES

1. Boy Scouts of America, .2009). Boy Scout Handbook, (12<sup>th</sup> Edition) Irving, TX. Pg 420.
2. Coastal Carolina Council. (2010). Unali'yi Lodge 236. Meyerink, Michael. Where to go camping guide.
3. Goodson, Henry. History of Camp Durant. Grand Lodge, OSR. Interview 6/20/2013.
4. Scouting Magazine (March/April 2014). Volume 102 \* Number 2. Page 8.
5. Green, Clarke. Which Scout Summer Camp? ScoutmasterCG.com 2/25/14
6. BSA Summer Camp Outcomes Study. (1990). Harris Interactive. Boy Scouts of America.

**APPENDIX A**  
SUMMER CAMP SURVEY



## Summer Camp SURVEY

## Can choosing camp be made easier?

Please take a moment to help me understand your experience of choosing a Summer Camp.

### Initial Questions:

How many times have you been to Summer Camp?

- Never Attended  
 First Time  
 1-6 Times  
 6 or More

How many different Summer Camps have you attended?

- Local Council Camp Only  
 1-2  
 3-4  
 5 or More

Are you a Boy Scout or Adult Leader and your age?

- Boy 11-14  
 Boy 14-18  
 Young Adult 18-40  
 Mature Adult 41 & Older

BSA Summer Camps in general from past experience?

- Consistent high standards  
 Generally good overall  
 Quality varies per camp  
 Poor quality

### Specific Questions:

How far will your Unit travel to Summer Camp?

- Do not attend Summer Camp  
 Local Council Camp only  
 Less than 500 miles  
 More than 500 Miles  
 Maximum Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you learn about different Summer Camps?

(Choose all that apply)

- Leader Guides  
 Council Websites  
 Word of Mouth  
 Camp Videos  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes a staff member important?

(Please choose two)

- Friendly and helpful  
 Understand the subject matter  
 Know how to counsel / teach youth  
 Availability after class / free time  
 Age and Maturity  
 Years of Experience  
 Rank

Rank the following in importance 1-10: 1 Most - 10 Least

- \_\_\_\_ Location (Distance from Home)  
 \_\_\_\_ Food & Style (Cafeteria, Waiter, Camp Cook)  
 \_\_\_\_ Swimming (Pool vs. Lake)  
 \_\_\_\_ Merit Badge Opportunities  
 \_\_\_\_ Facilities (Campsites, Mess Hall, Bath House)  
 \_\_\_\_ Cost of Camp / Leader Fees  
 \_\_\_\_ Special Activities / High Adventure  
 \_\_\_\_ First Year Program (Tenderfoot to First Class)  
 \_\_\_\_ Order of the Arrow  
 \_\_\_\_ Camp Staff

**Additional Comments: (Please use back for additional comments or suggestions)**

**How can choosing a BSA Summer Camp be made easier for units deciding where to attend?**

If you would like a copy of BSA Summer Camp Guide / SE Region V when completed?  Yes  No

If yes please print your Name, Council, and Email on the back of the survey.

*Thank you for your participation!*

**APPENDIX B**  
WEBSITE SCREEN IMAGES



**HOMEPAGE / WELCOME PAGE**



**VIDEO I PAGE**



### REGION PAGE (SOUTHERN AREA 5)



### HIGH ADVENTURE PAGE



VIDEOS II PAGE



CONTACT / BLOG PAGE

