



Scouting America  
Troop 497

## 2025 Summer Camp Information

Haliburton Scout Reserve  
Haliburton, ON, Canada

### Dear Parents and Scouts:

Summer camp is just a short time away, and we are very busy getting all of the details complete for the trip. In order to keep everyone on track, this letter has been prepared to inform everyone about the details of the trip. All Scouts and many of the adult leaders will be traveling by two 57 passenger coach buses. In addition, we will also have three trucks pulling our trailers with our troop equipment. We will have a large group going to camp and will need everyone's cooperation in order to make the trip run easily. At the time of this letter, we have 60+ scouts and 40+ adults registered to attend. In order to make this trip enjoyable and as problem free as we can, we will need the cooperation of every parent, leader, and scout. Please take the time to read this letter in order to minimize any confusion or misunderstanding.

### Uniforms:

Each Scout and Leader attending the trip must have a complete "Class A" Scouting America Uniform. This includes a Boy Scout Shirt, Boy Scout Pants, Scout Socks, Troop Neckerchief, Leather Belt or Scout Belt, Name Tag, and Troop Hat. ***Please do not substitute look-a-like pants or shirts as uniforms !! They must be official uniform parts.*** White socks are not part of our Class A uniform. If a scout chooses to wear scout shorts, he must wear the green or green and red official Scouts socks. If he wears the long pants, he must wear dark or scout socks. Sandals, or other open toed shoes are not to be worn with the uniform. New scouts who have not yet received their name tag or hat will receive it at check in on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Scouts and Leaders will be inspected as they board the buses. Scouts and Leaders not in correct uniform will not be allowed in the buses. Scouts and Leaders will be required to wear the uniform during special events during camp as well as the times that we are in the public view. Please plan accordingly.

### Traveling:

We will be traveling from St. Joseph's Parish Center in the coach buses to and from camp. The attached itinerary lists the estimated arrival and departure times for our stops during the trip. The equipment trucks` will accompany us to camp in order to alleviate putting all the equipment into the buses.

Scouts will be required to cooperate with the leaders and drivers on each bus. The troop will travel in full uniform unless specifically changed by the scoutmaster. The troop "Class B" T-shirt may be allowed sometimes, so wear it under the uniform shirt. Should a scout not have a troop "Class B" T-shirt, then the full uniform must be worn. The "Class B" shirt will be available for purchase at check in on July 17<sup>th</sup> and may be available for purchase at the next 2 regular troop meetings. Each Scout and Adult will be assigned to a specific bus for the duration of the trip. These assignments will be given out at the time of departure. Please do not ask for any bus changes.





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Each Scout and Leader should pack a day pack as a carry-on on the bus. All additional personal gear should be packed in a single separate duffel bag. All duffel bags and troop gear will be packed under the bus or in the trucks for the trip to camp.

The day pack should contain a change of water clothing (including water shoes), toilet articles, towel, uniform parts, a filled water bottle and other necessities. (Water clothing etc. is needed for the Jet Boat ride). These day packs will be on the buses and placed in the areas under the seats or overhead. We will use these bags during our trip on the buses during the day. This is the only gear which you will have while traveling on the buses during the day. Duffel bags will be stored below the buses and **WILL ONLY BE ACCESSIBLE DURING OUR OVERNIGHT STOPS AND IN CAMP**. Sleeping bags and pads should be packed in the duffel bag. Please mark all sleeping bags, clothing, and personal gear with the scout's name in an obvious location using a laundry marker, sharpie, or other permanent type marker. Please do not over pack the day packs. All adults and seniors who may wish to bring a chair should bring them to the shed on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 11am. Since space under the bus will be tight we are asking people who can to also bring their duffels and all guitars at this time to see what we can fit. Once the trailers are full, the rest of the gear will be put under the busses.

### Jet Boat Permission Form

Every scout and leader needs to follow instructions and the link on the Troop website to submit an online permission form with the Jet Boat company. After completion, you will receive an email confirmation of the filing with a copy of the permission form. Please print a copy of the completed form and bring it to check in.

### Passports Books, Birth Certificates, Consent Letter:

Everyone travelling to Canada next summer will need a Passport Book. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE PASSPORT YET, YOU WILL NEED TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS.**

#### Passport Book Signatures:

- 16 and Over – Scouts and Adults shall sign the book
- Under 16 – Print the Scouts Full Name, Sign Parents Name, note relation to scout (mother, father, or guardian)

***If your Scout is not a US Citizen, only has one living parent, or has any other special circumstances, including any circumstances where only one parent can sign the permission slip, please contact Ken Krach (443) 465-9659 to make sure we have all the documents needed to cross the border***

**BOTH PARENTS NEED TO SIGN A NOTARIZED CONSENT LETTER PRIOR TO CHECK-IN.** These documents are required by Canada to cross the border. This also applies to scouts who have a parent on the trip.





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### Medications:

All medications and instructions for administering them must be turned into our Med's leader, upon arrival at the church during check-in on Thursday evening. Please place them in a Ziploc bag with the scout's name printed in large letters on the bag. Place a completed Troop Medication Form, available on the Troop web site, in the plastic bag. Please complete this form neatly to provide clear instructions to us. The Med's Leader will keep track of and administer all medications as directed. The medicine must be in the original prescription container with the doctor's name on the label.

### Camp Rules:

The primary rules of camp are those of the Scout Oath and Law. We have a high expectation of each of our scouts and leaders in these areas and it has proven very successful over the years. Additionally, the following are some rules we feel need to be mentioned to avoid confusion.

1. The following items are **not** allowed on the trip.
  - Cell Phones, IPODS or other MP3 players, Radios, TV's, Computer Games, or other electronic devices except cameras.
  - Material or items not appropriate for Scouting Activities.
  - Magazines or other Non-Scout Literature, with the exception of Summer Reading for school and/or age appropriate books.
  - Sheath Knives, Butterfly Knives, etc.

If any of these items are found on the trip, they will be taken and donated to local charities for fundraising or other purposes. ***THEY WILL NOT BE RETURNED!!!***.

2. We will have ample food and drink for the scouts. Please DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD, SNACKS, CANDY, OR OTHER EDIBLE ITEMS IN THE BUSES OR TO CAMP. Food items attract unwanted wildlife into our camping areas. ***This is an important safety rule.***
3. Each scout should have a watch in order to keep on his schedule. There will be times when the scouts have to meet at certain places at certain times. Leaders and Adults who are late cause disruption for the whole group. Being on time is a rule that is taken very seriously.

### Discipline

Good discipline is a key to a successful camp experience. The adult leaders and scouts all work together to support each other. One individual not following the rules causes discord for everyone. All discipline is handled by the scoutmaster. In the case a serious infraction of the camp rules, the scoutmaster may deem it necessary to send a scout home. Although we have never had to do this, the scout's parents will be contacted and arrangements will be made for the scout to leave camp. This will be done at the parent's expense.





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### Spending Money

All of the activities and camp fees are included in the summer camp fees paid by our scouts, with the exception of spending money for personal purchases, the camp store, merit badges, or souvenirs. We recommend from \$50- \$100USD per scout for the trip. We will have \$5 Troop 497 cash cards with 25cent increments for purchasing snacks in camp. Additionally, we have found it to be a good practice for the scouts to place 1/2 of their money in a sealed envelope with their name on it. These money packages will be collected during the check-in time on Thursday Evening, July 17<sup>th</sup>. This encourages responsible budgeting and decreases the potential for losing all of ones money at one time.

The Haliburton Camp Store will be visiting our camp site during the trip. The troop will handle the conversion of USD to Canadian Funds for these transactions. Canadian currency is not needed for the trip.

### Be a Good Example

During the trip, we not only will be representing our troop, but will be representing our home town and our country. We expect everyone to act politely and courteously and to set an example appropriate for a scout or leader.

### Schedule

Thursday evening, July 17<sup>th</sup>, will be the troop check-in evening. You may arrive any time between 7:00 and 8:00. It will take approximately one hour to get everything done. Medications should be turned in at this time. At this time, we will check all paperwork, handle all final payments that may be outstanding, and complete the final checklist for all boys and adults. It is also at this time that you may purchase Troop T-Shirts, purchase cash cards, pick up your nametags, and do final merit badge checks. *Please do not bring your duffle bags to the check-in.*

After checking in, we ask all of our parents to return to St. Joseph's parking lot at 10:00 P.M. on July 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be loading the buses at 10:30 p.m and departing for the camp at 11:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE THIS DEPARTURE TIME.** Please do not be late for we will be organizing everything to go on the buses and will not have time to deal with late arrivals. Please bring your packed carry-on ready to go and be in full uniform. Upon arrival at the church, please check in at the check-in table to get your bus assignment and further instructions.

***We will be leaving the church parking lot as close to 11:00 p.m. as possible.***

We will be returning to the church Parking Lot on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, between 3:30 and 6:30P.M. We will use our Instagram account to notify our families when we have a more accurate arrival time. **Please do not plan on having your son call you upon his arrival.** All of the adults and leaders will want to leave as soon as possible. Therefore, we ask that our parents be waiting for us when we arrive.





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### **Instagram Account Notifications:**

This year we will continue to communicate with our parents throughout the trip. If you have not already done so, we will be asking everyone to sign up for an Instagram account and subscribe to the Troop's notification page. We will no longer be using X "Twitter". Please use the following QR code to sign up.

Follow @Troop\_497 on Instagram



This is totally free and will save much time trying to notify everyone by phone. Notifications can be received on your email, cell phone text message, or both. It will be our intent to send messages throughout the week. This is a totally free service. This has worked well for us these past many years and will continue to use the service to communicate.

### **Medicals & Permission Slips & Identification**

Everyone must have a physical examination each year on record with the troop. If any adult leader or scout does not have an up-to-date physical on record with the troop, please contact Andy Reidler IMMEDIATELY (410-916-4083). The camp will not allow a scout to remain in camp without these forms. Please use the form on the website for this camp. Bring two copies of both the physical and your medical insurance card (front and back) to check in. Please make sure that you receive a physical from a doctor before we go. If you are unsure of the validity of the form, please contact us as soon as possible.

### **Food Allergies/Special Dietary Requests.**

If you have food allergies or special dietary requests for health, religious or other reasons, please follow the directions on the Troop website to notify the Troop immediately.

### **Phone Calls:**

We discourage the use of the phone to contact parents during our week at camp. Please encourage your sons to take postcards, letter paper, (yes...we are going to ask them to write the old fashion way) etc. so that he can send you updates on his week.

If you have an emergency during camp and need to contact your scout, please call **1-905-741-0024** during the week of camp and the Troop will get notified. During the travel days, please contact the Scoutmaster, Brad Boutilier (410) 914-7536





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Also, we encourage our parents to send letters to our scouts while in camp. ***It's a lot of fun to get called up at Mail Call!***

All Mail should be sent to :                   **(Scout's name)**  
   **Haliburton Scout Reserve**  
   **P.O. Box 450**  
   **Haliburton, Ontario (CANADA)**  
   **K0M 1S0**

**Please note that it takes several days for letters and even longer for packages to arrive at camp. Please plan accordingly.**

In past summer camps to Canada, some parents found it cheaper and easier to send care packages to their sons using Walmart Canada for items such as snacks, games, books, and other fun stuff. **Please limit the amount of food and snacks you send. These items attract wildlife and must be securely stored in camp.** Every year, we throw away excessive amounts of these items that do not get consumed in camp. If you want to send snacks, consider coordinating with other parents in your son's patrol to send patrol care packages that can be shared by the boys and consumed in one night.

*We will also have a drop box for mail at the Troop Meetings starting July 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is only for small letters as we can not accommodate packages in our trailers.*

### ***Updating Contact Information***

Please update your contact information by July 10<sup>th</sup> by sending updated email addresses, phone numbers, and addresses to [Troop497announcements@gmail.com](mailto:Troop497announcements@gmail.com). If you are not certain we have the correct information then send it. We would like to have an up-to-date roster for distributing at check in. The email addresses are also used throughout the year to send important announcements including this letter. (We won't be sending email during summer camp – see the information on Instagram above.)

We have found over the years, that the better informed our parents are, the less problems that occur before the big trip. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Brad Boutilier 410-914-7536 or Ken Krach, (443) 465-9659. We will be more than happy to answer any questions that still remain unanswered. A full itinerary with our schedule and stops is attached to this letter for your review.

This letter has a lot of information and we thank you for taking the time to read its contents. Please continue to check the Troop web site, [www.troop497.org](http://www.troop497.org), for the latest information. We also thank all of you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely  
Brad Boutilier, Scoutmaster





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***Proposed Itinerary***

Saturday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 A.M – 11:00 A.M	Drop off chairs and guitars at shed. Bring your duffle if ready.
Thursday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00-8:00 P.M. 10:00 P.M.  <b>10:59 P.M.</b>	Check-In Arrive at Church  <b>Depart ** Do Not Be Late</b>
Friday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:15 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.  2:30 P.M. 5:30 P.M.	Picnic Breakfast, Visit Niagara Falls Lunch and Jet Boat Ride  Depart for Church Arrive Church for the Evening
Saturday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M. 12:15 P.M.	Breakfast Travel Arrive at Haliburton Scout Reserve Haliburton, ON, Canada

***Summer Camp, Haliburton Scout Reserve***

Saturday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M. 12:00 – 3:15 P.M. 4:30 P.M.	Reveille/Breakfast/Pack Up Depart Camp Wild Water Kingdom Arrive St. Catharines, ON
Sunday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. ~4:50 P.M.	Reveille / Breakfast Depart for Home Arrive on Church Parking Lot <i>with Parents Waiting</i>

This is a proposed itinerary and is subject to change as we refine our plans.







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**2018 Summer Camp Check-In Sheet**

To: All Parents and Scouts

Please make sure that you check in at each check point this evening prior to leaving. The last check point will be with Kevin Shaffer at which time you may pay for any and all outstanding payments required with one check. After you have checked in at each point, and left your duffle bag, please feel free to leave. Please return to the church parking lot this evening no later than 10:00 P.M. Please be sure that your son is in complete and official uniform.

	Check Point	Approval	Money Owed
1	Physical Forms and insurance card (two copies) and Medical Releases and Medicines (due 10 July)		
2	Passport Book (due 10 July)		
3	Notarized Permission Letter, both parents Jet Boat Ride Release		
4	Merit Badges and Advancement		
5	Merit Badge Charges		
6	½ Spending Money Turn-In (sealed in envelop with name)		
7	Dues - Dues must be paid up through August.		
8	Uniform Parts -- Hats , Neckerchiefs, Nametags , T-Shirts		
9	Twitter Setup		
10	Miscellaneous, cash cards		
11	Summer Camp Payments		
	Balance Due		

*Thank you for your patience during this process. See you at 10:00 P.M.*

