

Unit Leader Fact Sheet How attendance at a COL Camp impacts the quality of the Campstaff and your unit.



Who makes up the campstaff?

The great majority of the youth and adults who comprise the campstaffs at Treasure Island, Resica Falls and Musser Scout Reservations started out as scouts and scouters in the Cradle of Liberty Council or its predecessors.

All of the major camp staff management positions for all three camps are filled by adults who grew up in this area and were involved in Scouting during their youth.

How do most people join the campstaff?

Nothing generates more interest in working at camp than attendance at our summer camp programs. The interactions and friendships formed as part of your scout's early camp experiences often lead to interest and the eventual applying for staff. Camp leaders are constantly on the lookout for those scouts with the skills, temperament and leadership abilities needed to be on the staff.

What are the benefits to joining the campstaff?

As a Scout Leader, your successful efforts result in the development of youths into responsible adults. This occurs in many ways. Being a campstaff member is just one of these ways.

New Environment: The Scout is placed in a situation and environment that has challenges he'll never see on the troop level. Living away from home for 9-10 weeks, working with an entire new group of people and forced to use the knowledge and methods they've learned in new ways are just a few of these challenges.

As a parent or leader, you spend a great deal of time with your children or scouts. Therefore, their development is noticed in small increments. It's been noted many times by both parents and leaders how remarkable a change they've noticed at the end of a summer when their scout returns.

Staff members have joked about how unprepared many of their counterparts in college were during their first year. Many times these students never had to cook, wash clothes or keep a schedule on their own.

What do veteran campstaff members say about their experience?

In a completely unscientific sampling for this fact sheet, a number of staff members were asked to recount their most memorable moments in Scouting. Even the Scouts who were from amazingly active units ranked campstaff memories among their most memorable remembrances of scouting.

How does campstaff experience help the unit?

Campstaff is one of the best forms of Junior Leader Training available in Scouting. Scouts return to their units after their campstaff experience with a renewed commitment to Scouting and advanced skills such as organization, team building, leadership and program planning.

Regarding the campstaff experience, what are the consequences when my troop does not attend a Cradle of Liberty Council Camp?

There are approximately 150 youths on the campstaff in any given year. They are among the brightest and most capable members of their home units.

In 2007, over 80% of the Cradle of Liberty Council units attended another council's camps. A large number of these units RARELY or NEVER attend summer camp at the Cradle of Liberty Council.

This results in a type of self-fulfilling prophecy. These same units claim that the campstaffs at other camps are better. They use that as the reason to not attend Cradle of Liberty Council Camps. Since their Scouts don't experience our camps, they don't apply to be on the campstaff. The pool of qualified Scouts from which the campstaff is chosen gets smaller and smaller.

Your own unit is also affected. Without campstaff skills, your youth leadership and unit is deprived of some of the best experiences that Scouting can provide.

The Cradle of Liberty Council Camping Committee encourages you to take part in the great programs in our camps and to encourage your ablest Scouts to apply for a campstaff position at either Treasure Island, Resica Falls or the Musser Scout Reservations.