

Erie Shores Council “Scouts BSA/Venture Activity” Camp Alaska Guidelines

Erie Shores Council Camp Alaska is a unique opportunity for a troop/patrol/Crew to experience real winter survival. Careful preparation and education can pay off in a challenging, safe and successful outing. A Camp Alaska patch is available from the Scout Service Center for a nominal fee to all Scouts and leaders who successfully complete the experience.

Below are guidelines established by the Erie Shores Council Camping Committee for your unit to have a complete Camp Alaska experience.

- Conduct an outdoor encampment for a **twenty-four (24) hour (minimum) period** between the dates set on the Erie Shores Council Calendar.

- The troop/patrol should not leave the campsite or area for an outside activity.
- Hold four troop meetings preparing for the Camp Alaska experience. Before any Scout can participate, the unit leader should ensure that the Scouts participating have knowledge of:
 - a. Appropriate types of clothing, bedding and camping equipment;
 - b. Cleanliness in cooking and care of the campsite;
 - c. Proper practice in the care of food, menu planning, and proper sanitation;
 - d. Proper types of fires and their uses;
 - e. Proper skill in use of wood tools (Totin’ Chip)
 - f. Proper training in cold weather first aid

- Units may not use manufactured tents. They may use visquene, tarps or native materials.
- A minimum quarter mile pack-in is suggested. With the exception of their water, units may only bring what they can backpack in one trip.
- Menus must be prepared and food purchased by the Scouts. Cooking should be done individually or in teams of two.
- **Practice Leave-No-Trace camping, carry out what you bring in, follow the BSA Outdoor Code!**

A special segment will be available for Scouts camping in BELOW ZERO weather provided they use an approved shelter and make their own ground bed. Below Zero is achieved anytime the temperature drops below zero during the outing.

Additional resources on Camp Alaska First Aid practices and other cold weather camping procedures can be found at:

1. BSA Fieldbook: Chapter 13
2. <http://www.macscouter.com/keepwarm/index.asp> (Information to prepare for winter outings.)
3. <http://okpik.nwsc.org/> (Adult leader training.)