

A Quick Look: Council Canoe Clinics

These special programs help Scouts and leaders develop and sharpen their flat-water and canoe-tripping skills. Instructors are specialists in long canoe trips; many have ACA touring canoe certification. Canoe Clinic programs in the North and Oyo are designed to help your Scouts be safe, do the job, get ready to go. Spring and Oyo clinics focus on paddling and back-country trekking. Fall clinics focus on paddling and canoe camping. Our Oyo Canoe Clinic is unique and residential: you get to live, paddle, eat, and learn at Camp Oyo in the Shawnee State Forest.

Scouts may earn the Canoeing Merit Badge if they are able to demonstrate a sufficient skill level and pass the tests concerning canoe handling (both solo and tandem), knowledge, and safety. **Scouters** may rent Council canoes for unit functions after successful participation in a Council Canoe Clinic, and they'll come away better paddlers in the bargain.

When you're registered, you'll get details about time, place(s), materials to read, and final details about the plans for your clinic. Questions can be answered then, by telephone or email. We require that an authorized leader have **health history and emergency information** for Scouts; if a Scout or adult is alone, he must provide a **BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A and C**.

Friday evening includes check-in and an overview of the program; First Aid, Safety Afloat, self-rescue, trek clothing, fitting PFDs and paddles, and more. It's time to bring your reading knowledge from the booklets and your questions about canoeing! **Saturday and Sunday are days on the water.** We go, rain or shine. Saturday will begin with paddle strokes, move onto the water for solo work, then paddling tandem, and ending with in-the-water swamping drills. Sunday includes more water play, and trek information, too. Both days, the odds are high that you'll begin the day dry and end it wet – plan ahead. **Gear you need?** Think ahead: dress will be dictated by the weather; wear and bring appropriate clothing – wool, fleece, raingear, no cotton or you'll get mighty cold – preferably layered so it can be removed or added as the weather changes during the day. Bring a complete change and a towel; accidents do happen. Wear laced-up shoes that can get wet; we'll ask you to walk into the water. We teach Canadian-style canoeing: you will be kneeling in canoes; consider kneepads or a kneeling pad.

Heads up! You'll need to pass the **BSA Swimmer test** before you come to the clinic, and **bring signed and dated verification** by your Scout leader or lifeguard. Persons who are not capable of easily passing the BSA Swimmer requirement should not take this Clinic. Participants' swimming ability is required for both the merit badge and for Clinic certification. Persons who cannot pass the swimming test will not be permitted to continue and no refunds will be made. Experience indicates that not all Scouts will successfully complete Merit Badge requirements during the Clinic. If a student doesn't complete his merit badge requirements, instructors make individual arrangements: **the clinic does not issue "partial" merit badge completions.** We do not recommend that individuals weighing less than 100 pounds participate in the clinic: experience indicates that in most cases, such individuals are too small and do not have the strength to adequately handle the canoes. The Clinic is not open to Cub Scouts.

More information? Contact Stephen Park, Clinic Lead, (614) 578-1920, swpark5000@aol.com; Michael Hock, (614) 888-4703, michael.hock1@gmail.com; Tom Pauling, (614) 538-0234, Thomas.c.pauling@jpmchase.com; or Dave Wright (Oyo), (740) 335-2277, dawgfooddave@sciotowireless.net, **and join us on the water!**