MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS

TO: 2010 MASSAWEPIE TROOPS

FROM: STEVE WEISENREDER, CAMP DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MERIT BADGE SCHEDULE

DATE: 3/8/2010



Enclosed is the 2010 Merit Badge Schedule and prerequisites.

Please note the following significant scheduling change: We have introduced a new scheduling format for 2010. We will be running 45-minute sessions for some badges and 90-minute sessions for others. The 90-minute sessions will run 9:00 to 10:30, 10:45 to 12:15, and 2:00 to 3:30. There is 15 minutes of travel time between each session. 45-minute sessions will run 9:00 to 9:45, 9:45 to 10:30, 10:45 to 11:30, 11:30 to 12:15, 2:00 to 2:45, and 2:45 to 3:30. There will be 15 minutes of travel time at 10:30, 12:15, and 3:30. There will be NOT be travel time at 9:45, 11:30, and 2:45. Scouts are encouraged to take two badges from the same area back to back. Travel between areas will not be possible. This may seem confusing, but if you take a look at the attached schedule, you should find it easier to follow. This new format makes more efficient use of the time available and will allow us to offer more opportunities to the Scouts without sacrificing the quality of instruction.

Other highlights of the 2010 Merit Badge Schedule:

- For 2010 only, we will be offering <u>Carpentry Merit Badge</u>. This is one of the original 1910 merit badges. BSA is allowing 4 select 1910 merit badges to be offered in 2010 only, using the original 1910 requirements. This is not a simple badge. I strongly recommend that you not register any younger Scouts. To make room on the schedule for Carpentry, <u>Textiles</u> will be offered by appointment only. Our plan is to bring Textiles back on a full time basis in 2011.
- New in 2010, <u>Muzzle Loading</u> option for <u>Shotgun Shooting</u> will be available. This is for experienced shooters only. Please make sure that Scouts have both shotgun shooting experience and enough size to handle recoil. Unqualified Scouts may be dismissed from the class. Scouts who have already completed Shotgun Shooting are welcome and encouraged to re-take the course.
- We introduced a new program at <u>Trail Blazers</u> (first year camper program) in 2009. We will be continuing that program with some modifications this summer. The new <u>Trail Blazers Advanced</u> (formerly Tenderfoot Trail Blazers) is designed for Scouts who have been in the troop a bit longer, but have not yet advanced to first class. They will meet for only 1½ hours and will cover some of the more advanced requirements for 2nd and 1st Class.

Trail Blazers Advanced will run in the afternoon, while the traditional Trail Blazers program will run all morning.

- We have listed a recommended age and rank for many of the merit badges. This is a recommendation. Badgetracker will not reject a registrant who does not meet the age/rank recommendation; that decision will be left to the troop. Please take these recommendations under consideration. If a Scout takes a badge that is too difficult for him, he may not have a pleasant experience. Age recommendations will be enforced as requirements for <u>Rifle</u>, <u>Shotgun</u>, <u>Mt. Fox</u>, <u>COPE</u>, and <u>BSA Lifeguard</u>.
- There is enough flexibility built into the schedule that we will be able to open up additional sessions of classes that fill up quickly. I have held back time slots in most areas so that extra classes can be added. We can't do that in every area for equipment and supervision reasons, but there are several areas where we have that ability. Please keep an eye open for notes about new class sessions.
- There are some badges for which completion is weather dependent. We'll do our best to get everybody through the badges, but have little control over the weather.
- There will be a place on Badgetracker for Scouts to indicate their intent to participate in the
 <u>Mt. Fox</u> Program. The official registration for Mt. Fox will be on the troop roster
 submitted on or before May 15th.

We will be using <u>Badgetracker</u> for sign-ups again this summer. Badgetracker has undergone a change in management and as such we are behind schedule for the start of sign-ups. I still anticipate an April opening date, but can't provide a definite date at this point. We will distribute login information as soon as the site is ready for use. Please keep an eye on your inboxes (and possibly spam folders) for that information.

I look forward to working with all of you this summer. Please let me know if there is any thing that I can do for you. I can be reached at 585-241-8547 or steve.weisenreder@senecawaterways.org.