

April 2011

Volume 11



Tomahawk Alumni Association

Serving Past and Present Staff Members and Supporting Tomahawk Scout Reservation

Alumni Work Day at TSR May 14

It's that time of the year again to prepare for the Tomahawk alumni work day. Hopefully it is already on your calendar, but the event is Saturday May 14th. Please plan to meet at the White Pine Program Building at 8 a.m. to begin the day's work. Lunch will be provided.

The rangers are excited to have our help for this weekend so please plan to come if you are available. Over the last couple of years we have had great turnout. We've also completed a lot of work and had some fun too, which might be why the rangers like us.

This year we'll be looking for a lot of help with carpentry and painting projects. Potential projects include working on a new bouldering wall, pavilions, and building a new logging themed outpost area. The new outpost area will incorporate some of the Raven's Roost areas and structures, but a significant amount of demolition and building will be needed. Projects will depend on the weather and who is able to attend, but you can be assured there will be plenty of work for everyone.

The alumni work weekend has been a great way to reconnect with camp staff friends and get back to camp. It's a great way to relive some of those "glory days," but we still get to sleep in our own beds and we don't have to eat camp food all summer. We encourage you to reconnect with some of your closest camp staff friends and make sure they are coming, remember to use the "Buddy System" and peer-pressure them into coming. It's not just a day to do manual labor, but an opportunity to find out what folks are up to and share those "remember that one time?" stories again.

So that we can plan out work groups and purchase the necessary food for lunch please RSVP to tmckean@nsbsa.org or 651-254-9136 by May 11th. Also specify if you need Friday evening accommodations. Please also include any specialized skills you may have so that we can fully utilize our work force.

New Additions to the T2 High Adventure Program

The week-long high adventure program at Tomahawk is called T-2 and is designed for Scouts 14 years of age and older, who have participated in the traditional Boy Scout summer camp program and are now searching for the next challenge. We expanded the T-2 program offerings again to include two additional programs to choose from. Scouts can register for any one of the following programs: "In Camp Variety", "Out of Camp Variety", "Rock Climbing Adventure", or "Sailing & Whitewater Adventure". All programs offer high adventure experiences during the day and time for Scouts to spend with their troop during select evenings. While the In Camp and Out of Camp varieties have been offered, Rock Climbing and Sailing/Whitewater are new additions.

T-2 "Rock Climbing Adventure" Program Details (includes one overnight trip out of camp)

- Designed for Scouts who want an in depth climbing experience. Scouts will be proficient at setting up climbs safely, learn climbing knots and techniques and will climb on a variety of surfaces including multiple natural rock sites.
- The program offers a wide range of climbing challenges, instruction, and skill development. Scouts will participate in climbing instructional trainings, repelling techniques, tower and rock face set up and will climb on the Tomahawk Mega tower, and natural rock climbing on the North Shore and Taylor's Falls.

T-2 "Sailing & Whitewater Adventure"

- This program is aimed at Scouts who want to hone their sailing and paddling skills. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn the whitewater merit badge and will get significant time sailing on Long Lake.
- This program includes a whitewater adventure on the Brule River and a sailing regatta on Long Lake.
- Program outcomes include earning whitewater merit badge, developing skill proficiency and having the knowledge to be able to independently sail and paddle on whitewater in the future.

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Former TSR Camp Staff Turned Council Professionals

In the last six months we've had several Tomahawk camp staff alumni become professional Scouters with Northern Star Council. Tomahawk alums traditionally excel as professionals and we're sure these three will do great.

David Lovett was a Tomahawk staffer from 2001 to 2010 and served as the Navajo Camp Director. He's now the Northwest District Executive. David fondly recalls his time at TSR as being critical to his character development and an incredibly fun time.



Eric McFee has been a professional for several years, but has come back to Northern Star to serve as the Great Rivers Senior District Executive. He worked at Tomahawk from 2003 to 2006 and met his wife there. Eric's favorite part of being on camp staff was the end-of-the-year award ceremonies like Tommies and Siouxies.

Tyler McKean worked at Tomahawk from 1998-2007 and now serves as the Cub Camping Manager for Northern Star. Tyler's favorite place at camp is the McLean Cabin where he and Ralph McLean spent their last summer at TSR together.

Left to Right: Tyler McKean, Cub Camp Manager

Eric McFee: Great Rivers Senior District Executive

David Lovett: Northwest District Executive

TAA Webmaster Wanted: Looking for someone interested in managing the website. You may have just the right skills. If interested, please email mmccabe@nsbsa.org to share your thoughts.

TAA to Host Sparkler for Tomahawk 2011 Staff

Continuing a recently-begun tradition, the Tomahawk Alumni Association will be presenting another sparkler for the Tomahawk Staff. Sparklers are always highlights of the summer, offering an opportunity for staff from all the sub-camps and programs of Tomahawk to come together for laughs, food, and casual competition. The last several years have seen a Tomahawk Idol talent show and a Best Skit Competition.



President-Elect Scott Schuette has already begun preparing ideas for a 2011 sparkler, potentially named "Rock the Barn!" The event will likely be organized by a combination of TAA members and current camp staff, and talks are currently considering resurrecting the nearly-forgotten "Air Band" event, a sparkler which faded from existence after the demise of the Chippewa Beach Boat House. Last year, Scott did a dead-on impression of Chris Farley's Mick Foley, thoroughly entertaining all staff familiar with the SNL "In a van down by the river!" sketch.

While it will be some time before the sparkler scheduled July 28, 2011, one idea that seems very likely to happen is that the sparkler will take place in the newly-acquired pole barn at the north end of the peninsula (which may or may not be haunted.)

We would really like to have more alumni members present at this event. Any alumni interested in helping out and attending the event should contact Scott Schuette at scott.schuette@comcast.net.

Food Quality Assessed at Tomahawk Scout Reservation

Over a two-week period in 2010, Keith Johansen, Ph.D, and TAA Board Member, conducted on-site research at Tomahawk to determine how scouts and leaders experienced the food served both in the dining halls and in camp sites. Survey and interview respondents included camp food service staff, camp staff, 70 adult leaders and 46 campers, all of whom ate in one of the dining halls. An additional 5 adults were interviewed about their experiences cooking meals for scouts in their own campsites.

Based on a ten-point scale, the 70 adult leaders who ate in the dining hall reported an overall 6.9 rating of food quality at TSR. A rating of 6.8 was the cumulative average across 3 meals, based on the combined criteria of taste, appearance and nutrition. The 46 scouts who ate in the dining hall reported an overall rating of 7.00 (on a 10-point scale) for the quality of food. A rating of 7.1 was the cumulative average across 3 meals based on the combined criteria of taste, appearance and nutrition.

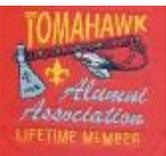
The 5 adult scouters who cooked their meals in camp were unanimous in voicing the benefits of planning, preparing and cooking meals in their campsites. Prominent benefits mentioned included comparable costs (to eating in the dining hall), skill development for teamwork, opportunities for teaching and learning, qualifying for merit badges, etc., developing self sufficiency, having greater control of the menu and an opportunity to provide overall, better nutrition.



Johansen and Camp Director Mark McCabe agreed that while TSR food seemed to be generally adequate in terms of variety, taste, quantity and nutrition, some significant improvements would be made for the 2011 camp season by selecting improved food products from vendors, better quality control and supervision of food preparation and delivery, and regularly scheduled feedback from campers during the camp season.

A major conclusion of this research is that multiple factors influence the quality of camp food, including number of Scouts in camp to feed, number of campsites where food is delivered, budget, food costs, food service facilities and available time for meals, given the daily schedule of scouting activities and the ultimate purpose of the camping experience, which is to practice scouting and enjoy the outdoors. Johansen concluded that given the complexity of TSR food service operations, and the limited purpose and scope of his preliminary study, more research was needed before more comprehensive and long-term recommendations could be made. Johansen stated "Given social issues like growing obesity levels among youth and adults, and an emphasis on convenient, processed food, summer camp provides a great opportunity to educate scouts about good nutrition and food preparation, knowledge they can apply in their personal lives and also promote in a leadership role as citizen scouts."

President's Corner: TAA Membership Online



Your membership matters! Once a year the Alumni Association reaches out to TSR alumni who are not yet association members by sending our newsletter to all alumni. Belonging to the TAA is the best way to stay connected to your camp and the staff you worked with while supporting Tomahawk and the campers and staffers of today.

Through your membership you'll stay connected with the latest camp improvements and alumni news, receive invitations and updates about alumni service and social events, and know that your helping to continue the quality programs at Tomahawk. So, if you are a TSR alumnus who is not yet a member of the Alumni Association, or if you have let your membership lapse, I would like to personally invite you to join the TAA. You'll be glad you did. Remembering our past, maintaining our relationships, helping today's campers and staff, and being good stewards of Tomahawk's future are what were all about.

Dues fees provide the resources to keep past staff members connected to each other and to the camp but they also provide resources that can be used to support the Scouting program at Tomahawk providing a better experience for Scouts participating in the program. Dues and donations to the TAA have been used for the support of several things including funding for service projects at Tomahawk, building a new entrance sign, paying for current camp staff summer social events, and providing training resources for summer staff. Please visit our on-line membership registration site for an easy way to become a member today.

<http://events.SignUp4.net/TSRAumni> If you have any questions about the association, contact Myron Jacobson at myron.jacobson@q.com.

Base Camp: A Year Round Adventure

Check out some of the many ways you can utilize Base Camp:

- Overnight Lock-in (with two staffed activities)
- Archery Range
- Climbing on the indoor or outdoor facilities
- Simulated ice climbing
- Team Building & Ropes Course
- Troop, Pack or Crew Meetings
- Hike or bike at nearby parks & trails
- Check-out Base Camp bikes
- Space Shuttle Simulator (problem solving)



Signing up for Base Camp is easy!

1. Call or email for availability: 612-767-0042 or basecamp@nsbsa.org
2. Complete permit application (with 2 signatures). Two Weeks in advance if Base Camp staffing is needed. Download Facility Permit Application (www.ExploreBaseCamp.org)
3. Mail Permit and deposit to:

Northern Star Council
Base Camp Accounts Receivable
393 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102-1717

TAA Board Meeting Set For Long Range Planning

On **Wednesday, April 13**, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., the TAA Board will be holding a special meeting in the Resource Library at the Northern Star Council's **Base Camp** at Fort Snelling to discuss long and short range goals and plans for our organization. We will spend the evening examining where we are, and where we want to go specifically with Membership, Finance, Events, and Member Communication. If you have thoughts on what you like to see the alumni association doing, email them to TAA President Myron Jacobson at myron.jacobson@q.com

Looking for an Excuse to Visit Camp?

I have on occasion found myself looking for an excuse to drive up to camp. The best one I know of is the Alumni Service Weekend (this year the weekend of May 14th). If you have never seen Long Lake and Tomahawk in the spring you have been missing out. It's fresh a unique time of year at camp. With the trees just coming out, you get a whole new view. My favorite? Being able to see Sioux Program from Sioux Scoutcraft! And it's not just the view. With no bugs, no campers, and few boats on the lake, camp even sounds peacefully different.



One of the things that makes our alumni association strong is our commitment to service. And that is what the Alumni Service Weekend is all about. Getting Tomahawk ready for another summer takes a lot of work. Just like when you worked there, the camp staff will spend a week preparing Tomahawk for scouts, but even before the staff gets there, Tomahawk needs to be ready for the staff. As a former camp staffer, your knowledge and skills can be of enormous help. So come on up! If you like, we'll find you a room with heat and a bed, or just bring a tent. Have a favorite campsite? This is one of those rare opportunities where you can literally pitch your tent just about anywhere in camp you want. Plenty of work that needs doing, and plenty of former staffers to get to know. Just RSVP so we'll have meals ready for you. RSVP by.... web site? email?

Please contact kburbank@nsbsa.org if you would like to schedule a visit.