

BSA TROOP 474

White Mountains NH

Rocks High Adventure Winter Camping & Snow Shoe Hike

Coming Soon!

(February 13, 14 & 15th)

Adult Leaders Jagielski / Slattery

YOU MUST SIGN UP BY January 28th!!

DESCRIPTION: Annual trip to Bethlehem (near Littleton) NH; Rocks Christmas Tree Farm for winter camping and snow shoe hike on Presidential Range. We camp in close proximity to cars and a heated building with running water and bathrooms but our focus is on a cold weather camping experience and adventure. We will use day packs and snow shoes for our hike up Mt. Pierce. The heated building acts as a back up sleeping facility if conditions are severe. If in doubt, take the chance...be brave.

Day One: we drive to camp, set up camp, tour the Christmas Tree Farm and practice or learn how to use snow shoes. Experience is NOT needed.

Day Two: Break camp. We drive 20 minutes to Base of Mt Pierce for hike to summit. *This is the high adventure piece!!!* Weather permitting, everyone will reach the summit including all newcomers to snow shoe hiking. We will hike Crawford Path to summit of Mt. Pierce. This hike brings us to 2,400 feet and is 6.4 miles. This was originally a bridle path, no where is it really steep and it is only a short distance above the tree line to the summit. The hike is followed by some seriously killer sledding at a nearby hillside...Baldwin hill does not compare to this hill!!! Bring a tube, torpedo or flying saucer. Return to camp, make dinner and gather round the campfire for an impromptu percussion band session or storytelling. Or if conditions are right, make an igloo! Great opportunity for those working on their Communications Merit Badge.

Day Three: Pack up camp, drive into Littleton for breakfast and visit the Littleton candy store with world's longest penny candy counter. Return drive home.

COST IS \$20 PER PERSON PLUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHARED GAS EXPENSE IF YOU CATCH A RIDE WITH ANOTHER DRIVER.

WHEN: Adult meeting on January 21st will allow for questions related to this trip.

Departure - Saturday 2/14/09 meeting place Commuter Parking Lot on Rte. 77 at 7 AM. Arrive Rocks Christmas Tree Farm by 1:00, set up camp by 3:00. Practice snow shoeing. Dinner

- Sunday break camp by 8:30, drive to Mt Pierce and be hiking by 10:00, sledding by 3:30 and preparing dinner by 5.

Return Monday 2/16/09 5 PM

WHERE: Rocks Christmas Tree Farm, Bethlehem, NH (White Mts. NH), camping at Bretzfelder Memorial Park

WHAT To Bring: Follow Winter check list for over night camping. We have reviewed clothing requirements and layering at troop meeting through full "show & tell" demonstration. Techniques of layering clothing and types of hi-tech materials, sleeping with hat, essential extreme cold weather sleeping bags, how to keep Nalgene bottles from freezing, importance of nutrition, hydration, empty bladders, frostbite, the importance of keeping dry, and more will be covered at the meeting. *Cotton clothing is forbidden. If you do not think you have the right equipment talk to one of the leaders – for this trip you can use multiple sleeping bags to sleep in comfort rather than one super-expensive arctic rated bag.*

Clothing - Weather conditions will not be better known until the week of the trip. PLAN ON 5 Feet of Snow and potentially extreme temperatures at night (below zero before wind chill factor). **Sorel Boots ('pack' boots with separate liners) are mandatory!!!** These will be used in camp and may be used for the hike depending on weather conditions.

Food –Saturday night and Sunday night we will be cooking for the entire group, not patrol cooking. Each person is individually responsible for trail mix, snacks, lunches, hot chocolate/tea... Food is fuel that keeps you warm...prepare to keep food bars, gorp, salami and easy to carry food in your bellies. Staying hydrated is essential...however full bladders require energy to keep at 98.6 degrees.

H2O – Carry two liters for Sunday hike. H2O is available at the campsite.

MASTER LIST OF WHAT TO BRING:

A. HANGING OUT AT CAMP ATTIRE (many layers; standing around gets you cold, **excellent** boots (I.E. - 40 DEGREES) & hat & extra gloves)

B. DAY HIKE UP MT. PIERCE (DAY PACK, **10 ESSENTIALS!!!**, LAYERS, face mask/ balaklava)

C. SLEEPING ATTIRE (dry layers, HAT!!, socks – sleep clothing is different from what you perspired into during the day – keep it dry...stay hydrated...empty bladder before you sleep at night)