



Troop 45

Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America

8 January 1998

Dear Troop 45 Family,

Each year for the past several years, the troop has undertaken a summer adventure in addition to summer camp. We have gone to Philmont, attended the National Jamboree, and undertaken backpacking, canoeing, and sea kayaking trips from Mead Adventure Base. This coming summer, a number of scouts wish to take an expedition to Grand Teton National Park in northwest Wyoming. Although originally the idea was that a few of the boys who were especially interested in mountaineering would mount an expedition to climb the Grand Teton, the concept has grown to include all Troop 45 family members, so that families could take advantage of the trip as a family vacation if they wanted to. There are certainly many attractions and activities in the Tetons and nearby Yellowstone National Park that would make the expedition attractive to more than the few boys actively participating in the troop's mountaineering program.

The troop committee and the scoutmasters have approved the project in principle, but the Patrol Leaders Council has determined that an expedition of this magnitude should be approved by the troop as a whole before we begin serious planning. The PLC has therefore asked me to subject the Tetons proposal to a straight up-or-down vote. If we decide to go to the Tetons, we will begin preparations immediately; if we vote it down, we will consider new, less ambitious and expensive proposals such as a week-long canoe trip down the Penobscot, a week-long backpacking trip on the AT, or one of Mead Base's many offerings. In any event, the date for the 1998 summer adventure is firmly fixed at 1-9 August. Please discuss the Tetons proposal in your family and then complete and return the attached form to me by 18 January. Note that the reply form is anonymous, so your vote will be confidential.

If the Tetons proposal goes forward, some of you may find that the cost, even to send only your scout on the trip, is more than your family budget can support. Please do not assume that this means that your boy cannot participate. Part of the proposal is that the boys will be responsible for raising a significant portion of the cost of the expedition through troop-sponsored fundraising activities. We'll find a way to accommodate any boy who really wants to go.

Yours in Scouting,

Yorke Brown
Scoutmaster, Troop 45

Proposal for the Troop 45 1998 Summer Adventure

What: An expedition to Grand Teton National Park. The trip will be open to all Troop 45 Scouts and their families.

When: 1-9 August 1998. This date is firm. Note that the summer camp expedition runs the week of 19-25 July.

Where: Grand Teton National Park lies just south of Yellowstone National Park in the northwest corner of Wyoming. It is served by the airport at Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Tetons area offers a variety of activities, including hiking, sailing, swimming, nature study, horseback riding, backpacking, mountaineering, mountaineering instruction, whitewater rafting, cultural activities, and exploration of the well-known attractions of nearby Yellowstone National Park.

How: The troop will plan to travel by air to Jackson Hole, and then rent vehicles as appropriate to support the activities we plan. Presumably, most whole families will want their own transportation; the troop will arrange transport for scouts without families. Although flexibility will be required to accommodate all the different activities different families and groups of scouts will wish to undertake, the basic approach to accommodations will be that we will camp as a troop at campgrounds within the park or at the free campsites along the Snake River between Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks. Supervision will, of course, be provided for scouts not under the immediate supervision of their families, whether that be for the whole expedition or for a single activity. We will function as a troop, accommodating the plans of families as necessary. We will plan troop activities in advance, and secure reservations wherever possible.

Cost: The major cost of the trip will clearly be transportation. Current airfare estimates are running around \$500 per person (Boston-Jackson) provided we book as a group well in advance. Car rentals will depend on the type of vehicle, but \$20-30 per person per day would not be an unreasonable estimate. Park entrance fees and campsite fees will probably eat up another \$20 per day. Food need not be more expensive than eating at home, but you may want to figure some increase. We may wish to consider one night in a motel before returning home. A basic, bare-bones budget will probably run somewhere near \$800 per person, with additional costs for any fee-based activities like whitewater rafting, or sailboat rental.

Response Form. Please return to the Scoutmaster or any Assistant SM by 18 Jan 98.

Yes, the Tetons Expedition is a good idea.

No, we should look into something else.

If we go to the Tetons, my family
might send _____ persons.

Comments and suggestions: