**Adirondack**

**Winter Adventure**

**2016**

**THE FORMAT FOR THE 2016 ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE HAS CHANGED**

The organization of the 2016 WINTER ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE has changed since the 2015 activity. The main reasons are (1) Potential fluctuation in the exchange rate between the US Dollar and the CANADIAN dollar and the (2) need to push ownership of weekend registration down to the individual scout groups.

**BACKGROUND: 2015 ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE**

1. Prices for US accommodation were provided in US Dollars and then converted into CAD dollars with a reasonable exchange rate (20%).
2. Scout groups paid the registration fee in CAD dollars and the organizers paid the US accommodations with US Money Orders.
3. All of this had to be completed by two weeks prior to the 1st weekend of the Adirondack adventure.

**ISSUES ENCOUNTERED**

* US Exchange rate plummeted to 31% - this resulted in a financial greater than $1100 CAD.
* US Accommodations underwent repair, forcing adjustments of accommodation numbers and at times different weekends
* Late registrations and registrations outside of the normal process resulted in overbooking of snow shoes which caused further manipulation of weekend selection
* Cost of US Money orders is an unnecessary waste of expenditure
* Some US locations bumped our Scout groups out of accommodation due to lack of membership

**2016 ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE**

As a result of the issues encountered on the 2015 Adirondack Adventure, the following changes will be made for the 2016 Adirondack Adventure

* Scout groups will take care of booking any payment of their accommodations.
* Scout groups will send a cheque made payable to the “Venturer Advisor Forum (VAF)” for $8 per person who attends the 2016 Adirondack Adventure event. The $8 fee covers the following:
	+ Rental charge for Snow shoes
	+ Maintenance / repairs for Snow shoes (tools/wire/replacement clips) and ancillary equipment such as Leader backpacks, rope, printing of maps, multi-tools for on-situation repairs on hikes)

 **Information Package**

**ACCOMODATION AND RESERVATIONS**

Groups should review the list of accommodations that has been provided. The list of accommodations is by no means a complete list and Scout groups are welcome to go where they please. However, these places have sufficient space to accommodate both large and small groups of scout youth and adults.

Scout groups are now responsible for reservation and payment of accommodation of their choice. It is highly recommended that Scout groups make reservations as early as possible for the following reasons:

1. Lake Placid is very popular in winter and accommodation gets booked up fast.
2. There is a limit of 48 snow shoes per weekend.

When making a reservation, Scout groups should follow these guidelines:

**Send an email to Paul Young-Davies** (scouterpyd@gmail.com) listing the following:

1. Number of attendees (adult and youth)
2. Weekend of choice
3. Accommodation of choice
4. Attendee Information List

**Send by mail: (Paul Young-Davies – 218 Horseshoe Crescent, Stittsville, K2S0B8)**

1. Attendee Information List
2. Cheque made payable to “Venturer Advisor Forum (VAF)” for the amount stated on the Attendee list

**SNOW SHOE RESERVATION**

Please note that there is a maximum of 48 pairs of snow shoes per weekend. Once they are gone, they are gone. Groups will then have to make their own plans.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

There is no registration deadlines – Scout groups can choose when to make reservations. However, the later the reservation, the less chance of getting the snow shoes on the weekend they choose.

**2016 ADIRONDACK WEEKENDS**

There are 5 weekends available for the 2016 Adirondack Adventure Activity.

January 29th to 21st

February 5th to 7th

February 12th to 14th (Valentine day and Family Day weekend)

February 19th to 21st

March 4th to 6th

**TRIP REQUIREMENTS**

**Requirements: Scouts Canada Paperwork**

1. As this trip is outside of Canada, a *Tour Permit* must be completed and submitted to your Council office **four weeks prior** to the trip date.
2. A *Camping and Outdoor Activity Application* must be approved by the section’s Group Committee.
3. A *Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Category Three Activities and Out of Country Travel* must be completed for each participating youth. **Pathfinders** must complete the required Guiding paperwork and follow their guidelines for out of country travel.

**Requirements: Canada-US Border Crossing**

Adults must present a passport. Youth, aged 18 or under, who are Canadian citizens, need only present proof of citizenship (birth certificate or passport). A birth certificate is allowed instead of a passport as we are travelling by land as a youth group. Note that while pork and poultry for personal consumption may be brought into the US, beef and citrus fruit is forbidden. It is probably least hassle to plan to purchase any fresh meat, fruits and vegetables in the US. Use the following website to figure out what you can and can't cross the border with : <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml>

**Requirements: Snowshoes for Mountain Climbing**

Technical snowshoes (or crampons) are required by law for the mountain climb. Snowshoes are provided to those attending this activity. The usage of ski poles while snowshoeing is highly recommended; however these are not included with the snowshoes. Please indicate on the registration form the number of snowshoes required. The snowshoes provided by VAF are given to Venturers and Rovers only. Pathfinders are required to use their own.

**Requirement: Medical Insurance**

Pursuant to BP&P, out of country medical insurance is mandatory for all Scouts participants. Many company medical plans already include this benefit for dependants. Guides must follow their policies for medical insurance on out of country travel.

**Requirement: First Aid Provider**

Pursuant to BP&P, there must be at least one person on each hike who has current standard first aid certification and carry a first aid kit.

**Overview**

The Winter Mountaineering Adventure is an annual snowshoe hike and climb. We will summit mountains up to 5,000’ high in the Adirondacks High Peaks district in New York State. This event is open to all Venturers, Rovers, Rangers (Girl Guides) and their leaders. The base camp for this adventure is the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) hut in Keene, New York. Last year we had normal amounts of snow, and predictions tell that it should be around the same this year. However, in the event of any trail closures there are numerous alternatives; the event will not be compromised.

**Financial Breakdown**

The costs for the 2016 Winter Adirondack Adventure are based on the following elements:

1. Equipment rental: In order to cater to the many groups that wish to participate in this activity, the organizers are renting a large number of snow shoes for each weekend.
2. Storage facilities: As the 2015 Winter ADK event occupies 5 weekends, rental of storage facilities for snowshoes is required for convenience.

**Accommodation**

Participants have the option of choosing heated indoor accommodation or tent camping. The indoor accommodation can be found later in this information package. Groups are responsible for making their own reservations. The accommodation selection provided is by no means extensive or the only places which welcome Scout groups. Scout groups are free to choose their own locations if they so wish.

**The ACC hut** provides propane lighting, propane cooking burners, wood stove heating, a sleeping area with mattresses, as well as dishes, pots, and pans. Sleeping bags are required, and indoor footwear is highly recommended as outdoor shoes are not permitted past the entrance. Water is available from an outside pump. Outside toilets are available. Cut firewood is provided for the wood stoves.

**All hostels and Inns** provide beds with sheets, stoves, fridges, hot & cold running water, toilets, showers, dishes, pots, and pans. All locations are within a 30 minute drive from hiking locations.

Winter camping is available at the ACC hut and other camp grounds. All camping area do provide a dining shelter, picnic tables, and fire pit. Some deadfall is available for use as firewood; cut firewood from the hut may not be used. Campers may not use the hut for cooking unless they have registered as hut participants.

For ALL accommodations, please use the leave no trace rule, and leave your room/site as you have found it, and be sure to thank the staff on the way out.

In the past, we have had issues with certain groups leaving messes behind or doing some damage to the property. ALL participants are on the trip as ambassadors for Scouts Canada or Girl Guides of Canada, and should respect property as if it were their cell phone or most prized possession.

Note: With a practice trip and outdoor camping, this trip can be used as a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh adventure.

**Weekend Selection**

To allow the maximum number of participants, groups are requested to select on their registration form multiple weekends on which they could attend. This allows balancing of the groups across the weekends based on accommodation capacity restrictions. Your flexibility makes this event work for more people.

**Transportation**

Each group is responsible for their own transportation. The drive from Ottawa is approximately 3 ½ hours. Some groups stop just before the border for supper on Friday night.

**Maximum attendance per weekend**

Approximately 48 Venturers/Rovers can be accommodated per weekend. Priority will be given to groups from Voyageur council. This event is open to Girl Guides, and will be fit in where there is room.

**Hikes**

It is up to each Scout group to select their own hike route based on the skill and dexterity of the participants (adult and youth) in their own scout group. It is recommended that hikes be started before 8:30AM in order to maximize daylight hours.

All hikes should be limited to a single day – no overnight camping in the back country will be permitted unless special permission is granted. There are usually multiple scout groups attending each weekend and there will be easy and difficult trips selected.

Please note that Adirondack Park Leave No Trace Regulations has a maximum limit of 15 participants per hike (including the hike leaders). Failure to comply may result in fines being levied.

Everyone from a given group does not have to do the same hike. The duration of the hikes is 4-8 hours. It only takes about half the time to descend the mountain as it does to climb it. At least one person on each hike will have current standard first aid certification and carry a first aid kit. Some suggested hikes are included in this package but please feel free to hike any trail you like. Let your Trip Leader know which hike you are doing.

**Trip Leaders**

A Trip Leader is needed for each weekend. The Trip Leader is responsible for knowing which hikes each group is planning Trip leaders are also responsible distributing and collecting snowshoes. It would help the trip leader out if each person hiking inspects their snowshoes afterwards, does up all fastenings, and reports any popped rivets.

**Hike Leaders**

Hike leader volunteers are needed. A training session for the hike leaders will be conducted after the January Venturer Advisor Forum meeting.

**Other Attractions**

Friday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday are open for groups to do their own hikes, visit attractions in the vicinity, or just relax. Shopping is possible in Lake Placid, with *Eastern Mountain Sports* being popular, and at *The Mountaineer* in Keene Valley (highly recommended). Good skiing and snowboarding is available at Whiteface Mountain and Gore Mountain; it is even possible to drive to Jay Peak in Vermont. Ice climbing can be found in a variety of locations; with guides and equipment available from *Rock and River*. Bobsled rides are available at the Olympic Sports Complex. There is a long toboggan run onto Mirror Lake in Lake Placid. Groups can arrive Friday morning, making this a full three day event.

**Emergency Services**

Adirondack Medical Centre

29 Church Street

Lake Placid, New York

12946

(518) 523-3311

**Adirondack Search and Rescue**

(518) 891-0235

**Clothing and Equipment**

Weather can change quickly and drastically in the mountains. Ensure all participants are suitably dressed in layers and have adequate food and drink for a very active outdoor winter day during the hike. Participants will need the ability to shed layers once they start snowshoeing. Remember that cotton will get wet and cold. Mountain snowshoeing is a physically demanding activity and participants should be reasonably fit. Water and snacks should be brought on the hike. For additional information, see the following documents that are available on the VAF website:

* Winter Clothing Recommendations
* Winter Hiking Checklist
* Winter Adventure Map Resource

**It is also recommended that each hiker have a compass and that the group considers using FRS radio.**

**Crests**

No custom crest is manufactured for this event; however specific crests for each mountain may be obtained from *The Mountaineer and* the *Adirondak Loj*.

**Photos**

Photographs from last year’s trips may be found on the Venturer Advisor Forum website. If you are to take photos, remember that you are responsible for your camera and any damage to it. It is not recommended to take a DSLR on your hike.

**Food**

Each group must come self-contained with all food for the entire weekend; or may make use of the local restaurants, with some groups doing a combination. Some groups bring their food with them; other groups purchase it in Lake Placid. The Price Chopper store in Lake Placid is on the right hand side of the main highway. Please check this website for border food restrictions. A good place to go for a meal is the Hungry Trout restaurant; however you require a reservation to go.

**Maps**

Maps are not required for those participating in hikes. However, the recommended map is: National Geographic, Adirondack Park - Lake Placid / High Peaks, 742, 1:75,000. This is available from *The World of Maps* in Ottawa or your favorite map store.

**Emergency Kits**

Each hike leader will be provided with a kit consisting of: Waterproof topographical maps of the trails, a map to the local hospital, a compass, a snowshoe repair kit, an advanced first aid kit, and a rope. Special thanks to Cal Clupp and 3rd Kanata Venturers for preparing these kits.

**Event Organizer**

*All enquiries should be directed to Paul Young-Davies*

*Email:* *scouterpyd@gmail.com*

*Contact: 613-291-0088*

**Choosing a Hike**

* Be sure to choose a hike that fits the skill level of your group
* Choose a few hikes in advance, and pick the one that best suits the weather
* Use online resources to find mountains. Here are some websites.
	+ <http://www.lakeplacid.com/do/outdoors/summerfall/hiking/46-high-peaks>
	+ <http://www.adirondack.net/tour/hike/highpeaks.cfm>
	+ <http://www.adktrailmap.com/>
* Here is a small sample list of hikes available!

**Pathfinders**

This we are also inviting Pathfinders to join us on the trip. Guide units should note that snowshoes provided by the Venturer Advisor's Forum will not be available to them and they must bring their own. Also, any Guiding forms MUST be completed and submitted by the unit, as no paperwork for guides will be done by the event committee. Please note that all standard guidelines for Guides apply on this trip.

**Further Information**

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| Past Winter Adventure Information www.1stmerrickville.ca/winteradventure/  | Olympic Bobsled www.orda.org/newsite/todo/winter/bobsled\_luge.php  |
| Venturer Advisor Forum http://web.ncf.ca/ad554/announce.htm  | Lake Placid Toboggan Chute www.northelba.org/government/park-district/toboggan-chute.html  |
| The Alpine Club of Canada http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca | The Mountaineer store www.mountaineer.com  |
| Alpine Club of Canada Keene Farm http://dev.accmontreal.ca/en/reservations  | Eastern Mountain Sports www.ems.com  |
| Keene Valley Hostel www.keenevalleyhostel.com  | Whiteface Mountain Ski Resort www.whiteface.com  |
| Brookside Motor Inn http://brooksidemotorinn.com/  | Gore Mountain Ski Resort www.goremountain.com  |
| Canadian Border Services Agency www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/ls-tm-eng.html  | Jay Peak Ski Resort www.jaypeakresort.com  |
| US Border Services http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml  | Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce www.lakeplacid.com  |
| The World of Maps www.worldofmaps.com  | Adirondak Loj http://www.adk.org/page.php?pname=adirondak-loj  |
| Rock and River guiding www.rockandriver.com  | National Geographic Maps www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/  |

**GPS Waypoints**

Waypoints for each of the trails, in GPX format, are available from the Winter Adventure website.

**Lake Placid Toboggan Chute**

**Approximate** Pricing: $5/sled rental + $5/adult and $3/youth (up to 18) to use it. Unlimited rides.

Hours: Friday 7:00pm - 9:30pm, Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm & 7:00pm - 9:30pm, Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

**ATTENDEE INFORMATION LIST**

|  |
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| **2016 ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE ATTENDEE LIST** |
| Group: | Area: |
| Youth contact: | Email: |
| Adult contact; | Email: |
| Adult contact cell: | Home Tel:  |
| Note: Both contacts will serve as hike leaders |
| Participant List : | Identify the role of each person attending |
| 1 |  | Hike Leader |
| 2 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 3 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 4 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 5 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 6 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 7 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
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| 13 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 14 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
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| 17 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 18 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 19 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 20 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |
| 21 |  | Advisor / Youth / Parent |

**PAYMENT:**

Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x $8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cheque made payable to “Venturer Advisor Forum (VAF)”

By signing, your group understands the risk involved and will follow safety guidelines and mountain rules, as well as respecting their lodgings and their surroundings

Hike Leader: Date:

**ACCOMMODATION SELECTION**

**HOSTELS/CABINS**

**Tmax-n-topo’s**

<http://www.tmax-n-topo.com>

5046 Cascade Road (Route 73) Lake Placid NY 12946

Tel: 518-523-0123

Accommodation ranges from Individual rooms to 1 x large bunk room (22 occupants).

Bunks are $28 US per occupant per night (plus taxes)

**KOA Lake Placid**

<http://koa.com/campgrounds/lake-placid>

77 Fox Farm Rd, Wilmington, NY 12997

Tel: 518-946-7878

Individual cabins ranging in size from 4 to 9 occupants. You pay for the cabin per night. Price per occupant is calculated by dividing the cost by the number of occupants. Call Lake Placid KOA for pricing and availability.

**Keene Valley Hostel**

<http://www.keenevalleyhostel.com>

1755 NYS Route 73, PO Box 541, Keene Valley, NY 12943

Tel: 518.576.2030

Contact: jakeandrobin@keenevalleyhostel.com

Hostel can host up to 10 occupants per night. Bunk house $25 US per person per night (plus taxes).

**High Peaks Cyclery**

<http://highpeakscyclery.com>

2733 Main St, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

Tel: 518-523-3764

Three bunk rooms sized for 1 x 10 and 2 x 12 occupants

You pay for the bunk room per night. Price per occupant is calculated by dividing the cost by the number of occupants. Call for pricing and availability.

**The Bearfoot Cabin**

<http://www.lakeplacid.com/lodging/bearfoot-cabin>

161 Mountain View Road, Wilmington, New York 12997

Tel: 609-465-9077

Can accommodate up to 8 people. You pay for the cabin per night. Price per occupant is calculated by dividing the cost by the number of occupants. Call for pricing and availability. **NOTE: Owner prefers booking for 3 consecutive nights where possible but do accommodate weekend bookings of 2 consecutive nights (Fri/Sat)**

**MOTELS/INNS**

**Brookside Motor Inn**

<http://brooksidemotorinn.com>

7 Springfield Rd, Upper Jay, NY 12987

Tel: 518-946-8369

There are two room sizes:

4-6 persons (2 bedroom/2 bath) 2 person occupancy @ $90 per night and $10 per extra person

1-3 persons (1 bedroom/1 bath) 2 person occupancy @ $65 per night

You pay for the suite per night. Price per occupant is calculated by dividing the cost by the number of occupants. Call for availability.

**RoosterComb Inn**

<http://www.roostercombinn.com/rates>

3 Market Street Keene Valley, NY 12943

518-576-9916

Recommend “Spread Eagle” room as it is the largest. $85.00 per night based on double occupancy and $30.00 per extra person per night… this is a large room with 4 twin beds. 2 can be slid together. 2 shared hallway bathrooms. Other rooms are available. Call for availability.

**Alpine Club of Montreal (ACC Hut)**

Keene Farm

http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/huts/keene-farm/

Contact: <http://dev.accmontreal.ca/en/contact-us> (Keene Reservations) - Thomas Brady or Erik De Leon

<https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/huts/keene-farm/>

Pricing: ACC Members $15 per person per night. Non ACC Members $25 per person per night

Call for availability

**\*NOTE\* Please read the information on this web page:**

<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/booking-huts/#about-rates>

The Alpine Club prefers to take reservations from members of the ACC club. If you are not a member of the ACC club, pay in full as soon as you can otherwise you risk being bumped by ACC members who make reservations and pay right away.

**CAMP GROUNDS**

**ADK Wilderness Campground**

<http://www.lakeplacid.com/camping/adk-wilderness-campground>

1002 Adirondack Loj Road, Lake Placid, New York 12946

518-523-3441

There will be plenty of space. Call for pricing.

**KOA Lake Placid**

<http://koa.com/campgrounds/lake-placid>

77 Fox Farm Rd, Wilmington, NY 12997

518-946-7878

There will be plenty of space. Call for pricing.

**Alpine Club of Montreal (ACC Hut): Keene Hut and Campground**

<http://dev.accmontreal.ca/>

http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/huts/keene-farm/

Contact: <http://dev.accmontreal.ca/en/contact-us> (Keene Reservations) - Thomas Brady or Erik De Leon

There will be plenty of space. Call for pricing as there is a different cost for ACC Members and non-ACC Members.

**OTHER RESOURCES TO USE**

Cabins and Cottages

<http://www.lakeplacid.com/lodging/cabins-cottages>

Motels

<http://www.lakeplacid.com/lodging/motels>