

Troop 285 High Adventure Summary Sheet

High Adventure is a Troop 285 tradition. Bill McCalister has realized that boys will stay in scouting longer if challenging, unique opportunities are offered to older scouts. These trips teach independence, outdoor skills and perseverance. A boy matures after each trip. Every boy and dad is highly encouraged to participate in as many High Adventure experiences possible.

The first two years of a Troop 285 scout career should be invested in summer camps and learning scout skills. The first year is always Lost Pines in Bastrop, TX and the second could be a return to Lost Pines or an option to go to Wehinapay Mountain Camp in New Mexico's Lincoln National Forest. Any year could be coupled with a Troop 285 Spring Break Trip.

From 13 to 18 years old, scouts and dads should be participating in annual summer High Adventures. These adventures range from BSA High Adventure Bases to Wilderness Expeditions led by experienced Troop 285 adults. Costs range from \$30 to \$160 per day plus expenses to destination.

High Adventure Scouts should be finishing 7th Grade and be 1st Class Scout Rank. Scouts and Adults should be participating in scout meetings and outings at a 70%+ level. Participating dads should have been a patrol dad or led meetings and campouts. Adults need to understand scout skill levels and teamwork. Please don't expect Troop 285 trek leaders to be travel agents.

BSA Scout Bases: Average \$60 per day plus transportation

1. Northern Tier Canoe Bases – 13 years old minimum - <http://www.ntier.org> Wilderness Canoe Expeditions with Scout Staff. All food and equipment provided.
 - a. Bissett, Manitoba (preferred)
 - b. Donald Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Ontario
 - c. Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base in Ely, MN
 - d. Reservations: First Monday in April for following year or as available
2. Sea Base - <http://www.bsaseabase.org/> All food and equipment provided.
 - a. Florida – Sailing Trips, Out-Island, and Scuba trips with experienced Scout Staff - 13 years old minimum
 - b. Bahamas – Sailing Trips only - 14 year old minimum
 - c. Reservations: First Monday in April for following year or as available
3. Philmont Scout Reservation -
 - a. New Mexico Backpacking Expeditions with experienced Scout Staff.
 - b. All food and equipment provided
 - c. Reservations: reserve 18 months in advance for lottery space available. First Monday in November for following year or as available
 - d. Troop can attend every other year.
4. Impeesa Scout Camp - <http://www.chinook.scouts.ca/impeesa-x/>
 - a. Canadian Rockies Backpacking trips with experienced Scout Staff.
 - b. All food and equipment provided
 - c. Reservations: First Monday in April for following year or as available
5. Horseback Cavalcade in Texas: 13 and up at time of activity. With experienced Scout staff
 - a. All food and equipment provided
 - b. BSA Camp Sol Mayer - Menard, TX:
http://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/camp_solmayer.html
 - c. BSA Buffalo Trail Scout Camp - Fort Davis, TX:
http://www.buffalotrailbsa.org/camping/btsr_about.html

6. BSA Packard High Adventure Base, Pueblo, CO - 13 and up at time of activity
 - a. All food and equipment provided
 - b. Whitewater rafting, Backpacking, Mountain Biking, Climbing
7. Others
 - a. Maine – Backpacking, Sea Kayaking
 - b. South Padre, TX – Sailing, Sea Kayaking
 - c. San Diego, CA – Sailing
 - d. Seattle, WA – Sailing

Self Guided Backpacking Expeditions by Experienced Troop 285 Adults - \$30 (backpacking only) to \$95 per day (backpacking plus rafting, Float Plane, etc) plus transportation to destination

1. Requirements are established by trek leader. Scouts age, Scout Rank, Scout Skills, Scout/Adult Participation, Essay, etc.
2. Destinations – unlimited: Examples are Grand Teton National Park, Wind River Mountains, Gila Wilderness, Weminuche Wilderness, Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, Bob Marshall Wilderness, Alaska’s Chilkoot Trail/Canada’s Yukon
3. Experienced Scouters and Dads
4. Plan and cook your own food – can be difficult for inexperienced.
5. Planning time is 18 months to 24 months

Guided Wilderness Expeditions by Experienced Troop 285 Adults - \$110 to \$160 per day depending upon activities plus transportation to destination.

1. Requirements are established by trek leader. Previous wilderness experience is most probably necessary, Mature Scout (14+), Scouts age, Scout Rank, Scout Skills, Scout/Adult Participation, Essay, etc.
2. Destinations – unlimited: Examples are Hiking Swiss Alps, Canoeing Nahanni Wilderness, River rafting Chilko River, Backpacking Hawaii, etc
3. Plan and cook your own food – can be difficult for inexperienced.
4. Planning time is 24 months to 48 months

Purchasing Equipment

1. Do not buy retail unless you must. Purchase wholesale, seconds, closeouts, etc. Troop 285 website has several mail order locations.
2. Invest as much as you can afford on quality backpacks and hiking boots.
3. Go to Troop 285 Website and click on High Adventure button. Review the equipment purchasing checklist and guide.

Cooking

1. Become experienced at planning and cooking meals for High Adventure Trips
2. Two Theories on Backpacking Food. Food is Fuel vs. Food is Entertainment. Decide on your preference and plan accordingly.
3. Go to Troop 285 Website and click on High Adventure button. Review sample menu with calorie count from 2003 Grand Teton Expedition.

Maintain a diary for future reference and memories.

1. Booklet
2. Music Video