



## **CAC Camp 2020 Frequently Asked Questions – General**

### **1. Why are we changing how we utilize our camps?**

In March of 2018 the Crossroads of America Council (CAC) Board initiated the process to create an overall strategic plan, and a strategic master plan for our Council camps. Through this process we identified significant concerns including declining camp attendance, despite membership growth, and an imbalanced utilization of our capital camps. While many ideas were considered, the CAC Camp 2020 plan addresses these two main issues.

### **2. How does the CAC Camp 2020 plan address the issues of declining camp attendance despite membership growth and imbalanced utilization of our camps?**

Today's families have a different set of needs and expectations for summer camp options and the BSA. By changing our camps to focus on specific ages we can specialize the program, facilities, and improve the quality of the programs offered. Additionally, the CAC Camp 2020 plan increases the camping style options available from two (day camp and cub resident camp), to five (Cub day camp, themed day camps, weekend family camping, Cub Scout family camp, Cub resident camp). Additionally, the CAC Camp 2020 plan balances the utilization of our camps by shifting usage to camps that have additional capacity allowing us to accommodate more campers during the peak month of June.

### **3. How was the decision made to change the usage of our camps?**

Over the course of 18 months of meetings, listening sessions, and surveys involving more than 17 stakeholder groups and hundreds of individuals, various ideas were discussed, proposed, presented for feedback and refined. A final draft proposal consisting of a master plan and program plan for each capital camp, a proposal for our legacy camps, and an executive summary were presented to our Council Board in April of 2019. During the summer of 2019 our council property and program committees sought additional feedback and socialized the plans through leaders' meetings at our summer resident camps.

#### **4. What program is happening at each camp in 2020?**

In 2020 our summer camps will operate to provide experiences which are specifically planned for each age group. These programs will follow a progression plan, such that activities which challenge and excite are matched to each age group. Scouts will therefore be able to look forward to new adventures. When they have completed a year or two at each camp, they will be prepared to move on to a more challenging experience building towards confidence in overnight camping that will translate well once they crossover into a Scouts BSA Troop. The program design and highlights are listed by camp property on the following pages.

## **CAC Camp 2020 Frequently Asked Questions – Programs (by Camp Property)**

**Camp Belzer** will be focused on Cub Scouts who have just finished their Lion and Tiger experiences in the spring of 2020. Belzer Day Camp will not require unit leadership, being truly “drop off” in nature. Parents as with all Cub Scout activities are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Belzer Day Camp will focus on activities that specifically excite this age group, along with rank advancement to help with the transition as these Cub Scouts begin to work on their next rank (Tiger or Wolf respectively.) **District Day Camps** for Cub Scouts will continue to be an option for the districts that are approved to offer them, and in the format decided upon by those district volunteers.

### **Highlights:**

- **A traditional day camp experience for Scouts completing Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade.**
- **Activities to include Cub Scout Adventures for the next rank a Scout is starting**
- **Keystone programs such as shooting sports, swimming, and sports and games each day**
- **New “Theme Weeks” conducted for Scouts who have completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through Scouts who have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Age 8 to 14). Each week will follow a different theme.**
- **Cub Scouts finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade will not focus on Cub Scout Adventure programs during theme weeks.**
- **Scouts BSA members will be able to work towards earning select Merit Badges and gain knowledge that will help them on their trail to First Class**

**Camp Kikthawenund** will be the primary camp for Cub Scouts who have just finished their Wolf or Bear rank (generally, those completing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and focuses on the family camping model. At Kikthawenund Family Camp parents are encouraged to attend with their Scout or bring the entire family and participate in family Scouting activities.

### **Highlights:**

- **All Tents, Campsites, and Latrine facilities were updated in 2019 to facilitate this change.**
- **Tents at Kikthawenund are family style and can sleep three to four people. Families can camp in the same tent, with cots provided.**
- **Activities are designed for a family to do together.**
- **Cub Scout Adventures are facilitated by camp staff with parent participation.**
- **This is a 3 day-2-night experience with all meals prepared and served in our dining hall.**

**Camp Krienstein** will be the short-term resident camp for Scouts working toward the Arrow of Light (generally, those completing the 4<sup>th</sup> grade). At Camp Krienstein, Webelos attend with their den and den leaders, though parents are also encouraged to participate.

**Highlights:**

- **New program designed for a smooth transition from Arrow of Light to Scouts BSA**
- **Activities designed to give snapshots of the fun and adventure available in Scouts BSA**
- **Many activities designed for a den to complete together, much like a patrol might do in Scouts BSA. Dens encouraged to attend together, with Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader.**
- **This is a 5 day-4-night experience, with all meals served in our dining hall except for an outpost experience where Scouts will cook a meal together.**

**Ransburg Scout Reservation** will be the long-term resident camp for Scouts BSA and continue to provide its nationally recognized program. Endless opportunities exist to challenge Scouts to pursue their own individual interests, whether a first-year camper or an Eagle Scout looking for fun and adventure beyond the merit badge program.

**Highlights:**

- **Personal growth, leadership development, and exploration are encouraged of all who attend**
- **Troop and Patrol programming help units to grow stronger for the year ahead**
- **This is a traditional 7 day-6-night Scouts BSA experience with Sunday arrival and Saturday departure.**
- **Eagle Quest program facilitates first year campers working towards First Class.**
- **COPE, the Ranch, the Climbing Tower, ATVs, Waterskiing, Sailing, and Personal Watercraft (PWC) programs provide exciting opportunities for Scouts looking for more advanced opportunities.**
- **The Order of the Arrow and Firecrafter program areas develop leadership and Scout skills, while serving as effective retention methods for Troops.**
- **Adult leaders can participate in training courses, aid with merit badge instruction, relax in the air-conditioned Scoutmaster's lounge, compete in a cook-off, and much more.**
- **Campsite names have been revised to help aid in navigating camp, and 80 new tent platforms are being installed on Ridge 1 ahead of Summer 2020 to ensure we have capacity for all who wish to attend.**
- **Shower house facilities are all being renovated before Summer 2020. The Jackson Facility and Ridge 5 Shower House will receive a complete overhaul, with major renovations at the Inlow Aquatics Center.**

## Camp 2020 FAQ – Serving Families

### **1. Will District Day Camps be offered?**

Yes, absolutely. Many districts hold a week-long day camp during one week of the summer. These opportunities will continue as they have for many years.

### **2. Will Camp Belzer offer a program for older Scouts? In other words, can Scouts who just completed 2nd- 4th grade also attend Camp Belzer?**

Camp Belzer will be offering weekly themed camps to youth who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 14 years old. Themed camps are not focused on Cub Scout adventures. So, Cub Scout who have completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> or higher grade are encouraged to attend the Cub Scout Camp for their rank.

### **3. Will Camp Belzer allow tag-alongs next year if the parent attends?**

Camp Belzer will have a tag-along program for youth under the age of five years old and youth Cub Scout age or older are encouraged to sign-up for one of our themed camps.

### **4. Can Packs reserve a time at Camp Belzer, Camp Kikthawenund, and Camp Krietenstein?**

Yes, nothing has changed in that Packs are encouraged to have their Dens coordinate their attendance at camp.

### **5. Can Scouts at Camp Kikthawenund or Camp Krietenstein only attend part of the time? For example, can a Scout (and or parent) only attend 3 nights/4 days at Camp Krietenstein?**

We encourage you to attend the entire time to benefit from the specifically designed experiences. If you need to leave camp early, please ensure you sign out at the camp office prior to departure.

### **6. Can each Scout attend Camp Krietenstein with a parent or are only 2 Pack leaders allowed?**

Parents can always attend camp with their Scout so long as the Youth Protection policies of the BSA are followed. One of those policies is that adults attending resident camps over 72 hours in length, not necessarily consecutively, must be registered members who have completed a background check. Check with your Pack on options for registering as a member of the Pack Committee, Assistant Den Leader, or other position as appropriate.

**7. I have more than two Cub Scouts of different ages. Does this change mean I'll have to go to two different camps?**

We would encourage each Scout to attend the program specifically designed for their age group, while also appreciating that many families are made up of Scouts of different ages. We encourage family participation at Camp Kikthawenund, and youth of older ages could attend Theme Camps with their younger siblings participating in Belzer Day Camp.

**8. I've heard Lions and Tigers go to Camp Belzer and I've also heard Tigers and Wolves. I'm confused, what rank of Scouts go to which camp?**

We recognize that Scouts in different dens may be different ages or in different grades based on their own circumstances. In general, each camp is designed for Scouts finishing a rank and starting the next. So Belzer is designed for Scouts who have finished their Lion or Tiger year, who have recently become Tigers or Wolves respectively. The same is true for Camp Kikthawenund and Camp Krietenstein. Camp Kikthawenund is designed for Scouts who have finished their Wolf or Bear year, who have recently become Bear or Webelos respectively. Camp Krietenstein is designed for Scouts who have finished their Webelos year, who have recently become Arrow of Light Scouts.

**9. What is happening with Community Camp?**

Members of the community can still attend all our Camp Belzer summer programs. Campers will be grouped into the appropriate program by age and have the same opportunity as our current Scouts.