

WHEN TEMPERATURES RISE, DON'T COOL OFF ON UNIT ACTIVITIES

As we transition into the hot summer months, it is important not lose focus and cool off on unit activities. Scouting is designed to be a year-round program and likewise your unit's planning should reflect a year-round approach.

Summer can be a critical time for keeping unit members engaged and maintaining communication. Since many families use the summer months for travel and vacationing, reminding your unit's members monthly via email of upcoming events prior to and over the summer (June 20 to September 22) will go a long way towards keeping them informed during these busy and sometimes distracting times. In addition, ensuring that unit websites, contacts, and calendars are regularly updated will provide existing members, as well prospective scouts and their families, access to up-to-date schedules and ways to communicate with unit leadership.

Keep Cubs Active!

- The [National Summertime Pack Award](#) offers Cub Scout packs incentive and opportunity to stay active through the summer months. Awards are available for the pack (certificate and streamer), respective dens (den participation ribbon) and individual Cub Scouts. Participation in one planned activity per month in June, July, and August is all that is needed to stay on track for these awards and to keep your pack active.
- Day Camps are generally offered during the summer for Cub Scout packs and families to attend. Check with your local council for dates and locations.

Scout Camp, the Highlight of Summer!

- Scouting memories are often made at a Summer Scout Camp which are held nationwide and are offered in most areas from June through late July. Scout Camp is an opportune time for earning merit badges, experiencing the great outdoors, and having fun as a collective troop, crew, ship, post, you get the idea!

Summer is time for High Adventure!

- For many units summer means high adventure! [Summit Bechtel Reserve](#) offers many high adventure options in the wilds of West Virginia! High adventure that ranges from canoeing to wilderness camping can be found at [Northern Tier](#) in the Great North Woods of northern Minnesota and Canada. If you enjoy the water, [Sea Base](#) in Florida and [Swamp Base](#) in Louisiana provide unique experiences in sailing, diving, canoeing, fishing, and camping to name a few. [Philmont Scout Ranch](#) in Cimarron, New Mexico is often considered *the place to be* for scouts across the nation and provides a variety of hiking treks and programs for your units.

Get Out There!

Did someone say hiking? Waterford Press has partnered with American Trails, to launch a series of day hike map pocket guides catered to family friendly outings and wheelchair-accessible hikes in your state. Each folding pocket guide lists 20 beginner level trails that would be of use to any unit and accessible to all scouts. For more details see [this recent article in Scouting Magazine](#).