High Adventure Is For Everybody

How to Plan High Adventure Activities for Your Unit

What is High Adventure

- A chance to try something new
- A way of keeping older Scouts involved and invested
- A planning and leadership opportunity
- An important component for every Troop's program

What High Adventure Is NOT

- High Adventure is NOT (just) Philmont
- High Adventure is NOT (just) the National High Adventure Camps
- High Adventure does NOT have to be too expensive
- High Adventure does NOT have to be far away
- High Adventure does NOT have to be "age limited"
  - (It DOES need to be "age appropriate")

Factors in High Adventure

- Cost
- Activity
- Location
- When (season)
- Preparation
- Leadership
- Process

Cost

- High Adventure does not need to be (too) expensive
  - National High Adventure Camps - $1,500-$2,000
    - Seabase
    - Philmont
    - Northern Tier
    - Summit
  - Local High Adventure
    - Maine High Adventure - $1,000
    - Hiking the Long Trail - < $100

Activity

- Treking/Backpacking
- Canoeing
- Whitewater
- Climbing
- Mountaineering
- Sailing
- Diving
- Dog Sledding
- Cycling

BSA High Adventure Camps

FLORIDA SEA BASE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Philmont Scout Ranch

NORTHERN TIER
HIGH ADVENTURE

Summit
BECHTEL RESERVE

Looking More Local

“Tier” Your Activity

Mount Baldy
New Mexico – 14,000 feet

Katahdin
Maine – 5,000 feet

Bear Mt
Connecticut, <2,000 feet

Location

- Think about travel time/cost
- "Scale" your adventure
  - Canoeing/Whitewater
    - Merrimack or Deerfield (MA)
    - Saco (ME)
    - Yough (PA)
    - Colorado (AZ)
  - Backpacking
    - Berkshires (MA)
    - Long Trail (VT)
    - 100 Mile Wilderness (ME)
    - Philmont (NM)
    - Yellowstone (WY)
    - Glacier National Park (MT)
    - Denali (AK)

Very Local

Preparation

- Timeline depends on scale
  - Local – 3-6 months
  - National – 18-24 months
- Prepare for the adventure
  - Start with smaller trips
  - Physical and Mental preparation
- Grow your “duration”
  - Shorter trips, followed by longer ones

Leadership

- Engage parents early
  - If parents aren't excited, Scout excitement doesn't matter…….
- Find willing leaders
  - Minimum three or four…..
- Find activity that "resonates"
  - If you don't like backpacking in MA, you won't like it at Philmont

Process

- Determine interest and timeframe and budget
  - Parents first – identify leaders
  - Scouts – identify leaders
- Make Reservations
- Fundraising?
- Preparations
- Develop Schedule
- Have a Backup Plan

Questions??
Ideas??