

## OLJATO 2002: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### LOGISTICS

#### 1. How do the Scouts get to and from Oljato?

Scouts attending week #1 must be **at the Scout House at Lucie Stern Center by 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>** to complete the check in process prior to departure at 7:00 a.m. There will be a chartered bus to take Scouts to Oljato on July 14<sup>th</sup>, returning Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. On the return trip, the adult leaders will call one parent from each patrol with an estimated arrival time in Palo Alto. This information should be passed on to other parents in the same patrol.

#### 2. What are the transportation arrangements if my son is not traveling either to or from camp on the chartered bus?

- Scouts attending **only week #1** will return to Palo Alto on Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> via cars driven by Scout leaders or parents, arriving in Palo Alto approximately mid-day.
- Scouts attending **only week #2** will be driven to Oljato on Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> by Scout leaders or parents. Driving logistics, departure times, etc. will be coordinated through Margaret Yarak.

#### 3. Is there a pack list for Camp Oljato?

Yes, there is an official Camp Oljato pack list for Troop #57 that **must be used by each Scout attending camp**. This list, available on the Troop #57 web site, is a detailed list of the items that the Scouts should take to camp. The list includes the following categories:

- “R”: Required, you need it for both the one week and two week sessions at camp.
- “R for Overnight”: Required only for those Scouts who are going to camp for the two week session. (These Scouts will go on an overnight and need more gear.)
- “Optional”: these are items that others have found handy at camp but are not required.

**Please put Scout's name and “Troop #57” on everything using a permanent marker.**

#### 4. How much will it cost to outfit a Scout for camp?

You should not have to spend a fortune in order to be equipped for Oljato. If you do not have some of the high-cost items (backpack, sleeping bag, etc.) you may be able to borrow them from others in the troop or rent at REI or other similar places. If you have questions on the pack list, talk with Eric Keller, John Frankfurt, James Christopherson or Bryan Grant.

#### 5. Will there be a pack check prior to Oljato?

We will not conduct a full pack check for Scouts attending Oljato. Patrol leaders for each patrol may decide to have a pack check for patrol members prior to departure. However, each Scout (with parental supervision) is responsible to ensure that the pack list is followed carefully. **Be Prepared.**

## **6. Are uniforms required at Oljato?**

**Yes, you must have a full uniform as described on the pack list.** Scouts must wear the full “class A” uniform on arriving at the Scout House at 6:30 a.m. on July 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, each Scout must get signed off by their patrol leader before changing into shorts and the gray troop #57 T-shirt for the bus ride to Oljato. **If you don’t have the uniform, you don’t get on the bus.** Scouts who lose a neckerchief or slide at camp can purchase replacement neckerchiefs and slides from the Oljato Scoutmasters, at “market prices.” **Once again, put your name on all your clothing, including your uniform, with a permanent marker.**

## **7. What standards of behavior will apply at Oljato?**

All Troop #57 Scouts attending camp are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. There will be several hundred Scouts and leaders at Camp Oljato and the watchwords are: helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, and clean. Scouts and their parents have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which parents have agreed to come to camp and pick up any Scout who ignores camp policies. All Scouts in leadership positions at Oljato are expected to demonstrate the best in leadership skills at camp.

## **8. How much money should each Scout take to Oljato?**

The guidelines for cash at camp are as follows:

- \$20.00 for lunch on the trip to and from Oljato -- fast food.
- \$15.00 to a maximum of \$25.00 per week of camp.
- **Bottom line: a typical Scout attending the two week session should take \$50 to \$70 to camp. One week Scouts should take \$35 to \$45.**

Other than the Trading Post, the only needs for cash at camp are for certain merit badge classes (shotgun, motor boating and a few others), merit badge books, Camp Oljato T-shirts, etc. Taking too much money to camp is directly correlated with high consumption of candy bars, ice cream and other similar food items from the Trading Post.

## **9. How is cash managed at Camp Oljato?**

All cash for Scouts is kept in a locked container maintained by the troop and Scouts can withdraw from their account two or three times per day. A troop #57 adult leader acts as treasurer. Scouts are strongly discouraged from carrying substantial cash or leaving it in their tents. (There will be several hundred Scouts at camp and while all of them promise to “do their best”, not all of them are trustworthy.)

#### **10. How can Scout families communicate during camp?**

The preferred form of communication with Scouts is through the postal service. Allow several days for delivery to remote Lakeshore, California. The address is as follows:

**Name of Scout**  
**Troop # 57**  
**Camp Oljato**  
**Boy Scouts of America**  
**P.O. Box 217**  
**Lakeshore, CA 93634**

Unless there is an emergency, all incoming calls will be treated as messages and the information passed onto the Scout or troop leader. For incoming emergency calls, the number is 1 559 893 3393

#### **11. How can parents find out what is going on at Oljato?**

Every few days, an adult leader for Troop #57 will talk with Margaret Yarak to give an update on the troop and any interesting camp news. This news will be passed on through an e-mail to Troop #57 families with sons at camp.

#### **12. Can parents send food to their sons at Camp?**

We prefer that the only food sent to camp be brought up by the adult leaders for the overnight or week #2. This will be coordinated through Margaret Yarak. Please keep in mind that the Scouts are well fed at camp and have access to the Trading Post where snacks are available. In addition, all "care packages" received at camp are shared among the entire troop.

#### **13. Are there bears at Oljato?**

Yes, Oljato is in the high Sierras and we are in the bears' natural habitat. There are no food, food wrappers, trash, etc. allowed in camp after dark. In addition, if you are driving to Oljato and plan on leaving a car in the parking lot at Lakeshore, it is **essential** that you remove all food, crumbs, wrappers, coolers (even if empty), etc. from the car. Each year several vehicles are vandalized by bears and, on one occasion, a single fast food wrapper was the cause.

#### **14. Can parents visit their sons at Oljato?**

Because the format for the two week session has changed this year, the Scouts will be on the overnight during the weekend of July 20-21 – the normal time for a parent visit. In addition, the camp has strict rules governing visitors including parents. If you are considering a visit to Oljato, please talk with Margaret Yarak. Note that you need to take a boat across Huntington Lake to get from Lakeshore to Camp Oljato. The boat schedule runs on "Oljato Time" which includes a large random element.

#### **15. What if parents need to pick up a Scout from Oljato?**

Any parent picking up a Scout at camp must take a boat from Lakeshore to Camp Oljato -- Scouts may not be turned over to parents at Lakeshore. In addition, a Scout will not be released to a parent without the signoff of both the Camp Director and Troop Scoutmaster. Typically, this "signoff" takes place at a joint meeting of all parties which will need to be arranged in advance through Margaret Yarak.

#### **16. How are medications handled at Oljato?**

**Parents whose sons will be taking prescription medications to camp need to notify Margaret Yarak by e-mail before departure for camp, along with the medicine's name and dosage schedule.** With the exception of inhalers or epinephrine pens, all prescription medicines will be deposited with the camp medic/nurse. Although, the adult leaders will have a master list of which Scouts need to visit the medic, Scouts should learn to visit the medic on their own. Parents will need to provide prescription medications in original containers and package them together in a large, "Ziploc" plastic bag labeled with the Scout's name. Please make sure that the Scout has sufficient medication for the entire period of his Oljato trip. The zip lock bags will be turned in to Margaret Yarak upon bus check-in. She will label them and give them to the Scoutmaster, who then turns them over to the medic upon arrival in camp.

Scouts needing inhalers or epinephrine pens must carry them with them at all times, using a fanny pack or a day pack. Margaret still needs to let the medic and Scoutmaster know which Scouts have these for emergency use.

On the overnight, Scouts will take their prescription medications just prior to departure and immediately upon return, unless a stricter dosage schedule is called for. This will be at the judgment of the camp medic.

#### **17. Why can't Scouts use Walkmans, CD players, hand held games and similar devices at Oljato?**

We do not allow electronic devices at Oljato including the ones identified above. This is due both to Oljato camp policy as well as a desire to retain a genuine, high-Sierra outdoor experience. We ask that, in keeping with this spirit, such devices not be brought even for use on the bus.

## LEADERSHIP AT OLJATO

### 18. Who are the leaders for Oljato this summer?

The table below summarizes the leadership for this summer.

Week #1 Leaders	Overnight Leaders	Week #2 Leaders
James Christopherson, SPL	Bob Dilfer	James Christopherson, SPL
Bryan Grant, ASPL	Jay Duluk	Bryan Grant, ASPL
John Franfurt, Sr.	John Franfurt, Sr.	John Franfurt, Sr., Scoutmaster
Eric Keller, Scoutmaster	Christy Hartsell	Christy Hartsell
Bruce Schroeder	Sean Cahill	Sean Cahill
Evan Reade	Tony Glaves	Victor Zilinskas, Sr.
Tony Glaves	Wes Chow	
	Evan Reade or Eric Keller	

### 19. Will we use the patrol system at Oljato?

Yes, the regular troop patrols #1 through #5 will be in place at Oljato using Patrol leaders and APL's recently elected. New Troop #57 Scouts will be assigned to patrols prior to camp. Troop #57 is designed to be led by the Scout leaders rather than adult leaders and we will continue this at Oljato.

## MERIT BADGES AND ADVANCEMENT

### 20. What is Skills Patrol?

Skills Patrol is designed for Scouts who have not reached the rank of First Class Scout and focuses on the skills necessary for the first three ranks of Scouting: Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Although not every requirement can be completed at camp, many will be covered in Skills Patrol.

### 21. Can those in Skills Patrol earn merit badges at Oljato?

We encourage younger Scouts to focus on completing requirements for First Class while at camp through the Skills Patrol program. Nonetheless, so long as it does not interfere with Skills Patrol, Scouts may be able to earn one or two merit badges while at Oljato.

### 22. How should a Scout select merit badges to earn at Oljato?

For those who have achieved First Class rank, merit badge classes will be the mainstay of each day at camp. In selecting merit badges to earn at camp, Scouts should consider:

- What merit badges do I need for advancement? What Eagle-required merit badges can I earn at Oljato?
- Are there some merit badges that sound like fun or are of particular interest to me?
- What merit badges are easier to earn at Oljato than in Palo Alto?
- How difficult are the merit badges I am considering? (Ask older Scouts.)

**23. Do any of the merit badges have prerequisites?**

Yes. The list includes the following merit badges: Weather, Nature, Camping and Emergency Prep. In addition, there will be a test for admission to the First Aid merit badge based on Second and First Class first aid skills. We will have details available at the meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**24. Do I need to get blue cards signed before leaving for Oljato?**

No. We will have plenty of blue cards on the bus and will have you complete them at that time.

**25. How many merit badges should a Scout earn at Oljato?**

Typically, Scouts who are first class and higher should plan on earning at least 3 merit badges each week of camp – 6 merit badges for those attending the two week session. It may be possible for you to earn more. All Troop #57 Scouts are expected to be active in either Skills Patrol or in merit badge classes throughout the day.

**26. What if the merit badge class that I want is full or otherwise not available?**

Camp is going to be full this summer and, as a result, Troop #57 Scouts may not get into all their desired merit badge classes. (This is good practice for college, guys.) We have been told that, if a merit badge class is oversubscribed, positions will be allocated based on age to help enable older Scouts get the required badges they need. We encourage Scouts to be flexible and have back-up plans for merit badges.

**27. What is a “partial” merit badge?**

A “partial” is a merit badge where one or more of the requirements have not been completed. In some cases, Scouts may earn partials at Oljato and will have a few requirements to compete subsequent to camp. As a general matter, we encourage Scouts to avoid partials since the troop’s experience is that many of them never get completed.

**28. What is Tribe of Oljato?**

Tribe of Oljato is an award earned by Scouts and adult leaders who complete certain requirements which include service hours at Oljato. If you look at the uniforms of those who have been to Oljato in the past, you will likely see a Tribe of Oljato patch with a rank on it: brave, warrior, medicine man, etc. Our goal is to see that all members of Troop #57 qualify for Tribe of Oljato.

## OVERNIGHT

### 29. What is the weekend overnight hike?

Scouts attending the full two week session will attend an overnight outing departing on the morning of Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> returning to camp mid-day on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Two outings are envisioned:

- A “high adventure” hike that will involve a substantial hike (>10 miles) with substantial vertical. This hike will enable Scouts to see some of the best of the high Sierras.
- A “medium” adventure hike that will be less challenging (<10 miles.)

The exact hikes will be determined during the first week at camp. Food for the overnight will be provided by Camp Oljato. **Note that it is essential that Scouts participating on the overnight have the items included in the pack list under “Required for overnight.”** No Scouts will be allowed to remain at Camp Oljato during the overnight.

### 30. How do Scouts decide which hike they want to be on?

Once the overnight hike destinations are finalized by the Scoutmasters, each Scout will choose which hike he would like to attend. The number of hikers on each hike is likely to be limited due to forest service regulations. While we will work to balance the hikes with the interests of each Scout, not all Scouts may get their first choice of hike.