Important Information for 1st-year Geronimo Scouts

Scout:

As a first-year Camp Geronimo Scout you are signed up for the following at camp:

1. “Trail Begins” Class
2. Swimming Merit Badge
3. Leatherworking Merit Badge

Below is information that you and your parents need to know about these classes including prerequisites that you need to do before coming to camp.

**** Trail Begins Class:

The “Trail Begins” program at Geronimo is designed to help new Scouts and Tenderfoot Scouts advance by completing rank requirements. The prerequisite for this class is:

“The Scout is required to PREPARE and BRING a personal First Aid kit.”

This should be a simple personal First Aid kit that you prepare. See your BSA Handbook for ideas on what to include in your First Aid kit.

**** Swimming Merit Badge:

You can complete most of the Swimming MB prerequisites by attending the June 1st (tentative) Troop 323 Swimming Merit Badge Pool Session being held at a troop member’s pool and taught by one of the troop’s Scouts. More details are coming about where and when. Many of the prerequisites are actual rank requirements that you will be completing so you should bring your BSA Handbook to this troop pool session. Notice that you need to study a number of requirements before coming to the pool session. Remember that information about a requirement can be found on the page numbers listed at the end of the requirement.
Swimming MB prerequisites:

1. **Complete the BSA Swimmer Test** – You will do this when we first arrive at camp. See the “BSA Swim test” section below for more information about this test.

2. **Complete 2nd Class rank requirements 7a, 7b, and 7c.** You should read in your BSA Handbook the information associated with requirements 7a, 7b and 7c **before** coming to the Troop 323 Pool Session. You will discuss these requirements with a Scout/adult at the pool session. The First Aid kit you prepare for the “Trail Begins” class will satisfy 7b. Bring your First Aid kit to the pool session and be prepared to explain why you picked the items you did and what the items are used for. You will also bring your kit to Geronimo.

3. **Complete First Class rank requirement 9a, 9b, 9c.** You should read in your BSA Handbook the information associated with requirements 9a, 9b and 9c **before** coming to the Troop 323 pool session. You will discuss requirement 9a with a Scout/adult at the pool session. Req 9b is the BSA Swimmer Test which you will take at camp. We will review and practice req 9c at the pool session.

4. **Must be able to execute basic strokes in good form and strong manner.** You will practice these at the Troop 323 pool session.

5. **Must be trained to identify conditions for First Aid and CPR.** I think that our new scouts from Pack 323 were already trained for CPR earlier this year. We will need to figure something out for the remaining new Scouts. You should read and be familiar with First Aid techniques listed in BSA Handbook chapter 4 “First Aid” **before** coming to camp.

6. **Must be able to demonstrate First Aid and CPR.** Covered by #5 above?

7. **Be prepared at camp for Swimming MB req #4 “Jump feet first into pool wearing street clothes- use clothes to make a floatation device and swim”.** Please BRING TO CAMP CLEAN street clothes: shoes, socks, long-pants, belt, and a long-sleeve shirt (swim trunks must be worn under long-pants). Dirty shoes and garments will not be allowed in Geronimo’s pool.
Although not a Swimming Merit Badge prerequisite, we will cover 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class rank requirements 8a, 8b, 8c at the Troop 323 pool session. You should read in your BSA Handbook the information associated with requirements 8a, 8b and 8c before coming to the pool session. You will discuss requirement 8a with a Scout/adult at the pool session. We will review and practice reqs 8b and 8c at the pool session.

\textbf{**** Leatherwork Merit Badge:}

You will need a leatherworking kit for this class. You can buy these at the Geronimo Trading Post. There are several different kits to choose from (wallet, knife holder, etc). Information on this class is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Instruction and individual time is needed to complete the projects. Project must be completed by Friday morning to receive badge. Leatherwork kits and braiding material are available at the Trading Post. Some leather pieces are available for projects at the Handicraft Lodge at no cost.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>BRING kit and 2 yards of vinyl lace (braiding materials). Estimated expense for kits about $10 at the Trading Post.</td>
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</table>

\textbf{**** BSA Swim Test:}

This is the BSA Swim Test that you will do when we first get to camp:

\textbf{The BSA Swimmer Test}

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Please remember that this swim test takes place at an altitude of 5,200 ft. You will want to practice swimming in Phoenix to build up some endurance before taking the test. Please remember that:
1. **This is not a race!!** There is no time limit on completing the test as long as you continue to move in a forward motion. **Do not start too fast and burn yourself out!!** Take your time!! Pace yourself!!

2. You can retake the test during the week as needed if you do not initially pass.

3. You can bring goggles for the test if you are comfortable with them.