

# Troop 1377

## 2008 El Rancho Cima Summer Camp Information and Gear List

Keep checking [www.troop1377.net](http://www.troop1377.net) for more info.

### Where is El Rancho Cima?

El Rancho Cima is on the Blanco River, 15 miles west of San Marcos. Follow State Hwy 12 out of San Marcos 10 miles, until it makes a right turn to Wimberley. Continue STRAIGHT on Ranch Road 32 at the intersection to Wimberley. Look for a stone gate at the bottom of the hill, 5 miles on the right for El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Ranch. Follow the signs to Cockerell River Camp.

Cima is in Texas Hill Country. The surrounding countryside is beautiful. It is also hot and dry. The daytime temperature may reach 100 while evening temperatures can be very cool. We almost always have a day or two of rain. Your son should plan accordingly.

### Time and Place

**Leave:** Sunday, June 8, 2008, Troop assembly in the Sears parking lot on Kingwood Drive at 7:00 a.m. *SHARP*. Leave Kingwood at 8:00 to arrive at Cima no later than 1:00 p.m.  
**PLEASE BRING A SACK LUNCH AS WE WILL STOP FOR LUNCH AT A ROADSIDE PARK.** The troop will supply drinks.

**Return:** Saturday, June 14, 2008 at Kingwood United Methodist Church at 5:00 p.m.

### Mail

It takes 2 to 4 days for mail to reach us from Houston and about 5 days from Kingwood.

(Your Scout's Name)  
Troop 1377 – Campsite 1  
Cockrell River Camp  
5800 Ranch Road 32  
Fisher, Texas 78623

**Emergency only phone number: 512-847-2572**

### Early pick-ups from camp

Early departure from summer camp by individual scouts creates scheduling problems. We will go to camp and return from camp as a group. We cannot release scouts from camp without prior written approval from parents except in an emergency. Please do not plan for your son to come home early unless you make arrangements with the Scoutmaster prior to leaving Kingwood for Cima.

## **Whom to call if you need help**

First off, don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. Youth should call their Patrol Leader first, and then if necessary their Troop Guide, and lastly the Senior Patrol Leader. Parents are welcome and encouraged to speak to Patrol Leaders but should they have questions or concerns beyond the Patrol Leader, please feel free to talk with the Scoutmaster or any of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

## **Medical Exam and Release to Treat**

All Troop 1377 Scouts must have their Class 1 medical form (updated yearly) and a Class 2 physical (updated every three years) completed and with all required signatures. Adult Scouters are reminded that for adults over 40 years of age, the Class 3 physical exam needs to be redone yearly. For adults less than 40 years of age use the same forms as the boys. In addition, everyone must have a Troop *Consent to Treat* form completed and signed, listing alternate contacts.

Parents who have youth with prescription and over-the-counter medication requirements must give all medication and instructions, using the *medication form*, to our Unit Health and Safety Director Helen Wagner or her designee. Turn in medications and the form Sunday morning before departure. A copy of the medication form is attached, and you can also find the PDF file for the medical form on the troop website.

Don't be confused by the forms. The medication form is the direction you give for administering your son's prescription and over-the-counter medicines during camp. The Class 1, 2 and 3 medical forms are the "Personal Health and Medical Form" required for every registered boy and adult participating in BSA programs.

Any questions on medical forms and requirements should be directed to Troop Registrar Margarita Padilla at 281.358.7028.

## **Camp Programs**

Summer camp provides fun activities and exciting adventures for your son, his patrol, and the troop. Summer camp is a great place to concentrate on rank advancement as well as a perfect setting to work on merit badges. While providing numerous activities and free time, summer camp also offers opportunity to reach personal goals. The camping environment allows the opportunity for patrols to set goals for themselves.

The troop benefits greatly from our summer camp experience. All the boys work together and produce a great sense of pride and accomplishment for the troop. This team spirit is increased by the many opportunities the troop has to achieve. While being successful in the many challenges we face, we learn more about ourselves.

Some of the many activities offered at summer camp are swimming, fishing, canoeing, woodcarving, pioneering, cooking, orienteering, hiking, backpacking, rope work, nature, conservation, shooting sports and almost all of the other scout craft skills. In addition, there is constant troop and patrol competition. There is range time available at the rifle and shotgun ranges when not used for merit badges, so be sure to bring a little extra money if you want to shoot as they charge for ammo. Also remember that adults and youth 17 and older need a valid Texas fishing license if you plan on trying your luck with the bass in Blanco River next to camp.

## **Advancement Opportunities**

Summer camp is an ideal setting for rank advancement. Merit badges are offered by the El Rancho Cima camp staff, and within our own unit. Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review are also offered in camp.

The new Scouts, those who have recently joined and have never been to camp, are called Pedros. We have a special program for them that will focus on skills and advancement for the first ranks of Boy Scouts. This is called First Class Emphasis (FCE), as our goal is to cover a majority of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks. The FCE program is run by the troop and taught by the older Scouts, the Assistant Scoutmasters and adult volunteers.

## **Merit Badges**

Most merit badges are offered as a 4 or 5 day course, similar to a classroom type schedule. A complete schedule for each scout will be prepared prior to the beginning of the week.

The Pedros will take only one or possibly two merit badges. Instead they will focus on FCE and learn basic Scouting skills.

## **Scheduling**

Experience tells us that a normal load for merit badges for the week is three. This amount can be expanded, but at the expense of free time and many other troop activities planned in the afternoon hours. Scouts are encouraged to leave some free time in their schedule so they may take part in activities with the troop.

## **Order of the Arrow Members**

Existing OA members please remember to bring your sash and your “cheerful, helpful spirit”. Those who have been OA member for a year or more may wish to proceed into Brotherhood.

Remember that an OA Ordeal is no longer offered by El Rancho Cima. Scouts and Scouters inducted into OA this year must make arrangements for their ordeal at times and places offered by the council. Please see our OA representatives Eric and Bill Whapham for more information.

## **Guidance on what to take and not to take to camp**

BSA, the Cima staff and Troop 1377 have set rules and guidelines for personal gear. Cot rental is included in our fee, so cots are provided by the camp. We do not have room for personal cots. Sheath knives or other long knives are not permitted by Troop 1377 or by Cima. Please do not bring matches, butane lighters, candles or any other type of flame source or fire starter. Playing with fire during camp will not be tolerated. Do not bring fireworks or flammable liquids. Do not bring any firearms or ammunition or archery equipment. Leave your pets at home, along with bicycles, skateboards, scooters and all valuables. Cell phones, MP-3 players, iPods or other electronic gear are not part of camp and are not allowed off the bus. Electronic devices will be picked up. Please make sure your son understands.

A suggested list of things to bring is attached at the end of this letter. Please note that closed toed shoes are required footwear and swim shoes are required for swimming. Open-toed sandals are not

allowed for safety reasons and walking barefoot in camp is not permitted. Please, *please* have all clothing and personal items clearly marked with the Scout's name.

For the first time in a great while, we are changing our troop hats. New hats have been ordered and we hope to have them in time for camp. The probable cost will be \$10. Please bring your old troop hat if you have one. While an official hat remains part of our field uniform (Class A), enforcement will be lax during the transition to our new hat.

### **Parents Summer Camp Visitors Night**

Wednesdays and Fridays are scheduled VISITOR DAYS. Those visiting camp and wishing to eat with us, need to make arrangements with the Scoutmaster prior to leaving Kingwood. Meal costs are around \$5.00 per adult (last year's rate) and children under 6 are free.

### **Adult Scouters**

All adults spending more than a day at camp will be considered volunteers and put to work. In order to participate, all adults will be required to be fully registered with the troop, have full Class A uniform and stay at the campsite with the other adults. If you have any questions related to adult registration, see Troop Registrar Margarita Padilla. Please let Scoutmaster Mike Beathard know as soon as possible how many days you will be in camp with us. Your participation in the youth program and your cooperation with the registration and uniform requirements is greatly appreciated.

### **Parents Summer Camp Meeting Night**

A preliminary summer camp meeting was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Another parent and planning meeting will be held Monday, May 19, 2008. This is the day after our Schlitterbahn campout and there will be a Patrol Leaders Council meeting only. The PLC meeting will be short and immediately following at 7:30 p.m. will be the last summer camp meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend. We will answer all your questions and finalize planning.

### **Camp Fees**

Total camp fee for 2008 is **\$220.00**, which includes cot rental. A \$50.00 deposit is due now. All fees are due in full by June 2, 2008. Please see the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster for special arrangements, or for matters that require confidentiality or personal attention.

### **Questions?**

Scouts should work with their Patrol Leader and Troop Guide on preparation for summer camp. Adult questions may be directed to any of the Assistant Scoutmasters or Committee Members. In particular feel free to contact Scoutmaster Mike Beathard at 281.358.7028.