

Welcome to Bert Adams River High Adventure

Dear Troop and Crew Leaders,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second season of high adventure at Bert Adams Scout Camp. I am excited to return to the River Base for another summer of fun. This summer I am pleased that the 50-mile Yellow River Trek program is coming back, and our base is expanding to add an additional program for Summer 2018. This additional program is whitewater kayaking and we will be contracting with an experienced guide company, Roth Wild Adventures, to offer this program. We are excited to add this program to provide even more of a challenge for our older scouts.

Last summer was quite a success on the river! Our staff are excited to return this next summer to allow more scouts to experience one of the hidden treasures of the Georgia Piedmont.

This guide is filled with answers to your questions and provides an overview of the itineraries of the two treks.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at cgoerner3@gatech.edu.

Yours in Scouting,

Christian Goerner

River Adventure Director

Bert Adams Scout Camp

Overview

Bert Adams Scout Camp is pleased to expand on its high adventure offerings for the 2018 summer. Our original Yellow River Trek in 2017 was highly successful, and we are excited to expand that program by adding some brand new experiences for your older youth.

For the 2018 season, we are pleased to offer **our signature Yellow River Trek and Piedmont Whitewater Kayaking experience.**

Also new to the 2018 camping season, Venturing Crews and provisional scouts are both welcome to join our high adventure programs. Further, your entire troop or just a few boys from your troop, while the rest are in base camp, are also more than welcome. The high adventure trek can be your entire summer camp experience or just an experience for your older boys.

Bert Adams Scout Camp is located in a unique location that allows us to offer high adventure programs that most other camps are unable to offer. Our location in the Piedmont region of Georgia creates exciting rock outcroppings, long meandering rivers, fast raging and uniquely difficult whitewater, and temperate rainforest settings perfect for overnight adventures. We have endeavored to incorporate all of these unique aspects into our expanded high adventure program. Bert Adams and our local partners have access to some of the best adventuring areas in the Piedmont region.

Our High Adventure staff is unique in that they are local adventurers. They know these areas as only locals would as they utilize them year around. Anything from unique bouldering to visiting the intricate cave complex home of ancient Native Americans in the city of Porterdale are all because of our staff. Further, our highly trained staff partner with local organizations and governments including the Yellow River Water Trail, Roth Wild Adventures outfitters, and the City of Porterdale in order to ensure an even higher level of expertise and program. The connections in the local Georgia community allow our camp to give your older unit members an adventure of a lifetime unseen at many other camps.

Not only are our staff familiar with the local and exciting areas of the Piedmont, but our staff is highly trained in all aspects of high adventure trekking. Each of our staff is certified in Wilderness First Aid and Basic Life Support for Healthcare Professionals or CPRO. Further, our staff hold the highest of trainings in their individual area of expertise whether it be on the water or roughing it on land.

In this guide, you will find descriptions of each of our treks, packing lists, and other information for a successful week at camp. We cannot wait to see you at Camp!

General Information

Age

All participants must be at least 13 years of age by June 1, 2018.

Staff

All treks leaving from Bert Adams Scout Camp are accompanied by two staff members (two deep leadership) with expertise in your chosen trek. Our staff assist in leading the group through the trek, providing necessary first aid, emergency care, and instructing participants in skills essential for your chosen trek. Our treks emphasize leadership development and the use of the patrol method throughout the week, so our staff encourages youth leadership to participate in the leadership aspect of as much as the trip as possible. If your trek contains female youth, your crew will be responsible for providing the female leadership.

BSA Medical Forms

A current official BSA medical form, Parts A, B, and C, is required for each participant. Other medical forms (i.e. athletic, YMCA, 4-H) cannot be accepted due to National BSA policy. Scouts without a medical form will have until Monday at lunch to acquire one from a local clinic. We strictly enforce the BSA height and weight guidelines for high adventure treks. Exceptions can be made for youth, under 21, based upon individual circumstances after an exam by the Camp Health Officer and in consultation with the High Adventure Director.

Capacities

Our treks have stricter requirements for minimum and maximum capacity. Treks must meet their minimum in order to run. If the trek does not meet the minimum, we will endeavor to assign those participants to a different trek. We will refund or compensate any difference in price for the trek. Treks will not be allowed to exceed their maximum capacity for safety reasons. Minimum and maximum capacities can be found in this guide. Adults may be asked to give up their spots if the trek reaches maximum capacity, so that more youth are able to enjoy the program.

Check- In Procedures

Participants will check into camp with their Troop/Crew. They will go through the normal tour and orientation and take the swim test with their unit. They will be told during check-in what to do with your gear based upon your chosen trek. Most groups should not expect to spend any night except Friday night with their unit.

Unit Adults

Unit adults are welcome to join us on the Treks. However, first priority for spots will always be given to under 21 youth.

Non- Emergency Extractions

Extractions from a trek are extremely taxing on our staff and resources. Emergency extractions for medical, weather, or other severe emergencies will be handled by the staff as a part of the program. If the High Adventure Director determines that the extraction is not an emergency (i.e. homesickness, refusal to follow instructions, etc.) than there will be a \$150 charge to the unit before receiving their patches and advancement report at the end of the week.

Weeks Offered

We are pleased to offer the program during our four boy scout weeks for a mixed program, where boys can split off from the Troop while the Troop stays in base camp. However, if your entire Troop/Crew or a group of Provisionals would like to go on the high adventure program solely than we are able to offer a trek at any point during the summer even during our cub scout sessions.

Yellow River Kayak Trek

Group Minimum: 3 Group Maximum: 10

We are pleased that our highly popular Yellow River Kayaking Trek is returning for 2018.

In partnership with the City of Porterdale and the Yellow River Water Trail, scouts will spend a week exploring the Yellow River and all that it has to offer. The Yellow River offers breathtaking beauty, great beginner whitewater, and great swimming holes.

This trek will be quartermastered by our staff. A trailer will follow the participants from camp site to camp site each week.

Pre- Requisite

Scouts must be able to do a pull up upon arriving at camp. This is to ensure that participants have the proper upper body physical fitness to pull themselves out of the water and into their kayaks. Several days of the river lack sand bars that participants can swim too. Participants must also pass the BSA Swim Test as a swimmer.

Tentative Itinerary- Subject to change if weather or river conditions necessitate change

On Monday, scouts will spend 3-4 hours on the river in our paddle school. Scouts will learn the necessary skills to read the river and to control their kayaks. Successful completion of paddle school including getting back into their boat is required before embarking on the river trek. Participants will leave for the headwaters in Gwinnett in Monday evening.



On Tuesday- Thursday, scouts will navigate the river as they paddle to each of their campsites. Tuesday and Thursday also contain Class 1 and Class 2 whitewater which is perfect for paddlers looking for a little bit of adventure.

On Friday, scouts will paddle into Lake Jackson, so that they complete a headwater to confluence trip.



Camping/ Meals

Scouts will cook a majority of their own meals as a patrol in this trek. All of our ingredients and the menu are fresh, and we strive to incorporate local produce and local flavors into the meals that the participants cook. Most trek weeks, participants will only eat in the Dining Hall for 2 meals (Sunday night and Friday night).



Scouts will need to bring their own tents or a hammock and tarp as ALL camping will be off property or at our River outpost.

Advancement

Scouts who complete this trek successfully will have the chance to earn the Kayaking Merit Badge, Kayaking BSA, and Fifty Miler Awards while on the river



Piedmont Whitewater Kayaking Challenge

Group Minimum: 3 Group Maximum: 12

New for 2018, we are pleased to offer a whitewater program different from any that you've seen. We have partnered with Roth Wild Adventures and the city of Porterdale, Georgia to offer a whitewater kayaking trek that is unique to Bert Adams



Participants will have a chance to kayak Class 1-5 rapids in kayaks under the supervision of trained guides. Participants will do sections of the South, Yellow, Ocmulgee, and Alcovy Rivers. These rivers are natural whitewater and are only explored by local

adventurists. There is no competing with other rafts for position, and the guides will be the same for the whole week.

Pre- Requisite

Scouts must be able to do a pull up upon arriving at camp. This is to ensure that the participants have the proper upper body physical fitness to pull themselves out of the water and into their kayaks as well as release/ and roll themselves when they roll over. Participants must also pass the BSA Swim Test as a swimmer.



Tentative Itinerary- Subject to change if weather or river conditions necessitate change

On Monday and Tuesday, scouts will spend the days in paddle school and then advanced paddle school. Participants will learn all of the basics and advanced techniques required for a fun week on the river. Participants will be trained by an experienced outfitter who has skill in teaching whitewater kayaking.

On Wednesday- Friday, scouts will take on a challenging group of rivers that get more difficult as the week goes on. Scouts will do rapids ranging from Class 1-3 on various Piedmont and North Georgia rivers. Specific sections will be determined after assessing the group's skills for the week.

Camping/ Meals

Scouts will cook a majority of their own meals as a patrol in this trek. All of our ingredients and the menu are fresh, and we strive to incorporate local produce and local flavors into the meals

that the participants cook. Most trek weeks, participants will only eat in the Dining Hall for 3-4 meals (Sunday and Friday Nights; and one or two lunches)

Scouts will need to bring their own tents as ALL camping will be off property at various off- camp localities including the Porterdale Yellow River Park.

Advancement

Scouts who complete this trek successfully will have the chance to earn the Kayaking and Whitewater Merit Badges, and Kayaking BSA award while on the river.



Packing List for all Water Treks

Participants should pack all of their gear besides tent in a medium sized footlocker. Please leave electronics at home. We are not responsible for any electronics that get wet.

Clothing

- 3 t-shirts
- 1 long sleeve t-shirt
- 1 fleece jacket or sweatshirt
- 1 rain jacket with hood
- 2 pairs of synthetic shorts
- 1 pair of long pants- not blue jeans.
- 1 pair of rain pants
- 3 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of no-slip shoes
- 1 pair of river shoes
- Swim trunks

Equipment

- 1 sleeping bag with stuff sack
- 1 sleeping pad
- 1 lightweight tent, hammock w/tarp, tarp w/groundcloth to sleep under
- 1 mess kit with utensils
- 2 GALLON size water bottles--- Old milk jugs
- Flashlight
- Compass
- Pocketknife
- Hat with brim
- Glasses such to hold Glasses on head.
- Extra tent stakes
- Small cord
- Matches
- Towel
- Sunglasses
- Bandana
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Sun Screen
- Dry Bag
- Watch
- Personal Life Jacket- Optional
- Emergency Blanket