

TO: All Northeast Georgia Post and Crew Leaders

FROM: Scott Sorrels, Chairman 2006 Winterfest

RE: 2006 WINTERFEST

DATE: September 30, 2005

Our 2006 WINTERFEST is set for January 27th - January 29th, 2006, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. WINTERFEST is an exciting competitive events weekend for all Posts and Crews, and it will surely be the highlight of the year for any Post or Crew! The 2006 event promises to be the biggest and best ever! We expect more than 2,300 Explorers and Venturers from fifteen different states. In fact, WINTERFEST has grown into the largest event for Posts and Crews held in the United States each year.

Now is the time to begin promoting the 2006 WINTERFEST. This package will give you all the details.

Please feel free to contact Michele Rasmussen if you have any questions.

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www.nega-bsa.org

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WHAT IS WINTERFEST?

WINTERFEST is an exciting competitive events activity for all Posts and Crews. The 2006 weekend is set for January 27th - January 29th in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, located in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. Over 2,300 participants are expected for the 2006 WINTERFEST!

The Competitive events usually include the following: Lip Sync, Volleyball, Fire Fighting, Climbing Wall, Law Enforcement, Mock Trial, Engineering Design, First Aid, Advanced Medical, Shooting Range, and much, much more. New for 2006, we will have an event called Crime Scene Investigation. In addition, there are two dances - one Friday night and one Saturday night. A detailed competitive event information packet will be available to all Crew and Post Advisors in mid October.

There are also plenty of non-competitive activities available to your Posts and Crews, including snow skiing (weather permitting), shopping, museums, movies, and many local restaurants and eateries. Winterfest is sure to be the highlight of the year for your Post or Crew.

The Saturday Night dance will be held next door to the Awards Ceremony.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The highlight of WINTERFEST is the many competitive events. Youth may take part in any of the events. Event details are now being finalized. Additional events are being reviewed, including even more high adventure activities designed to appeal to the high adventure Crews. A “competitive-event” packet will be available to all Post and Crew Advisors in mid October. It will be mailed to all Posts and Crews in the Northeast Georgia Council and available on the council website (www.nega-bsa.org).

Last year’s events included: fire fighting, law enforcement, 1st Aid, Advanced Medical, climbing tower, shooting range, volleyball, water basketball, engineering design, mock trail, bouldering wall, flying squirrel, high climb, and more.

You are required to pre-register for some of the competitive events. Registration forms for these events will be in the “Competitive Event” Packet. For most events, you can simply sign-up at the Program Orientation on Friday night. While some events may benefit from a little preparation or practice, other events are designed to ensure that everyone will have plenty of activities to choose from for their Saturday program.

Note that some of the event sites may be too far away to walk from the hotel area. Therefore, you may need transportation to and from your hotel to these sites. Most of the events will be in the Gatlinburg Convention Center.

If your unit would like to host an event contact Michele Rasmussen at 770-962-2105 or e-mail Michele at Mrasmusen@nega-bsa.org, as soon as possible.

TRANSPORTATION / MEALS

Each Post or Crew must make arrangements for their transportation to and from WINTERFEST. Crews should follow the rules in the Guide to Safe Scouting. Posts should follow the rules in the Guide to Safe Learning for Life Activities (this information can be accessed at: www.learning-for-life.org, click on Exploring and you can download the Safety 1st information for tour instructions).

Also, be sure to file the appropriate Tour Permit (different for Crews and Posts) with your Council Office. Please allow two weeks for processing.

Where to find the Tour Permit form:

- Venturing Crews –
 - Go to www.nega-bsa.org
 - Click on “Forms & Flyers”
 - Click on “National BSA Forms”
 - Click on “Local Tour Permit Application”
- Exploring Posts –
 - Go to www.learningforlife.org
 - Click on the “Exploring” logo
 - Click on “Site Map”
 - Click on “Exploring Resources”
 - Click on “Safety First Guide to Safe Learning for Life Activities”
 - Click on “Local Learning for Life Outing Permit Application”

Remember, some of the competitive events may be several miles away from your hotel. You may need transportation to get to and from the events.

Each Post or Crew must make arrangements for their own meals. The conference fee does not include any meals/lodging.

MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS

It is your Units responsibility to make your hotel reservations directly with your desired hotel. With more than 2,300 participants expected.

Although you may stay at any place you like, we have made special arrangements with three centrally located hotels. When you call for these arrangements, state you are with the Northeast Georgia Council in order to receive these special room rates.

DAYS INN	Glenstone Lodge (\$78 per room per night) Phone: (865) 436-9361
HOLIDAY INN	SunSpree Resort (\$83.99 per room per night) Phone: (865) 436-9201/(888) 562-2946
MOUNTAIN LODGE	Sidney James (\$66 per room per night) Phone: (865) 436-7851

Most hotels will require you to give them a rooming list 30-45 days prior to Winterfest. A sample rooming list follows this page.

Please provide Winterfest Staff with a copy of your rooming list on arrival at the conference site so we may reach you in the event of an emergency.

GET YOUR TENNESSEE “TAX EXEMPT” CERTIFICATE

To Avoid the Tennessee State Tax you can get your own tax-exempt certificate. To acquire this, follow these steps.

STEPS

1. Go to this website: tennessee.gov/revenue
2. At their home page click on “sales and use tax” (look under “Tennessee Tax” heading in the left-hand column)
3. At the next screen click on “Application for non-profit exemption (PDF)”
4. Print out the one page application and one page instruction sheet
5. Fill out the application and mail it to the address listed on the instruction sheet
6. Allow six weeks for processing

Any questions call the Tennessee Revenue Office at 615-253-0600.

WINTERFEST ROOMING LIST

(Please submit this form to your hotel 30 days prior to Winterfest!)

submit a copy of this form to the NEGA Council Winterfest site at Registration

Room #	Last Name	First Name	Youth/Adult	Male/Female
1	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
2	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
3	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
4	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
5	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
6	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

Winterfest T-Shirts

Again this year, we will offer Winterfest t-shirts to participants. This year's shirt will be Black and Long-Sleeved.

Shirts are available via pre-order. A limited number of shirts may be available on-site at Winterfest. To ensure that you get shirts, we encourage you to place your pre-order by December 16th, 2005. Shirts ordered through pre-order are available for \$17/\$19, while they will cost \$22/\$24 if purchased at Winterfest. If you pre-order your shirts, you can pick them up when you check-in at the Winterfest Table on Friday night.



Number of Shirts Ordered:					
Medium		x	\$17	=	\$
Large		x	\$17	=	\$
X-Large		x	\$17	=	\$
XX-Large		x	\$17	=	\$
XXX-Large		x	\$19	=	\$
Total Shirts:			Total Enclosed:		\$

Check:

Please print legibly!

Check Enclosed (Check Number: _____)

Please charge my

Visa

Account Number _____

Mastercard

Expiration Date _____

Discover

Signature _____

Ordered by:

Name: _____

Post/Crew: _____

Council: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Return to:

Amy Garrett/Winterfest
 Northeast Georgia Council, BSA
 PO Box 399, Jefferson, GA 30549
 Fax: 706-693-4849/Telephone: 706-693-2446

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE

All Adults and Youth must register for the conference. The fee is \$25 and MUST be paid to the Northeast Georgia Council office by January 9th, 2006. Make your check payable to "Boy Scouts of America". **There is a late registration fee of \$35 per adult/youth if received by the council office after January 9th.**

Please use the form below when registering your post/crew with the NEGA Council.

2006 WINTERFEST REGISTRATION FORM

Post # _____ Crew # _____

Council Name: _____

Group Leader: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Youth: _____ x \$25/\$35* = _____

Adults: _____ x \$25/\$35* = _____ Total Conference Fees: \$_____

****The conference fee is \$35 if received after January 9, 2006.***

Check:

Check Enclosed (Check Number: _____)

Please charge my

Visa Mastercard Discover

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Return to:

Amy Garrett/Winterfest
Northeast Georgia Council, BSA
PO Box 399, Jefferson, GA 30549
Fax: 706-693-4849
Telephone: 706-693-2446

Emergency Contact Information

(Please turn this in upon Winterfest Check-in)

Unit Leader #1: _____
Post/Crew #: _____
Home Council: _____

Hotel: _____
Hotel Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____

Unit Leader #2: _____
Post/Crew #: _____
Home Council: _____

Hotel: _____
Hotel Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____

Unit Leader #3: _____
Post/Crew #: _____
Home Council: _____

Hotel: _____
Hotel Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____

Exploring/Venturing “WINTERFEST” Conference and Ski Weekend Gatlinburg, Tennessee Draft Agenda

Friday

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 2:00 - 10:00 PM | Participants arrive, check in their hotel, and get their conference material at the Holiday Inn - SunSpree Resort - Laurel Room A. |
| 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Skiing (for those selecting Friday ski package) |
| 8:30 PM – Midnight | DANCE – (Convention Center) |
| 9:00 PM | Opening Program - encourage all post/crew officers and advisors to be present – (Convention Center) |
| 9:30 PM | Advisor’s briefing in Convention Center Rooms 2-3. |
| 10:00 PM | Program Orientation Session (only one youth and adult per unit will be allowed) – (Upper Level Convention Center) |
| 10:00 PM | Talent Show Qualifying Round - Glenstone Lodge - Dogwood II Room |
| 1:00 AM | Everyone in own room - curfew |

Saturday

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Late registration (Convention Center) |
| 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon | Competition and Events begin - Schedule and location in check-in package and posted on bulletin board at the Convention Center. |
| 1:00 PM - Until | Competition and Events continue, also sightseeing, shopping, skiing, etc. |
| 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Skiing (for those selecting Saturday package) |
| 8:00 PM | Venturing Roundtable |
| 8:15 PM - Midnight | V.I.P. Reception at Convention Center (for adult leaders & staff) Parlor 8 |
| 8:30 PM - Midnight | DANCE (Convention Center) |
| 9:00 PM | Awards Presentation for competitive events, Talent Show, and closing ceremony (Convention Center) |
| 1:00 AM | Everyone in own room-Curfew |

Sunday

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM | Skiing (for those selecting Sunday Package) |
|-------------------|---|

Checkout time is before 11 a.m. Advisors and contingent leaders are responsible for checking conditions of each room before checkout. Individuals will be responsible for the cost of any damage to the room or furniture. Thanks for your participation and have a safe trip home.

WINTERFEST 2006 PARENT / GUARDIAN RELEASE FORM

PARENT PERMISSION

For Explorers/Venturers, under 21 years of age, participating in the Winterfest.

_____ has my permission to participate in Winterfest 2006

(Print youth's Name)

on January 27th - January 29th, 2006.

I know of no health or fitness restriction(s) that preclude participation. In the event of illness or injury occurring to my son or daughter while involved in this activity, I consent to X-ray examination, anesthesia, medical, or surgical diagnostic procedures or treatment that is considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital furnishing medical services. (It is understood that in the event of serious illness or injury, reasonable efforts to reach me will be attempted.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please print name here: _____

Phone numbers where I can be reached during the time of this activity:

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

***A copy of this signed form must be in the possession of the Unit Leader at all times while at Winterfest.**

WINTERFEST CODE OF CONDUCT

The general welfare of any group depends on the conduct of its individual members. This Code of Conduct is designed to ensure the success of the conference and provide maximum enjoyment and safety of all participants.

1. The group leader (adult advisor) shall, with the full cooperation of the Posts or Crews, be responsible for maintaining discipline, security, and the standards outlined in this Code of Conduct.
2. All participants are expected to set a good example by being properly dressed and presentable at all times, based on the discretion of his/her Crew/Post leader.
3. All Posts / Crews are expected to participate in ALL scheduled sessions and activities.
4. In consideration of others, all Posts / Crews are expected to be in their own rooms and quiet by 1:00 a.m. They are not to leave their rooms again before 6:00 a.m.
5. Each Post / Crews is personally responsible for breakage, damage, or loss of property. Post Posts / Crews will be charged for damage not covered by individual members. Loss of personal articles is not the responsibility of the hotel, conference staff, or the Boy Scouts of America, or their agents or representatives.
6. Each Post / Crews will allow no unregistered person to occupy his or her room, or visit in same (including local area residents.)
7. All participants will respect the rule prohibiting use of private automobiles during the conference, unless you have permission from an advisor or area adult leadership.
8. The Post / Crews understands that the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at the conference will not be allowed. This standard shall apply to all participants--youth and adults.
9. Hotel Bills: Charge of phone calls from your room is not permitted. Use public phones in the hotel lobby. Extra meals and TV movies also may not be charged to your room.
10. Fireworks of any type are strictly prohibited.
11. The Winterfest youth chairs, in conjunction with the Winterfest Volunteer Chairman shall serve as a review panel with regards to any serious violation of the Code of Conduct. Conference staff reserves the right to send any youth home for violation of this Code of Conduct. Any decision of the review panel is final.
12. Everyone is expected to act appropriately at all times, including appropriate dance behavior during both dances.

I have read the above rules and agree to observe them fully.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

***Each Unit Leader needs to keep this sheet with him/her. Don't submit to Council Office.**

SKI PACKET INFORMATION

Each Unit desiring to ski must make their own ski package reservations. Ober Gatlinburg is offering several special ski packages for Conference participants.

To qualify for these rates, reservations must be made in advance and full pre-payment is due by January 7th, 2006. Beginning Saturday, January 8th a \$5 late fee will be added to the cost of each package.

The key contact at Ober Gatlinburg is Kathy Doyle. Please direct all ski questions to her at 865-436-5423. Her fax # is 865-430-3920.

Upon arrival, groups skiing on Friday should drop by the Ober Gatlinburg Office to pick-up form and pay any remaining balance. Kathy will be set up in the lobby of the convention center on Saturday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. to coordinate with any groups skiing on Saturday or Sunday.

Ober Gatlinburg is also offering complimentary ski packages for Adult Chaperones.

<u># of Packages bought</u>	<u># Free</u>
10 - 29	1
30 - 59	2
60 - 89	3
90 - 99	4
100 or more	5

2006 WINTERFEST

(some important reminders)

1. Two-deep adult leadership is required. You should have a female advisor if you have any females in your group. Adult leadership is responsible for the conduct of their youth during the conference, including complying with the designated curfews.
2. Transportation, meals, hotels, and the ski package are “on your own”.
3. Your conference fee includes all competitive events, dances, and the awards.
4. There is no conference security force, though many of the hotels have law enforcement /security personnel on-site during the night.
5. The conference is staffed with trained medical personnel to assist your unit as needed. If you need medical assistance, please ask for assistance from any Conference Staff member with a walkie-talkie and help will be summoned. If you need immediate assistance, dial 911. If you need assistance during a ski session at Ober Gatlinburg, please contact the Ski Patrol.
6. Please be sure all your youth review and sign the “Code of Conduct” form. Discipline is the responsibility of the Group Leaders and Council volunteers and staff advisors. Serious discipline breaches are subject to review by the Conference Review Panel, and in appropriate cases, the youth involved may be asked to leave the conference.
7. The room phones and pay televisions will be turned off and can only be connected upon the Group Leader’s Authorization.
8. Room charges, meals, damages, etc. are the responsibility of the Participants.
9. You need to get a Tennessee Tax-Exempt Status Certificate to avoid Sales Tax.
10. Winterfest will be held rain, snow, or shine. Given the large amount of fixed costs, the conference fee is non-refundable. Neither the conference staff nor the Northeast Georgia Council is responsible for skiing activities, scheduling, refunds, or other aspects of the skiing program offered by Ober Gatlinburg.
11. Due to past issues, the judging panel for the Talent Show competition will be asked to work with all involved youth and adults to ensure that each act is conducted with appropriate taste.
12. Contingent leaders for each group are responsible for checking in their unit’s hotel check-in.
13. Please make sure that the Conference Staff knows the location of the hotel you are using for each unit. In the event of emergency, it is necessary to be able to track down your unit. Each group will be asked to fill out an emergency contact card. These cards will be in your conference check-in packet.

Winterfest 2006 Contacts

Event Chairman

Scott Sorrels
ssorrels@pgfm.com

Venturing Program Chair

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770-313-0223

Winterfest Secretary

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