

2011 Camp Freeland Leslie Parents Guide

Dear Parent,

Thank you for supporting your son's Scouting experience by sending him to summer camp. For eight weeks every summer, Camp Freeland Leslie becomes a place where boys can experience Scouting at its best. Led by a highly qualified, well-trained staff, they will have opportunities not available anywhere else. They will try new things, meet new people, and learn responsibility and self-reliance.

Because we want your son to get the most out of camp, we have included here a collection of tips to guide you and your son as you prepare for this summer's adventure.

CFL Contact Information:

**Scout's Name, Troop #
Camp Freeland Leslie
105 Fawn Drive
Oxford, Wisconsin 53952**

**Emergency Phone: 608/586-4312
Fax: 608/586-4762**

Web-site: www.freelandleslie.com

The above listed phone number is to be used only for emergencies. Your son will be out enjoying being outdoors in 470+ acres of forest, so it will take some time to locate him and get him to the phone.

About Camp Freeland Leslie

CFL is located in Oxford, Wisconsin, just south of the Wisconsin Dells, and is situated on more than 470 acres of oak and pine forest. Lake Emrick, our privately owned lake, is one of the cleanest and deepest in the state of Wisconsin.

Campers stay in a campsite with their home troop, where they not only sleep but work together to carry out daily tasks like cooking and cleaning. Scouts are responsible for keeping their eating area and gear clean and for keeping their personal gear in order. Camp commissioners work with each unit to ensure that it meets health and safety standards and to help plan programs for the troop.

During the day, staff members work with the Scouts to help them earn merit badges and other awards, work towards rank advancement, and explore other opportunities such as hikes and games. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said, "Scouting is a game with a purpose," and at CFL, we make sure every program we offer is exciting, challenging, fun, and educational.

Camp facilities include a shower house built in 2006, a qualified Health Officer on duty at all times, a well-stocked trading post, a new Nature pavilion, an observation deck overlooking the waterfront, a human Foosball Court, and a new dining shelter built in 2009.

MEDICATION NOTE: All medication brought to camp **MUST** be in the original container and the unit leader must be informed. While your Scout is at camp, medications will be kept at the Health Lodge and dispensed from there. Exceptions include emergency medications such as inhalers or Epi-Pens, which Scouts may carry with them.

The new BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (#680-001) signed by a licensed medical practitioner within the last year is required. The old Class 1-2-3 forms can no longer be accepted. Please keep a copy of this form for your records, Wisconsin state law requires us to keep the form on file at camp so it will not be returned.

What do we need to do before camp?

Talk to your troop leaders about camp fees. They will know when they are due and will be able to inform you. Your son will also need a physical examination before camp and must bring a completed medical form. We also recommend that Scouts attend at least a few troop camping outings before summer camp.

What should my son bring?

A detailed packing list was included in the Leader's Guide sent to your unit. Ask your troop leaders for a copy. The Scout Handbook also contains a packing list for long-term camping. In general, he will need the same equipment as on a typical weekend campout, but also enough clothing to last the week. Please do not send electronics or games, because Scouts who are busy playing with toys from home will miss out on the fun at camp!

What will my son do at camp?

A typical daily schedule is:
7:00 Wake up and begin cooking
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Merit Badges and activities
12:30 Lunch and rest hour
2:00 Merit Badges and activities
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Evening activities/campfires
10pm Bed

Daily activities include swimming, boating, hiking, nature study, outdoor skills, target shooting, archery, and other outdoor fun. Each troop's program is unique and based on the needs of its scouts. For more details about your troop's program, ask your unit leader.

Can I visit my son at camp?

Absolutely! Many parents come to camp Friday night for our weekly pig roast and camp-wide event, and then drive home with their sons on Saturday. This is the ideal time to visit. Whatever your plans, please call the camp office at least a day before you arrive so that we know to expect you. Please bring a tent if you plan to stay overnight in our family camp area, or make other arrangements.

What will my son learn at camp?

Scouts at CFL learn many specific skills, like knife safety, swimming, or cooking. However, the most valuable things they learn are not part of any class. At our patrol-method camp, they will work together with a team of about eight boys to prepare and eat most of their meals, participate in events, and compete in games. Each boy will have leadership opportunities and sharpen his interpersonal skills. Also, many of the Scouts who come to camp are leaving home for the first time. This experience will make them stronger, more independent people with the ability and initiative to do things for themselves.

What if my son gets homesick?

Homesickness is a common problem at camp—even staff members who have spent years at camp sometimes get homesick. All of our staff is trained in counseling techniques, and several staff members are specifically trained to help homesick Scouts. Our first step is always to talk to the Scout about what he likes to do at camp, and then get him doing it, which cures most cases of homesickness. More severe cases are usually the result of other problems, such as being teased, and our staff will quickly identify and solve those problems. Although it might seem like a good solution at first, the reality is that contact with home actually *increases* homesickness. For this reason most Scouts will not be allowed to call home without permission from their troop leader, and calls from home are strongly discouraged.

Can I send mail?

Letters and packages received at camp are always treasured. Some guidelines:

- DO ask him about camp
- DO encourage him to try new things
- DON'T offer to bring him home
- DON'T say you are sad that he is gone or that his dog misses him, and avoid telling him about the exciting things he is missing at home—even if it's true!

