

Help Open the World of International Scouting by Hosting an International Scouter This Summer

Camps Bartle and Naish will again be hosting International Scouts as members of their Camp Staffs during the 2013 camping season. Camp Naish will have two Scouts and the Bartle Reservation will have three, one for each of the main camps. Key to a successful experience for these Scouts who will come to the Heart of America Council from all over the world will be caring host families.

Host families are the critical link between the camp experience and the Scouts' American life experience. In simplest terms, a host family treats an International Scout as they would if one of their own sons is on the camp staff.

The first responsibility is to be able to meet a Scout on his or her arrival in Kansas City. The Scout may then spend a day or two at the host's home. The host must be able to provide a private bedroom and accessible bath when the Scout stays in the host home.

The second requirement is to be able to provide transportation to and from the respective camp, at the start of the camp, and at the end of camp. During the season, at Camp Bartle the Scouts get one weekend off in early July and the host family would again need to pick up the Scout and return him to camp on time. For Camp Naish, the time-off dates will vary according to the program, but many weeks the time off is mid-week, requiring a trip to and from camp during the week. Often the American camp staff will invite the visiting Scout to their homes instead.

Third, after the camping season is over, the visiting Scouts often stay for several days. A host family can use that time to provide tours of Kansas City and the surrounding area, an introduction to American home life, and attend events in the area. Last year, for example, one of the visiting Scouts toured the World War I museum, the Jazz District and Gates Bar-Be-Que, saw two Sporting KC matches, toured the Kansas Capitol and even met Kansas Governor Brownback.

Does this sound like a fun and interesting way to become friends with an International Scout and to open the door to the world of Scouting for our Scouts at camp? Please volunteer to be a host family.

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