Sheriff's campers prepare for adventure

Friday, June 9, 2017

More than 80 boys are readying their sleeping bags to attend 2017 Caddo Sheriff's Camp this Sunday through Wednesday at Kinsey Scout Reservation in Stonewall, said Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator.

Sheriff's Office transportation vans will pick up the boys from designated sites throughout Caddo Parish on Sunday and take them to the scout ranch. While at camp, the boys, ages 9-12, will learn the basics of scouting, participate in leadership development, and enjoy outdoor activities like swimming, archery, rifle shooting, and fishing.

Local media are invited to the **annual Media Day festivities at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 13**. Sheriff Prator and representatives of the Boy Scouts of America, who organize the camp, will be on hand. Sheriff's specialty units and equipment like K-9 teams and the armored personnel carrier also will be there for the boys to see.

Caddo Sheriff's Camp – now in its 28th year - is held annually in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, Norwela Council. Funding is arranged by Sheriff Prator, who seeks citizen contributions to pay for transportation, meals, lodging and other camp fees.

"The boys who have been selected are boys who have done well in school and deserve to be rewarded but may not have the opportunity to attend camp on their own," Prator said. "Our goal is to encourage leadership and citizenship among them, encourage their further participation in scouting, and give them four days at camp to do everything that boys enjoy."

Caddo Sheriff's deputies and Louisiana Probation and Parole officers will sport their camp t-shirts and volunteer as mentors and camp counselors during the week.

"When the kids leave camp, we want them to remember us as people who made a lasting impact in their lives," Prator said.

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Note to Media:

Media Day will be held at the scout ranch on Tuesday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch in the dining hall. Media Day activities include:

- Remarks from Sheriff Prator
- Remarks from BSA Scout Executive/CEO Sedrick Robinson
- Interview opportunities with the campers
- Demos by CPSO K-9, Mounted Patrol, and SRT, and Community Programs

Campers will be involved in various activities before and after lunch if you would like to get shots of them in action. You are welcome to visit camp at any time to cover this story, but Sheriff Prator and camp organizers will be available only on Media Day. If you plan to visit at a time other than the designated day, please contact Cindy Chadwick at 422-4101 in advance.

To arrive at camp, take I-49 south to the Stonewall exit. Turn right and drive until you reach the traffic light. Turn left at the light and continue past North Desoto High School. You will see the sign for Kinsey Scout

Reservation on your right. Report to the pavilion.