



NYLT Heat Advisor Response – June 19, 2017

As most of you are well aware, the Bay Area is suffering through one of the worst heat-waves in years. Further, the National Weather Service does not see this subsiding much before Saturday. We are certain that all of you are concerned on how NYLT is handling the heat. Here is a summary of what we are doing:

First, while this is likely a more prolonged heat-wave than in recent years, we have been operating NYLT for over 30 years with few serious heat-related incidences. For the last 5 years we have been at Los Mochos. When we moved to Los Mochos, we identified heat as one of the concerns. As a result, we have the following steps in place:

- 1) We follow the policies presented in the BSA "Council Program Guidelines: Regarding Response to Adverse Heat and Humidity Conditions" (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/doc/680-030.doc>) and in the "Camp Health Model Policy and Procedure Manual"
- 2) For the teaching sessions, we have established shade structures that are erected each year for the course. Thus, the participants and staff are not in the direct sun during each teaching session.
- 3) Sunscreen is included in the NYLT packing instructions. Each day the participants are reminded to use it.
- 4) Each scout is given a cup and is required to carry it with him at all times. In every station and the camp areas, there are coolers with iced water with a bit of lemon.
- 5) When entering and leaving an area, each person is instructed get a drink.
 - a. Note that this is drinking water frequently rather than "chugging" large amounts of water all at once.
 - b. We provide weight-based guidance, based on the USA troop hydration calculation, for how much water to drink each hour, from 7:30 am to 7:30pm.
 - c. Everyone is encouraged to get water before they are thirsty.
 - d. We ask that water bottles be filled at camp spigots
- 6) We provide hats and require them to be worn at all times
- 7) We discuss the heat issues, the symptoms of heat stress, and their prevention with the entire camp each morning.
- 8) We have explained the BSA Appendix B: Urine Color Chart" to all participants and staff and posted color copies near all permanent and mobile toilets.
- 9) Staff has been reminded to look for early signs of heat issues in both the participants and within the staff.
- 10) At least twice each day, we review our program and modify or curtail or stop physical activities based on the Heat Index.

Our NYLT program has followed these procedures for many years. We are very mindful of the concerns many of you have. We want to assure you that we share your concerns. We are mindful of the problems, because here at camp we experience, first-hand, the heat.

At this time, we believe we have the correct procedures and resources in place to enable us to run the camp as planned. Should this change, we will immediately send additional communication with updates.

Thanks,

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