

December 27,
2021

Winter Camp News

"Traditionally Unconventional"

"On Guard
Since 1986"

Winter Camp XLV News—Precamp Edition

Winter Camp XLV: Will The Robots Rise?

Members of the Migisi Opawgan Chapter of Mishigami Lodge, Order of the Arrow, will make their annual rendezvous with winter adventure by dominating the landscape of D-A Scout Ranch from December 27-31, 2021. Over 30 Winter Campers are expected to strain the capacities of the Ranch. Youth leader Jacob Ferns and adviser Ethan Rein head a leadership team with over 200 previous Winter Camp experiences. After a year's interruption during which Winter Camp XLIV split into At Home and At Camp factions due to the pandemic (you know the one), campers both new and old welcome a chance to return to Winter Camp's ancestral grounds.

While the cost of Winter Camp has lagged behind inflation, the program continues to improve. Winter Camp is a culinary delight, and because many foods are prepared from scratch, an outstanding and sometimes unusual menu is prepared at budget prices. Winter Camp XXV was noted for the largest banquet in Arrow history, which served 162 different dishes. While that meal was a one-time experience (deservedly so), the menu and program for Winter Camp XLV promise their own memorable moments. Special funding for Winter Camp XLV was provided by members of the Winter Camp Future Society, who are listed on page 3.

Quote O' The Day

"I suggested a hike [the Plaque Hike]. I want credit."
—Steve Donohue, at the Winter Camp XLV planning meeting, 26 November 2021.

Hear something funny? Say something funny?
Let the News know!

The Mood Of Winter Camp Throughout The Weekette

—as captured by Chris Kirschke (2015)

December 27: Yay! We're at Winter Camp!
December 28: Let's go Rhombus, let's go!!
December 29: Five days is a little long.
December 30: I lost all my chips!!!
December 31: Home!
January 1: Can't wait for Winter Camp!

This year's theme is "Remote Control, Artificial Intelligence, and Robots", a theme which will see robotic twists on classic Winter Camp activities and meals together with new thematic elements. Since Winter Camp has been at the forefront of home computing since 1978—before some current adults were born—it is only right and natural that computers and microchips play a part in the themed events this year. The rest of this weekette will confirm what veteran campers have known for years: that Winter Camp makes the year's final weekette well worth the wait.

Today's Schedule

(All times WCST)

1:00 PM.....Hot Potato Lunch
2:00 PM.....Team Building
3:00 PM.....Cross-Country Golf
6:00 PM.....Visual Interface Meal
7:00 PM.....Time Capsule Opening
8:00 PM.....Blind Hike/Bakery A
9:30 PM.....Blind Hike/Bakery B
11:00 PM.....Bakery Snack
12:00 MPower Down



Preparing for Winter Camp

by Steve Donohue

Due to some rule changes this year, preparations for Winter Camp were considerably different than usual. Winter Camp has been deemed a Short-Term camp, basically because we serve scouts from multiple units as an overnight event. This meant we had to follow some additional rules before we could hold camp.

The first step was several Winter Campers becoming Short-Term Camp Administrators so we would understand the requirements. From there, we had to add an eighth book to the Winter Camp rainbow which explained a lot of procedures at camp like check-in, visitors, and what to do in a fire, among other things. We also had to do a risk mitigation analysis on each of our activities. We used some templating and the activity database to generate reports on over 400 activities, past and present. We picked that up again in November after the Planning Meeting and now we have over 500 activities on the list. We also took the opportunity to note a few activities that are no longer supported by the Guide to Safe Scouting.

The last thing we had to do was ensure we'd have someone ServSafe trained on site during camp. We achieved that in November when Steve Donohue became a certified ServSafe Food Service Manager.

The Winter Camp News hopes to publish daily issues during Winter Camp XLV. Articles and suggestions should be submitted to Publisher Mark Bollman—>.

Winter Camp Participation Award—Don't Miss Out!

The **Winter Camp Participation Award** is the most prestigious award that can be earned by a youth member of Mishigami Lodge. Now is the time for you to earn this gold-bordered Winter Camp patch! Here are the requirements:

1. While attending Winter Camp, do each of the following:

- a. Participate in baking a loaf of bread or similar baked good.
- b. Help set up or coordinate an event.
- c. Provide four (4) hours of service to camp.
- d. Climb D-A's highest peak.
- e. Participate in the Blind Hike.
- f. Set a personal goal to achieve during camp and achieve it.

2. While attending Winter Camp, do at least two of the following:

- a. Participate in a project aimed at improving Winter Camp.
- b. Write an article or short story for the *Winter Camp News*.
- c. Sleep outdoors safely during Winter Camp.
- d. Hold a leadership position. This includes serving as youth leader or any other office designated by the leader.

3. Do at least two of the following:

- a. Pass the Winter Camp Basic History Test (new multiple choice version available online).
- b. Surf the Winter Camp Universe and participate in one or more discussion areas.
- c. Define the following terms: *CHR*, *Jiffy*, *Kitchamajig*, *El Mediodia*, *Quiet Hours*, *Rand Stew*, *Weekette*, *Winter Camp Savings Time*.

In earning the Winter Camp Participation Award, you will join an elite crew of 38 Arrowmen who have earned this award since 2000. Your gold-bordered patch will be presented to you at a ceremony that ensures that the patch will not be touched by the hands of an adult Arrowman. No adult worthy of the name would touch a Participation Award, unless he earned that patch as a youth.

For assistance in completing these requirements or to have your work certified, contact adviser (Uncle) Ethan Rein, who will assist Arrowmen working on the Award this year.

You Might Be A Winter Camper If...

- ◆ If your camp has its own Raconteur...
- ◆ If you've ever been assigned a Responsible Adult Companion...
- ◆ If you've ever spent camp time cutting up a copy of *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries*...
- ◆ If your orienteering course requires a locked GPS device, but no compass...
- ◆ If you make up ridiculous rules about what constitutes a "night", a former camper, or participating in an activity...



Back In The Day

Tales Of History and Imagination

Today's **Hot Potato Lunch** is another twist on a Winter Camp classic. This meal activity debuted at Winter Camp IX in 1985 and has since become a favorite. In true Winter Camp fashion, this lunch has been the target of much tinkering, resurfacing many times with a series of adjustments to the game within the meal.

At this meal, the menu is secondary to the manner of consumption. Arrowmen eat normally while passing a potato from person to person around their table. At Winter Camp IX, these potatoes were microwaved, but tended to fall apart too easily. On an audible signal, which has at times been provided by such tools as a TRS-80 computer, a buzzer from the game Taboo, and a battery-operated burping device, the person possessing the potato must cease eating (he is, however, allowed to swallow anything in his mouth) until the next tone is heard.

At Winter Camp XXXIV, the Hot Potato Lunch was played with stuffed Mr. Potato Heads for the first time. Steve Donohue had purchased these several years earlier in an effort to add some accuracy—or whimsy—to the meal. It was then just a matter of waiting several years for the meal's return.

Winter Camp XLV will serve this meal in full compliance with Covid prevention guidelines. Alan Wilson has set up this year's randomizing device, which will debut at our first meal.



Winter Camp Trivia

From the December 31, 2020 edition:

1. Who was the only remote viewer to join in in the singing during the Time Capsule Ceremony at Winter Camp XLIV?

—Gabe Church

2. What was the destination of the at-camp Blind Hike at Winter Camp XLIV?

—Trout Lake flagpole

3. For which 3 meals did the Winter Camp [XLIV] at Home kit include ingredients?

—Mexican Meal, Bakery Snack, & Jackpot Grits

Today's questions:

1. Which Winter Camp XLV hike was proposed by Steve Donohue?
2. Who serves as the Activities Leader at Winter Camp XLV?
3. Who serves as the Kitchen Leader at Winter Camp XLV?
4. Including Winter Camp XLV, which D-A subcamp has been home to more Winter Camps: Jack Lord or Trout Lake?

Winter Camp Future Society \$upports WC XLV

by Steve Donohue

The first class of the Winter Camp Future Society (WCFS) was formed in 1988 with the goal of funding a special project in 1996 at Winter Camp XX. Since then, we've had a class every 5 years and they've sponsored banquets, parties, and a variety of souvenirs.

At Winter Camp XL, we made a change and instead of asking for a future investment, we just asked for a commitment to help out at the next event when we knew our costs. For Winter Camp XLV, we planned to provide free T-shirts for everyone who attended Winter Camp.

As camp approached, we found another problem. In 2019, we paid \$350 for cabins and our costs were based on that amount. Unfortunately, the cabin costs have increased more than 500% and we were asked to pay \$1,948 this year. Obviously, that was an issue as that fee gave us 40 beds and would have cost us \$48.70 per camper, more than we charged youth campers.

The call went out to potential Future Society members for help. Not only did we need to cover the cost of our T-shirts, but we needed some help to cover cabin costs. They answered our call in spades with 17 campers donating an average of nearly \$150 each to fund T-shirts and cabin space. Our biggest problem now is figure out what to do with the extra funds.

One of the surprises for us was that not all the donors were recent Winter Campers. Here are some of the campers who donated to help keep Winter Campers clothed and warm this year:

- **Gabe Church** hasn't missed a Winter Camp since Winter Camp XXVII, in 2003.
- **Scott Fults** attended Winter Camp full time twice, in 1985 and 1986. He's visited a few times since, including arriving in time to help move gear for the infamous bugout at Winter Camp XXXII in 2008.
- **Jay Bottorff** has been a frequent visitor at Winter Camp, but he last spent a night at camp in 1992. He did participate in Winter Camp at Home last year, hitting the links with his son Gavin and Dave Oakley.
- The **Downie** family made a donation in honor of **Chris** and **Alex** who were fixtures at Winter Camp in the last decade, last attending in 2018 for a total of 7 camps each.
- **Ethan Rein** might be the most millennial of all Winter Campers, having attended since 2001. This year, he's the adviser for Winter Camp; he's also the secretary of the WCFS.
- **Joe Retzbach** continued his tradition of donating to our program every year. He's visited several Winter Camps both as Lodge Adviser and friend, but he's never spent a night.
- **Paul Kupser** attended every Winter Camp from 1997 to 2007 and has been a visitor several times since. Even though he doesn't attend, Paul always finds a way to contribute to camp, whether it's equipment, service, or cash.
- The **Ferencz** family includes 4 (soon to be 5) Winter Campers. **John** was the first to attend back in 1980; his sons **Alex** and **Ben** first attended in 2006 and 2018 respectively. **Doug** is John's brother and he was a camper back in 1990; he and his son **Andrew** are expected to attend Winter Camp this year.

• **Mike Osvath** attended Winter Camp I in 1977; he was a mainstay of camp until 1999 when his visits and nights became more sporadic. His last visit was in 2016.

• **Michelle Matowski** is part of another pretty exclusive club: people who first attended Winter Camp as an adult. She's been attending since 2018.

• **Keith "K2" King** started attending Winter Camp in 1999 and hasn't missed one since. Along with Ethan, he's part of the future of Winter Camp leadership and he's been a great adviser for camp four times already.

• **Tim Hunt** has either attended or visited Winter Camp most years since 1989. He is one of the founders of the Goon World Order.

• **Carlos Acosta** is the youngster on this list, having attended his first Winter Camp in 2017.

• **Brian Mann** is one of those crazy gap-year guys. He attended 7 Winter Camps as a youth starting in 1991; he returned as an adult in 2016. He's played Hero Quest at nearly all those events.

• **Ian McKeever** started attending Winter Camp in 2011 and has been to 9 camps so far. He typically sleeps in a tent all weekette.

• **Kristie Donohue** is the baby of the family when it comes to Winter Camps; her first was in 2011 and she hasn't missed since. Even before attending her first camp, she made a beautiful anniversary cake and delivered it to Winter Camp XXX.

• **Steve Donohue** is another Winter Camp I guy. He's Winter Camp's self-declared raconteur and bagman.

• **Ron Donohue** is well-known for his practice of funding camperships every year. He attended Winter Camp I and was most recently seen at the 40th anniversary celebration in 2016.

• **Roger Horn** isn't even from our Area, but he's attended Winter Camp since 1981, usually as a part-time attendee.

• **Mark Bollman**—> has attended every Winter Camp since 1978; sane people recognize him as one of the pioneers of Winter Camp.

• **Doug Wilson** has attended every Winter Camp and was the first adviser.

• **Jeff Rand** was really the driving force behind Winter Camp I and hasn't missed one yet.

It was really gratifying to see some people come out to support us who hadn't attended in a while. It helped drive home the idea that Winter Camp means more to more people than we'll ever know.

Weather Forecast

Expectations of snow for Winter Camp usually mark the hopes of its participants, but Winter Camp XLV's weather may not be as expected. A moving frontal system may provide some precipitation; predicted high temperatures in the low 30s suggest that snow is somewhat more likely than rain. Temperatures and the chance of precipitation are projected to fall and rise, respectively, toward the weekette's end, with the best chance of snow running from the afternoon of Day Three through midday on Day Four.

Given that forecast, Winter Camp's XLV's weather will be challenged to set new records: Winter Camp's high temperature of 57°F was reached at Winter Camps VI and VIII, and its lowest temperature, -11°F, was recorded at Winter Camp XLI.