

## TROOP 149 BAHAMAS 2009 SAILING ADVENTURE UPDATE (Feb. 09)

We are less than four months away from our Sailing Adventure in the Bahamas! Here are a few updates/notes:

Dates: May 30-June 6. We will leave the Atlanta Airport in the morning of Saturday, May 30 and return in the afternoon/evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>. (Mr. F is handling ticket purchases, be sure to get him your full correct name). Transportation to and from the ATL airport will be handled individually. We will travel in uniform, as always. We take taxis to the Marina in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Cost: Still on target for \$900. Paul has the budget spreadsheet if you would like a copy. We got tax-exempt status for the charter in 2005 so aren't paying sales tax on the boats! Remember, you must pay \$200 per month to stay on track with the payment schedule. Look for more fund-raising opportunities soon.

Boats: We have made down-payments for two sailboats. We will be in *La Bamba*, a 41-foot Lagoon catamaran, which we also took in 2007. We have reserved a 40-foot monohull sailboat, *Wind Dancer*, but hope/plan to change to a second, 40-foot catamaran later this month. Capt. Gene Timpson will be with us for the 5th time, plus Chris F as our second captain (thanks!). With 23 total, including captains, we would like to do 12 + 11 on cats. Otherwise we'll have 13 + 9 (w/o S. Rose). See more on the boats at <http://www.funinthesunyachts.com>.

Food: Menu will be based off the same one as used in prior years; we need to decide if it's more cost-effective to pay to ship, to pay for checked luggage, or to try to do all shopping in Ft. L. (Normally, the month before the trip, Scouts review the menu, help shop, and label/repackage our non-perishable food prior to the trip. We will do our final perishables shopping in Ft. Lauderdale before boarding the boats.) We will have a duty roster that includes adults, to be determined by our Lead Scouts Lee D. & James P.

### Things Participants need to do before the trip:

- Scouts must be 1<sup>st</sup> Class and have Swimming Merit Badge. Please confirm! Everyone will also need to take part in the Snorkeling BSA training at our pre-departure pool party.
- Adults must complete Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, and Youth Protection Training (online at [olc.scouting.org](http://olc.scouting.org)).
- Everyone should have a Passport for entry into the Bahamas (and back into the US!). Order this now if you don't have one that is valid through the summer.
- Up-to-date (<1 yr old) copy of Class 3 Medical Form (like what we use for Philmont/high adventure). Available on our website at <http://www.oconeetroop149.org/guidelines.html>
- You will also want to have (buy or rent) mask, snorkel and fins; and fishing gear. It is possible to rent gear from the charter company, or you can buy or borrow in Athens.
- We will provide a complete packing list later this spring. Preview it and other info on our website. If we can get duffel bags donated, that would be great as well.

### To-Do's/We need help with:

- Making airplane reservations (Chris F)
- Taking \$ and participation forms (R E)
- Deciding on shipping options for gear; serving as Gearmaster
- Pre-departure pool party to test snorkeling (Ss' house avail.)
- Confirming training and eligibility
- One adult/boat as Water Safety (boating/swimming/snorkeling plus buddy tags) coordinator
- Designing and purchasing T-Shirts and getting Duffel bags
- Paperwork: National Tour Permit and confirming participant paperwork (IDs)
- Checking on current Bahamas fishing/conching regulations, pre-printing customs doc's

Adults (9): Paul M (lead), Will D (lead), Allen A, Mohan I, Bill N, Steve R\*, Brian Y, Capt. Chris F, Capt. Gene T  
*\*alternate until 2<sup>nd</sup> catamaran confirmed*

Scouts (14): Lee D (lead), James P (lead), Christopher A, Aaron D, Chris D, Kyle F, Nathan I, Jesse N, Robert P, Henry R, Cameron W, Wesley W, Seth W, Hayden Y

*Remember, all participants (Scouts and adults) will be expected to follow Troop procedures, to follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and to have a great time!*