

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

~ A JAMBOREE *FOOD TEAM* COMMUNIQUE ~

The test of true re-engagement in Jamboree work is marked when the meetings begin. So despite a unearthly -18°F actual temperature in Michigan when I headed to the airport last weekend, soon thereafter all the area leadership folks of the 2017 Jamboree Logistics Group (of which Food Team is a charter member) were assembled in still ice laden North Carolina. The meeting was markedly different from those in preparation for the first Jamboree at The Summit. It was calmly reflective of the past successes, and admitted failures, while methodically good in how each area laid out its plan for two years hence. Since the Food Team volunteers will be the core deliverers of our plan, let me share with all of you what we know and learned from the meeting. Let's just call this Squire's summary of the salient stuff from the February 21, 2015 Logistics leadership conclave.

The first major change involves the dates of the Jamboree. They are tailored to enabling staff who want to compress attendance of the full Jamboree into two weeks off from work to be able to do so. Here is how it works. Staff main arrival day will be Saturday, July 16, 2017. This gives you a day to get settled and then our team a few days to ramp everything up before participant unit arrival day on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. The Jamboree runs the rest of that week and all the next week until departure day which is Friday, July 28, 2017. Participants will leave starting early in the am then staff the same day just after the units clear the gates. Spread the word to any of your friends for whom time off was a limiting factor in attending.

Timing change will also be evident during the event itself. Summit Center will close at 5pm instead of staying open into the evenings. The daily hours, except of course on show days, will be 8am-5pm. Thereafter scouts will return to their camp areas and naturally find entertainment there. Our contribution to their evening fun will be the provision of 'shopper-tainment' – snack bars located in the Base camp areas where they can get real food, not that stuff they buy at the Jamboree Grocery Stores to make dinner.

Wait a minute . . . Jamboree Grocery Stores? We never had those is that you're probably thinking. You are right, but we will this time. Following the overwhelming recommendation from polling hundreds of Jamboree Unit Leaders with both National and World Jamboree experience, the decision was made to move to the grocery store model of food distribution for both the 2017 National and 2019 World Jamborees at The Summit. The stores will be located in each Base camp and scouts from the units will shop for their food, somewhat as they would for a scout weekend campout at home. Picture the grocery portion of your favorite big box store



under canvas. There will be pallets of products, shelves of small items, refrigerated display cases and the scouts choose, within a daily point budget, what they want to have for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We will undoubtedly devote an entire Food For Thought issue to this later, but at least for now you are in the know.

Now the big news – staff buses! The Jamboree Division listened and promised to do what they can in certain big areas to make a quality of life difference. Judging from what I heard grumbled throughout Food Team last time, the walk to work headed the collective list of complaints for most. So try this plan of theirs on for size. It's not door to door service everywhere by any means, but a balancing of getting you out of the Base camp E basin and to your work areas with a combination of some riding and some walking while not having busses in the thick of the visitor venue. So here goes. There is planned a staff only loop bus from E to C (stops at E are 'in E' NOT at the top of the hill). Also planned is a staff only loop bus from E to A primarily for Basecamp A & B staff to get meals. Staff (and participant) may hop a loop bus from Gateway up and down Adventure Valley. Finally staff and participants will also find a planned loop bus from the Transportation Hub (near where TechQuest was in 2013) all the up to the Barrels and back again.

There is one other 'promise' by the Jamboree Division I'll quickly touch on – tenting. Though space doesn't permit them to move from the four person bungalows, we were told they are going to allow staff a way to choose tent mates in advance.

Now trying to keep to the historical pattern of cutting these communiqués off before the end of page two, let me share just one more big change. Staff camp was the location of one gem of a Food Team area last time – the Staff Camp Snack Bar complex commonly known as The Chat 'n Chew. The positive reaction to it has led the Jamboree Division to ask not only that we repeat its staff supporting leisure and entertainment objective, but that we expand its operations. So look for one or more additional themed relaxation tents in which you can enjoy your coffee, soft serve, snack, or special steak dinner . . . in addition to recharging self and more.

We will keep you posted as we have more to share and look forward to working with you at the next Jamboree.

