

2012



***CAMP CONSTANTIN,
JACK D. FURST AQUATIC BASE
PROGRAM GUIDE***



2012 Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base Program Guide

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Legacy of Boy Scout Camping At Possum Kingdom Lake

Before Circle Ten Council took possession of the nearly 400 acres on the north shore of Johnson's Bend of the Brazos River, this land was owned by Eugene Constantin. It was his dream to one day give this land that he loved to his son. In the 1940's his son, like many sons of that day, went off to war. Like so many of those sons, he did not return. For many months, Mr. Constantin mourned his loss. He began to wonder what would happen to his beloved land. Mr. Constantin decided that if he couldn't leave it to his own son, then he would leave it to the sons and daughters of America. So in 1946, he gave half of the property to the YMCA and the other half to the Boy Scouts of America. To honor the man and the son who made this wonderful camp possible, Circle Ten Council named it Camp Constantin. Then, in the mid 1990's, Jack D. Furst, who grew up attending Camp Constantin (first as a camper and then a staff member), also gave back to the camp he loved. He was the driving force behind the construction of Jack D. Furst Aquatics Base, and radically improved the waterfront opportunities for Scouts all over north Texas. For over 60 years, Camp Constantin has been the "epitome" of what Boy Scout camp should be.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mailing Address

All kids love getting mail, and Scouts away at camp are no different. We encourage you to have parents send letters and/or packages to their scout while away at camp. Please make sure that the troop number and a return address are present, in case the package is received after the scout has gone home.

Camp Constantin
Scout's Name/ Troop Number
3003 Park Road 36
Graford, Texas 76449

Emergency Telephone Number

Camp Constantin :(940) 779-2131
(Ranger's Office – available all year)

Please, the camp telephone number is for medical and family *emergencies only*. Parents are asked to use this number only for emergencies. Camp Constantin is not equipped with a paging system. If a parent calls with a non-emergency, that message will be communicated at the next meal.

Camp Headquarters Hours

Telephone number: 940-779-2131
(Office operates June 6 – July 21)
Sunday: Noon - 5:30
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 11:00
2:00 PM - 5:00
Saturday: 9:00 AM - Noon

Camp Leadership

Camp Director
Scott Arrington
scott.arrington@scouting.org
214-902-6778

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Program Overview

Welcome to Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base! First and foremost, Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base is dedicated to providing the best program possible, to supplement the year-long programs of each and every Boy Scout troop, as it is in our mission statement. However we like to do that in style!

Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base is known for its aquatics programs but is actually home to eight different program areas, filled with a diverse merit badge selection, and staffed by fellow Scouts and Scouters who are ready and eager to help your boys on their trail to eagle. These areas include...

- Aquatics
- Shooting Sports
- Brazos Buccaneers (First Year Camper)
- Handicraft
- Conservation
- Scout Skills
- Nature
- Communications and Technology

Aquatics

What would a week at Camp Constantin be without its world renowned Jack D. Furst Aquatics Center? A week filled with fun and adventure, but we include it anyway! From “Blobbing”, swimming, canoeing, or even waterskiing, if it involves cooling off on the cool beautiful waters of Possum Kingdom Lake, then this is the place to be! The Jack D. Furst Aquatics Center at Camp Constantin offers the following merit badges and awards:

- Canoeing
- Rowing
- Motor boating
- Water Sports (skiing)
- Small Boat Sailing
- Swimming
- Lifesaving

All of the aquatic programs require that Scouts be strong swimmers and in good physical condition. National BSA Rules require classification as a “Swimmer” by completing the BSA Swim test before participating in the events. There are also some special opportunities beyond our aquatics merit badge program.

Snorkeling BSA

Even though Scouts sign up for it like a merit badge, it is an award that is offered through the BSA. It's also a great adventure for your scouts in the crystal clear waters of Possum Kingdom Lake. They'll learn important safety rules, proper use and care for the equipment, and get to spend some under the waves!

Mile Swim B.S.A.

Like a merit badge, mile swim is something that you sign up for and attend every day. In order to earn the Mile Swim BSA award you have to put in some training, and that's what the daily sessions are for. We invite everyone down to cheer on the class on Friday at 2:30pm as those who practiced all week go for the long haul.

Kayaking B.S.A.

Also a special award, scouts will have the opportunity to get in depth instruction and experience with one of our Kayaks. You also sign up for it like a Merit Badge and you have to go every day in order to earn the award.

Advanced Sailing

For those that have completed the Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge, new challenges await. We have catamarans and larger boats for the advanced sailing students. Keep in mind this is not a merit badge, but you sign up for it as if it were.

Water Odyssey

The Water Odyssey is currently under re-evaluation to ensure it is meeting the needs of our older scouts. The program will return and will still be available for scouts 14 years and older. Watch the website in the spring for more details.

BSA Lifeguard

This class is for Scouts 15 years of age and want to become trained lifeguards. It's an all-day course so there won't be time for any other merit badges. It's a demanding class but for those that make the grade a certification will be your reward. Adults are welcome too!

PLEASE NOTE: Some classes are limited in size due to equipment, staff, and safety requirements.

Trail to First Class (Brazos Buccaneers)

One of the things that we took from the evaluations from the 2011 camping season was the need for a new Trail to First Class Program. This spring a new Trail To First Class task force is being put together to re-evaluate our TFC programs and give new guidance and direction. Watch the Council website in the spring for updates on this important program.

Handicraft

One of the staples of any good camp is the handicraft area. It provides a great, shaded place for a Scout to explore his artistic side. This area is located right next to the Snack Bar, so leaders can take in a cold drink while watching the kids work. We have:

- Art
- Basketry
- Leatherwork
- Woodcarving
- Sculpture
- Indian Lore

Conservation

Our conservation area lies directly across from the snack bar, where the teaching areas are hidden among the trees and trails of Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base. In this area, troops can get service projects to work on, or check out simple tools to use for conservation projects in the campsite. This is also where Scouts will go for:

- Energy
- Environmental Science
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Forestry
- Oceanography
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Weather

Scout Skills

Want to climb Mt. Everest? How about survive in the wilderness for a week without food? Want to learn how to build a tree house? Then Scoutcraft, my friend, is for you! Also known as Scout Skills, this program area is the place to get a li'l rugged and learn all the classic outdoor skills. Our staff here will also help your Scouts 'Be Prepared' to do those things that make Scouts confident and dependable in an emergency.

- Camping
- Emergency Preparedness
- Farm Mechanics
- First Aid
- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Orienteering
- Painting
- Pioneering
- Wilderness Survival

Shooting Sports

Our shooting sports area is great for your Scouts to hone their shooting skills and become a superb marksman. Even Buffalo Bill would be proud! We are continuously improving this area, with two new 20 gauge shotguns, new drawstring bows, an expanded rifle pavilion, and a new electric clay thrower. There are some additional costs for the Rifle Merit Badge (\$1 for 10 rounds) and Shotgun Merit Badge (\$.25 for 1 round & clay pigeon). Merit Badges include:

- Rifle Shooting
- Shotgun Shooting
- Archery

Nature

Our Nature area has many scenic teaching areas set amongst the cedar trees and boulders of the northwest side of the camp. Our main pavilion has aquariums and cages that house local wildlife like snakes, lizards, fish and even giant centipedes! There is much more, so feel free to come check them out any time during the day! Want to take a stroll on a nature trail (using buddy system of course!)? Then hike on up here because the Johnson Peak trail begins here. Merit Badges offered here include:

- Astronomy
- Fishing
- Geology
- Mammal Study
- Bird Study
- Nature
- Reptile Study
- Space Exploration
- Nuclear Science

Communications and Technology

One of our newer program areas in camp, the Communication and Technology area, is home to Eagle required and high tech merit badges alike. You will also have an opportunity to participate in exhilarating experiments and inventions like 'Walking on Liquid' (Yes, it can be done!), 'Exploding Air?', and even the Solar Powered Clothes Dryer. This area is the place for creativity, ideas, and fun!

- Citizenship in the World
- Chemistry
- Cinematography
- Photography
- Communications

Special Events & Evening Activities

Possum Fest

It's a lake party! Come and enjoy all the amenities our waterfront has to offer. We'll have a DJ spinning up some tunes and ice cream sundaes will be served!

Assault on Johnson Peak

Challenge yourself with a hike up the highest point in Palo Pinto County. Wednesday evening the staff will lead a trek up to the top of Johnson's peak. Once there, you can hear tales of local history, including the legend of how Hell's Gate got its name and the underwater town Pickwick.

Cinema P.K.

Wednesday night, at Dark-Thirty (9:30 for you city folk) we will once again open the Cinema PK. Bring your camp chairs and join us right outside the dining hall for an outdoor movie.

Hell's Gate Canoe trip

One of the highlights of a week at Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base is the opportunity to take a canoe across the lake and visit one of the most striking features of Possum Kingdom Lake, Hell's Gate. Sign up will be Monday after lunch as space is limited. Your scouts will not only have the opportunity to paddle there, but beach your canoe and take the short hike to the top of Hell's Gate.

Fat Bat Tournament

Back by popular demand, its softball, Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base style and we call it Fat Bat. It takes 9-10 youth to field a team and participate in a week long bracket tournament.

Volleyball tournament

Also a perennial favorite, the annual volleyball tournament will once again offer your Scouts the opportunity to win the title VOLLEYBALL CHAMPION OF THE WEEK.

Water Carnival

What visit to the Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base would be complete without the new water carnival extravaganza? Featured events will include:

- The Blob show - our trained staff members performing daring feats for the amusement of the crowd.
- You can also see the volleyball tournament finals.
- The world famous Constantin sunfish regatta. Pick your two best sailors and compete against the rest of the camp.
- The homemade raft race. Pick up your raw materials anytime during the week and build your entry into the raft race with anything else you can find in your campsite – that’s not a watercraft, of course!
- The Great Constantin Relay Race. Challenge your team of six through several disciplines including running, rowing, canoeing, and other Scouting skills in race to the finish.
- We will close with a recognition ceremony for all of the fantastic achievements that were earned during your week of summer camp.

Friday Open Area Extravaganza

Every Friday from 2:00pm to 4:00pm will be the open area with several bonus activities for your scouts’ enjoyment.

Aquatics – get the last of your blobbing, rowing, canoeing, Kayaking, and swimming before the water carnival.

Scoutcraft – Test your skills on the Tomahawk range. Bring anything brand-able that you may have because the fires will be hot and the brands will be smoldering on anything you bring in.

Nature – Come see our live snakes get their weekly meal, or get to know some of our animals a little better with an intimate wildlife encounter.

Communications/Technology – There will be a science expo featuring demonstrations from our staff. They will also host a tournament of the popular youth game “Ninja”.

Shooting Sports – Teams of 3 from each troop will compete in the Constantin Shoot out. One participant for each discipline we offer at camp (Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery), your team may even include one adult!

PEDDLE AND PADDLE AT POSSUM KINGDOM

*New program for 2012 camping season at
Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base*

Overview:

- Units arrive on Sunday with their unit and go through swim check etc.
- Individual participants will meet Sunday evening prior to camp fire:
 - Meet and greet fellow crew members
 - Discuss specific itinerary
 - Get fitted for PFD's, paddles, and buddies
 - Canoeing basics
 - Pack canoeing luggage (provided)
- Monday morning breakfast with unit in the Dining Hall and depart camp for canoe drop off
- Philmont style trail meals from here on
- Canoe all day Monday, camp on river, approximately 10 miles down stream
- Canoe all day Tuesday to Rochelle's Canoe rental and take out Tuesday evening
- Pick up scouts and canoes Tuesday evening and transport to Brazos River Authority (BRA) campsite *Scenic Cove* where they will camp Tuesday night
- Wednesday morning:
 - repack to mountain bike luggage (provided)
 - Get on a mountain bike (bring your own or use a provided bike)
 - Routine bicycle maintenance class and trail rules
 - Brazos River Authority approved trail maintenance work in the afternoon
 - Short orientation rides around *Scenic Cove* campsite
- Camp in Scenic Cove Campground Wednesday night
- Thursday is all day ride (approximately 20-25 miles)
- Thursday camp in BRA campsite *North D&D* or BRA Campsite *Sandy Beach*
- Friday ride to connection with Johnson Lake Loop trail and ride back onto camp property.
- Lunch with their unit in the Dining Hall
- Participate in the afternoon/evening festivities with their troops
- Head home Saturday morning with the unit that they arrived with

Watch the Circle Ten Council website for registration details in the spring!!

This is the tentative schedule. Subject to change prior to the opening of 2012 camping season. Extra fees will be charged for participating in Peddle & Paddle.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

Check-in

Please make sure that your unit brings the following for check-in (due to limited copy paper and ink, no copies can be made at camp). Please refer to the registration section of the Camp Leaders Guide for more information on the following forms:

- Complete roster of all youth and adults in attendance
- Completed medical form for every youth and adult in attendance
- A youth protection completion certificate from every adult
- Copy of sex offender data base check
- Copy of your unit's Severe Weather Hazard training card.

Camp check-in occurs between 12:00pm and 4:00pm on the afternoon of your arrival day. When you first arrive at camp, a camp staff member, who will serve as your Staff Guide for the orientation period, will meet your troop to begin the check-in process and prepare your Scouts for medical re-checks, swim checks, and a tour of camp. One adult leader is responsible for checking in the troop at Camp Headquarters.

NOTE: To ensure safety, only one vehicle per unit will be allowed into the campsite to deliver gear.

Although the camp needs an immediate head count for meals on arrival, you will set an appointment with the camp Business Manager to settle your financial position on Monday or Tuesday. After a brief visit with the Camp Director, this will allow you to immediately head to your campsite with your Staff Guide. After you and your Staff Guide inspect camp-supplied equipment for damage, your troop can begin to set up your site, take the swim check, go on your tour, and complete medical re-checks. Please take the time to note any damaged equipment so that it may be repaired or replaced and your troop won't be charged at the end of your stay at camp—troops must pay for any equipment they damage.

The Camp Director reserves the right to adjust campsite assignments.

Swim Tests, Medical Re-checks and Medical Forms

Swim Tests: Swimming and boating on Possum Kingdom Lake are two of the most enjoyable activities at Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base. Safety is our number-one priority, and we have established some simple guidelines to ensure a safe stay. Any Scout or leader who wishes to participate in aquatic activities must have completed the BSA swim test.

- For the safety of the Scouts who may not be used to the differences of swimming in a lake vs. a pool, the only pre-camp swim checks accepted are those done by our staff at Camp Wisdom. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. At any time, the Aquatics Director reserves the right to make any Scout or leader re-take the swim check.

Medical Re-checks and Medical Forms: All Scouts and leaders attending camp must have completed a BSA medical form before attending camp. The form is available at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf> all medical forms will be returned to the troop at the end of your week in camp. Shots must be dated with year or official shot records must be attached to the medical forms. As part of your camp tour, leaders and campers will visit with the Camp Medic for a brief medical re-check. The purpose of this re-check is not to conduct a second physical, but to make the Medic aware of any potential health problems, personal medications, or concerns that a camper or leader may have.

Check-Out

Breakfast will be served at 7:30am on the day of departure. After breakfast, Scouts are to return to their campsites to pack and clean up. All of the Program Area Directors will be available inside the Dining Hall after breakfast to answer any questions that unit leaders might have concerning merit badges or advancement reports. Please take advantage of this service, so we can solve any problems before your unit leaves camp. A camp staff member will visit your campsite to inspect it with the troop leader. Remember that all camp equipment that was borrowed must be returned to the Quartermaster before your unit will be cleared to leave. Once you have been cleared, take your clearance form and the Camp Evaluation Form to the office. Camp patches and any remaining material will be issued when you check out at the Headquarters building. Remember, to ensure safety, only one vehicle per unit will be allowed into the campsite to pick up gear. Gates will open at 6:45 AM to start packing your vehicles.

Trading Post

Camp Constantin has two trading posts, The Snack Shack and the Souvenir Shop. The Snack Shack offers everything from chips and soda, to frozen Snickers and Slushies! The Snack Shack located next to the Handicraft area offers all of those delicious drinks and snacks that just can't be found while camping in the wilderness. Pine cone tea? Yuck!!! The Souvenir Shop has everything else! All of your merit badges kits can be found here. Forgot your compass, or fire starter at home? We remembered it and brought it for you. T-shirts, hats, gag gifts, walking staff emblems, pocket knives, you name it, and it's here, at the Souvenir Shop located right next to the Health Lodge and Camp Office.

Encourage your Scouts, as we will, to drink water located in every program area and main areas in camp in ice cold coolers. Besides, it's free!

DAILY SCHEDULE

You will notice some striking differences for 2012 in our daily schedule. We have once again listened to your suggestions and will change the way meals are delivered at Camp Constantin. In order for us to deliver hot and fresh meals to your Scouts, the best possible way was to break our meals into two periods

Every Unit will be assigned to one of two different meal schedules. It is imperative that your unit attend the meal that they are assigned to, as that is when we will have food and space for your unit. The following will be the new daily schedule. Please pay careful attention to the NEW MEAL TIMES.

*******IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2012*******

Meals

One of the many concerns that has been shared through the evaluation process is the crowding situation at the Dining Hall. Due to these observations we will be eating in shifts for all meals at Camp Constantin, Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base when camp attendance exceeds 300. Your troop will be assigned to a Dining Hall shift that will be labeled either "A" or "B" and you will have the same shift all week. This will be a change for many of our returning troops, but one that we feel will provide a better overall dining hall experience. You can find the complete schedule on page 15. There will be an alternate daily schedule when camp attendance is below 300 participants. We appreciate your cooperation

- **Table waiters**

Each troop will provide 1 Scout per table of scouts. This Scout is responsible for set-up before the meal and clean-up afterwards. Troops are encouraged to send an adult to supervise the Scout and assist where needed.

- **A-meal/ B-meal on Sunday**

The first meal of every session is always the busiest. This will require table waiters to arrive at the Dining Hall at 5:00 pm rather than the 5:15 time in the daily schedule.

NEW CAMP CONSTANTIN DAILY SCHEDULE

- 6:45AMA Meal table-waiters report
- 7:00.....A breakfast starts
- 7:25.....A Breakfast ends
- 7:25.....A Breakfast clean-up
- 7:35.....Morning Camp Assembly/Flag Ceremony – ENTIRE CAMP**
- 7:50.....B Breakfast table-waiters report
- 8:00.....B Breakfast starts
- 8:25.....B Breakfast ends
- 8:25.....B Breakfast clean-up
- 9:00.....Program Session 1**
- 10:00.....Program Session 2**
- 11:00.....Program Session 3**
- NOON.....A Lunch table-waiters report
- 12:10.....A Lunch starts
- 12:35.....A Lunch ends
- 12:35.....A lunch clean-up
- 12:50.....B lunch table-waiter report
- 1:00.....B lunch starts
- 1:25.....B Lunch ends
- 1:25.....B lunch clean-up
- 1:30.....SPL Meeting**
- 2:00.....Program Session 4**
- 3:00.....Program Session 5**
- 4:00.....Open activities start**
- 5:15.....Open area close**
- 5:15.....A Dinner table-waiters report
- 5:30.....A Dinner starts
- 5:55.....A Dinner ends
- 5:55.....A Dinner clean-up
- 6:05.....Evening Camp Assembly/Flag Ceremony – ENTIRE CAMP**
- 6:20.....B Dinner table-waiter report
- 6:30.....B Dinner starts
- 6:55.....B Dinner ends
- 6:55.....B Dinner clean-up
- 7:30.....Evening activities start**