

Camp Hi-Sierra



Dear Parents,

LDRK thanks you for your unwavering support of our Scouts and allowing them to attend summer camp this year. After two years of absence from the Sierra mountains, we returned home. As they say in the famous song, "Take Me Home, Country Roads," that has been widely adopted and modified across our country as a Scouting anthem:

*"Country roads, take me home
To the place I belong.
Hi-Sierra, mountain mama,
Take me home, country roads."*

We had a total of 11 boys and 7 girls attend summer camp at Hi-Sierra this year. Camp Hi-Sierra is a unique experience for our youth, in which they live a life in harmony with nature, receive training on various life skills, and assume personal responsibility (including a consistent showering schedule--hopefully!) for an entire week.



As leaders at the troop level (11-18 years), we strive to support and guide our Scouts from behind the scenes, helping them focus on what they should do within the confines of Scouting. We provide the tools necessary so that our youth leadership can learn to successfully run their troops. In our experience, any troop that is youth-led (with adult guidance) is a troop that thrives. It was a pleasure watching both of our boy and girl troops go through different stages of development the past week. Whereas in the beginning, they were two separate units with new youth leaders who were finding their way, by the end, they were a lien doan, with more experienced youth leaders working together and helping each other. Witnessing both of our troops support each other in the camp-wide games made us so proud and happy. Hearing them chant their new lien doan call made our spirits go way up past the gigantic trees around camp:
ARE YOU READYYYYYYYY?!
YEAHHHHH!

RK!
All day!

RK!
All day!

RK!
All day!

WHO ARE WE?
285, 2285!

Traditionally, all troops participate in the campfire program on Friday night. Our two troops created a wonderful skit together and got the entire audience to sing along at the end. Also at the campfire, one of our Scouts, Hien Nguyen, was recognized as an Honor Patrol member for his exceptional contributions and dedication throughout camp.

Summer camp at Hi-Sierra is all about supporting the Scouts and their personal development. However, other reasons we encourage adult leaders to attend Hi-Sierra include the adult trainings and activities that are available all week. As the Scouts are in their merit badge classes, the leaders are also attending training sessions or working on the special Hi-Sierra advancement programs. This year, one of our leaders, anh Khanh, completed several trainings, including an outdoor training, and one of the advancement programs for adults. Both anh Khanh and anh Lam Son offered their services to help prepare two special meals for the entire camp. Our unit leaders all served and participated in the plentiful camp activities--the learning never stops.



Despite the hot weather, the tough walk uphill to the highest campsites (Havasu & Havasu Hills), and most of our group being first timers, we did a great job as a lien doan. There is always room for improvement, and next year will be even better. Our goal is to get more Scouts to join the great program at Camp Hi-Sierra in 2023, so get ready!

Thank you all,

LDRK - Trần Thảo Chi