



Denver Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America



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**Greetings Okpik Camper!**

Welcome and thank you for making a commitment to attend the Denver Area Council premier winter training weekend, Okpik. We have trained Scouts and Scouters since 1986 on the ways of winter camping and how to do it safely while having fun. Based on our experiences we would like to highlight the following important areas:

Please refer to the equipment list on the reverse side. **Make sure you bring everything that's on this list.** Our recommendations are based on years of experience, we've figured out what works and what doesn't. The equipment list (and additional course description and highlights) can also be found on the Denver Area Council's web page: [www.bsacoloradoadventure.org](http://www.bsacoloradoadventure.org). To make best use of our time on Friday evening we have loaded some pre work to the Okpik page of the Denver Area Council web site. This contains important information on preparing for the weekend and each troop should set aside time at a troop meeting to review this important information. Failing to review this work can lead to participants failing to bring suitable equipment. The Okpik page is at <http://www.bsacoloradoadventure.org/document/okpik-equipment-list/140957>

**The weekend will be an exciting challenge and a great learning experience but it will also be a very demanding weekend, too.** It is physically demanding to ski or snowshoe into the backcountry, build a snow shelter and also stay warm. We provide the calories, you provide the energy! It is advised that participants should do physical training before their weekend so they'll be able to enjoy the whole experience.

**Arrive at Camp Tahosa no later than 6:30 P.M. on Friday.** It may take two hours from most parts of Denver to get to camp, longer if the roads are snowy. We have a classroom session planned for the first evening and if you arrive late, everyone is thrown behind.

**If a "no snow weekend" is declared for your weekend we will still offer a full cold weather training program with alternative planned activities for the field.** Plan to backpack and tent camp Saturday (using your own equipment). Denver Area Council makes the "no snow weekend" calls based on the expected snow conditions.

Everyone is responsible for any equipment and clothing checked out to them for the weekend. Your team will be using gear valued at almost a \$1,000. Participants will be charged for any lost or damaged gear.

Again, welcome and congratulations for making a commitment to attend an Okpik Winter Camping Weekend. If you have questions, please contact Stewart Layhe at [slayhe@yahoo.com](mailto:slayhe@yahoo.com) or the Denver Area Council at 720-266-2111.