

## Mount Rushmore Pilgrimage 2011 Lessons Learned

Attendees: Frank Moser, Bobbi Jean Jarvinen, Jonathon McKaskey

### Mount Rushmore

1. What worked well?
  - a. BS – The awards ceremony went well. The boots were gold, always a plus.
  - b. BS – Boys in entrance went okay, could be approved.
  - c. CS – Got to walk the boardwalk.
  - d. BS/CS – Everyone seemed to know that they needed to pay to park.
2. What didn't work well?
  - a. BS – Grand Terrace was chaotic.
  - b. BS – Didn't know where to go.
  - c. CS – Ranger was late to the program. DE tried to handle event, she was not prepared.
  - d. CS – Did not get to complete the Ranger Program for Mount Rushmore.
  - e. BS/CS – Did not take credit cards, people were not prepared for the cash only feature.
  - f. BS/CS – Awareness of car shuttling process was not understood by all.
  - g. Not all of the award recipients showed for the event.
3. Suggestions:
  - a. A central meeting place away from the Grand Terrace, such as parking lot or lower level terrace (near Artist Studio).
  - b. Have Scouts sit in auditorium and only flags march in.
  - c. Have banners that mark the trail leaders for the march in: Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln.
  - d. Need to lock-in Ranger's name and follow-up with them directly the expectations for the event.
  - e. Need to have a specific program for Cub Scouts.
  - f. Have Search & Rescue set-up in the parking lot.
  - g. Council needs to have a designated "information" booth space.
  - h. Would like the Mount Rushmore Superintendent to have a more prominent presence/role.

### Camp Sites

1. What worked well?
  - a. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – The Campground Host was aware and ready for them.
  - b. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – Host location was open.
  - c. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – Camp Host (Frank Moser) was prepared.
  - d. Center Lake (Jefferson Trail) – The Campground Host was aware and ready for them.
  - e. Center Lake (Jefferson Trail) – Host location was open.
  - f. Center Lake (Jefferson Trail) – Camp Host (Bob Everidge) was prepared, even though he was a last minute fill-in.

- g. Center Lake (Jefferson Trail) – Not having to carry an entrance letter with letter at entrances instead.
  - h. ~~Sylvan Lake~~ Horse Thief Campground (Roosevelt Trail) – Not having to carry an entrance letter with letter at entrances instead.
  - i. ~~Sylvan Lake~~ Horse Thief Campground (Roosevelt Trail) – The showers were great.
  - j. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – Loved the open fields.
  - k. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – Didn't disturb other campers, there were none.
2. What didn't work well?
- a. Did not have the locations secured, early.
  - b. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – Host troop was not there until very late.
  - c. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – Trails were not as familiar with trail as they could have been.
  - d. Sheridan Lake (Lincoln Trail) – Host troop left before the campfire; there was not an organized campfire.
  - e. Center Lake (Jefferson Trail) – Behavioral concerns with Scouts who were up after lights out; waking up other campers.
  - f. ~~Sylvan Lake~~ Horse Thief Campground (Roosevelt Trail) – Solidifying the camping location.
  - g. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – Council representative late.
  - h. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – No picnic tables.
  - i. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – Port-a-Potties were late, but there were plenty of them.
  - j. Rushmore Cave (Washington Trail) – No lights.
3. Suggestions:
- a. Would like to have a Trading Post presence.
  - b. Camp Host perspective: they need an actual orientation.
  - c. Camp Host perspective: need materials earlier, needed to know earlier.

## Trails

- 1. What worked well?
  - a. They all got there, eventually.
- 2. What didn't work well?
  - a. Did not have a "rescue/retrieval" plan for those that couldn't make the entire hike. (This was discussed with the Hike Masters, but not followed through on all trails.)
  - b. Lincoln Trail – Didn't start from Sheridan Lake, map was not complete(?).
  - c. Lincoln Trail – Did not secure permission of property.
  - d. Washington Trail – The group split, part of the group was lost for awhile.
  - e. Roosevelt Trail – They also split and one group did not end up where they should have.
  - f. Jefferson Trail – Missed a turn and added a portion to their hike.
  - g. Jefferson Trail – Behavioral concerns with Scouts climbing rocks and tunnel entrances.
  - h. Jefferson Trail – Grizzly Gulch climb.

3. Suggestions:
  - a. Lincoln Trail – Flagging on trails; last guy picks up.
  - b. Ham radio operators on trail. Contact School of Mines Radio Club.
  - c. Hike Masters need a buddy to assist them with the actual trails.
  - d. Shouldn't the trails be led by boys (Senior Patrol Leaders); involve the Senior Patrol Leaders in the actual planning.
  - e. Can there be a backpacking (high adventure) trail? Silver Arrow Trail? Crazy Horse Trail?

### **Registration Process/Leaders Guide/Award Applications/etc.**

1. What worked well?
  - a. The trail assignments went well with little feedback.
2. What didn't work well?
  - a. Registration was not open early enough.
  - b. Leaders Guide was very late.
  - c. Cub Scouts versus Webelos versus Boy Scouts confusion.
3. Suggestion:
  - a. One set fee for Cub Scouts (Webelos) versus Boy Scouts, rather than three separate fees.
  - b. Rewrite the Leaders Guide by program area.
  - c. Can we negotiate a flat rate for parking and add that into the event fee?
  - d. Update the Golden Boot and Silver Sneaker applications to coincide with Journey to Excellence requirements.
  - e. Open the Golden Boot/Silver Sneaker process for those that do not want to lead a trail.