

C. O. P. E. Training

The Gulfstream Council has a need for instructors in the C.O.P.E. program that is run out at Tanah Keeta. The National office has changed the requirements for instructor status. Before an instructor can attend National Camp School for C.O.P.E. they must be fully trained in both the high and low programs. No longer will they teach these skills at Camp School. All of these skills are to be taught at the local level. Because of this requirement the training here locally will be taught on two separate weekends. The first weekend will be dedicated to low cope, the second will cover high cope. These weekends will begin on Friday evening and conclude on Sunday morning.

The program offered at Tanah Keeta has enjoyed a rising popularity over the past several years. Council has expanded the low course this year to the point where we can handle 60 to 70 people easily. The problem is in having the instructors to handle the many groups that do enjoy this program. As I was told at my last camp school I take too much of the fun upon myself. I have to admit that I find working with these groups to be a highlight of my scouting time. I have trained instructors and not used them in the most efficient way. My role is to be an overall supervisor, not a hands on every time person. To those of you I have trained and not used, I apologize. In the upcoming season I will stay back and let you, the instructors, have the joy of seeing this program work.

Now I am looking for people who would like to work in our program. I can tell you from personal experience that nothing beats the thrill of seeing a group of people come together as they learn to solve impossible problems, or overcome personal fears. The lessons that you will be learning can easily translate to your role with a troop or crew. Many of the simpler games can be done at a troop meeting or on a campout, thereby improving the quality of program that you can offer the young. To run a viable program that addresses all of these goals we need to train as many as we can. The training needs at least 8 or 9 people to run well. Small groups are not as effective as large groups. Truly a case of the more the merrier. I really have no upper limit on the size of the group. I would love to see a large turnout. Council will be helping me set up a web site of some kind that will have all dates and groups listed so you will not have to wait for a call from me to know what is going on. The more people we have the easier the load will be for all.

This year the two dates will be low course training on the weekend of Oct. 7-9 and the high course training will be on Oct. 21-23. There is a fee of \$45 for program materials and food. The fee covers both weekends. Age is little impediment to helping. Eighteen and up can be full instructors and the sixteen year old youth make for great helpers.

For registration or for any questions that you may have, please call poor Kelsey at council, Alec Connolly, who is my guide or myself at 561-629-6573. Philip Ashford