

# Why Your Son Should Go To Camp



Most parents today can remember some natural place from their childhood that was special to them—a nearby creek where they caught tadpoles, woods where they climbed trees and built forts, or a pond where they fished. But how much time does your son spend outside? Is he missing something that was a critical part of your childhood?

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, points to the growing body of scientific research that shows that exposure to the natural world is essential for the healthy physical, emotional, and psychological development of children. Research at the University of Illinois has found that children with attention-deficit disorder can focus more effectively after outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing.

Mr. Louv also notes that children who grow up with little or no exposure to the natural world have little interest in caring for it, and they become adults who are indifferent to preserving and protecting it. In the future, they will be the ones responsible for making decisions about our world, and they may end up doing so with limited knowledge and no first-hand experience with the natural environment.

The Prairielands Council Cub Camps are a great opportunity for boys and their families to reconnect with the natural world. Whether it is through family-oriented camping like Family FunFest Camp or Parent & Pal Camp, or more Scout-oriented camps like Day Camp and Adventure Camp, the Prairielands Council Cub Camps can help parents fight nature-deficit disorder. These camps offer the opportunity for Cub Scouts and their families to do things together, to work to accomplish goals and learn new skills, to put the boys in touch with nature, and to develop first-hand knowledge of the outdoors through experience. If your boy says, “I already went to camp last year,” it is similar to saying, “I already went outdoors last year.” The outdoors is life itself, and camping is the outdoor experience where every day is different and brings new wonders of personal development, experience, and growth.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Prairielands Council hosts the Cub Scout Summer Camp Orientation at Camp Drake in Oakwood, IL. Parents and their Cub Scouts can come out to Camp Drake to learn the details about all the Cub camps offered by Prairielands Council and tour the camp facilities as well. Afterwards, families can join in the Camp Drake Trail Tromp, hiking the hills and valleys of the Onaquississippi Trail along the Salt Fork River.