



www.YosemiteScouting.org



Pendola Scout Reservation's
CAMP JOHN MENSINGER
2017 Leader Guide



Dear Unit Leaders,

Thank you for choosing Camp John Mensinger as your 2017 Boy Scout Resident Camp. We look forward to your arrival at camp in the beautiful Sierra Nevadas.

Pendola Scout Reservation was opened in 1970, and later Camp John Mensinger was opened as part of the Reservation. The Scouting that has happened on the Reservation has a rich history of servant leadership. Our vision, as a staff, is to help you and your charter organization to build men of character, in a fun and safe environment. We are committed to providing each Scout a program that inspires them to have a genuine interest in protecting the environment, caring for their community and growing into responsible adults.

Under your leadership, Scouts are embarking on an adventure to explore opportunities unlike any other. This may well be their first time away from home. Your guidance will be vital to ensure a positive and rewarding outdoor experience. The camp staff is here to help you achieve success in your role.

By preparing for camp, your Scouts will get the most out of their investment. This book should answer most of the basic questions, but if not, the 2017 Camping Staff and Support Staff will try their best to help!

Our camp continues to build upon the tradition of excellence and will provide your youth with experiences that they can only have in the Boy Scouts and at Camp John Mensinger. We are very excited about the summer of 2017, and look forward to serving your needs during your week at Camp John Mensinger.

Sincerely,

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For more forms and information about Camp John Mensinger, please visit the website at www.YosemiteScouting.org or contact the Council Service Center at (209) 545-6320.

Welcome and Thanks for choosing Camp John Mensinger

We just wanted to take a minute and thank you for choosing Camp John Mensinger. We know that you have many different options for summer camp, so we are honored that you have chosen us. As you may or may not know, our camp is in a unique setting in the Stanislaus National Forest, elevation 4800 feet, just above Beardsley Reservoir.

For the 2017 camping season...

- Based on the popularity of the Welding merit badge we've renamed "Ranger School" to "**CJM Trade School**" and added Automotive Maintenance, Electricity, and Plumbing.
- The Pendola Sierra Adventure Base has been renamed to **Soap Creek Adventure Base** and offers the following high adventure options which can be selected along with Merit Badge Classes:
 - ➔ Kayaking/Canoeing @ Pinecrest
 - ➔ Mountain Biking
 - ➔ BMX
 - ➔ Beardsley Canoe Outpost
 - ➔ Bear Lake hike, swim day (from Crabtree Trailhead in Emigrant Wilderness)
 - ➔ Horseback riding as a patrol

This manual is designed to help you and your boys to plan the best summer adventure possible. Our staff stands ready to assist you in any way they can. If we have somehow missed something, please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to seeing you at camp this summer!



Dylan Law
Camp Director



Jeremy Paulson
Program Director



Chris Bruening
Camp Commissioner

"Scouting is three-quarter – outing"
Lord Baden-Powell, 1907

History of Camp John Mensinger

For many years prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the local Miwuk Indians regularly visited the area. The area was rich in game and plants, which were an important part of the Miwuk culture. These people traveled to higher elevations during the spring and summer, and moved back down with the approach of winter. An attractive feature of the area around the camp was an abundance of acorns, which could be ground into meal. It is common to see grinding rocks throughout the area left by these early residents.

During the mid-1800's, the California Gold Rush brought a huge influx of Europeans into the area. While little is known about the gold rush days in and around the camp, it is certain that the area was explored. While gold was the main attractant, the potential for lumber was not overlooked. Lumber was harvested in order for settlers to build homes and other structures, however; it wasn't until the arrival of the railroad in the late 1800's, that the area began to really open up for logging.

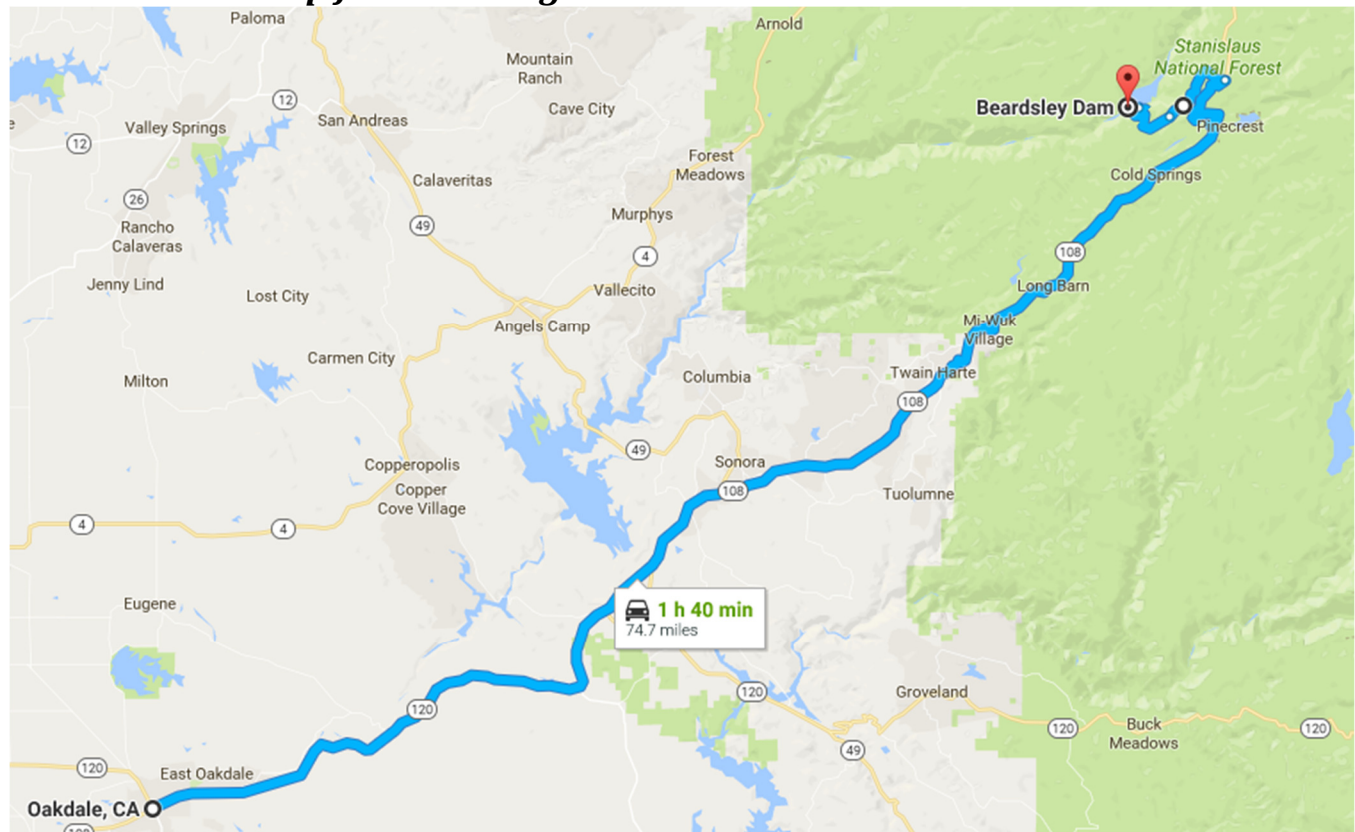
During the first half of the twentieth century, a series of companies began logging operations, moving from Sonora into the mountains. The Pickering Lumber Company built its Sugar Pine Railroad from the town of Standard (just outside of Sonora), all the way through the present Camp John Mensinger, and ending at the edge of Calaveras Big Trees.



In 1969, with the efforts of Mr. Bill Pendola, the Pickering Lumber Company donated one hundred fifty-eight acres of land, for building a Boy Scout Camp. Mr. Pendola is shown at left pointing out the land to some Scouts. The donation of the land made it possible for the Scouts to set up a camp on their own land, rather than on leased Forest Service land, as most camps have. The first Scouts camped in the old Soap Creek Lumber Camp and swam in a Doughboy Pool. During the 1970's, the late John Mensinger and a group of friends began building what is now known as Camp John Mensinger.

Today, almost nothing remains of the once bustling lumber camp at Soap Creek. At the time, the lumber camp was abandoned and the railroad was torn up and removed. Today the most common reminder of the railroads existence is the numerous railroad spikes that were left behind.

Directions to Camp John Mensinger



From Oakdale:

Take Highway 108/120 towards Sonora (120 eventually splits off to go to Yosemite...save that for another trip).

Approximately 33 miles from Oakdale to Sonora

In Sonora, you will by-pass the town (unless, of course a Starbucks stop or last-minute Walmart excursion are needed and then you'll take the Mono Way offramp and go left under the hwy).

Approximately 30 miles from Sonora to Strawberry

As you get closer to Strawberry – two locations with bathrooms: Cold Springs gas station/market has two porta-potties and the Summit Ranger Station at the Pinecrest exit (IF it is open) has a couple nice restrooms.

From Strawberry you will continue up the highway to Beardsley Lake Road (turns off on your left...if you see the road on the right to Leland Meadows SnowPlay are you've gone too far).

Approximately 4 miles from Strawberry to Beardsley Lake Road

The road from the highway down to Beardsley Lake dam is windy – use a low gear and use caution on the turns.

Approximately 8 miles from highway to dam

After crossing the dam you'll climb up the opposite side, staying to the left as you pass the newly refurbished campground on your right, and then taking a sharp hairpin turn to the left to travel up the paved logging road.

Approximately 5.5 miles from dam to dirt road that leads to camp

Watch for a dirt road that will veer off to the left...there will be a BSA sign – follow the dirt road to the parking lot sign for Camp John Mensinger.

Approximately 2 miles from dirt road to Camp

Someone will instruct you where to park your vehicles – bring all your paperwork with you to check in.

Camp Contact Information

All camping and registration questions should be directed to the Council Service Center in Modesto. You can also consult the camping section of the council website at www.YosemiteScouting.org. If you prefer to speak to an actual person, please contact the Modesto Service Center any weekday at (209) 545-6320. You can also e-mail a member of the council staff at any of the following addresses:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. Barbara Evers | Program Assistant | barbara.evers@scouting.org |
| 2. Tim Long | Camping Director | timothy.long@scouting.org |
| 3. Jenni Long | Marketing Assistant | Jenni.long@scouting.org |
| 4. Dylan Law | CJM Camp Director | dylanlaw@gmail.com |

All paper correspondence, payments, etc should be mailed to the following address:

Greater Yosemite Council, Boy Scouts of America
Attention: Camping
4031 Technology Drive
Modesto, CA 95356
(209) 545-6320 ext. 104 FAX (209) 545-6321

If the parents in your unit would like to mail letters, post cards, or care packages to camp, please use the following address:

Camp John Mensinger
Scouts Name, Troop Number
General Delivery
Strawberry, CA 95375

Mail is checked by either the Camp Director or Ranger every Wednesday and Friday. Mail is also picked up at varying other times depending on which staffers are leaving camp to gather supplies in Sonora and which Council employees are coming to camp. Please allow a considerable amount of time for your shipped items to arrive at camp. We are in a remote location and the mail service has multiple check points before it arrives at the location where we check mail. It might even be a good idea to ship items a week prior to your Scout's arrival. We can hold on to mail so that your participants receive it when they get to camp.



Participants eating a meal in the dining hall.



Programs at Pendola Scout Reservation

Camp John Mensinger is a traditional dining hall style summer camp, which provides a level of enthusiasm and Scouting spirit that can't be matched. It features a full merit badge program, a big lake waterfront on Beardsley Reservoir, and specialized leader instruction. There is something for everyone! Camp John Mensinger is where the Scout Oath and Law come to life.

“Adventure Troop” Provisional Troop - The Adventure Troop is designed for Scouts who either cannot attend camp with their units or for boys who wish to attend an additional week. **We arrange for an adult Scoutmaster.** Interested families should contact the Scout Office for availability, and register directly. **One additional week of camp is only \$235! A third or fourth week would only be \$180 per week.**

Soap Creek Adventure Base is located northeast of the main part of Camp John Mensinger. It serves as the base camp for our rustic backpacking program, designed to provide weeklong treks for older Scouts in the backcountry of the Sierra Nevadas. This program also offers a day-to-day adventure experience where scouts can sign up for specific activities like bicycle rides, waterfront adventures and more. **If you have boys who want a week long alternative to merit badges, then this is for you!**

Webelos Adventure at Mensinger is the designation for our summer Webelos activity program. Under the direction of a dedicated staff, the younger boys will be challenged while having the opportunity to advance.

Camp Fees and Registration

Regular Camp Fee: \$355

Regular Adult Fee: \$170

Ldr 1-night fee: \$40

\$100 Unit deposit due upon initial reservation to hold each desired patrol spot

Deadline	Scouts	Paying Leaders [#]	New Scouts/ Bridged Webelos
March 31 st – super early bird per registrant pd in full	\$335*	\$150	\$335*
April 1 st – minimum due for Merit Badge registration	\$180		\$180
May 1 st – early bird per registrant pd in full	\$345*	\$160	\$335*
May 2 nd up to 2 wks before camp session begins	\$355	\$170	\$335
Within 2 wks of camp session beginning	\$365	\$180	\$345

**FOS Gold Unit fee reduced by \$10 #1 free leader every 5 paid Scouts*

Camperships – The 2017 Campership Application is available in both paper and online form. Go to www.yosemitescouting.org > *Camping* > *2017 Youth Campership Application*. Scholarships cannot be given after attending camp. The campership is only for Scouts of the Greater Yosemite Council. Once a campership has been granted for one Scout it cannot be transferred to another Scout.

Adult Leader Fees - Each troop is required to have **one adult per 10 Scouts**, with a **minimum of two adults**. While the adults may rotate, this minimum leadership must be present always. The regular fee for adult leaders is \$170 per week or \$40.00 per day. **NEW this year adult fees are affected by payment deadlines (see above chart)**. As in past years, Units sending 5 or more Scouts will receive free Leader credits: 1 free leader for every 5 paid Scouts.

Refund Policy: All fees are non-refundable except for summer school, a death in the immediate family, or a doctor's excused illness, in which, all but \$175 (Scout) and \$85 (Adult) will be refunded. Requests must be submitted in writing with appropriate documentation (i.e.: doctor's excuse or summer school enrollment verification). Refund requests must be submitted to the Greater Yosemite Council office by September 1, 2017 for any reimbursement consideration.

Family Camping - There are no provisions for family camping at Camp John Mensinger. Please do not bring your family members to camp unless they are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, and are part of your Unit's camping experience.

Trading Post - Our trading post will provide many of your summer camp needs and will be open during regular program hours and most evenings. Hours will be posted at the Trading Post during camp. The trading post will stock an array of snacks, beverages, merit badge supplies, camp necessities, toiletries, and souvenirs. Limited edition camp apparel will be available at competitive prices. Scouts should bring money for the trading post.

Families and units might want to consider pre-purchasing punch cards in \$10, \$20 and \$50 denominations for use during the Scout's week at camp. No credit will be issued if there remains a balance on the card by the end of the week.