

## Swapping is all about friendship, fun

By Cari Jamieson  
Midnight Sun reporter

Sure, you've heard the other girls in your troop talk about it, and at every troop meeting you've been sewing buttons into scraps of cloth and gluing beads to Popsicle sticks, but when you've never been to Encampment, you don't really understand what swapping SWAPS is all about.

Swapping is literally what it sounds like: you make a small keepsake bearing your troop number, and swap it with something another girl has made from a different troop. It happens during a specific time of the evening at Encampment, when all the girls are gathered in one place. Swapping is a fun, active way to learn about Girl Scouts from different parts of Alaska and the United States, *and you end up with a cute little memento to hold onto!*

Swaps are usually handmade, not store bought. They can be as simple as folding a piece of fabric into a pinwheel shape and gluing it to a Popsicle stick. Another idea is painting little rocks with a cool design and writing your troop number on it. Spray-painting metal bottle caps black and gluing scraps of brown, yellow, and white felt to



represent 'bacon and eggs' is also a cute idea for a swap. Swaps can be pinned onto hats or vests for a fun way to show off all you've collected.

Kyle, a Cadette from Troop 850 in Eagle River, likes the tradition of swapping. "The thing that I like about swaps is not necessarily the fact that you get little objects, it's the fact that you get to meet people and socialize." She likes the idea of meeting

people. "With other things you don't necessarily get to talk to people but with swaps you actually have to make contact with them."

So all you newcomers, get ready to meet a whole bunch of new people and collect a lot of cute trinkets, because swapping is one of the coolest things about coming to Encampment!

## Finding Tiki Tina, an Encampment adventure

By Rachel Voehl  
Midnight Sun Tiki keeper

Hi, I'm Tiki Tina and I'll be hiding somewhere around the encampment grounds. Your job is to look for the hints, left in the following riddle, that will lead you to finding me in a secret location. When found, please leave me there, but remember to come back to the encampment headquarters and put a piece of paper in to the Tiki Tina mailbox. The paper should have your troop number, your leaders name, your name and the location of where I was found. We'll have a drawing for a gift certificate to the Craft Cache or Concessions. Check the newspaper tomorrow to see who the first, second, and third place winners are. You can

search for me between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM. Good

luck and have fun!!

**Here's the rhyme for the today:**

You may look high and low,  
But you will never know,  
Where to find me,  
If you're all giggly.  
If you find me today,  
Even the sun will say,  
Lay out in the grass,  
And let you're feet swing fast.  
The big and little stars sing here,  
As they conquer a very big fear,  
Of being out in the open,  
Always a hopin'.

## Tips for Happy Camping

- Drink lots and lots of water
- Remember your sunscreen
- Wear a sun hat
- Strain your gray water
- No washing of hair or dishes in the bathroom
- Make new friends
- Have a good time
- Keep your leader happy
- Shut the door quietly

## Weather or Not

# Sunscreen, raincoat, snowpants. What's up?

By Heather Wright  
Midnight Sun reporter

Are you thinking about whether or not to bring ALL of your weather gear? Well I'm here to tell you, quite definitely Y-E-S!

"Yes you need to bring all your weather gear!" Ruth Chartraw, an experienced Encampment leader says, "I was at the 'Rain' Event. You need to bring 1001 tarps, duct tape and rope..."

Ruth is referring to Encampment 1997. The theme was The Main Event. Quickly, the Main Event turned into the 'Rain' Event. Ruth was also at last Encampment. In fact, the last two Encampments have rained sunshine. She says she was to busy putting lotion on all the girls she forgot some herself. "I turned into a lobster

for two days,"

Tina Wright, another experienced troop mom and leader says, "Be prepared for any consistency, whether it be rain snow sun or sleet, always be prepared." She also states "Be smart. Be prepared."

Gretchen Wehmhoff adds, "... and make sure to shut the bathroom quietly." Even if you're running from lightning, don't bolt out and slam the bathroom doors. Be polite to fellow sleepers.

Cadette Rachel Voehl adds, "Always be prepared and if your not, then bumper." So there you have it. Bring *everything* on your list!

Oh, and Ruth has one more piece of advice, "... and always face the [tent] door away from the windy mountains."

# Quilt a blanket of care

By Cari Jamieson  
Midnight Sun reporter

Have you ever seen those beautiful quilts that people from all over Alaska have submitted to the State Fair? Have you ever wanted to learn to quilt? You can! Check out Raven Hall during your free time. You and your troop can learn to quilt. The quilts

we will make at this year's Encampment will be donated to kids at a local charity. So have fun, learn something new, and help others all at the same time! Come by Friday or Saturday to Raven Hall with your troop and have fun learning how to make a quilt!



## Midnight Sun Staff

Jessica Beck, Lauren Bryant, Tabitha Chartraw, Cari Jamieson, Emily Kovarik, Rachel Voehl, and Heather Wright

Adviser: Gretchen Wehmhoff-Stoltze  
Special thanks to Ruth Chartraw and Tina Wright

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the Midnight Sun Staff, please write them down and submit them to the suggestion box located near headquarters.

Remember to include your name and troop number so we can contact you. Thank you!!!! Next Staff Meeting is at 4 p.m. Thursday at headquarters.

# The 'Core' of Encampment

By Jessica Beck  
Midnight Sun reporter

You see them in the bright-orange vests signaling in the traffic at the beginning of Encampment. They sit on the refrigerator truck as hungry campers get out the day's grub. Their voices float, meander and boom from their thrones on the hay ride. These are the Helping Hands of Encampment. They belong to an elite squad, defined by their need of service. Introducing...the one, the only, the Encampment Core Staff!

Core Staff consists of Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts, most who are working towards their Community Service Bar. Four different training sessions were held during the year to prepare the girls for their duties. They are led by Roxi Knight and Shannon Royster, who describe their group as the people who "keep things going" at Encampment.

So, the next time you see one of these ladies, make sure you thank them for all they do.

## Dear Theodora . . .

Hello I'm Miss Theodora. I can give you advice on everything from A to Z. Feel free to ask me about anything about Encampment. If you feel you need to use an alias go on ahead. Theodora is an alias too. Submit letter to "Dear Theodora" at headquarters.

**Dear Theodora,**

I'm really bored already! I have nothing to do, and I'm feeling a bit depressed. What do you recommend?

*Bored -N- Hopeless*

*Dear Bored -N- Hopeless*

Encampment has many fun things to do. You can stop by the snack shack and pig out, check out the Games Gallery or look for the quilting booth in Raven Hall. My best suggestion though is Craft Cache. You can find tons of fun, crafty things to work on. Most of the crafts slightly challenging, so they'll take you a lot longer than two seconds to finish. The wonderful thing is they're all very inexpensive! I absolutely know you'll have fun.

*- Miss Theodora*