

T-255's 2005 High Adventure Sea Base, Florida Keys

The T-255 survey results are in: by unanimous landslide, the winner is Seabase for the T-255 2005 High Adventure. (Thank you William Sinclair)

Seabase is located on a key about 100 miles into the Florida Keys. Seabase, as with Philmont, is extremely competitive to obtain slots. In addition, Seabase is very aggressive in collecting money early. \$100 per person, non-refundable, is required with the registration lottery, accounts charged upon winning the lottery. This is serious stuff that both Scouts and parents must take into consideration as whether to commit to this High Adventure. There is only a 2-person per crew flexibility on this financial commitment.

Next Troop meeting (December 16th), eligible Scouts will start the planning process. Parents and Scouts need to start discussing summer plans for 2005 now, and, to the extent possible, known conflicts in the calendar should be identified so that the planning for trip options and Seabase dates can be completed within the registration window. Attached is a list of the programs for which T-255 is eligible (Seabase offers other programs, however either the crew minimum is larger than T-255's eligible Scouts [20], or we lack the qualifications [scuba certification]). Please read the programs, and be prepared to discuss them starting December 16th. [Also note that planning for the 2004 High Adventure picks up again in January and February for a March 1 Grand Canyon lottery application.]

Seabase lottery entries must be made from January 15 through February 15, 2004, with notification approximately February 20th. Seabase recommends Troops submit 8 options (by date and/or program) to increase the odds of success. Crews are small (6-8), so T-255 will also have to decide on how many crews to registrar and send. The registration fee is \$100 per person, non-refundable, but transferable, accompanying the January-February lottery application; then one-half of the balance due October 1, 2004 (non-refundable, but transferable). The fees shown on the attachment are for Seabase only. They do not include the costs of transportation to and from the Florida Keys are related group and individual expenses.

Special note to Parents: It is not likely that Tom Rose, Joe Tillman or myself will lead or accompany this High Adventure, as none of us are enamored with sun, sand, sea or surf. We will need 2 certified and BSA registered adult leaders (read: parents or age qualified former Scout [Andy Fieldhouse has offered to be an adult leader - how time flies!!!]) per crew to pull this trip off. As with any T-255 High Adventure, all adult leaders must pay their full share.

H. Keith Pierce