PARTICIPANT GUIDE

What is COPE?

Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) is a national program of the Boy Scouts of America.

The program includes group initiative games, trust events, low course events and high course events. Some activities involve a group challenge, while others develop individual skills and agility. Participants climb, swing, balance, jump, rappel and devise solutions to a variety of problems. Most participants achieve much more than they imagined they could.

COPE is designed to meet the needs of people who are seeking ways to challenge and expand their physical and mental abilities. As a non-competitive program, COPE permits every participant to succeed. The group activities are ideal for enhancing the leadership and teamwork of Scout units and other groups. Activities that challenge individuals can be used to promote personal growth.

Who can participate?

Groups of 8 to 30 people who are seeking to expand their physical and mental abilities should consider participating in COPE. Group activities are designed to develop teamwork, communication and leadership abilities among many other skills.

Guidelines for non-Scouting groups:
Anyone 13 years or older can participate in the COPE course.

Guidelines for Scouts:
Scouts must be at least 13 years old to participate in the full COPE course. Webelos can participate in COPE games, climb the rappelling wall and work their way across the traversing wall. The Guide to Safe Scouting does not provide for Webelos and younger Scouts to actively participate in the full COPE experience. Once a young man joins Boy Scouts, they are eligible to participate in most low course activities. Once they reach the age of 13, they are permitted to do high course events.

What to expect

Group Initiative Games to help participants learn to work together through communication to achieve their goals.

Trust Events designed to develop trust in the mind of the individual and with the group as a whole.

Low Course Events present team problems and/or obstacles that challenge groups both mentally and physically. These group activities require the interaction of all members to accomplish a task and allow groups to work through their objectives to prepare them for bigger challenges, such as a high ropes course or climbing tower.

High Course Events consist of elements suspended between 20 and 50 feet above the ground between wood poles or steel posts. Participants challenge themselves to climb and/or traverse the elements by themselves, in pairs or with support from the larger group.

When is the COPE course offered?

COPE is offered primarily on weekends from mid-March to May and from August to mid-November. During June and July, the COPE course is used by our Boy Scout Summer Camp.

Weekday events can be arranged depending on the schedule of our volunteer COPE instructors. It takes a full day to complete the entire course. Special arrangements are available for half-day courses.

Where is the COPE course located?

Camp Geiger
9525 County Road 388
St. Joseph, MO 64505

How much will it cost?

Groups participating in the COPE course may choose one of the following options:

High and low course (full day) - $25 per person
Low course only (half day) - $15 per person

Groups larger than 30 may split into two groups, choosing the low course only option with a morning and afternoon session.

Please contact the Pony Express Council office at 816-233-1351 for package information and pricing. Packages can include overnight stays in addition to the COPE activities. Camp Geiger has campsites, indoor lodging, training rooms and sporting clay and archery sports available.

CAMP GEIGER
Pony Express Council
Boy Scouts of America
9525 County Road 388
St. Joseph, MO 64505

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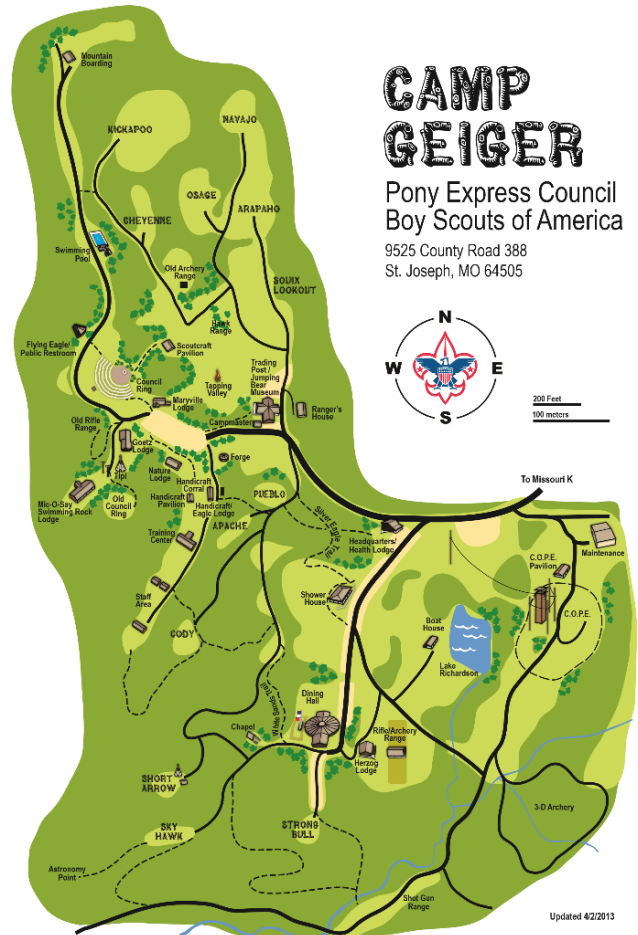
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE DAY OF YOUR EVENT

Participants should NOT wear any loose-fitting clothes.
All participants must wear closed-toe shoes.

The following documents are required to be turned in to the COPE instructor on the day of your event:

1. A copy of the roster of all participants

2. Medical Form Part B: General Information/Health History for each participant
   (This form will be returned to each participant at the end of your event.)