

1st Cedar Valley Homecoming Silent Auction

What is a silent auction? Instead of an auctioneer, items for bid are all displayed at one time for a period of time; typically 1-2 hours. Each bidder can then sign a sheet with the item indicating a “highest bid”. Bidders can raise their bid on the sheet if someone later raises them. At the appointed time ALL bidding stops. Items meeting minimum bids are then totaled for each bidder. The bidder pays once for all the items. Once items are all paid for, the money is then paid to the sellers and unsold items returned.

Can I bid on multiple items? Absolutely! You just sign the sheet for each item that you are interested in, with your highest bid. But the fun of a silent auction is that as the time to end approaches, everyone tries to watch the items that they want most and get in the last bid if there is a lot of interest. That makes it impossible for one bidder to “buy all the good stuff” and ensures that all bidders have a chance to gain at least a few items that they REALLY want! This mad rush can be quite humorous to those just watching!

What does it cost me to put items up for bid? A flat \$5.00. If there is a lot of interest, we may have to limit the number of items each person can put up for bid (due to lack of table space), but otherwise it will not matter if you have one item or twenty. All the money from this fee will toward camperships for youth to attend scout camp in Quapaw Area Council – with preference toward someone from the NE Arkansas districts.

Do bidders pay anything to participate? We will not have a mandatory bidder’s fee but may consider it in the future if the interest is good. If any bidder wishes to “donate” a dollar or two toward the campership, we will see that it gets there! Otherwise, bidders only pay for whatever they bid on and win.

Can I sell items and also bid on items from others? Absolutely!

Who sets the minimum bid for each item? The seller. It will be on the bid sheet.

Is there a limit on bids? How much do you have? ☺ It is up to your budget and wallet. (and the likelihood a spouse will do serious harm to you when you get home!)

What items can I put out for bid in the auction? We are limiting it to items from EAAC, Camp Cedar Valley (both), OA Lodge 413 or one of the earlier EAAC camps (Frierson, Roberson, Crowley, etc). All items must be authentic – no reproductions, fakes, or privately produced items.

When will the auction be held? Saturday, September 29, 2007. Tentatively, sellers may start putting items out for display at noon. Subject to table space needs (and lunch), bidding will begin at 1pm or as soon after lunch as possible. We will go for a minimum of one hour, tentatively ending at 2pm. Once we arrive and see what size event this will be, times may shift slightly.

How are sellers / bidders identified? Each seller must register and receive a “seller number”. This number is placed on the bid sheet for each item. Each item also is given a unique number so we can track which bidder owns which items up for bid by item number. A team of 3-4 individuals run the auction and keep track of the seller numbers and item numbers so we can total up after the auction ends. Each bidder also receives a number used on the bidding sheet rather than a name. (It’s easier to read and faster.)

How about security? We will have a team of 3-4 staff members present at all times. While we hope the “scouts’ honor system” is enough, we recommend that you place each item up for bid, in a zip lock bag and tape it to the table top with the bid sheet. Items must not be “loose” on the table top. You are welcome to also watch over things as well. If anyone, including the seller, wishes to pick up an item, one of the staff team must remove it from the table and return it (taped down) after it is examined. While we certainly hope and expect not to have any problems in this area, we must make it clear that, the Alumni Association, Camp Cedar Valley or those staffing the event cannot make any absolute commitments on security or be responsible for items on display.

What happens after the auction ends? A lot of fast work for the team running it! We will have a sack for each seller with their “seller number” on it. Any unsold items will be placed in this bag and checked off our control list. Once all unsold items are cleared, we will gather items sold, recording the winning bidder number and amount. A different sack with the seller number on it will be prepared to hold all the items that a bidder won. Once all items have been sacked, we will verify that everything on our control list is accounted for. Only when this is confirmed do we total the winnings for each seller and the total cost for each bidder. A time before / during supper will be setup for bidders to pay for and pickup their winnings. As soon as all of a seller’s items have been paid for, that person can then pick up their money and any unsold items. Obviously, we need to get all the money in before we can pay it out! We hope that enough cash is available to pay all sellers in cash on the spot. But in the event we receive too many checks and do not have enough cash, the Alumni Association will provide a check to the seller instead as soon as possible either on-site or by mail within two-weeks.

How do I sign up to sell items? Contact Stephen White Stephen.EAAC@insightbb.com or call him at 217-483-6484 prior to September 14th. After that, you can see Stephen at the Homecoming on Friday night or early Saturday. Sellers are encouraged to register by 9/14 and see Stephen before lunch on Saturday to pick up materials that will be needed. Bidders can sign up Saturday starting at noon and anytime until the auction closes.

Final Comments. Many folks have suggested an auction at earlier Homecomings. This is an experiment for us. We hope it goes well and that everyone has some fun. Please keep in mind that it is a volunteer project however and bear with us if we have to adjust and adapt once we see what we have gotten ourselves into! Several folks have sold items in the past and we see no harm in that as long as the items are authentic and done in scout-like manner. Those trading items also tend to gather at the Dining Hall Friday night and Saturday night and to enjoy some fellowship over old mementoes.