**A Parent’s Guide to Weekend Camping**

**Departure:** Generally, we meet at Christ Our King on the Friday of the Trip between 5/5:30 – specific meeting times will go out to the Scouts through the Senior Patrol Leader.

**Transportation:** Often Scouts carpool with leaders attending the trip, but if you are able to help transport scouts, it is helpful!

**Returning:** Generally, Scouts arrive back at the Church on Sunday between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. All Scouts should return to the church after departing the camp site to help unload the Trailor and put items back in the shed. Your Scout may be assigned by his Patrol leader to clean-up the cooler(s) his patrol used over the weekend. Please bring the items back to the next Scout meeting.

**Parent involvement:**

1. **Shopping for food.** See “A Parent’s Guide to Grocery Shopping.” https://www.troop313harford.com/

Remember to turn receipts into the Treasurer for reimbursement!

1. **Packing for Camping.** Have your Scout pack himself. He needs to know where his gear is tucked away and what he has**. HELPFUL HINT** for new Scouts: Have him pack with a check list on his own, unpack in front of you, and repack in front of you.

**Basic Items needed for camping:**

* Tent ($25 3-man tent available at Walmart, troop has a few extra tents, but need to let us know if you need to borrow one)
* Ground covering (tarp)
* Appropriate clothes for weather – in colder months – scouts should plan to change all clothes before going to sleep
* Old shoes or hiking boots (or both)
* Weather appropriate sleeping bag (troop has extra sleeping bags if you do not have one – but need to let us know – you will be able to keep this)
* Mess kit – you can put your own together or buy via Walmart/amazon
* Flashlight/headlight (recommend headlight)
* Scout handbook and pen
* Water bottle -filled before you come (recommend Nalgene Brand – almost indestructible)
* Medications as required (Scout can self-administer, or you can hand over to Scout Master, either way let SM know)
* Scouting Essentials (they learned this as Cub Scouts)
* Sleeping pad if desired (recommend – my Scouts use them)
* Personal items ( they won’t be showering on a weekend, but maybe they will brush their teeth?)
1. **Parents Attending Camping Trips.**
2. **First 2 Camping Trips:** While a parent can attend the camping trips, we recommend that for the first two, parents do not attend. This gives your Scout an opportunity to learn how the Troop operates. Having Dad or Mom there can inhibit this process.
3. **Troop Understanding:** We certainly understand if you want to attend – families can have a variety of reason for this, and we are here to help both you and your Scout.
4. **BSA Policy – 72 Hour Rule:** If you camp for more than 72 hours with the Troop (total, not just per weekend), you need to be registered with BSA. Their policy ensures adults go through background checks and have taken the Youth Protection Training.
5. **Tents:** Please note you will NOT be camping in the same tent as your Scout and will need to make sure you have a tent for yourself. Scouts pitch and sleep in their own tents. Older Scouts will be around to help set up tents if your scout needs assistance. Dad and Mom – **DO NOT SET UP THEIR TENTS!** Adults set up their tents in a spot removed from the Scouts.
6. **Flexibility:** Sometimes the Troop needs extra hands on deck; so, the Scoutmaster will request adult help. Other times, the Older Scouts are running everything fully. Go take a hike! Literally. Enjoy getting to know the other parents. Build the bonds that Scouting is famous for.
7. **Adult Patrol:** The adults on a camping trip include both “Program” and “Committee”. The Adult Patrol is made up of Committee members, which seek to help the troop by providing meals for the Program – Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Scout Senior Patrol Leader, and Scout Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. By developing the menu, shopping, prepping, and then cooking the meals for the Program side, the Committee helps to lead by example for Scouts, show the Scouts all the delicious food you can make while camping under budget, and frees up the Program Adults and Scout leaders to focus on … well… the Scouting Program!
8. **Boards of Review:** If you are a registered Committee member, a Scout may request a Board of Review during a camping trip. Please make every reasonable effort to contact the Committee’s Advancement Chair prior to a Board of Review so that information in Scoutbook can be checked against what is in the Scout Handbook. Sometimes required merit badges can be overlooked. Otherwise, make sure you have 3 Committee Members, and email the Advancement Chair after the Board of Review so that Scoutbook can be updates appropriately.

**Other Items:**

Scouts will also be cooking their own food that will be purchased either at the patrol or troop level. Older Scouts will assist the younger Scouts with cooking if needed. Please do not send your Scout with a bunch of extra food. If he has specific dietary or allergy restrictions, please make sure he communicates that to his patrol when deciding meals. Please also let the Scout Master know.

Also… please do not be alarmed for surprised if your scout comes home in the exact same clothes you sent him in.

And finally… he will be HUNGRY when he gets home. Typical breakfast for Sunday morning is donuts and pop tarts. He will want a shower, a nap, and food… and not necessarily in that order!