

CAMPING WITH CUB SCOUTS MADE EASY

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Call if you need any help with camping!

STEP #1 – DECIDE YOU ARE GOING CAMPING!

STEP #2 – HAVE A MEETING WITH YOUR LEADERS / ACTIVE PARENTS AND PLAN YOUR OUTING!

- When and where are you going?
- Who is going to be responsible for food?
- Who is going to be responsible for cooking materials? (stove, coals, utensils, wash basins, foil, etc) (This person needs to coordinate with whoever is bringing the food, of course).
- Who is going to be responsible for filing the tour permit with the Scout office?
- Who is going to be responsible for communicating to the parents what they need to bring, especially if they are brand new.
- Who is going to be responsible for the itinerary?

THIS ASSUMES YOU HAVE ENOUGH TRAINED LEADERS, MEDICAL FORMS ON EVERYBODY GOING, PARENTS GOING WITH EACH BOY AND ADHERING TO ALL THE NECESSARY RULES AND GUIDELINES IN THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING!

THE MORE NOTICE THE BETTER! GET THE WORD OUT RIGHT AWAY!

I know all Packs are different and some have leaders wearing 3 hats but this IS NOT HARD! We have had GREAT campouts with 2 leaders putting in a couple hours each and campouts where 7-8 leaders were involved.

The most important thing is one person is responsible for driving the event and make sure everybody is getting their piece done and actively communicating the upcoming campout!

FRIDAY

- We generally leave on a Friday about 6:00 from the church where we have our meetings. Pass out itineraries ASAP so everybody knows the plan and what's going on, can plan family time, etc.
- Get to our campsite and get all set up.
- Assign the boys buddies first thing before they get scattered or it gets dark. More on this later. The boys play while the adults get settled (I always have the boys help gather little pieces of wood for the fire, they don't start it but they love helping! They will stop ANYTHING they are doing to help GET THE FIRE STARTED!)
- We have a cracker barrel when it is dark and the evening is winding down - doughnuts, cobbler, pie irons
- Simple campfire ceremony and the boys go to bed. (They have had a few hours to run and play and know in advance that 10:00 is lights out.)

SATURDAY

- Flag ceremony first thing – IN UNIFORM! It really sets the tone for the day and reminds everybody that this is a Scouting Day, not play day. (change back out of uniform after flag)
- We generally have a pretty big breakfast since it will be a very busy day! After breakfast we flow right into our itinerary for the day
- It is AMAZING how many things you can get done in the book in ONE DAY if you plan it well!
 - Look through the Wolf or Bear book when planning your event and think of what you can do that day.
 - Our best campouts are when we have stations in the afternoon!

EXAMPLES:

- First aid – the boys love!
- A game out of the book

- Exercise station, stretches, etc.
- Knots - they love
- Prepare for skits for that evening
- We have shot off rockets made out of 2 liter bottles
- Crafts making a frame or basket
- Going for a hike to explore the area

Stations are an excellent way to get parents involved!

- A lot of times we will make time to do a service project in exchange for the cost of camping at the facility and it teaches the boys a good lesson
- Family time is important! Give the parents and their boy a chance to explore on their own, go swimming or whatever.
- We always really push the boys into getting mess kits ASAP! Nothing makes it seem less like a Scouting event than paper plates, plastic utensils and paper towels all over at every meal. Having a mess kit and using it and cleaning it helps prepare them for the troop! (Aluminum ones are cheap and you can get them anywhere.) A cup with their name on it is essential as well – kids and adults!
- We always make time for practicing skits in the afternoon! VERY IMPORTANT!
- Lunch is pretty much always sandwiches, chips, and bug juice of some kind. Everybody is busy and nobody wants to cook or take the time for a hot meal in the middle of the day
- It is very important to make sure everybody is drinking enough – even if it isn't hot! If we do stations you have to take a drink before you move on to the next one!
- It is a busy day full of activities, working together, playing, learning and exploring!
- We have a good, hot supper and then have flag ceremony again – yes, back in uniforms then the boys have time to play until campfire ceremony
- **Most people agree the best part of the campout is the CAMPFIRE CEREMONY!**
 - Everybody is tired, we played hard and it's been a busy day. Its a time to come together, have a cool dessert, do some skits, tell a story, have a Cubmaster minute, start to chill out and wind down while each person tells their favorite part of the day. (parents, siblings and all)
 - After campfire ceremony the boys have had a chance to be still and it is amazing to me how easily they will go to bed! I am still surprised when I go to the tent with my son and expect to visit with him and have him tell me “You can go out now Dad” because he cant keep his eyes open!

SUNDAY

- Simple service or prayer together before camp is officially over
- Tear down camp
- Make VERY, VERY sure we leave the campsite BETTER than we left it! (It is the Scouting way and it will get you INVITED back at NO COST sometimes!)

WHERE TO GO

- **CAMP KANZA**

Awesome setting! Close with decent restroom facilities. Contact the Scout office for information about reserving a spot at no cost.

- **QUIVIRA SCOUT RANCH**

Can't be beat! You can rent buildings, camp close to facilities or in the woods, your choice. Contact the Scout office for information about reserving a spot at no cost.

- **LAKE AFTON**

Close to west side of Wichita. Decent restroom facilities and showers. Store on site for anything you forgot or parents need. Roped off swimming area. Have camped here at no cost by offering to do a service project. Nice place to go if you are brand new to camping. Downside is lack of privacy or feeling of being “in the woods”.

- SANTE FE LAKE

Close to east side of Wichita. Porta potties only. Have camped here at no cost by offering to do a service project. Roped off swimming area. Nice thing about Santa Fe is there is room on the south side of the lake to go hiking. Nice rocky area with a stream.

- WINFIELD LAKE

My favorite! There is a section set aside just for Scouts. It is a huge area surrounded by trees; you can't see any other campers. It has a flagpole. It has a wooded area perfect for hikes complete with the log that you have to walk over to cross the stream. You can find bones, feathers, crawdads and shells on hikes PLUS it has nice restrooms and HOT SHOWERS!

- ELK CITY

Another great place to camp. Great view, hiking trails, real nice restrooms and hot showers. The ranger was very happy to have us and let us camp at no cost in exchange for doing a service project.

FOOD

- The most important thing about planning food for your outing is to make it VERY clear you are buying food for those that PAY IN ADVANCE. Nothing will cause problems like buying food for the 40 people that signed up and having 17 people (that paid) show up! You just WASTED \$115 of the Pack money!
- It is easy to feed a group WELL on \$2 a meal and \$1 for desserts. Our campouts cover 2 desserts and 3 meals, which comes to \$8 a person. You can charge \$8 a person and usually have a little left over for your general fund or charge \$5 to make it easier on the parents. We generally charge \$5 and break even or eat the \$10 or \$15 we go over.
- DUTCH OVEN – *More to come!*
- PIE IRONS *More to come!*
- BOX OVEN *More to come!*
- HOBO DINNERS *More to come!*
- Make it interesting and Keep It Simple!

TIPS TO SUCCESS

- If things go wrong – just go with the flow – the boys won't care! They are just happy to be sleeping in a tent outdoors and close to a campfire!
- Always use the buddy system! We do it religiously! Any second you see a boy alone you ask him where his buddy is and send him to find him right then. It makes it **much** easier to keep track of them - in the dark especially!
- Remind your parents to bring a chair for around the campfire!
- Bring a poncho for you and your boy! Super cheap and can save the day
- Always bring an extra set of clothes!

- It is amazing how warm it can be when you are loading up and how COLD it can be at bedtime or early in the morning! ALWAYS BRING EXTRA LAYERS! BRING SOMETHING TO SLEEP IN AND PUT IT ON – IT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE! Socks, underwear, and pjs – all of it, it really helps!
- Dry Ice will keep you from having bologna and cheese and butter floating in water on Saturday afternoon! Dry ice on the bottom of your cooler and then a bag of regular ice on top of it and you will have a solid sheet of ice to put things on all weekend.
- We always welcome siblings! This is a FAMILY campout following the principles of Scouting. We always have 2 or 3 little girls tying knots, hiking or doing crafts. The boys only buddy with other boys and den time is just the boys but for the fun stuff we always include siblings.
- Bring a flag!
- Always remember peanut butter and jelly for those times a boy truly wont eat what you cooked or somebody is allergic to something, etc.
- Don't forget your first aid kit, bug spray and sun screen! We have the boys line up to be sprayed and soaked!
- LAST STEP – Go home, pick a date and plan another campout! What did you like? What do you need to spend more or less time on the next campout?

ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.usscouts.org/> -
Scoutmaster info / Cubmaster info

<http://www.macscouter.com/> -
Cooking / Games / Clipart / Skits / Stories / Campfire planning and more

Usscouts.org
Huge site full of information

CHECK BACK PERIODICALLY FOR AN UPDATED VERSION OF THIS GUIDE!

ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR THIS PACKET WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

PLEASE CALL IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU!

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