

# **TROOP 682**

## **CAMPING GUIDELINES**

The following is intended to give new Scouts and their parents some information about Troop camping along with reinforcing many of the common procedures to the existing Scouts and their parents.

Overnight camping is a critical part of the Scouting experience and provides many opportunities for the Scouts to learn new Scout skills and assume new responsibilities. Many things in camping provide opportunities for Scouts to develop leadership skills, whether it is assigning grubbing duties, helping to train younger Scouts or deciding things such as where to pitch their tent, there is no end to experiences they gain.

These opportunities can only be made possible with the help of adult participation. A minimum of three adults is required on each campout. Two of the adults must be registered with the BSA, one as Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. Both of these adults must have current Youth Protection Guidelines (YPG) certification. Adults are always welcome on campouts and in fact, the Troop encourages every parent to attend at least one or two campouts each year. This includes Dads as well as Moms. Siblings are also welcome however prior approval should be obtained from the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of that particular campout).

There will normally be one campout each month. The August campout will be a long-term summer camp, typically at an official BSA staffed camp. During any given year the Troop will also plan two to three backpacking trips with at least one at high altitude for an extended period of 4–5 nights. The Scouts wishing to participate in the high altitude backpacking will need to prove their readiness through one or more of the other backpacking trips and obtain permission from the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge prior to the extended high altitude trip. Backpacking is NOT required and every effort is made to have other car camping trips planned during the same time for the Scouts not participating in the backpacking.

The cost of the camp-out (except for grubbing) is charged to the Scout accounts. There will be no pro-rated fees for Scouts or who cannot attend the entire period.

There will be two distinct sleeping areas on all campouts (to whatever extent possible). One is designated for the Scouts and should be partitioned off by patrol, and the second is for the adults. The two areas will be segregated from each other but will remain sufficiently close to one another so as to be in line of sight.

All Scouts are strongly encouraged to purchase and wear Troop 682 T-Shirts (Class B uniforms) during the entire trip including travel time. Class A uniforms are generally not required nor recommended to be taken along on campouts except for at the long-term Summer Camp.

Many of the guidelines below are to ensure your Scouts get the most out of the camp-outs along with a few simple procedures to get everything running as smooth as possible.

### ➤ **PERMISSION SLIPS –**

- Permission Slips have several important purposes:
  - Required for Scout insurance and liability reasons
  - Required for medication information and parental approval of medical attention
  - Necessary for planning the transportation arrangements
  - Necessary for planning the grubbing for both the Scouts and adults
  - Necessary for leaders to know who is coming and going since they are responsible for everybody that is on a given campout.
  
- Permission slips are generally distributed approx 3 weeks prior to a camp-out with the intent to have them returned the following week, or 2 weeks prior to the campout. Stragglers can be

turned in up to 1 week before the campout. To help with all of the items listed above, **please help in turning in the permission slips as early as possible.**

- Permission slips must be returned with a wet signature for legal reasons. Fax or e-mail copies are not acceptable.

➤ **GRUBBING (boys) –**

- Approx 2-3 weeks before a campout each patrol selects a grubber for that trip. The grubber is responsible for the following:
  - Taking notes as his patrol discusses and decides on a menu for a given trip. This is usually done approx 3 weeks before a campout at the same troop meeting that the grubber is selected.
  - Collects \$15.00 from each of the Scouts going on the campout to pay for the food. Please note that if a Scout has confirmed that he is going on a campout and then has to back out for any reason after the grubber has already purchased the food, he is still responsible to pay the grubber \$15.00 for his portion of the food that was purchased.
  - Develop a shopping list and write down the price of each item he buys on this list. The amounts should be totaled at the bottom and evenly divided by the number of Scouts with the intent of staying on budget, or as close as possible, when buying the food. Donated items should still be on the list but “donated” can be written in the purchase price space.
  - Develop a written menu that will be followed for each meal on the campout and will be available for viewing at the campout.
  - Develop a duty list and be responsible for assigning these duties during the campout. As equally as possible the duties of cooking and clean-up should be distributed between the boys in the patrol with every boy having a duty at every meal with the mix of cookers and cleaners being different at every meal.
  - Each boy is responsible for bringing his own eating utensils including plates, bowls, and silverware along with cups or mugs for drinks that may be served from larger containers.

➤ **GRUBBING (adults) –**

- An adult usually volunteers for grubbing for a given camping trip for the adults and siblings. This person is responsible for:
  - Deciding what to eat at each meal
  - Purchasing the food and bringing it to the campout
  - Deciding how much money is due from each person and collecting the money. The default goal has been \$15.00 per person however it is acceptable to go over that if necessary. Please note that if an adult has confirmed that he or she is going on a campout and then has to back out for any reason after the grubber has already purchased the food, he or she is still responsible to pay the grubber for their portion. Also it is understandable due to other schedules that people may show up late or have to leave early from a campout however they are still responsible for their full share of the grubbing money. Each adult camper should go out of their way to pay the grubber(s) as part of common courtesy.
  - Each adult is responsible to bring their own eating utensils (plates, bowls, silverware, cups and mugs)
  - At times the grubbing duty is split up between several adults doing different meals. When this is the case the other adults need to make sure they pay each of the adult grubbers.

➤ **PACKING –**

- This is a very important part of the development of Scouts and should not be overlooked or taken lightly. Each Scout is expected to have the necessary personal equipment to camp safely.
  - Packing - Each boy is required to do their own planning and packing of their items at home. The following is a partial list of items that should be included:
    - The 10 essentials
      - First aid kit (to treat back country injuries) and First aid supplies (be prepared to treat blisters and cuts)
      - Flashlight (headlamps are great) and extra batteries

- Whistle (required emergency signal for backcountry travel)
  - Compass
  - Rope
  - Healthy snacks
  - Drinking water carrier (no sherpas here – were talking something like a canteen or hydration pack)
  - Matches or tools to light a fire
  - Insect protection and Sunscreen
  - Emergency rain gear (poncho)
- Complete change of clothes, based on weather conditions, including extra pair of shoes
  - Tent – unless he has prearranged to bunk up with another Scout.
  - Sleeping bag and pad.
  - Mess kit (eating utensils including plates, bowls, silverware and cups or mugs)
  - Toiletries – soap, washcloth, towel, toothbrush, tooth paste, deodorant
- Pack Inspections - All boys that have not yet achieved the rank of First Class are required to bring their packed bags to the last troop meeting preceding a campout for pack inspection.
  - The following are **not** allowed:
    - Radios or other non-approved electrical devices, this includes gameboys.
    - Knives without a folding blade. Switchblades. ***Only Scouts who have earned a Totin Chip are permitted to bring a knife.***
    - Valuable or sentimental items. We have discovered that things have a way of being misplaced or broken on campouts.

#### ➤ **TRANSPORTATION –**

- As much participation from all adults is needed to enable all of our sons to have the opportunity to participate in as many outings as they desire. We are fortunate that we have never had to limit the number of Scouts on a campout due to transportation problems however that is only possible with the full cooperation of all adults.
- Each adult is required to keep the Outings Chairperson up to date with the necessary vehicle information, license #s and verification of insurance requirements.
- Each driver is required to make sure they are familiar with and follow all of the safety precautions required by the BSA.
- Every adult driver shall make sure that they are helping to transport as many Scouts and as much gear as may be needed for a given campout.
- A driver is needed on most trips to tow the Troop trailer. This trailer is towable by most all pick-up trucks and sport utility vehicles along with many vans. Speak with the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters if you would like to discuss the feasibility of towing with your specific vehicle.
- The Troop departs for most of the campouts from St. Bartholomew's at 5:15pm Friday evenings and returns at about noon on Sunday (unless otherwise specified)
- Scouts are responsible for the proper loading and stowage of Troop equipment in the Troop trailer at the beginning and end of each campout.
- Scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in the entire campout however at times it is understood if other commitments require arriving late or leaving early. Scouts not attending the entire campout should be the exception, not the norm as it is very important for the Scout to participate with the rest of his patrol in the setting up of camp upon arrival along with the packing up and general clean-up of the camp at the end of the trip. As a troop we also usually try to do a very thorough clean-up not only of our campsite but beyond to always ensure we are leaving the area in better condition than when we arrived. There will also usually be a short gathering at the end of every trip to talk as a group about specifics of that trip and many times to

have a short “Scouts Own” service. The full Scouting experience is not obtained unless they are present for the entire trip.

➤ **COSTS –**

- The cost for camping (with the exception of grubbing) is taken from the Scout accounts after each camping trip. Many times the actual cost for camping trips is not fully known until the completion of the trip.
- The cost of adult camping is not charged to the adult but is equally distributed between the boys that have committed to attend a given campout. The theory here is that without the help of these adults, the other boys would not be able to enjoy the full Scouting experience and also the adults attending are realizing other hidden costs such as fuel, wear and tear on their vehicles, giving up other personal time to participate, etc. The exception to this is for extraordinary costs for things such as the Palm Springs Aerial Tram. These extraordinary costs for each adult are charged to that adult's boy's Scout account. Decisions as to what is considered extraordinary are made by the Scoutmaster and Troop Treasurer.