

CAMPING WITH RYE PACK 2

Welcome to all the new Scouting families and welcome back to all our returning members! Scouting has been an exciting and tremendously fulfilling experience to hundreds of boys in Rye Pack 2 and we are excited to be undertaking a new year with what is sure to be full of wonderful times and lifelong memories. Some of the most rewarding and best loved activities of the Scouting experience are our outdoor camping trips. They give our boys a chance to learn and practice new skills; develop a respect for and knowledge of the natural world ; have fun with their friends; and make some truly meaningful memories with their Akelas (parents). To make sure that these experiences are the best they can be for everyone, we wanted to take a moment to make sure our Scouts and their parents understand the guidelines and expectations for these trips.

Overview

All Cub Scout camping events are organized as family outings and we strive to make these events a chance for the Scouts to bond with their Akelas, who will camp with them in individual tents. At all events, we camp as a Pack, in a specific area where we pitch our tents and locate our common camping equipment.

A Scout is Helpful

As with any Rye Pack 2 activity, we depend on volunteers to make camping a great experience. This year we are going to ask that every family help out with the responsibilities of making the campouts work. These tasks will not only help make the campouts go more smoothly, but will also give an opportunity to the Scouts to take responsibility for the success of the Pack and to try new things that they may not have ever tried before. While we understand that depending on a Scout's age, parents may be doing some of the heaviest lifting, we encourage opportunities for your Scout be involved with whatever responsibilities they can. The SignUpGenius registration provides a volunteer list. (Go to Rye pack 2 website, calendar, event). This year, we'll assign all the remaining tasks out to the folks who forget to sign up, so please remember to volunteer for whatever you think would be most fun for you and your Scout.

The primary responsibilities associated with our campouts are:

1. **Food Preparation.** We need a few parents and Scouts to plan menus, make a Costco run a day or two before the campout, and transport the food and cooking equipment to and from the camp site. Your leader can help you plan the menu. **Rye Pack 2 has a nut free policy, similar to most school policies.** The Pack and Troop share camping equipment. It is all kept in the storage closet at Rye Presbyterian, lower level. We have ice chests, water coolers, mess kits, propane stoves and plastic tool boxes w/ cooking utensils. There is also a plastic tool box filled w/ first aid supplies which should be brought along. (We generally only need one propane stove, for coffee on Sunday morning. The Pack has just purchased a large charcoal grill for cooking dinner.) Contact your leader for access to the storage closet.
2. **Cooking.** We need a few parents and Scouts to help set up the grill, prep and cook dinner. Breakfast is usually a light Continental affair
3. **Activities.** Campouts give us the opportunity for our boys to come together as a Pack away from the distractions of everyday life, to experience nature in unique ways, and to have a good time together. Campouts are a great opportunity for Scouts to complete some of their rank specific Adventure Requirements and Adventure Electives. We need parents and Scouts to plan and facilitate activities at the events, including games, campfires, hikes and other kinds of fun. Of special importance are activities that give the Scouts the ability to appreciate nature, learn new skills, practice Scouting values, such as leadership and teamwork), and have meaningful experiences with their friends and Akelas. We're always on the lookout for fun activities during campouts. So if you have some ideas for songs, ghost stories, crafts, games, etc.—bring them

along so we can incorporate them into the next campout. At the end of the day, it's just about having fun.

4. **Clean- Up.** We need a few parents and Scouts who can stay until mid-morning on Sunday to make sure the site is left better than we found it. Sometimes the camp administrator will want to do a final inspection.

Food

We generally try to eat healthy food. But there's no escaping the fact that S'mores and trail mix seem to be an integral part of the camping experience. You're more than welcome to bring some additional snacks/back up food along if you wish. However, storing food in your tent overnight will attract animals. And remember that **Rye Pack 2 has a nut free policy. If you're planning to bring personal food items, please be sure they're nut free.** Some of our current Scouts have severe food allergies. It is very important that we know early if any camper has any allergies so that we can plan ahead to take every precaution necessary. If you are in doubt of anything, talk to the leader in charge.

We have moved to an ethic where each camper brings his or her own personal eating utensils, typically a standard mess kit that includes a plate/bowl/cup combination and cutlery (knife/fork/spoon). The Pack has eliminated the use of paper plates, plastic cups, and plastic utensils. Those disposable items tend to get wasted pretty quickly, they trash the environment, and they just add to the amount of garbage that we need to remove from the campsite at the end of every campout.

Clean up for meals is handled by each individual for their respective utensils. Hot water tubs (one with soapy water for cleaning, one with plain hot water for initial rinsing, one with sanitizer for final rinsing) will be made available at the end of each meal. We encourage everyone to clean their own utensils and hang them in mesh bags for natural drying. (FYI: Sanitizer bleach/water ratio is 1 cap bleach/dishtub of water.)

Be Prepared! (Equipment to Bring)

In general, we encourage each family/Scout to bring the following equipment for an overnight campout:

- Tent
- Plastic drop cloth underneath tent for moisture protection
- Sleeping Bag
- Pad to place under Sleeping Bag (foam, air, etc.)
- Flashlight
- Extra/change of clothes, based on weather conditions. Try to avoid cotton, which won't keep you warm when it becomes wet (even wet from sweat). People call it "Killer Cotton" for a reason. Choose wool, fleece, polypropylene and nylon clothing instead.
- Class A uniform
- Class B uniform
- Mess kit (metal/plastic reusable plate, bowl, cup, and fork/knife/spoon)
- Sunscreen
- Bugspray. Use it at your ankles, and tuck pant cuffs into socks. Do a tick check before going to bed and also when you get home.
- Folding/collapsible chairs (there's never quite enough seating capacity for everyone)
- Game equipment (football, soccer ball, baseballs/mitt, etc.) for free time
- For the Fishing Derby, bring poles, lures and/or bait

Note: please take the time to label everything that you bring. We all tend to have the same kind of equipment and clothing, and something always gets lost in the mix, especially water bottles. Dangerous items are, of course, disallowed. Pocketknives are allowed for those boys that have already earned their whittling chip, available to boys at the Bear/3rd grade level and up.

The whole point of these events is to give the boys an opportunity to glimpse a world beyond their ordinary lives. As such, the Scouts are not permitted to bring electronic games or toys to campouts. We do encourage sports equipment such as Frisbees, soccer balls, and similar kinds of outdoor fun.

A Scout is Obedient (Parents & Guardians)

Parents/chaperones play a fundamental role at Cub Scout campouts. Each Scout is expected to have at least one parent attend the campout as a chaperone. If the boy's parent is not available, exceptions can be made to have another parent serve as a chaperone for that boy, but it's not easy or convenient. The exception needs to be cleared with the Cubmaster. The non-parent chaperoning adult must be given the appropriate temporary power of attorney for medical attention in case of emergencies. Additionally, in keeping with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) policy, no adult may go into a tent with a child that is not his or her own. This means that if a friend comes along, a separate tent will be needed for that friend. Leaders are required, and parents are encouraged, to complete the BSA online Youth Protection Training program, and send us back the certificate received at completion:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

There are three important aspects of parents' responsibility.

First, and most importantly, parents need to take active ownership for oversight of their Scouts: to know at all times where he is, what he's doing, and that he is keeping himself and others safe.

Second, these trips are intended to be enriching and bonding experiences for our Scouts. We would like these trips to be a chance for our guys to reconnect with parents, have discussions and laughs with each other, learn new things and to part in activities that they can't experience every day.

Third, our trips are intended to be fun for everyone. We need to make sure that parents are in charge of their boys and that our Scouts are not running wild, disturbing the Pack's experience, or instigating others. The boys can get pretty rowdy after a couple of s'mores, so we all need to make sure that they don't run around in the dark

We typically camp in close proximity to each other (the tent next door may sometimes be only a few feet away), so it's important that everyone be respectful of other's needs for privacy. We all use common equipment for cooking—we need to respect that. Quiet time is expected during sleeping hours (lights out is typically at 10PM, reveille at 7AM). Reasonable care is expected for Pack camp equipment.

Signing Up

Generally, we have a policy of flexible attendance at the campouts. Scouts and families may attend the full campout—dinner/overnight/breakfast—or may just come for the day on Saturday, as personal schedules allow. The SignUpGenius registration offers the different options for the particular trip. It also provides a volunteer list. (Go to Rye pack 2 website, calendar, event.) We try to keep the costs associated with each campout as low as possible. Typically, the Pack will charge a fee to cover food and site costs. If you register for the campout but do not attend, we cannot offer refunds. Site fees must be paid and food must be purchased in advance. Any food not consumed is distributed to families on Sunday after clean up.

Directions/Travel

The Pack will provide directions via e-mail to each camping location before the event. We meet at the site. For some events, like the Fishing Derby/Fall Campout, families are permitted to drive up and temporarily park close to the actual campsite location to drop off equipment/gear, and then are expected to re-park the vehicle at a common parking lot that is reasonably close by in order to maintain the aesthetics and safety of the campsite. At other events, like the Thunderbird Games and the Akela

Campout, it is a hike from the parking area to the campsite and a wheeled cart is recommended to transport gear.

We look forward to great experiences!

The nicest people you'll ever meet in Rye are the mothers and fathers of Rye Pack 2.