Troop 83 Campmaster Guide

9 October 2017

Campmasters (CM) are essential for each Troop event. It is recommended, but not required that the CM attends the camping trip. CM involvement and planning are crucial to the overall success for the scouts and making the trips fun and enjoyable.

Camping is the foundation for scouting activies, including outdoor adventures, Merit Badges, and Advancement requirements.

Camping locations will be selected during the Troop Annual Planning Conference (APC) in September each year, but adjustments could be made during the year. In fact, suggestions for future campout locations are welcomed to be considered by the PLC.

# Set up

Determine what activities will be done, using input from the PLC, the theme of the month, and the camping trip location. Coordinate a signup list for scouts, interested parents, and contact information. Usually communications are coordinated prior to the trip via the troop 83 mailing list. Cell numbers are exchanged for adults for communications throughout the trip. The campmaster is also responsible for coordinating the camp site/facilities/trip location.

# Forms

Our outdoor activities chair/coordinator (OAC) will be responsible for ensuring that everyone who is travelling has up to date medical forms, that all scouts have activity consent forms signed by parents. BSA Medical forms parts A&B are required for all events. Part C is required for outings 72 hours or longer, such as summer camp. The Medical forms are valid for one year.

Youth protection is a key part of scouting and Youth Protection Training (YPT) is required for all registered adult leaders. YPT is encouraged especially for parents who may attend occasional campouts.

The swim test is performed in preparation for summer camp and it is valid for one year. Check the trip activities to see if the swim test is needed to participate.

The BSA Tour and Activity plan has been discontinued. For flying activities, a BSA flying plan should be completed.

For drivers, collect a list of drivers and vehicle types. Insurance on each vehicle should meet or exceed state liability requirements. Also all drivers must be at least 18 years (no scouts are allowed to drive on scouting activities).

Make sure leaders have appropriate training for the activities. Training includes Hazardous weather, First Aid, Youth Protection, and Wilderness First Aid. OAC can assist with this.

An agenda for the campout should be created.

# Week of Trip

* Final Roster
  + Keep troop patrols intact, if possible
* Cost Estimate
  + Facility or site costs
  + Activities costs
  + Travel/gas
  + Meals (average $12 per person)
* Tent assignments
  + 2 per tent
  + Camp by patrol
  + Hammock
    - Check that site has trees
    - Weather
    - Star rank or 14 and older
* Patrols develop duty rosters
  + Cooking
  + Cleaning
  + Fire
* Thursday shopping
  + Keep receipts
  + Use Walmart tax exempt card
  + Only 2 representatives from each patrol needed

TO CONSIDER:

Can we have patrols be liable for their own expenses rather than average costs across the troop? If one patrol eats more frugally, they can benefit from the cost savings. If another spends more, they can shoulder their portion. Good feedback.

# Post Trip

* Determine final costs
  + Use campmaster worksheet for expenses
  + Treasurer will collect fees from each camper
  + Submit receipts as requested to treasurer
* Provide final attendance list to Scoutmaster and OAC
  + OAC will update campout nights in scoutbook
  + OAC will also update camping and activities spreadsheet
  + Used for historical purposes, OA eligibility, and camping merit badge

# Resources: Places to go

## Greater Alabama Council camp sites (1bsa.org)

**Camp Westmoreland** is near Florence. It is a former summer camp site, but is now used primarily for training (Woodbadge, NYLT, IOLS, etc.). It is also available for troop use for zero or minimal cost. Troop can earn Westmoreland Wings temporary patch if they perform a ranger approved service project.

**Camp Jackson** is near Scottsboro, on the Tennessee river. Hiking and water activities as well as service opportunities are available.

**Camp Jack Wright**

**Camp Comer** and **Sequoyah** are summer camp sites and also used for other training events.

For these locations, submit a use permit to Birmingham central office to reserve. Check the 1bsa.org for more information.

## State Parks

For Alabama state parks ([www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com)), call to reserve in advance.

Monte Sano (Huntsville) 256.534.3757

* Primitive campsites
* Hiking and mountain biking
* Geocaching
* Orienteering course

Oak Mountain (Pelham) 256.902.2524

* Primitive campsites
* Hiking and mountain biking
* Archery range

Joe Wheeler (Rogersville) 256.247.1184

Cathedral Caverns

* Primitive and Backcountry sites
* No reservation

DeSoto State Park (Mentone, AL)

## Backpacking

Walls of Jericho

* 1 night trip
* 1,000ft elevation change (camping MB)

Savage Gulf State Park (Monteagle, TN) 931.924.2980

* Tnstateparks.com
* Reserve primitive sites online
* Enter at Stone Door Ranger Station

Cheaha State Park (Delta, AL)

* Pinhoti Trail
* 1,000ft elevation change (camping MB)

Sipsey Wilderness (Bankhead National Forest)

* [www.sipseywilderness.org](http://www.sipseywilderness.org)
* Be careful of hunters in deer season
* Great trails

## Summer Camp

Our two in council camps are Comer and Sequoyah. Troop has attended both in and out of council camps. Suggested out of council camps are Skymont and Boxwell in TN, Camp Rainey Mountain in GA, Tukabatchee (north of Mongomery). Options for camp are limited mostly by how far you want to travel.

## Other

* Canoeing
* Grimes Canoe Base (Linden, TN) 931.589.5150
* Middle TN
* Available end of March- first November
* Camp on site
* Elk River (Kelso, TN) 931.937.6886
* [www.elkrivercanoes.com](http://www.elkrivercanoes.com)
* 1 April-31 Oct
* Camp on site
* White water rafting
* Ocoee river
* Cascade Outdoors 880.338.RAFT
* www.cascade outdoors.com
* Camp on site
* Zip lining near by
* Caving: wild cave tours
* Lost Sea Caverns (Sweetwater, TN)
* Cumberland Caverns (McMinnville, TN)
* Raccoon Mountain
  + Primitive campground also available
* Fall Creek Falls State Park, TN
* Cloudland, NW GA
* Camp Maranatha, Scottsboro
* Little River Canyon (on Lookout Mountain, AL)
* Redstone Arsenal on TN river

## Guntersville

Troop 83’s annual trip to Guntersville is located at Michael Kirkpatrick’s land on Point of Pines Road. Michael was Committee Chair for the troop, and his son made Eagle at 83.

Trip has usually been 3rd week in October, but schedule with Michael in July/August to set a date. [mkirkpatrick@dese.com](mailto:mkirkpatrick@dese.com)

Since Orientation flights are an option, the following are required:

* BSA Flying plan
* Michael’s Insurance information
* Pilot’s license copy
* Plane registration
* Medical of pilot
* Activity consent is required by BSA for Orientation flights
* Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) waiver forms

Activities available include the flights, Canoes and kayaks, fishing from docks, swimming, water skiing (if adults bring boats and equipment).

The troop has purchased a host gift each year that we have visited.