

# General Camping Rules

## GENERAL CAMPING RULES

Camping brings with it many responsibilities and opportunities. The following are the rules Troop 524 follows for camping. Exceptions are made only by the Scoutmaster.

### General

1. The Leadership Corps will establish boundaries on all campouts, including patrol camping areas. These boundaries are established for the health and welfare of the Scouts and must be obeyed at all times.
2. The Buddy System will be used by Scouts any time they are not in the campsite.
3. Running or horseplay is not permitted in the campsite.
4. Do not spray Insect Repellent in or near the tents.
5. Killing any type of animal is prohibited. Only exceptions are for merit badge requirements, such as the Fishing Merit Badge.
6. Cutting or damaging trees or limbs from trees is prohibited without permission from the adult leadership.
7. Dumping foreign materials into lakes or streams is prohibited.

### Camp Setup

1. Upon arriving at a campsite, all Troop and personal equipment is removed from the vehicles.
2. The Leadership Corps looks over the site and determines the location where the dining fly and tents will be set up.
3. The first item to be set up is the dining fly. In bad weather all Troop and personal equipment can be stored under the fly until the tents are set up.
4. Set up tents and store personal gear.
5. Establish a fire pit and safety zone if one is not provided.
6. Set up kitchen and dining area, and unpack patrol box(s). Setup propane tank, stove, and lantern.
7. If needed, establish an axe yard with barrier walls and an entry way.

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8. Scouts should check with the Patrol Leader or Leadership Corps for other assignments when they have completed their assigned tasks.

### Food

Except for medical reasons, the only food allowed on campouts is the food purchased by the Patrols for the campout. Extra pop, candy or snacks is prohibited.

1. No food is allowed in the tents as it draws insects/animals and is NEVER necessary.
2. Food will be stored at all times in the food boxes provided. Any food left out may be eaten by non-paying Patrol members (animals). This is more of a problem at campsites, because the animals are often used to being around people.
3. Garbage and trash must be kept picked up and placed in the trash bags or containers at all times.
4. Do not throw food scraps or garbage into the Campfire. Paper items may be burned, but food soaked items will only smolder and stink.

### Medications

### Cutting Yard

1. The use of an ax, saw or hatchet is restricted to an established "Cutting Yard", unless approved by the adult leadership. Scouts using these tools must have their "TOTIN' CHIP" card in their possession.
2. Only one person at a time is allowed in the ax yard.
3. Check for proper tool clearance.
4. Store tools properly after use.
5. Cutting or damaging a live tree or bush is prohibited, except by prior approval of the adult leadership.
6. Anyone using a knife will maintain a "Safety Zone" around them, and if someone enters that zone they must stop using the knife immediately.

### Fires

1. Fires will only be allowed in accordance with the current rules, usually established by the Campmaster or Scoutmaster.

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2. Fires will only be allowed in established fire pits and must be kept to a reasonable/controllable size. Anyone who wants to light a fire must have their "FIREM'N CHIT" card in their possession.
3. A 5-foot clear zone around the fire pit should be established before lighting any fire.
4. **Playing in the fire or removing a burning item from the fire and playing with it will not be tolerated** , and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

### Campsites

- Campsites are consider restricted areas and are not open to just anyone to enter or pass through. Anyone wishing to enter a campsite in which they are not camping must stop at the entrance and ask permission to enter or pass through. If permission is denied, that person may not enter or pass.
  - Chairs and other personal property are reserved for the exclusive use of those members of that campsite.
2. Leader's Chairs are for the use of the LEADERS ONLY, regardless of their location.

### Aquatics

1. Swimming is only allowed at established swimming areas, whether provided or Troop established.
2. A BSA lifeguard must be present.
3. The buddy system will be used at all times in any type of aquatic activity.
4. Buddy checks and tag systems will be established and used.
5. Anyone using any type of boat will wear a personal flotation device at all times.
6. Boats, canoes, rafts, etc. and any associated equipment such as paddles, oars and personal flotation devices will be properly stored after use.

### Summer Camp Rules

1. Conduct - All Boys will conduct themselves as "SCOUTS" at all times, and the "Buddy System" will be used in all non-organized activities.
2. Programs - It is strongly recommended that the Scouts attend the Brownsea program the first year at camp, plus attend 1 or 2 merit badge courses. All other Scouts are recommended to attend as many merit badge classes as possible. All Scouts will be required to participate in all Troop activities. Tomahawk also offers some high adventure

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opportunities for the older Scouts, these are usually out-side for the majority of the week, and are at an additional cost.

3. Meals - Scouts are required to attend all meals. Class "A" Uniform is required for all meals. There may be an occasional meal when Class "B" will be satisfactory, this change will be announced.

4. Formations - Scouts are required to be at formations on time. Repeated abuse of this rule will bring appropriate disciplinary action.

5. Discipline - Severe discipline problems will result in the parents being called to come pick up their son.

### **Homesickness**

Homesickness is a natural part of growing up. The only question is when and how severe a Scout will experience homesickness. The Leadership Corps and adult leaders are available to help a Scout through this difficult time.

The best solution for homesickness is lots of fun and activities. Telephones are available, but only for emergencies - homesickness is not considered an emergency.

Parents can help with homesickness by sending encouraging letters to camp and by setting expectations that their son will have fun and will remain in camp for the entire week. If your son does call home due to homesickness, please encourage him to remain at camp and do not agree to come and get him. If you mail your son letters or packages, please do NOT send food items.

### **Attendance**

Scouts are expected to travel to camp with the Troop, to stay the entire week, and to travel home with the Troop. If your son arrives at a later time he will miss part of scheduled program and advancement activities. Summer camp can be very busy with advancement activities and just plain fun. Scouts may miss out on significant portions of the summer camp experience and may fail to complete merit badge classes if they leave camp during the week.