

Frequently Asked Questions - Summer Camp at Boxwell

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Again, please read through these FAQs. If anything is unclear or you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Summer Camp coordinator through the contact information provided via the emails or on the Troop website.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GETTING TO CAMP

1) How are we going to get all of this stuff out to camp?

Most parents drive their son or their son and a friend to camp on Sunday. These vehicles can carry all personal gear.

Troop gear will be packed in the Troop trailer and in the back of any pick-up's people might have. We do need someone who can pull the trailer out to Boxwell on Sunday and the same or different person who can pull it back on Friday evening. Please let me know if you can do this.

2) What will we be doing this Saturday to get ready to leave?

We would like 15-20 folks at the Barn (time to be announced) on the Saturday immediately before camp to help organize our gear and load the trailer. With enough people, it is quick work. And, getting this done on Saturday will make our departure on Sunday much easier and calmer.

3) What are our departure procedures on Sunday?

We will all meet at the Barn and drive up to camp together, as a Troop.

We will be assigned a time to arrive at camp, and will then set a time to meet at the Barn to head out. We will learn this time ten days prior to camp, and will let everyone know our time of departure shortly after we learn it.

We will stay together as best as we can, staying behind the vehicle pulling the trailer. We will take I-65 North to 440 to I-40 East, exiting on State Route 109 North. There is a sign for Boxwell on SR-109, where we will turn left and into camp. The first building inside Boxwell is the Cripple Crab, where we will need to stop to sign the Troop in, and then we will caravan on to Camp Stahlman.

The only vehicle that can drive directly to our campsite is the vehicle pulling the trailer. The rest of us will park in the parking lot. At the very front of the parking lot there will be numbered markers. We will unload our personal gear and place it near marker 16 (our campsite number). A tractor with a large flatbed trailer will come by, we will load our stuff on it, and we will then WALK (not run) to site 16 where our gear will be delivered.

4) What should Scouts absolutely, positively NOT bring to camp?

1) NO electronics and NO cell phones—they're not what camp is about (if found, they will be locked in one of the adult's cars until camp is ended). Adults in camp and staff members all have phones in the event there is any emergency that needs to be addressed. For worried parents, there are doctors and nurses on staff at Boxwell, there 24/7.

2) NO straight blade or sheathed knives. These are against camp policy and will be confiscated by staff.

3) NO aerosols—either deodorant or bug spray (for those wondering why, they often end up being sprayed into campfires, which is an extreme hazard).

5) What SHOULD Scouts bring to camp? *(these items are in no particular order)*

- Sufficient clothes and toiletries. Remember that each Scout will be receiving two camp tee shirts. Include some sort of sleepwear. Include swim trunks.
- Sheets or a light sleeping bag, and pillow if desired. They will be sleeping on cots with mattresses, so no pad is needed.
- Closed toe shoes for during the day.
- Sandals or similar wear for evenings, to and from showers, to and from the pool.
- Bug repellent (pump, not aerosol). It's outdoors and it's Summer, so there will be some ticks and chiggers and mosquitoes. With normal precautions, they shouldn't be a problem.

- A flashlight.
- A camp chair.
- Scout book (with name on it).
- A book or two and cards, if desired.
- Class A uniform and hanger (Class A must be worn traveling to camp on Sunday, to each breakfast and dinner, and when traveling home on Friday).
- A tarp (large) to put over the tent for extra protection in the event of sustained rain.
- Fishing pole, if desired.
- A washcloth and towel or two.
- A water bottle (with name on it).
- A hat and rain gear in the event it dares to rain on us.
- If planning to make a weather station, three 4' to 6' poles, an empty small can (beans, veggies, fruit can size), and a half gallon cardboard juice or milk carton.
- A pen and small notebook.

6) Weren't we supposed to get some shirts?

The shirts have been ordered and will be here sometime prior to camp. Hopefully, we will have them in time to distribute the Tuesday night prior to camp. If not, we will hand them out on Sunday as we are preparing to leave.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMP PROCEDURES AND ACTIVITIES

7) What will we do Sunday as we arrive at camp?

Once at site 16, the Scouts will select their tents (see below), get the wrist band they must wear while at camp, get their gear moved in, and tie a tarp over the top of their tent.

We will need the Scouts and some adults to help set up the two big Troop tarps, one in the campsite and one at the entrance (we will remember to hang lanterns before raising the tarp up).

Prior to dinner:

- We will unload the trailer and start setting camp up—establish an axe yard, pick a spot for the monkey bridge, hang swings, hang a bulletin board, move tables, etc.
- Each patrol will make a flag (supplies will be provided).
- First time Stahlman campers will be taken on a tour of the camp.
- Kits for Merit Badges will be handed out Sunday night after dinner—leatherworking kits, basketry kits, woodcarving pieces, etc. Tokens will need to be purchased at the Trading Post.

After dinner, we will have a brief Troop meeting to discuss what the boys will be doing their first morning, and then we will go the Stahlman-wide opening campfire.

8) How will the Scouts be organized during the week?

We will use the patrol method. The boys will be organized into patrols. The patrols will line up to go to meals together, and there may be some informal competitions between the patrols.

We are Scout led. When Scouts have questions, they should go to their Patrol Leaders first, the Senior Patrol Leader second, and adults third.

9) How do the Scouts select a tent/tent-mate?

Scouts can tent with whomever they choose. The only rule is that there be two and only two Scouts per tent. Thus, there will be no singles and no pushing tents together to create multi-Scout “condos.”

When we get to the campsite, the Scouts can choose which tent they want. Once chosen, they will check in with the leader at camp to “register” their tent so we know where each boy is sleeping (and making a mess...).

This process ensures the patrols are of equal size and we know which tent everyone is in so they can be found if needed.

10) How will Scout’s money be handled?

One of the adults will serve as the Troop banker and you may use this system if you wish. Put whatever money you want to send with your son in an envelope. On the outside, put his name AND the amount he should be given each day (**please provide the proper denominations for each day of the week**, i.e., if he is to have \$6/day, don’t send all \$10 bills, as we can’t do change). These monies will be kept by the banker for safe keeping.

Each morning we will announce that the bank is open, and the boys can come and get whatever funds you want them to have—but, only once per day.

11) When do we wear which shirt?

Activity (“class B”) shirts are for daily wear. Having and wearing the common shirt both identifies us as a Troop and lets us identify our boys in a crowd. (Yes, the shirts do get dirty, but, hey, its camp.)

Class A shirts (tucked in), of course, are worn to every breakfast and dinner, and while traveling to and from camp.

12) What is a typical day at camp like?

- up at 6 to 6:30, cleaned-up, dressed in Class A shirt (tucked in)
- line up by patrol and go to breakfast, which always begins with a morning flag ceremony (raising of the flag and morning announcements)
- breakfast, and then a little time to change into Class B shirts, and straighten tents and campsites for daily inspection by Stahlman staff
- 9, 10, and 11 o’clock activities—Green Bar or Merit Badges
- line up by patrol and go to lunch
- after lunch, a brief meeting in campsite for announcements and mail call, and some free time
- 2 and 3 o’clock activities
- 4 to 5 o’clock free time activity selected
- change into Class A, line up, go to dinner, which always begins with flag ceremony and announcements
- dinner, followed by assorted evening activities
- cleaned up and in tents at 10:00-- can talk quietly until 10:30, then all quiet

13) When not scheduled for Green Bar or Merit badges, is there anything to do in camp?

There will be lots to do. Just in our campsite, we will have: a monkey bridge, an axe yard, chess/checkers/backgammon sets, darts (plastic tips, obviously), leatherworking tools and supplies, opportunities to

build weather stations, chipping with plastic golf balls, tree swings, chin-up bars, and lashing/tower building/climbing.

Or, the boys could rest (sure).

14) What kinds of activities will there be in the evenings, after dinner?

There are two scheduled campfires, Sunday night and Friday night, to open and close camp. Our Troop will be given one or two evenings when both Scouts and adults can go to a free swim at the pool (they will tell us which night when we get there). One night we will invite another Troop over for a “Movie Night.” We are also planning some evening games/competitions among the patrols.

QUESTIONS FOR WORRIED PARENTS

15) Is homesickness a major problem with the boys?

Homesickness is not a major problem. Most of the boys will say good-bye to you Sunday and never look back. With 70 boys going to camp, however, a few boys (we just don’t know which few yet) will get a little homesick sometime during the week.

Please note that **the largest factor** in Scouts getting homesick in recent years is Scouts with cell phones. They sneak calls (which is disruptive) and get more homesick, then call for parents to come to camp to pick them up. Ensuring that the cell phone is not present keeps the Scout's mind engaged at camp, and he gets past the urge to go home simply because he is not tempted to call.

Usually, busy hands are happy hands. When the boys spend a lot of time just sitting around in camp, this is when they are apt to get homesick. If they are busy, engaged, active, however, it doesn’t become an issue. This is why we have all the boys pick an activity for the 4-5 p.m. “free time,” and why we are planning evening activities.

What you can do is send your boys some fun Care Packages. These shouldn’t be big or elaborate or expensive. We do mail call every day after lunch, and the boys love to get something—a funny card, a picture of their well rested X Box at home, some clean underwear, a bar of soap, some modest quantity of non-melting snacks, and so on. Be imaginative. We have seen some pretty funny items show up (crazy wigs, home-made silly banners, etc.) and every Scout around camp gets a lift from these random items arriving.

Start mailing packages the Thursday or Friday before camp and then periodically through Monday or Tuesday of camp week. This way, the boys get something in the mail every day or two. The address is:

Scout Name
Troop 137
Boxwell Reservation
Camp Stahlman, Site 16
1284 Creighton Lane
Lebanon, TN 37087

16) How many Scouts do we lose to dehydration each year?

None. Because we constantly remind everyone to stay hydrated. Please emphasize this with your son—they are going to be running around in the heat all day, every day, and staying hydrated is essential.

Everyone should bring a water bottle (with their name on it) to camp. They should take these to every meal, and fill them up (with WATER) before leaving the cafeteria. Please remind your son that drinking soda from the trading post (especially caffeinated soda) can actually make dehydration worse, so they should drink plenty of water even if they buy a soda during the day.

In our campsite, we will have two five-gallon coolers, one filled with water and other with Gatorade or lemonade. They will be available around the clock. Remind your Scout just as we will: “Drink early. Drink often.”

PLEASE: If you are going to be coming up to camp anytime during the week, please bring ice for the coolers. What lasts the longest for us is if you freeze water in old gallon milk or juice jugs and bring them up in a cooler. A gallon-sized block of ice lasts quite a while in our drink coolers.

17) What should I do if my son has a medical or religious food requirement?

Prior to camp, let me know what is needed so that I can let the Boxwell staff know and prepare. They can handle nearly all requirements.

18) What should I do if my son needs to take medication during the week?

Fill out the Medication Card, available on the Troop Portal as an online form. The access to the button is on the main Portal home page and on the Summer Camp page. After you have updated all information, use the links to print a form for each doctor (and one for over-the-counter medications), have them signed, and turn them in.

Label a zip lock bag with your son's name, and put the medication and a second list of what medication is included and when your son needs to take each medication. Sunday, before we leave, these will be collected. One of the adults spending the week at camp will maintain and dispense all the medications throughout the week. Please make sure your son knows the times of day he should be taking medications.

18a) My son must be on his ADD /ADHD medication for school but I would like to have him enjoy camp without all the extra chemicals. How do I have the leaders support this?

Summer Camp is NOT a place for a "medication vacation." This is a learning environment like school and they need to be focused to get the maximum benefit from the Merit Badge Classes and Green Bar. Also, changing medications may result in unusual behaviors which may result in your Scout placing himself at unnecessary risk. Please keep him on his schedule, complete the medical card, and help the leaders help your Scout make the most of camp.

18b) My son uses an inhaler. Where will it be kept?

ALL asthmatics will need to bring 2 inhalers to camp. One will be kept by Scout and the other will be held by our medical staff in camp. This is to make sure that if one gets misplaced, the child will have one available.

19) What will the food be like?

It is generally a Continental nouveau cuisine, with an assortment of free-range meats, organic veggies, and delicate sauces...

Okay, seriously, it will be standard cafeteria fare. It won't be substantially different from school food. For anyone who just can't stand what is being served for breakfast, there is always an assortment of cold cereals. For anyone who just can't stand what is being served for lunch or dinner, there is always peanut butter and jelly available.

20) Can parents/siblings visit during the week?

A bunch of parents are coming up to spend a night or two, and this is always great. We do recommend that if you have a new Scout, if you can spend a night or two you should do so later in the week (coming early in the week and then leaving can lead to some homesickness issues). If you are coming for a night or two, please let me know.

We do need some parents to come up Tuesday night so that our camp leaders (who are spending the week) may attend a special dinner. It is also a great way to see the boys are having a great time at camp....

The camp director prefers that people not pop-in for a morning or afternoon. For this, Friday is officially "visitor's day."

COMING HOME

21) What is the schedule on Friday for getting everything packed up and home?

On Friday, the boys will be encouraged to pack nearly all of their stuff early in the day. While the boys are in their scheduled activities, the adults will start to break camp down. Early to mid-afternoon, we would like to get nearly everything loaded in the trailer.

Late Friday afternoon there will be the annual "Water Carnival," with all the Troops in camp going up against one another in various serious and silly water competitions. We like to have our whole troop attend to cheer our team members on.

Many parents come up sometime Friday afternoon to let their son show them around camp and help pack up. If you will be eating dinner with us Friday evening, please let me know so I can give the Boxwell staff a number.

After dinner, we will load cars with personal gear. We will then attend the closing campfire (everyone should stay for the closing campfire). When the campfire ends, we are dismissed, head to the parking lot, and come on home.

22) How does the trailer get unloaded?

Not by itself, I'm afraid. Whoever pulls the trailer home will either leave it at the Barn Friday night or bring it over to the Barn on Saturday. We will need people to come down and help unload the Troop gear and equipment. As long as most people show up, it is quick, easy work.