

Camping With Your Pack 101



- Pick your Date
This should be decided on during annual program planning, a couple alternative dates should be penciled in, in case of postponement due to weather or other causes.
- Pick your location
This might be a traditional campsite that your unit always camps at each year (make sure it is an approved campsite/form submitted to council)
You may want to use a BSA Property (Squanto, Norse, Resolute)
Take a look at Reserve America website for more ideas or talk to local leaders about where their unit camps.
Depending on weather or season you may want to look into a winter indoor overnight when Covid restrictions end.
- Make sure you have at least one (preferably two **) Baloo Trained leaders available for the campout
Training are on hold currently but talk to you leaders now about who would like to get trained in the Fall. Upcoming Webelos Leaders.
Reach out to Troops to see if old leaders can come back that are already trained... training doesn't expire.
** Try to plan for two Baloo Trained leaders because if you only have one and something happens where they must go home or can't come, then you would have to postpone or end the campout early
- Med Forms
Med forms part A and B should be at the campout for EVERYONE in attendance (Including non-registered adults and siblings etc..)
- Who's attending?
If you have multiple campouts a year, maybe some of them are geared more towards just the older Webelos, one with just cubs and parents, some with all the family members there...
Know a rough headcount going in to the campout to prepare for enough provisions (food, gear, space, supplies for any activities)

- Do you have first time campers or hesitant campers?
Make sure your first time campers (both youth and adult alike) feel comfortable. Answer all questions they may have, possibly have a meeting for new families to go over how camping with your unit works. Possibly offer a campout close to home, near the parked cars so that hesitant families feel like they can try it out but also leave at any time if needed. Do they need advice on what to pack? Do they need help knowing what or how to cook during the campout if needed? Do they need to borrow items?
- Discuss food
How is food being handled? Is each family cooking their own food, or is the pack serving for everyone? If pack... make sure to put out menu, should you charge to cover cost? Who is food shopping and cooking? If each family is cooking on their own.. is the pack providing stoves or fire to do so in? Fire can get crowded... make sure enough places and gear to cook for everyone attending.
- Gear
Does your unit have shared gear like extra tents, pop up canopy, stoves, etc... or do you need to distribute a checklist of needed items. Do a check through items before campout to make sure they are all in decent shape. Where are these items stored, and where are they going after the campout. Do you need anything replaced, and if so does the unit have funds to cover that now or does a fundraiser need to be planned?
- A program for the campout
What are you doing during your campout? Will each den plan its own activities or will there be group activities for the entire pack the whole time? Campfire program with skits and songs? Do you have an MC? Is there hiking, fishing, etc nearby? Are there attractions to go see or do during the day that you need to leave camp for? Make sure you add to your packing list or email out the families the itinerary so they can plan or bring what is needed. Does the campsite you are at have a program (New England base camp)
- Guide to safe Scouting
All units and leaders attending/running campouts should read and have on hand the Guide to safe Scouting. When activities arise during a campout, you want to make sure each den level of scouting has a chance to participate in some activity, and you want to make sure it is an approved activity.