

GETTING READY FOR CAMP

WHEN SHOULD PROMOTION BEGIN?

The time to begin promotion is NOW! Start talking about camp, getting everyone excited. You could also use camp preparation as a theme to help you plan troop meetings in the next few months.

But remember this important fact – you do not have to do it all by yourself!

PARENT/COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

The Scoutmaster doesn't have to do all the work alone. Get the committee members involved with arranging drivers, preparing equipment, and tracking Scout fee payments. Contact the Tahquitz Community (www.tribeoftahquitz.org) to arrange a camp presentation for both the Scouts and their parents.

SELECT A CAMPSITE

If you have not yet done so, contact the Scout Service Center as soon as possible to reserve a site. Although every Tahquitz site is a wonderful place to spend a week, each one also has its own characteristics and size. Be sure to get the spot that's right for your troop! (Please note: if your troop's attendance is less than the minimum for a campsite, you may be changed to a more appropriate site. Don't worry, we'll contact you if that is a possibility)

SCOUT REGISTRATION

Be sure that all your scouts are currently registered with a Scouts BSA Troop, or Venture Crew. It is mandatory that all campers are registered with the BSA prior to their arrival at camp.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

The committee needs to ensure that the troop has proper adult leadership during its stay at camp. BSA policy for adult leadership at camp:

- ✓ At least two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required (we recommend 1 adult leader for every 10 scouts).
- ✓ For troops with girls, there must be at least one registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over.
- ✓ All adults (including parents) who are present for 72 hours or more must be registered as a leader. The registration will include BSA Youth Protection Training, as well as California's recently passed AB 506 regulations.

If your troop is unable to provide two-deep leadership for the entire week, please contact the Long Beach Council Scout Office. We will see if there is another troop that you can camp with to allow you to meet the two-deep leadership requirement.

We strongly encourage you to have one additional adult for every ten scouts beyond the two-deep minimum. In addition, while some troops have leaders who will "share" the week, for a better program experience we recommend that at least one of the leaders is present for the entire week.

CAMPER INSURANCE

Troops that are not registered with the Long Beach Area Council will be required to show proof of Unit Accident Insurance. If their council does not provide insurance for all of its troops.

TROOP/PATROL EQUIPMENT

The following is a recommended list for all troops and patrols, both Patrol as well as Commissary dining. Troop and patrol equipment should be checked several months in advance. **TROOPS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN TENTS!**

Important Records			
Medical Forms		Adult Training Certificates	
Firearms Release		Troop Advancement Records	Roster w/Contact #'s
Troop health and Safety			
Fire Extinguisher(s)		Troop First Aid Kit	Extra ropes & stakes
Wood Tools		Tents for your troop!	Propane/electric Lantern
American flag		Troop and Patrol flags	Rain fly
Optional: 50' rope & canvas/nylon bags to rig up bear bags			
Primarily for Patrol Dining, but helpful for all troops			
Patrol boxes		Ice Chest(s)	Stove & cooking gear

STOVES AND LANTERN IN THE CAMPSITES

Only commercially manufactured stoves, grills, burners, lanterns that are designed to be used with chemical fuels are allowed at Tahquitz. Handcrafted, homemade, or modified equipment are not allowed at Tahquitz. An adult knowledgeable about chemical fuels and equipment should always supervise youths involved in the storage, handling, and use of chemical fuels and equipment.

Acceptable chemical fuels include white gas (Coleman fuel); kerosene; liquefied petroleum gas fuels, including propane, butane, and isobutane; vegetable oil fuels; biodiesel fuel; and commercially prepared gelled-alcohol fuel in original containers.

Store chemical fuels in their original containers or in containers designed for immediate use. Securely store any spare fuel away from sources of ignition, buildings, and tents. During transport and storage, properly secure chemical fuel containers in an upright, vertical position.

No flames of any type are allowed in tents at any time.

Troops need to consult the “Guide to Safe Scouting” on safe use and storage of their propane/chemical stoves and lanterns.

TROOP TENTS

Our goal at Tahquitz is to provide a troop-based experience. Rather than have pre-set tents and platforms that your troop must adapt to, by bringing your own tents your troop can design the campsite the way that the troop wants to do so.

Please contact the camp administration if your troop has problem with tents.

ARRIVING AT CAMP**BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME**

Be sure that everyone knows where your troop will meet before you leave for Camp. At that time, double check to see that you will be bringing with you:

1. BSA Medical Forms. **BE SURE TO USE THE CURRENT FORM!** It can be found in the Camp Leader Guide section CF (Camp Forms) on our [website](#); or on the ([National BSA website](#)).
2. Firearm releases for scouts under 18 (copies available on our website, under section PG – Parent Guide)
3. Print out a copy of the troop roster that you entered on the online 24/7 Scouting Camp Tahquitz website

SUNDAY ARRIVAL

You may start moving into your campsite any time after 10:00 am on Sunday morning. Check with one of the staff members to be sure that you have gone into the correct campsite. To help minimize your waiting time for the official check-in, you may get a “check in appointment” when you arrive at camp. While you are waiting for the check-in process to begin you may go to your campsite and start setting up.

MOVING INTO YOUR CAMPSITE

Scouts should carry in the personal gear into their campsite. Since the camp roads are narrow, we allow only one vehicle at a time may drive to the campsite to deliver equipment. You may want to consider packing (either before you leave or once you arrive at camp) as much of your troop and patrol gear into one vehicle before driving to your campsite

Please contact the camp staff ahead of time if you have any special needs or if you will need any additional help in moving your equipment to the campsite.

For additional information on vehicles in camp, please review the section “Vehicles and Camp Roads” in the “Camp Tahquitz General Information” section of this book.

The commissioners will also help your troop with the campsite inspection program, they can help with advancement boards of review, and they will sign off on various Honor Troop and Honor Patrol standards and offer their wealth of camping and scouting experience to help you and your troop. We urge you to take full advantage of this resource.

COMMISSIONER SERVICE

One of the first staff members that you will meet will be your camp commissioner. A camp commissioner lives near your campsite, and they are there to assist your troop in getting the most out of your week at camp, as well as to be an important source of daily communication.

CHECK-IN PROCESS

Although you may start moving into your campsite any time after 10:00 on Sunday morning, the official check-in will not start until 12:30. A troop leader should then go to the camp office to start the official check-in process (While we would encourage you to have your SPL with you at this point, some troops prefer to have their SPL stay behind to direct the campsite set-up).

- ✓ At the business office you will receive a general orientation followed by a quick review of your official paperwork. Be sure to have your tour permit, and that your troop roster on 24/7 Scouting is complete and accurate.
- ✓ You will then move to the program office where you will have a chance to review and/or update your general troop scheduled for the week.
- ✓ After the office check-in, you will meet a camp host who will provide your troop with a guided tour of the camp.
- ✓ Your troop will stop by the health lodge where all your medical forms and parent releases will be checked and then stored for the week.
- ✓ As part of the camp tour your scouts will meet some of the key program staff who will answer your questions.
- ✓ After the tour you will return to your campsite to finish any last-minute campsite preparation.

SUNDAY DINNER

All Scouts, leaders, and staff will be served Sunday dinner at the commissary. You will be assigned a time upon check-in. Please be prompt!

Meals for guests who would like to eat Sunday dinner will be charged to the Troop camp fees that can be paid at the end of the week.

TROOP ARRIVALS OTHER THAN SUNDAY

To give the staff a chance to refresh and prepare for you troop's arrival, the camp is normally CLOSED from Saturday noon until Sunday morning. However, an exemption is available for those troops that cannot, for religious reasons, travel to camp on Sunday.

As part of the pre-camp registration process, please indicate on your roster if your troop will be arriving on Saturday or Monday!

MONDAY ARRIVALS

For troops arriving Monday morning, it is imperative that the troop program be submitted two weeks prior to arrival at camp. The troop is also invited to send up a representative on Sunday to help the troop with a "pre-check in" to assure that they have all their program choices.

MONDAY ARRIVALS: GENERAL GUIDELINES

6:30 - 7:00: A commissioner will meet you at the commissary and provide directions to your campsite. A quick breakfast of cereal, milk, juice, and fruit will be available for you at the commissary. You may eat at the commissary tables or take it back to your campsite.

7:00- 8:00: Go to the health lodge. Bring medical records and parent releases with you. A commissioner will review your program and merit badge requests.

7:30 8:00: Swim checks ONLY for those scouts taking aquatics merit badges. All other scouts return to their campsite to help set up.

8:00: Scouts: First merit badge session.

8:30 – 9:00: Troop leaders: Head to program office for final check-in, for program changes and updates, and to pay any outstanding camp fees.

12:00 – 12:30: Swim checks for all scouts and adults who were not taking morning aquatic badges will occur when their troop goes to its first pool time in the afternoon.

SATURDAY ARRIVALS

If there are reasons why your troop must arrive on Saturday, please directly inform the camp office two weeks prior to your arrival.

Saturday arrivals should plan to arrive at camp **only between 12 noon and 3 PM**. There are **NO** programs or food services available during this period!

Many troops that arrive on Saturday will conduct their own religious services or sacrament meetings in the Appling Bowl. Many troops report that celebrating their faith amidst the natural beauty of God's creation can be a very moving experience for Scouts.

Please contact the Camp Office for more information on conducting a troop service or a sacrament meeting in the Appling Bowl.