

First-Time Camping Guide

Troop 33 & Genoa Troop 433

December 11–13 | Camp Preston Hunt

Welcome to camping! Whether this is your first Scout campout or your first night sleeping outdoors, we want everyone to have a great time. Camping is about spending time together, trying new things, and having fun—not having the fanciest gear.

Tent camping and cabin camping are both options. You don't need to buy a lot of expensive equipment to enjoy the weekend. Pack the essentials, dress for the weather, and come ready for an adventure!

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1. What to Expect

We'll spend the weekend enjoying the outdoors, playing games, sharing meals, and spending time around camp.

- **Friday night:** Girls' Night
- **Saturday daytime:** Everyone together for activities, meals, and free time
- **Saturday at 4:00 PM:** Girls depart
- **Saturday night:** Boys' Night
- **Sunday morning:** Boys pack up and head home by 11:00 AM

Activities will be casual, with plenty of time to relax, explore, and hang out with friends.

2. Packing List: One-Night Campout

Use this checklist to help your Scout pack. Every Scout should bring their own personal gear, even when sharing a tent or cabin with others.

Clothing

- Clothes for Saturday
- Extra shirt and underwear
- Extra socks
- Jacket, hoodie, or warm layers
- Pajamas or comfortable clothes to sleep in
- Comfortable close-toed shoes, shower shoes
- Rain jacket or poncho, if rain is expected
- Hat or cap, if desired

Tip: Check the forecast before leaving home. December weather can be chilly, especially at night and early in the morning. Dressing in layers makes it easier to stay comfortable.

Sleeping Gear

For tent camping:

- Tent, if not provided or shared
- Sleeping bag rated for the expected nighttime temperature
- Sleeping pad or air mattress
- Pillow
- Blanket for extra warmth

For cabin camping:

- Sleeping bag or bedding
- Pillow
- Extra blanket

Personal Items

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hairbrush or comb
- Towel and washcloth
- Personal hygiene items
- Hand sanitizer
- Any required personal medication, handled according to troop procedures

Camp Essentials

- Reusable water bottle
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Extra batteries, if needed

- Small backpack or day bag
- Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothes
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent

Optional Items

- Book, cards, or a small game
- Camp chair
- Small notebook and pen
- Favorite snack, if allowed
- Stuffed animal or comfort item

Leave at home: Expensive electronics, valuables, fireworks, weapons, and anything that could be unsafe or distract from the trip. Follow troop rules regarding phones and other devices.

3. What to Pack for Tent or Cabin Camping

Tent Camping

You don't need a huge tent. A simple tent with enough room for the people sharing it is usually best.

- Practice setting up the tent at home if possible.
- Make sure the tent and rainfly are complete.
- Bring a sleeping pad to provide insulation from the ground.
- Keep clothes and bedding inside a bag to protect them from moisture.
- Never use camp stoves, heaters, or open flames inside a tent.

Cabin Camping

Cabin camping is a great option for first-time campers or anyone who prefers a more sheltered sleeping area.

- Confirm whether bunks or mattresses are provided.
- Bring bedding or a sleeping bag and pillow.
- Keep personal belongings organized in one bag.
- Follow the camp's rules for cabin use and sleeping arrangements.

Both options are a great way to experience the campout. Choose the one that makes your family most comfortable.

4. Tips to Make Camping More Enjoyable

For Parents

- **Let your Scout help pack.** It builds confidence and helps them learn responsibility.
- **Label belongings.** Names on water bottles, bags, and other gear help prevent mix-ups.
- **Don't overpack.** One night requires much less equipment than you might think.
- **Dress for the weather.** Layers are more useful than one bulky item.
- **Encourage independence.** Let Scouts manage their own gear and participate in camp chores with appropriate supervision.
- **Communicate concerns early.** Let the troop leaders know about first-time camping nerves, dietary needs, or other concerns before the trip.

For Scouts

- Keep your gear in one place so you can find it.
- Drink water throughout the day.
- Bring a jacket, even if the afternoon feels warm.
- Try the activities and get to know other Scouts.
- Help with meals, cleanup, and campsite responsibilities.
- Respect other people's belongings and sleeping areas.
- Ask a leader if you need help or are unsure what to do.

Camp Preston Hunt Basics

- Stay within the designated camping area and follow buddy-system rules.
- Never approach wildlife or feed animals.
- Follow all fire-safety instructions. Only designated adults should manage fires.
- Use flashlights after dark and respect quiet hours.
- Leave the campsite or cabin clean and better than you found it.

5. Meals and Snacks

Meals will be part of the group camping experience. This menu is an example and is subject to change. Please let us know during registration if there are any dietary restrictions or needs.

A typical overnight campout might include:

- **Friday dinner:** Hot dogs or burgers, chips, and drinks
- **Saturday breakfast:** Pancakes, cereal, fruit, or breakfast sandwiches
- **Saturday lunch:** Dutch Oven cooking
- **Saturday dinner:** Hot dogs or burgers, chips, and drinks

Bring a reusable water bottle and drink water regularly. Let troop leadership know about food allergies, dietary restrictions, or other meal concerns before the trip.

6. Medical and Consent Form — Required

Every participating Scout must have the required Medical part A & B and Consent Form completed and submitted before the campout. Parents or guardians should complete the form provided on the event page and submit them prior to the campout.

Please make sure the form includes current and accurate information, including:

- Emergency contact information
- Medical conditions and relevant health history
- Allergies and dietary concerns
- Current medications and any required administration instructions
- Parent or guardian consent and emergency authorization, as requested by the form

Please notify troop leadership of any changes to your Scout's medical needs before departure. Do not assume that leaders already know about a medical condition or allergy.

Medications must be handled according to Scouting America policies and troop procedures. Parents should communicate directly with leadership about any medication that needs to be brought or administered during the trip.

Please do not wait until departure to turn in the form. A Scout may not be able to participate if required paperwork is missing or incomplete.

7. Before You Leave Home

Use this quick checklist the night before departure:

- Check the weather forecast.
- Pack clothes and sleeping gear.
- Charge any cell phones.
- Fill the water bottle before leaving.
- Confirm transportation and arrival arrangements.
- Confirm whether the Scout is tent camping or cabin camping.
- Make sure the Medical and Consent Form has been submitted.
- Review departure times with your Scout.

8. The Most Important Thing

You do not have to be an experienced camper to have a great campout!

The best camping trips aren't about having perfect gear or a packed schedule. They're about making memories, learning new skills, spending time with friends, and enjoying the outdoors.

If you have questions about equipment, sleeping arrangements, meals, or paperwork, contact troop leadership before the trip. We're happy to help make this a positive first camping experience for your family.

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