



FIRE MOUNTAIN AOL WEEKEND LEADERS GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MOUNT BAKER COUNCIL



CAMP PHONE #: 360-734-3943



Fire Mountain Scout Camp • 26027 Walker Valley Road • Mount Vernon, WA 98274

ABOUT FIRE MOUNTAIN

Located in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, on 665 acres nestled in the forests of scenic Walker Valley, Fire Mountain Scout Camp is home to some of the finest Scouting program opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. The patrol is the focus of the Fire Mountain program. All staff and programs are geared towards teaching the patrol method, thus strengthening year-round troop operations. Our beautiful, wooded environs, temperate climate, and friendly and enthusiastic staff create the ideal setting for a great Scouting experience!

Why is it called “Fire Mountain”?

In the 1950's, before it became a summer camp, Fire Mountain was a farm used as a staging area and base camp for firefighters who were fighting wildfires on and around Cultus Mountain. They had to return so frequently, they told others they were going back to “Fire Mountain.” In 1971, the name was suggested for the new Scout camp, and it stuck!



The Mount Baker Council is committed to a camp that meets the high standards of Scouting America. Fire Mountain is inspected and accredited on an annual basis. Our key camp staff members are trained at the National Camping School of Scouting America.

HOW DO YOU GET TO FIRE MOUNTAIN?

From the south:

Go north on I-5 to exit 221 (SR 534). Exit I-5 and head east. Continue until you reach SR 9. Turn north on SR 9 (Left at “T” intersection) and continue five miles. Look for milepost 46. Shortly after this milepost you will see Walker Valley Road. Turn right on Walker Valley Road and continue to the end of the road. The camp entrance will be on your left.

From the north:

Go south on I-5 to exit 227 (College Way). Exit I-5 and head east. Continue until you reach SR 9. Head south (right at the roundabout) and drive for approximately 3.7 miles. Look for Walker Valley Road on your left. Turn left on Walker Valley Road and continue to the end of the road. The camp entrance will be on your left.

Our address listed above can be used in most modern GPS units and smart phones for directions to camp. It is also the camp's mailing address for sending mail to a Scout during camp. The main office phone number for camp is only monitored DURING summer camp, otherwise contact the Everett Service Center at (425) 338-0380.



WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- No firearms, ammunition, or weapons of any type (including bows) may be brought to camp.
- No fireworks allowed at camp.
- Smoking, vaping, e-cigs, juuls are not allowed in front of Scouts; restricted to adults in the designated area.
- Any person using alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal drugs will be reported to the camp director and sheriff and will be sent home.
- Pets of any type are not permitted at camp. Registered service animals are the only animals allowed. Please notify camp leadership or the Everett Service Center if you require a service animal in camp.

RULES OF CAMP

The primary rules at Fire Mountain Scout Camp are the Scout Oath and Law. The following is presented as clarification based on past experiences in camp.

1. Use the buddy system.
2. Stay inside camp boundaries.
3. Wear close-toed shoes at all times. Flip-flops may be worn IN the shower house, not walking to it.
4. Scouts with their Totin 'Chip may carry multi-tools or folding pocketknives. Sheath knives are not allowed.
5. Do not cut live or downed trees.
6. Respect others and camp's property, keeping it free from damage and defacement.

Troop/Pack Gear

- ☐ National Flag
- ☐ Troop flag
- ☐ Patrol flag(s)
- ☐ Lanterns
- ☐ Tarps
- ☐ Rope
- ☐ Troop library
- ☐ Props for skits
- ☐ Dutch oven (optional)
- ☐ Charcoal briquettes (optional)
- ☐ Axe-yard supplies
- ☐ Camp cook gear
- ☐ Troop first aid box

Personal Gear

- ☐ Current medical form
- ☐ Spending money (for the store)
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Daypack
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sleeping pad
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Sweatshirt/jacket
- ☐ Raingear
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Pants
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Underwear (1 per day)
- ☐ Socks (1-2 pair per day)
- ☐ Hiking boots
- ☐ Extra shoes
- ☐ Class A uniform (hanger)
- ☐ OA sash (if member)
- ☐ Canteen/water bottle
- ☐ Flashlight/extra batteries
- ☐ Scout knife
- ☐ Pencil/paper
- ☐ Scout handbook
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Insect repellant

Toiletries

- ☐ Comb/brush
- ☐ Toothbrush/tooth- paste
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Soap/shampoo
- ☐ Second towel for showering
- ☐ Shower shoes/flip flops (optional)

FIRE MOUNTAIN DRESS CODE

Scouting America is a uniformed organization and dress at camp should meet this standard and meet the needs of the activity the scouts and leaders are participating in. The standard activity uniform for a scout is a scout activity t-shirt (class B), scout shorts/pants, scout belt, scout socks and scout hat with appropriate footwear. Dress at events such as flag ceremonies, chapel and campfires should include the field uniform (class A) shirt and neckerchief.

Not every scout or leader can afford the official Scouting America shorts, pants and socks nor do all scouts have scout shirts to last a whole week. All scout and scouters at Fire Mountain should endeavor to aim for this standard when packing for camp.

Infractions of this dress code will be reported to the Camp Director and unit leadership is expected to support efforts to meet this expectation. Campers that chose to not comply will be found in conflict with the Scouting America Code of Conduct and will be asked to go home.

WHAT ARE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS LIKE?

If you are staying in one of camp's many stents or Adirondack shelters your "bed" will be a sheet of plywood. What this means is that you will need to bring a sleeping pad or camp mattress with you in addition to a sleeping bag, camp does NOT provide mattress to our campsites. While there are some designated tent areas in camp most campsites have large open areas that a tent could be set up in, for many events we tent camp units in one camp's field areas such as Kit Carson or around Fort Boeing.



Where will I be sleeping?

This year the Arrow of Lights will be housed in the Fire Mountain Campsites and be able to use the stents and Adirondacks in said campsites. Troops will be camping in the Kit Carson or other designated field and will need to bring tents. This is done as the fall return to our much-loved PNW rain there is a 50/50 chance of it raining during AOLSW and our Scout Troops are better prepared than Arrow of Lights often are to deal with the liquid sunshine.

Do AOLs need to sleep in the same tent/stent with their parents?

No. Though it is allowed for AOLs to bunk with their parents, we encourage, if possible, for parents to tent separate from their Arrow of Light scouts (Scouting America youth are NOT allowed to tent with parents). Depending on registration, housing may require YOUTH to sleep in a separate structure from their parents. An adult may NOT sleep in a structure with youth members except their own children. If there are scouts who still need to sleep with their parents on a campout, we recommend they bring a tent to bunk together, just in case. While we will work to communicate housing accommodations this will be based on registrations and YPT requirements. Please see the Guide to Safe Scouting at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/> for more information.

Are parents required to attend for an AOL to attend AOLSW?

Each Scout should attend with their parent(s) or guardian(s). An Arrow of Light Scout whose parent or legal guardian cannot attend a den overnight camping trip may participate under the supervision of at least two registered leaders. The leaders and a parent or legal guardian must agree to the arrangement, and all Youth Protection policies apply.

Why no 4th graders at AOLSW?

As of June 2024, the 4th Grade Webelos program and 5th Grade Arrow of Light program is now separate with different purposes. As such, 2025 is the introduction of the new Salish Sea Arrow of Light Skills Weekend. The new program changes and guidelines will be taken into more consideration designing a program for Arrow of Lights to meet and greet Scouting America troops, with a similar feel to a Scouting America Camporee. Webelos (4th graders) are encouraged to attend the Cub Scout weekend program as it is designed with Cub Scouts in mind. For more on this see the great article from Aaron on Scouting at: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2024/08/30/what-you-need-to-know-about-webelos-arrow-of-light-and-scouts-bsa-camping/>

Do AOLs need to be involved in the planning of food?

AOLSW doesn't provide food for the weekend but highly encourages the AOL Scouts to be involved in their Den menu planning and execution as it ties into the AOL Outdoor Adventurer requirement and part of Knife Safety.

Do Scouting America troops need to register (pay) to attend?

We are asking for Scouting America Troops to register for the AOLSW with Scouts and adults paying \$10 a person. This covers the patch and the Cracker Barrel food for Friday night as well as some general facility stuff (I think we all like having enough toilet paper) and admin (like printing schedules). Scouting America youth and adults pay a discounted rate because they help in manning some of the activities.

Is there any food provided?

Food is all done in the campsite except the Friday night cracker barrel.

Note: Units are responsible for their own meals.

AOLs are encouraged to reach out to a Troop for meal planning together, but we will look to have unattached AOLs paired with troops for the weekend. Such pairings will be communicated once we know who is coming (so register early, there are late fees).

What paperwork is required?

Your unit should have Part A/B of the Scouting America medical form on hand and be able to provide it on a moment's notice to staff in case of a medical emergency.

What time can I check in?

Ideally units will arrive together at camp, not trickling in one family at a time, so plan ahead and think about a good spot for the unit to rally before arriving at camp. That said we will check in anyone that arrives as they arrive. Check in will be running from 4:00PM to 8:30PM. Please be respectful of those getting ready to facilitate the event, if you arrive before 4PM you will be asked to remain in the parking lot until we can check you in at 4pm.





What does the schedule for the AOLSW look like?

The general schedule for the weekend is:

Friday

- Get to Camp
- Get to your campsite
- Get Settled in
- Cracker Barrel by district

Saturday

- Wake up
- Breakfast in Campsite
- Flags
- Troop Activities
- Lunch in Campsite
- Afternoon Stations (ranges, climbing, mingle time)
- Closing ceremony and flags (about 4PM)
- Check out – or stay another night, and join us for Saturday CAMPFIRE!!!

What does the program look like?

The principal purpose of the AOLSW program is about exposing Arrow of Light Scouts to the adventure that waits for them on the other side of the cross over bridge in a Scouting America troop. As such most of the time at camp is spent mingling with Scouting America troops. Friday evening's cracker barrel will be organized by the district. Saturday morning will be round robin activities where Scouts will move from Troop to Troop each running a station that is fun and/or educational. These round robins will also be organized by district. Scouts are more than welcome to jump from district to district to experience what ALL the Scouting America Troops brought to AOLSW.

Saturday afternoon, a number of Fire Mountain program areas will open for a few hours. Arrow of Lights will be given preference, but all Scouts are welcome to visit these areas. Lastly, the afternoon is for AOLs and parents to have some longer times to hang out and talk to Scoutmasters and Troops about the culture of their troop.

When will the full schedule be out?

A full schedule for the weekend will be given out to leaders on check in at camp.

Can I drive to my campsite?

Friday evening and Sunday morning we will allow ONE vehicle at a time to enter camp, unload gear, and then return to the parking lot. What this means is that if you unload, get unpacked, settle in, start a campfire, and make dinner before retuning your car to the parking lot, you may be keeping those you're sharing the campsite with stuck in the parking lot for a long time waiting for their turn. Most Scout troops are used to placing as much gear in one rig to haul gear back instead of each family driving back, so again it may benefit your unit to rally and pack gear as a group either before arriving or in the parking lot.

Can I stay Saturday Night?

YES! While the program for AOLSW is going to be wrapping up around 4ish on Saturday, Scouts can opt to hang out and stay Saturday night. Anyone staying is encouraged to have a skit or song ready for the campfire program Saturday night. Sunday morning you will be asked to pack and depart camp no later than 11am. Check out will be handled by AOLOS/camp staff and the ranger department.

Can I volunteer and attend for free?

YES ... by joining the Fire Mountain Seasonal Staff! You can do this online at <https://mountbakerscouting.org/firemountain/campstaff/> Be advised that staff are housed in staff village and NOT with their unit during events. Staff attend events like this to serve and work so that our fellow scouts can have an amazing adventure.

Can I have my car in the campsite, to store food and the like?

No, the only vehicles allowed in camp during program/overnight are staff vehicles that will be easily identified as Fire Mountain staff.

