

**SEWARD PIONEERS
SPRING 2026 CAMPOREE
GREAT ALASKA COUNCIL**

THIS IS A DRAFT LEADER'S GUIDE. We felt it important to push a draft as we finalize several details so Troops can begin planning for the event. For instance, Kenai Fjords has offered free bay cruises, but we're still working times, numbers of seats, etc. Depending on the show time for the cruises, the schedule for opening flags may change. We're also working to get more camping spaces. Basically, we'll let you know when a final version is available, but this should help you get started on your planning.

Finally, register early so you get the trail time and camping spots you want.

WHEN: May 29-31, 2026

WHERE: Forest Acres Campground in Seward

REGISTRATION: [Great Alaska Council - Spring Camporee - In Seward](#)

FEES: \$25 for Scouts; \$10 for AOLs; \$25 for adults. Participants will get an event patch.

GOAL: This Camporee is a council-wide event. Our goals are to:

- 1) Complete a service project. The city is giving us free camp sites in return for trail work.
- 2) Provide an opportunity for Scouts to earn the Historic Trails Award.
- 3) Provide time for Troops who choose to do so, to plan and execute their own adventures in and around Seward.
- 4) Provide traditional Camporee activities for those Troops or Scouts who wish to remain in camp.

THEME: Pioneering

CAMPING: Please read these notes carefully. We expect a large Camporee and things are likely to be crowded.

- 1) We are camping at Forest Acres Campground (1001 Hemlock St, Seward AK)'
- 2) Only tents are allowed, no RVs. If a family wants to bring an RV, they'll need to find another location for it.
- 3) Troops will select camp sites when they register. Depending on the number of Scouts and Troops registered, some camp sites may be shared.
- 4) Check in time for the campground is 11AM Friday.
- 5) Checkout time for the campground is 11AM Sunday
- 6) Sign up for a camping spot when you register your Troop.

PARKING: Parking is going to be tight. Please limit the number of vehicles to the absolute minimum. Troop trailers will be allowed in the campsites, but no other vehicles will be allowed. Vehicle parking will be near RV lots 43-47, but even that is limited. Troops should plan on having 1 or 2 vehicles near RV lots 43-47 and parking any other vehicles elsewhere.

UNIFORMS: We want to show Seward how valuable Scouts are to the community. **Every** activity should be done with a Class A or Class B uniform. If you're working on the trail, participating in camp activities or adventuring, then Class B uniforms are appropriate. We ask

that Class A uniforms be worn for opening flags. If you're going to town for an ice cream or to eat, we'll leave it to the Scoutmaster for the appropriate uniform, but a uniform should be worn. We suggest Class A uniform for town activities, but understand you may be coming and going from other activities and that may not be possible. Bottom line - show your Scout spirit and pride through your uniform.

TROOP FLAGS: Please bring your Troop flags and proudly display them at your campsite (weather permitting). We would also like you to bring your Troop flag to the opening flags and to the service project. We want the community to see the pride we take in Scouting and make sure they're aware of all that we do for our local communities.

VOLUNTEERS: As always, we'll need volunteers to make this happen. Each Troop should count on having 2 adults dedicate a half day to making this event fun, safe and successful. A Volunteer Roster will be included on the registration page. In addition, we will need Scout or Troop volunteers for things such as opening flags and campfire.

GENERAL CONCEPT: There will be a lot happening on this Camporee, so be sure to read all sections so you don't miss anything. In summary, plan on working 2-hours on the trail service project, attending the Saturday opening flags, attending at least one campfire, and either participating in the traditional camporee activities or choosing your own Troop adventure. Information on each is contained in the sections below.

TRAIL SERVICE PROJECT

Each Troop must provide at least 2-hours of service work to help restore the Two Lakes Trail. Two Lakes Trail is approximately 1-mile in length and is accessible from two locations: the AVTEC parking lot and a parking area at the end of an unnamed street that leads towards Second Lake. Materials (gravel and wood chips) will be placed in each parking lot (see attached map). We will have four teams working the trail simultaneously:

- 1) AVTEC Team 1 - will work to the North from the AVTEC parking lot
- 2) AVTEC Team 2 - will work towards the waterfall and to the private road
- 3) Second Lake Team 1 - will work towards the East of Second Lake
- 4) Second Lake Team 2 - will work South from the parking area

IMPORTANT: Each troop should bring enough shovels and rakes to support their work force. We will provide wheel barrows, buckets, pruning shears and mattocks (to remove roots if needed). If you have a large Troop/Patrol, please consider splitting your Troop/Patrol and working two shifts.

In addition to the trail teams, we will be looking for Scouts and adults to fill two other teams:

- 1) Chain Saws - this team will (1) clear dead fall and (2) prepare logs and stakes for slope stabilization on part of the trail. We will not be providing the chain saws, so if you sign up for this team, please plan on bringing your saw.
- 2) Slope Stabilization - this team will complete the stabilization work.

How will this work in Seward? Great question! To be honest, we're going to start with the plan below and hope everyone can be flexible and adapt to changes in the field if they are needed:

- 1) Register your Troop for the Camporee.

- 2) On the registration page, there will be a sign up sheet for trail work. Sign your Troop up for the day and time you want. We can't all be working on the trail at the same time so the early registration bird gets the best day/times.
- 3) You can start the trail work as early as noon on Friday for those Troops wanting to knock it out first thing.
- 4) This only works well if you show up on schedule. Please don't be late as every Troop needs two hours of work and if you're late, it will impact those behind you.
- 5) We will have a Trail Captain at each parking lot. The Trail Captain will ensure trail teams have the proper equipment and knowledge to complete the job and assist with the transition from the working team to the replacement team.
- 6) Each Troop will provide a senior patrol leader (SPL). The SPL will be responsible for:
 - a) Checking in with the Trail Captain. This includes making sure the team is signed in on the official work roster and signed out at the end of their shift.
 - b) Coordinating with the prior SPL to ensure there is a smooth transition to the new team. Where did the prior team leave off and where should the new team begin? Are there any changes to the plan that should be made? Are there lessons learned to help the new team work more efficiently?
 - c) Upon completion of the two hour shift, the outgoing SPL will meet with the incoming SPL to ensure a smooth transition of work.
 - d) The SPL will be responsible for their Patrol's safety. This includes making sure each member of the Patrol has the following:
 - i) Work gloves - we will have a few extra sets on site just in case, but SPLs should ensure all Scouts bring their own gloves.
 - ii) Water bottle
 - iii) Proper footwear
 - iv) First aid kit
 - v) Class B uniform
 - e) The SPL will ensure their team works efficiently, but also takes breaks as needed.

HISTORIC TRAILS AWARD

Scouts that complete the following requirements will be eligible for the Historic Trails Award:

- 1) Participate in at least one of the Campfires (we plan to hold them both Friday and Saturday nights). The Campfires will include information on the historic Iditarod Trail, which starts in Seward) and its importance to both Seward and Alaska.
- 2) Camp either Friday or Saturday (preferably both) of the Camporee.
- 3) Complete at least two hours of the trail service work. The Council has determined that the Two Lakes Trail is within the vicinity of the Iditarod Trail and will count towards completion of requirement #3.

Scoutmasters will be responsible for completing and submitting the Historic Trails Award application to the Council Office. The application will be posted on the registration page prior to the Camporee.

TRADITIONAL CAMPOREE

For those wanting to stay in the campground and participate in more traditional camporee type events, we will have several activities. These include:

- Monkey Bridge
- Floating Flag Pole
- Pioneer Kitchen - participants will help build kitchen tools and learn how to up their camp cooking game from experienced Scouters
- First Aid related activities
- Seward Fire Challenge

We're still working the details for these, so more to come, but we promise fun! There isn't a set schedule for these activities as it's meant for those who are interested to stop by the activity stations as their time allows.

Please ensure your Scouts are in a Class B uniform, are using the buddy system, and have (1) water bottle, (2) first aid kit, and (3) work gloves.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

For those Troops who are going to explore the area on their own, you have no limits! Except for budgets probably, but that's what popcorn is for. As you work to plan your adventure, here are some thoughts:

- 1) Please let us know what you'll be doing. We'll have a sign in/out sheet at the camp HQ. This is just to give us an idea on who is in camp, what folks are doing and when to send out the search and rescue teams.
- 2) Businesses in Seward are welcoming the Scouts to town and in many cases that includes discounts. We will post a Discounts and Adventures attachment to the registration page for those interested. Many of the offers are on an "as available" basis, so sign up early. Some businesses will offer the only until slots are filled, so if you have a favorite, don't wait to book it. Others have group discounts, so call around to other Troops if you don't have enough people for a complete group.
- 3) We will not be collecting money or be otherwise involved in the booking process. This is truly a "your adventure" thing. We're only trying to help find discounts and opportunities for participants.
- 4) For those looking for a free adventure (i.e., hike or exploring), see the attachment titled, "Seward Area Activities". These were put together by Fred Moore and he is open to calls from Troops that have questions.
- 5) Please wear either a Class A or Class B uniform at the Scoutmaster's discretion.
- 6) We ask that you try to be available for Opening Flags and at least one campfire.

OPENING FLAGS AND CAMP FIRE

Opening Flags is going to be a little earlier than normal. This is to allow an early start on trail work and allow those on adventures to get started. Every Troop is expected to participate in the Camp Fire with a song or skit. You can attend both campfires if you'd like (in fact, that'd be awesome!), but you only need a song or skit at one of them, unless of course you want to do it at both.

Both the Opening Flags and Camp Fire will be in Class A uniform.

QUESTIONS AND CONTACT: Reach out to Kevin Thomas at 907-764-1921 or kevinbthomas@earthlink.net if you have questions.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, May 29th

11:00 – Campground is open

12:00 – Trail work can begin

7:00 – Camp fire

Immediately after camp fire - Senior Patrol Leader meeting

Saturday, May 30th

8:00 – Opening Flags

9:00 – Trail work can begin

9:00-3:30 – Traditional Camporee Activities open

8:00 – Camp fire

Sunday, May 31st

11:00 – Campground checkout