

Cub Scout Pack 567 Family Camping Guide



September 2009

Let's go camping

In today's busy world, many parents do not have the time or the inclination to take kids camping. Yet that outdoors' experience can be invaluable to boys in teaching them about nature and even life itself.

Camping is one of the best recreational activities, and a favorite among families, youth and couples all over the world. The benefits of camping are numerous, with each person gaining something different from the experience. Studies have shown that humans subconsciously desire to connect with the natural world, by being around plants, wilderness, and the seas. Termed 'biophilia' by medical professionals, it has brought to light a fact we always knew, that the outdoors have a positive effect on a person's quality of life.

Pack 567 is a "camping pack." We like to go on a camping trip at least once every season. This guide is to help you get ready for a pack family campout.

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Scouting...
Outdoor fun
and a whole lot
MORE!

Why go camping?

Why we go camping.

Camping is a rewarding experience for kids as well as the entire family. Camping brings your whole family together and helps us to slow down and enjoy nature with our loved ones.

Camping provides young boys with many benefits including:

Social Skills Development

- * Leadership
- * Communication
- * Participation

Self-Respect and Character Building

- * Responsibility
- * Resourcefulness
- * Resilience

What to Bring

Suggested items to bring

- Tent
- Sleeping bag (or blanket)
- Pillow
- Mess Kit (or plate, bowl and cup)
- NO DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS
- Utensils (knife, fork, spoon)
- Extra shoes in case of wet conditions
- Water and/or water bottle
- Rain clothing (Plan B is “Plan A in rain gear”)
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Dish towel (for doing your own dishes)
- Chairs

Here are some optional items you may want to bring:

- Snacks for your family
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Flashlight
- Binoculars
- Nature books
- Compass
- Air mattress/cot

What NOT to bring

Pack 567 does not allow the following items and will be taken away if brought on the campout:

- NO electronic games
- NO cell phones (*parents will be allowed to use on emergency basis*)
- NO iPods or similar devices
- Knives – Only Scouts with a Whittling Chip and Adults are allowed to bring knives.
- NO Pets – Sorry but we cannot allow families to bring pets.
- NO Sandals – Open toe shoes are not recommend

What to wear

Scouts do not have to wear their Cub Scout uniforms for family camping trips. Class “B” uniforms (Pack T-Shirts) are recommended for camping trips.

Note that **Boy Scout** troops travel to and from campouts in full uniform.

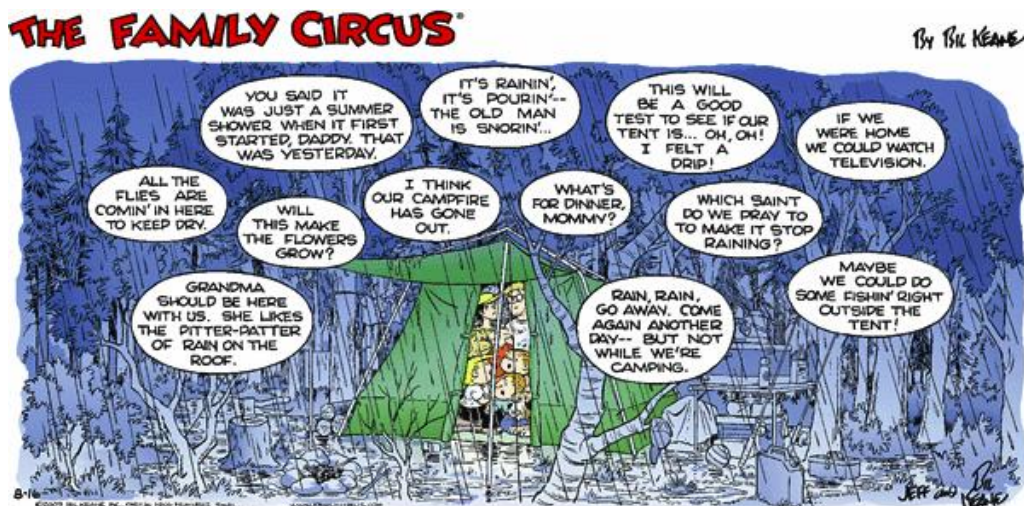
Pack Policies

Parent/Child Requirements

- Pack 567 Camping is for the Cub Scout and his entire family. There **MUST** be an Adult partner for each Cub Scout at **ALL** times. All siblings and “scout buddies” must be accompanied by their parent/guardian at all times.
- Adults – Adult partners must be 21 years or older
- No families or youth may travel together unless their vehicle information has been submitted on the local tour permit filed by the event leader. This includes short trips of any kind.
- When you arrive at the camp area you will be required to sign in. Everyone must sign out before leaving the camp area for any reason.
- The Pack will follow “2-deep” adult leadership rules at all times.

Weather

- Planned campouts will be held regardless of the weather unless determined life threatening by the decision of the camp staff. *“Plan B is Plan A in rain gear”*



Tents/Campers

- Tents – The preferred ‘lodging’ for the Pack’s family campouts are tents. Families must supply their own tents.
- RV’s/Trailers – Some of our family campouts will allow some families to bring a trailer or RV. All RV’s or trailers MUST be approved by the event leader in advance.

Electronics

- NO electronic devices are permitted on campouts. This includes games, mp3 players, cell phones, etc.
- Cell phones – Cell phones should be used ONLY for emergencies. Adults please...keep the blackberries, iPhones, etc in the car.
- Weather radios – Weather radios are allowed.
- GPS receivers – GPS receivers will be allowed if there is an approved activity that requires a GPSr. (i.e. Geocaching)

Policies

- Knives – No Scout (nor other children under 18) will be allowed to carry or use pocket knife unless they have earned and are in possession of their Whittling Chip card. All knives are to be handled in a manner consistent with the Whittling Chip requirements.
- Shoes – Closed toe shoes are strongly recommended.
- Pets – Sorry, but we cannot allow pets on our family campouts.
- Running – No running except when authorized by camp staff.
- NO alcohol or controlled substances – The BSA does not allow alcohol or controlled substance on any events.
- Smoking – per BSA policy, no smoking is allowed within the camping area or in view of any youth.

Meals and Eating

- Meals are planned out at a camping meeting and prepared at the camp area by volunteers.
- Mess kits – Everyone must provide their own mess kit and eating utensils. We do not use paper plates and disposable utensils.
- Drinks – drinks are not provided, every family should bring their own drinks.
- Cleaning dishes – Everyone is responsible for cleaning their own dishes. Cub Scouts should wash their own dishes with the supervision of their parents. Hot water, soap and washing tubs are provided by the Pack. (Bring your own dish towel)

