



Pack 53
Waxhaw UMC
“The Action Pack”
www.NCPack53.org

Pack Camping Guide

I. Purpose

This document is intended to provide a set of general guidelines to assist parents with preparing for Pack 53 camping events. This document does not override applicable BSA guidelines or policies.

II. General

For nearly a century, the Scouting program has thrived, to the ultimate benefit of its youth members, by keeping camping (and other outdoor activities) as the primary avenue for conveying and reinforcing its aims and methods. Pack 53 recognizes that the BSA's longevity and vitality is not accidental. Rather, it is a time-proven formula that challenges, excites and helps to retain the interest of the youth participants. To carry this success forward, the leadership team of Pack 53 has intentionally included a great deal of outdoor-oriented activities in the annual program plan.

As detailed in the Pack 53 Bylaws, participation in campouts is critical to the success of your son (or sons) in the program and should never be considered as optional. Some den-specific advancement opportunities (as well as secondary program requirements & awards) are offered *only* at camping events, and are difficult to duplicate elsewhere. Den meetings are structured to teach basic skills. Campouts are where the boys can focus and put these basic skills into practical application. If they are not able to apply their knowledge, then the learning-circle is incomplete.

While camping is second nature to some, it can be intimidating for others. Cub Scout camping events are for your entire family and all venues and activities are planned accordingly. All activities will be appropriate for boys in 1st through 5th grades and will comply with BSA guidelines. All venues will be family-friendly with easy parking, restroom facilities and a place to wash faces and hands at a minimum. Bear in mind, showers may not always be available. The Pack provides all necessary food and food preparation equipment. Personal camping gear, personal eating utensils (mess kits, forks, spoons & knives) and other camping accessories are the responsibility of each family.

III. Amendments

This document will be amended as necessary by the Pack 53 leadership team. Newer versions will be distributed to parents as necessary.

IV: Basic Camping Gear Checklist

a. Essential Items

Scout Uniform with all accessories (neckerchief slide is optional)

Den handbook

Tent

Ground cloth for use under tent

Hammer (for tent stakes)
Sleeping bag
Light jacket & gloves (or sweatshirt)
Rain gear
Spare clothes
Sturdy lace up shoes or boots (no open toe sandals).
Flashlight(s) w/spare batteries
Personal eating utensils, mess kit & cup (Pack will not provide these)
Canteen

b. Optional Items

Sleeping air mattress or camp cot
Folding camp chair(s)
Personal First Aid Kit
Battery-powered lantern for use in tent
Folding Camping Knife (Cubs w/whittling chip card & adults only)
Extra Rope

c. Special Items

Warm jacket, sweatshirt & warm gloves for trips to mountain locations (ex: Va. Creeper)
Work gloves (for pioneering or service projects if applicable)
Fishing Gear (if applicable)
Fishing Bait (if applicable)
Mountain Bikes (if applicable. Helmets required)
Bike repair tools
Spare inner tube or patch kit
Bike pump or CO2 inflators
Compass (if orienteering events are on the schedule)
Soccer ball, football, Frisbee, etc.

V: Typical Meal Plan for Campouts

Friday Dinner: Eat on your own (either eat before you arrive, or prepare your own food at the campsite... the Pack cooking equipment is usually available for your personal use).
Saturday Breakfast: Heavy Meal (Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, etc.)
Saturday Lunch: Medium Meal (Sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, etc.)
Saturday Dinner: Heavy Meal (Spaghetti, Chili, Salads, Bread, etc.)
Sunday Breakfast: Light Meal (Cereal, honey buns, etc.)

VI: Health & Safety Rules & Guidelines

a. Personal Conduct

- Cubs must be accompanied by a parent or 2 non-parent adults when participating in activities per BSA youth protection guidelines. Ex: If a group of Cubs goes on a bike ride, 2 adults must go along.
- Cubs should remember to travel with a buddy at all times.
- Adults & youth must use shower facilities at separate times, unless they are from the same family.
- No running on the bridges or docks.
- No throwing of rocks or sticks.
- No running after dark, except in specially designated areas.

b. Footwear Restrictions

- No open toe shoes on Cub Scout events – BSA Policy (Cubs, parents, leaders or siblings).

c. Camp Kitchen Safety

- No children allowed in the food prep area (except when participating in an achievement, under the supervision of the cook team leader, or when performing post-meal cleanup duties). There are a lot of hazards in this area.

d. Cutting Devices

- No sheath knives, machetes, or hatchets – BSA Policy.

- Folding knives are only to be used by adults and Cubs who have earned the “whittling chip” card. Only those Cubs who have earned this card may possess or use a folding knife.
 - Only adults are allowed to use axes. If used, a designated “axe yard” must be established with a roped off perimeter.
 - Children may use a hand bow saw to cut firewood if directly supervised by an adult leader or parent. This may only be done in the “axe yard”.
- e. Bicycling
- Helmets are required any time a bike is being ridden – BSA Policy (Cubs, parents, leaders & siblings).
- f. Water Safety
- Boating activities require use of USCG approved life jackets (all participants) and parental supervision.
 - Parents must directly accompany children when they are fishing or near bodies of water.
- g. Fire Safety
- Children are not allowed to pull burning sticks out of the fire!
 - Parents must accompany children when they are near the fire.
 - No flammable items in tents (Fuel lanterns, matches, etc).
 - Children are not allowed to operate or use fuel-powered camping items: lanterns, stoves, etc.
- h. Injuries / Potential Health Concerns
- The Pack first aid kit will be kept at the camp kitchen. The Cubmaster must be notified if an injury takes place that requires first aid.
 - Pack leadership must be made aware of potentially serious health conditions of participants at the beginning of an event (serious allergies, heart conditions, etc).
- i. Hygiene
- Everyone is expected to arrive for dinner with clean hands and face. The Pack will provide a washing station with soap, if no latrine with running water is available.

VII: Other Procedures & Guidelines

- Uniforms are always required for Saturday evening activities, to include: retreat ceremony, dinner & campfire program. Those not in uniform will not be allowed to participate in the Pack retreat ceremony & will be last through the food line.
- Every campout participant is expected to assist with the specific items required to support the event. To facilitate this, the Assistant Cubmaster for Logistics will post a duty roster by Den at the beginning of the event. This roster can be viewed at the camp kitchen area. 100% of Den members and their parents are expected to fulfill the assigned duties. Potential duties include, but are not limited to: Cooking, meal cleanup, trash police calls, latrine cleanup, firewood gathering, camp kitchen breakdown, etc.
- Porta-Jons will be provided if latrines are unavailable.
- We will always leave facilities in better condition than when we arrived.
- Leave No Trace camping policies will be followed.
- Please plan on arriving at campsites before dark, whenever possible. It is much easier and safer to set up during daylight hours.
- Once your personal gear is set up, please be available to assist with Pack gear.
- Electronic Entertainment Equipment (EEE) will not be allowed (this includes Walkmen, radios, Gameboys, laser pointers).
- Electronics that serves a specific utility purpose are permitted (this includes weather radios, GPS units, cell phones, 2-way radios & medical equipment).
- Pack leaders will strictly enforce BSA Youth Protection Guidelines & the Guide to Safe Scouting policies & procedures.
- Any adult that witnesses an unsafe or potentially dangerous event is expected to intervene. Serious situations should be communicated to the Den Leader or the Cubmaster.
- Adults who smoke or use tobacco products, should do so out of sight. Please remember to police up your own cigarette butts. (Tobacco products are prohibited on BSA camps or property).
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at any Scouting event.
- Specific detail on each camping event will be distributed at Pack meetings, or can be obtained from your Den Leader, or by visiting the Pack 53 website: www.ncpack53.org

VIII: Location-Specific Information

(Helpful details about sites selected for the 2004-05 program year)

Ann Springs Close Greenway: This site is located in Fort Mill, SC. The drive is approximately 20 minutes from Waxhaw. It has latrine facilities and showers. While this is primarily an equestrian facility, there are plenty of places for hiking, field activities and campfire programs. Mountain bikes are not permitted. Courtesy toward horses & riders should be observed. Specific directions are available on the Pack web site.

Tree Tops: This site is located in Van Wyck, SC. The drive is approximately 10 minutes from Waxhaw. It has latrine facilities and showers, along with many other amenities. Additionally, cabin-type structures called "yurts" are available for non-Scouts & family members. This is primarily a privately owned camp for underprivileged or disadvantaged youth. It is made available to groups such as ours when camp is not in session. This camp is undergoing massive improvements and expansion. The facilities are sure to get even better as construction continues. Potential activities include: biking, hiking, field sports, boating, fishing & campfire programs. Specific directions are available on the Pack web site.

Hawk Valley: This site is located approximately 7 miles south of Waxhaw, in the Southwestern corner of Union County. Permanent latrine facilities are not available (except in emergency situations). The Pack will provide a washing station and Porta-Jons for events. This is the home & farm of your current Cubmaster, Bob Denson, his wife Amy, and their two sons, Zachary and Michael. This location has been adopted as the "unofficial private camp" of Pack 53. It is a working horse farm, so courtesy toward the horses & caution around electric fences & farm equipment should be observed. Constant improvements are being made to better support Scouting activities. Potential activities include: biking, hiking, fishing, boating, field sports, orienteering, flag ceremonies, bridging over ceremonies & campfire programs. Specific directions are available on the Pack web site.

Museum of the Waxhaws: This site is located in Waxhaw. Latrine facilities are available. This is a new camping location for our Pack. As the name implies, there is a very informative museum on site. Additionally, there is plenty of room for biking, field activities and campfire programs. This site is located on Hwy 75, just east of downtown Waxhaw.

Clear Creek Scout Camp: This site is located at the tri-county junction of Union, Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties. The drive is approximately 40 minutes from Waxhaw. This is the day camp for Mecklenburg County Council, BSA. It is a BSA property. Although it is referred to as a "day camp", it is a very well developed facility. Latrines and showers are available, along with many other amenities. Any of the activities outlined above are appropriate. Specific directions will be available on the Pack web site.

Virginia Creeper Campground: This site is located near the starting point of the Virginia Creeper Bike Trail in Whitetop, Va. The drive is approximately 3-1/2 to 4 hours from Waxhaw. This is our only "non-local" venue for the year. The campground is privately owned. Latrine and shower facilities are available, as well as an on-site restaurant. Potential activities include: biking, hiking, field activities, stream fishing & campfire programs. Please note: It can get unexpectedly **cold** in the mountains...even in the Summer months. Please bring your jackets, sweatshirts & light gloves.