

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SUMMER CAMPING 2009 at Bovay Scout Ranch

ATTENDANCE

Who can attend Cub Adventure Camp during summer sessions?

A typical summer resident camp experience is designed for participation by a Cub Scout youth and at least one adult member of his family. However one adult webelos leader may be responsible for up to three youth.

A Cub Scout and adult family member may register to attend summer camp at Cub Adventure Camp in one of three ways:

- **Pack reservations is the preferred method.** Cub Scout packs are encouraged to make reservations as a group to insure that all pack families will be assigned to the same session. Each child in attendance is expected to be under the supervision of an adult member of the pack, with one adult for up to three youth.
- **Den reservations.** Cub Scout or Webelos Scout dens can make reservations to attend summer camp at Cub Adventure Camp during any available sessions. One adult per three youth maximum.

NOTE: *A new Tiger Cub joining in May 2009 or thereafter is not eligible to attend summer resident camp.*

- **Individual family reservations.** The family of an individual Cub Scout youth can make reservations to attend summer camp at Cub Adventure Camp for any available summer session. The family will share a campsite and program area with other families, dens, or packs. Children who are not registered members of the Cub Scouts are not normally allowed on property during summer resident camp. Talk to the Camp Director for “special cases”.

May I bring my pet?

No. Pets should stay home. Bovay Scout Ranch has its own wild critters for you to listen to, look at, and observe -- but not touch!

ARRIVING AT CAMP

May I arrive at camp the night before camp starts?

No, the gates are opened at the published arrival time of 2:00 PM the afternoon of the opening date of your session.

Where do I go to check-in at camp?

For Cub Adventure Camp: As you enter camp on the paved road follow it until you pass the oil derrick on your left. You will be directed to your campsite by a Staff Greeter and conduct your pack check-in there.

What paper work is required to check in at camp?

- Documents showing your reservation forms, copies of checks, receipts etc. These make things easier if there is a problem.
- Physical for all youths and adults
- Medication forms
- **DO NOT MAIL FORMS IN**, bring to camp with you.

PROGRAM

What facilities are provided at Cub Adventure Camp?

Cub Adventure Camp at Bovay Scout Ranch features a 500-seat air-conditioned dining hall, spacious campsite pavilions, trading post, flush toilets, hot showers, headquarters building, 20 campsites, aquatic park, seven program theme areas, and 1400 acres of safe, secure, rolling hills and lakeview vistas.

What are the seven program areas and what activities are offered there?

- Elkins Foundation Indian Village – archery, lacrosse, sail boats, fishing, canoes
- S. S. Mary K. Fleming Paddle Wheel Boat – Huck Finn rafts, raingutter regatta, knots, fishing
- Fort Blue Bell – Pellet guns, steer roping, pedal boats, fishing, horseshoes
- Mine Shaft – cave exploration, gold panning, ore cart races
- K. S. "Bud" Adams Sports Activity Area – traverse climbing wall, BMX bikes, sports fields (softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball), kite flying, parachute games, earthball
- Reliant Energy Nature Center – nature programs, hikes
- Marathon Oil Company Oil Derrick – Dino Dig, fossils, kite flying, history of oil
- Webelos Scouts have their own program area which includes a pellet rifle range, action archery range, row boating, canoeing, sailing, crafts, knots, first aide, nature, team sports, BMX, traverse wall, hiking, the water park, and an optional Rocketry program.

What can I expect as far as staff and equipment in these theme areas?

Cub Adventure Camp will provide staff members for each program area. Assistance by adult members of your pack is appreciated.

Equipment for the above-listed activities is provided. Program areas are available for your pack to rotate through each area with the other packs in camp on a daily schedule. Your pack may choose to conduct some individual pack activities (games, crafts, etc.) during your stay at camp, but you should expect to provide your own equipment for these.

May siblings participate in program areas?

No, not normally. Children who are not registered members of the Cub Scouts are not normally allowed on property during summer resident camp. Talk to the Camp Director for “special cases.”

Can everyone go fishing? Do you need a license? Can you bring your own pole, bait, and tackle?

Yes, this is a free time activity and everyone can go fishing. You do not need a license as all lakes are Catch and Release only. You are welcome to bring your own bait, pole, and tackle. The program areas around the lake (Indian Village, Paddlewheeler, and the Fort) will provide fishing poles on a limited basis.

Can we build a campfire?

Yes. There is a provision for wood-burning fires or charcoal fires at each campsite at Cub Adventure Camp. Bring your own wood and charcoal. Two natural gas campfire arenas, each seating up to 500 people, are available and can be reserved by your pack.

Can I retire a flag at the campfire ring?

Yes. Since the campfire rings are in your campsite, the burning of flags is approved at Cub Adventure Camp.

Can we have an Arrow of Light ceremony? Do we provide the ceremonial team?

Yes. You can have an Arrow of Light ceremony, but Cub Adventure Camp does not provide a ceremonial team. Your pack should make its own arrangements for any special ceremony. One of the campfire arenas or another desired site may be reserved through the registrar.

Does the camp conduct a Sunday morning chapel service?

Yes. The camp staff will conduct a chapel service every Sunday morning. A pack may also arrange a pack-run service of their own at Cub Adventure Camp. The chapel or a campfire area can be reserved by your pack for this purpose, or the service may be held in your campsite.

May I bring my own BMX bike to camp? May I bring my bike to Camp?

No. For safety reasons Cub Adventure Camp provides its own BMX bicycles, helmets, and chest protectors. As per camp guidelines, skates, skateboards, scooters, etc. should be left at home. You may bring your own bike to ride at the camporee site or Cub Adventure Camp as long as BSA biking guidelines are used – which require wearing approved helmets.

May adults ride the BMX bikes?

No. The course and bicycles are designed for 6-10 year olds, along with the helmets and chest protectors for the age-appropriate course. Adults and sibling outside of this age-range are unable to participate in this activity. Adults and kids may bring their own bicycles to ride, but not on the BMX track. See above answer on BSA bike guidelines.

Will my pack be able to do a service project?

Yes. Let the camp registrar know prior to your arrival date and the ranger usually has several from which to choose.

May I take a wild animal home from camp?

No. Campers should not attempt to handle wild animals at any time. Bovay Scout Ranch has a wide variety of wildlife to observe, but campers should remember NOT to disturb them or their environment.

CAMPSITES

How many people can be assigned a campsite during summer resident camp?

The average campsite is designed for 16 people in 8 tents. You may bring your own tent if you wish.

May I choose my campsite?

No. The registrar assigns campsites.

Are tents provided for everyone in my den and pack for the summer session?

Yes. There are only 8 (eight) tents per campsite, which are set up on concrete pads. There is plenty of room in each campsite to set up personal tents if you wish. Personal tents are to be set up beyond or behind the tents Bovay provides and are not to be set up under the campsite pavilion.

Is there electricity in the tents or in the campsites?

There are lights in each campsite pavilion, the restrooms, and the showers but there are no lights in tents. There is one 12-amp receptacle at each campsite under the pavilion. However, fans, lights, or any other electrical appliances may **NOT** be run on extension cords from the pavilion to the tents.

Can we use bug candles? Can we use lanterns? What kind?

Bug candles cannot be used anywhere at camp due to the open flame policy. Propane or battery-powered lanterns are acceptable for general campsite use. No gas or kerosene lanterns should be brought to camp because liquid fuels are not allowed.

NOTE: Only flashlights and battery-powered lanterns are permitted in tents. “No flames in tents” is a BSA policy that must be enforced.

How many can sleep in one of the camp-provided tents?

Three cots will fit in one tent. We usually only assign two persons to a tent.

NOTE: As per BSA Youth Protection Guidelines, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his/her parent or guardian. Male and female leaders require separate tents; married couples may share the same tent.

Tell me about the restroom and shower facilities.

There are modern restroom and shower facilities with flush toilets and hot showers located within 150 feet of each campsite at Cub Adventure Camp. We like to say that Cub Adventure Camp is a “first-time-camper friendly” environment. Bovay Scout Ranch has its own water and sewer

system much like a small city. There are no restroom or shower facilities at the Duke Energy Camporee site. Port-o-potties are used there.

Is there poison ivy or poison oak at camp?

Yes. Poison ivy and poison oak are both found at Bovay Scout Ranch, as well as many other types of plants and wildflowers native to south Texas.

MEALS

Are Cub Adventure Camp participants allowed to cook their own meals?

No. Cub Adventure Camp has a full-service dining hall on site that will provide all meals. There are provisions in the campsites for fires, but not for cooking of any meals.

May I bring a propane camp stove for preparing coffee at my campsite in the morning?

Yes. For your convenience, however, freshly brewed coffee will be available each morning in the dining hall beginning at 6:30 AM. The coffee wagon comes around to each campsite several times between 6 AM and 7AM. We encourage you to take advantage of this service.

Can I use charcoal for Dutch oven cooking?

Yes. The use of wood, charcoal, fake paper logs, etc. is allowed at Bovay Scout Ranch but please consider their effects on the environment and safety of your outing. These may be used in the campsite fire ring provided.

May we bring our own food, snacks, and drinks?

Yes. We would prefer that you not bring your own snacks, however, as food in the campsite will attract wild critters. Our dining hall is fully stocked to provide all food necessary. Both snacks and drinks can be purchased at *Trader Vic's* trading post.

If your dietary needs are special, please feel free to bring some of your own food supplements if that will make your stay more comfortable. The full fee will be charged per person.

What do you have for me to eat? Do I get to choose my own menu? What about food allergies? Vegetarians? Kosher?

We serve a wide variety of food. The camp director chooses the menu, and it varies weekly. Most food allergies and dietary needs (including Kosher) can be met if we have your request in writing **two weeks** prior to arrival. Please fax your requests to the camp office (936-825-2456) stating: name, pack number, date attending camp, number of special meals required, and type of special need required.

FEES

How much does it cost for a summer session at Cub Adventure Camp?

\$110 per youth and \$55 per adult. This fee includes supper on Day One; breakfast, lunch and supper on Day Two; and breakfast, lunch, supper on Day Three and breakfast on Day 4 –plus a T-shirt and patch for all youth, and craft project for each youth and rocket kit for all Webelos.

What happens if it rains, thunderstorms, or we have inclement weather?

Camp goes on. You may be out of the pool or off the BMX track for a while, but camp will continue.

In the rare event of hazardous conditions that require closing of the camp, those persons designated as unit leaders on the registration forms will be contacted as early as possible prior to check-in.

Is the summer patch included in the fee?

Yes, but extra patches and adult t-shirts can be purchased at Trader Vic's .

Is there any financial assistance available for summer camping?

Yes. Camperships (camping scholarships) for youth only – based on need and availability – are available, with a maximum of 50 % of fees paid. A campership request form is included in your registration packet, or contact Sam Houston Area Council Camping Services (713-756-3303) to have one sent to you.

A single camper may receive only one council campership per year for Cub Adventure Camp, so either resident summer camp or weekend camp -- but not both -- are available within a calendar year. Additional financial assistance may be available through your pack or your chartered organization.

Can I get a refund?

Refunds are handled on a case-by-case basis. Submit a refund request form (found in your registration packet) to Camping Services explaining the reason for your request. Since the food portion of the cost may have already been incurred, usually only partial refunds are approved. Early written notice of your cancellation should be faxed to 713-865-9125. Refund request Are accepted till August 10th no exceptions.

May relatives attend just the campfire at no cost?

Yes. Relatives may attend the campfire at no cost, but they need to check in at the camp office. We need to know who is on property at all times. Have them come out early and enjoy the evening meal. A meal ticket may be purchased in Trader Vic's at a nominal fee.

REGISTRATION

How do I register for summer camp?

The preferred method is to sign-p and register as a pack. However dens and individuals may register also. This initial registration holds your pack a spot at camp or puts your pack on the waiting list for a spot if the session is already full. You must turn in registration form and Completed roster to register.

How far ahead can I sign up for summer sessions at Cub Adventure Camp?

Contact the camp registrar for availability. We will accept reservations as early as February.

When is it too late to reserve a summer session?

We expect ALL reservations to be in by June 10 and final payment by June 10. We expect sessions to fill.

When is the last possible moment to add more people to my count? When do I pay for them?

Although your fees based on your initial registration figures are required May 10 prior to camp, the final number may be adjusted *on a limited basis* up to June 10 all fees are due at this time.

Substitutions of names of attendees within the unit can be made up to arrival time.

NOTE: Significant additions may not be feasible. If the camp is full, we may not be able to accommodate additional campers.

If I make a reservation for more people than come, do I get a refund on the money?

Cancellations can be accommodated up to June 10, prior to coming to camp. After the deadline only partial refunds are made on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE: Your cancellations may affect others who may have been denied reservations on a given session. Please use courtesy by letting the camp registrar know your adjusted numbers as soon as possible so that we can accommodate as many families as possible at Cub Adventure Camp.

How do we pay?

Fees may be paid by check or by using major credit cards:

- Packs – Preferred method is one check from the unit account or a single charge to a leader's personal charge card.
- Dens – Preferred method is one check or a single charge.
- Families – Check or charge.

How do I know if I'm registered for a camp session?

- You will receive a confirmation from the camping department on or before June 10.
- A camp leaders guide and frequently asked questions will be posted on the website..
- If your chosen session is full, you will be notified by June 10 and given alternate dates to choose from. Reservations are on a first come first served basis. The Council reserves the right to cancel or move sessions at its discretion.

FAQs - Revised January 2009 by rrf