

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – WEEKEND CAMPING

McNair Cub Adventure Camp at Bovay Scout Ranch

ATTENDANCE

Who can attend Cub Adventure Camp during weekend sessions?

A typical weekend experience is designed for participation by a Cub Scout youth and at least one adult member of his family. Brothers and sisters may also choose to attend.

A Cub Scout and his family may register to attend Cub Adventure Camp in one of three ways:

- **Pack reservations.** Cub Scout packs are encouraged to make reservations as a group to insure that all pack families will be assigned to the same campsite. Each child in attendance is expected to be under the supervision of an adult member of his own family.
- **Den reservations.** Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, or Webelos dens can make reservations to attend Cub Adventure Camp on any available weekend. Each child is expected to be under the supervision of an adult member of his own family.

NOTE: *Cub Adventure Camp is the ONLY location at which Tiger Cub and Cub Scout dens may camp as a den unit.* Den camping is allowed at Cub Adventure Camp because, according to BSA camping guidelines, it is designated as “council-organized family camping” with meals and staff provided. (See *Cub Scout Leader Book* for details.) Any other overnight campout in which Tiger Cubs or Cub Scouts participate must be part of a pack overnighter, conducted at a council-approved site under the direction of a BALOO-trained leader.

- **Individual family reservations.** An individual family of a Cub Scout youth can make reservations to attend Cub Adventure Camp on any available weekend. The family will share a campsite and program area with other families, dens, or packs.

NOTE: This allowance for family reservations is also permitted only at Cub Adventure Camp because of its designation as “council-organized family camping.”

- ❖ *New Online registration is now available on our website at www.samhoustonbsa.org*

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Can a Boy Scout troop camp at Cub Adventure Camp?

Yes, on a limited basis. Program areas at Cub Adventure Camp are restricted to members of the Cub Scouting program. Age-appropriate activities are crucial to the development of our young people.

Troops can, however, arrange to camp at Cub Adventure Camp if they agree to work on a conservation project or service project for a minimum of 3-4 hours. Projects will vary, depending on what is available. Troops may choose to prepare their own food (cooked on propane stoves only) or, for a nominal fee, eat their meals in the Dining Hall. Troops need to fill out and turn in the troop camping reservation form.

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!

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 eight program areas and what activities are offered there?

- Elkins Foundation Indian Village – archery, lacrosse, row boats, fishing, canoes
- Water Park
- S. S. Mary K. Fleming Paddle Wheel Boat – Huck Finn rafts, raingutter regatta, knots, fishing
- Fort Blue Bell – Pellet gun range, 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, sports fields (softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball), kite flying, parachute games, earth ball and golf driving range
- Reliant Energy Nature Center – nature programs, hikes
- Marathon Oil Company Oil Derrick – Dino Dig, fossils, kite flying, history of oil
- Emerson Homes BMX Bike Track and Bike training area

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

Cub Adventure Camp will provide at least one staff member for each program area, who is to be assisted by adult members of your Pack. Plan on at least one adult for every fifteen boys being available to assist in the assigned program area. Training will be provided if necessary. This adult should be listed on roster as staff and this individual is not charged a reservation fee for the weekend. They should expect to work from 1:00 to 5:00 in a specific program area assign by Camp Director at the 10:30 am meeting on arrival day in the Safari Room.

Equipment for the above-listed activities is provided. Each weekend three to four program areas are available for your Pack to rotate through with the other Packs in camp. Your pack may choose to conduct some Pack activities (games, crafts, etc.) during your stay at camp, but you should expect to provide your own equipment for these.

Can we go to more than one program area?

At least four program areas will be available to each Pack. The total number of areas open on a given weekend will depend on the number of pre-registered campers and the number of staff scheduled for the weekend, based upon that number. Every effort will be made to accommodate your choice of program areas. A common mistake is to attempt to participate in too many programs. Quality time in a program area is required for the boys to maximize their fun. Usually the Fort, Indian Village, Water Park and BMX / Sports field are open.

May siblings participate in program areas?

Yes, as long as they are old enough to participate safely in the various program areas. The appropriate age for each individual activity is based on physical stress, size, strength, etc. As a general rule, no child under 5 years of age would be able to really enjoy and participate fully.

\$15 will be charged for siblings under 5 years of age under 3 years there is no charge.

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

Yes, 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 (Paddlewheeler, and the Fort) will provide fishing poles on a limited basis. Worms and minnows are available in Navasota, three miles away.

Can we build a campfire?

Yes. There is a provision for wood-burning fires or charcoal fires at each campsite at Bovay Scout Ranch. Bring your own wood and charcoal. Remember No Liquid Fuels are allowed in camp. Two natural gas campfire arenas, each seating up to 500 people, are available and can be reserved by your pack. Fire wood can be pre-ordered at a fee of \$5.00 per setup.

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 Bovay Scout Ranch.

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?

No. The chapel service is a pack-arranged and pack-run event at Cub Adventure Camp. The chapel or a campfire area can be reserved by your pack for this purpose.

May I bring my bike to Camp?

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, but you may not ride them on the BMX track.

May I bring my own BMX bike to camp?

No. For safety reasons Cub Adventure Camp provides its own BMX bicycles, helmets, and chest protectors to ride on our BMX course. As per camp guidelines skates, skateboards, scooters, etc. should be left at home.

May adults ride the BMX bikes?

No. The course and bikes 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 bikes 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 to choose from. You can always bring and plant a 4' Oak or Pecan tree.

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?

The average campsite is designed for 50-60 people. Larger units will require an additional adjacent campsite.

May I choose my campsite?

No. Campsites are assigned by the registrar because we rotate campsites each week. Campsites will be assigned in as close proximity as possible to the program areas in which you will be participating.

Are tents provided for everyone in my family, group, den, and pack for the weekend?

No. There are only 8 (eight) tents per campsite, which are set up on concrete pads. These tents are intended for those new campers in the pack who do not have a tent of their own and **must be reserved** 10 days ahead of time, so they can be set up for \$5.00 each .This is to make camping more *readily* available to new families in Cub Scouting. There is plenty of room in each campsite to set up personal tents.

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.

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.

May I bring my RV or pop-up camper?

Yes. There are spaces for RV's or pop-up campers at Bovay Scout Ranch at the end of Road B and at the camporee site if your District Events Committee elects to use them.

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 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. 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 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 office (713-865-9125) or e-mail randy.fowler@shac.org stating: name, pack number, date attending camp, number of special meals required, type of special need required. All persons requesting special meals will be fed at the end of the line in order to speed up serving.

FEES

How much does it cost for a weekend at McNair Cub Adventure Camp?

\$40 per cub or adult. This fee includes Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, all program equipment, and a weekend camping patch. On special request, once per year we offer Friday night to Saturday afternoon weekends for those who can't camp on Saturday nights. The meals for those weekends are Friday supper and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Fees for comparable weekend camps and outings range from \$45 to \$65 per person. Because of your strong support of the Scouting program in our council, Sam Houston Area Council has been able to offer this opportunity to your family at only \$40 per cub or adult.

If we don't spend the night, is the fee reduced?

No. The fee will remain \$40 per cub and adult. The fee is fair and based on meals, program area usage, supplies, and staffing.

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 for the weekend, those persons designated as unit leaders on the registration forms will be contacted as early as possible prior to check-in.

Is the weekend patch included in the fee?

Yes, but extra patches can be purchased at *Trader Vic's* for \$2.00.

Is there any financial assistance available for weekend camping?

Yes. Camperships (camping scholarships) – 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 (713-756-3322) 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 or emailed to Randy.fowler@shac.org.

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 far ahead can I sign up for a weekend at Cub Adventure Camp?

Contact the camp registrar for availability. We will accept "Hold-A-Place" reservations 16 months in advance of the activity. Be aware that sessions do fill for favorite weekends.

When is it too late to reserve a weekend?

100% of your unit's registration fees are due 30 days prior to camp. As available, you may reserve a spot anytime prior to this date. Additional campers may be added if there is room availability.

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 30 days prior to camp, the final number may be adjusted *on a limited basis* up to 10 days prior to your attendance; additional fees are due at this time. These adjustments to your registration figures should be submitted by fax at 713-865-9125.

Only changes to total numbers attending need to be submitted two weeks prior. Substitutions of names of attendees within the unit can be made up to arrival time. **NOTE:** Significant additions may not be feasible, depending on the weekend. 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 two weeks prior to coming to camp. After the two-week deadline only partial refunds are made on a case-by-case basis. We will accept new numbers and/or cancellations from your pack by fax at 713-865-9125.

NOTE: Your cancellations may affect others who may have been denied reservations on a given weekend. 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 McNair 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.
- Online website www.samhoustonbsa.org, go to forms

ARRIVING AT CAMP

May I arrive at camp on Friday night?

No, the gates are opened at the published arrival time of 9:00 AM Saturday morning. We do have two weekends set aside as Friday to Saturday camping for those who cannot camp on Saturday night.

Where do I go to check-in at camp?

For Cub Adventure Camp: As you enter camp on the paved road, follow it to the big green building. This is the Headquarters, and that's where check-in is located.

For camporee area participants: Go directly to the camporee area. Turn right at the sign just past the Walnut Grove House.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Is there a location available for large-scale district activities?

Yes. Bovay Scout Ranch has the Duke Energy Camporee Site, a 100-acre camporee site available for district Cub Scout and Boy Scout activities. This site is equipped with a 750 car all-weather parking lot. Potable water and access roads make this site a first class area. Your District Executive will facilitate reservations.

Please note that in keeping with sound, environmental friendly ideals, only propane cooking fires are recommended. As in Cub Adventure Camp, this is a **leave no trace** area and camp will provide ash cans to dispose of any ash or charcoal.. **Showers are not available at the camporee area and portable latrines are necessary for sanitary needs. These porta potties need to be Ordered through Wayne at Bovay by fax 936-825-2456.**

Can the camporee site users use the dining hall, water park, nature center or any other areas of the McNair Cub Adventure Camp?

Maybe. This is handled on a case-by-case basis through the camp director. As a general rule, camporee activities are usually limited to the camporee area and Cub Adventure Camp facilities are limited to those reserving campsites in that area. The decision to allow a camporee to use additional sites is based on the camp schedule and the numbers in camp. These areas may not be reserved ahead of time.

Where do I go to check-in at camp?

Camporee area participants should go directly to the camporee area. Turn right at the sign just past the Walnut Grove House.

Can I use a gasoline-powered electric generator?

Yes. This may be accommodated on a case-by-case basis for district events only. Ask your District Executive to facilitate this request directly with the Camp Director.