

Camp Parsons

Where the Mountains Meet the Sea



Important Information

**** Do Not Lose ****

Welcome to Camp Parsons as we celebrate our 108th season of continuous camping on the Hood Canal. This memo is to provide information to you rather than taking your time covering this during the opening Scoutmaster meeting. Given the volume of information we feel it is important to relay this to you in written form. Please read prior to coming to the meeting particularly to see if you have any questions.

Cars are restricted to the parking lot. If you need to have some major piece of equipment moved into your campsite (outside of personal gear and troop equipment) we may be able to move this to your campsite with our authorized camp vehicles. This will be at the discretion of the Camp Ranger.

Upon arrival, you will proceed through check-in and get settled into your campsite. ***From time to time we must make last minute changes so you may be in a campsite that you were not originally scheduled to be in.*** We apologize if this causes any hardship, but we must make the best fit for the whole camp. We ask that you understand that we must safely accommodate all campers at Camp Parsons. Once settled in, your staff guide will take you on a tour. Your staff guide will be an excellent reference point for questions you may have, however – to make sure you have an accurate answer – questions are best answered by the Program Director, Head Commissioner or the Area Director of the area in question.

You most likely will be sharing a campsite with another troop. We ask that you and the Senior Patrol Leader meet with that troop and get to know them and set up boundaries regarding your troop area. **You will be sharing some resources**, particularly the showerhouse. Best practice is to develop a clean-up schedule that you share amongst the other troops sharing your campsite. We have found in the past that most situations that developed between troops could have been prevented or solved quickly if the troop leadership talks with one another.

When you come to camp we will give you a list of **camp rules** from the Leaders Guide. Please take the time and go through them. **Two very important rules must be emphasized. First, if a scout is found outside of camp property, they will be sent home immediately. This includes crossing the county road instead of using the culverts that were designed for this. Second, if a scout is found in possession of fireworks, regardless of whether they use them, they will be sent home.** These are two safety rules that we feel strongly about and will be dealt with swiftly. Unless behavior affects the safety of the camp property, staff, other scouts or the individual scout, all disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Mail arrives at the Silver Marmot Grill and is generally available for pick-up at 3:00 PM. We ask that an adult pick up the mail for the troop. Outgoing mail should be given to the office staff by 11:00 AM to go out that day.

Lost and Found is located at the Silver Marmot Grill. Areas drop off any items left at the end of each day. If you find an item, please drop it off in the office.

Equipment can be checked out of the Tool Room located at the shop; the hours are posted on the door. On Sunday, the tool room is open during the merit badge sign-up time only. Please come here if you require any tools, cooking equipment, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. Check out equipment the evening before your cookout day. The kitchen does not have any utensils or cooking gear to checkout.

Cookout Your troop will be spending Wednesday (lunch and dinner) cooking in your campsite. Our friendly kitchen staff will drop off lunch around 11:30 AM and dinner starting at 4:30 PM. Dinner supplies will be picked up around 7:00 PM. The only thing that is to be returned are the coolers. Fruit, meat, milk (opened or not), etc. cannot be taken back to the kitchen and must be disposed of properly by individual troops. If you have any questions, feel free to ask any kitchen staff member. Alternatives will be provided for scouts with special dietary needs.

Lunch Menu

- Hot Dogs
- Buns
- Chips
- Fruit
- Juice Mix
- Condiments

Dinner Menu

- Ground Beef
- Taco Seasoning
- Sour Cream
- Salsa
- Lettuce
- Fritos
- Fruit

Emergencies & Health Lodge If you encounter any emergencies, medical or otherwise, that requires immediate attention, please get a hold of any staff member and notify them of the emergency.

After each meal, the health officer will be available at the Health Lodge for Sick Call (located just off the Dining Hall Parade field towards the water). Minor cuts, bruises, and scrapes should be tended to by the troop, as if you were on a regular campout.

If there is a camp emergency, fire bells will ring constantly. When you hear the fire bell ringing constantly, extinguish any fires you have in the campsite and report immediately to the parade field in front of the Silver Marmot Grill. Do not have the troop meet first in the campsite, they can form together once they arrive at the parade field. You will be instructed what to do next by a staff member.

Scout Illness Hand washing is the most important thing to help prevent the spread of infectious illness. Make sure your scouts wash their hands prior to meals in your campsite. Any Scout that has a temperature and either diarrhea or vomiting **WILL BE SENT HOME**. This is to prevent the spread of an infectious agent across camp. If a scout is sent home and improves, they may return to camp when cleared by their health care provider.

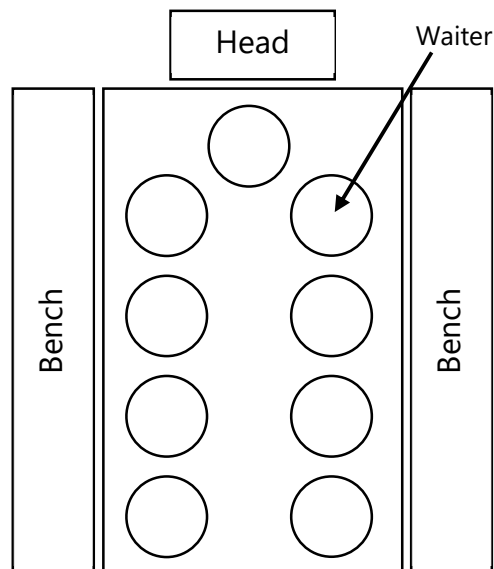
Daily Assemblies Each day, prior to a meal, there will be a camp wide assembly. The times for these are 7:50 AM, 12:25 PM, and 5:50 PM. There will be a Senior Patrol Leader's report taken at that time. When asked to report, the SPL will take two steps forward and report that the troop is all present (this includes the waiters who are attending to the meal) or all accounted for if someone is absent but accounted for. If a scout is not accounted for, notify a staff member. Following this, there will be a flag ceremony for the morning and evening meal. Although we appreciate scout and troop spirit during this report period, we ask that you do not charge or approach the staff member taking the report or giving messages. By doing this you will automatically disqualify your troop for Honor Troop. If a staff member encourages you to do this, please notify the Program Director.

Meals Except for lunch and dinner on Wednesday, you will be eating in the Dining Hall. For each dining hall meal, you will need to supply waiters to tend to your troop. We ask that you send 1 waiter for every 9 people in your troop (round up) to the dining hall at 7:15 AM for breakfast, 12:05 PM for lunch and 5:15 PM for dinner. It is important that your waiters are on time, if not, this will delay the meal. It is also important that they stay behind to help clean up their tables. If they leave prior to their duties being complete, the table will be left as it is. It is probably best you rotated the waiter duties so that a new waiter starts every morning.

We eat family style here at camp, which consists of food being placed on the table and being passed around from the head of the table (see diagram). Tables seat nine average scouts. The tables are set as shown to the right:

When you enter the dining hall, you can identify your tables in two ways.

- 1. Look for your waiter.**
- 2. Look at the printed sheet on the end of the table listing your troop number.**



When you arrive to your table, we ask that you remain standing until grace is complete. We ask that adults sit at the head of the table. There will be seconds called after the meal commences, we ask that you send only the waiter up during this time. This reduces the number of individuals moving around the dining hall and reduces the chance of accidents. **Please do not send multiple scouts up to get food**, this is the job for the waiter. Scouts remain seated until dismissed from the dining hall. Please do not send scouts out of the dining hall for "a breath of fresh air" unless they have some adult supervision.

Given the various sizes of scouts and adults which may vary from table to table, please monitor the proportions that scouts take so that the food is distributed evenly around the table. If there are problems with the food service please let us know prior to the end of the week, so we can try to solve those issues that may arise. Please remember, there are only nine to a table, please do not try to fit in more.

Coffee We always try to have coffee available at the Silver Marmot Grill and at the Dining Hall. Coffee/tea is for adults only. If you allow your scouts to drink coffee then we ask that you get this for them, as we will not allow scouts to pour or take coffee.

Scoutmaster Meetings We have a daily Scoutmaster meeting at 10:00 AM at the Silver Marmot Grill. During this time, we will discuss the daily program and problem solve challenges that develop during the week. Programming issues can also be discussed but troop time scheduling will be done during the Senior Patrol Leaders meeting.

Scoutmaster Lounge The meeting room at the Silver Marmot Grill also serves as the Scoutmaster Lounge where adults can take a little refuge from the madness that is camp. There is hot water, tea, usually hot chocolate, and coffee. This is a self-service operation, and for adults only. We ask that you help keep this area as clean as possible.

Cell Phones There is no policy regarding cell phones other than we STRONGLY DISCOURAGE scouts from using them in program areas. A word of caution regarding scouts using cell phones, we have had an increasing number of late-night emergency phone calls by parents who received a phone call from a home sick or "frightened" young scout. Many times, the Scoutmaster is not aware of any concern involving members of their troop until we notify them or even worse, the parents show up in the parking lot to take their child home. It is our recommendation that you confiscate or not allow cell phones amongst your younger scouts, however, this decision is left to the troop leadership.

Wi-fi This service came out of requests from many adults who need to conduct business even while at camp. Wi-fi is available around the Silver Marmot Grill from 5:00 AM to 10:30 PM. This is a free service for adults. If we find that scouts are using laptops or mobile devices, this service may be turned off for the week.

Smoking Presenting a bad example for our scouts and a fire hazard, smoking is discouraged among leaders while in camp. If leaders must smoke, they are asked to use designated smoking areas and not to smoke in the woods, on the trails or in front of the Scouts. Designated areas are behind the Silver Marmot Grill and the gravel area near the dining hall's loading dock.

Program Camp Parsons offers a wide selection of program items that will hopefully meet the needs of your troop as well as the individual scouts. Each program area has either a Director or an Area Lead. Should you have any questions regarding the program within an area, please seek out this individual who will do their best to provide you with the program you need. Please understand that Scouting America has specific policies which govern the operation of any resident camp. The staff is responsible to the management to provide a safe environment for the scouts that attend camp. Although staff members will never discipline a scout, they have the agency to remove any individual including adults from the program area if they feel there is danger or if that individual does not follow the area or camp rules. Should you have any concern involving this, please speak with the Program Director, Assistant Camp Director, or the Camp Director.

Check In and Out When you arrive at camp, a roster of scout's names and adult's names of who will be attending for the week is handed in to the office, this is our fire roster. Adults who check out of camp must sign out on the clipboard located outside the entrance to the office and sign back in when they return. Scouts may leave camp property but only with the appropriate adult or staff leadership with them (or their parents). They too must sign out on that clipboard. If a scout or adult is checking into camp after Sunday registration, then they will sign in on the clipboard as well as check in at the office so we can make sure their name is on the roster. If a scout is coming up late, it is best that an adult is there to meet them in the parking lot, make sure they have a health form filled out, and escort them to the campsite. At the end of the week, you do not need to check out once the camp is dismissed. Adults staying overnight will need to receive an identifying wristband.

Wristbands When you check into camp you will receive a blue wristband to wear around your wrist. This is to identify you as a registered adult at Camp Parsons. Given the volume of people that come and go, it is difficult to identify adults who are supposed to be here as opposed to those who are visiting. This is done to protect our scouts from possible intruders. When adults check in during the week, they will be given a wristband once they are checked on the roster you filled out. If the office is closed when an adult arrives partway through the week, they should sign in on the clipboard outside the office, then return during office hours for a wristband. Please help us keep your scouts and our staff safe.

Staff Staff members are easily identifiable by the blue jacket with the thunderbird symbol or they will be wearing staff T-shirts. The staff member assigned as your staff guide is an employed, full season staff member and is an excellent resource should you have simple questions regarding the operation of camp. We also have volunteers in camp: Counselors-in-Training (CIT) and Visiting Commissioners. CIT's are young scouts who spend a week at camp learning about being a staff member. As such, they probably will not have a firm grasp on camp operations and are not good resources with regards to this. Commissioners, much like yourself, are staff alumni or Scoutmasters who have spent time at Camp Parsons and can be an excellent resource, particularly when it comes to helping you with troop issues.

Visitors Although visitors are welcome, Camp Parsons is not designed to accommodate their needs. If you have visitors coming to camp, they will need to sign in at the office. If they plan on eating a meal at Camp, they must purchase a meal ticket prior to the meal if space is available. Visitors do not eat with the troop; they are accommodated at a separate table. Only registered Scouts BSA members may stay overnight at Camp Parsons; **young children who are not of scout age cannot stay overnight**. There are local motels or state parks nearby that can accommodate your visitor's needs and we will be happy to give you information with regards to this.

Health Forms An annual health form is required for every scout and adult leader that attends camp. This includes the signature of the parent/guardian AND a licensed health care practitioner. **THE SIGNATURES MUST BE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS.** A health form is valid through the end of the 12th month from the date it was administered by your medical provider. For example, a physical administered July 3, 2022, would be valid until July 31, 2023. We are sorry, but we will not accept signatures that are a year old and one day and so on. If a scout or adult is in camp less than 72 hours (total, not continuous), then only the health and medical history form – parts A and B – are required (along with the parent signature if the attendee is younger than 18 years of age). Part C is required for participation in aquatics activities regardless of how long they will be in camp.

We appreciate your attention to these policies. **It is very important that you share this information and handout with those adults replacing you as the Scoutmaster during the week if you leave, as well as those other adults within your troop.** We find our biggest obstacles to a smooth-running camp in general extend from poor communication and lack of information. Please help us overcome this challenge. We hope you enjoy your week here at Camp Parsons and if there is anything we can do to help your scouting week, please ask. Thank you.