

CUYUNA SCOUT CAMP

TWIN VALLEY COUNCIL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & QUICK-START GUIDE FOR NEW LEADERS, SCOUTS & PARENTS

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CAMP CUYUNA FAQs

When can we check in and out of camp for the week?

Please plan to arrive for check-in between noon and 2:00 on Sunday. Check-in stops will include the business office, a visit with the program director, medical screenings, and swim checks. Check-out times between 6:00 and 9:00 am on Saturday should be scheduled with a commissioner.

Camp Cuyuna is a patrol method camp and the scouts prepare their own meals. What cooking equipment should we bring?

Standard outdoor kitchen equipment including camp stoves, frying pans, pots, plates, bowls, cups, utensils, Dutch ovens, and dish-washing equipment. We'll provide a scrubbing pad, dish soap, and sanitizer.

What is the camp policy on the storage and dispensing of medications?

Camp Cuyuna follows BSA National policy, which states:

"The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. A leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a youth takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA does not mandate or necessarily encourage the leader to do so. Also, if state laws are more limiting, they must be followed."

At Cuyuna, we feel that all medications should be under the control of a responsible adult.

What is the new BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, do I have to use it, and where can I find it?

Effective January 1, 2010, all members are required to use the new Annual Health and Medical Record, Form 34605.

- **Parts A and C** are to be completed annually by all BSA unit members. Both parts are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, such as day camp, day hikes, swimming parties, or an overnight camp, and where medical care is readily available. Medical information required includes a current health history and list of medications. Part C also includes the parental informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement (with an area for notarization if required by your state) as well as a talent release statement. Adult unit leaders should review participants' health histories and become knowledgeable about the medical needs of the youth members in their unit. This form is to be filled out by participants and parents or guardians and kept on file for easy reference.

- **Part B** is required with parts A and C for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding, such as a high-adventure trek. Service projects or work weekends may also fit this description. It is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider—physician (MD, DO), nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant as appropriate for your state. The level of activity ranges from what is normally expended at home or at school to strenuous activity such as hiking and backpacking. Other examples include tour camping, jamborees, and Wood Badge training courses. It is important to note that the height/weight limits must be strictly adhered to if the event will take the unit beyond a radius wherein emergency evacuation is more than 30 minutes by ground transportation, such as backpacking trips, high-adventure activities, and conservation projects in remote areas.

The form is available online at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34605_Letter.pdf and in our Cuyuna Scout Camp Leader's Guide.

When are the camp-wide meals, and what should we bring?

Camp-wide meals, prepared and served by the staff, are Sunday and Friday evenings at 6:00. Please bring your own plates, cups and utensils. Be sure to wear your scout uniforms both nights. We'll also line you up for a troop picture prior to the meal on Sunday.

Staff eats lunch with the troops. What do we need to provide or do?

All you need to do prepare a little extra food and provide a plate, cup, and utensils for each staff member (1-2 per patrol) visiting your site. The commissary will automatically provide the additional portions for the staff.

Are we required to bring Boy Scout Field (Class A) uniforms? When should we wear them?

There are a few specific times to wear Class A uniforms (or at least scout uniform shirts): Sunday camp-wide meal and campfire; Wednesday evening for chapel; and Friday camp-wide meal and campfire. At all other times, Class B and/or C (Activity uniforms) are encouraged, but any clothing appropriate to scout camp is acceptable. The new centennial uniform is no required.

What do we have to do to earn the pizza dinner?

Troops with all members in 100% Field (Class A) uniforms (shirt, pants/shorts, belt, socks) at the Sunday camp-wide meal, as inspected and verified by camp staff, may elect to substitute pizza for one meal during the week. Only official BSA uniforms (current or retired) are acceptable.

How do we get our camp T-shirts?

Scouts and leaders who pre-register, order shirts, and pay the appropriate fees by May 5 each receive a T-shirt during check-out on Saturday. Additional shirts may also be ordered on the registration form and there may be a limited number of shirts available for purchase in the trading post.

What activities are available for leaders in camp?

Adult leaders are encouraged to work on the Scoutmaster Merit Badge, volunteer for camp service projects, and help out in program areas. Please visit with a commissioner, the ranger, or the program director for more details.

What is the camp policy on cell phones and other electronic devices?

We strongly discourage the possession and use of these items during camp. Young scouts who call home tend to become homesick very quickly. Text messaging, phone calls to friends, and electronic gaming tend to be individual activities that run counter to the development of social skills and teamwork needed to succeed in the patrol method used at camp. Adults who need to use electronic devices are asked to be discreet in their use and avoid using them in front of scouts and especially in program areas.

Does the camp have Internet access?

Adults may access the Internet at the administration building either through the camp's computers or by bringing a personal laptop with wireless capabilities. Youth are generally not allowed this access except in the event of an emergency.

What activities are available outside of camp and how do we sign up?

Several activities are available, including boating, hiking, museum tours, Discover Scuba and river tubing. Detailed information regarding scheduling outings, leader and swim classification requirements, and fees is available from the commissioners and program director.

What outposts are available, when are they, and who can attend?

We offer several outpost activities at Camp Cuyuna. Anyone, youth or adult, is welcome to attend the outposts.

- Astronomy Outpost is held Monday-Wednesday at 10:30 pm. On clear nights, meet at Goodrich Landing, cloudy nights at the Nature Center. The outpost is cancelled (Thursday can be used as a make-up night) if there is lightning.
- The Indian Lore Outpost is held on Tuesdays and attendees should meet at the administration building at 6:45 pm.
- Both Wilderness Survival and Fishing are held on Thursday evening. Wilderness meets at the administration building at 4:30; Fishing meets at 6:45. Participants in Fishing Outpost must sign up at the Nature Center by noon on Thursday.

Who can attend the Scoutmaster steak fry and what is the cost?

All full-week leaders who register and pay by the May 5 deadline are invited to attend and enjoy some fun, fellowship, and grill-it-yourself steak on Thursday at 12:15 at no additional cost. Late registrants and part-time leaders may also attend for a \$10.00 charge.

When can scouts make up missed time or just get some extra practice in program areas?

Most areas are open for make-up or practice in the afternoon from 2:30-4:30. In addition, Tuesday and Thursday evening are unscheduled and may be used for this purpose at the request of Senior Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters.

What is the Scoutmaster Cook-Off? How do we participate?

Adult leaders are encouraged to participate and compete by cooking a dish in their campsite and bringing it to Foxfire on Tuesday at 3:30. Non-participating leaders may also attend to sample the entries. The commissary can supply limited amounts of some basic items, but special ingredients must be provided by the contestants.

How do swimmer classification checks work? Can we do our own prior to camp?

Troops are encouraged to complete swim checks prior to camp to speed the check-in process, but, as part of check-in procedure, all units must attend a brief orientation on aquatics regulations at the main aquatics area on Command Lake. Our staff can also administer the BSA swim test at this time.

What is offered for scout leader training at camp?

Safe Swim Defense / Safety Afloat training is offered on Monday at 1:30 pm in the aquatics gazebo. Climb On Safely is offered at the climbing tower on Monday afternoon at 3:30. Additional training can be scheduled with a commissioner.

Are there any organized camp-wide activities during the week? When are they scheduled?

- Camp staff hosts two campfires each week – on Sunday and Friday evenings after the 9:00 flag ceremonies.
- Troops host “friendship fires” on Wednesday evening. Invite another troop or travel to another campsite to share some fun and fellowship. Staff also attends these campfires and may have skit or song to add but doesn’t plan the entire program.
- The Foxfire Rendezvous is held on Monday evening at 7:30.
- An interfaith chapel service (7:30) and inter-troop friendship campfires (9:00) are held Wednesday evening.
- Friday afternoon, the aquatics area hosts a Water Carnival with competitions and fun for youth and adults.
- Additional activities may be held on Tuesday and/or Thursday evening at the request of Senior Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters.

Are there any troop or patrol activities or competitions held in camp?

At the request of Senior Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters, we may hold camp-wide events such as the Cuyuna Olympics, Staff Hunt, Capture the Flag, and others. In addition, most program areas can schedule time for activities such as troop/patrol shooting, hiking, swimming, volleyball, climbing, and aquatics activities. Individuals may also want to participate in the rifle, shotgun, and archery competitions or the fishing contest.

What kind of first-year scout program does Camp Cuyuna offer?

Our program, Eagle Trail, (Monday-Friday 9:00-11:50 am and Monday-Tuesday 1:30-2:30 pm) is designed to give first-year campers an opportunity to learn basic scout skills such as flag etiquette, first aid, knots and lashings, fire building & safety, knife and axe use & safety, hiking safety, orienteering, and basic aquatics rescue skills. The aquatics requirements are taught on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. For the full, detailed schedule, see our Program Guide.

How should we handle part-time leaders and visitors?

Troops may have leaders attend camp for the entire week or only a part of it, as long as two-deep leadership is always maintained. All leaders spending the night in camp must sign in with the business manager and health officer, regardless of length of stay. Temporary visitors must also sign in, but are not required to complete the medical screening. Visitors must leave camp by 10:00 pm (unless attending Sunday/Friday night campfire or with previous permission).

Can family members participate in activities and stay at camp?

Only registered campers are allowed to participate in camp activities or stay overnight in camp. All others are encouraged to visit during the day and stay at the Family Camp area (tent, RV, cabin) for an additional fee.

What are the camp phone number and mailing address? Who can use the phone? How do we send and receive mail?

The camp phone number is 218-692-3612 and is for emergency use only. Any scout wishing to use the phone must be accompanied by an adult leader from his unit. Camp staff will take mail to and pick it up from the post office throughout the week. Mail may be sent to:

Scout's Name, Troop #
c/o Cuyuna Scout Camp
PO Box 250 Crosslake, MN 56442

How do we handle merit badge applications (blue cards) and advancement?

Part of earning a merit badge is taking the time and responsibility to complete and submit an application. Applications should be provided by the unit, filled in by the scout, and submitted on the first day of merit badge classes. Additional applications are available for purchase in the Trading Post. Applications will be returned to unit leaders as part of Saturday check-out procedures. Each unit should then conduct its own Board of Review after camp to verify completion of badges and rank advancement.

When can we pick up food from the commissary?

Food can be picked up according to the following schedule:

- Breakfast: 6:30 – 7:20 am
- Lunch: 11:00 am – noon
- Supper: 4:30 – 5:45 pm

Food can be picked up at additional times with advanced notice. Troops leaving camp for a meal or wanting to switch the day or time of a meal are asked to notify the commissary at least one day beforehand. We can also accommodate special dietary needs with sufficient advanced notice.

Are there special procedures to follow when requesting something from the commissary?

The commissary provides a starter basket containing salt & pepper shakers, pancake syrup, cooking oil, scrubbing pad, liquid dish soap & sanitizer, garbage bag, book matches, urinal cake, and toilet paper for each patrol. Refills are available by request. In addition, other items such as peanut butter, jelly, margarine, milk, and bread are available at no charge by request. To request an item, simply stop by the commissary during the day or ask the business manager to have it added to your next food basket.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

There are several sources for additional information and clarification.

- Registration questions should be directed to Twin Valley Council Center for Scouting staff. Call (507) 387-3123 or 800-944-1886, fax (507) 387-3053, or write to: Twin Valley Council, 810 Madison Ave., Mankato, MN 56001
- Questions on scheduled program items and short-term trips out of camp may be sent to the Camp Director at campdirector@twinvalleybsa.org.
- For information on equipment available at camp, commissary or food service issues, scheduling long-term trips out of camp, or Family Camp reservations, contact the ranger at (218) 692-3162, cuyuna@twinvalleybsa.org or campcuyuna@crosslake.net.