



Camp Marin Sierra

Parent Information Guide

2017



welcome to camp marin sierra

We are excited that your troop has chosen Camp Marin Sierra for their summertime program this year and look forward to their visit this summer. For over 65 years, Camp Marin Sierra has been offering Scouts and leaders a wonderful camping experience. Whether it be swimming in warm Chubb Lake, shooting at one of the ranges, learning new Scout skills in Trail to First Class, or traversing the high events in COPE, we are confident your Scouts and leaders will have an excellent time with us.

A continuously fully-accredited camp by the BSA every year including 2016, Marin Sierra has something for everyone. The camp covers 320 acres and is nestled in the Tahoe National Forest at an elevation of 5,300 feet. Its easy access and natural setting attracts troops every year from all over California, Nevada, and beyond. With fourteen beautiful campsites, there is one to fit troops of many different sizes. Chubb Lake offers thirteen acres of a wide variety of aquatic activities, including sailing, kayaking, canoeing, rowing, swimming, and snorkeling. Large granite hills provide fantastic views, excellent hiking, and exciting climbing and rappelling opportunities.

This guide will help you and your Scout prepare for summer camp. Your troop leaders have been sent copies of our extensive Leader Guide so that they can also help prepare the Scouts and other leaders attending camp. If you need information that is not contained herein, your first line of inquiry should be your troop leadership.

contact information, directions, and mailing address

Troop leaders are your main points of contact while the troop is at camp. Most leaders will have cell phones, which can be used for non-emergency communications.



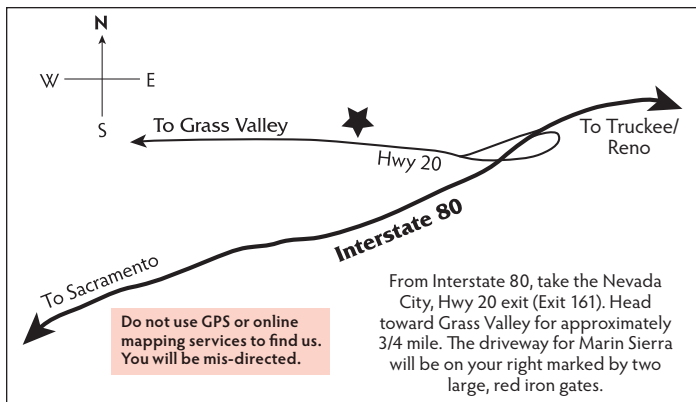
On the following page, there is an inset with the camp and council contact information (see How to Contact Us). For emergencies only, you can call the camp office. This phone is not always staffed, and, although checked frequently, voicemail messages may not be retrieved immediately. Keep in mind that there may be as many as 375 people in camp at one time spread out over 250+ acres. We may not be able to get a message to your youth/adult in a timely manner; in fact, it may take hours. In an emergency, we will contact them as quickly as possible. Use the main office number sparingly.

The best way to get a message to your Scout is to call the cell phone of a troop leader. Non-Verizon phones work the best.

You can also contact us via email. We check email several times a day, and a printed copy of the email will be put in the troop mailbox.

If you desire to send letters or packages to your Scout, do not mail them after the Tuesday or Wednesday that your Scout is in camp; otherwise, he may not receive the mail in time. Because there are so many people staying with us each week—including the possibility of having more than one troop with the same troop number—send it in the following address format (for US Mail only; send UPS/Fedex to the street address):





<Name of Scout>
 <Troop Number> and <Council Name>
 Camp Marin Sierra
 PO Box 86
 Emigrant Gap, CA 95715

If you send packages, please do not send large amounts of food. There is plenty of food at meals and in the Tradin' Post. Because there are animals in camp, Scouts and leaders need to lock up their food at night. If you do send food, please include a note to the Scout to be sure to lock the food in a bear box at night.

how to contact us

Remember, your first line of contact should always be your troop leadership for information.

Marin Council Office

225 West End Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901
 415.454.1081 Fax: 415.454.5511
 staff@boyscouts-marin.org

Camp Marin Sierra

Physical Address (not for U.S. Mail)
 40990 Highway 20, Emigrant Gap, CA 95715
 Office: 530.389.2427 Fax: 530.389.2231

Camp Director

Tim Wells 415.454.1081 x 104
 camping@boyscouts-marin.org
 www.boyscouts-marin.org

fees, payments, and refund information

All camp payments *must* be made through your troop with the exception of provisional Scouts, visitors, and meal payments. Other than these exceptions, *do not send your individual payments to our council office*; send it to your troop. Provisional Scouts have their own registration form (see our web site), and visitors will pay for their meals/stay at the camp office when they arrive. Your troop can provide you with the fee information.

Refund Policy: Please understand that fees paid for Scouts and leaders begin to be used to buy supplies prior to

summer camp. When someone decides not to come to camp, part of their money has already been used.

Refunds will be granted on the following basis: Full refund before April 1, 2017; 50% refund after April 1 through April 30, 2017; 25% refund from May 1–31, 2017. No refunds after June 1, 2017. Partial refunds may be



granted after June 1, 2017 for extreme situations (death in family; serious illness). No full refunds will be granted after April 1, 2017 for any reason.

REQUIRED camp forms

Along with your camp payments, your troop should be gathering the completed forms for your Scout to attend camp. These forms should come to camp with your troop and not be sent directly to us. In the case of provisional Scouts, they should bring the following forms with them. Needed forms are: BSA Medical (A, B, and C), Minor Activity Release, and, if necessary, Special Dietary Needs Form (which also must be faxed to our council office at least two weeks before the Scout/adult comes to camp). These forms can be obtained from your troop leaders.



ABOUT medical forms

Everyone who camps more than one night with their troop must have a *currently updated* copy of the 2014 edition of the BSA medical form (parts A, B, and C), which requires a signature from a doctor or nurse practitioner. The troop will bring these forms to camp with them. The only exception is someone who is visiting camp for one night;

they only need parts A and B of the form, which does not require a doctor or nurse signature (*see Visiting Camp*). Those visiting for part of a day do not need a medical form as long as they are not staying overnight. Because of the remote nature of the camp and the altitude, we cannot make exceptions to this policy. Be prepared.



visiting camp

Guests are always welcome; however, it's best for the troop and the camp if people do not drop in unannounced. Although entire families may visit for a short time (*please, no pets*), there are no overnight accommodations for siblings or entire families.

On arrival, visitors must check in at the camp office, pay any necessary fees, and then, they visit the medical officer to receive a wrist band—which is required to be in camp. Visitors will submit their medical form at that time if they are staying the night, assuming the form was not already brought up with the troop

If possible, let your troop and the camp office know before camp when guest meals may be needed. The charge for guest meals is \$5.00 per meal per person. For adults desiring to stay overnight, the charge is \$40.00 per person per night and includes the meals. We ask leaders to show their guests where and how much to pay.



Visitors spending the night must bring with them currently updated parts A and B of the BSA medical

form, which can be obtained from www.scouting.org. For more than one night, the full medical form must be submitted. Persons without medical forms cannot stay overnight in camp.

family camping

Boy Scout resident camp is designed for the Scouts to attend under the leadership of their own troop. A parent who is a leader with the troop may attend with their Scout. However, the camp is not designed for siblings or the entire family. If a family visits camp (*see Visiting Camp*), there are no overnight accommodations for the complete family.

cell phones and internet service

Because of the remote location of Camp Marin Sierra, we are not able to receive broadband internet service. The camp uses cell phones in our office to connect to the internet. If adults need service, they should plan on tethering to their own cell phones. Non-Verizon service is best. There is an AT&T MiFi unit in Ibach Lodge for leaders *only* to use for email and lite browsing. No streaming is allowed; we do not have the bandwidth. Leaders will be issued the ID and password upon check-in.

Your own troops may have policies about cell phones; however, we ask troop leaders to



not allow Scouts to use or even bring cell phones to camp. It is not that we do not wish boys to be able to communicate, but we are hoping for them to receive the maximum benefit from a true outdoor experience. Today, cell phones not only provide telephone service, but also email, chat, text, gaming, and more. They can be more distraction than a Scout needs at camp. They can also exacerbate a homesickness problem to unmanageable proportions. Please work with us and your troop leaders to make sure your Scout leaves his cell phone at home.

homesickness

An active program is the best insurance against homesickness, so Scout leaders are urged to do everything they can to keep all Scouts engaged. However, there are still times when younger Scouts get homesick. From experience, we have learned that the more boys call home, the worse the



problem becomes. If your son is homesick, and the Scoutmaster allows him to call home, please be supportive of him staying and finishing the week. If he feels you want him to be successful at camp, he is more likely to want to finish the week. Also, often after a boy gets

through the first few days and has bonded more with his troop, he is more likely to feel better about staying.

A way to help Scouts that you suspect may become homesick is to mail a short, positive note to them right away so that they receive it on Monday or Tuesday. However remember that telling them how much you miss them or that you wish they were at home will only reinforce feelings of homesickness.

Scouts are not allowed to use cell phones in camp. A troop leader must be (and remain) in attendance if the Scout calls home.

BRINGING MONEY TO CAMP

We have a Tradin' Post that operates Monday through Friday where Scouts can buy food, souvenirs, personal items, shooting sports tickets, and other merit badge supplies. We accept cash, major credit cards, and debit cards. If you send cash, \$25 should be plenty, but consult with your troop leaders to help decide what your Scout might need for the week. It will depend on the kinds of advancement in which he will participate. The leaders have been sent the Leader Guide, which has a sampling of Tradin' Post prices in Chapter 9. Please discourage your Scouts from bringing large amounts of cash. It is not uncommon for youth to lose money, and, unfortunately, it is not always recovered.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING TO CAMP

Scouts and adults should consult with the troop leadership on what to bring to camp. Often, troops have developed comprehensive lists of needed items so that Scouts have what they need without overpacking. Also, the Boy Scout Handbook is an excellent resource. Be sure their name and troop number is on everything. Here are some of our suggestions:

- ▶ Scout uniform
- ▶ Underwear / socks



- ▶ Clothing (to last a week) / Pajamas / Swim suit
- ▶ Jacket / sweatshirt / rain gear (you never know!)
- ▶ Comfortable hiking shoes
- ▶ Towels and wash cloths
- ▶ Toiletries (toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, comb)
- ▶ Boy Scout Handbook and merit badge books
- ▶ Inexpensive camera
- ▶ Flashlight (extra bulb and batteries recommended)
- ▶ Sleeping bag / sleeping pad (if desired) / pillow
- ▶ Sandals for swimming area and shower
- ▶ Notebook, writing implements
- ▶ Insect repellent
- ▶ Sunscreen
- ▶ Lip balm
- ▶ Hat
- ▶ Water bottle or canteen
- ▶ Mess kit and utensils
- ▶ Bible or prayer book if desired
- ▶ Individual first aid kit
- ▶ Watch



WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- ▶ No sheath knives at all nor pocket knives with blades longer than 4"
- ▶ Alcohol or drugs (other than needed prescriptions)
- ▶ Fireworks, matches, or fire starters
- ▶ Firearms, bows, or ammunition
- ▶ Electronic devices: cell phones, game consoles, iPods or similar, DVD players, and so on
- ▶ Inappropriate reading material or pornography
- ▶ Pets
- ▶ Aerosol sprays
- ▶ Large amounts of money
- ▶ Personal valuables and expensive items
- ▶ Food, candy, gum

It is possible that if a Scout has these items, they will be confiscated. In some cases, they will be given to the Scoutmaster or another troop leader to be taken home.

PHOTOS:
WILL AMOS, MARGARET FARLEY, JOEY REMPE,
MAX SNYDER