



## SUMMER CAMP FAQs FOR TROOP & UNIT LEADERS

Your first line of inquiry should always be with your Scoutmaster, Camp Coordinator, or other unit leader who may have experience with your troop's annual Summer Camp planning. While this list of two dozen questions and related answers is not all-encompassing, these are the top inquiries collected from past email, phone, or leader interactions. Also, these may be among the most frequently misunderstood concepts or common errors.

**Q** I just realized that today is the early-bird payment deadline. We just finished our troop survey for camp attendance and haven't collected payments yet. Would you consider giving us a 2-week extension on the early-bird payment deadline?

*A: Sorry, we often have more than 50 units in camp during our four-week season, with dozens of them that have been aiming to take advantage of our early-bird special pricing. To be fair to everyone, we need to maintain our firm dating on deadlines. Can we recommend you place a payment today for everyone in your troop who has committed so far, then collect their money ASAP during the following weeks?*

**Q** I just collected the balance of funds needed for the early-bird payment. I know it's a day late, but can we still get the low rate?

*A: Sorry, one day late or ten days late, it's all the same. In order to be fair to everyone, we have to cut off the payment dates as originally scheduled. Camp payments must be in our hands or postmarked by the due date. Payment is not just completing the Troop Payment Form; it must include a check or credit card #. Most troops know the dates for months in advance, so there is really no excuse to be late.*

**Q** Since the fee for new Scouts or newly-bridged Webelos is lower, can they still get the free T-shirt if they bridge into the troop in May?

*A: Sorry, the free T-shirt incentive is only for those youth and adults that are paid-in-full by April 1. However, you may pre-order and pay for T-shirts for other Scouts and leaders at a reduced pre-order price until June 1; they will be more expensive in the Camp Tradin' Post.*

**Q** Are camperships available for Scouts not registered as youth members of other BSA Councils within Scouting America?

*A: Sorry, camperships are only available to Scout youth registered in the Marin Council.*

**Q** One of our leaders can only stay 3 nights, and another leader will do the other 3 nights. How do we pay for them?

*A: This is a fairly common practice, and Shared Leadership is covered in the Leader Guide. If the total amount of nights that the 2 or 3 leaders will be staying is a full week, then you pay for just one leader for the week. If they are overlapping nights or just staying a couple of nights with nobody else during the balance of the week, then the fee is \$75 per night which includes meals.*

**Q** It's after June 1, can I add a leader or camper to our roster?

*A: YES! You can add Scouts or leaders at any time up to and including when you arrive in camp. You can find the current pricing within the fee structure on the Troop payment form.*

**? Do all adults staying overnight in camp need to be registered with the BSA.**

*A: As of September 1, 2023 all adults camping overnight at any Scouts BSA event must be currently-registered members of the BSA, have gone through criminal background checks, and have completed Youth Protection training within the last 2 years. Criminal background checks cannot be expedited, so do not wait until the last minute to register them!*

**? Can my 2<sup>nd</sup> adult leader be 18-years old?**

*A: Recently, the second adult requirement has been updated for outings. While 18-year-olds can be on outings as adults, they cannot be the second-required adult. Both primary adults must be registered adults over 21. If it is a female or combined troop, at least one adult must be female.*

**? How is unit check-in on Sunday organized? What should we prepare for?**

*A: The Saturday (early) or Sunday (regular) check-in is outlined in the Leader Guide; please review this in advance! The check-in process takes time, so try to arrive as early as possible within the check-in period of 12noon to 2pm.*

*First, the unit leader and SPL will go to the Business manager/financial check-in at Ibach Lodge. After this, your troop will be led by a Troop Guide through the following stations (not necessarily in this order):*

- 1) Medical re-check with BSA health forms*
- 2) Swim check at the waterfront*
- 3) Food services orientation*
- 4) Range & Target Activities safety briefing*
- 5) wandering camp tour*

*These last five stations are shuffled to keep the troop orientations moving and not stacked up in one area. Scouts should have swimwear on or readily available for swim checks. The final step will be to go to the campsite for set-up.*

**? What forms do we need at check-in time?**

*A: After the unit leader and SPL check-in with the Camp Director and/or Business Manager at Ibach Lodge with their Unit Roster, Jamboree-Cooking Patrols form, Minor Activity Release forms, and payment of any fees that are due, a Troop Guide will take the unit around through the stations noted above. The following forms are turned in at the Medical station:*

- ✓ BSA Annual Health & Medical Record Parts A/B/C (2019 edition ONLY)*
- ✓ Health Insurance Card copies*
- ✓ Special Dietary Needs forms (must also be faxed to the office two weeks before camp to alert Food Services Manager)*

**? Do we have to use the Marin-Sierra Minor Activity Release Form or can we bring one that we have used at other camps/activities or is from our own council?**

*A: Sorry, for legal reasons we must have the current Marin-Sierra form with the signature and initials of both parents or guardians. Please understand that the Scout will not be cleared to do any of the activities on the form (all Range & Target Activities, COPE, climbing, hikes out of camp, and so on) without this signed approval.*

**? Can we use a school or sports medical form, or another form that is different from the standard BSA AHMR form?**

*A: NO! Only the official BSA Annual Health & Medical Record form will be accepted with Parts A & B completed by a parent, and Part C reviewed by a physician's exam and approval signature. Part D is only necessary for high adventure treks such as attending Philmont Scout Ranch or Summit Bechtel Reserve.*

**? Can we use any version of the BSA Annual Health & Medical form?**

*A: NO! The only form we can accept per BSA Policy is the current 2019 version. Please make sure your troop is distributing the most current edition to your members. There is a link to our Scouts BSA Resident Camp webpage shown at*

*the bottom of this document. We do accept the Kaiser Permanente Scout Youth addition.*



**?** I'm an adult leader staying only two nights during our summer camp week; do I need a medical form?

**A:** Yes. If you are staying for any duration **OVERNIGHT** at a Scouts BSA resident camp, you will need to complete and submit to the Camp Health Officer all 3 parts (A/B/C) of the BSA AHMR during the check-in process.

**?** I don't see a form in the Leader Guide for patrol rosters. Do you need one?

**A:** NO, and yes. We do need a completed Unit Roster for all campers, and a separate Jamboree Patrol Count Form showing the patrols. This is so we can pack out your jamboree food deliveries to fit the size of your patrols. We need this form whether you are all-week jamboree cooking or central dining plan.

**?** What is the menu for Jamboree-cooking day on Wednesday?

**A:** The weekly menu is usually emailed about one month before camp starts in June. The menu is simple so that Scouts can learn or improve by the Patrol Method, but not be

*bogged down with cooking large meals. A minimum amount of gear will be needed.*

**?** We have so much gear that we have to bring 2 full trucks and a trailer to camp. Can we just drive them into the campsite?

**A:** One vehicle or one vehicle with a trailer can make one trip to the site if you have less than 25 total people. If you have more than 25, we allow one additional vehicle to make one trip. Basically, we are trying to keep the driving on the roads to a minimum to preserve the roads, avoid congestion, and keep our Scouts safe.

Scouting's best practice and our strong recommendation is that Scouts carry their own gear (and possibly some troop gear) by backpacking to the campsite. That way, the vehicle only needs to carry heavy or bulky items. There are some campsites that are somewhat inaccessible by vehicle, especially with trailers. If you have leaders arriving or leaving during the week, they may not drive to and from the campsite for their gear. Have Scouts or other leaders assist them.

**?** Can I just park in my campsite? It looks like there is plenty of room over by those trees!

**A:** NO! Vehicles are to remain the shortest amount of time in sites just for unloading/loading for about 30 min. Once unloaded, drive your vehicle back to the main parking lot where it will remain for the week. Vehicles parked on camp roads can cause congestion when other vehicles are trying to get to their campsites.

**?** I have a personal firearm that I always carry with me. Can I just keep it in my car?

**A:** NO! All personal firearms must be checked-in with the Range & Target Activities Director, and any bows and arrows with the Archery Director. This BSA National Council policy applies to everyone unless you are an on-duty law enforcement officer. However, you still need to notify the Range & Target Activities Director of the possession of the firearm.

**?** I'm trying to organize my Scout's advancement program at camp. Can you tell me how the merit badge sign-ups work?

**A:** Merit badge sign-ups take place on your first morning in camp immediately following breakfast and the morning assembly. This unique Marin-Sierra tradition is known as "Monday Morning Merit Badge Madness!" Your Scoutmaster will have more details about planning ahead for your Scout.

**?** If Scouts sign up for a class, do they just go to that class all day until they finish?

**A:** Our class schedule is horizontal. In other words, if a Scout signs up for the 10am Swimming merit badge session, they will attend that class every day at 10am for the period of time shown. All scheduled classes are listed in the Leader Guide. Drop-in merit badge classes on the other hand, can be taken at any time during the day and for as long as the Scout wants to stay there working on them. We only ask that Scouts "drop-in" on the hour or half-hour so that the counselors don't have to keep restarting class instruction for late arrivals. A counselor may also ask a Scout to wait until the next session starts if the Scout is significantly past the half-hour.

**?** Will we be able to have campfires for cooking or evening relaxation?

**A:** Even though we have had quite a bit of rain and snow during any given year, it is too early to tell what campfire restrictions will be in place later this Summer. However, you can be notified prior to coming to camp on what conditions may be during your week. Camp Marin-Sierra follows the restrictions of the Tahoe National Forest that surrounds our private property. Safety and security are our primary concerns as we have witnessed some devastating fires in the last few years. Please be flexible and patient in this regard.

**?** Is it ok if a family comes up to visit their Scout and stays the night?

**A:** Yes and no. Visitors are always welcome. If the people coming up are parents and have the approval of their troop, have the correct medical forms, and have or will pay for their meals or stay, then yes. However, we cannot accommodate family camping (sisters, brothers, relatives, pets). While families (without any pets) can visit for a short time, they cannot spend the night unless BSA-registered.

**?** I'm a leader with a Scout in the troop, and my other son is a Webelos. Can my younger son come with me to camp since he will be bridging into the troop next year?

**A:** No, sorry. The BSA policy is that Cub Scouts and Webelos cannot attend Scouts BSA resident camp except possibly to visit for a day with their family members.

### Final note:

If you have not been able to get from your unit leaders appropriate answers to these and any other questions, please reach out to our Council Staff or Camp Director:

### **CAMP MARIN-SIERRA**

#### **Physical Location:**

40990 State Highway 20  
Emigrant Gap, California

[www.boyscouts-marin.org](http://www.boyscouts-marin.org)

#### **Mailing Address:**

(while camp is in session only)  
PO Box 86  
Emigrant Gap, CA 95715

#### **Business Address:**

#### **MARIN COUNCIL, BSA**

225 West End Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

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