

Troop 25

Monthly Campout FAQs

OVERVIEW

This document includes answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding Troop 25 monthly campouts. Please note these answers apply to the 'typical' monthly campouts. Each campout of course has its own nuances, and any differences in the answers below and / or additional information is provided in the monthly campout announcement email.

The logistics and details for Summer Camp, Winter Camp, and High Adventure events are more comprehensive, and are not necessarily addressed in this particular document.

When do we camp?

The Troop 25 monthly campout is generally scheduled for the 3rd weekend of each month. However, sometimes the dates vary based on special events or other scheduling conflicts or considerations. Campout schedules are included in the Troop calendar, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/Troop25Plano>.

Who can attend the campout?

Besides the scouts, any adult registered with the Troop can attend. You do not have to be a scoutmaster or member of the Troop Committee. All we ask is if you drive that you have your car insurance information filed with the Troop Secretary.

When do sign-ups occur?

Sign-ups typically occur via Google Forms. You will receive an announcement (via email and WhatsApp) from the Outdoor Programs Coordinator prior to sign-ups, and this email will include the Google Form Link and cost information pertinent to that month's campout.

What is the process for signing up for a campout?

The following describes the process for signing up for campouts during a typical Monday night troop meeting:

Scouts

- All scouts must sign up via Google Forms. (link provided via email and WhatsApp)
- The patrol plans their meals for the weekend, including the budget. The Troop Treasurer collects the food money via Zelle, and then gives it to the scout(s) responsible for buying the food for that weekend. (Typically this is \$8-\$10 for the weekend).
 - If you do not have Zelle, you can pay via cash, check, or scout account. We typically don't have a lot of change so please bring exact change.
- The Patrol Leaders can also collect the appropriate camping fees from each scout.
 - Please send exact change if possible. Cash or checks (made out to Troop 25) are acceptable.

Adults

- Adults must also sign up via Google Forms (link provided via email and WhatsApp) or directly with and pay the Outdoor Programs Coordinator (or designee).
 - Zelle is the preferred way to pay. Please pay with exact change if possible. Cash or checks (made out to Troop 25) are acceptable.
 - Please pay for you and your scout when you sign up. If you need to write checks because you don't have the cash, that is no problem, but we ask that you write one combined check for you and your scout(s).

How much do campouts cost?

The cost for a weekend of camping varies based on the destination and the program / activities for that month. A typical weekend costs \$20-\$40, and that includes food and transportation. Not bad for a weekend of fun!

What is the Troop 25 Gas Reimbursement Policy?

The primary mode of transportation to and from campouts is the personal automobiles of our adult volunteers.

Troop 25 has established a policy to collect additional money to help offset the costs of fuel for our drivers. For each campout, a per-scout fee of \$5 for every 100 miles driven is included in the cost.

Please note this contribution is **not** designed to pay all gasoline costs for our adult volunteers. Rather, it is a nominal donation to offset the costs of fuel.

The outdoor programs coordinator decides how to allocate the collected money to the drivers. Usually this means dividing the collected gas money equally amongst all the drivers. The two drivers that pull the trailers are given an additional \$20 each.

Who cooks on the campouts?

Each scout patrol is responsible for planning, shopping, cooking, and cleaning (!) their own meals. This typically means Saturday breakfast, Saturday Lunch, and Saturday dinner. Sunday breakfast is typically 'cold' (cereal, muffins, fruit, etc) to expedite the process of breaking camp and returning home. The Patrol decides which scout(s) will serve as the Grubmaster for the weekend.

Adults eat separately from the scouts. Usually one or two of the adults volunteer to be the Grubmaster for the weekend, and take care of the shopping and preparation of food.

When do we leave, when do we return, and where from?

The troop meets at the Messiah Lutheran Church West parking lot, which is located on the NE corner of Custer and Plano Parkway. The troop typically convenes at 6:00 pm on Friday night, and departs promptly at 6:30 p.m. The troop returns to the same location on Sunday, usually around 12:30 pm.

What about dinner on Friday?

Scouts and adults attending the weekend campout should eat their balanced meal **before** arriving at the Messiah Lutheran Church parking lot. As a courtesy to the adult volunteer drivers, please do not send a meal to be eaten by your scout in the car.

Upon arrival at the campout destination (and *after* camp is fully set up by the scouts to the satisfaction of the Senior Patrol Leader), the adults prepare a 'Cracker Barrel' snack for the scouts. This typically includes apples, oranges, crackers, cheese, summer sausage, and cookies.

What if I have special meal considerations?

A scout should always work with his or her patrol on the planning of meals that consider special dietary restriction or needs.

HOWEVER, PARENTS! If your scout has special dietary needs, food allergies, or otherwise, *please bring that to the attention of the Troop Adult Leadership ASAP* so that we can properly assist the patrols in their planning and preparation activities.

How is Medicine Administered?

Any scout requiring medication during the weekend must have a Medicine form on file with the troop.

On each campout, a trained adult is responsible for administering medicine as per the instructions you have left on file.

Medicines are collected in the Messiah Lutheran Church parking lot prior to departure, and returned upon arrival on Sunday.

What do I wear on a campout?

Scouts must arrive for the campout and travel wearing the full Class A uniform (including the red Troop 25 hat). The Class A uniform is also required throughout the weekend for activities such as Flag ceremonies, boards of review, OA callouts, and so forth.

Otherwise, the scouts are allowed to wear Class B uniforms. The Senior Patrol leader will instruct the scouts on the proper attire for any given weekend activity.

What should I bring with me?

The following is the list of items a scout typically needs to bring on a campout:

REQUIRED	OPTIONAL
Sleeping Bag	Sleeping Pad
Class A and Class B Uniform	Pillow
Hiking boots (waterproof)	Watch
Warm socks	Binoculars
Warm cost - No Camouflage allowed*	Camera & Film
Hat*	Personal toiletries
Rain gear - No Camouflage allowed*	Compass
Flashlight with extra batteries	Book or magazine
First Aid kit with Band-Aids	Pocket knife** (see below)
Mess kit - eating utensils	Plastic bag
Personal toilet paper	
Towel and soap	
Scout Book and pen	
ALL clothing should be adaptable to the weather.	
* Scouting America national Policy does not permit camouflage clothing of any type	
** No scout can carry any size knife without having earned his or her Tote 'N Chip card	
NOT ALLOWED:	
Electronics of any type	
Fireworks	
Projectiles of any type	
Personal food of any type	
Firearms	

Most all gear will be stowed in the troop trailer, and any overflow baggage is carried in the adult driver vehicles. Scouts should back their gear (except for the sleeping bag /pad) in one small bag or backpack.

What does the Troop provide?

Troop supplies all scouts tents, stoves, lanterns, cooking utensils, and coolers.
(Adults can tent alone and need to bring their own tent)