



OUTINGS

Troop 219 holds outings each month, along with Summer camp, Winter camp, and generally an annual high adventure trek.

Outings are where advancement and scout skills for new scouts are taught and reviewed for older scouts. Attendance is important.

At a weekly meeting, typically three weeks before the outing, a permission slip is passed out. The permission slip is also available on the website. The permission slip describes the location of the outing, selected activities, times for departure and arrival, and fees associated with each outing. More about the outing is generally described at the meeting. Most outings cost \$25.00. Some cost more when an admission fee is charged or added activities require special items to be purchased. Long term camps (summer camp and winter camp) have other fees and schedules for merit badges, training, and other activities that will be discussed in the meetings.

Return the outing permission form completely filled out and the fee on the Monday a week before the week of the outing – (two week notice). It is important that the fee be paid in **Cash**. The money will be redistributed to each outing patrol to purchase food and other expense money given to the Scoutmaster in charge of the outing. If your parents are going they need to pay as well. We will also need driver information as described on the form.

It is important to list any medications or dietary restrictions on the form. It is our and the patrol's only way to know about any special needs you may have.

During the Monday meeting before the outing, the Outing Chairperson and the Treasurer assemble a summary of all the scouts going on the outing. The Scoutmaster and the Outing Scoutmaster create Outing Patrols based upon the number of scouts going. You may be assigned camp patrols that include members of other patrols as well as members of your patrol. During meal planning at the meeting, each Outing Patrol will be assembled and the process of choosing a patrol leader and filing out a duty roster for the outing will be completed. The duty roster includes deciding:

- who will shop for food
- who will prepare the food for each meal
- who does cleanup (KP) for each meal
- who you will tent with
- who is the patrol leader and assistant patrol leader

A menu is planned by the patrol based upon the Troop 219 Guide to Camp Cooking and Cookbook. The duty roster and menu must be approved by a Patrol Advisor. The scouts assigned shopping duties will receive the money for the Patrol and take home a cooler and a tote for dry foods. These scouts need to schedule their shopping trip together. The menu and recipes will determine the shopping list. Planning and budgeting are part of learning to care for yourself and your fellow patrol members. A typical weekend menu has a hot breakfast on Saturday. Lunch may be sandwiches or a hot lunch depending upon the activities scheduled. Dinner is always a hot meal selected from the cookbook. Sunday Breakfast is usually a no fuss meal, cereal, fruit, cereal or breakfast bars.

We meet at the church at 5:30 on Friday for the outing. Your gear will be stowed in the trailer along with the food totes and coolers. Departure is usually at 6:00 PM. Drivers and car assignments are made that night during formation. You will be arriving at the camp after dark and need to be prepared to set up camp in the dark. Your tent, the dining fly, patrol kitchen and lanterns all need to be set up and the food secured before anyone goes to bed.

We camp in all kinds of weather – rain, snow, sleet and hail – as the saying goes – has not caused us to cancel an outing.

When we return to the church, the quartermasters may decide that certain gear needs to go home. If it is damp or wet the ground clothes, tents and the patrol dining fly must go home. These items need to be dried out that day – **do not delay**. Mildew can destroy a tent in less than 24 hours. Coolers and Totes regularly go home to be cleaned. If the cooking equipment in the “chuck box” is not cleaned properly before it is loaded, the entire chuck box will go home. Equipment is logged out to scouts for cleaning. Bring the equipment back, clean and dry, at the next scheduled Troop meeting. Turn it into a quartermaster.

Some things to remember:

- We **always travel** in Class A uniforms. You may leave your neckerchief and slide home - but wear your BSA shirt, Troop hat, BSA scout socks and BSA belt. If you wear shorts they must be green scout shorts. Read the Uniform Policy, please.
- Always wear closed toe shoes. Sandals are not permitted – ever.
- Electronics, games, iPods, MP3 players and cell phones are to be left at home. Some drivers permit them in their cars – but once we reach camp all electronic gear will be locked in the car. If you have them in camp they will be confiscated and returned to your parent(s).
- Carbonated beverages and candy are **not** permitted at meetings or on outings.

Equipment

Every scout needs to have the items listed on the checklist.

Shoes – all scouts must wear closed toed shoes at all times. Comfortable shoes with good support are important. Depending upon the activity it might be a good idea to bring a shoe with ankle support and protection. A second pair of shoes is a good idea. Feet get wet and muddy, having something to change into on the way home or while in camp can make a big difference in how you feel. We get messy, don't bring your best sport shoes, nobody cares what style you wear. Generally for Summer camp and some outings water or swim shoes are required.

Clothes – always bring a change of clothes. In cold and wet weather avoid cotton. Bring a sweater or sweatshirt, it gets chilly at night even in the summer. Bring your Troop hat. If you sleep cold, bring a watch cap or stocking cap for sleeping. Watch the weather forecast. You may need a really warm jacket, gloves, and insulated underwear. Camouflage is not allowed. Class B camp T shirts should be scout themed or plain colors. Look at the uniform policy or ask if you have questions.

Raingear – always bring raingear. Texas weather is unpredictable and many of our camps are outside the local forecast area and have different weather than may occur at home. It is suggested to not bring ponchos or thin plastic raincoats. They tear and rip very easily,

especially in cold weather. A reasonably priced rain jacket and pants set is most effective. They also double as wind-proofing for unexpected cold snaps.

Mess kit – bring your own plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork and spoon. The most popular kinds are the Lexan plates and cups and utensils. Mark them in some way as yours. Many people have similar items. Don't go out and buy an aluminum mess kit. They cost a lot and are generally too hot to handle and hard to clean. Remember you are putting hot food in these and you must hold it in your hand or on your lap. We do not have tables and chairs. Some scouts use Frisbees for plates & bowls. A shallow cup can double as a bowl.

Water bottle – bring it and use it. Dehydration hurts!

Sleeping bags – People differ in how warm a bag to own. Everybody sleeps at a different temperature. A 30 degree bag may be too hot for some and not hot enough for others. Because we camp in a lot of different conditions it is suggested to approach sleeping bags as a tiered system. Get a bag – 30 or 40 degree rating – for general use. Add a fleece bag or a blanket if it gets too cold. That fleece bag or camp blanket may be all you need in the summer. What ever type of bag you bring, always bring it in a stuff sack or plastic bag to keep it dry. It might get wet in the trailer.

Sleeping pad – get a closed cell foam pad to give you some protection from the cold ground. There are all types and price ranges. Get one large enough for at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of your height.

Flashlight or Head lamp – Bring a small flashlight or a headlamp (on a head or hat band). The LED type are real battery savers. Always pack spare batteries in your personal kit.

Personal kit – bring soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb, a small mirror, washcloth and towel. *Remember a Scout is clean.* A partial roll of toilet paper or personal wipes and sanitizer are great. Zip bags make great personal kits. And they protect the rest of your stuff from spills and wet towels. Bring a **personal first aid / safety kit**. A small kit should have band aids, ointment, antiseptic wipes and the general items listed in the Scout Handbook. It should also have a **whistle, compass, and emergency contact information and ID**. Always bring **sunscreen** and **insect repellent**.

All of this stuff will fit into a **medium or large duffle bag**. Target has some inexpensive ones that work great. You won't need a backpack until you start high adventure. Bring a **small day pack**, like the one you take to school, to carry stuff around during the day and your lunch when we hike around. It can hold your **Scout Handbook, notebook**, water bottle, raingear, first aid kit, and a sweater or jacket along with your lunch.

Other personal gear can include cameras, books, journals, pens, art supplies any thing but electronics and games. When you earn your "totin chip" you can bring an appropriately sized pocket knife. Fixed blade knives are not allowed, ever.

Extended camps like Summer camp will require more changes of clothing and personal stuff. You will need a foot locker – one of the plastic ones from WalMart, Target or Academy – that can be locked. They fit in the bus or trailer and have room for everything you may need. Put your name on it, permanently. Now that you have your gear and know what to expect –

Let's go camping!