

What Is the Campmaster Corps?

The campmaster corps is a group of selected, trained, and registered Scouters who serve at council weekend camps whenever troops, Webelos dens, or Crews are using any part of the camp property. Campmasters select their own time and frequency of service, but they usually serve two to four times a year. The group is organized under the leadership of the council camping committee. The entire project and its personnel are responsible to the Scout executive. The corps generally meets twice a year to evaluate its program, schedule ahead, and arrange for the training of any new members.

Campmasters are selected on the basis of their ability in several areas: outdoor skills, specialized knowledge of nature and conservation, and leadership skills. All campmasters must have a record of demonstrated ability to get along with people, to lead, and to act in an emergency. All campmasters must have a working knowledge of Scouting, troop and Crew operations, Scout advancement, and Webelos Scout camping. Experienced and registered Scouters, with the exception of unit leaders, are eligible for consideration as campmasters. (It is generally conceded that a unit leader's major concern must be the particular unit served.)

The training prerequisite is determined by the council. It is important that the person have outdoor experience and people skills.

General Duties of Campmasters

These principles will serve to guide the work of campmasters.

1. They render commissioner-type service to the units in camp, working with and through the youth leaders and adult leaders.
2. An annual or semiannual schedule is made up with campmasters assigned for each weekend camp. In case of schedule conflict, the campmaster arranges his own substitute among other corps members and notify the council service center and the camp ranger of any change.
3. Campmasters supply their own transportation, bedding, and food.
4. Campmasters serve two to four times a year.
5. The corps is a select group and should not be limited to a fixed number.
6. Campmasters must be trained in the Scout method of camping, purposes of Scout camping, and the patrol method in camping. They should have completed Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
7. Campmasters coordinate the work of any specialists or merit badge counselors present so that units receive the maximum benefit from these skilled people.
8. Campmasters submit a report to the camp ranger and council on their experience with each unit, along with an appraisal of its effectiveness.
9. Campmasters are responsible to the Scout executive or to another staff member appointed by the Scout executive, or to the camp ranger. The campmaster corps should not be an organization. They do not become members of the council camping committee because of this service, but they do have a representative on the camping committee.
10. Campmasters must attend campmaster training before performing their duties.

Campmaster Characteristics

1. Would have an interest in assisting troops, Crews, Webelos dens, and boys at camp two to four weekends a year
2. Is not presently a unit leader or assistant
3. Has ability in outdoor Scouting skills—not necessarily an expert in all
4. Has the ability to get along with people (very important)
5. Has acceptable character traits (Scout Oath and Law)
6. Would be eligible and willing to become a registered Scouter, if not one now
7. Must take a weekend training session on how to be a successful campmaster
8. Has leadership ability and can get results
9. Can size up a situation and provide necessary support
10. Is dependable
11. Has completed Youth Protection Training
12. Is certified in First Aid

Possible Sources of Campmaster Personnel

1. Wood Badge Scouters
2. Training committees
3. Other council committees
4. Certain commissioners
5. Former successful Scoutmasters
6. Outdoorsmen
7. Merit badge counselors (outdoor subjects)
8. Hobbyists of the area
9. Eagle Scouts—now adults
10. Troop committee members with outdoor experience

Campmasters are Selected

Again, it should be noted that no unit leader should be selected for this service. The number of campmasters needed will depend upon the number of camps to be served, the frequency of service by individuals, and the number of troops in camp at one time. Each campmaster usually serves up to four units per weekend.

The council camp should supply the following for campmasters:

1. Suitable quarters and sanitary cooking facilities
2. Program tools and materials that may be available or obtainable for loan to units
3. Campmaster corps certification and/or insignia
4. Emergency equipment, facilities, and plans
5. In-camp transportation, if needed
6. Checkout and report forms
7. Brief factual information about the units that will be in camp
8. Information and schedule of any program specialists who will be in camp during the campout period
9. Complete roster of names, addresses, and phone numbers of candidates

The Campmaster Corps and the Camp Ranger

At the very outset, a cooperative and close relationship must exist between all campmasters and the camp ranger. The camp ranger is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and proper use of all camp facilities; any support he can receive in this endeavor is welcome. The precise relationship between the campmaster and the camp ranger should be stated in writing by the Scout executive.

Campmasters work closely with the camp ranger, but are responsible to the head campmaster. It should be understood that the camp ranger, as a full-time employee, is responsible to the Scout executive therefore, no other person should give directives.

Check-in (Arrival Condition Good)				Checkout (Departure Condition Good)		
Campsite	Yes	No	Remarks	Yes	No	Remarks
Latrine	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Firewood stock	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Latrine	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Planned program	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Cabins	Yes	No	Remarks	Yes	No	Remarks
Windows/lights	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Walls/doors	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Stoves/fireplaces	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Beds/racks	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Latrines/firewood	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Tables	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Program agenda	___	___	_____	___	___	_____
Comments	_____					

	Signed _____					
	Campmaster					
Suwannee River Area Council	Boy Scouts of America					

Sample Campmaster's Instructions

1. Check with the camp ranger by Monday evening preceding weekend duty.
2. Personally contact all leaders of units to be at camp on assigned weekend at least three weeks prior to the weekend. Introduce yourself and offer assistance in planning for the weekend.
3. Campmaster should be at camp by the time the first unit arrives.
4. Check in with the camp ranger on arrival at camp and obtain check-in material and other materials and instructions as provided by the Scout executive.
5. Assist the camp ranger in checking in units. Make sure check-in forms are filled out completely and that each unit campsite is shown on the camp map. Make announcements and give instructions to each unit as necessary for the weekend.
6. Park all vehicles as directed by the camp ranger.
7. Make every effort to promote conservation by encouraging all leaders and their units to complete or work on a conservation project. Discuss the Outdoor Code with each unit. Have each Scout and leader subscribe to the Outdoor Code and sign a personal copy of the Outdoor Code pocket certificate, No. 33428.
8. Offer to Scouting units any special Scouting skills you may have in nature, hobbies, merit badge counseling, or the camp program.
9. You should determine that adequate plans have been made by each unit so that each Scout can properly fulfill his religious obligations. Assistance may be offered by you in coordinating transportation to local religious institutions. Units operated by religious institutions, in many instances, will have plans to conduct their own service. Campmasters should assist such units whenever possible, and may even lead in planning a Scout-conducted religious service in the chapel for boys who can fulfill their obligations in this manner.
10. Each campsite should be visited to ensure safe camping and to get to know the adult leaders, thus promoting a better camping spirit and cooperation.
11. Supply your own transportation, bedding, and food. The campmasters' quarters and cooking facilities should be left each weekend in a clean and sanitary condition.
12. Wear the official Scout leader's uniform at all times while on duty.
13. Call the camp ranger and Scout executive if you are instructed to do so by the council in case of any serious emergency.

Campmaster Corps Evaluation Form

Suwannee River Area Council

Boy Scouts of America

Campmaster Appraisal

Note: It is not the intention of this form to analyze or to judge the operation of the troop, but rather to provide effective follow-through on the program help you have rendered. Please submit this appraisal to the camp ranger before leaving camp. It will, in turn, be turned over to the related district commissioner.

Unit _____ District _____ Leader _____

Dates camped _____

Leadership

Organization

Patrol method (Did patrols have an opportunity to function as a patrol? To do patrol cooking?)

Program (Advance planning, boy-led, complete preparation)

Areas where you helped

Outstanding features

Recommendations (Related to camping)

Signed _____

Campmaster