



TO THE PARENTS OF FIRST TIME BARTLE CAMPERS:

You and your Scout are about to embark on a fun-filled adventure – Summer Camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. We say ‘you and your Scout’ because you are one of the major influences on how your Scout will view their camping experience. If you show interest, enthusiasm and encouragement, your Scout is much more likely to do the same. Demonstrate that you believe in their abilities. Bartle is a wonderful experience where your Scout will have a great time and will grow both physically and mentally. With your help, they will get the most out of their experience.

As the time to depart for camp draws near, your Scout will need your special attention helping them acquire, mark and pack their clothing and Scouting items. Prior to this special day, it might be fun if someone suggests and/or organizes a Mom’s brunch for after the troop leaves or a get together at someone’s house for “Mom’s Night Out.” There’s comfort in numbers! Also, “seasoned” Moms will have a wealth of information and experiences they will gladly share.

Your Scout will be looking forward to your visit on Visitor Day. **Troop 318 Visitors Day is Saturday, July 13.** We suggest you plan to arrive between 10:00 and 11:00 am. Every family is encouraged to attend. Parking at camp is limited, therefore carpooling is strongly encouraged. Your attendance and support for your Scout on this special day during each session helps them to know how important they are to you. Additionally, they are anxious to share with and show you what they are experiencing.

Our troop will have a buffet picnic lunch. Food should be brought to camp in disposable containers. Due to the heat, please don’t leave dishes that contain mayonnaise or ingredients such as tuna out for more than a couple of hours and be sure to take that food home with you. Most often enough food is brought on Visitor Day to allow the Scouts and leaders to have enough for not only the noon meal, but also an evening snack. Campers look forward to this day during their session because we all know that home-cooked food is much tastier than camp food.

Bring your lawn chairs. Expect the weather to be sunny, hot and humid. The camp is dusty and rocky, so wear your most comfortable shoes (sandals are not a good choice). Your youth will want to show you where they spend their days and this requires considerable walking. You will be able to see Bartle through the eyes of your Scout. Do not bring pets to camp!

Please plan your departure from the campsite no later than 4:00 pm, as the youth will have evening activities to attend. If your Scout is a bit sad to see you leave, don’t delay – that only makes it harder for them (and you)! In most instances, within a very few minutes after you leave, your Scout will be off to another adventure and a fun filled evening. Your Leaders are aware that departure time is sometimes difficult, so be ready to handle homesickness that might arise.

You might consider mailing a short note or a funny card to your Scout on the day before they leave for camp so they will get some mail shortly after they arrive at camp. However, **DO NOT TELL THEM ALL THE FUN YOU ARE HAVING WHILE THEY ARE GONE!** Make your letter sound as if life is **RATHER DULL AT HOME.**

Bartle is a large place with hundreds of campers per session. Please do not call unless it is truly an emergency that cannot wait. Even then, it will be some time before the message can be delivered, and a return call placed back to you. Phones can be a source of homesickness. Should your Scout call home, we suggest you give them encouragement that you want them to stay and have a great camping experience.