

# Forestburg Winter Camping

- The troop typically invites a parent of each boy to attend. You do not NEED to come. It is for YOUR benefit, not theirs. After this trip, it is typically only registered troop leaders who attend camps. (Talk to the scoutmaster or committee chairman if you would like to join the troop as an adult leader). Adults are asked to relax, observe, enjoy themselves, but keep some distance from the scouts. Let them be independent, struggle, fail, ask for help, and learn. By the third trip, your son, who doesn't tie his own shoes now unless you tell him to, will be cooking his own breakfast.
- The boys (and parents if they come) will stay in cabins. Scouts are in one room, parents/adults/leaders in another room, and possibly another cabin. Cabins are basically rooms with bunks, that's it. There is no running water or indoor plumbing. There is a water supply in camp, and an out-house/latrine.
- Most Cabins have been upgraded to Electric Heat, making them very comfortable in the winter.

**It will be COLD COLD COLD.....**

**If you dress right, you'll have a great time.**

Layers, layers, layers.

- **Base layer:** Under-armor or some type of wicking long johns (NOT COTTON). (You can wear cotton underwear under those though).
- **Shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies.** Avoid cotton. Synthetic material is better but wear whatever you have to stay warm.
- **Pants:** Jeans are not good. If you have non-cotton gym pants, those are good.
- **Snow pants:** VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED... (stay dry = stay warm). There is a lot of snow up at camp.
- **Coat:** Again, something warm, something that will stay dry in the snow. (It will come home smelling like a campfire...)
- **Gloves:** WEAR THEM and bring an extra pair if you can.
- **HATS/SKI MASKS/SCARVES, etc.** Keep your head and face covered at all times. LOTS of scouts wear big silly furry hats. If they are warm, wear them. Don't worry about looking goofy, everyone does it! WEAR IT!
- **Hand, toe, body warmers.** Those little packets that heat up are a life saver. Keep them in your gloves and boots.
- **BOOTS:** Waterproof. Keep your feet dry at all times. (Payless has a good selection. Don't spend a lot because you'll grow out of them by next year, but get something that'll keep you warm and dry)
- **SOCKS: NO COTTON.... Get wool socks.** Wear a pair of nylon dress socks for wicking under your wool socks. . Bring EXTRA SOCKS. Change them during the day if they get wet. Cold feet = cold body.
- You may feel like the stay-puff marshmallow man when you get this all on, but you'll be happy you did about 20 minutes after you get out in the cold.
- Personal recommendation: Avoid the name brands for this stuff (like under-armor). Save your money and buy the knock-offs because the boys will grow out of all this stuff by next year. They are all about to have a big growth spurt.

- **For sleeping: Sweat pants, sweat shirt, lounge pants, etc.** Something to keep you warm in your sleeping bag, socks.
- **REMOVE ANYTHING YOU WORE DURING THE DAY AND PUT ON DRY CLOTHES WHEN YOU SLEEP. EVEN IF YOU THINK WHAT YOU WORE DURING THE DAY IS DRY, IT'S NOT!!! THIS IS VERY VERY VERY IMPORTANT.**
- **DO NOT SLEEP IN YOUR CLOTHES FOR THE NEXT DAY!! They will become damp with sweat and you will freeze outside.**
- ZIP UP your sleeping bag all the way when you sleep. Keep your head covered with a hood or hat if you don't have a mummy bag.
- DO NOT put your clothes for the morning in your sleeping bag while you sleep. They will become damp with sweat and make you cold as soon as you step outside. If you want to warm them up, put them in your bag when you first wake up for about 20-30 minutes as you lay there.
- TIP: Before you go to sleep, pull out your clothes for the next day and either hang them on your bunk or put them at the top of your back pack, so you can dress quickly (all layers of clothes). Do not leave them under your sleeping bag. They will get damp.
- PUT ALL YOUR CLOTHES AWAY each time you change, unless you are hanging them out to dry. Keep your bunk neat so you don't lose things or have get clothes stepped on and wet.
- Do not wear your uniform to camp. Do not bring your Troop hat to camp. We wear civilian clothes to camp, unless we are doing a historic trail or hike (or are in public). You will be told when to bring a uniform.
- If you can fit them, bring shoes or slippers for when you are in the cabin, so you don't have to wear your boots. (Keep in mind that there will probably be water/snow on the floor from other people's boots.)

### Other things to remember:

- **Flashlights:** Headlamps are great. Bring a spare flashlight in case you lose yours. Don't bring lanterns. You won't need them here.
- **Cheap sunglasses:** It'll be very WHITE there (Snow-blind). "Cheap" because you'll probably lose them.
- **Toiletries:** Toothbrush/toothpaste, eyeglass case, tissues, hair brush. Washcloth, soap, and small towel to wash your hands and face. There won't be a sink, but there will be a hose. Wet wipes are good to have. Think about your morning routine and bed time routine...what do you use? Bring toilet paper. Bring a ½ used roll (smaller to carry), JUST IN CASE. Bring it with you to the latrine, JUST IN CASE. Don't leave it in the latrine. It won't be there when you return.
- **Hat:** Typically, I bring a baseball hat for camp so when I wake up on Saturday and have messy hair, I can cover it up. In this case, you can wear your winter hat.
- **Mess kit and utensils.** These are NOT needed. The patrols have plates and utensils to use.
- **NO ELECTRONICS: No ipods/MP3 players. NO cellphones** (If you want to bring one to call home when you arrive at camp, and when you get home, leave it in the car). **No video games.** If we find you with them, we'll take them and not be responsible for their return. If it gets lost, it's your responsibility.
- **No expensive jewelry.** Nothing you can't afford to lose.
- **Compass:** If you have one, bring it in case they go on a hike. It must have a turnable dial with "bearing" numbers on it or it's useless for your advancement requirements.
- **Write your name (or put some identifying mark) on everything you bring.** Absolutely everything. Flashlights, socks, underwear, pants, hats, gloves, sleeping bag, sleeping bag sack, backpack, straps for backpack. Scouts will leave everything and anything behind.
- **Sleeping bag (0-10 degree or lower) and sleeping pad.** If you want a pillow, and can pack it along with everything else, feel free to bring it, IF it fits in your pack.
- **Medication:** Bring what you need, but let the scoutmaster know about it.
- **You no longer have a "Den leader". You now have a "Patrol leader".** If you have a problem, or question, see him first. If he doesn't help, see the Senior Patrol Leader. If that doesn't help, see the adults. There are assistant scoutmasters (like Mr. Santoro), committee members, and finally the Scoutmaster (Mr. Pyburn). We all report to him.
- **In the troop, call all of the adults Mr. or Mrs.** Even if it is your own father, uncle, etc. Call him Mr. For example, Ryan Pyburn will call his father Mr. Pyburn. Besides being a sign of respect, yelling out "Dad" in the middle of 7 fathers isn't very effective.
- If at anytime you are asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable, or witness something that you know is wrong, report it to the SPL or an adult immediately. Your safety is our #1 concern. This does not mean being asked to wash dishes, carry firewood or sweep the floor. Feeling uncomfortable is one thing, but being lazy is a whole different story....
- Always stay quiet during patrol formation or flag ceremonies.
- Your patrol will have drinks for meals, but you should always have a water bottle and a camp cup to drink with. Stay hydrated (drink, drink, drink).
- DO NOT PLAY WITH FIRE. YOU CAN GET BURNED. YOUR CLOTHES CAN BURN. FIRE IS DANGEROUS. RESPECT IT.

- **HELP YOUR PATROL:** The adults are not there to clean up after you. You are a boy scout in a patrol. You cook, you clean, you wash dishes, you pick up garbage as a patrol. If you make a mess, YOU have to clean it up. If your cabin is messy, YOU will need to clean it up. YOU will have to do work. Do what your patrol leader asks you to do. Don't complain. Everyone pitches in. Don't argue with your patrol. You will be a team for at least the next year, if not longer. You will quickly earn the respect of your troop if you show that you are willing to be part of the team and be eager to help out.
- You are responsible for your own equipment. Keep it together. Carry it to the trailer. Carry it to your cabin. Learn to wear your back/pack on your back. If it's too heavy for you to carry around, you need to lighten your load. Don't wait until Friday afternoon to try to carry everything you packed. Do it sooner.
- If you find that you've lost something, don't ASSUME someone stole it. They might have packed it on accident. If you find that you've brought home something that belongs to someone else, bring it to the following troop meeting and give it to an adult. If you lost something, tell an adult.
- Snacks: Snacks are permitted on some trips, and not on others. If we are in the woods, in tents, then you need to keep food as far away as possible. In cabins, feel free to bring small snacks if you would like. Just be sure to store all snacks with the patrol food and throw away your trash.
- We carpool to camp. Do NOT assume you can eat or drink in someone else's car. Ask first.
- If you start to feel car sick, ask for a bag. Don't be embarrassed. It is FAR less embarrassing throwing up in a bag than having to stop at a rest stop to wash out the car.
- Dress warm for the Saturday night camp fire. Although it's inside, the dining hall doesn't get very warm even with the fire. (remember hand and toe warmers)

### Activities

**Hiking (See the frozen waterfall), playing on the frozen lake, learning firebuilding, learning knife and ax safety, rifle shooting (22 cal.) with a certified NRA instructor...very safe, cooking, troop campfire, playing in the snow, and just hanging out and having fun.**

**Friday night:** After a long (2.5 hour) ride to the camp, you will help unload the troop gear, then the patrol gear, then the personal gear. Scouts are directed to their cabins, and bring their gear to their bunks. They then go to bed. (It takes a VERY LONG TIME for everyone to get to sleep because they are so excited and hyper... It will be noisy... be patient, you will get to sleep eventually).

**Saturday:** Wake up, get dressed, make breakfast, clean up, do activities, make lunch, clean up, do more activities, make dinner, clean up, relax, work on skits, campfire, cracker barrel (dessert), go back to cabin, get dressed for bed, and fall asleep in about 20 minutes or less...or hang out. Your choice.

**Sunday morning:** Get up, get dressed, make breakfast, clean up, pack up your gear, clean up the cabin, load up the troop and patrol gear. Load up the personal gear. Scout service (religious service), Play around for a bit, then go home. Fall asleep in the car on the way home. Get home around 1pm if all goes on schedule.

## Shopping list

For February

- **Sleeping Bag**: 0 to 10 degree recommended. Walmart has 2 for \$40! [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com) has good slumberjack and Eureka bags for about \$60.
- **Sleeping pad**: Get the cheapest you can find. It will get filthy, stepped on, ripped.
- **Water Bottle**: A refillable, washable, water bottle. Metal, Nalgene, etc
- **Boots, Gloves, hats, snow pants, wicking layer, wool socks.**
- **Flashlights, headlamps, etc.** Go cheap as they will get lost. Get a few.
- **Hand/Foot warmers.**
- **Small first aid Kit**
- **Scout Handbook & Handbook cover.** (Not for camp, but needed right away). Check with Cubmaster/Den Leader.

Not needed for Forestburg, but soon

- **Scout pants, Boy Scout Belt, Boy Scout Socks.** Wait 2 or 3 meetings before buying them to be sure he's committed. (Don't buy the hat or neckerchief, or 137 numbers)
- **Backpack**: Not needed IMMEDIATELY, but after 2 or 3 trips if he's committed to the program, invest in one.
- **Pocket Knife**: Not a necessity, but handy to have, and can only be carried after Whittlin' Chit training.
- **Compass** (This type only: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/silvar-polaris-compass.html> ).

## More info

- [www.t137.org](http://www.t137.org)
- <http://picasaweb.google.com/rspyburn> (look for Troop 137 albums, not my vacation pics! ☺ )
- "Troop 137 Hazlet New Jersey" facebook group. (Request access and email [rspyburn@verizon.net](mailto:rspyburn@verizon.net))
- [rspyburn@verizon.net](mailto:rspyburn@verizon.net) (Scoutmaster Rich Pyburn) for any and all questions.
- Email me and I will send you a Troop 137 Guide Book that will give you a complete overview of what we do!