



LEADERS' GUIDE

2019

Southern Sierra Council
2417 M Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 | 661.325.9036





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
SOUTHERN SIERRA COUNCIL

Disclaimer Page

The Southern Sierra Council Boy Scouts of America does not discriminate against any child or adult because of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, or disability, in becoming a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Camp Kern is a Boy Scouts of America resident summer camp operated by the Southern Sierra Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Camp Kern is a fully accredited camp certified by the Boy Scouts of America National Council and operates under strict guidelines established by the State of California, Fresno County, United States Forest Service and Huntington Lake Community Association.

This Leaders' Guide is meant to be used in conjunction with the Program Guide. A copy of the 2019 Program Guide can be found at www.sscbsa.org/campkern under "2019 Leaders Resources"



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Welcome to Camp Kern!

Welcome to beautiful Camp Kern located at Huntington Lake, one of the most famous sailing lakes in the western hemisphere. At an elevation of 7,000 feet and West of the San Joaquin Valley in the High Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, the camp operates under a non-discriminatory special use permit issued by the USDA Forest Department.

About an hour and forty-five minutes from Fresno, California, Camp Kern offers more than a traditional scout camp experience. Under the guidance of an experienced staff you will enjoy an outstanding program. This will be the summer camp experience to remember for the rest of your life. Once you have had a taste of Camp Kern, you will want to return year after year.

Camping in the outdoors is the highlight of the troop's annual program as Scouts apply the skills they have learned and practiced all year long. With hour-long Scout meetings each week, the average troop spends about 52 hours of scouting in one year. One week at Camp Kern can provide 70 or more hours of concentrated programs. Summer camp is a years' worth of skill practice and adventure in seven days! It's no wonder you can't spell "Scouting" without "outing."

This leaders' guide is designed to help you prepare for camp and to make your stay both easier and more enjoyable. If there are any questions or concerns for you or your troop, please feel free to contact the Southern Sierra Council office at (661) 325-9063 or Camp Kern (559) 893-3387 (camp phone operational from July 1st- Aug 15th). We will be happy to talk with you or answer any questions you might have about camp. We are excited to have you at Camp Kern and we will work to make it the best Scout camp experience you have ever had.

General Contact Information

Council Office Information- Operational Year Around:

Southern Sierra Council, Boy Scouts of America
2417 M Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
661-325-9036

Camp Phone- Operational July 1- August 4

Program Office- (559) 893-3387

Contacts at the Office:

Scout Executive and Camp Director
Jesse Lopez- jesse.lopez@scouting.org

Office Manager
Bethany Rice- bethany.rice@scouting.org

District Associate/Camp Ranger
Gregory Etheridge- gregory.etheridge@scouting.org

Online Resources:

Council Website- www.sscbsa.org
Camp Kern Website- www.sscbsa.org/campkern

Camp Kern Contact Information- Operational July 1- August 10:

<i>Mailing Address</i>	<i>Physical Location</i>
Scout/ Adult Leader Name	Scout/ Adult Leader Name
Troop #/ Week #	Troop # / Week #
Camp Kern, BSA	Camp Kern, BSA
PO Box 348	61953 Huntington Lake Road
Lakeshore, CA 93634	Lakeshore, CA 93634

Mail Service

Scouts may receive mail at Camp Kern from friends and family. Please encourage them to mail these things well in advance of your time at camp to ensure their arrival during your scheduled week. All packages should be sent via UPS or FedEx.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Leadership at Camp

Adults who replace leaders during the week can share fees. Adults coming to camp who do not replace a leader in their troop are charged at a rate of **\$65 per day**, to be paid prior to arrival or in the Trading Post upon arrival. This price includes room, board, and use of camp facility. Please notify Camp Kern administration of all leadership changes.

Refunds

The \$300.00 reservation deposit is non-refundable.

The Southern Sierra Council must begin making financial commitments for staff, supplies, etc. many months prior to the camp sessions, therefore all participants are required to make a financial commitment to summer camp of at least \$100.00 by the January payment deadline, per estimated camper count on the reservation form. This per person camper confirmation payment is non-refundable, but may be applied to an *additional* camper from the same unit, if the total number of youth scheduled to attend does not decrease.

If the first camper payment is not made by the January deadline, the unit will be charged in full for the number of reservations claimed on the original camp reservation form.

The Council reserves the right to cancel the reservation if payments are not received in full by each of the payment schedule dates, and to adjust campsites or to add another unit to the campsite if campsite capacity is not met by the number of camper confirmation payments.

All fees become non-refundable after the full payment deadline. Individual fees, however, may be refunded at the discretion of the Southern Sierra Council in the following cases:

- camper/family emergency - serious illness, death or out-of-the-area relocation
- required summer school during the camp session

There will be a unit cancellation fee of \$150.00 per camper; no exceptions.

Only the Camp Contact Person may make a refund request. Please provide the following information.

- unit type and number and district
- Name and mailing address of payee
- Camp session attended
- reason for refund

Refund requests must be received at the Council Service Center in Bakersfield (in writing or via e-mail) no later than **August 15th**. No refunds will be considered for requests received after this date. Refunds will be made payable to the unit only. **It is the responsibility of the unit leadership to understand and abide by the Council Refund and Resident Camp Fee policies.**

Scouts, BSA Provisional Camping

Scouts who cannot attend camp with their unit **or** who want an extra week at camp **or** units unable to provide two-deep adult leadership will become members of a provisional troop. Individual Scouts are encouraged to attend with a friend. Scouts attending with friends will be assigned to the same unit and site. Standalone provisional Scouts will still need to pay camp fees as above but with a reduced deposit fee of one hundred dollars. Just indicate "provisional" on the application under "unit number." Units that are unable to provide two-deep adult leadership must abide by the original payment plan without a reduced deposit.

Capacity Policy

PLEASE, if your camper numbers increase (or decrease) notify the camp registrar IMMEDIATELY. The US Forest Service limits camp properties to a certain number of campers per session. Increasing or decreasing the total number of campers affects every troop in camp that week. Every attempt will be made to place your troop in a larger campsite, but a larger site cannot be guaranteed and you may have to bring the extra tents necessary to accommodate the additional campers. **Please be considerate when adding additional campers by informing the Camp Registrar at least 2 weeks before your scheduled session.**

Insurance

Every unit attending camp **must** be covered by some type of accident and sickness insurance plan. All units registered in the Southern Sierra Council are covered under the BSA Campers' Accident and Sickness insurance plan. Some Councils also provide this insurance to their registered units; others offer the insurance to their units at a small fee. Some units are covered by their chartered partner.

All units from Councils other than the Southern Sierra Council must provide proof of Accident and Sickness insurance to the Camp Registrar no later than June 1st. Contact your local council office for proof of insurance. A council claim form may be acceptable proof. **If proof is not received by June 1st, the Southern Sierra Council will purchase the BSA Campers' Accident and Sickness insurance for the unit at a cost to the unit of \$1.00 per person per day. The cost will be billed to the unit. Also make sure that each scout brings a copy of his standard health insurance card and a list of phone numbers in case of an emergency.**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Travel Directions

The simplest route from Southern California runs north on Highway 99. Once in the city of Fresno, take exit 131 to merge onto CA 41 N towards Yosemite. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 128A to merge onto CA 180 E towards Kings Canyon and then keep left at the fork following the signs for CA 168 E/Clovis/Huntington Lake. Follow CA 168 East for about 30 minutes through the town of Prather, taking the first exit from the traffic circle.

From Northern California, drive South on Highway 99 towards Madera. Take exit 155 for W. Cleveland Ave / Ave. 15 ½ and turn left following the signs for Millerton Lake. In ¼ mile, turn right to stay on W. Cleveland Ave. After 1.7 miles there is a dog-leg to the right and the road changes to Tozer St. Make a left turn shortly after this onto CA 145 N/ E. Yosemite Ave. A few miles after crossing CA 41, turn right on Road 206 at the "T." Upon crossing the San Joaquin River, turn left on N. Friant Rd. After passing the Indian Casino, turn left at the "T" onto Auberry Road. Take the second exit from the traffic circle in Prather, for CA 168 E./Table Mountain.

From Prather, continue East on CA 168. After a few minutes go left at the only stop sign on CA 168 to continue, on CA 168 E. You will drive up the four-lane road and through the community of Shaver Lake. After passing the dam of Shaver Lake you are about 20 minutes away. Once you see the China Peak Ski Resort sign, you are almost there. Continue for about 3 minutes. After crossing a bridge with a view of a power plant, CA 168 ends. Continue, on Huntington Lake Road. After passing the Rancheria Marina in a little more than a ¼ mile, turn left into the Scout parking area (the fire station is to the right). If you pass the U.S. Post Office and Lakeshore resort you have gone about a quarter mile too far. The staff will be there to welcome you to the parking area and help get your luggage loaded onto the barge beginning at **12:00 pm**.

Traveling to Camp

Each unit is responsible for furnishing its own transportation to and from camp. Each Scout must have a signed Parent Authorization for Trip/Activity Medical Treatment for travel to and from camp. This signed form should be given to the driver of the vehicle in which that Scout rides, and collected by the unit leader on arrival at camp.

Make sure everyone has had a good meal and plenty of rest before making the trip to camp. Units traveling distances of more than two hours should plan at least one rest stop on their way to camp. Remember, in most cases the first meal the Scout will have could be as much as six hours after arrival at camp. Make sure your Scouts are physically prepared for the day.

Under NO circumstances are youth or adults to ride in the backs of trucks, trailers, or campers.

Arrival and Parking

Please plan to arrive at the Scout parking lot, commonly referred to as the "Scout Docks," after 2:30 pm on Sunday. For sessions starting on Monday, please arrive at the parking lot between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Your punctuality allows for a smooth check-in process. Parking passes will be issued to vehicles that will be parking in the BSA parking lot, as available. In cases of high camper attendance, parking spaces may be limited. In cases such as these, any excess cars will be relocated to an overflow and will be charged a daily parking fee. Barge loading will be done under the direction of our staff and according to available space. Camp Kern will do all it can to get everyone to camp in a swift manner. Each barge is filled with campers and equipment to maximize each trip across the lake.

The parking lot used by Camp Kern is owned by the National Forest Service who has leased the rights to Rancharia Marina. As a result Camp Kern contracts with Rancharia Marina for use of half of the parking lot during the camping season. Rancharia Marina charges a parking fee of \$25.00 per vehicle for the week. Camp Kern provides each unit with one free parking pass. All other vehicles in the troop must purchase a \$25.00 pass through the Rancharia Marina General Store and Gas Station upon arrival at camp. ***Plan on bringing \$25 cash for each vehicle parked in the parking lot.*** Upon arrival staff members direct each vehicle to the appropriate place to park. **DO NOT** park in the Rancharia Marina parking areas. Your vehicle may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. Troops that are traveling to camp on Monday on a Sunday starting week must notify the Southern Sierra Council office with their intention to do so. Please be at the Camp Kern parking lot no later than 8:00 am. This will allow for a smooth check-in process. **If not arriving on-time due to travel arrangements, car troubles, traffic, or other reasons, please notify the camp at (559) 893-3387.**

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Health Screening

All persons will be screened prior to entering camp for a *fever*, questioned if they have *vomited* in the last 24 hours or if they have had *diarrhea* in the last 24 hours. Any individual for whom one or more is true *will not be allowed entry into camp*, as required by the county health department, until free of symptoms for 24 hours. We suggest you screen yourselves prior to heading to camp. No one wants to find themselves in a situation where one or more participants may not enter camp for a day. Any participant needing to delay their trip and arrive late could take a bus or Amtrak to Fresno and be picked up by someone in your unit. You are encouraged to take your time and be mindful of those who might be prone to motion sickness in your vehicle. Simply keep us informed and we will ensure you get transportation into camp.

General Medical Info

All participants who come to camp **must** have a current BSA Annual Medical Health Record. Medical evaluations must be performed by a certified and licensed physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner or physician assistant to practice medicine and must valid through the entire time at camp. As of January 2017, BSA Annual Health and Medical Records are valid through the end of the same month one year later. If the record is from say July 16, 2018, then it is valid through July 31, 2019. Health forms may be downloaded from www.scouting.org/healthandsafety. The approved medical form also contains an authorization form for medical treatment. The parent of all minors **must** sign this medical form. All scouts and adults will go through medical rechecks and evaluations by the camp health officer upon arrival at camp.

All troops should bring a complete first aid kit with them for minor injuries. Appoint an adult in the troop as the medic whose primary responsibility is to take care of scouts with headaches, coughs, scrapes, minor cuts, and bruises, etc.

The Health Lodge is designed to meet the medical emergency needs of our campers. A licensed first responder, EMT, nurse, or physician will usually be on site 24-hours a day to handle such emergencies. Serious injuries, which require immediate advanced medical support, will be handled by the paramedics at Lakeshore, who are never more than 10 minutes away from Camp Kern. All injuries will be reported and properly recorded. We are ready with emergency support and will make necessary contact with the emergency medical response team in Lakeshore in cases that require such medical attention. For less serious injuries, but which still require medical attention, troop and unit leaders will be responsible for transporting the injured person to the nearest medical treatment facility. We will be happy to provide you a list of nearby options. Due to the cost of over-the-counter medicine, such medicines will not be distributed from the health lodge for minor ailments. Persons who have non-emergency medical situations will be sent to their troop medic for assistance. Some medications for common ailments (i.e. colds, headaches, sore throats, coughs, etc) will be sold in the trading post, but it is highly recommended that all

troops come to camp equipped with a well-stocked first-aid kit. Over the counter medicine will be sold to adults only.

Practitioners of the Christian Science faith must provide the camp with a written letter from the practitioner.

NO MEDICAL EXAMINATION – NO CAMP, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Prescription Medications

With approval of the Camp Health Officer, there are three options regarding dispersing prescription medications at camp.

- Parents at camp may distribute medication to their own children.
- An adult who is designated as the troop medic can be responsible for storing in a locked box and dispensing troop medications.
- If you would like, the camp medical officer will assume the responsibility of dispensing medication.

In any case, all troop medications should be locked up in a container which is accessible to adults only. All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be stored in their original containers and with clearly marked original containers. Any medications that require refrigeration must be checked with and dispensed by the camp health officer. Medications such as inhalers, EpiPen's, insulin, etc. should be carried on the person who uses the medication

In an effort to make the administration of medication as smooth as possible, we ask that you have parents fill out the Medical Administration Form. If the troop medic will be storing and dispensing medications they must consult with the health officer before doing so. If the Camp health officer will be dispensing your troops' medications, this form must be turned in upon arrival at camp.

Special Needs

Scouts with special medical concerns:

- ◆ Must have a written record of the nature of ongoing treatment and care.
- ◆ May be required to have a parent accompany the scout to camp.

Special dietary needs of scouts or adults: If you have special dietary needs, such as allergies or religious observances, while at camp, please let us know in writing and/or by telephone at least two weeks before your arrival. Our kitchen staff is prepared to serve vegetarian and gluten free options for each meal. We are happy to discuss other dietary needs but may not be suited to address every restriction. In such cases, arrangements will be made to store and prepare foods brought to camp for those individuals.

Religious Waivers: in keeping with established policy, it is understood that there may be instances where the medical examination policy is in violation of the religious convictions of the individual. The requirement is waived with a written statement from the camper/camper's parents and proper church officials that a definite violation of religious conviction is involved

Campers with Disabilities

Camp Kern is prepared to assist campers with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities in any capacity needed. Scoutmasters can phone prior to coming to camp or discuss with the Camp Director upon arrival of their specific troop disabilities. As a facility Camp Kern has all amenities needed to assist a physically disabled camper. From a program perspective the staff is willing and able to accommodate campers with mental and emotional disabilities navigate their way through merit badge classes, swim checks, and any other program function in accordance with the guide to advancement.

Camper Fitness Level

Camp Kern is located at 7000 feet in the High Sierra Nevada's and requires campers understand the limits of their fitness level. The general program requires light physical activity, but there will be instances such as Adventure day, walking to the shooting ranges, or boating on Huntington Lake that will increase a camper's heart rate and require more strenuous activity. Camp Kern advises that all campers know their physical limitations and prepare for the camp by walking or hiking several months before camp begins. It is advised that once at camp all youth and adult leaders should take things slowly until their bodies have had a chance to adjust to the terrain and altitude.

CAMP FACILITIES

Campsites

Each campsite is supplied with the following equipment:

- Wood platforms and canvas tents
- Flag Pole
- Shovel, rake, broom, fire buckets
- Picnic Table
- Campfire pit
- Water
- Bulletin board
- Hand wash station
- BBQ

Equipment each unit should bring:

- Lantern (battery, propane/butane or gas)
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- First aid kit
- Pushpins for your bulletin board
- Patrol flag
- American Flag
- Tablecloth or cover
- Charcoal Chimney
- Unit flag
- Bed rolls/mattresses

Trading Post

The Camp Kern trading post, ran by our friendly and courteous staff, is stocked with a wide variety of program supplies, souvenir shirts, sweatshirts, hats, patches, pocketknives and much more. We carry general camping supplies, personal hygiene items, and an excellent selection of snacks and beverages. We encourage each Scout to bring an adequate amount of spending money. The trading post is open every day and the average Scout will spend \$50-\$60 throughout the course of the week. Trading post hours will be posted and announced regularly at camp.

Shower and Restroom Facilities

Showers and restrooms are available for all campers at any time, but should be used before quiet time. These facilities consist of individual, lockable units which allow them to be used by both scouts and adult leaders alike. We ask for your help in maintaining the condition of our restrooms and showers by treating them with respect and immediately reporting any malfunctions to the staff. In keeping with youth protection guidelines, adults should be aware of their troop's behavior and maintain discipline by providing supervision while the youth are at the shower units. If there are any mechanical problems or difficulties with other campers, please contact the staff

Laundry Facilities

The laundry facilities are intended for camp staff use. That said, should a need arise to use the laundry facility during your stay, let our staff know so we may accommodate you. Detergent packs are available for purchase in the Trading Post.

Meal Service

Breakfast and dinner are served in the dining hall either family or cafeteria style based upon the number of campers in camp. Units will be assigned a shift and table(s) with staff members dining with your unit. If you are sharing a table with another unit, please coordinate a host and waiter rotation with them. Unit will gather in the assembly area prior to dismissal into the dining hall.

Most lunches are prepared by units in the campsite. Camp Kern will provide each patrol with a BBQ, charcoal, picnic table, cooking and food prep utensils (including cutting boards and a pitcher), food and a handwashing/dishwashing station. Campers will need to bring their own mess kits including utensils. Each unit will need to bring a charcoal Chimney.

Host and Waiter Duty

We ask that you provide one host and one waiter for every table that is assigned to your troop at each meal except Saturday breakfast. The duties of the hosts and waiters are as follows:

1. Report to the dining hall fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled mealtime **with washed hands**.
2. Set table with appropriate condiments and refresh them throughout the meal.
3. Receive drinks and food for their table as instructed by the dining hall steward.
4. Wipe down table and clean area around table after the troop has eaten.
5. Accept further direction from the dining hall staff.

Please assign one adult per troop after each meal to supervise the clean up after meals.

CAMP SAFETY

For the well-being of Scouts, leaders, and parents at camp, the camp staff encourages the following important practices:

Emergency Procedures and Information

As part of the first flag ceremony, the camp will demonstrate the camp's emergency alarm system, the Camp Kern bell. Any other alarms during the week will signify an actual emergency. If you hear the alarm, proceed to the assembly area, join your troop, and account for everyone therein. Further instructions will be disseminated at the assembly area. Be sure that your troop discusses and understands what to do in case of emergencies.

Ecology

1. **Animal Conservation:** Please make certain that all Troop members understand the delicate balance of plant and animal life at Camp Kern and the Sierra National Forest. Everyone should do their best to ensure that all wildlife is treated with respect. Please walk only on designated trails and roads.
2. **Pets:** No pets of any kind should be brought to camp.
3. **Plant Conservation:** The vegetative life in the forest sustains a very fragile ecosystem. Please make every effort to stay on the trails. Do not pick the flowers or collect specimens unless directed to do so under the direction of a staff member. Do not use living, natural materials for camp construction projects. The trees are a particularly special part of Camp Kern. Please do not climb, carve into, hang items from, or do anything else that could damage them. Camp Kern is a wonderful place to relax in a hammock. The Forest Service will permit hammocks to be used, provided measures are taken to preserve the bark.
4. **Fire:** The smallest spark could potentially be a deadly threat to wildlife and campers alike. Please be responsible when handling or managing your campfire. No fireworks are allowed in camp.

Please help us keep the campers on the designated roads and trails, as this will help conserve the natural habitat and beauty of Camp Kern!

Axe Yard and Wood Cutting

As an option within your campsite, your unit may designate a safe area to cut wood, and construct an ax yard, all woodcutting must be done in this area. Please bring your own axes and hatchets to camp.

Bikes in Camp

The camp has a number of Mountain bikes that are used in the ACE program. Bikes will be available for check-out during open time when they are not being used by the ACE or cycling program. Scouts must know and follow all the BSA and Forest Service bicycle rules, which includes wearing a helmet, staying on the trails while riding and traveling at safe speeds, especially on multi-use trails. Due to safety issues, bike riding in camp is prohibited; therefore, if you plan on biking, we recommend that you sign up with the ACE or cycling program. You may bring your own personal bike, but you may do so at your own risk and so long as you comply with the camp guidelines stated above.

Lightning

Thunderstorms occasionally strike Camp Kern. The waterfront and shooting ranges will be closed when lightning presents a considerable danger. During severe weather, stay away from tall trees and wires. Head for cover and follow the direction of the staff. For more information about how to handle inclement weather, see the BSA's Weather Hazards training at www.my.scouting.org

Water

Conservation and wise use of water is a top priority at Camp Kern. We ask for your help in conserving water by taking short showers and turning faucets all the way off. Please stress this with your Scouts.

Bear Country

Camp Kern is situated in a beautiful corner of the Sierra National Forest with a number of local animals and trees. One of the most spectacular and misunderstood of these creatures is the California Black Bear, several of which live near Huntington Lake. It is important for troops to remember that they are visitors in the bears' natural habitat and should act accordingly. In particular, Scouts and leaders should avoid keeping food or other attractants in their campsites. All attractants such as deodorant, toothpaste, and food products must be kept in a "bear-proof" (specifically designed for storing attractants) container or in the dining hall each night.

Personal Safety

- ◆ Wear shoes at all times (except in the showers where beach thongs are recommended). An old pair of shoes or "water socks" may be worn at the waterfront to protect your feet.
- ◆ Do not run unless it is part of a program activity. Stay on the trails and out of the non-staffed program areas.
- ◆ Do not walk on or dislodge rock or wood trail outlines or markers.
- ◆ Please respect the privacy of the camp staff by staying out of their living areas.

- ◆ Do not throw rocks, sticks, pine cones, or other objects, except in designated areas.
- ◆ Report any maintenance problems to the ranger staff or Camp Director immediately.
- ◆ Do not leave food, candy, etc. in tents or unit campsites at night. Food smells attract unwanted camp visitors.
- ◆ The camp operates on the buddy system. Scouts should always be with at least one other Scout, including in the tent at bedtime.
- ◆ Help keep camp clean; leave camp better than you found it. Put all trash in garbage cans.

Aquatics Safety

- ◆ Aquatic areas are under the supervision of adults certified by BSA National Camp School at all times.
- ◆ The Safe Swim Defense plan and Safety Afloat principles are followed at all times on the waterfront. Swim checks are required of all Scouts and Scouters before participating in aquatic activities. All aquatic activities follow the buddy system. Scouts are paired within the same ability groups.
- ◆ The aquatics program is primarily recreational. Boating activities (canoes, rowboats) operate under the guidelines of Safety Afloat.
- ◆ Scout adult leaders are required to take Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training prior to any unit activity involving aquatics outside of Scout resident camp including unit float plans. For your convenience, these two training courses may be offered at camp.

Fire Safety

Fire always presents a danger to the Sierras. For that reason, we ask that Scouts and leaders pledge to be careful with fire by adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Campfires in unit sites must be under adult supervision at all times--fires must be dead out after use.
2. Scouts are not allowed to play with matches, lighters, or hot sparks.
3. Fires must always be kept at a reasonable height (approximately 24") and contained within the designated campfire rings. Please do not build new campfire rings.
4. Fires must always be managed safely under the direction of the designated troop fire warden.
All troops must fill out and post the provided fire guard chart.
5. Adults wishing to smoke must only do so in specially designated areas away from the Scouts. Do not smoke while hiking, or in any camp building or activity area.
6. Flames from any source are not permitted in tents or within 10 feet of tents. Only battery-operated lanterns or flashlights are allowed.
7. If a fire starts in a tent, exit immediately and collapse the tent poles inward.
8. A California Campfire Permit, available from a USFS ranger station, Cal Fire- fire stations, BLM Facilities or www.preventwildfire.org. is required for any campfire off camp property.

9. Emergency drills are held during each session. Upon hearing the alarm, all scouts must report immediately to the camp designated assembly area. Adult leaders then report to the Camp Director or staff designee that the unit is present and everyone is accounted for.
10. Never remove the fire tools from your campsite.
11. In case of fire, the central alarm system or camp staff member will notify you.

Shooting Sports Safety

Field sports training teaches skills, discipline, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and conservation--all elements of character that Scout leaders try to instill. Objectives to be learned are:

- 1) Skill in the activity
- 2) Safety through self-imposed discipline
- 3) Attitudes and habits, which help build good character and physical fitness

To achieve these objectives:

- The shooting ranges are under supervision of adults certified by the BSA National Camp School at all times. Scouts have the availability to shoot .22 rifles, black powder muzzle loading rifles, shotguns and bows and arrows.
- Permission slips are required from parents or guardians authorizing their Scout to shoot firearms. This form must be turned in to the Shooting Sports Director prior to any Scout handling any firearm or bow and arrow. The Scout must also keep a copy on themselves at all times, as well as the adult leader, and a fourth copy is to be turned in during check-in, as per California law. A fifth form will be needed from any Scout using more than one type of firearm as one form will need to be kept at each range.
- Personal firearms of any caliber, ammunition, hunting arrows, cross bows, throwing knives, and bullwhips may not be brought to camp.
- In order to maintain the safe operation of any firearms range and the archery range, the Shooting Sports Director will ask that all personal coaching be performed by the range staff only. This limits the distractions while Scouts are shooting and allows all participants to hear the range commands.

POLICY INFORMATION

Phones and Phone Use

Outgoing personal calls are not allowed on the camp telephone except in the case of an emergency. Some cellular service providers have excellent coverage at Camp Kern, namely Verizon; AT&T does work in limited parts of camp. Please check with your service provider to determine whether you have coverage in this area.

There is no public phone available. If campers wish to contact their parents they need to use either their own or one of their adult leaders' cell phones. Any leader bringing a cell phone can charge it in the program office on the power strip provided. Do not bring your own power strip. All leaders charging cell phones do so at their own risk. Camp Kern is not responsible for cell phones that are lost or stolen. Although we leave it to your discretion, we recommend that Scouts do not bring cell phones to camp.

Internet and Computer Use

The Camp Kern program office computer is for business use only. There is currently no internet access available to campers. There is, however, free wireless internet access at a local restaurant across the lake. Our council properties committee has committed to increasing our digital access as a business tool for our staff and as a courtesy for our campers. Phase one of installation was completed in 2018. It is possible that portions of the installation may be complete during your stay. Access will first be made available for camper use in the immediate vicinity of the Dining Hall and Trading Post. Feel free to check with the office and trading post staff for current status upon arrival. Vouchers will be made available for purchase at the Trading post upon project completion.

Campsite Courtesy

The campsite and the camp is each troop/unit's home during the week. Your troop friend and commissioner are in camp to serve you; however, **troop conduct is always the responsibility of the adult leadership in the unit.** Please instruct your scouts to respect the campsites of others. Do not enter them unless invited. Control noise, respect quiet hours, and leave other people's personal property alone. Damage to tents and campsite equipment will be charged to the Scout troop to which the responsible person(s) belongs.

During sessions with a large number of campers, it may be necessary for different troops to share the same campsite. In cases such as these, we ask for your understanding and help in maintaining a spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie in the campsite.

Quiet Hours

All campers will be provided with at least eight hours of quiet time. Between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am, each day we ask that you enforce this quiet period. If there is a problem in your campsite or with campers from another troop, please notify a commissioner. Please do not take matters into your own hands. Let the staff deal with such problems.

Duty to God

The Boy Scouts of America is an *all-denominational* organization, which encourages each member to actively participate in his religious beliefs and responsibilities as he sees fit. Camp Kern has a chapel for scouts, individuals, or groups to use for religious worship. An *all-denominational* religious service is a highlight of our Sunday evening program, and all scouts are encouraged to attend. Grace will be said before each meal, and many campers will have an opportunity to participate. Please let your scouts know they should feel free to pray as is their custom, and remind them of the importance of showing respect for all forms and traditions of prayer.

Leadership Requirements

- ◆ The role of adult leaders at summer camp is very important. In planning, supervising, teaching, and participating, their influence and support is critical. Start recruiting your leaders early and have alternates standing by, in case of emergency or inclement events.
- ◆ Each unit is required to have at least two adult leaders. The recommended ratio is one adult for every eight to ten Scouts.
- ◆ The primary unit leader at camp must be a registered adult Scouter at least 21 years of age, preferably the unit's year-round leader or assistant leader.
- ◆ The second adult must be a registered Scouter, of at least 18 years of age.

Leader Responsibilities

Adult supervision is a critical component of a successful youth program. The leadership and guidance you provide your scouts during your stay will keep them safe and enhance their overall camping experience. We ask our staff to lead by example specifically by living Scout Oath and Scout Law, and we would ask that scouts and adult leaders do the same.

- ◆ Adults should know where the scouts are and should sit with the youth at meals and monitor the Scouts' behavior: Whittling on trees and "sword fighting" with sticks are unacceptable.
- ◆ Activity areas requiring specialized supervision--such as the waterfront, shooting ranges are supervised by qualified, certified adult staff members. Any program supervisor may request the assistance of adult leaders.
- ◆ Enforce the buddy system: **Scouts are not to go off by themselves.**

- ◆ Damage to camp property is not tolerated. Southern Sierra Council expects full restitution, including the full cost of materials, labor, and other costs related to replacement or repairs.
- ◆ Unit leaders must follow instructions under “YOUTH LEAVING CAMP PROPERTY” section of this guide for any youth needing to leave camp early.
- ◆ It is the responsibility of the unit leader to inform the camp, in writing, of the physical or mental disabilities of any youth or adult camper, so that the camp can provide proper accommodations.
- ◆ Please help us follow all written, spoken, and implied rules and regulations as they are in place to protect the scouts, adults, staff, facility, equipment, property, and the environment.

Male & Female Sleeping Arrangements

- All leaders are expected to reflect high moral standards established by custom, traditional values, and religious teachings.
- Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.

Youth Protection

All adults participating with their unit at camp must be Youth Protection Trained, registered and listed on the Camp Roster. Each unit is responsible for making sure all adults receive this training before arrival. Contact your district training chair for assistance.

The Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America begin with selecting the best possible leaders. The following policies provide additional security for youth in the program and protect adult leaders against false allegations of abuse.

- ◆ **Two-deep leadership.** Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required on all trips and outings. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.
- ◆ **No one-on-one contact.** One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, the meeting should take place in view of other adults and youth. All youth campers are required to adhere to the buddy system at all times while in camp.
- ◆ **Respect of privacy.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes or taking showers at camp. Adults should intrude only to the extent that health and safety requires. They should also protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- ◆ **Separate accommodations.** When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in a tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian.

- ◆ **Proper preparation for activities.** All activities should take into consideration the capabilities of the participating Scouts. No activity should be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, and safety measures.
- ◆ **No secret organizations.** The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organization as part of its program. All activities are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- ◆ **Appropriate attire.** Proper clothing for activities is required--for example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate in Scouting.
- ◆ **Constructive discipline.** Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- ◆ **Hazing prohibited.** Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

Adults Leaving Camp Property

During your week at camp, troop leaders may want to leave camp to visit the town of Lakeshore. Camp Kern requires the following when adults leave camp:

1. Adequate adult leadership remains in camp to supervise the troop. Note: the two-deep leadership policy must always be followed.
2. Persons who are leaving must sign out on the provided check-in/check-out sheet in the program office. This will allow us to account for people who are out of camp. Please remember to check-in when you return to camp.
3. Alcoholic beverages should not be purchased while in town, as they will not be allowed back into camp. Furthermore, any persons showing any signs of intoxication will be expelled from camp.

Youth Leaving Camp Property

Once a youth has checked into camp they are not authorized to leave the property except in an emergency or if they are participating in a camp program. Authorization can be granted for a youth to be picked up by a parent or family member using the following guidelines:

- ◆ The Scout Leader must notify the Camp Director upon arrival with written approval from the legal parent/guardian. If a camper is to be picked up before the end of the camping session, this notification must also say who is authorized to pick up the child. The Camper Early Release Form must be filled out completely and signed.
- ◆ Upon arrival, the adult must check into camp.
- ◆ The Camp Director will notify the adult leader of the unit who will verify whether this is the correct adult to pick up the camper. The individual authorized to pick-up the scout should be prepared to show proper identification.

- ◆ If the adult picking up the camper is authorized by the adult unit leader, the youth will then be contacted and released to the adult by the Camp Director.
- ◆ If an adult camp leader is taking a youth home during the camp week, he must check out with the Camp Director and must inform the Camp Director upon his return to camp. If the child is not directly related to the adult leader, two-deep leadership guidelines as stated in the youth protection training must be followed. Upon returning to the camp property, the adult leader must check in with the Camp Director.

Note: Parents should be encouraged not to pick up a child until the conclusion of the total session program, usually following breakfast on the last day of camp.

The Camp Director will require the unit leader to complete the Camper Early Release Form when emergency situations occur, such as death in the family or serious injuries.

Verification of authorized persons to remove campers in case of emergencies shall be by telephone with the youth's parent or legal guardian. The Camper Early Release Form shall be kept as a part of the camp's permanent file. In the absence of the Camp Director, the Assistant Camp Director, Business Manager or Camp Program Director shall coordinate the early release of a camper. The above listed camp personnel shall be trained by the Camp Director.

Visitors to Camp

- ❖ Visitors are welcome at any time. However, certain days (such as the last full day of the session) will serve better than others.
- ❖ All visitors must check in with the Camp Office upon arrival.
- ❖ Guest meals are available at the charge of \$5.00 per person.
- ❖ Siblings and friends are not allowed at camp without prior permission. **They do not participate in program activities.**
- ❖ No pets allowed in camp, except for service animals.

LEADERS MAY NOT BRING THEIR CHILDREN IF THEY ARE NOT A REGISTERED MEMBER OF A UNIT THAT IS ATTENDING CAMP THAT WEEK.

Scouts are not allowed to leave camp with any person unless the parent or guardian who has legal custody has granted permission. Unit leaders are advised to know the custody status of all scouts.

Damaged Equipment

It is expected that scouts will properly take care of all equipment they use. Sometimes, however, equipment gets damaged and needs to be repaired or replaced. If members of your troop damage camp equipment due to misuse or negligence, the cost of repairing or replacing any damaged equipment is expected to be settled before your unit leaves camp. Please see below the base chart of fee charges for major items.

Please report any damage of camp equipment to your commissioner. In the event damages are discovered after your departure from camp, an invoice will be sent to your unit for payment. When a scout causes damage, whether it is intentional or not, it will be charged to the scout or troop. Please see the infraction and cost grid below of some of the most commonly damaged items at camp.

If you find something that needs to be repaired in your campsite, please notify your troop friend or commissioner, and they will notify the ranger staff. Our ranger staff prides themselves on meeting your needs in a timely fashion.

DAMAGED ITEM	ESTIMATED COST AND FEES
TOILET	\$300.00 (Toilet is \$125.00 plus \$175.00 installation)
BATHROOM DOOR (METAL)	\$250.00 (\$125.00 metal door plus \$125.00 installation)
TENT DAMAGE	\$300.00-\$600.00 (to repair or replace tent)
CABIN DAMAGE	UP TO \$5000.00 (depending on damage caused)
CAMP EQUIPMENT OR LOSS OF	Cost of item plus a \$75.00 fee

These are just examples of the typical types of damage found at camp. Items not listed here will be dealt with on an individual basis. The camp director will determine all repair and replacement fees according to professional estimates.

Alcohol and Drugs

"It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances are not permitted at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America or at any activity involving participation of youth members."

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Marijuana is included in this category and is not permitted on camp property. This policy will be strictly enforced for all those that use camp facilities.

Tobacco Use

The Boy Scouts of America strongly urges leaders neither to use tobacco products in any form nor to allow their use in the presence of youth. The only tobacco use area at Camp Kern is the rock behind the dining hall. Occasionally, because of fire danger, the US Forest Service will issue a directive prohibiting smoking outdoors. If this happens, there will be no place to smoke in camp.

Recreation Drug Use

Marijuana is included under the Alcohol and Drugs section and is not permitted on camp property.

Hazing

Older scouts sometimes feel that new scouts should be "initiated" into the troop with a hazing activity. You should be alert to this desire of older youths and direct efforts into meaningful initiation programs. Hazing has no place in Scouting, nor does running the gauntlet, belt line or similar punishments.

Discipline

Corporal punishment will not be tolerated in camp. Physical abuse such as manhandling, pushups, and loud, abusive screaming are also not allowed as punishment for youths. For problems in camp, please see the Camp Director for proper action.

Fireworks

Federal, State and County agencies prohibit their use in these mountains. Persons having fireworks are subject to immediate dismissal from camp and fireworks will be confiscated and not returned.