

Camping Basics

Family Campouts • Prosper, Texas



Required Before Every Campout

Every attendee — Scouts and family — must turn in a completed BSA Medical Form plus a copy of your family's insurance card before any campout. These cannot be submitted on-site or emailed; drop them off at the September Pack Meeting or coordinate with your Den Leader. Forms are valid for one year — keep a copy on hand for future events.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Family campouts typically run Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Pack 289 provides most meals — you'll just need Saturday lunch. Each den is asked to help with food prep, serving, or cleanup.

Day	What Happens
Friday	Arrival & setup. No programming or pack-provided meals — families are on their own.
Saturday	Full programming (hiking, flag ceremony, campfire). Pack provides breakfast & dinner; families cover lunch. Wear your pack t-shirt.
Sunday	Takedown & clean-up — a Scout leaves no trace. Closing activities before departure.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Campouts are open to the whole family — siblings are welcome! Everyone attending needs a medical form on file (tip: make a copy to reuse for future scouting events).

SAFETY IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

Buddy System — No Scout is ever alone, even for a restroom trip. Adults should never be alone with a child (except a parent with their own).

Pocket Knives — Only Bears/Webelos who've earned their Whittling Chip may carry one. Unsafe use = card taken away until it's re-earned.

Fires — Only Webelos with a Fireman's Chit may start a fire, always with adult supervision, in designated fire areas, and never left unwatched.

Vehicles — Campsites generally allow one vehicle on site (reserved for the Quartermaster). Drop off gear, then re-park.

Electricity — May not be available. If you rely on powered equipment (CPAP, etc.), plan accordingly.

Mess Kits — Bring your own cup, plate, bowl, and utensils. Cleaning stations are provided after each meal.

WHAT TO PACK

New to camping? This list is a starting point — as you gain experience you'll adjust it to fit your family. Don't have something? Ask around; our experienced campers often have gear to loan or suggestions for substitutes.

Essentials

- Pocket knife (Bears/Webelos only)
- First aid kit
- Water bottle, filled
- Flashlight + extra batteries
- Sunscreen & insect repellent
- Trash bags & toilet paper
- Mess kit (cup, bowl, plate, utensils)
- Camp chair
- Personal hygiene items
- Snacks/food for Fri, Sat lunch, Sun breakfast

Clothes

- Class A Uniform (blue or tan)
- Class B Uniform (pack t-shirt)
- Hiking shoes/boots
- Weather-appropriate clothing for each day
- Rain gear & a hat
- Sleepwear
- Jacket or sweater

Do Not Bring

Electronics, tablets, music players • Flip-flops/open-toed shoes (shower use only) • Pets • Alcohol • Snacks kept in your tent

Keep food out of tents and stored securely — it attracts ants and other wildlife.

SLEEP GEAR

You don't need top-of-the-line equipment for a great first trip — here's what to look for.

Tent

Don't forget stakes, poles, and a ground cloth! Size up — a tent sized for your whole family (plus a bit extra) holds heat better and is easier to set up. “Dark room” or “instant setup” features help but aren't essential.

Guide: [REI – What to Look for in a Camping Tent](#)

Sleeping Bag

Use a bag rated for camping, not a sleepover bag — it likely won't be warm enough. In a pinch, extra blankets on top add insulation.

Guide: [REI – How to Choose a Sleeping Bag](#)

Sleeping Pad

A pad insulates you from the cold ground and beats sleeping on rocks. Air mattresses are comfy but don't insulate (and can shrink in cold weather) — add blankets underneath if you use one.

Guide: [REI – Sleeping Pad Buying Guide](#)