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# The Methods to our Madness



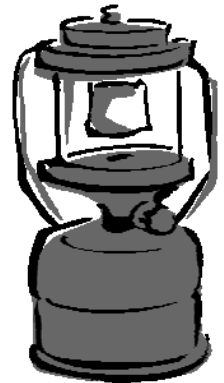
## *What to expect when camping with* *Troop 127*

Welcome to all campout visitors and new troop members. We hope you find this information helpful and encourage you to ask for any additional information you may need. More information can be found at <http://www.jeditexan.com/troop127/>

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### **Vanguard Storage, 7425 US Hwy 287, Arlington, TX 76001**

- We meet at Vanguard Storage on Friday typically at 6:00 for the boys to load our Troop gear and personal gear into our Trailer. We try to leave for the campout by 6:30 pm.
- We prefer that everyone eat dinner and obtain fuel for their vehicles prior to arriving at the storage location. *(However, sometimes our work schedules are such that this is not feasible and we do periodically stop and wait for someone at McDonalds. Our Troop works very hard to accommodate our Troop families and we understand that work and other family commitments sometimes overrule our desire for an on-time departure.)*
- There are no restrooms at Vanguard, so please plan accordingly.
- Activity forms signed by a parent/ guardian/ participant over 18 are needed before we leave. This form grants us permission to treat a Scout or Adult in the event we have a medical situation. Everyone camping must have a form on file with the Scoutmaster.



### **Traveling with the Troop**

- We provide driving maps, walkie-talkies, etc. prior to departure. The route is determined before we leave the parking lot. Please see the Scoutmaster or another Troop leader if you do not have the route information before we leave.
- Our troop travels together. If one car needs to stop, we all stop. In that same spirit, we prefer to travel in the same highway lane so that the car bringing up the end of the caravan can ensure everyone is accounted for.

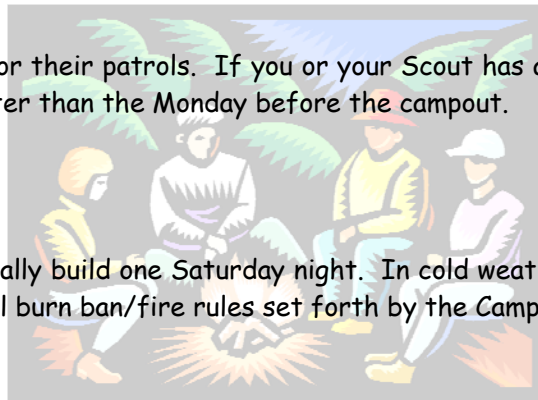
- Please be sure to leave adequate room between yourself and the car in front of you. It would be a rough start/end to the weekend if we have a fender bender.
- If you need to pull into a rest stop for any reason, please use the walkie-talkie to let the Scoutmaster know. Our trailer driver will then find the next rest stop/filling station/etc. and the whole group will pull in.
- In the event we need to stop, we prefer all Scouts remain in the vehicles. This is to for their safety and to ensure we don't accidentally leave one behind ☺
- Those Scouts who need to go inside to use facilities should not purchase anything as the opportunity to buy a drink/snack is not provided to those who had to remain in the vehicles.

### **Camping:**

- Once we arrive, the boys unload all gear. Adults are encouraged to supervise, but please do not lend a hand in moving the gear unless you see a safety issue. We are trying to build leaders and as such the adults are asked to not take over a task that a Scout can perform.
- Our preference is for your Scouts to camp within our boy Patrols. They can either buddy up (2 per tent) or split up and sleep with one of our Scouts. We leave this decision to them. However, they should plan to use our Troop tents so that they get the full benefit of being in one of our patrols.
- The SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) determines our camp site locations. Please check with him before setting up your tent.
- Similar to the boys, the Adults group our tents together and camp as the "Why Knot" patrol. We cook, eat, etc. together just as our boys cook, eat, and camp together.
- Adults prepare a Friday night crackerbarrel to share with the whole Troop. This bed time snack typically includes cheese, sausage, fruit, crackers, etc.

### **Troop Meals**

- Our grubmasters buy all food for their patrols. If you or your Scout has a special dietary need, please let the Scoutmaster know no later than the Monday before the campout.



### **Camp Fires:**

- We love campfires and we typically build one Saturday night. In cold weather, a fire is sometimes built Saturday morning. We follow all burn ban/fire rules set forth by the Camp Ranger.

### **Saturday:**

- Morning reveille is determined by the SPL. (We typically get up around 7:00 am.) Coffee (and typically real half & half) is provided for all adults.
- Our adult grub-master is in charge of all food. They set the adult menu, buy the food and cook. If you have a dietary need, please let the Scoutmaster know no later than the Monday before we leave.

- In the event you need to have a soda, you will need to bring your own. We try to limit the sugar intake of the Scouts, so they are not permitted to purchase sodas. As such, the adults are asked to shield the Scouts from any contraband sodas, chocolate, etc. that they bring on our campouts.

### **Sunday:**

- Our departure time is based on the travel distance and our need to arrive back at Vanguard on time (usually noon or 1:00). On most campouts we typically try to leave the campground between 9:00 and 10:00 am.
- Our boys are responsible for packing their personal gear, patrol kitchens, and for moving all gear (including the adult patrol kitchen gear) to the trailer. The adults typically pack their own tent and put their tent and their own personal gear into the trailer/ personal vehicle.
- Troop tents must be dry before packing. If this is not feasible, we ask T127 families to take their assigned tents home to dry out. Tents are returned to the Quartermaster at the next Troop meeting.
- The boys have a deadline to get the trailer loaded. If they meet this deadline they are rewarded with a trip to Dairy Queen. We typically ask that the boys limit their purchases at Dairy Queen to ice-cream. This helps us manage our time.
- On our return, we work hard to arrive at Vanguard on time. However, as with any boy lead troop, our schedule is at the mercy of our boy leadership.

### **Troop 127 Owns:**

- 2 fully equipped trailers
- 66 tents, including 29 all weather tents and 7 backpacking tents
- Chuck boxes, dry boxes, ice chests, water jugs and stoves for each patrol
- Lanterns for each patrol
- Tables for each patrol

*To camp with T127 a new scout only needs a small personal flashlight, a mess kit, sleeping bag and a water bottle. A minimal amount of money for DQ ice cream is optional.*

## **Troop 127**

Tali Ploetz, Scoutmaster

817-938-1760 cell ScoutmasterT127@gmail.com

Monday Nights 7:00pm

St. Joseph's Catholic Community Church

1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd.

Arlington, TX 76017