2020 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

**Course site:** Camp Thunderbird
11740 Summit Lake Road NW
Olympia, WA 8502
(360) 866-0916 (Camp, Emergency Use only)

**Course Director:** Cheri Pepka
cheriscout@aol.com

**Staff Adviser:** Andrew Garate
Andrew.Garate@scouting.org

**Dates:** March 28-29, 2020

**Theme:** Down on the Farm

**Course times:** The action begins with check-in from 8:00 am on Saturday, March 28th and ends approx. 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 29th.

**Weather:** Weather can be cool and/or rainy at this time of year.

**Early arrivals:** For an additional fee of $55.00*, you may arrive the night before, please make it after 7:00 p.m. and before 10:00 p.m. *This fee covers lodging Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday. This fee does NOT cover a meal Friday night. FYI...No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff are busy with preparations.

Before You Arrive at NCS:
- Fill out the NCS Personal Resource Questionnaire [HERE](#) and bring to camp school.
- Take the online NCS course and the in-person Council led NCS course. Don’t forget the other required pre-requisites: [Youth Protection Training](#) and [Cub Scout Leader Position Specific training](#).

What to Take to Camp:
- Proof of BSA registration & prerequisite online training courses (Youth Protection Training, Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training, Camp School Online Training, and Council-led Camp School Training).
- Your completed BSA health form (parts A and B).
- Samples of your council’s day camp promotional materials, staff manuals, or other camp literature, registration forms, schedules, etc., for display or giveaway. Make copies for at least 40 participants (No copying services are available at camp).
- Interesting crafts or activity ideas to share.
- Your camp T-shirt—there will be an opportunity for everyone to wear theirs.
- Notepad and pencil or pen. A participant binder and learning materials will be provided.

Personal Gear:
- **Official complete BSA uniform.** We will wear the Field uniform, the official Scout uniform, during the weekend. However, you will have the opportunity to wear your favorite camp shirt or sweatshirt on Saturday afternoon.
- Pillow, Bed Linens, Toiletries, towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, etc. Warm sleepwear, perhaps “long Johns” or sweats.
- Coat, jacket, suitable footwear/socks, gloves, hat, umbrella
- Camera (Shoot the displays and show others back home what can be done!)
- Cell phone coverage at this site is spotty (camp phones restricted to emergencies)

What to Expect and What Is Expected:
- Arrive rested. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last early morning to late at night.
- Be prepared for camp housing, heated Bunkhouses with running water/showers/toilets in bunkhouses; has power for CPAP Machines and to charge cell phone near each bunk. There is wi-fi in training rooms and dining hall, but cell phone service is spotty at best (depending on your carrier). Beds with mattresses. Please bring your own bedding.
- **You must arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. on the first day, and attend all sessions through the last day in order to be certified**
- In order to focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc. Note also, there are no accommodations for anyone but you.
- Please understand that if you receive the names and contact information for other participants or for staff, you may not contact them for commercial purposes unless you receive their expressed permission to do so.
- NCS Online Trading Post: You can preview and purchase specialty National Camp School items (shirts, sweatshirts, and more!) to be sent directly to your home via [BSA National Supply](#).

*The early arrival fee is handled through your local council. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally.

**Note Regarding Absences for Religious Reasons**
Occasionally participants ask to be excused from parts of NCS for religious reasons. It is expected that before requesting, you first seek permission from your pastor or bishop to attend the entire school, and then seek substitutes to fulfill teaching responsibilities, etc. NCS is a once-in-five year occurrence; more critical than most other Scouting activities. Requests must be written to the associate regional director, and outline what was done in an attempt to experience the entire course. Even then, excuses can only be granted if a camp school staff member is willing to review with you, all sessions missed.
1. Traveling North or South on Interstate-5.

2. Take exit 104 to merge onto US-101 North toward Aberdeen, Port Angeles.

3. In 6 miles, keep left onto State Highway 8 toward Montesano, Aberdeen.

4. In 4.7 miles, turn right onto Summit Lake Road NW.

5. In 2 miles, The destination will be on your right.