



Marin Sierra 2025

SCOUT CAMPER'S FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE

Since 1950 the **Marin Council, BSA** has operated a Summer resident camp program at **Camp Marin-Sierra (CMS)** in scenic Emigrant Gap nearby the historic California Emigrant Trail route. We are located conveniently close to the intersection of CA State Hwy 20 and US Interstate 80 just below the Inter-Continental railway line and not far from the alpine heights of Donner Pass and the Truckee/Lake Tahoe resort region. **CMS** is the only Scout camp facility in the Sierra Nevada open all year-round and is a popular destination for **Scouts BSA** troops and **Venturing BSA** crews looking for high adventure among the tall pines and granite ledges surrounding crystal-clear 20-acre Chubb Lake. We offer a wide variety of outdoor activities including a comprehensive **Aquatics** program at the newly-renovated central waterfront, challenging **Rock-climbing** on granite ledges near the camp perimeter, impressive **BSA Range & Target Activities** (Archery, Tomahawk, Rifle & Black-Powder, and Shotgun); plus traditional **HandyCrafts**, extensive **Ecology/Conservation (Nature)** studies, advanced knowledge **Trail-to-Eagle** merit badge topics, and **Outdoor Skills-building** at our dedicated **Trail-to-First-Class Arena** and **ScoutCraft Grove**. Rugged day-hiking and optional backpacking treks are a bonus from our forested camp setting at 5400ft elevation on the Sierra's Western Slope, with easy access into the fantastic Yuba River canyon (the infamous 5-mile hike!), the Pines-to-Mines Trail through the Tahoe National Forest and Fordyce wilderness, and the challenging Pacific Crest Trail. Seasonal whitewater-rafting trips can be arranged with local outfitters and guides along the American River canyon forks within an hour's drive of camp. Over the past four Summers following the pandemic hiatus, our phenomenal Camp Staff Teams have successfully regenerated the many camp traditions and renowned customer service culture that are hallmarks of the **Marin-Sierra** outdoor experience, and we are excited to welcome your Scouting youth and adult leaders in July 2025 to our 75th anniversary season of Summer Camp adventures!

#ScoutMeIn

#AdventureOn

#MaytheForestBeWithYou

WELCOME TO CAMP MARIN-SIERRA!

We are excited that your Troop has chosen Camp Marin-Sierra for their annual Summer Resident Camp week and look forward to their visit this July! For over seven decades, Camp Marin-Sierra has been offering Scout youth and their adult leaders a fantastic outdoor experience full of adventure in the mountains. Whether it be swimming in our warm alpine lake, shooting at the ranges, learning new Scoutdoor skills, traversing granite ridges on a hike, or even just meeting new friends at the Murray Lodge Tradin' Post or around the campfire, we are confident your Scouts and their



leaders will have an excellent week away with our trained and experienced Camp Staff.

Our diverse Summer programs, tidy operation and convenient facilities are fully-accredited by the BSA National Camp Accreditation Program every year, and include something for everyone! This private property covers 320 acres at a base elevation of 5400 ft. Its easy access from I-80,

and natural setting on the Western slope of the Sierra Nevada attracts troops every year from all over California, Nevada, and beyond. With fifteen spacious, forested campsites, there is more than one spot to fit troops of different sizes. Scenic Chubb

Lake offers 20 acres of calm, clear water and a wide variety of aquatic activities including small-boat sailing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle-boarding, rowing, swimming, snorkeling and fishing. Large granite knolls and ridges provide fantastic views, excellent hiking, and exciting climbing/rappelling opportunities.

This guide will help you and your Scout prepare for a summer camp week away. Your troop leaders have been sent copies of our extensive Leader Guide so that they can also help prepare the Scouts and other leaders attending camp.

If you need information that you don't find contained herein, your first line of inquiry should always be with your own troop's leadership.

CAMP CONTACT PROCEDURES

Troop leaders are your main points of contact while the unit is at camp. Most leaders will have cell phones, which can be used for non-emergency communications. Please make sure you have their phone number before the Scouts leave for camp! On the following page, there is a sub-section with the Camp Marin-Sierra and Marin Council contact information (*see next page*).



For emergencies only, you can call the Camp Ranger's office, however this phone is not always staffed, and although checked frequently during

the Summer, voicemail messages may not be retrieved immediately. Keep in mind that there can be as many as 400 people in camp at any one time, spread out over 250+ acres of the property. In an emergency, we endeavor to contact them as quickly as possible, however we may not be able to get a message to your youth/adult in a timely manner . . . in fact, it may take hours! Also, use the main Council office number sparingly as it is monitored only during regular weekday business hours.

The best way to get a message to your Scout is to call the cell phone of a troop leader. Non-Verizon phones work the best. You can also contact us via email to the Camp Director (mandrews@boyscouts-marin.org). We check email several times daily, and a printed copy of your email will be placed in the troop's mailbox.

If you wish to send letters or packages to your Scout, do not mail them after the Monday that your Scout is in camp; otherwise, it may not be received in time. Because there are so many people staying with us each week --- including the possibility of having more than one troop with the same troop number --- send it in the following address format (**for US Mail only; send UPS/FedEx to the street address**):

**{Name of Scout or Leader}
{Council Name} and {Troop #}
Camp Marin-Sierra
PO Box 86
Emigrant Gap, CA 95715**

If you send packages, please do not include any snack foods. There is plenty of quality, delicious prepared foods at all meals and a range of snack options available in the Tradin' Post. Because there are wild animals in and around camp, Scouts and leaders need to lock up their food in bear boxes at all times when not in use.

WHERE TO CONTACT US

Remember, your first line of contact for any information about camp should always be your Troop leaders or Summer Camp coordinator.

Marin Council #035 Scout Service Center

225 West End Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901
 Phone: 415-454-1081 Fax: 415-454-5511
 Email: staff@boyscouts-marin.org

Camping Office (year-round)

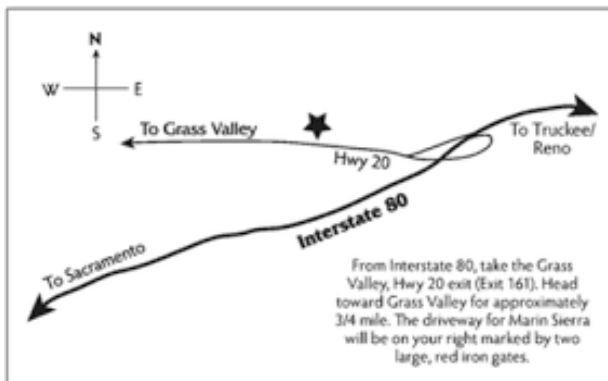
Phone: 415-454-1081 x104
 Email: camping@boyscouts-marin.org
<http://www.boyscouts-marin.org/camping-facilities/scouts-bsa-summer-camp/4507>

Camp Marin-Sierra (June/July only)

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 86, Emigrant Gap, CA 95715
Physical Address
 40990 State Hwy 20, Emigrant Gap, CA 95715

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

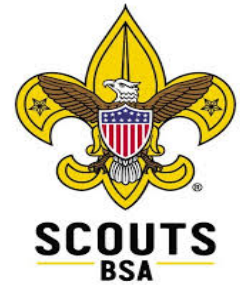
Follow these directions ONLY! Do not use Apple Maps or MapQuest; they may be wrong!



FEES, PAYMENTS AND REFUND POLICY

All individual Summer Camp payments must be made directly through your troop with the exception of provisional Scouts and visitors. Do not send your personal payments to our Council office; please refer to your troop leadership or treasurer for your estimated unit camp fees. Provisional Scouts pre-register with their own application form (*see website*), and visitors pay for their meals upon check-in at the Camp Office.

Refund Policy: Please understand that fees paid for Scouts and leaders earlier in the year begin to be used to buy operating supplies and program materials prior to Summer Camp. When someone decides not to come to camp, part of their money has already been utilized to prepare for the season. Refunds will be granted on the following basis according to when the request is submitted:



- Full refund by March 31, 2025;
- 50% refund April 1 through April 30, 2025;
- 25% refund May 1 through May 31, 2025;
- No refunds from June 1, 2025.

No full refunds will be granted after April 1, 2025 for any reason. Partial refunds may be granted after June 1, 2025 for extreme situations (serious illness, death in family, etc.).

REQUIRED CAMP FORMS

Along with your Summer Camp payments, your troop should be gathering all the completed forms from you for your Scout to attend camp. With the exception of the Special Dietary Needs form, do not send any paperwork to us directly, and copies of the following should come to camp with your troop leader or provisional Scout for check-in:

- ✓ **BSA Annual Health & Medical Record** copy (2019 edition is current and the only accepted version; Parts A, B, C must be reviewed and approved by a physician)
- ✓ **Special Dietary Needs Form** copy (fax original to Council Office at least two weeks before the Scout/adult arrives in camp).
- ✓ **CMS Minor Activity Release** copy (permission slip signed by both parents/guardians)

You can obtain any of these required forms from your unit leaders or online directly from our Marin Council website (*see link noted above*).



MEDICAL FORMS POLICY

Everyone who camps overnight at Marin-Sierra must have their updated copy of the current 2019 edition of the BSA Annual Health & Medical Record, Parts A/B/C, which requires a review/approval signature from a doctor or nurse practitioner. The troop will bring these forms to camp with them. The only exception is someone who is visiting camp for the day; they only need Parts A & B of the form which does not require an approval signature by a medical professional but will be reviewed by our Camp Health Officer. Although we have an EMT/Medic on staff, Marin-Sierra is still a 30-min response time from the nearest Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Because of the remote nature of the camp location and the high altitude, we cannot make any exceptions to this policy. **Be Prepared!**

VISITING MARIN-SIERRA

Guests are always welcome during normal camp operations; however, it's best for the troop and the camp if people do not drop in unannounced. Although entire families may visit for a short time (*please, no pets are allowed*), there are no overnight accommodations for siblings or entire families.

On arrival, visitors must check-in at the Camp Office adjacent to the parking lot, sign-in and pay any related fees, and then visit the Camp Health Officer at the nearby Med Shack to receive a wrist band which is required to be worn in camp. Visitors will submit their appropriate medical form

at that time, assuming the form was not already brought up with the troop.

If possible, let your troop and the camp office know in advance when guest meals may be needed. The charge for visitors is \$10 per meal per person. For adults desiring to stay overnight, the charge is \$60 per person per night and includes three meals.

We ask leaders to show their guests to the Camp office and make them aware of how much to pay. Visitors spending the night must bring with them currently updated Parts A/B/C of the BSA Annual Health & Medical form. Persons without medical forms cannot stay in camp for any duration other than dropping off or picking up their Scout(s).

FAMILY CAMPING

Scouts BSA Summer resident camp is designed for the Scouts to attend under the leadership of their own troop youth and adult volunteers. A parent who is a leader with the troop may attend with their Scout. However, the camp is not designed for siblings or the entire family. If a family visits camp (*see Visiting Camp*), there are no overnight accommodations for the family.



CELL PHONES & INTERNET SERVICE

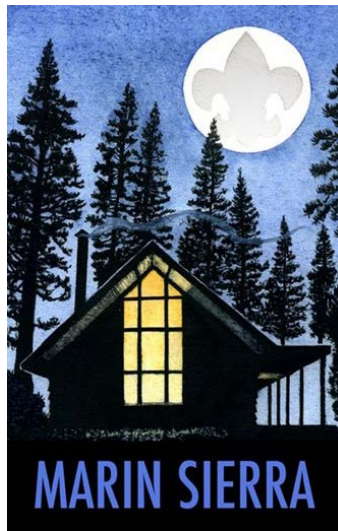
Because of the remote location of Camp Marin-Sierra, we are not able to receive broadband internet service. The camp uses a mobile wifi unit in our office to connect to the internet. If adults need service, they should plan on tethering to their own cell phone hotspots.

For the convenience of LEADERS ONLY, there is a StarLink WiFi beamed into Ibach Lodge to use for catching up on email and light web-browsing. No video or ZOOM meeting streaming is allowed; we simply do not have the bandwidth.! Leaders will be issued the ID and password upon request from the Camp Director only. Youth are strictly forbidden from using this service!

Your own troop may have policies about cell phone use; however, we ask troop leaders to not allow Scouts to use or even bring cell phones to camp. It is not that we do not wish boys to be able to communicate, but we are hoping for them to receive the maximum benefit from a genuine outdoor experience. Today, cell phones not only provide phone service, but also email, chat, text, gaming, and more. They can be more of a distraction than a Scout needs at camp. They can also exacerbate a homesickness problem to unmanageable proportions! Please work with us and your troop leaders to make sure your Scouts leave their cell phones at home.

HOMESICKNESS

An active program is the best insurance against homesickness, so Scout leaders are urged to do everything they can to keep all Scouts engaged. However, there are still times when younger Scouts get homesick.



From experience, we have learned that the more Scouts call home, the worse the Scout is homesick, and the Scoutmaster allows a call home, please be supportive of them staying and finishing the week. If the Scouts feel you want them to be successful at camp, they are more likely to want to finish the week. Also, often after a Scout gets through the first few days and has

bonded more with the troop, they are more likely to feel better about staying.

A great way to help a Scout that you suspect may become homesick is to mail a short, positive note to them right away so that they receive it on Monday or Tuesday. However, remember that telling them how much you miss them or that you wish they were at home will only reinforce feelings of homesickness. A troop might not allow Scout use cell phones in camp. A troop leader must be (and remain) in attendance if the homesick Scout calls home.



MERIT BADGE PROGRAM PLANNING

Advancement is a key part of the Summer Camp experience. There are fantastic program opportunities which are often not available to Scouts outside of the camp setting. At Marin-Sierra we offer over 50 merit badge topics in diverse outdoor class settings to guarantee we have something of interest for any Scout. Please ensure that you review the Merit Badge offerings and camp schedules with your Scout and their Scoutmaster to devise a plan for your Scout to take advantage of the most appropriate program elements to ensure a successful week away!

BRINGING MONEY TO CAMP

We have a Tradin' Post that operates Monday through Friday where Scouts can buy snack foods, souvenirs, personal items, shooting sports tickets, and other merit badge supplies. We accept cash, major credit cards, and debit cards. If you send cash, \$40 should be plenty, but consult with your troop leaders to help decide what your Scouts might need for the week. It will

depend on the kinds of advancement in which they will participate.

The leaders have been sent the Leader Guide, which has a sampling of Tradin' Post prices in Chapter 9. Please discourage your Scouts from bringing large amounts of cash. It is not uncommon for youth to lose money, and, unfortunately, it is not always recovered.

PERSONAL ITEMS TO PACK

Scouts and adults should consult with the troop leadership on what to bring to camp. Often, many units have developed comprehensive lists of needed items so that Scouts have what they need without overpacking common patrol items that can be shared. The Boy Scout Handbook is an excellent resource. Be sure their name and troop number is marked on everything, and please remind your Scouts that maintaining personal hygiene away from home is important. Remember:



A Scout is CLEAN!

Here are some of our suggestions:

- ✓ Complete BSA Uniform with shirt and pants
- ✓ Changes of underwear & socks to last a week in warm, dusty forest conditions
- ✓ Jacket / sweatshirt / rain gear
- ✓ Scout Hat or ballcap
- ✓ Swimwear and shower shoes
- ✓ Comfortable hiking shoes (not sneakers)
- ✓ Day Pack
- ✓ Beach/Shower towel and washcloth
- ✓ Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, comb or brush)
- ✓ Sleeping bag / sleeping pad / pillow
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp (with extra batteries!)
- ✓ Individual first-aid kit
- ✓ Scouts BSA Handbook & merit badge books

- ✓ Notebook / pens & pencils for MB classes
- ✓ Bible, prayer book, or other religious readings if desired
- ✓ Water bottle or canteen
- ✓ Mess kit and utensils (used daily for meals)
- ✓ Sunglasses, sunscreen & lip balm
- ✓ Insect repellent (although we have few bugs)
- ✓ Inexpensive digital camera
- ✓ Wristwatch
- ✓ Fishing gear if so inclined

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- ✓ NO straight-blade sheath knives or pocket knives with blades longer than 4"
- ✓ NO fireworks, matches, or fire starters
- ✓ NO aerosol sprays
- ✓ NO firearms, ammunition or bows & arrows
- ✓ NO electronic devices: game consoles, iPods or similar, DVD players, etc.
- ✓ NO inappropriate reading material or pornography
- ✓ NO alcohol or drugs (other than prescription medications)
- ✓ Large amounts of money
- ✓ NO personal valuables or expensive items
- ✓ NO Snacks, candy, gum in campsite or pack
- ✓ NO pets (trained guide animals are approved)

It is possible that if a Scout has any of these "Red-list" items, they will be confiscated. In some cases, they may be given to the Scoutmaster or other troop leader to be secured and returned later. In extreme cases, the Scout could be expelled from camp with contact to the parents and sent home early.

