**Summer Camp 2013: May 30th – June 2nd, Chalfont Heights**

**Bedding and night gear**

* Groundsheet (6ft X 4ft minimum but 6ft X 5ft is better) – All the tents have sewn-in floors but we spread the groundsheets out over the tent floor to provide extra warmth and to protect the tent floors, and they will need them to arrange their kit on when we inspect.
* Sleeping mat, self-inflating ones are good please train them to roll them back up
* Sleeping bag
* Blanket, provides extra warmth at night and will be required at camp fires and in the evenings to keep warm.
* Small pillow (if required, or they can use their clothes to form a pillow)
* Pyjamas (warm ones are best and a track suit is sometimes warmer and just as functional, the advantage is they can wear this all camp without needing to change for bedtime!)
* Cuddly toy (we insist on these – for the younger Cubs who may feel awkward about having a favorite toy with them we ask that everyone brings one, even leaders, we might have a competition for the best one)

**Clothing**

* Stout shoes (such as they wear to school) or preferably walking boots
* Light shoes (trainers are OK)
* Crocs or flip flops (useful for going to the toilet during the night and easy to put on)
* Wellington boots if not bringing walking boots in a large plastic bag (if it is likely to be wet)
* Warm coat and/or anorak or similar waterproof coat
* Uniform to be worn on the way to and from camp (essential, and full uniform including cub jumper, scarf and woggle please)
* Spare pairs of socks and pants(enough for each day plus some spares in case it is wet)
* Shorts – preferable to long trousers for most activities
* Trousers (not jeans as they take too long to dry out if they get wet and are unsuitable for many of the activities, avoid cotton as it is difficult to get dry). Track suit bottoms are good.
* Shirts and/or T-shirts, please no vests or cut away sleeves, these are not suitable for sunny days.
* Warm woolen jumper or fleece (not a sweatshirt) - it gets very cold at camp even in summer when the sun goes down.
* Handkerchiefs or tissues
* Sun hat, sun cream (minimum factor 25) and sun glasses (if weather is likely to make them necessary), wide brimmed hats are good if it’s likely to be sunny. Sun tan cream that is visible when applied is a great help to us, so we can check it’ s been done.
* First aid items:- we will have full first aid kit at camp and will use this if it is necessary - Robin and Derek are fully qualified first-aiders. Any medicines they are likely to need must be declared and handed in to the leaders for safe keeping. Please mark the medicines with the name and instructions for use. Inhalers may be kept by the Cub Scout but you must inform us if they have them. We need to know if a child is susceptible to asthma attacks. We’ll send round a medical form before we go for completion with all the details we need.

**Washing items**

* Toothbrush and toothpaste
* Wet wipes
* Soap in waterproof container (which may return home unopened!)
* Hair brush and/or comb
* Hair shampoo and shower gel (normally not needed for Cubs but useful in case of extreme muddiness).
* Towel and possibly hand towel depending on activities planned

We can guarantee to take your Cub to the washrooms twice daily but we cannot guarantee that they will actually wash. Please make sure the size and volume of toiletries are appropriate to the camp duration – small bottles are less likely to cause major damage than large bottles should they leak all over a kit bag.

**General Items**

* Small day backpack for hike and general use, needs to be comfortable enough to carry a packed lunch and water bottle, please don’t send them with a supermarket carrier bag, this tends to restrict their walking.
* Plastic drink bottle for use on walks (any type will do )
* Torch with batteries and spare batteries, do not send rechargeable as they go flat quickly in a camp situation or wind-ups which don’t work as effectively as battery torches.
* Compass (if they have one but do not buy one).
* Map of the area (if they have one but do not buy one).
* Comic or book to read.
* Pencil/pen and notepad/paper.
* Small game if they would like to bring one, Top Trumps is perfect, no electronic games please.
* Some spare polyethylene bags for wet/dirty/damp clothes and shoes. I use a set of zipped travel bags I purchased in Boots for the small items which are transparent and enable them to be located quickly and easily.
* Small amount of pocket money - we recommend £3 but please don’t overdo it. There is a camp shop in which to spend it, with a nice array of badges and woggles, oh and sweets too.

**Eating items**

* Please provide a small treat for the boys, this may be a cake or some biscuits or similar. These are put into a kitty and shared out after meals and at afternoon tea. We get some really nice cakes this way and the boys love the different cakes that arrive. (So do the leaders!) We potentially have a nut allergy attending camp so please no nuts. Tupperware boxes or tins are good for transportation, please don’t send cakes without some sturdy protection, they tend to get squashed in transport. If you want them back please label them (the boxes not the Cubs).
* Tea towel and scourer or sponge or j-cloth. It would be useful if you could show your Cub what to do with these items before they arrive, we do expect them to do some washing up.
* We provide all cutlery, plates and cups; there is no need to bring any of these for Cub Scout camps. We provide benches for cubs to sit on, tables to sit at, so no need to pack any of these.
* No sweets please other than that required for their packed lunch on Thursday. We will provide marshmallows for camp fires.
* They will not need any food for snacks or feasts, we will have a full camp kitchen in operation by Thursday lunchtime and uneaten food is wasteful and attracts all manner of insects into their tents.

**Packing**

* A big bag to put everything in. Holdall styles are best, (particularly those with wheels), or a big sports bag. Try and get everything into it, including wellingtons and sleeping bag. If it doesn’t fit you’re probably packing too much.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. Please make sure all items are marked with the surname of the Cub. This is so that we can return things to them, not so that they can recognise them! Things always get lost at camp and names on them means that anybody can get the things back to the right cub. A biro name on the label is OK, we do not insist on sewn-in labels. The highest level of losses are usually woggles (attach to scarf with safety pin), hats, (Cubs unaware of which one belongs to them) fleeces and jumpers (discarded in the woods or used as goalposts and forgotten). We usually bring back most of what has been lost, but if you don’t know it’s missing it’s difficult to return it if unlabeled.
2. We do not like to have knives of any type at camp and you should not send your Cub with any type of knife.
3. We do not allow mobile phones of any type at camp. Do not send a mobile with a Cub!
4. Contact a leader if you have any concerns with this list. We are very pleased to give guidance to any parent, especially those of Cubs who have not been away before.
5. If they have forgotten something it is never a disaster and we will always look after them somehow. We always have spare sleeping bags and other kit in case of accidents. We do not make a fuss about this sort of thing.
6. Cub camp should be an exciting time for the boys and they always enjoy it. There is nothing is to worry about – we always bring most of them back OK.

Hope this is helpful, but as always let me know if you have any specific questions. We’ll have a meeting later this term for all the attending parents when you can raise any concerns or ask questions you may have.

**Peter Woolston – Camp Organiser**

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