

Troop 714 Annual Planning Campout
Friday, August 3rd to Sunday, August 5th, 2018
Adult in Charge: Mr. Moultrie
Scout in Charge: Edward Ahrens, SPL
Meet at MVUMC at 5:30pm on Friday, August 3rd!

This campout is the annual opportunity for the Scouts in Troop 714 to define their goals for the coming year and to plan and to schedule the activities they want the troop to participate in over the next year. Participating in the Planning Campout is a *very* important leadership requirement for the assigned troop officers (SPL, ASPL, two TGs, Scribe), Patrol Leaders, and Assistant Patrol Leaders. If a Patrol Leader (and/or his assistant) cannot attend, he must explain this absence to the Senior Patrol Leader and must provide him with the name of an acting PL and/or APL who will be attending. The two Troop Guides will attend to support the New Scout patrol.

Because this event is so important to the health and future of Troop 714, the adults will once again be planning and providing all details of food and beverages for the trip. The cook team lead by Mr. Murray (Scouts + adults) will ensure that everyone is *well* fed throughout this event. If you have any special dietary requirements, please let Mr. Murray know ASAP so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

We will be staying in the Squirrel's Nest at Unicoi State Park (near Helen, Georgia). Flush toilets and showers are available as well as covered shelters built into the side of a hill. We will be eating and meeting at a nearby picnic shelter during the day. After the planning is finished, there are a myriad of opportunities for other activities including swimming at a sandy beach on the park lake, playing in the nearby water park (\$), hiking a short distance (1/4 mile) to Anna Ruby Falls (a unique double waterfall nearby), a longer (5 mile) hike from Anna Ruby Falls back to the park, and Helen attractions (\$) including mini-golf, ice-cream, etc. (Food cost for the weekend is fixed at \$15, the troop covers camping cost.)

After we unpack and move-in to the Squirrel's Nest platforms on Friday evening, we'll have our first group meeting (roughly 7:30pm to 9:30pm). It will be cooler then and will help ensure we finish in time for more fun activities on Saturday afternoon. We'll use Pavilion #3 (food) and Pavilion #6 (meetings).

Saturday breakfast will be at 8:00AM and the planning program will start promptly at 8:45. If you are coming up on Saturday, you must be there at 8:45 or it will set the whole group back. Please plan to be there for breakfast and then there won't be any disruption of the meeting process by late arrivals!

Dinner will be at 7:00pm on Saturday and the planning program will continue until probably 9:00pm. Please let Mr. Moultrie know if you will be leaving early (before the group departs at 10:00am on Sunday).

What to bring? Bring your personal camping gear (no tent, but it is useful to have a tarps and rope to cover the side/floor of the Squirrel's Nest platform if we have a blowing rain). You're sleeping on a wooden floor so some type of pad is nice to have. There are showers and flush toilets – bring a towel (etc.) if you want to enjoy a shower. A flashlight, rain gear and bug spray would also be desirable. For the Saturday afternoon activities, a swim suit, water bottle, sturdy shoes for a short hike, and maybe a day pack/book bag would be helpful. Money for mini-golf, ice-cream, souvenirs, etc., might also be useful. You won't need cooking gear or personal utensils however a mug for drinks would be a good idea. The Squirrel's Nest camping area is about 1/8 mile from the parking lot so having all your stuff portable in a pack or easily carried duffle bag is a good plan! Of course, we'll travel and eat in Class-A. Class-B will be needed for the activities.

Planning Campout Participants:

We'll meet in the parking lot down near the trailer / gear shed at MV at 5:30pm on Friday.
Travel in class-A and be ready to load your gear and depart quickly!

All meals provided by Chef Murray & cook team.

** Please notify Mr. Murray ASAP at kenny.murray@comcast.net if there are food allergies, religious requirements, etc., to discuss alternate planning. **

Don't forget to bring:

- 1) signed permission form (required for all Scouts, even if a parent is attending!)
- 2) \$15 (covers all meals, must note on signup if not eating with group or must pay!)
- 3) water bottle (and drink from it often!)
- 4) cup/mug for drinks (cold drinks will be good!)
- 5) swim suit (water park/lake beach)
- 6) rain gear
- 7) sleeping pad (no cots, wooden platform floor)
- 8) sleeping bag (or other light bedding material)
- 9) pillow
- 10) flashlight
- 11) bug repellent
- 12) bring a couple of extra class-B shirts, closed-toed walking shoes (always required)
- 13) day pack to carry stuff around/between locations
- 14) Sun hat & sunscreen – especially for lake, water park, outside games, etc.
- 15) Towel for showers and swimming (also soap for shower)
- 16) chair (adults may want – makes waiting more comfortable)
- 17) a couple of extra box fans would be useful, pavilions are outdoors / open air
(no electricity in Squirrel's Nest sleeping area, so only battery fans usable there)
- 18) a small amount of cash for mini-golf, ice-cream, souvenirs, etc.

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