

Trail Life USA Troop 317

Johns Creek, Georgia

Frequently Asked Questions

Monthly Campouts and Other Events

1. Where can we find a listing of monthly campouts?

We maintain a current schedule of upcoming campouts and activities on the Troop activity website: www.troop317.net, under the Outings tab.

2. Who decides on the locations and activities of the campouts? How far in advance are these decided?

The Woodlands Trail activities are chosen by the adult leaders, to support the Annual Program plan, and activity Leaves and Branches that are being earned at that time.

For the Navigators and Adventurers, the activities are chosen by the Trailmen themselves. The Patrol Leader's Council holds an annual Program Planning Conference in May of each year to plan the next Activity year (August – July). The youth suggest campouts and the Adults provide guidance in balancing costs, safety, and fun.

3. How much do campouts cost and what does that include?

Woodlands Trail activities are generally FREE, and consist of day-long trips to various locations. Certain activities may be limited to Mountain Lions (due to maturity, ability, etc.) and may require a small fee to participate – usually \$10-\$15.

For the Navigators and Adventurers, we try to keep the costs to ~\$40 for the typical outing. This includes activity fees, site fees and food. Transportation is provided by volunteer parents.

Summer Adventure (Navigators and Adventurers) is held once per year, and usually costs around \$375. Troop 317 plans on camping 10 times each year, but some patrols will organize additional trips. Such trips are organized at the patrol level and are dependent on voluntary parental involvement and financial support.

4. How can I pay for campouts?

Once we have a campmaster and the activity is selected for a specific campout, we will post the details of the campout on our Troop Campout Registration website: www.troop317.net. We will open registration for the campout, and provide a deadline by which registration and payment should be complete. Registrations after the close date may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but should not be automatically assumed.

Payment is due before the campout, and should be taken care of via the www.troop317.net website, as well.

To lessen the burden on our volunteers, we request that all campout registration and payment be handled via the www.troop317.net website. Payment after registration is managed via PayPal directly from the Troop website.

5. What is the “grubmaster” and what do I do when it is my son’s turn to fulfill this role?

For weekend campouts (Navigators and Adventurers), the patrol decides on their menu in advance of the outing. The grubmaster is the individual in a patrol who is responsible for fulfilling that outing’s meal plan. The grubmaster handles the logistics of purchasing, storing, and transporting the food for that outing. (The Troop has the cooking equipment/utensils that a typical outing requires.) Parents should not just go purchase the food/ingredients. The Trailman should shop for the groceries with parental guidance as to quantities, quality and usage.

6. Are there tips or guidelines to help with this role?

- The Troop budget is \$12.00 per person, per campout (4 meals). Special circumstances may apply for certain trips, but the usual meals are Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast;
- Each patrol should plan on 3-4 Adult guests eating as part of the group;
- Treat the trip to the store as a learning experience for your youth;
- Plan what you need before going to the store and then stick to the plan;
- Remember that the youth have virtually no experience buying food, so help your son in making reasonable purchases (jars of spaghetti sauce, not meat/tomatoes/spices – when there is no cold storage);
- Keep the receipt, maybe make a copy of it;
- Consumables (paper plates, etc.) should NOT be purchased as part of the meal, as Trailmen are expected to own, and use, a washable mess kit.

7. Are food expenses reimbursed and if so, how is this done?

Yes, all food costs are covered by the trip fees. Please have your son fill out the expense reimbursement form (available on the troop website). A scanned copy of the form, along with the associated receipt(s) should be emailed to the Troop Treasurer (treasurer@troop317.com). A reimbursement check will be sent by return mail. The Troop budget is \$12.00 per person for meals for a 4-meal campout.

8. What is required if I decide to be a volunteer driver on a campout?

- You must be properly licensed to drive your vehicle;
- All riders must have seat belts;
- All vehicles MUST be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000 or \$500,000 single limit;
- Trips over 150 miles round-trip are eligible for mileage reimbursement, which will be determined by the campmaster in charge of that particular outing.

9. What happens if I have to cancel going on a campout? Can I get a refund?

Sometimes, despite our best efforts to plan, Trailmen get sick, or a family emergency arises, or the youth is otherwise prohibited from attending a campout. Should this happen, the Troop has adopted the following policy:

- If a Trailman or adult knows he is going to miss a campout, he should notify his Trail Guide **at the earliest opportunity**, in order to prevent unnecessary expenditures for food and activity/camping fees. Note that although most patrols buy food at least 1 day in advance of the campout, other fees may have already been paid much further in advance. Refunds may be adjusted accordingly.
- Youth or parents who miss a campout for which they have already registered and paid, and for which they believe that their absence is justified (illness, family emergency, etc.), may request a refund from the Troopmaster via e-mail, explaining the situation and giving the reason for the absence.
- Only the Troopmaster can approve or deny a requested refund for a given event.
- If the refund request is approved, the Troop will issue a refund check for the appropriate amount to the family, or provide a refund via PayPal.