

New Camp Reservation System Frequently Asked Questions

Will I still need to call the Scout Office to make a reservation?

No, Camp reservations will now be completely automated through the Camping Tab at nwscouts.org. The staff at the office will still be available for assistance if needed, however all reservations and payments will be done online.

What are the new Camp Reservation Prices?

The new camp reservation prices are available for each individual facility through the new Online Camp Reservation System under the Camping Tab at nwscouts.org. A summary overview of the new price structure can be found on the Camp Reservation Home Page or at https://campreservation.com/documents/BSA611/document_15492976240_4470.pdf

Why have the prices increased?

The camp properties have always cost far more to maintain than has historically been charged to BSA groups for rentals, in the past that difference has been offset by other income sources such as Friends of Scouting and Summer Camp Revenue. Over the last several years, massive decreases in Friends of Scouting (FOS) and Camping income have prompted a much closer analysis of both income and expenses across all council operations. It became apparent that the current model of pricing at the camps for lodge usage, campsites, etc. was not sustainable without those additional sources of income and an increase in rental costs was necessary.

Where did the new prices come from?

The new prices are based on the actual costs of operating each property. Each of the three camp properties has its own separate budget for both expenses and income that is carefully maintained. These budgets were used to generate actual facility costs that were then used along with cost comparisons to public event venues and campgrounds as well as YMCA, Girl Scout and Campfire camps in the regions near council camps to generate the new price structure.

As an example, here is how the new daily rate for Carbon Lodge was calculated:

First a total daily cost for each property was created by using 3-year average of all costs for that property and dividing by 365.25. That cost came out to \$271 (rounded to \$275) a day for Camp Easton, \$141 (rounded to \$150) for Camp Grizzly, and \$306 (rounded to \$300) for Camp Cowles. Costs of the lodges were then calculated based on 50% of that overall daily camp cost as the lodges create about half of the expenses on the property (For example; the entire electrical bill for all of Camp Cowles was \$2,338.77 for Dec 2018, Carbon Lodge's meter comprised \$1,154.20 of that bill, or 49.4% of all electricity costs at Cowles) The number was then rounded up or down at each camp based on comparable facilities in each area. Half of the \$306 daily costs at Cowles was \$153 which was rounded to \$150 is now the daily rate for BSA Unit use of Carbon Lodge, outside organizations will be charged \$400/day, based on our cost of \$150/day and a comparison to other large event venues in Pend Oreille County ranging from \$300-2300/day.

If we do a service project, can we have our fees reduced?

No. There has been a historical practice used at council camps to give free or discounted camping opportunities in exchange for doing service projects on the property. Service is an expected part of every unit's scouting program, and one of the primary methods of scouting. As a key component of service is that it is unpaid and volunteered, discounts will no longer be offered for doing service projects at camps.

Our Unit has rented and camped in the lodge at (insert camp name) at the same price for years and this new price structure may not allow us to do that anymore. Why would the council do that to us?

There has been a practice for many years that troops and packs will rent the lodges at council camps and camp inside of them, especially in the winter, because they were inexpensive and heated. The new pricing structure will intentionally discourage this practice as it is a very steep increase from costs in the past, and the lodges are now a “Daytime” facility in the new reservation system. This means that if a group wishes to reserve one of the lodges overnight, they must reserve the lodge for both days and pay the rate for both days. There are two main reasons for this change;

First: All the lodges at the camps were designed and intended as food preparation and dining facilities first and foremost and all are licensed as such with the governing health departments in their areas. They are not meant to be hotels or barracks and it is a violation of most areas’ health codes use a licensed dining space as a sleeping area.

Second: The lodges are all large capacity buildings that have high vaulted ceilings, large open space and limited control over air flow. As such heating them is inefficient and extremely expensive. During the winter, the temperatures are maintained above freezing to protect the buildings and pipes, but far below what is “comfortable” for occupancy. When a group arrives to use the lodge, the cost of heating some of the lodges to “comfortable” temperatures can exceed \$100 per day in addition to all other costs during the winter months and is one of the driving factors of the high facility expenses.

If I made a reservation before January 1st, 2019, will my fees change?

No. Any reservations prior to January 1st, 2019 will be honored at their original reservation price.

What is included when reserving the lodge?

Lodge reservations include the lodge, the immediate area around the lodge and any adjacent parking spots, the kitchen facilities and equipment, and the restroom(s) inside the lodge.

If we reserve the lodge, can we still use the fields and fire bowls as well?

Yes. Parade fields and fire bowls are “add-on” facilities with no cost that can be added to any reservation such as the lodge or a campsite.

Can I still reserve a camp to be exclusive?

No. Exclusive camp reservation is now reserved for District and Council events and large group events such as a wedding or church outing. Individuals and units cannot reserve exclusive use of a camp.

Is the deposit that is required refundable?

Yes. Only the lodges will require a deposit. As long as there are no damages and the facility is cleaned before departure, the deposit will be refunded.

How will I receive the refundable deposit?

Electronic payments such as credit cards and EFT will be refunded electronically, any other payments, a check will be cut and mailed to the billing address on the reservation.

Can I reserve now and pay later?

Yes. Prior to 30 days before a scheduled event begins, there will be a payment option available called 'Mail In', this option will allow a reservation to be booked without paying immediately so that a unit can gather funding or book their reservation without waiting for the delay of mailing in a check. This option will disappear 30 days before the reservation begins and at that point, an invoice will be sent to the reservation's primary contact for the balance. Any reservation not paid in full 2 weeks prior to the event may be subject to cancellation.

Will I be able to see pictures of what is available to rent?

Yes. Some pictures have already been added to the new system and are available immediately, more will be added for the facilities over the next year until all sites and facilities have pictures available.

What if I need to change or cancel my reservation?

Upon booking the reservation, the primary contact and billing contact should both receive a confirmation email. This will contain the links and information necessary to view your reservation and make additional payments. To cancel or change your reservation you will need to contact the Council Service Center at (509)325-4562 and speak with Megan.

It sounds like Outside Group Rental is now going to be a big part of camp reservations, is this fair for the youth? Aren't the properties there "for scouting"?

While it is correct that outside organizations will be able to reserve our facilities through our new automated reservation system and the hope is to generate new sources of revenue through this, priority will still be given to scouts and scouting events. The new system will always run 24-36 months into the future. All District and Council events will be reserved in the system between 12 and 36 months in advance. Scout units will then be able to make reservations up to 12 months in advance. Outside organizations who are not connected to a unit will only be able to make reservations up to 8 months in advance without special exception from the council facility staff. This gives priority to scouting units and activities, however it will require organization and long-term planning to secure reservations in advance.