



DATE: October 23, 2020

TO: National Camping School Participant

FROM: Todd McDonald, Course Director, National Camping School todd.mcdonald@scouting.org
Eric Buher, Facilities Liaison, Mount Baker Council eric.buher@scouting.org

Welcome to the 2021 National Camping School at Fire Mountain Scout Camp near Mount Vernon, Washington. Your application has been received and we eagerly look forward to learning with you at Fire Mountain. Here are a number of details which will help you prepare for your National Camping School experience:

Covid-19 and National Camping School - Local council host sites will continue to practice any locally required COVID-19/communicable disease mitigation strategies. Prior to your arrival, you will receive additional information about what precautions will be in place at your NCS site. If local area restrictions do not allow a course to be held, you will be contacted no less than 14 days in advance and given an alternative training option.

These precautions are important, but these efforts cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. *If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to attending National Camping School.*

COURSE DATES: Saturday, **June 5** through Friday, **June 11**, 2021 (Recertification sections will conclude Tuesday, June 8 after lunch)

COURSE LOCATION: Fire Mountain Scout Camp
26027 Walker Valley Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

ARRIVAL: Plan to arrive between **9:00 am** and **11:00 am** (PST) on Saturday, **June 5**. Upon arrival, park in the parking lot where you will be met by a staff member. You may bring your gear with you to check-in, or leave it in your vehicle and coordinate gear delivery later. Bring your medical form and follow signs to the check-in area, which is a ¼ mile walk from the parking area. You will receive a housing assignment at check-in.

EARLY ARRIVAL: If travel arrangements require it, you may arrive early on Friday, June 4 after 5:00 pm. The early arrival fee is \$55, which includes Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast. Be sure to gain your council's approval before making plans to arrive early, as they will be billed an extra \$55.

DEPARTURE: Departure will be after breakfast on Friday, June 11. (Recertification sections will conclude Tuesday, June 8 after lunch)

MEDICAL FORM: A medical examination and annual health record, completed within the past 12 months, is **required and must be completed prior to your arrival.** Please bring the completed form with you. If you do not have this required form, you will need to obtain one at your own expense prior to beginning class. The cost will likely be a MINIMUM of \$100.

PREREQUISITES: Please note the mandatory prerequisite training courses for the sections listed below, which **MUST** be completed prior to National Camp School. Please complete these training courses and bring proof of completion. Persons who arrive without these completed will be sent home.

Shooting Sports: NRA Rifle and Shotgun Instructor Certification

Aquatics: Current Lifeguard certification (BSA Lifeguard, Red Cross Lifeguard, YMCA Lifeguard, Starfish Aquatics Institute Starguard, Ellis & Associates International Lifeguard Training Program, or equivalent) Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training and proven swimming skills.

COPE: COPE Level I Instructor

Climbing: Climbing Level I Instructor

Resident Camp Director and Program Director: Online NCAP training is available at on the NCS page @

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>

BRING: Refer to the attached 'Equipment Needed' list, and the following when packing:

- **BSA Uniform - Complete, correct uniforms are required.** The BSA Field Uniform (Scout shorts or long trousers, Scout shirt, Scout socks) is required for evening meals, worship services, campfires, and other formal activities. The BSA Activity Uniform (Scout shorts or pants with Scouting golf or t-shirts) may be worn at other times during the course.
- Sleeping bag and pad. Housing units do not have mattresses, and bedding is not provided.
- Rain gear and layered outerwear.
- Medical form as noted above (every participant).
- Proof of completion of any prerequisites as listed above (Shooting Sports, Aquatics, COPE, and Climbing participants).

HOUSING: Housing will be in 4-person "stents" (steel-roofed tent-sized structures) or 8-person Adirondack cabins; both have bunks without pads. Bedding and linens will not be provided.

WEATHER: Historic average temperatures at camp are 50° to 68° and rain is not uncommon. The camp elevation is 437ft.

EMERGENCY PHONE: The telephone number at Fire Mountain is (360) 422-6542 in case of emergency.

TRANSPORTATION: The closest airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA). To be sure you arrive at camp on time, your flight should arrive no later than 7:00 am. A round-trip shuttle to and from camp will be available for a \$100 fee. Contact Eric Buher at eric.buher@scouting.org once you have your flight information to reserve a shuttle seat if you have no other mode of transport.

CAMP SCHOOL TRADING POST: National Supply will not have a trading post at National Camping School this year. If you are interested in purchasing NCS items you can download the flier at www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school and have them sent directly to your home. Please see your confirmation email for details on how to get FREE shipping on your order.

OTHER: Fire Mountain will operate a small trading post with convenience items and snacks. Limited-use Wi-Fi is available at camp, and there is reasonably reliable cell service at camp, which may be your best option for connecting to the outside world.

DOWNLOADS: Helpful documents can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/NCS2020FM>

ENCLOSURES: NCS Equipment List; map and directions to Fire Mountain

If you have any questions, please reach out to eric.buher@scouting.org. In addition to the things listed above, please also bring an open mind, a cooperative attitude, and a willing smile - we're going to have a great time at Fire Mountain!

Map & Directions to Fire Mountain

(26027 Walker Valley Road, Mount Vernon, Washington 98274)



From the South:

Go North on I-5 to exit 221 (SR 534) Exit Freeway and Head East. Continue until you reach State Route 9. Turn north on SR 9 (left at 'T' intersection) and continue approximately five miles. Look for milepost 46. Shortly after this milepost you will see Walker Valley Road. Turn right on Walker Valley Road and continue to the end.

From the North:

Go South on I-5 to exit 227 (College Way). Exit Freeway and head east. Continue until you reach State Route 9. Head south on SR 9, (at the Big Rock Grocery), drive for approximately 3.7 miles. Look for Walker Valley Road on your left. Turn left on Walker Valley Road, and continue to the end.