



DATE: November 30, 2021

TO: National Camping School Participants

FROM: John Bickel, Course Director

Welcome to the 2022 National Camping School at Sea Base High Adventure in the beautiful Florida Keys!

We eagerly look forward to having you with us for National Camping School and want to make this a time of learning and growth that helps set you and the camp you serve on a path to success this coming summer. In addition to the NCS Staff, the other folks who will help make your experience top-notch are Jason Lewis, Sea Base Director of Operations. Questions regarding facilities can be forwarded to Sea Base Conference Manager, Natalie Rembisz at Natalie.Rembisz@scouting.org.

To help ensure you have a great experience, I'd like to share some details so you are prepared for your week with us:

Check-in: Please plan to arrive between **9:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m. EST** on **Saturday, February 5**. Be sure to have your BSA Medical Form (Parts A, B & C) completed in the last 12 months, as well as your NCS Participant Questionnaire when you come to check-in.

Early Arrivals: If you are arriving early due to travel arrangements, you may arrive no earlier than Friday, February 4 at 9AM. The early arrival fee is \$60, which includes lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. Your council will be billed if you arrive early so be sure to consult with them prior to making this arrangement.

Travel via Airplane: The most convenient airport for visiting Sea Base is Miami International Airport [MIA]. Shuttle service to and from the airport is available for a \$110 fee. Sea Base will provide two airport shuttle options from Miami International Airport to Sea Base on Friday February 4 at 3PM for early arrivals, and at 8:00AM on Saturday, February 5.

Return shuttles will arrive at MIA by 4PM on Tuesday, February 8 (retraining only) and at 12:00PM on Friday, February 11 (full session). If you plan to use this service, you need to reserve your seat ahead of time by contacting Sea Base Conference Registrar, Natalie Rembisz at Natalie.Rembisz@scouting.org

PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle and Early Arrival Reservations must be submitted by February 1st

Covid-19 and National Camping School: Sea Base will practice any locally and all required COVID-19/communicable disease mitigation strategies. Current policies are on the [Sea Base website](#) and included in this email. 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.*

Note: Participants are required to adhere to Sea Base COVID-19 Mitigation policies. Anyone found not adhering to policy will be asked to depart. No refund will be given, and certification will not be awarded.

Sea Base is a closed campus- once checked in, you are not permitted to leave the property until your course has concluded

Note: Do not make vacation plans prior to arrival or plan to leave site during the course. Do not plan to have visitors or additional attendees such as spouses or children.

Note: Every participant must complete the [Sea Base Pre-Event Medical Checklist](#) and submit upon arrival. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and daily until departure.

BSA Medical Form: An annual medical examination and 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. Cost will likely be a MINIMUM of \$200.

Housing: Housing will be provided in dorm style bunkhouses with beds and mattress. [Here is a video of what to expect.](#) Participant beds will be at least 6 feet apart. Sea Base dormitories have state of the art filtration/air conditioning units which include peroxide scrubbers, UV filters and filters. Dormitories are sanitized using electrostatic sprayers. A limited number of tents will be available for those with preexisting conditions or concerns. **Bedding (blankets, sheets, and pillows) will be provided. Please bring your own towel as these WILL NOT be provided.** The telephone number at Florida National High Adventure Sea Base is (305) 664-4173 an emergency number will be provided upon arrival.

Dress Code: The BSA Field Uniform (Scout shorts or long trousers, Scout shirts, Venturing shirts, Scout socks) or the BSA Activity Uniform (Scout shorts or pants with Scouting golf or t-shirts) will be worn at National Camping School. A **complete Field Uniform is required** for evening meals, worship services, and other formal activities. You will not need to arrive in a Field Uniform, but you will need it for the Opening Lunch on Saturday, February 5th. **To keep things fun, we are also encouraging participants to bring a Hawaiian shirt to join the staff in the Luau theme for the week!**

Pre-Course Trainings: Please note that there are pre-requisite trainings which you MUST complete before you attend the NCS. Please ensure you have completed these trainings and bring support materials with you as proof. Any individual who has not completed the required trainings will be sent home and no refund will be provided to the individual or local council.

Aquatics Required Trainings: 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.

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/>

Other Items to Bring: In addition to toiletries, a towel, pen, and notebook, we encourage participants to bring any camp promotion or program information that they would like to share as a resource to share with others in the class.

What to Expect and What Is Expected:

- Be prepared for learning, fellowship, and fun! Days start early in the morning and extend late at night.
- Be prepared for Dorm style - indoor housing with mattresses. Please bring your own towel.
- You must arrive no later than 11:00 a.m. on the first day, and attend all sessions through the last day to be certified
- We'll have a full-slate of sessions, so plan to have others cover your work responsibilities back at home

National Camping School Trading Post: While National Supply will not have a trading post at National Camping School, you can preview and purchase all of the cool NCS items to be sent directly to your home on the special National Camping School website at: <https://www.scoutshop.org/shop-by-scout/special-collections/national-camp-school.html>. The Sea Base Ship Store will also be open during meal and breaktimes for all of your snack, souvenir, and essential needs! i.e. sunscreen, toothbrush/toothpaste, and Hawaiian shirts

Check-out: Departure will be after breakfast on **Friday, February 11.** *All participants who are enrolled in any retraining sections will be able to depart after Noon on Tuesday, February 8.*

Additional information is available for download through the National Camping School website, including:

Directions & Map

Equipment List of "What to Bring"

[Medical Form](#)

NCS Personal Resource Questionnaire

[Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#)

Last but not least: National Camping School is a great place to learn from one another, so please also bring an open mind, a cooperative attitude, and a lot of enthusiasm – it's going to be a great course!

If you have any questions before you arrive, feel free to reach-out via call or text at (484) 614-2370 or email john.bickel@scouting.org. Thank you for joining us for National Camping School at Florida Sea Base, and I look forward to seeing you on February 5th in the Florida Keys!

Yours in Scouting,

John