

DATE: December 15, 2023

TO: National Camping School Participants

FROM: Matthew Rendahl, Course Director

Welcome to the 2024 National Camping School at the Florida Sea Base in the beautiful Florida Keys!

We eagerly look forward to having you with us for National Camping School Feb. 3-9, 2024 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.

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 3 (regular sessions) or by 12 EST on Tuesday, February 6th for Aquatics Retraining.** 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 2 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.

Post NCS Adventure: 2/9 Friday Afternoon Fishing, 2/10 Saturday Key West Day, 2/11 Sunday morning Breakfast and return airport run- \$350 to register please email natalie.rembisz@scouting.org

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 three airport shuttle options from Miami International Airport to Sea Base on Friday February 2nd at 3PM for early arrivals, 8:00AM on Saturday, February 3rd for regular start, and 8 AM on Tuesday, February 6th for Aquatics Retraining students.

Return shuttle will arrive at MIA by 12:00PM on Friday, February 9 (all sessions, departs after breakfast). 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 January 29th

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.](#)
Bedding (blankets, sheets, and pillows) will be provided. Please bring your own towel as these WILL NOT be provided. There are laundry facilities available onsite to use free of charge. 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 4th. **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 breacktimes 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 9 (unless you opt to do the Post-NCS Adventure)**

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 (304) 465-2812 or email matthew.rendahl@scouting.org. Thank you for joining us for National Camping School at Florida Sea Base, and I look forward to seeing you on February 3rd in the Florida Keys!

Yours in Scouting,

Matthew Rendahl

Course Director