

Bartle Summer Camp Tips for First Year Parents and Scouts

1. **Information** - See the "Bartle 2011" page of the troop website at <http://www.bsatroop257.org/events/2011/jul/bartle-summer-camp-2011> for information and forms referenced below.
2. Please read all the way through the above page and the "Summer Camp Overview for First Year Scouts and Parents" it provides.
3. **Equipment** – See the "Summer Camp Equipment List"
4. **Forms** - You must provide a completed Health Form, Medication Form, and Camp Contract. The Health Form requires a physical examination by a physician. Your son will not be allowed to leave for camp without these forms.
5. **Camp box** - Each Scout will need a camp box as described in the "Summer Camp Equipment List". They are available from Mickey's Surplus: see <http://www.mickeyssurplus.com/> Get a combination lock. Teach your Scout how to use it and have him memorize the combination.
6. **Uniform** – Your Scout must have a complete Boy Scout Uniform consisting of troop neckerchief and official BSA shirt, shorts, socks, and belt. You'll also need to send two "Class B" red troop T-shirts.
7. **Visitor's Day** is Sunday, July 17. Please plan to attend with your family. Bring lunch for your family, with enough leftover for the troop's pot-luck dinner for the Scouts in the evening. The camp does not provide lunch or dinner on this day. If you absolutely can't attend, make arrangements for your Scout to eat with another family. Bring chairs. Picnic tables are available but typically are in short supply.
8. **Mail** – Bring mail on check-in day for the whole session. Mark with day numbers. You can also send postal mail.
9. **Swimming**: All Scouts will take a swim test and must pass to swim in the deep end. First Years will take Swimming merit badge. If your Scout isn't a good swimmer, lessons before camp are a very good idea but are not mandatory. Your Scout will have more fun if he does well at swimming. However, the camp staff will work with Scouts at all levels of swimming ability.
10. **Money**: Scouts need spending money for the trading post. Encourage them to plan to spend it throughout the session, not all at once. Tell them to keep it locked up at all times. (Not all Scouts are as honest as they should be.) You might send half with them and bring the other half on Visitor's Day. Or, you can send it via troop mail.
11. **Pre-Work for merit badges**. They will make a collection of 10 rocks and write a 100-word report about a mammal of their choice. They can work on these in advance if they want, but they don't have to.
12. **Check-In** – We will have a check-in the evening before we leave, on July 13. Forms will be collected and your Scout's equipment and uniform will be checked. If you are missing something, that will give you a chance to obtain it. Your troop account must be fully paid before camp. Also, if you still have any tents or boxes/coolers from the last campout, please bring them to turn in at check-in.
13. **Transportation** – The boys will ride a bus, and their boxes will go on a trailer. Adults should drive themselves or make arrangements to ride with another adult.