



Scout Camping @ Schiff Nature Preserve

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can anyone camp at Schiff? Overnight camping at Schiff is permitted for Scout member organizations only. The annual organization/scout membership fee is \$50 and is valid for 12 months from membership date. Overnight camping fee is \$50 per night.
- Is there potable water available at the camp sites? There is not. We do not provide water at the campsites. We do have water available at the Nature Center, your check-in location.
- Where are the bathrooms? There is a primitive latrine near Woodbadge Lodge. The Troop is responsible to bring toilet paper. We can also arrange to leave the Nature Center unlocked during your stay so that you can access the indoor bathrooms.
- How far are the sites from the Nature Center parking lot? The Lookout Point campsite is approximately one half mile from the parking lot of our Nature Center. The Woodbadge Lodge campsite is approximately one mile from the Nature Center.
- How do we get our gear up to the camping location? You may tow your scout trailer through the preserve to Woodbadge Lodge or Look Out Point. All other vehicles are to remain at the Nature Center. Please do not drive or park other vehicles on other routes or surrounding roads.
- Are Scouts allowed to set up tents anywhere? Tents are allowed only at the two designated campsites; Lookout Point and Woodbadge Lodge. Tents are to be set up away from nearby trails so as to not interfere with hikers and visitors.
- Are there platforms to set the tents upon? No, there are no platforms.
- Are there picnic tables at the site? Both camping locations have picnic tables. Woodbadge Lodge has 5-6 tables with seating capacity of 30. Lookout Point has one picnic table with seating capacity of 6. Additionally, up the hill from Lookout Point at 711, there are two picnic tables with seating for 12.
- Do you have rules concerning building a fire? Can the Scouts scavenge for firewood in the nearby woods? A permit to burn an open fire is required. Secure a fire permit from the New Jersey Forest Fire service or Mendham Township fire official and forward Schiff a copy prior to the date of the event. Troops may bring local, New Jersey firewood or use fallen trees in the immediate area. Please keep in mind that, to prevent the spread of invasive, damaging insects, NJ state law permits the moving of wood over state lines. Fires are to be set in fire pits provided at the campsite.

- Are there a trash can / dumpster for trash? A recycling receptacle? **There is no trash or recycling containers at the sites. All trash and recycling is to be taken off the nature preserve with you. Please leave no trace.**
- In the event of severe weather, where should we go for cover? **In addition to the access to the Nature Center, you may request access codes to enter the Woodbadge Lodge for cover use in extreme weather only.**
- Do you have an electronic copy of your trail map? **Our website has a copy of our trail map that you can download and print. Viewing the map on your smart phone could prove problematic as wifi is spotty.**
- When is the earliest time to arrive for camping? **The Preserve is open from dawn to dusk. Schiff requests that all groups provide Schiff with a 3-hour window for arrivals and departures in order to ensure that the Schiff greeter will be available to welcome you to the Preserve. The Schiff greeter will review the camping rules and direct your group to the campsites via the best route from the Nature Center.**
- When is the latest time the Scouts should depart by on Sun? **Arrival and departure times are flexible and determined case by case.**
- Will the main entry and exit gates be open should a Scout need to arrive late on Sat night or leave early on Sun morning? **The gates will be open during the entire period of your stay.**