

Parent & Child Camp 2011

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Camp Theme

The theme of this year's camp is "Dr Who".

Equipment

As a family, you will need to bring the following:

- Tent (we have a limited number of tents we can lend in case of need)
- sleeping mats (Karrimat or similar) or other underbedding for each member of the family
 - Please note: temperatures fall sharply at night and the cold seeps up from the ground into the bones! Do not skimp on underbedding or a Karrimat as, otherwise, you will spend a very miserable night!
- good quality sleeping bags for each member of the family
- crockery, cutlery and mugs (Will be supplied by the group)
- lots of warm clothing *
- Group scarves for those children who are invested as Beavers, Cubs or Scouts **
- toilet tissue and normal toiletries
- sense of humour!
- torch or torches
- tea towels (Your not at home & will be expected to help out with washing up etc)

* Expect your children to get very dirty!

When choosing what clothes to bring, you should keep the following considerations in mind:

A. Young children generally have very little body fat; this means that, when they get cold, it happens suddenly and their temperatures can drop dramatically, leading to misery all round. You should think in terms of *layers* of clothing for them. Multiple, relatively thin layers keep the body warmer than fewer, thick layers because the air trapped between layers acts as insulation. Also, if a child feels too hot, they can take off one or more thin layers until they are comfortable; if cold, they can add one or more thin layers until they feel warm again. This is less difficult to manage with a few, thick layers.

B. When your children go to sleep, their temperatures will drop a few degrees. The outside temperature will also drop considerably, especially at this time of year. It is even more important, then, to ensure that your child has additional layers of clothing that they can put on to keep warm and snug. Thin layers also mean that your child can move around in his/her sleeping bag more freely.

C. Don't forget the extremities: extra pairs of socks will come in useful to keep feet warm at night! There is nothing more wretched than a child who has had a miserable night's sleep due to cold!

D. If there are two adults sleeping with the children in the same sleeping compartment, put the children between you so that they can benefit from your body heat. It is always easier to lose excess heat (by opening the sleeping bag up a little or taking off some clothes) than to get extra heat if it is needed.

** Children should bring along their Group scarves; in theory, members of the Scout Group are supposed to arrive at and leave camp dressed in full uniform. Personally, I have never seen the point of this as we have nowhere to store uniforms once they have been discarded. If children wear their Group scarves on arrival, however, it will help the campsite staff or other Scout Leaders to point them in the right direction if they become separated from you in the general confusion of setting up camp. Scarves will also be needed for Flag Break and Flag Down.

Preparation For Camp

Drawing Up A Menu

Andy Lowles will be our camp chef as usual. However he will be interested in menu ideas (to be discussed at the pre-camp meeting). The following meals will be provided:

- Friday supper
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday lunch
- Saturday themed dinner
- Sunday breakfast
- Sunday lunch
- Sunday mid-afternoon meal (sandwiches or similar just to act as stomach fillers as it will be early evening by the time everyone breaks camp, gets back to Owlsmoor, unloads equipment, gets home, bathes children and settles down for a proper evening meal)

You should also allow for snacks (fruit, crisps, biscuits etc.) that can just be left out for children to help themselves during the day as they will be active for most of it. We will request each family brings a packet of biscuits which will be placed into the biscuit pool for all to share.

Alcohol: this should be considered a personal expense rather than something which is taken out of the shared Group budget.

Buying Food

Once the menu has been agreed, Andy and Jenny will purchase the food for the group. The budget should allow for such easily forgotten items as cooking oil, matches, washing-up liquid etc.

The Group does own a fridge and freezer which can be used to store food.

Loading Equipment From The Scout Hut

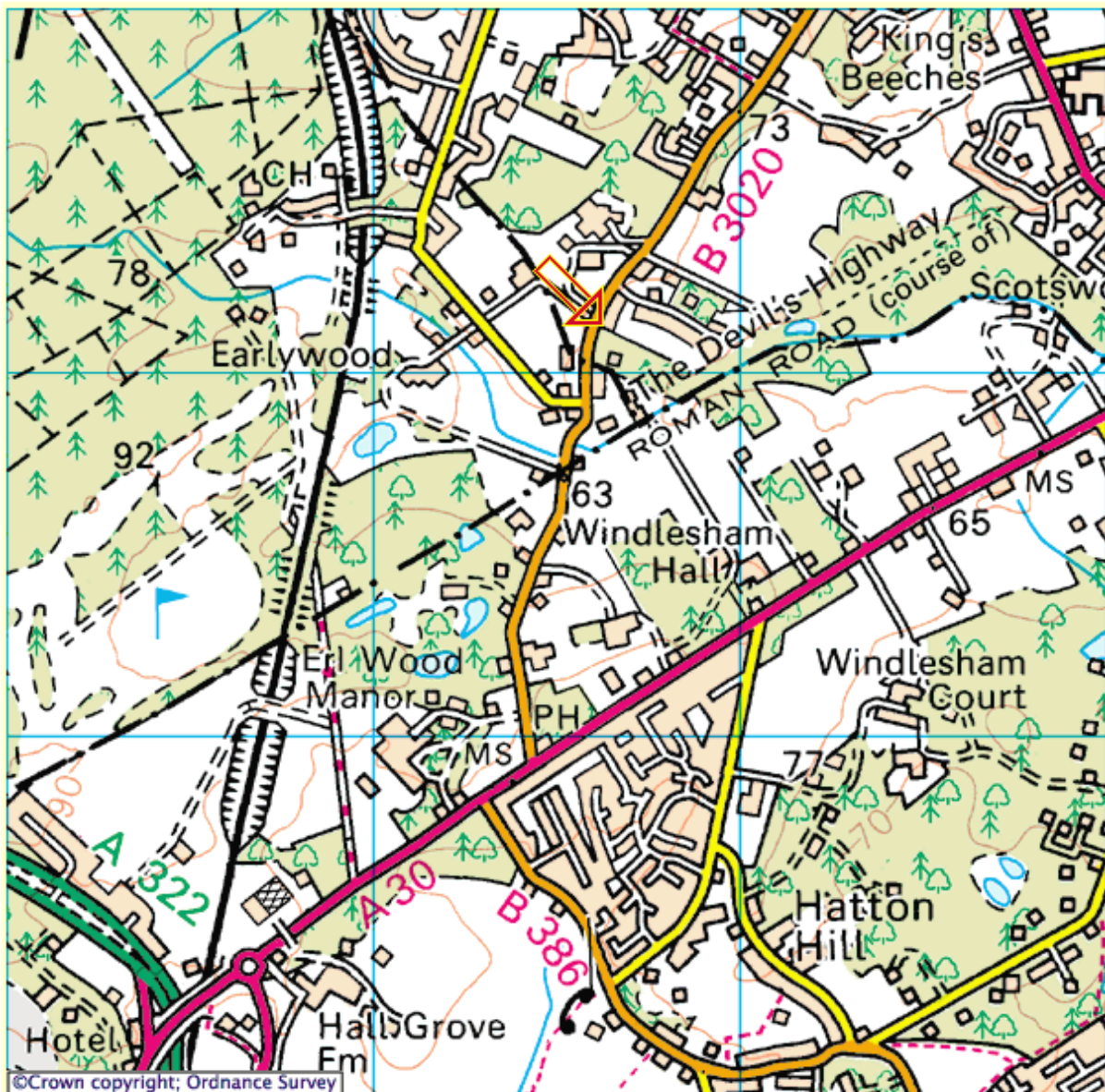
We need some volunteers to help load equipment into cars to take down to the campsite. The loading will need to be done on Thursday evening at a time which is mutually convenient to all volunteers. The biggest single item which needs to be transported is our marquee which will be used as a dining shelter. Other big items include tables, cookers, benches and gas bottles. We will also need help to get these back to the Scout Hut once camp is over. We do have a trailer which makes transport much easier to & from Earleywood.

Getting There And Setting Up

The campsite is open to parents from 5.30p.m. on the Friday night. It will however be helpful if a few parents can arrive in the early afternoon (about 2.30p.m.) and begin setting up camp to minimise the amount of time we need to work into the evening when children are around.

Earleywood campsite itself is on the B3020, just off the A30. Head towards Bagshot on the A30 and keep driving until you reach Windlesham. Just as you enter Windlesham, there is a public house on your left hand side, still on the A30, called “The Windmill”. The pub sits on the junction of the A30 and the B3020. Turn left immediately before the pub and follow the road up for about half a mile or so. Earleywood campsite is just round one of the bends. Your landmark is a “School children crossing” road sign; there is a school just to your left and the campsite is just to your right.

For those of you with internet access, go to <http://www.streetmap.co.uk> and enter “Earleywood” as a GB Place.



Car Sharing

Car parking space at the campsite is at a premium; in fact, we will be parking our cars in the school on the opposite side of the road. If it is at all possible for you to pool vehicles, please do so!

Car Parking

As mentioned above, the amount of space available for parking is very small and will be limited to camp site *staff*. The routine, then, is as follows:

1. There will be a one way system into the car park. Please follow it.
2. Unload your car as quickly as possible and put your equipment safely to one side.
3. Park your car in the school car park on the opposite side of the road from the camp site.
4. Return and take your equipment down to the 1st Owlsmoor site.

Marquee

Several strong men are required to help us to put up the marquee! This should be the first job as it allows us to have a dining tent and a shelter big enough for all children if the weather takes a turn for the worse. If you are tall as well, so much the better!

Family Tents

We have a limited number of six person family tents available for loan if you do not have a tent of your own. Please ask!

Campsite Rules - Alcohol

This camping weekend is primarily for the children in the South Berkshire Scout District. It is not a "lads' or girls' night out". Although alcohol is allowed, the camp site wardens do ask that:

- you drink alcohol only on the 1st Owlsmoor camp site
- you do not wander around the camp site with tins or bottles of alcohol in your hand
- you drink in moderation and do not cause a nuisance to other people

Collecting Wood

One of the pleasures of being on camp for many children is the collecting of wood from the wood pile. Some years, this is a problem; other years it is not. The camp site warden may insist on one or more of the following rules with regard to the wood pile:

- wood collecting be restricted to certain times
- wood collecting to be performed by older children and adults only
- wood collecting to be performed under adult supervision

The wood pile normally comprises wooden pallets which are not only insecurely balanced but are also full of nails. I would like all parents to agree, therefore, that wood collecting by our Group only be done under adult supervision.

Discipline

Discipline is rarely a problem on camp. Generally speaking, children get on well together and work well with the adults around them. The main problem we have is with regard to the 1st Owlsmoor camp fire. This fire will burn throughout the lifetime of the camp and will exert a tremendous pull on your children. This is one area where *all* parents need to be vigilant and we need to agree to a common approach.

Previous practice includes:

- setting out a thick, heavy rope around the fire to mark the limit of how close children can approach
- explaining the camp fire rules on the first night to all children
- explaining to children that, as far as they are concerned, they take orders from any adult on camp; if they feel that a particular order is wrong, they are, of course, perfectly at liberty to seek an explanation or raise the matter through their parents or guardians
- a "one strike and you're out" policy: certain actions such as running through the fire (it has happened!) or otherwise performing some horrendously dangerous act will lead to a child being banned from approaching the fire at all
- Only Scouts are allowed inside the fire Circle

Discipline is a shared problem for the weekend. The Scout Association does not allow its Leaders to use corporal punishment; adults on camp are, of course, free to use whatever punishments they feel are appropriate for their own children but are not allowed to use corporal punishment on other people's children.

My preferred approach to discipline would be to:

- stop the child from doing whatever he/she is doing
- explain why it is wrong without shouting at the child
- mention to the child's parents what you have done and why

Obviously there may be emergencies (such as a child running through a fire) where an adult will react first and think their actions through later. I would ask all parents to be understanding should this circumstance occur.

All the above having been said, we rarely have problem with discipline but I believe it is important to agree on a common approach before an incident occurs and tempers are lost!

First Aid

We will have a small first aid kit on our site; there will also be a first aider in the main building. Please ensure you bring along any medicines, inhalers etc. which your child may need. Two copies of the appropriate health form (adult/child) must be completed for each person attending; one will be held by 1st Owlsmoor and the other held centrally.

Flag Break / Flag Down

As this is a Scout camp, we will be required to have a token presence at flag break (in the morning) and flag down in the evening. Scarves should be worn by Group members.

Noise

Camp site rules require that noise levels are kept to a minimum after 10:00 p.m. This is to allow those who wish to sleep to do so. Please respect this requirement.

Breaking Camp

Please help us to break camp on the Sunday afternoon and pack everything back into the Scout Hut. Many hands really do make light work! We also need to clean kit so those who's partners do not camp can still help by being at the hut to help clean equipment so it is ready to use for the next camp.