﻿2023 “Light the Fire”

Dear Royal Ranger Outposts,

Are you **Ready**? Winter Camping fun is on the Horizon! We had two years of rain (in 2018 and 2019) that literally flooded the campground; it’s not any fun camping in the down-pouring rain. Then, in 2020, we had the Campout in Dublin, due to construction going on at the campground in Pipestem. Plans for 2021 were cancelled due to the pandemic. Finally we had a Winter Campout last year at Pipestem. Here are the details for 2023.

**Dates**: February 3-5, 2023

**Location:** Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, WV

**Cost**: Each outpost is to plan their own expenses regarding the camping fee, food, gas, firewood. (I will try and get a load of wood delivered to the campground)

**Campground Fee**: Each outpost will pay their own campground fee of $44.99/night/site up to 6 people,

$3.00/person over 6 and a maximum of 10 people per site. **I will collect the fees on site from each outpost and will take care of the campground fees.** All sites now have water and electricity.

**Food:** Each outpost will be responsible for their own meals. A 20x30 canopy will be set up for cooking and eating. Please bring enough camp chairs for your outpost. If you have a fold-up table, that would be very helpful.

**Permission Forms**: Each outpost will need to provide their own medical and parent permission. Please

have it while you are traveling and while you are at Pipestem State Park.

**Patches:** Patches are being ordered; approximately $3.00 each. Patches from previous events will be $1

each.

**Firewood:** We are trying to get a pickup load, with cost split by outpost. If this is not available as a

pickup load, then firewood is available for sale at the campground at $6/bundle. All firewood used in the State Park in WV must be local to Pipestem State Park in West Virginia.

**Sled Race:** Be sure and plan for your outpost to compete in our Homemade Sled Race. Each Outpost

must build their own sled.

**Swimming**: The heated, indoor pool at the lodge is $4.00 per person, cash payment to the person at

the swimming pool. It is best for the leader to collect all the monies and turn the amount in for the group.

**Nature Center:** Expected to be open!

**Optional:** Fishing! You must purchase a WV Fishing license at $3.00/day, $13.00 for a conservation

stamp and an extra $16.00 for a Trout stamp if you want to fish for Trout only. Each person must set up their own account thru the WVDNR.gov in advance of the campout.

Please let me know as soon as possible (by December 27th) an estimate of how many people you may have attending from your Outpost, this is to assist with planning a schedule and deciding how many patches to order.

Thanks so much,

Steve Allen

Text: 540-239-4612

Email: [royalrangers1@verizon.net](mailto:royalrangers1@verizon.net)

Compassion Church, Radford, VA

Appalachian Conference

*Winter CampOut: What to Pack* !

Please copy for each person attending!

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**Tips on Keeping Warm** For wet weather, it is important to stay dry. **Changing** into dry gloves, socks and clothing helps to stay warm. **Waterproof** clothing is ideal.

**Layering** is critical, especially with wind chill. Layering in the cold is your best protection. Two or three layers are better than one heavy layer.

**Fabrics for Keeping Warm** Consider these brands/materials for Winter camping; Fleece, Coolmax polyester, Thermax” “Gore-tex Windstopper fleece”, “Gor-tex”, “Polarguard” Polypropylene, Down, Thermastat, Smart wool , Underarmor). Goodwill, Thrift Shops or yard sales are good, less expensive sources for these items. Avoid cotton!

**Clothing:**

* 3 sets of shirts/trousers
* 2 Fleece Zip-ups or wool pullovers
* 2 pair thermal underwear (tops and bottoms)
* 4 pair of underwear
* 4 pair of wool socks
* Caps/Toboggans
* Neck scarves
* 3 pair of gloves (protection from wet and cold)
* Snow boots
* Tennis shoes – optional
* Rain and snow gear
* Winter coat (make sure your child will be warm in the cold)
* Coveralls or insulated coveralls
* Swim Trunks and towel (there is a heated pool)

## Toiletries

* Toothbrush and Toothpaste
* Comb
* Lotion (skin dries easily)
* Lip Protection
* Wash cloths and towels (2 sets)
* Shampoo
* Sunscreen
* Soap
* Sunglasses (protection from snow blindness)

**Personal Items**

* Bible
* Flint and Steel
* Camp stool (folding chair)
* Sleeping bag\* - check temperature rating and have extra liners or blankets
* Wool blankets or winter blankets
* Sleeping pad\*
* Flashlight with extra batteries
* Personal first aid items/kit
* Canteen
* Compass
* Whistle
* Money for Canteen/Patches
* Quarters for Laundry
* $4.00 cash for pool (give to commander)
* Tent\* May be as an outpost instead of individual
* Ground cloth\* May be as an outpost instead of individual
* Tarp\* May be as an outpost instead of individual
* Cot\* May be as an outpost instead of individual
* Cup/Plate/Spoon/Fork/Knife – may be provided by Outpost
* Cup/Plate/Spoon/Fork/Knife – may be provided by Outpost
* Pillow - Optional
* Snacks – Optional
* Personal Sled – Optional
* Survival Blanket – Optional

*What Not To Bring: Ranger Uniform, Noise Makers, music makers or players or Bicycles.*

***Notes****: Some Outposts provide the following: .* **Tents**: Large army tents work great: Alternate is a thicker mil tent.

**Sleeping pad**: Shields from the cold during the night. It layers between the cot or ground and the sleeping bag. **Cot** – increases the distance from the ground. This allows for protection from the circulating air under the cot.

**Ground cloths** – large tarps inside of the large tents on the ground to decrease mud and snow from being tracked in to the tent. **Sleeping bag** – check on the insulation, the temperature rating and consider liners. 1 **tarp** (10X12 or 8X10) for building shelters and canopies.

Mitch Hale Memorial Sled Race

Rules and information on the annual Mitch Hale Memorial Sled Race at Winter Camp Out.

The sled race is FUN. Christian Sportsmanship is **expected**!

* Each Outpost needs to bring a stopwatch.
* Commanders will be recruited to help with the race.

Rules and regulations for the Sled Race Competition:

1. Each outpost must have an original homemade sled (one per outpost.)
2. Sled can be made of any material.
3. There will be no weight requirements.
4. Sleds must be pushed or pulled by the boys. Neither engines nor Mechanical/Electrical devices are allowed. If no snow, wheels will be allowed.
5. Each outpost can have more than one team – Discovery, Adventure and Expedition Rangers, but you need only one sled for each outpost.
6. Sleds will be pushed or pulled by three boys, with one Ranger riding.
7. A Ranger will ride on the sled. Teams are four-man teams.
8. As many as two alternates may be allowed, with substitutions at a station. Six members from an outpost may form a team, with four members involved at any given time. If you have an odd number of boys, they can join up with other Outposts to complete a team. We will have individual awards for the members of the winning teams.
9. Competition will begin at a designated area. Each team will be timed. Each team will stop at designated stations and perform tasks. These skills may include (but not limited to) compass, cut and chop, tool craft, crosscut saw, rope craft, fire craft, snowball competition, scripture quiz, singing, Frisbee throwing, pig slinging, iron skillet toss, 1-ton tent toss, etc. As the course is refined, definite areas will be relayed to commanders.
10. Judging: Time to complete the course and points for completing each station.

Safety Note: At any time during the race, if an official feels the sled is dangerous (broken, falling apart, etc.) the sled CAN be pulled from the course. If time allows, the team may be allowed to make necessary repairs and re-enter the race from the starting position. The previous race time will not count. Once a team has completed the course, the team will not be allowed to re-enter the race. Bring any parts that may be needed for repair.

Bring any needed hardware, tape, parts that might be necessary for sled repairs.

Note: In case of a tie, a second run will be held.

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