

Boy Scout Troop 680

Scout Motto: Be Prepared

Scout Slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily

Spring Tree House Campout

The campout is scheduled for Friday, April 19 through Sunday, April 21. We're staying in the Tree Houses (three walled shelters) overlooking Nims Lake at S-F Scout Reservation.

Most scouts rarely see all the backcountry of S-F. There are some really cool areas to check out. The little St. Francis River flows through this area. We also have Castle rock, an ancient geologic formation. So as a troop, we're going to venture into the backcountry for a day of exploring.

See the attached equipment checklist and the special items you may want to bring. We will be hiking the backcountry of S-F on Saturday and we will work on Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class requirements. In between, we can fish or play games.

I will have the troop trailer at the troop meeting on Thursday night for anyone who wants to bring their gear and store it in the trailer. This will save you the hassle of dragging gear around school.

We're meeting at the Kister House at 3:30 – 4:00 on Friday with departure scheduled for 4:00 pm sharp. We will caravan down to S-F, near Farmington MO. The drive is about 90 minutes. We will stop on the way for dinner. Each Scout needs to bring about \$10 in cash for Friday dinner and Sunday lunch.

Departure is Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. We will need a firm commitment by our April 18 Troop meeting. Due to the distance, we don't recommend you try to leave and return on a Saturday. If you need to come down late on Friday, that's fine. We also need parents to volunteer to drive there and back. Please let me know if you can drive and how many scouts (and their gear) you can carry.

Mark Nesslein

Scoutmaster Troop 680



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Equipment List for Tree House Campout

- Camp chair
- Adequate layers of clothing, including jackets and one extra dry set of clothes
- Rain suit (a must)
- Tennis shoes
- Extra set of tennis shoes or hiking boots
- Personal mess kit - cup, plate
- Personal knife, fork spoon
- Sleeping pad and pillow
- Sleeping bag
- Extra dry socks (2 pair)
- Plastic dirty/wet clothes bag
- Tooth brush, toothpaste, personal supply of toilet paper
- Chapstick
- Small hand towel
- Wrist watch (wear it)
- Folding pocket knife – no sheath knives
- Flashlight (check those batteries)
- Camera (optional)
- Cap - baseball or other – it does rain.
- Boy Scout Handbook (Don't forget – a must have)
- Small notebook and pen
- 2 Water bottles (for hiking or when you wake up thirsty in the middle of the night)
- Totin' Chip (if you have one – if not, you'll earn one)
- Toasted Chit (if you took pressurized fuel training)
- Backpack – small or large, we're going to hike with our packs to test out our Leave No Trace Backpacking techniques – all we'll carry is our lunch, first aid kit, pocket knife, compass, map water
- Fishing gear (yes, we can fish Nims Lake)
- Sense of direction
- Common sense
- Sense of adventure



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Other Things To Remember!

Early May at S-F brings many types of weather. The weather near Farmington is always different than the weather here. Expect rain, hail, sleet, bright sunshine, warm days, cool nights and everything in between. That means you need to pack a wide variety of clothing to be comfortable in any weather.

Personal snacks must be kept in a hard plastic airtight container. Keep all your empty wrappers in the container as well. This will leave less clean up when we break camp.

Mark all your gear (before you leave home) with a permanent marker.

We will all be going on a 3-5 mile hike, so bring a small hip pack if you have one, a water bottle, trail snacks such as a granola bar, a compass and bug spray (non aerosol)

Each scout should bring 5 pieces of firewood if you have some at home. We may need the wood if the temperature turns too cool or we want that extra big campfire Saturday night.

