

Troop Six **2018 SUMMER CAMP** at Utica

Utica is a 6800 foot high reservoir located in the Sierras near Bear Valley just south of Highway 4. Troop Six will continue its 89 year history of summer camping by returning to Utica for the 54th time (not including short trips after some of the Big Trips & Wolfeboro). Troop Six started camping at Utica in 1957. In 1971 we moved to the present site near the Union Dam. The site among the rocks and trees is about half a mile from a dirt road. This "wilderness" camp is run by the senior scouts and the troop staff with the help of the parents. Scouts learn about living in the outdoors, being self-reliant, working together, and having fun.

How?

The scouts camp by patrols and do their own cooking (learn by doing). A staff member or two eats with each patrol, but the patrol leader is in charge. Cooking follows a balanced menu with fresh meat, eggs, produce, and bread brought in each weekend. Canned and dry food is used towards the end of the week. The senior scouts (junior staff) are in charge of all aspects of camp. The program includes swimming, boating, hiking, backpacking, exploring, advancement in many skills, games, and campfires. The adult staff oversees and helps the seniors run camp. Each scout has a worthwhile contribution to make to his patrol and troop. The older scouts have more responsibility. The patrol method and the experience of working and camping together allow us to do long-term, primitive camping relatively smoothly. Sometimes new scouts find it difficult at first. They are not used to doing so much for themselves. With the help of their patrol members and leader, they should settle into a routine. The feeling of accomplishment and fun along the way make Utica the best part of scouting.

The late snow factor:

A heavy snow pack does not allow the Forest Service to open the road into camp when we need it. That happened in 1983, 1995, 1998, 2005, 2006, & 2017, so we delayed, shortened camp or went to WB those years. To avoid late changes we now start the weekend after Father's Day (the equivalent of 1 week after the historical start time). *This year has been different. Hopefully we can go as planned.*

ELIGIBILITY

Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. All scouts must be registered and must have returned both the application and medical form, properly signed.

REMINDERS:

- Due by 4/17: Application + \$50 deposit (so we can get an accurate head count)
- Due by 5/1: Medical form (plan ahead!) & \$
- Tuesday June 5 Troop & Parents Meeting  
Court of Honor, Utica details at St. Johns, 7:30 PM
- Tuesday June 12 & 19 Packing meeting for seniors & PLs
- Saturday June 23 Seniors, Patrol Leaders, & Staff leave to set up camp.
- Saturday June 30 Scouts leave for Utica  
Meet at St. Johns Church, 8 AM
- Sat. 7/7 Luau at camp – families invited
- Saturday July 14 Family picnic dinner (at Bear Valley)  
Court of Honor, final Campfire

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
27	28 Memorial	29 TM, BR	30	31	1	2 89 <sup>th</sup> ReU.	
3	4	5 last TM Par, CH	6	7	8	9	J U N
10	11	12 pack	13	14	15	16	
17 Fathers	18	19	20	21	22	23 - - -	
24 - - -	25 - - -	26 - Pre	27 Camp	28 - - -	29 - - >	30 Utica begins	
1	2 S U M	3 M E R	4/ C A	5 M P	6	7 Luau	J U L
8	9 at	10 Utica	11	12	13	14 BR CH CF	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	

QUESTIONS about camp?

On the back of your Scout & Parent roster, under the Troop Committee there is a section on Summer Camp.

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## MEDICAL

All campers must be approved for camp activity by a physician within the last year. The Medical form can be downloaded from our website, [www.troop6berkeley.org](http://www.troop6berkeley.org). You need parts A, B, & C. It can be filled out on your computer. During camp there is a doctor or medic available at Camp Wolfboro, 10 miles down the highway from Bear Valley. The staff at Utica includes adults experienced in first aid, safety procedures, and sanitation. In the event of serious accident or illness, the scout will be transported to the Medical clinic in Arnold, Mark Twain Hospital in San Andreas, or brought back to Berkeley. The Council no longer carries insurance that covers the medical expenses due to injuries

## COST:

The fee helps cover expenses for food, equipment, transportation, and awards.

Scouts	\$350	(2 weeks)
Patrol Leaders	\$350	(preCamp + 2 weeks)
Seniors	\$300	(preCamp + 2 weeks + more responsibility )

Scouts finding it difficult meeting the fee should contact the scoutmaster (Mike). **We expect all active scouts to go to Utica.** Campership funds are available. The camp fee should be given to the scout scribe at a troop meeting.

PLEASE pay by check.

Make CHECKS to: Troop 6, BSA

## preCamp (Set-Up Camp)

Seniors, patrol leaders, and staff will enjoy 6 days of "restful, gracious living at sunny" Utica. The time will be spent bringing in and arranging food & equipment as well as planning and practicing program. We will load the truck Saturday at 8 am at St. John's Church.

## The 2 week SUMMER CAMP

Departure for camp is on Saturday, June 30 at 8 AM from St. Johns. The scouts will arrive at an unloading area near Union Res. at about 1 PM and will be met by their patrol leaders, some seniors, & staff. The troop will then hike/boat into camp with their backpacks. During the first week we will take an overnight hike. We plan to take some sort of 2 or 3-day hike during the 2nd week.

ADULT staffing: We need at least 4 adult staff in camp. Usually a dad and/or mom spends part of a week at camp to help fill out the troop adult staff or to watch camp when the troop is on an overnight. Call Mike or Alex Bergtraun if you are interested.

## TRANSPORTATION

Troop equipment and non-perishable food are hauled to camp by truck at preCamp. Scouts and their equipment will be brought to camp by car (as on weekend camps). At the end of camp most families come up and spend the weekend (see Camp Ends). Those who cannot make it should arrange for a ride home or contact the transportation coordinator. Bosky usually has room.

## TO GET THERE

Go east on Hwy 580, 205, North on 5.

(we used to do 580, 205, 120, North on 99)

Near Stockton take Hwy 4 east. (see the Map)

or

Take Hwy 24 east, Hwy 680 north, Hwys 242 & 4 towards Stockton. Cross the Antioch Bridge, go north on Hwy 160 & east on Hwy 12 through Lodi (joins Hwy 99). Follow Hwy 12 to Hwy 49 & through San Andreas to Angles Camp.

Take Hwy 4 to the Spicer's Reservoir road or keep going to Bear Valley (depending: visit or coming up for the closing of camp)

Berkeley to Bear Valley = 170 miles (3.2+ hrs)

## MAILING ADDRESS: Scout's Name

Troop 6, **UTICA**

c/o General Delivery

Bear Valley, CA 95223

## VISITING CAMP

Some parents visit camp. Check with the food coordinator in Berkeley; you may be able to haul some food to camp for us or give someone else a ride.

To get to camp: Take the Spicer's Reservoir road just past Hell's Kitchen. It is a two lane, paved road. After about 7.5 miles, take a left up a graded road to Union Res. See the map for exact directions.

The Luau is a barbecue/game day usually held on Saturday, but some like to come up Friday night. If you come up Saturday, try to arrive by 1 PM (later is less convenient if boating is required to get into camp). Sometimes there is a delay going through Arnold (depends on their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration).

## ADVANCEMENT

Scouts should be able to pass all lower ranks at camp. Some merit badges are particularly suited for summer camp and other badges have only some requirements that can be done easily at camp. What actually gets offered depends a lot on the seniors and staff available. Below are the ones that usually are offered at camp.

Astronomy	Environmental	Rowing
Camping	Science	Swimming
Canoeing	Forestry	Wilderness Survival
Cooking	Life Saving	Wood Carving
Emergency Prep.	Pioneering	

Think about your advancement ahead of time. Talk it over with your patrol leader. Don't try for too many badges and end up not finishing any.

## Notes about camp

SWIM CHECKS are done on the first Sunday to see how scouts swim in cold water. They need to know their limitations too.

BEARS have visited camp in the past ('92 & '94). Scouts need to put their smelly items in a bear bag and suspend it from a tree. It is best not to have a lot of junk food in camp anyway.

We have never seen Mountain LIONS in the area but as in the Bay Area hills, appearing big, not running, and fighting back are the basic rules. The buddy system is a good idea.

"CARE PACKAGES" (= food of all types sent to camp by too many parents and friends) are a problem. Here are some reasons:

- spoils the scout's dinner
- creates more litter (wrappers,...)
- attracts bears and animals
- makes some scouts hyper
- can cause greedy behavior {also allows sharing}

Limit: a single, one gallon ziplock bag  
(consider less junk food)  
Should be sent up with visitors.  
The post office can't store much.

DRUGS are not allowed on any scout events. Anyone not obeying the rules of camp or misbehaving may be sent home.

Electronic devices (games, ipods, cell phones, etc.) take away from the purpose and quiet of camp. For two weeks you should be able to do without these distractions.

## EQUIPMENT NOTES

If you are investing in a sleeping bag, we suggest a full length (they will grow into it) fiber filled or Polarguard type. They still work when wet.

A 5 by 7 foot piece of 3-mil thick plastic will do as a ground cloth. Many scouts have tents, but it is not necessary to rush out and buy one. Some scouts share tents with others in their patrol. Some sleep under the patrol tarp.

Most scouts these days use backpacks. A hip belt helps ease the load. You may be able to borrow one if investing in one is a problem.

Mosquitoes can be a problem. If you are allergic to their bites, consider getting some netting & bring repellent.

## CAMP ENDS: Picnic / Court of Honor / Campfire

"Utica" ends on a Saturday. The whole family is invited to join in. Depending on the amount of water in the streams, we will do different things.

Plan A: The scouts will hike to Bear Valley and arrive between 2 and 3 PM. The truck with their duffels should arrive about the same time.

Plan B: The scouts will hike to the forks (unloading area) and will be shuttled by some of you to Bear Valley.

We expect to use plan A this year.

Between 3+ and 5 PM many parents of Troop Six scouts will help review the summer camp advancement at a number of boards of review. Each family brings a potluck picnic dish to share, remembering that adults who have been at camp cannot bring a dish. Then, awards are presented at the Court of Honor and the evening closes with a campfire.

Some families camp out at the site of the picnic, some stay in Bear Valley at the Lodge, and a few drive home that night. This event has been very popular over the years. Please plan to join us.

## TO STAY THERE (last time's #s, hopefully still good)

Bear Valley Lodge: 1-209-753-2327  
[www.bearvalleylodge.com](http://www.bearvalleylodge.com)

Tamarack Pines Inn nearby: 1-209-753-2895  
[www.tamarackpinesinn.com](http://www.tamarackpinesinn.com)

Reservations should be made early.

FYI:

Nearest Ranger Station (Hathaway Pines)  
1-209-795-1381

also up the road from BV, but not open all of the time.

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Troop Six SUMMER CAMP EQUIPMENT LIST

Your gear is packed in two parts which go in different places when you first arrive at camp.

- I) The BACKPACK: You carry this on your back when you hike into camp.  
You will need these items on the first day and on overnight hikes.

Wear in:

Long pants, belt  
 Shirt (old)  
 Neckerchief  
 T-shirt  
 Underpants  
 Hiking boots  
 light socks  
 heavy socks - wool  
 A smile  
  
 Pockets: (suggested)  
 chapstick  
 pocket knife  
 handkerchief  
 wallet  
 pen or pencil

Backpack:

Sleeping bag  
 Stuff sack  
 Ground Cloth  
 Pad  
 Extra tarp or tent  
 Jacket (warm)  
 Raincoat or poncho  
 Shorts (or wear)  
 Knit cap (wool = warm)  
 Swim trunks  
 Towel  
 extra underpants  
 extra socks  
 1/4" Nylon cord (50')  
 2 Water bottles (+ name)  
 1 quart & 1 pint

Large plastic bag to cover your pack  
 Sun block, lotion for chap  
 Insect repellent  
 Toilet Kit: hand soap, toothbrush & paste, comb,  
 nail clippers, needle & thread, safety pins,  
 some TP in a ziplock - emergency supply,  
 bandaids, \*\*special medicines (tell the staff)  
 Mess Kit: cup, spoon, fork, knife, plate, matches  
 Flashlight (+ extra batteries & bulb)  
 Sneakers  
 Whistle  
 Scout handbook  
 Sun glasses  
 Hat - sun protection (optional)  
Bag Lunch for the first day {No more than 2  
 sodas

- II) The DUFFEL Bag: In this small bag (not a suitcase) put the extras that you do not normally need on a short term camp. The canoes will drop this pack near camp for you. You will have to carry it from the dam or the cove to your site. For extra rain protection: put clothes in plastic bags inside your duffel. Do not take a lot of extra clothes ... plan to wash.

Day pack

Scout shirt  
 Polypro underwear - if you have it  
 or sweatshirt  
 Long pants (extra pair) or sweat pants  
 Heavy shirt (long sleeves)  
 Heavy socks: 1 extra pair (wool/polypro)  
 T-shirts: 2 extra  
 Underpants: 3 extra  
 Socks: 3 extra  
 First Aid Kit (small, personal) or in backpack

Label everything

- your pack, clothing, flashlight, ...

OTHER items you might consider:

Work gloves; Mittens  
 Compass  
 small, extra flashlight  
 Pajamas  
 Pocket mirror (metal or plastic)  
 Camera & film or card (& batteries)  
 Writing materials (paper, stamps, envelopes)  
 Plastic bag, large, extra  
 Extra towel (not huge)  
 Extra shorts  
 Fishing tackle  
 Hammock  
 Cards  
 more rope (Be Prepared) – for Bear bag?

Foot note There is a lot of hiking at camp. Laced hiking boots are good to have.  
 Fit them over two pairs of socks, the outer ones heavy wool or polypropylene.  
 Don't cramp your toes. High top shoes give ankle support. Work boots will do  
 but are not great. Break in new boots before camp. Waterproof your boots.  
 The troop has a supply of used boots. Ask at a troop meeting.

Do NOT bring: drugs, fireworks, sheath knives, water guns, video games, etc.