

Guidance for Camping at Martin Scout Ranch

The Martin Scout Ranch is a 3400 acre resource for Scout camping and training in a beautiful location in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon. We offer the following instructions for both enjoying this beautiful site and engaging it's assets to improve your unit's outdoor program. We offer a Camp Host program to ensure that units have on-site support to ensure a great outdoor experience for youth and adults.

1. Sign up for a campsite! We have "drive up" sites and "hike in" sites to match your unit interests. A description of driving instructions, campsites, camp topographic maps and "Leave No Trace" guidelines are available to download from the BMC website <https://martinscouranch.org>.
2. **Vehicles** are restricted to developed roads and the parking area in the corral. Vehicles are NOT allowed in the Confluence and Elk camp sites; you are welcome to temporarily park by the gate on the main road when unloading and loading. Please move vehicles to the corral parking area when loading is completed McKay Creek Camp or Rendezvous camps are intended to be "hike in" camps but you may drive 1-2 vehicles to the entrance of the camps for loading and unloading heavy gear. Vehicles must stay on the dirt roads.
3. **Potable water** is available at two hydrants in the corral area. Bring 5 gallon jugs or equivalent for your unit needs. Back country camps and hiking trails have access to side stream water from October into mid-June that is fine for treatment with standard backpacking water filters. Note that High Divide Camp and Pinchot Peak Camp are dry camps year round requiring you to pack in water.
4. **PortaPotti's** are available for restroom access in the central corral area. LNT protocols are in place for "hike in" sites (McKay Creek, Marshall, Douglas, High Divide, Pinchot Peak and Rendezvous Camps) and backcountry.
5. **Grey water sumps** are available by Confluence, Elk, Corral, McKay Creek and Rendezvous Camps. We ask that you strain your wash water with the strainer provided at the sump. The sump screen should be free of food each evening and upon departure to avoid attracting wildlife.
6. **Food and personal "smellables"** (e.g. candy, tooth paste, sun lotion, Chap Stick) need to be stored either in suspended bear bags or inside vehicles each evening. Bear cables, ropes and bear bags (see Camp Host) are available
 - a. Across from Elk & Confluence Camps,
 - b. Rendezvous Camp
 - c. McKay Creek Camp.

Units camping in Corral Camp can use vehicle storage or the cable across from Confluence Camp. Units at Marshall, Pinchot Peak or High Divide will need use trees and their own ropes to hang food.

Units need to bring their own rope and bear bags (Camp Host can provide bear bags upon request). Recommend 100 ft of ¼" nylon rope plus 2-4 bear bags (e.g. large onion sacks). Online instruction videos are available at <http://www.watchu.org/Training.asp?tab=4>

7. First Aid / Medical Emergencies:
 - a. Units need to bring their own first aid equipment per safe camping guidelines.
 - b. Cell coverage is not reliable at lower levels of Martin Scout Ranch. Land phone is available at Martin log house for emergency calls only.
8. Cooking and campfires: Confluence, Elk, McKay Creek, Rendezvous Camps, Douglas and Marshall Camps have fire rings for fires (typically from October to May), backpacking stoves, Dutch ovens and propane cooking stoves. There is a group campfire ring in the corral with seating for 40 that is permitted for use in all but the most extreme fire restrictions.

Group are REQUIRED to have two 5 gallon water buckets (available at the ranch) and tools for fire suppression, and fires must be supervised by adults AT ALL TIMES. We encourage units to learn how to cook with backpacking equipment to be able to do wilderness camping with no open fires. Fire situation changes weekly; check with the Council and the Camp Host for latest fire restrictions information.

9. Program resources available:
 - a. Pioneering poles for large pioneering projects
 - b. Geocaching course (instructions on the web site)
 - c. Plant and tree identification "trail" to support advancement (available on web site or from Camp Host)
 - d. Hiking trails ranging from easy to very challenging
 - e. Service projects for youth and adults