

Hello UUCMP Campers,

Looks like we're going to have a great group of people again this year. Brian Jacobson told me that UUCMP has been having a campout at the Santa Lucia Campground since starting around the year 2000! What a legacy we're continuing! This letter is to let you know about the campground rules, our suggestions, and expectations. Please read all this information thoroughly so that we're all fully informed to help us have a great, safe weekend together.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

The campground is ours starting at 2:00pm Friday afternoon. On Sunday we need to be gone no later than noon. As always we want to leave the campground cleaner and in better shape than when we arrived, so we'll want to be finished with our collective clean-up of the whole grounds by 11:30 Sunday morning. If you need to leave early please consider doing a little picking up before you go. Sometimes the campground host lets us linger a little longer after the departure time. We'll see how things go this year.

THE CAMPGROUND AND WHAT TO BRING

You will need to bring all your own camping equipment and food.....tents, sleeping gear, chairs, stoves, food, dishes, pans, lamps, toiletries, first aid kit, etc. The water there is potable and tastes great. There is a big group picnic area with lots of picnic tables, sinks, a large outdoor grill, and a campfire ring with benches. **This year we could use some extra tables so if you have card tables or folding tables it would be really helpful to bring them, please.** You can bring a tablecloth to set up your space at one of the tables. When our group is large we all need to consolidate our space so there's room for everyone.

The campground is set up for tent camping only. Small trailer-tents are fine also. All tents are to be set up downstream from the campfire ring. There are no designated tent sights at this campground. It's all open space. You may pitch your tent anywhere downstream. After unloading your things all cars need to be parked at the far end of the campground (the "east" side beyond the group picnic area) Do not park in the Health Center's paved parking area. If all the spaces are full there are several spaces along the dirt road leading down to the camping area. Be mindful not to block any roads, pathways, or the trash can area. Cars are only allowed next to the tents when unloading and when packing up to leave.

There are washrooms/bathrooms, but not showers. Getting to and from the bathroom from the tents requires climbing a 10-15 step flight of wooden stairs with a railing. At night the stairway is able to be lit up. There are light switches at the bottom and top of the stairs. **Please** remember to turn it off. Toilet paper is provided by the campground host.

FIREWOOD

Us campers provide all our firewood. If you can help with providing firewood please bring as many boxes as you can. This will be greatly appreciated! Even collecting it from the local woods will be helpful. No wood no fire!

If you'll be arriving in the dark please bring a flashlight, especially to help you see the road signs.

We suggest that you dress in layers and bring warm pajamas and a warm jacket. Check the weather forecast before you come down so you have a good idea what to expect. The campground is covered in mostly shade, surrounded by redwoods and willows.

Rafts and inner tubes, folding chairs, good books, inner tubes, napping blankets, games, badminton sets, coloring books, cameras, art projects, etc. are all encouraged!

CHILDREN

Please keep an eye on your children. Every parent is responsible for the well being of their own children. **They must be supervised at all times when playing down at the river**, AND when next to the fire. We ask that kids not play with sticks in the close confines around the campfire ring. Kids-church doesn't exist while we are camping so please be mindful of where your own kids are and that they're playing safely. Please don't assume that someone else will be watching them or taking care of their needs. Yes, we are a village and we all casually watch over the children as they wander about, but please keep a close eye on them anyway. If any of you would like to organize an art or craft activity, or games, those kinds of things are more than welcome!

CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Please don't use any electronic equipment around the campfire. It's a cell phone/electronic free space. Cell phone coverage is minimal in Big Sur Valley. Up on the road seems to have the best closest coverage.

DOGS

Dogs may come to the campout. They must be on a leash **at all times**, not wandering about even if they are close to you. Please make sure they are on a short leash so that there's less chance of anyone tripping. Dogs must also be with their owners **at all times**. Of course owners must clean up after their pets. We ask dog owners to honor these rules so that our four legged family members can continue to be with us.

MEALS, CLEAN-UP, AND ACTIVITIES

You will need to bring your own food and drinks for Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and for whatever snacks you'll want. We again will have a community "food-sharing" table for anyone who would like to share food. Just put on the table whatever you'd like to contribute.

The campout budget will provide Saturday morning and Sunday morning breakfast....pancakes and fruit on Saturday morning, and oatmeal with all the fixings on Sunday morning. Please bring your own dishes and utensils. If you have a camping stove, griddle, or big frying pan(s), please bring them if you'd like to help out with the cooking those mornings, which is very welcome! It's all volunteer. If you have extra stoves please consider bringing them to share with the others who may not have a stove to use.

For Saturday dinner we will be having our traditional Stone Soup. This is a communal soup named after the famous children's story. Please remember to bring a small item of something vegetarian to contribute to the Stone Soup pot, like vegetables, beans, rice, herbs, etc. There will be plenty of soup for everyone.....otherwise you may of course provide your own dinner. This years Stone Soup storyteller is still a mystery! Any volunteers?

We will put up a volunteer sign-up sheet for those who wish to help prep and cook the breakfasts, help make the Stone Soup, and help clean up after meals. We will also post a loose schedule of meal times and the activities that may be happening. If you would like to organize an activity you can post it next to the camp schedule with the time, when, and where. If your activity involves supplies you can speak with Kerry to see if there is campout budget money to possibly help with the supply cost.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Our dear Reverends Elaine and Axel will be providing a service at 10:30, close to the campfire ring overlooking the river. This will be about a 30 minute service. Please bring your chairs. This is always a very sweet time.

CAMP RULES AND OTHER THINGS TO BE AWARE OF

- No drugs or smoking. Hard liquor is not permitted as part of All Saints rules. Wine and beer are allowed, but abuse of alcohol could result in our not being invited back to use the campground again. Please consider keeping your “supplies” of beer and wine in a container instead of sitting out. And please, monitor your own alcohol consumption and behavior, especially in front of our children.
- There are campground hosts who live there year round, Madison and Jack.
- Remember to park your car over in the parking area after you unload your things.
- Quiet time is at 10:00PM. This is very important. Soft voices not only amplify through our camp but they also travel across the river to the other campground. Please be courteous to campers on the other side of the river, whose quiet time is also 10:00PM.
- Please do not gather wood, cut trees, or disturb the plant life. Please be aware that there are small patches of poison oak in the general area.
- There are recycling bins for glass, tin, and plastic. It’s up to the campers to collect their trash and put it in the camps trash bins.
- Fires are allowed only in the BBQ pit, or campfire ring. **Fires must not be left unattended.** Please put out the fire if you are the last one sitting around the campfire at night. And please make sure your children are not playing carelessly around the fire, especially with sticks on fire.
- Please bring a small first aid kit.
- **When swimming in the river children must be accompanied by an adult.**

If you have any questions, or are a new camper and could use some help figuring out what to bring camping, call or e-mail Kerry Sissem (831) 646-0224 kerrysissem@earthlink.net

See you under the redwoods!

Kerry