

Bear Claw Camp - Camper's Guide

Welcome to Bear Claw Camp!

We are beyond excited to have you join us for this year's Bear Claw adventure. Whether you're a first-time camper or returning to our legendary camp, you're in for an experience like no other!

This guide will walk you through everything you need to know to make the most of your time at Bear Claw. So, grab your gear, get into the camp spirit, and get ready for some serious fun!

What to Expect at Bear Claw Camp

Bear Claw Camp is a themed camp that runs from Friday evening to Monday noon. This camp is special - it's more than just a weekend away from home.

You'll meet other troops from Montreal and beyond, dive into exciting activities, and create memories that will last forever. Plus, you'll be part of a tradition that's been going strong since 1985, so buckle up for an unforgettable experience!

The Theme & Costumes

Each year, we have a super exciting theme, and we want you to get into it! Dressing up is highly encouraged. You can wear your costume anytime during the camp, but there are a few moments where we ask you to wear it: the opening ceremony and the character visits.

You'll also get a camp t-shirt, which you can wear whenever you like. Just a heads up—your pyjamas are perfectly fine for the Bead Run (because who doesn't want to start the day comfy?).

The Competition

It's not just about fun - there's a serious competition happening throughout the weekend.

Troops will be evaluated on their teamwork, energy, punctuality, campsite safety, and organization. And guess what? You can even win a special pennant to take home if you do well!

The judges will be keeping an eye out, so get ready to show off your troop's best qualities. Also, be prepared for some surprise campsite inspections—because, well, we want to see your campsite shining, even when you're not around!

Camp Activities

Bead Run

One of Bear Claw's fun traditions is the Bead Run. This event is a great way to wake up and get moving!

On Saturday and Sunday morning, you'll race to a designated spot and collect a bead to add to your necklace. It's not related to the theme, so you don't need to worry about matching your

bead to your costume—it's just part of the fun!

Oh, and don't worry about getting dressed up for the Bead Run—you can wear your pyjamas, your favourite comfy clothes, or anything that helps you run fast. The goal is to have a good time and kick off the day with energy!

Outposts

Throughout the weekend, you'll have the chance to participate in Outposts—fun, hands-on activities designed to test your skills in a variety of areas. Each Outpost will be a little different, ranging from physical challenges to creative and intellectual tasks.

You'll be split into patrols, and each patrol will have its own schedule. It's important to follow the schedule closely to make sure you're at the right place at the right time.

The Outposts are a chance to show off your teamwork, problem-solving skills, and energy. And yes, while it's all about working together, feel free to get a little competitive!

Make sure to encourage your patrol mates and participate fully in each activity—you'll be judged on how well your patrol works together.

Saturday Dinner

On Saturday evening, you'll have the honor of hosting a couple of Venturers at your troop's dinner. It's a great chance to get to know them better!

It's important to make them feel welcome. They're running the show, so treat them like the VIPs they are!

Make sure to take care of any dietary needs—they will be given to you ahead of time so you can plan your meal.

It's a fun opportunity to chat, learn from the Venturers, and maybe even make some new friends.

Campfire or Great Game

Depending on what's on the schedule, you'll either participate in a **Campfire** or the **Great Game**—both of which are epic in their own right!

Campfire

If the schedule calls for a **Campfire**, prepare yourself for a cozy, entertaining evening under the stars. The campfire is a time to relax, enjoy the warmth of the fire, and share a few laughs with your fellow Scouts. Troops are invited to prepare a short 2-minute skit or a song to perform in front of everyone (don't worry, it doesn't need to be Broadway-worthy!). It's all about fun, creativity, and having a good time. Whether you're showcasing your troop's talents, laughing

at someone's joke, or just soaking up the firelight, the campfire is a perfect way to close out the day.

Great Game

If the schedule calls for the Great Game, get ready for some good old-fashioned fun! This is the time to let loose, blow off some steam, and enjoy yourself. It's a low-pressure, no-stress activity that could be anything from a goofy relay race to a quirky scavenger hunt or even a wild and wacky game you never saw coming! The goal here is to have fun and bond with your fellow campers, no matter what the activity is. Just let your hair down (metaphorically, of course) and embrace the silliness of it all. It's all about laughter, teamwork, and enjoying the moment.

Scouts' Own

Sometimes, it's good to take a moment to pause and reflect. That's exactly what Scouts' Own is all about. It's a quiet time for contemplation and spiritual reflection, but don't worry—this isn't about pushing any particular religion. Instead, it's about thinking deeply about the values that we hold dear as Scouts and what it means to be a part of this community.

You'll be asked to wear your camp t-shirt and scarf for this moment, and please make sure to leave any headgear or blades at the designated area.

Flour War

Who doesn't love a good old-fashioned flour fight? On Sunday afternoon, the Flour War is the ultimate camp-wide activity. It's all about relaxing and having pure fun and, yes, getting completely messy. You'll be tossing flour at each other wrapped in paper towels (with a little water to make it stick), so prepare to get dirty! But don't wear your camp t-shirt or costume—it's a messy battle, and we don't want to ruin your favourite gear.

Just make sure to have fun, stay safe, and remember that it's all in the name of good fun!

Character's Visit

A special visit from the camp characters is one of the highlights of Bear Claw. The characters will come around to your campsite to award points for creativity, effort, and fun.

This is your time to go BIG with your theme, your costumes, and your campsite decorations. Don't be shy—this is the time to shine and show off what your troop has been working on. You are invited to put together a little skit or story to impress the characters! You can even bribe the visitors!

Just a heads up: you won't know exactly when they'll arrive, so keep an eye out and be ready

to entertain. And remember, the visit won't last long (+/-15 minutes), so make sure your troop is prepared to make a big impact in a short amount of time.

Community Dinner

Sunday evening brings the much-anticipated community dinner. It's a chance to meet Scouts from other troops and bond over a shared meal.

The dinner will be served by the camp animation and service team, but you'll need to bring your mess kit (plate, bowl, utensils, and cup). You'll be notified in advance if you need to bring anything else like salad dressing or beverages.

This is a great time to mingle with Scouts from other areas, swap stories, and enjoy a delicious meal together!

Bear Claw Ceremonies

Now, for the grand finale: the Bear Claw ceremonies. These ceremonies are the heart and soul of the camp, and they've been part of the Bear Claw tradition for years. Shrouded in mystery and excitement, each ceremony brings something unique and unforgettable.

There will be jousting and plenty of energy leading up to the ceremonies, as we celebrate all those involved in the weekend. And trust us, the magic of this experience is in the surprise—so we won't spoil the details! You're in for something special and meaningful that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Essential Tips & Information

- **Bring Everything You Need:** This is a camping weekend, so you'll need your gear for three nights and four days. Pack a tent, stove, food, sleeping bag, and all the essentials for your troop. Don't forget a mess kit (plate, bowl, utensils, and cup) and extra food if needed.
- **Campsite Setup:** Your campsite will be equipped with picnic tables and a fire pit. Firewood is available and may be subject to weather conditions. Be advised—no cutting down trees unless authorized! Plan ahead and bring an axe and saw if you're allowed to use wood already on the ground.
- **Water & Food:** We take great effort to have water at your disposal. If not, you will be informed and invited to bring enough drinking water for your troop, especially on Friday. We'll confirm if there's water available at the site, but it's always good to be prepared!
- **Be Punctual:** Being on time is super important! You'll be evaluated on punctuality, so make sure to follow the camp schedule closely. Bring a copy of the map and schedule to share with your troop, and keep an eye on the time so you can get to every activity!

- **Prepare for Anything:** Bear Claw Camp is known for its unpredictable weather. You might encounter rain, sun, or mud—sometimes all in one day! Bring appropriate clothing, footwear, and be prepared for bugs (black flies, ticks, etc.). Bug repellent and protective clothing are a must.
 - **Safety First:** Minor injuries can happen, so make sure you have a well-stocked first aid kit. If anything serious happens, you'll be able to contact our on-site first aid crew.
 - **No Vehicles on Site:** Once you've unloaded your gear, vehicles must be returned to the parking area by 10 p.m. on Friday.
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Final Thoughts

Bear Claw Camp is all about teamwork, fun, and making memories. So, embrace the theme, get into the spirit, and enjoy every moment. We can't wait to see what your troop has in store for us this year. Get ready for an incredible adventure!