

THE NORTHWEST WILDERNESS SOCIETY OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

THE WILDERNESS CAMP GUIDE

2018 Edition

WELCOME TO WILDERNESS

This place is deeply loved by many who have camped here for more than five decades. The camp and society (NWS) are run completely by volunteers.

Our Vision

We are stewards of the land. We facilitate enjoyment of this land and are committed to preserving the peace, beauty and essential wildness while protecting it from development so that future generations may continue to draw nourishment from it.

To help keep the experience as originally intended, there are four “rules”

1. Cut No Living Trees
2. No Illegal Drugs
3. No Pets
4. No Firearms

CAMP DATES:

There will be a camp director and a boat at camp from July 1 to August 31. If you want to camp earlier or later you are welcome to do so, free, but you will have to make your own way in/out. If you are arriving at the very end of the summer, you may want to let the camp director know in advance in case there is an unforeseen early closure.

ALMOST ALL TASKS ARE DONE BY VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING YOU.

The camp director collects fees and organizes volunteers for specific tasks and as boat operators. Other than that, nobody “runs” things. Free camping is offered to volunteer boat operators and for other jobs (at the camp director’s discretion) such as digging a biffy hole or building a campsite. Boat operators must have a Transport Canada, Pleasure Craft Operator Card, BOATsmart Card or equivalent. Ask what you can do to help make the camp better for all. Share your talents and passions.

WHAT IS PROVIDED:

Wilderness camp has only trees, the lake, the beach and space – plus equipped outhouses. There is also plenty of free driftwood for campfires, building and just to admire. There is natural beauty all around you, for you to observe, enjoy and preserve.

There are basic tools, such as shovel, axe and saw available in the camp supplies tent, they are there for you to borrow and return. There is also a basic emergency first aid kit and toilet paper.

Emergencies:

There is a doctor and a first aid station 30 minutes away if lake conditions cooperate. A full service hospital is over 2 hours away. People with specific or chronic medical issues should come prepared with medications. Should you need to be contacted about an emergency while you are at camp the RCMP may use the radio located at the Schroeder Point outhouse located in the parking lot off Bickle Road.

HOW TO GET TO CAMP:

- Drive along Highway 31, 15km north of Kaslo or 14km south of Lardeau.
- Turn east (towards the lake) on to Bickel Road. Drive past Schroeder Creek Resort to the end of the road.
- On the north side of Bickel road, in the parking lot, is a little grey outhouse.
- On the outside of this building is a wooden box, which houses the Wilderness radio to be used between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm. Follow the instructions in the box and/or attached to the radio.
- The boat operator will let you know when to expect the boat.
- Once the pick up has been confirmed unload your gear onto the beach just north of the small rocky point. The boat will pull in here.
- Park your car along the north side of Bickel Road or in the parking lot.
- Parking spots are limited so park tightly to your neighbour.



- Every member of your party will need to complete a waiver form which the boat operator will provide, before you can get into the boat. Or, print the waiver form from the website and complete it in advance.
- Plan to arrive by mid afternoon so that you can get to camp and set up in the daylight. An overnight stop within 150km should allow you time to shop and arrive at the pick up point with time to spare.
- Boat operation is weather and daylight dependent. If the wind and wave conditions are challenging, the boat may not be able to come and pick you up right away. Relax and slip into “WILDERNESS TIME”.
- If you arrive too late or if the lake is rough into the evening you will need to find alternate accommodation for the night. If you are stuck, Schroeder Creek Resort offers complete camping facilities.

EXCEPT FOR EXTREME EMERGENCIES THE CAMP BOAT
DOES NOT OPERATE AFTER DARK.

WHAT TO BRING:

A tent, reinforced tarp (not clear plastic sheeting), at least 12' x 12', 18' x 24' is better, plenty of light rope, camp stove, fuel, matches, cooking and eating utensils, can opener, corkscrew, water carrier, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, lantern, flashlight, batteries, insect repellent, sun screen, airtight containers for critter proof food and garbage storage, clothing suitable for warm, hot, cold and rainy weather. An umbrella is handy.

OPTIONAL:

Bungee cords, more tarps, camp cots, open weave container for creek refrigeration, flyswatter, folding chairs, fishing tackle, canoe, kayak, row boat, camera, hiking gear, field glasses, hobby equipment, games, water toys such as mask, snorkel and floaties. Leave usual kids' toys at home, they tend to get lost.

CELL PHONE:

There is limited cell phone service in the area of Schroeder creek but not at camp.

FOOD:

Plan your menu in advance and buy to that plan. Food can be kept cool in an ice chest, by submersion in the creek or by the use of a "desert cooler". Canned and dry foods work well.

SHOPPING:

Almost all services can be found in Kaslo. If going to town from camp for supplies, coordinate transportation across the lake to make best use of the camp boat and volunteer operator. It is best for both your peace of mind and our fuel consumption to minimize trips to town, so please try to bring what you need for your entire stay.

DRINKING WATER:

Most people drink from Fry Creek or filter the lake water. The creek is always changing and has been moving further south, away from the main camping area. Be prepared for a long walk or a short paddle to access fresh creek water.

GREY WATER:

Gray water is to be spread around, not poured into a sump hole, a biffy, the lake or the creek. Use biodegradable soap.

**GARBAGE AND RECYCLING: Pack It In/ Pack It Out!**

Campers are expected to take care of their own garbage. Proper garbage storage and disposal is necessary to avoid animal attractant smells. Burn all combustibles except plastic. Do not bury food scraps nor toss them into the forest or down biffy holes. Store non combustible garbage in air tight containers and haul out. There is a garbage dump and recycling depot just south of Kaslo.

TOILETS (BIFFYS):

There are artfully constructed, roofed pit toilets situated within easy reach (but not too easy) of each campsite. They are repositioned every few years as necessary. Maintenance is done by campers, including; stocking toilet paper, flushing with water and “knocking down the hills”.

There is one composting toilet on site. Please follow composting toilet instructions posted inside the cabin.

**Nothing other than natural human waste and toilet paper,
(sawdust and straw for composting)
is to be dropped into the holes.**

Please use paper sparingly.

Instruct children on the proper use of camp toilets.

CHOOSING A CAMPSITE:

Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Sites cannot be saved or reserved. As this is a wilderness camp, you are responsible for choosing a campsite that meets your safety standards. Please keep in mind that trees fall down from wind and age.

Some campsites have fewer trees and are more open than others but no campsite is completely safe from the possibility of falling trees. Shelves, tables, benches, ridge poles and other unique features that have been built by campers from driftwood, dead trees and rocks may not be stable. No one maintains these structures...use at your own risk and feel free to upgrade! Some campsites have fire pits, some share community fire pits. If you would like to build a new fire pit please seek direction from the camp director regarding BC Campfire Regulations.



FISHING:

Licenses are required and are available at various stores around the area. Both the creek and lake are good for several varieties of trout.

Cleaning of fish should be done at the mouth of the creek, not at the beach.

HIKING:

There are many great hikes in the area. Before leaving camp for a hike, even for a day hike, leave word with the camp director regarding where you are going and when you expect to return.

CAMP BOAT AND CANOES:

- Campers are responsible for ensuring they have read and signed waivers before boarding the boat.
- Anyone riding in the camp boat or canoes must wear a life jacket. No exceptions.
- The boat operator makes the decision on whether to use the boat based on daylight, weather and wave conditions. **Safety, not time or convenience is the primary consideration.** Often the lake looks smooth from the west side but can be dangerous for loading and unloading at camp.
- The boat operator is responsible for driving the boat safely but is not personally responsible for the safety of you or your family.
- While the boat operator will help balance the load, you are responsible for loading and unloading your own gear.
- The priority use for camp canoes is for emergency but they can also be used for transportation between the north and south beaches, fishing and recreational paddling.
- Be aware of strong currents at the main outlet of Fry Creek.

TRAVEL IN THE CAMP BOAT AND CANOES IS AT YOUR OWN RISK

SAFETY:

- The camp has several life jackets of different sizes. It is strongly recommended that all campers wear life jackets even in their personal boats and canoes.
- You are responsible for the safety and supervision of your children. Do not expect other people sitting on the beach to act as lifeguards unless they have explicitly agreed to do so. The sandy beach is where most people swim. The drop off to deep water changes from day to day with water level fluctuations.
- The water at the mouth of the creek has a very strong flow. People on floaties are vulnerable to being carried far out into the lake.
- Flooding from the creek is possible. If risk becomes a concern the camp director may recommend that campers either evacuate or move to higher ground.
- Black bears are sometimes seen in the camp. Grizzlies usually stay higher in the mountains and have not been reported at camp.
- Hantavirus has been reported in BC, so do not pick up dead mice with your bare fingers and watch out for droppings.
- Rocks at the waterfalls are dangerous. Do not climb out onto them.
- Very strong winds can come up in less than five minutes and can blow down trees and tents. They can also spread sparks from campfires.

FIRE:

- Fires must be in designated fire pits.
- Fires must be supervised at all times.
- Douse your fire thoroughly before leaving your campsite or retiring.
- Leave burned logs in the fire pit even if they were doused.
- Be aware of the size of your fire and guard against sparks.
- Check with the camp director prior to setting off any fireworks.
- Please be respectful so we can keep this place pristine for generations to come.

In the Event of a Fire Ban:

We practise zero tolerance. The BC Wildfire Service can close the camp for any violation of the fire ban. Follow the camp directors suggestions for disposal of garbage.

In the Event of a Forest Fire:

Meet at the designated area as discussed at check in. The camp director will lead evacuations as necessary. The BC Wildfire service will notify us if mandatory evacuation is ordered.

DEPARTURE:

- The day before you would like to leave, visit the camp director to arrange a ride, pay your fee and make a donation if you feel inclined. Donations are a very significant portion of our annual revenue and we are deeply grateful for all contributions.
- Be sure your fire is out and all scraps of debris are cleared from your fire pit.
- Remove all plastic, tarp material, duct tape, nails, staples or any other inorganic material from the property even if they were there when you arrived.
- Take all garbage and recyclables with you.

Leave The Camp Better Than You Found It!**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

- We welcome all to this community. The society has no exclusive rights to the beach below the high water mark. We have spectacular beaches, which many locals and tourists come to enjoy, sometimes with power boats, music and dogs. They are entitled to be there as are we.



Welcome them!

If you feel your serenity is being disrupted, please enter discussions respectfully, implementing our Unitarian Covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

- If you are playing recorded music and/or musical instruments please remember that sounds carry a long way across water and through the trees. Keep the volume low enough that it cannot be heard beyond your personal space. If you are asked to turn down the music, please do so respectfully.
- Do not feed and habituate wildlife. It's deadly for them and not pleasant for us.
- Nudity in camp is usually limited to discreet bathing. Please be sensitive to others.
- Personal motorized watercraft other than those approved by the camp director are not permitted while the camp is in operation.



Do not drive nails or screws into live trees.
If you find nails/screws in trees please remove them.
Same goes for ropes, duct tape, wire and cable.

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES:

As a not for profit society, we depend on memberships, camping fees and donations to keep this wonderful piece of paradise available to all. The annual adult membership of \$20 is encouraged for all adults whether they come to camp or not. Every adult, 19 years of age and over who camps for more than three nights must be a society member.

Active membership in good standing for two consecutive years is required to vote.

Minors (under the age of 19) must be accompanied by an adult.

Camping fees:

- Ages: 0-12 FREE
- Ages: 13-18 \$5 per night
- Members: \$13 per night
- Non-Members \$15 per night
- Parking: \$1 per night per vehicle

Camp fees include a ride to and from camp. If additional rides are required for items forgotten in the car, shopping, out trips, etcetera please coordinate with other campers to minimize boat trips.

Campers may leave their campsite unoccupied for a maximum of three nights for a nightly fee. Please discuss with the camp director for rates. If a campsite will be unoccupied for more than three nights, all effects may have to be removed to accommodate other campers.

If you feel you had an outstanding experience, please consider a charitable donation. Fees and donations cover Wilderness expenses such as property tax, insurance, boat/canoe maintenance, fuel, toilet and emergency supplies, etc..

We gratefully accept etransfer donations to:

nwws.treasurer@gmail.com

A charitable donation receipt will be issued for all donations.

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