

The North West Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church

THE WILDERNESS CAMP HANDIGUIDE 2020

WELCOME TO WILDERNESS

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

NEW 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols

— see the back page for NEW 2020 Protocols to protect Campers from COVID-19.

— Campers must sign a special undertaking to respect the Camp COVID-19 Protocols, see the end of this document.

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.

HOW TO GET TO CAMP:

- Drive along Highway 31, 15km north of Kaslo or 14 km 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 (left) side of Bickel road, in the parking lot, is a little grey outhouse. On the outside of this building there is a wooden box, which houses the Wilderness radio. Follow the instructions in the box and/or attached to the radio.
- The camp director will let you know when to expect the boat
- Once the camp director has confirmed when the boat will come to pick you up unload your gear onto the beach just north of the small rocky point. The boat will pull in here.
- Be careful not to drive your vehicle too close to the water at the end of Bickel Rd as it's easy to get stuck.
- Park your car along the north side of Bickel Rd. If you cannot find space, the boat operator may be able to guide you. Parking spots are limited so park tight.
- Every member of your party will need a completed waiver form which the boat operator will provide, before you can get into the boat. Or, print from the website and complete 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.
- If you arrive too late, or if the lake is rough into the evening, you will need to find alternative accommodation for the night. If you are stuck, Schroeder Creek Resort offers complete camping facilities.

EXCEPT FOR EXTREME EMERGENCIES, THE CAMP BOAT DOES NOT SAIL AFTER DARK

WHAT IS PROVIDED:

Wilderness camp has only trees, the lake, the beach, and space -- plus equipped outhouses. There is firewood to be found on the beach and around the property.

ALMOST ALL TASKS ARE DONE BY VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING YOU.

The camp director collects fees and organizes volunteers for specific tasks and as boat operators. (As of 2009 boat operators must have a Transport Canada, Pleasure Craft Operator Card, BOATsmart Card or equivalent.) 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, building a campsite. Ask what you can do to help make the camp better for all. Share your talents and passions!

WHAT TO BRING:

A tent, reinforced tarp (at least 12'x12', 16'x24' is better and NOT clear plastic sheeting) and plenty of light rope. Camp stove and fuel, lantern, cooking and eating utensils, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, insect repellent, sun screen, flashlight, extra batteries, matches, water carrier, container with lid for anti-critter food storage, can opener and cork screw! Clothing suitable for warm, hot, cold and rainy weather. An umbrella is handy.

**OPTIONAL:**

Bungee cords, more tarps, camp cots, some open weave plastic container for creek refrigeration, flyswatter, folding chairs, fishing gear, a canoe, kayak or row boat, camera, hiking gear, field glasses, hobby equipment, games, water toys -- snorkel, mask, floating devices. Leave usual kids' toys at home -- they tend to get lost.

There are basic tools (shovel, ax, saw) available in the camp supplies tent. They are there for you to borrow and return. There is also toilet paper.

FOOD:

Plan your menus in advance and buy to that plan. Food can be kept cool 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.

CELL PHONES: As yet, there is no cell phone service at camp.

DRINKING WATER:

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

GRAY WATER:

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

MEDICAL:

The camp stocks a basic emergency first aid kit. Ability to communicate outside the camp is limited. There is a doctor and a First Aid hospital 30 minutes away if lake conditions cooperate. A full service hospital is over 2 hours away. People with specific or chronic medical problems should come prepared with medications.

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. 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, toilet paper, sawdust and straw 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. Tables, chairs, shelves, ridge poles and other unique 'features' that have been built by campers from driftwood, dead trees, and rocks may not be stable or secure. No one maintains these structures...use at your own risk. Some campsites have fire pits some share community fire pits. The camp director is well versed on BC campfire regulations. Before building a new fire pit please seek approval from the camp director.

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

HIKING:

Before leaving camp for a hike, even a day hike, leave word with the camp director where you are going and when you expect to return.

CAMP BOAT AND CANOES:

- Anyone riding in the camp boat or canoes must wear a life jacket. No exceptions.
- The camp director makes the final decision on whether to 'sail' the boat, based on daylight, weather and wave conditions. **Safety, not time or convenience, is the primary consideration.** Often the lake looks smooth from where the vehicles are parked but can be very dangerous near camp.
- Please remember that it is ultimately the camper's responsibility to advise the boat operator if they do not agree with the decision to 'sail' and if they do not want to ride in the boat based on weather or water conditions.
- The boat operator is responsible for driving the boat, checking that you have parked your car in the right area, and seeing that everyone wears a life jacket. The boat operator is not personally responsible for the safety of you or your family. And, while boat operators sometimes help load the boat and will balance the load, you are responsible for loading and unloading your gear.
- You are responsible for ensuring you have read and signed the waiver before boarding the boat.
- The priority use for camp canoes is for emergency, but they can be used to transport people from the north beach to south beach. They can also be used for fishing, excursions, and general paddling up and down the beach. All who use a camp canoe must wear a life jacket.
- Campers who need a boat ride back to their car for the forgotten, can't live without, teddy bear etc., should schedule a trip with the boat operator of the day. Rides need to be coordinated with other campers to minimize boat trips.

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 in any watercraft.
- 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 children swim. The drop off to deep water changes from day to day, with lake 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.
- Black bears are sometimes seen in the camp. Grizzlies stay higher in the mountains and have not been seen at camp.



- Hantavirus has been reported in BC so do not pick up dead mice with your bare fingers and watch out for droppings.
- The rocks by the waterfall are dangerous. Do not climb out on to them.
- Very strong winds can come up in less than 5 minutes and can blow down trees and tents and can spread sparks from campfires.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DISPOSAL:

Campers are expected to take care of their own garbage. Keep garbage in airtight containers. Do not bury food scraps nor toss them into the outback or outhouses. Burn food scraps in your fire pit. Do not burn plastic as noxious fumes result. Cans should be washed or burned, flattened, and taken out with you, together with washed bottles and other non-combustible waste. If there is a fire ban, ALL garbage will need to be hauled out. Proper garbage disposal is necessary so we don't provide attractive scents for animals. There is a garbage dump and recycling depot just south of Kaslo.

Pack out everything you packed in!

FIRE:

For our safety:

- Fires must be in designated fire pits.
- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Douse your fire thoroughly before retiring or leaving your campsite.
- Leave burned logs in the fire pit (even if they were doused).
- Be aware of the size of your fire and guard against sparks.
- Beach fires are allowed only in the single designated area.
- 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 campfire ban:

- We practice zero tolerance. The BC Wildfire Service can close the camp for any violations of the fire ban.
- Follow the instructions of the camp director for the disposal of garbage.
- The camp director, who is in touch with the authorities during a fire ban, will inform all campers if/when it is safe to resume having campfires.

In case of a forest fire:

- Meet at the previously designated area as discussed at check-in.
- The camp director will lead evacuations, if necessary.
- The BC Wildfire Service will notify us of mandatory evacuation.



DEPARTURE:

- The day before you would like to leave, visit the camp director to pay your fee and make a donation if you feel so inclined.
- Be SURE your fire is out, and all scraps of debris are gone from your fire pit.
- Remove all plastic, tarp material, duct tape, nails, staples or any other manufactured items from the property even if they were there when you arrived.
- If you have accepted a “gift” from a departed camper it is now your responsibility.
- Use the rake from the supply tent to tidy up your campsite for the next campers.
- Take ALL your garbage (large, small and broken) and recyclables with you.
- Pack it in/pack it out!

Leave the camp better than you found it!

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- We welcome all to this community. The camp has no 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 they are encroaching upon your serenity, please enter discussions respectfully, remembering our Unitarian Covenant to ***Affirm and Promote:***

- ***the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and,***
 - ***justice, equity and compassion in human relations.***
- Keep in mind when playing recorded music and musical instruments 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.
 - 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 other campers.
 - 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 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 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.

Camping fees per day:

- Ages: 0-12 FREE
- Ages: 13-18 \$5 per day
- Ages: 19-99+ \$15 per day, \$13 for Members.
- Parking: suggested donation \$1 per day per vehicle

Annual Membership Fee: \$20

Additional contributions gratefully accepted. You can also make a donation with instructions on the website.

Campers may leave their campsite unoccupied for a maximum of three consecutive nights for a nightly fee. Please talk with the camp director for rates. If a campsite will be unoccupied for more than 3 nights, all effects will be removed from the site to accommodate other campers.

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

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

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NWWS Camp COVID-19 Protocol Undertaking 2020

In addition to the regular NWWS camp waiver, we require the following to be acknowledged and signed by all campers in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The NWWS is not responsible for COVID-19-related illness that may arise from either using the camp or facilities before, during or after the stay. The camp will follow provincial guidelines for camping and day use and in addition campers must agree to the following:

I (We) the undersigned agree that:

I (We) or any member of the party signed below are not presently experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose or sore throat. If I or any of my party does become ill with such symptoms, I (We) agree to pack up camp and leave as soon as we can.

That if I (We) have been asked to Quarantine for 14 days that I am not using NWWS camping for this purpose.

I (We) agree to the following and to follow hygiene and social distancing guidelines as outlined below:(Note: parents are responsible to guide their dependents)

- No disputes about COVID-19 protocols will be tolerated in camp.
- Directors will not mediate disputes between campers. Campers may be asked to leave camp if:
 - A camper disregards the NWWS camp guidelines or additional COVID-19 guidelines
 - a camper becomes ill with fever and cough.
- Campers agree to practice social distancing provincial guidelines (2 metres or 6 feet) from people who are not in your camp inclusion or agreed family bubble.
- No potlucks (shared communal food) with campers outside inclusion bubble.
- Gatherings may be enjoyed with physical distancing of 2m/6' from each other except intimate inclusion groups.
- Campers will not create or use communal saunas.
- Campers must wear a mask when entering the utility shelter and sanitize any tools they use.
- Campers should try to use only one assigned outhouse.
(Individual toilet paper for each site/family is recommended.)
- Campers agree to santize the toilet seat before and after use, and to sanitize or wash their hands after the use of outhouses.
- Campers will spray tables and benches with 70% alcohol solution before vacating camp.

Name	Signature

NEW 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols

1. Masks

Camp Directors will wear masks in boat and other circumstances that involve potential close interactions with people. Boat operators will wear masks for boat trips with passengers.

Campers are asked to bring their own masks for the boat trip and wearing them in the boat will be a requirement - including children, except for very young children.

2. Sanitizers

Alcohol spray for surfaces

Camp will supply a limited number of 32 oz bottles to keep in the boats and hang up at the outhouses. These will be hung out of reach of small children.

Campers are asked to bring their own hand sanitizers and sanitize their hands before using any shared equipment, such as canoes. A small supply of personal hand sprays of 70% will be available for campers to use. Scented or chemical products are discouraged (outhouses / canoes / tables etc).

3. Radio

Campers are asked to wear a mask when speaking in to the radio - and spray or wipe the radio handset with alcohol solution after use.

4. Lifejackets

Campers are asked to bring their own life jackets if at all possible. Camp lifejackets will be available and sanitized as possible.

5. Protocol Undertaking Commitment

All campers will be required to sign an additional protocol commitment to affirm they are not ill or symptomatic or quarantined. They use camp at their own risk and understand the camp cannot prevent possible virus transmission. No disputes about protocols surrounding COVID-19 will be permitted in camp. Campers will follow the camp protocols for distancing, hygiene and safety.