

THE NORTHWEST WILDERNESS SOCIETY OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

WILDERNESS CAMP GUIDE

2022 Edition

WELCOME TO WILDERNESS

This place is deeply loved by many who have camped here for more than five decades.
The camp and society (NWWS) 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.

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote the principles and values of Unitarianism, and to strengthen the bonds among Unitarians, their families and friends, by experiencing community in a wilderness setting.

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

How It Works:

Nobody "runs" things. The camp has worked well since 1966 with everyone chipping in. All tasks are done by volunteers, including you. Even Camp Directors and Boat Operators are volunteers.

What can you do to help make camp better for all? Share your skills, talents, and passions. Talk to other campers about organizing work parties.

Dig a biffy hole
Build a campsite
Clear a trail
Construct a bridge
Empty the compost
Drive the boat
The list goes on...

Camp fee adjustment is offered in exchange for exceptional contributions at the Camp Director's discretion.

Boat operators are appreciated and camp for free on duty days. Drivers must have a Transport Canada, Pleasure Craft Operator Card, BOATsmart Card or equivalent.

SAFETY:

- **Provincial Health Orders will be followed at all times.**
- You are responsible for your safety and that of your children.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- The sandy beach is where most people swim. The drop off to deep water changes from day to day with high water level fluctuations.
- The water at the mouth of the creek has a very strong flow. People on floaties are at risk of being carried far out into deeper water.
- Although the water at the shoreline may appear calm, there could be strong winds and large waves out into the lake.
- Rocks at the waterfalls can be slippery and dangerous. Do not climb out too far.
- There is a risk of flooding from the creek. If risk becomes a concern the camp director may recommend that campers either evacuate or move to higher ground.
- 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. Check your campsite and it's surrounding area often.
- Chipmunks, squirrels, packrats, rabbits and deer are common visitors to campsites, black bears too, but less common. Do not leave food scraps or garbage accessible. Do not feed or habituate these animals.
- Although black bears are sometimes seen in camp, grizzlies usually stay higher in the mountains. However, one grizzly was spotted in Fry Creek Canyon in 2019.
- A cougar was seen several times in camp in 2019.
- Hantavirus has been reported in BC, so watch out for mouse droppings and do not touch dead mice with your fingers.

FIRE:

- Camp fires must be in designated fire pits and supervised at all times.
- Be aware of the size of your fire and guard against sparks. Keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Douse your fire thoroughly with water (not sand) before leaving your campsite or heading to bed.
- Leave burned logs in the fire pit even if they were doused.
- Check with the camp director prior to setting off any fireworks.
- Please be respectful so we can keep this beautiful place pristine for generations to come.

In the Event of a Forest Fire:

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

In the Event of a Fire Ban:

We practice zero tolerance for fires of any kind during a fire ban. The BC Wildfire Service can close the camp for any violation of the fire ban. Follow the camp director's suggestions for disposal of garbage.

EMERGENCIES:

- There is a basic first aid kit in the supply tent.
- The closest urgent care facility is in Kaslo, 673 A Ave. Kaslo V0G 1M0.
- The closest hospital is in Nelson, 3 View St. Nelson V1L 2V1.
- If needed, a BC ambulance may be called to arrive at Schroeder Point.

CAMP BOAT:

- Anyone riding in the camp boat must wear a life jacket. No exceptions.
- The boat operator makes the decision on whether to use the boat based on daylight, weather and lake conditions. **Safety, not time or convenience is the primary consideration.** Often the lake looks smooth at camp but can be dangerous in the middle and/or at Schroeder Point.
- 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.

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

CANOES AND PADDLE BOARDS:

- Enjoy using the NWWWS canoes and paddleboards.
- Canoes, paddle boards and paddles need to be treated with respect. If not familiar with use and storage ask for guidance.
- Anyone using these canoes and paddle boards must be wearing a life jacket. If you don't have your own you may borrow from the camp's limited supply.
- Be aware of constantly changing winds as well as strong currents at the main outlet of Fry Creek.
- It is strongly recommended that all campers wear life jackets even in their personal boats and canoes.

**CAMP BOAT, CANOES, PADDLE BOARDS, PADDLES
AND LIFE JACKETS ARE TO BE USED AT YOUR OWN RISK**

TOILETS (BIFFYS):

Enjoy the artfully constructed pit toilets. Maintenance is done by campers, including stocking toilet paper and sanitizer, flushing with water and sweeping.

Do your part. If it gets stinky throw in a couple of large buckets of lake water. And, don't pretend you weren't the last one to finish the roll!

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

Please use paper sparingly.

Instruct children on the proper use of camp toilets.

**Believe it or not we have found food scraps, diapers, hand wipes, tampons,
paper towels, cardboard, plastic and ropes down the holes.**

There is a composting toilet behind the Community Centre. Please follow instructions posted inside the cabin. Sawdust and straw are in sealed bins.

There is also a long pole for stirring the contents and a broom for sweeping the bins and floor. Please use these often.

SUPPLIES:

The Supply Tent contains;

Basic tools such as rakes, shovels, axes, saws, crowbars, hammers, nails, etc.. Please return them as soon as you are finished with them.

Toilet paper

Hand Sanitizer

Basic emergency first aid kit

Help yourself to “free” driftwood for campfires, building materials and arts and crafts.

DRINKING WATER:

Most people drink from Fry Creek or filter the lake water. Feel free to paddle to the creek in a camp canoe to fill your jugs.

GREY WATER:

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

SAFE STORAGE:

Campers are encouraged to store food, toiletries and animal attractants in secure containers or caches. Do not take these into tents

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

Proper garbage storage and disposal is necessary to avoid animal attractant smells. Food scraps may not be buried, tossed into the forest nor down compost or biffy holes. Store food waste safely until you are ready to burn or pack out. You may burn all garbage except plastic. Campers must dispose of their own garbage. There is a garbage dump and recycling depot just south of Kaslo.

SHOPPING:

No stores here. Best to ask other campers if you need supplies. Maybe you can trade...beans for beer! If you must go to town you can swim, paddle or hitch hike ☺ Or, coordinate transportation to and from Schroeder Point to make best use of the camp boat and volunteer operator. Consider an extra donation for an extra boat trip. It is best for both your peace of mind, boat operator time, fuel costs and the environment to minimize trips to town.

CELL SERVICE:

None. If you are desperate there is spotty service at Schroeder Point.

CAMPSITES:

- Check your campsite often for hazards. Trees which appeared fine at the start of your stay may become uprooted during a storm and become unstable. Branches fall constantly. Wasp nests can appear seemingly overnight. Tables, benches, shelves, ridge poles and other unique features that have been built by campers may not be stable. No one maintains these structures...use at your own risk and feel free to upgrade!
- Sites cannot be saved or reserved.
- Some campsites have fire pits, some share community fire pits, some have no fire pit at all. If you would like to build a new fire pit please seek direction from the camp director regarding a safe location and other BC Campfire Regulations.
- Going on an out trip? Campers may leave their campsite unoccupied for a maximum of three nights for a nightly fee. Please discuss rates with the camp director. If a campsite will be unoccupied for more than three nights, all effects may have to be removed to accommodate other campers.

**FISHING:**

Have your license with you while you are fishing. Please be respectful when cleaning fish... not where people swim.

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.

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 so inclined. Donations are a very significant portion of our annual revenue and we are deeply grateful for all contributions.
- Remove all plastic, duct tape, nails, staples or any other inorganic material from the property even if they were there when you arrived.
- Be sure your fire is out and all scraps of debris are cleared from your fire pit.
- Use the rake from the supply tent to tidy up the site for the next folks.
- The camp director will inspect the site with you before leaving.
- Take all garbage and recyclables with you.
- Boat operation is weather and daylight dependent. If the wind and wave conditions are challenging, the boat may not be able to take you out as planned. Be patient and enjoy the bonus time!

Leave The Camp Better Than You Found It

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- We welcome all to this community. We have spectacular beaches which many visitors come to enjoy, sometimes with power boats, music and dogs. If you feel your serenity is being disrupted, please enter discussions respectfully, implementing our Unitarian Principles to affirm and promote:
 - The inherent worth and dignity of every person
 - Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- If you are playing 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 lower the volume, please do so respectfully.
- Do not feed and habituate wildlife. It's deadly for them and not pleasant for us.



- 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 and wire.
- Go ahead and carve yourself a paddle, marshmallow stick, bows and arrows but if you cover them in duct tape please remove it before you leave.
- Please use only water soluble paint or chalk to decorate rocks, trees and structures.

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, 18 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 18) must be accompanied by an adult.

Fees: payable by cash or cheque, minimum 2 night stay

- Ages: 0-17 FREE
- Adult Members: \$15 per night
- Adult Non-Members: \$25 per night
- 10th night FREE!
- Parking: \$1 per night suggested minimum donation per vehicle
- Annual Membership: \$20
- Donation: You name it!

Camp fees include a ride to and from camp. If additional rides are required for shopping, out trips, etcetera please coordinate with other campers to minimize boat trips and consider an extra donation.

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

We gratefully accept donations via etransfer to:

nwww.treasurer@gmail.com

A charitable donation receipt will be issued for all donations.

Northwest Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church

C/O Unitarian Church of Vancouver

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