



TROOP 6 BERKELEY

UTICA INFO SHEET 1

WHAT IS UTICA?

Utica is a 6800 foot high reservoir located in the Sierras near Bear Valley just south of Highway 4. Troop Six will continue its 90+ year history of summer camping by returning to Utica for the 56th time . Troop Six started camping at Utica in 1957. In 1971 we moved to the present site near the Union Dam. The site among the rocks and trees is about half a mile from a dirt road.

This "wilderness" camp is run by the senior scouts and the troop staff with the help of the parents. Scouts learn about living in the outdoors, being self-reliant, working together, and having fun.

The scouts camp by patrols and do their own cooking (learn by doing). A staff member or two eats with each patrol, but the patrol leader is in charge. Cooking follows a balanced menu with fresh meat, eggs, produce, and bread brought in each weekend. Canned and dry food is used towards the end of the week. The senior scouts (junior staff) are in charge of all aspects of camp.

The adult staff oversees and helps the seniors run camp. Each scout has a worthwhile contribution to make to his patrol and troop. The older scouts have more responsibility. The patrol method and the experience of working and camping together allow us to do long-term, primitive camping relatively smoothly. Sometimes new scouts find it difficult at first. They are not used to doing so much for themselves. With the help of their patrol members and leader, they should settle into a routine. The feeling of accomplishment and fun along the way make Utica the best part of scouting.

The program includes swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, backpacking, exploring, advancement in many skills, games, and campfires. During the first week we will take an overnight hike. We also traditionally take some sort of 2 or 3-day backpacking trip during the 2nd week.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 23: Application and deposit (\$50) due

April 18: Medical Form and balance due

June 30- July 10: Utica!!!

The late snow factor:

Due to recent climate changes we need to reserve the possibility for last minute change due to ground conditions so, Families, please keep your vacations a little flexible for the week after camp.

COSTS

The fee helps cover expenses for food, equipment, transportation, and awards.

Scouts \$350 (2 weeks)

Patrol Leaders \$350 (preCamp + 2 weeks)

Seniors \$300 (preCamp + 2 weeks + more responsibility)

We expect all active scouts to go to Utica.

Families finding it difficult meeting the fee should contact scoutmaster Tom. Campership funds are available.

ELIGIBILITY

Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. All scouts must be registered and must have returned both the application and medical forms, properly signed.



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UTICA INFO SHEET 2

MEDICAL & SAFETY

All campers must be approved for camp activity by a physician within the last year. The Medical form can be downloaded from our website, www.troop6berkeley.org/Utica You need parts A, B, & C.

During camp there is a doctor or medic available at Camp Wolfeboro, 10 miles down the highway from Bear Valley. The staff at Utica includes adults experienced in first aid, safety procedures, and sanitation. In the event of serious accident or illness, the scout will be transported to the Medical clinic in Arnold, Mark Twain Hospital in San Andreas, or brought back to Berkeley. The Council no longer carries insurance that covers the medical expenses due to injuries .

SWIM CHECKS are done on the first Sunday to see how scouts swim in cold water. They need to know their limitations too.

BEARS have visited camp in the past. Scouts need to put their smelly items in a bear bag and suspend it from a tree. It is best not to have junk food in camp anyway.

PRE CAMP

Seniors, patrol leaders, and staff will enjoy 6 days of "restful, gracious living at sunny" Utica. The time will be spent bringing in and arranging food & equipment as well as planning and practicing program. We will load the truck Saturday, June 26, at 8 am at St. John's Church.

UTICA CAMP

Departure for camp is on Saturday, July 3 at 8 AM**. The scouts will arrive at an unloading area near Union Res. at about 1 PM and will be met by their patrol leaders, some seniors, & staff. The troop will then hike/boat into camp with their backpacks.

**Subject to change due to pandemic conditions. Stay tuned.

NOTES ABOUT CAMP

MAILING ADDRESS: (for letters ONLY)

Scout's Name

Troop 6, UTICA

c/o General Delivery

Bear Valley, CA 95223

PLEASE NO "CARE PACKAGES" They are a problem.

Here are some reasons:

- spoils the scout's dinner
- creates more litter (wrappers,...)
- attracts bears and animals
- makes some scouts hyper
- can cause greedy behavior

NO electronic devices (games, ipods, cell phones, etc.). They take away from the purpose of camp. Without them, Scouts are able to focus on the beauty of their natural surroundings. Scouts do better without these distractions.

DRUGS and ALCOHOL are not allowed on ANY scout events. Anyone not obeying the rules of camp or misbehaving may be sent home.

ADVANCEMENT

Scouts should be able to pass all lower ranks at camp. Some merit badges are particularly suited for summer camp and other badges have only some requirements that can be done easily at camp.

Below are the ones that usually are offered at camp.

Astronomy, Camping, Canoeing, Cooking
Emergency Prep, Environmental Science, Life Saving, Pioneering, Rowing, Swimming, Wilderness Survival, Wood Carving



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UTICA INFO SHEET 3

TO GET THERE

Go east on Hwy 580, 205, North on 5.
Near Stockton take Hwy 4 east.
Take Hwy 4 to the Spicer's Reservoir road or keep going to Bear Valley (depending: visit or coming up for the closing of camp)
Berkeley to Utica/Bear Valley = 170 miles (3.2+ hrs)

CAMP ENDS: Picnic / Court of Honor / Campfire
Dependent upon pandemic rules & regulations.

Utica ends on a Saturday. The whole family is invited to join in. It's a great opportunity for building the T6 community and we plan on having a great campfire together to close it out. We don't know where the closing events will happen at this writing.

Many parents of Troop Six scouts will help review the summer camp advancement at a number of boards of review. Each family brings a potluck picnic dish to share, remembering that adults who have been at camp cannot bring a dish. Then, awards are presented at the Court of Honor and the evening closes with a campfire.

Depending on the site, some families may camp out at the site of the picnic, some stay in nearby hotels, and a few drive home that night.

FYI:
Nearest Ranger Station (Hathaway Pines)
1-209-795-1381

EQUIPMENT NOTES

If you are investing in a sleeping bag, we suggest a full length (they will grow into it) fiber filled or Polarguard type. They still work when wet.

A 5 by 7 foot piece of 3-mil thick plastic will do as a ground cloth. Many scouts have tents, but it is not necessary to rush out and buy one. Some scouts share tents with others in their patrol. Some sleep under the patrol tarp.

Most scouts these days use backpacks. A hip belt helps ease the load. You may be able to borrow one if investing in one is a problem.

Mosquitoes can be a problem. Bring repellent and consider getting some netting.

FEET

There is a lot of hiking at Utica. Laced hiking boots are good to have. High top shoes give ankle support. Work boots will do but are not great.

Break in new boots before camp. Fit them over two pairs of socks, the outer ones heavy wool or polypropylene. Don't cramp your toes.

The troop has a supply of used boots. Ask at a troop meeting.

Don't forget to waterproof your boots!



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UTICA PACKING LIST

Your gear is packed in two parts which go in different places when you first arrive at camp.

Label everything - your pack, clothing, flashlight, everything!!

IN YOUR BACKPACK

You carry this on your back when you hike into camp. You will need these items on the first day and on overnight hikes. Label everything.

Wear in:

- Long pants, belt
- Shirt (old)
- Neckerchief
- T-shirt
- Underpants
- Hiking boots
- Light socks
- Heavy socks - wool
- A smile

In your pockets: (suggested)

- chapstick (*it's dry up there*)
- pocket knife
- handkerchief
- wallet
- pen or pencil

In your backpack:

- Sleeping bag
- Stuff sack
- Tent
- Ground Cloth
- Pad
- Jacket (warm)
- Raincoat or poncho
- Shorts
- Knit cap (wool = warm)
- Swim trunks
- Sun glasses
- Towel
- extra underpants
- extra socks
- Mess Kit: cup, spoon, fork, knife, plate, matches
- 2 LABELED Water bottles; -1 quart & 1 pint
- Large plastic bag or waterproof cover to cover your pack
- Toilet Kit: hand soap, toothbrush & paste, comb, nail clippers, needle & thread, safety pins, some TP in a ziplock (emergency supply)
- special medicines (tell the staff)
- Sun block, lotion for chap
- Flashlight (+ extra batteries)
- Sneakers
- Whistle
- Insect repellent
- bandaids
- Scout handbook
- 1/4" Nylon cord (50')
- Hat - sun protection (optional)
- Bag Lunch for the first day {No more than 2 sodas

IN YOUR DUFFEL BAG:

In this small bag (not a suitcase) put the extras that you do not normally need on a short term camp. The canoes will drop this pack near camp for you. You will have to carry it from the dam or the cove to your site. For extra rain protection: put clothes in plastic bags inside your duffel. Do not take a lot of extra clothes ... plan to wash. Label everything.

- Day pack
- Scout shirt
- Polypro underwear - if you have it or sweatshirt
- Long pants (extra pair) or sweat pants
- Heavy shirt (long sleeves)
- Heavy socks: 1 extra pair (wool/polypro)
- T-shirts: 2 extra
- Underpants: 3 extra
- Socks: 3 extra
- First Aid Kit (small, personal) or in backpack

OTHER items you might consider:

- Work gloves; Mittens
- Compass
- small, extra flashlight
- Pajamas
- Pocket mirror (metal or plastic)
- Camera & film or card (& batteries)
- Writing materials (paper, stamps, envelopes)
- Plastic bag, large, extra
- Extra towel (not huge)
- Extra shorts
- Fishing tackle
- Hammock
- Cards
- Book
- Drawing supplies
- more rope (Be Prepared) – for Bear bag?

Do NOT bring: phones, drugs, alcohol, food (other than your 1st day lunch), fireworks, sheath knives, water guns, video games, etc.