

The Beginner's Guide to Camp PBC

What is Camp PBC?

Camp PBC is an annual weeklong* camping trip that the entire church is invited to participate in. We head up to the [Lake Siskiyou Camp Resort](#) near Mount Shasta for a time of play, rest, fellowship, and fun in nature. There are some organized group events (barbecue dinner, talent show, patio boat day, campfires, river rafting, & pancake breakfast to name a few) but there is also plenty of time and space to do your own thing!

(you do not have to stay for the entire week if that seems too overwhelming/daunting for a first time experience).*

Getting There

It takes about 6 hours to get to Camp PBC. There are easy, clean, interesting pit stops/bathroom breaks on the way: Olive Pit @ Corning, Sonic Drive In (Tracy), Red Bluff (easy off/on, several fast food restaurants, gas), and In-N-Out Burger (Redding).

Camping

Most people bring their own tents and gear to camp at the shared group site. If you have always wanted to try camping, Camp PBC is a great way to experience it! There are a lot of people around with lots of camping experience who are willing to lend a hand and the Summer Leadership Institute Students (SLIers) are also around to help with set-up and host activities for kids so parents can set up camp or cook during meal times.

Not ready to invest in your own camping gear? Some options are to borrow gear from people you know or check out the camping gear rentals from [Sports Basement](#) or [REI](#). See the end of this document for a suggested packing list. (Note that generally a 6-person tent will fit 4 people comfortably).

If you're not outdoor minded, there are cabins/houses nearby you can rent for the week. RV Sites, cabins and other accommodations are available at <https://lakesiskiyouresort.com/cabins-houses/>.

Cost

For tent camping the cost is \$5/night for individuals 11 years and older (children 10 and younger are free!). Cars: \$5/night and Pets: \$2/night (breed restrictions apply).

For cabins, houses, and RV sites please contact the camp resort directly.

There is an additional cost to participate in patio boating or river rafting. See the registration form for details.

Young Kids (Pre-elementary)

Camp PBC is a wonderful time for families of all ages, even those with young kids. The idea of camping with young children may be daunting but Camp PBC really is a great way to experience camping with them because there is such a large community around to help. Many families who have been attending Camp PBC through the years started when their kids were really young and now return as teenagers! Camp PBC is not only a great way to build memories for your own family but with the larger church family as well.

My own family attended Camp PBC for the first time in 2021 with our 2 and 5 year olds and we ALL had a blast. The lake was a huge draw for kids and there were always older kids/highschoolers who wanted to play with ours. Our now 3 year old recently asked if we could go back to Camp PBC this year – that’s how big of an impact it had on her! If you’re on the fence about coming, I highly encourage you to just jump in and experience it!

There is a general packing list at the end but some things we brought to make it easier for camping with kids specifically: their own flashlights, books/crayons, a wagon (very useful to keep them corralled after shower time and before bedtime so they couldn’t get dirty again right away), lots of socks, multiple swimsuits (we spent many days/hours at the lake), snacks (!!!!!!!), soccer ball/Frisbee, their special blankie or stuffie from home, audiobooks/preloaded playlists for the car ride, a small pack n play for the 2 year old inside the tent (this year we will go without), bathrobes/swim coverups for post-shower time, small stool for outside tent to put on shoes, portable fan (it can get hot), tissue box, WET WIPES, life jackets/floaties.

The Dust

There is no denying that there is a lot of dust around at Camp PBC. There’s not much you can do about it, except to stay away from running kids and bring things you don’t mind getting dirty. Some families actually put aside old clothing just to bring to Camp PBC.

Food

Food is a major part of camping planning but there are several options so that you don’t need to prep, cook, and clean every single meal by yourself.

Most people join a meal group of 3-5 families to share cooking and cleaning duties. One or two families will be responsible for a meal for everyone in the group, and then rotate. If you know people going, you can ask to join their meal group. If you don’t know anyone, but want to join a group, make sure to indicate this when you register or contact one of the organizers to help connect you with a group.

Some people will pre-cook meals, freeze them, and heat them up at camp. Others will pack ingredients to cook at camp. There is also a well-stocked grocery store about 10 minutes away from camp ([Ray’s Food Place](#)) to replenish supplies. The campground has a restaurant and Mount Shasta (~10 minute drive away) has many restaurant options as well. Many people also like to do a daily ice cream run at the General Store on site ☺

There is usually one camp-wide potluck PBC-hosted dinner, and one PBC-hosted pancake breakfast during the week.

Things Not to Miss

Patio Boats - Sign up for the patio boats when you register for the camp. Most of the camp goes out to the lake on these patio boats for a scavenger hunt or treasure hunt, and then the boats meet up for lunch. A lot of people end up in the water and it’s a universally good time.

Talent Show - If you like skits or have a strange talent, show it off at the talent show. Kids love putting together skits for the talent show.

Questions or Concerns?

Email info@pbc.org and your email will be directed to our Camp PBC team or when registering, please check the “New to Camping? - Would you like someone to contact you?” option

General Packing Guide

Gear:

- tent, tent pegs, tarp, mallet
- entry rug
- sleeping mats/pads
- sleeping bag/blankets
- pillows
- camping chairs
- canopy (optional, useful for cooking/beach days)
- lamp or flashlight, extra batteries
- lighter

Personal:

- clothes
- underwear
- running shoes, sandals
- swimsuits, water shoes (the "beach" is rocky)
- hats, sunglasses
- shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- toothbrush, toothpaste, other personal hygiene and toiletry items
- lotion/cream (it tends to be quite dry there)
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- towels
- clothesline & pins
- quarters & detergent (if you want to do laundry on site)
- medications, emergency/first aid kit

Food Related (coordinate with your cooking group):

- cooler
- camp stove, propane/butane
- eating utensils: plates, bowls, cups, forks, spoons, knives. Some people just bring disposable/plastic plates to save on washing.
- napkins/paper towels
- cooking utensils: spatulas, tongs, chopping board, knife, scissors, can opener, bottle opener
- kettle, pots, pans, potholders/oven mitts
- mugs/thermos for coffee & hot drinks
- mixing/serving bowls
- cooking essentials: oil, salt, pepper
- dish sponge & detergent
- table, tablecloth
- garbage bags
- ziploc bags/containers for leftovers
- washing tubs/bins for dishes
- snacks, drinks, coffee

Other/Unexpected/Important things to bring (consolidated from previous years):

- water related gear you enjoy: think tubes, paddleboards (they also have them for rent at the lake), water guns,
- board/card games
- phone charger/battery pack
- Camping chairs. Definitely bring a camp chair for each person in your group. You'll use this for sitting around the nightly campfire. (No chairs at campsite provided.)
- Water shoes. The "beach" around the lake is very rocky. If you're planning to play in the water, water shoes will help protect your feet.
- Spray bottle with water + liquid soap. This helps bypass lines in the bathroom for a quick hand/feet wash! A camping (thin) towel is an added plus.
- Easy water toys like water guns/squirters are always a plus for beach play and patio boat "wars."
- Quarters/coins for the public washing machines!
- if camping, a clothesline (or just rope/string) to hang on trees means easy towel/clothes drying from beach and lake time.
- Baby wipes are not just for babies! It's a must-have for easy cleaning of feet, hands, body at your convenience.
- Small cooler to pack drinks/snacks for beach and patio boat time.