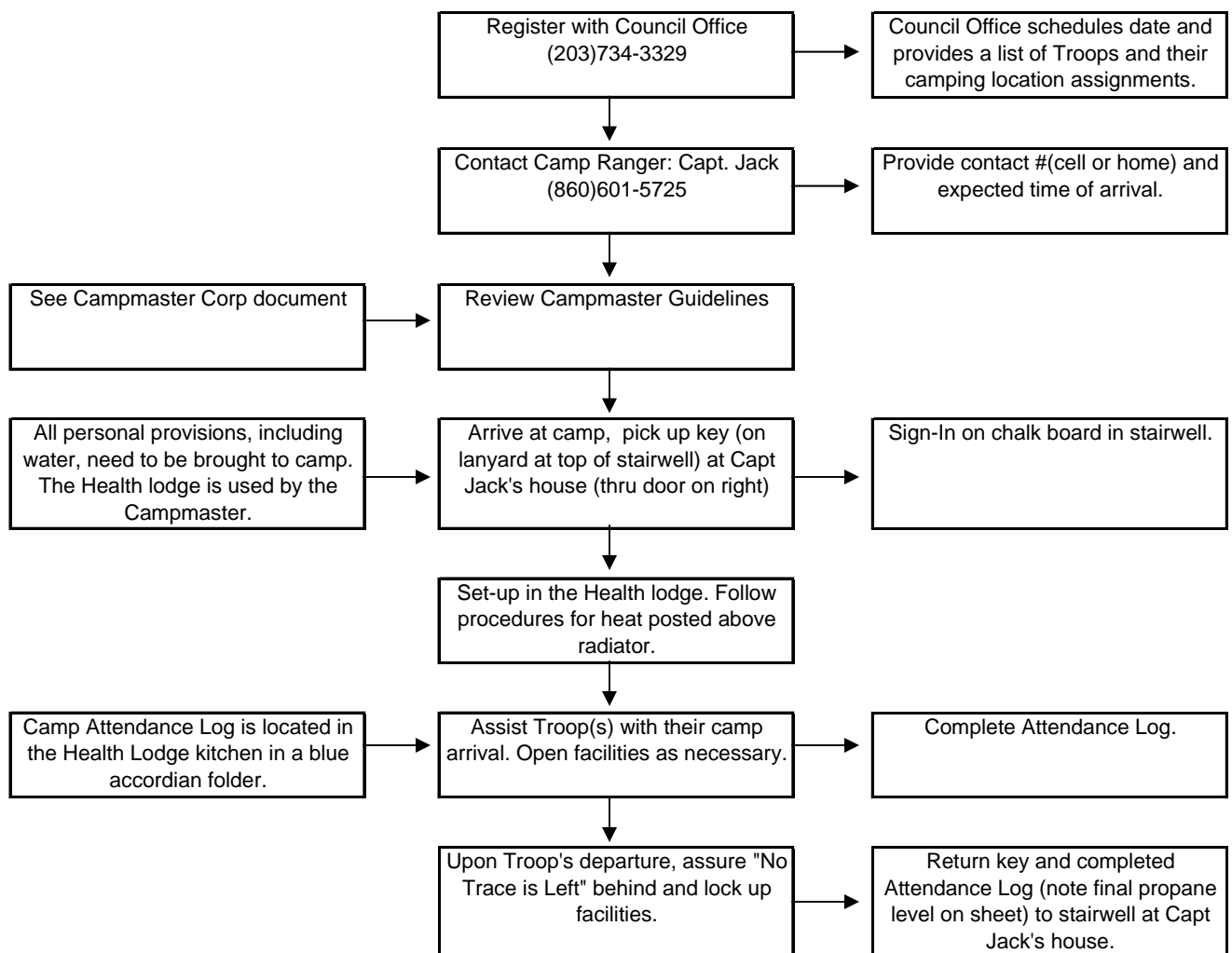




# Campmaster Guidelines

The Housatonic Council appreciates your time and effort in volunteering to be Campmaster for Camp Strang. The following guidelines were established for your assistance.



## What Is the Campmaster Corps?

The campmaster corps is a group of selected, trained, and registered Scouters who serve at council weekend camps whenever troops, teams, Webelos dens, or posts are using any part of the camp property. Campmasters select their own time and frequency of service, but they usually serve two to four times a year. The group is organized under the leadership of the council camping committee. The entire project and its personnel are responsible to the Scout executive or camping director, or someone appointed by the Scout executive or camping director. The corps generally meets twice a year to evaluate its program, schedule ahead, and arrange for the training of any new members.

Campmasters are selected on the basis of their ability in several areas: outdoor skills, specialized knowledge of nature and conservation, and leadership skills. All campmasters must have a record of demonstrated ability to get along with people, to lead, and to act in an emergency. All campmasters must have a working knowledge of Scouting, troop and team operations, Scout advancement, and Webelos Scout camping. Experienced and registered Scouters, with the exception of unit leaders, are eligible for consideration as campmasters. (It is generally conceded that a unit leader's major concern must be the particular unit served.)

The training prerequisite is determined by the council. It is important that the person have outdoor experience and people skills.

## How to Get the Campmaster Corps Started

1. Approval of the idea must come through the council camping committee to the council executive board.
2. Upon board approval and the appointment of a chief campmaster, a dinner meeting is usually announced and all candidates are urged to attend as guests of the council, council president, council commissioner, or camping chairman. Note: Recruitment should take place before this dinner.
3. At this gathering, the project is thoroughly explained and discussed. Following this, a six-month schedule is made with campmasters selecting their own dates of service. A complete roster is taken of all campmasters including names, addresses, and phone numbers. This roster is duplicated later and sent to everyone on the list.
4. A primary concern at this meeting is the selection of a date, time, and place for campmaster training. No campmaster corps should function without first completing this orientation. (See [campmaster training plan](#).) A yearly update should also take place with experienced campmasters.
5. A closing challenge and review of the purposes of this group should be given by the council president, council commissioner, or other responsible council representative.

## General Duties of Campmasters

These principles will serve to guide the work of campmasters.

1. Each two campmasters serve one to four units per weekend. Preferably, they stay in the general vicinity of the troops.
2. They render commissioner-type service to the units in camp, working with and through the youth leaders and adult leaders.
3. An annual or semiannual schedule is made up with campmasters assigned for each weekend camp. In case of schedule conflict, the campmaster arranges his own substitute among other corps members and notify the council service center and the camp ranger of any change.
4. Campmasters supply their own transportation, bedding, and food.
5. Campmasters serve two to four times a year.
6. The corps is a select group and should not be limited to a fixed number.
7. Campmasters must be trained in the Scout method of camping, purposes of Scout camping, and the patrol method in camping. They should have completed Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
8. Campmasters coordinate the work of any specialists or merit badge counselors present so that units receive the maximum benefit from these skilled people.
9. Campmasters submit a report to the camp ranger and council on their experience with each unit, along with an appraisal of its effectiveness.
10. Campmasters are responsible to the Scout executive or to another staff member appointed by the Scout executive, or to the camp ranger. The campmaster corps should not be an organization. They do not become members of the council camping committee because of this service, but they do have a representative on the camping committee.
11. Campmasters must attend campmaster training before performing their duties.

## The Campmaster Corps and the Camp Ranger

At the very outset, a cooperative and close relationship must exist between all campmasters and the camp ranger. The camp ranger is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and proper use of all camp facilities; any support he can receive in this endeavor is welcome. The precise relationship between the campmaster and the camp ranger should be stated in writing by the Scout executive, director of camping, or other person designated.

Campmasters work closely with the camp ranger, but are responsible to the head campmaster. It should be understood that the camp ranger, as a full-time employee, is responsible to the Scout executive and/or director of camping; therefore, no other person should give directives.

## **Campmaster Know-How Will Improve Weekend Camping**

All campmasters should have or acquire a basic knowledge of the following so that they may properly assist units:

1. How the patrol method is set up and used in a troop
2. How the Scout advancement program works and why we have it; know the advancement program and how to assist leaders in this
3. The place of the chartered organization in Scouting and its responsibilities
4. How the general program of Scouting, particularly the outdoor program, contributes to the ideals of Scouting
5. How a campmaster counsels group leaders in Scouting, using the methods common in commissioner service to troops
6. The basic skills in Scouting and simple methods for teaching them
7. The basics of health and safety in patrol and troop camping
8. The camping rules and regulations of the local camp
9. What to do in a camp emergency; when and where campmaster authority begins and ends
10. The religious policy of the Boy Scouts of America as related to groups in camp
11. The fundamentals of a good campfire program and how to coach units in this activity
12. Intelligent methods and procedures in dealing with discipline problems through the group leaders

## **Results Possible Through the Campmaster Plan**

1. More interest in weekend camping
2. More advancement in units
3. Troop leaders receiving program ideas and training
4. Wider interest and more attendance at resident camp
5. Greater respect for council property and facilities, an understanding of ecology and nature
6. More skills training in high-adventure activities for Explorers
7. Much informal training of leaders
8. More troops going to camp year-round
9. Camp regulations respected (enforced)
10. More program features in camp
11. Less maintenance expense
12. More interest in the spiritual aspects of outdoor living
13. Greater pride in camp appearance, neatness
14. Unit leaders acquiring some leadership skills

## **Campmaster Recognition**

Each council is unique in how it recognizes volunteers. You may choose to have patches, hats, armbands, etc. Campmasters are key people in helping units have a successful outdoor experience. They give up special time to be with units at camp. You should honor them at recognition dinners. Recognize their spouses, as well, for the time that they have given to Scouting.

## **Some Typical Helps by a Campmaster**

1. Assist new leaders in getting the unit set up.
2. Assist two units in holding an interunit campfire.
3. Help develop and carry out plans for religious services, unit or campwide.
4. Advise unit leaders and administer first aid.
5. Meet with leaders in regard to conservation and related camp Good Turns.
6. Be the supper guest of a unit.
7. Organize and conduct a nature hike with leaders.
8. Arrange convenient check-in/checkout schedules.
9. Secure loan of camp equipment for units.