

Camp Marin Sierra

Winter Camping Information and Policies

Camp Marin Sierra is a 320-acre facility bordered by thousands of acres of Tahoe National Forest land. Heading West, it is located on the right or North side of Highway 20, approximately 3/4 mile from Interstate 80 at the Nevada City exit (exit 161). Surrounded by California history with nearby gold mines and flume systems, abandoned logging camps, the Donner party's last campsite, the first transcontinental railroad, Lake Spalding, Donner summit, and five nearby ski areas, Camp Marin Sierra offers visitors a host of outdoor winter activities.

Winter Facilities

Ibach Lodge—Originally built in 1955 to serve as the camp's first-aid building and infirmary, Ibach Lodge was enlarged to its present size in 1962. Located just 1,000 feet from the camp entrance, Ibach Lodge has a complete kitchen, dining facility, full bath and 1/2 bath, large fireplace, and sleeping accommodations for up to 40 people.

Murray Lodge—This lodge was moved here from Treasure Island in 1950 and enlarged to include a second floor. Set among the trees and wildlife, Murray Lodge provides visitors with more secluded accommodations. It is equipped with a kitchen and dining facility, a 1/2 bath, fireplace, 14 beds (with a sleeping capacity of 16) and plenty of nostalgia.

Adirondack Cabins—These are individual four-person cabins complete with lighting. Located on both sides of the parking lot, they can be used by smaller groups. Mattresses are available in limited supply. No cooking or heating facilities are provided or allowed.

Campsites—For those wishing to enjoy the great outdoors, three popular campsites are available. The most secluded, Goldrush, is located across Chubb Lake and receives the first rays of the morning sun. The most popular sites, 49er and Drexler Flats, have a winter water supply system that will not freeze.

Camp Ranger

Camp Marin Sierra has a resident, year-round ranger. The ranger is responsible for checking groups into and out of camp. Additionally, the ranger is responsible for enforcing the health, safety, and risk-management policies associated with camp.

Contact

Reservations: Marin Council, BSA
225 West End Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901
415-454-1081 Fax 415-454-5511
staff@boyscouts-marin.org
www.boyscouts-marin.org.

Information: Camp Marin Sierra, PO Box 86, Emigrant Gap, CA 95715. Ranger: (415) 300-6821. Do not use GPS or MapQuest to find the camp.

Winter Camping Vehicle Policy

There are limitations on vehicles from November thru May. Vehicles must park in the main parking lot of the camp. The ranger's driveway is not a parking area. From the parking lot, campers will hike their gear to the location of their stay. After parking, leaders should check in with the ranger.

Park vehicles starting in the center of the parking lot and working out in either direction (see drawing). This allows the ranger to plow snow from around the vehicles.

The camp ranger can tow any vehicles not complying with the camp parking policies.

Each driver is responsible for the conduct and safety of passengers in their vehicle. The parking lot is restricted to only parking, loading, and unloading of vehicles. No snow play is allowed in the parking lot.

When parked, every vehicle should be locked with a card placed in the window with the name of the driver and the unit number as well as the camping location. Do not set your parking brake because it may freeze in place inhibiting movement of the

vehicle. Although the ranger plows the parking lot, be prepared with a shovel should you need to dig snow from immediately around your vehicle in order to depart.

Before departing, clean all snow off of the top of your vehicle. Snow falling off of vehicles at high speeds on the freeway can be a hazard.

Additional Responsibilities and Procedures

While at Camp Marin Sierra, the onsite leader is considered to be the safety coordinator and responsible for the adherence to all policies and procedures.

Each driver and adult in attendance should be briefed on these policies and restrictions before leaving home. All drivers and leaders are responsible for the supervision of all Scouts and passengers when they are within 300 feet of Highway 20. No snow play is permitted within 300 feet of the highway.

1. Reservations must be made through the Marin Council office. Reservations are confirmed when the required deposit and all forms, including a tour permit, have been received in the council service center.

2. Once reservations have been confirmed, the leader must call the Marin Sierra ranger three to five days in advance to confer and advise the number of vehicles arriving. At this time, the leader will learn of any changes to the camp's facilities and access.

3. Six to eight hours before departing, the leader must call the ranger (415-300-6821) to learn the most current weather conditions of the camp and that general area. If the ranger deems it necessary, because of safety concerns, the camp can be closed if there are extreme weather conditions. CalTrans road info is 800-427-7623.

Weather in the Sierras can change with little warning. Use common sense and check the current local weather reports before leaving. Type the camp zip code (95715) into your favorite weather web site to check conditions. The camp is

at about 5300', so use this elevation to determine if there will be rain or snow. Don't use this information to decide whether or not to bring chains; always bring them.

4. A Tour Plan is required. Marin Council units must file the Tour Plan on MyScouting.org prior to their departure for camp. Out-of-council units should present a printed copy of their approved Tour Plan to the ranger upon arrival. *No permit, no camping.*

5. A one million dollar Certificate of Liability Insurance, naming Camp Marin Sierra and the Marin Council as additional insured must be filed with the reservation form by all non-Scout groups.

6. A *BSA Rules, Regulations, and Policy Hold Harmless Agreement* must be filed with the reservation form for non-Scout groups.

7. Schedule arrivals and departures from camp so that there is two-deep adult leadership at all times.

Always carry tire chains and winter supplies when traveling in the Sierras in case you are forced to stop along the way. Due to weather conditions, power outages are not uncommon. When this occurs, the electric stoves and water system, including toilets, are out of service. Check with the ranger when you arrive as to how to deal with this eventuality.

Areas in camp that are off limits during the winter are: the lake, the paved road into camp (for foot traffic), the maintenance building area, buildings or campsites not reserved by your group, and any area on or near Highway 20.

Stay off of the roof of any building. The buddy systems is always required.

Program Notes

While at Camp Marin Sierra, you will have the opportunity to build snow forts, ski, sled, have snowball fights, go snowshoeing, cross-country ski, camp out in the snow overnight, or cook a meal outside. You may also contact the local ski areas—Boreal, Donner Ski Ranch, Royal Gorge, Soda Springs, or Sugar Bowl—for excellent skiing while you are there.

Popular sledding areas are the hill just past the maintenance buildings and the hill under the power lines near the rifle range.

Verizon cellular service does not work well in camp. Other services seem to work better.

Building snow caves or structures can be fun; however, because of the risk, there should be experienced adult supervision at all times.

Winter camp at Marin Sierra can be a lot of fun! Even if the weather is poor, your Scouts' experiences can be confidence-building and memorable.

In order to avoid leaving a mess when the snow melts, please consult with the camp ranger prior to building a fire outside. He can guide you to existing fire pits.

Snowshoe Use Guidelines

The camp-owned snowshoes were a direct donation from Atlas Snowshoe Company in San Francisco. They are available to all winter campers at no charge.

All snowshoes are available to all users of the camp. Please make sure they are shared.

Everyone must make a hike plan before embarking on the hike. Items to include:

- Use the buddy system. Who is going?
- Describe where you are going.
- When will you return?
- Exchange cell phone numbers
- Check in and out with your leader

Anyone hiking with snowshoes must return no later than 4:00 p.m.

The proper way to put on the snowshoe is to push your heel to the rear and tighten the heel strap first. Then tighten the toe straps.

Do not use snowshoes on hard surfaces: parking lot, asphalt, Ibach or Murray porches, or inside lodges. Stay off of Chubb Lake; it is unsafe, and be

careful near creeks. Snowshoes do not float. Report any damage to the ranger immediately. If snowshoes are damaged, you must replace them.

Food, Kitchen, and Garbage

The high altitude and winter conditions will make your group hungry. Plan substantial, high-energy, hearty meals to keep the energy level at its peak. Keep liquids available (both hot and cold) available at all times. Cooking pots and utensils are available for use in preparation; however, bring your own plates, cups, bowls, and eating utensils.

All food and garbage must be taken out by your group. There is no garbage service. Be sure to bring cleaning supplies for the kitchen and bathrooms. The lodging facilities must be cleaned before you leave.

Clothing and Supplies

Proper winter clothing is a must. Underclothes should be warm and outer clothing and shoes should be water repellent. Bring at least one complete change of clothes. Don't forget lip balm, sun screen, gloves, and a warm hat. Sunglasses or goggles are suggested for everyone. The bright sun off the snow can be harmful. If practical, try to plan activities in the shade if the sun is bright. Be prepared!

Items You Must Bring

- Shovel for digging snow
- Cleaning supplies for kitchen and toilet areas
- Garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper
- Splitting mauls, ax, splitting wedges. You must split your own wood and replenish the existing supply before leaving. Wood rounds are provided.
- Extra clothing: You will need them.

Communication

The most reliable way to communicate with the people at camp is via cell phone. Non-Verizon phones work the best.

Marin Sierra

Winter Parking Plan

Park starting in the center and moving outward as illustrated in the diagram. This allows the ranger to plow around the vehicles effectively.

Parking lot is restricted to parking, loading, and unloading. No snow play in parking lot.

Park as close together as possible after unloading. Vehicles may be pulled out to other spots temporarily to load or unload.

After parking, place a sheet in a vertical window with driver name and unit number.

Don't set your parking brake.

Clean snow off the top of cars before departing. Snow falling off vehicles on the freeway at high speeds can be hazardous.

