

Suggestions for what to bring to D.I.C.C. (Group Gear)

Tents – All participants will sleep in tents. Boys and Girls may not share the same tent, nor can adults and youth share a tent. For Cub Scouts, subtract one from the tent capacity when planning. If you have a 4 person tent, expect 3 cubs to share it. That gives adequate room for gear, while still being considerate of your overall campsite size. Ground sheets protect the tent floor from damage and can help keep it clean and dry as well. Big high tents are not your friend at Camp Bel. The field is mostly open with little or no windbreak. Shorter tents, properly set up using the included guy ropes, work best. You will see lots of the Eureka brand tents that the Scoutshop Sells being used.

Shelter – An important component for cooking, cleaning, and eating. It provides shade as well as refuge from rain and wind. Plan on about 9 sq feet of space per person. So a 10x10 easy up shelter would be adequate for up to 11 or even 12 people with bag chairs. If you are lucky enough to have your own picnic or other tables, then you might need more space. Most average size groups can easily make do with one 10x20 garage style shelter for up to 15 Cubs plus Scouters. Again, be conscious of your overall campsite size. We have limited areas for camping, and many groups to fit into those areas. Camp Bel requires that each shelter be securely staked down using dog screw type anchors and rope or straps for each leg.

Cook – Since there are no open fires allowed in group campsites, cooking is done using controlled flame heat, typically propane or white gas. Because of the time of year – late summer/early fall, propane is by far the most popular and easiest to use. Naptha gas is better in cold weather applications, but requires more care when handling, storing, and refuelling. Groups of 15 Cubs plus Scouters can make amazing meals using only 2 – 2 burner propane stoves. Some groups prefer the large free standing 3 burner stove (they sell full size griddles for them, making bacon and eggs, pancakes and sausage, grilled cheese, or hamburgers super easy). Many groups also bring along a camp oven, propane BBQ, and/or coffee maker. Most groups also have a tote full of cooking equipment – pots, pans, bowls, lids, plus utensils – flippers, tongs, ladles, serving spoons, bread knife, etc. Include at least one large pot and lid to use for warming dish water with. Once you know your menu, then you can confirm your cooking needs. Maybe you'll need to add a cheese grater, measuring cup, or whisk? Each group must provide a minimum 5-pound ABC fire extinguisher and have it located near the cooking area in plain sight.

Clean – There are 2 main considerations for cleaning: People, and Dishes. You will need a hand wash station, and a separate dish wash station. Hand sanitizer is great as a preparation for food handling, but it doesn't remove dirt and grime from hands that have been crawling on the ground through the obstacle course. A hand wash station can be as simple as one 15 litre plastic tub half full of water, and a bottle of hand soap. Camp Bel also provides hand wash stations at the washrooms. A proper dish wash station includes 3 dishpans plus a drying area/rack. The first dishpan has warm/hot water with dish soap, the middle dishpan has warm clean rinse water, and the 3rd dishpan has a capful of bleach mixed in with 5 or more litres of warm water. Dishpans are typically 18-20 litres, and most groups have a stacking set of 3 or 4. In addition to dish soap and bleach, you'll want dishcloths, scrubbies, maybe

rubber gloves, and possibly dishtowels. Some groups have mesh bags for each person's mess kit, and they hang from the shelter to allow drip drying.

Food storage – There is lots of information on reputable websites including scouts.ca about how to adequately protect meats and other refrigerated foods. Obviously, you will need coolers and other large containers with lids to bring all your food in. DICC allows gear trailers onsite (DIBC does not), which makes food storage somewhat simpler to manage. Anytime food is left outdoors, our animal kingdom friends and neighbours take notice, and will help themselves if you don't have a strategy to keep them out. Coolers with a closing mechanism are good, as are totes with closers. Store food and garbage in your closed up trailer overnight if possible. Otherwise, use secured lid coolers and totes, and stack totes to make it even harder for racoons and other woodland creatures to get in. Make use of freezer packs, or repurpose 2 litre pop bottles or other plastic jugs by filling them with water and freezing them for use in your coolers. That way even when they do melt, your cooler stays relatively dry. Cheese slices and bologna do not like swimming in the bottom of a cooler, and you won't like them either if they do so. Another consideration at DICC, because of the time of year, is yellow jackets. Its best to store anything sweet – syrup, jams etc. – in airtight containers away from your dining shelter. Again, there's lots of info about how to manage this online. The bottom line is all your food and food waste should be in either a cooler or a tote/container with a lid that can be secured. Put a label on the lid with the contents of each to make it easy to find what you want.

Safety – Remember, all your large shelters need to be secured using dog screws and straps or ropes. You must have at least a 5 pound ABC fire extinguisher. A First Aid kit should also be available and stored in plain sight.

Decorating – We encourage your group to embrace your sub-camp identity, and the camp Theme. Each sub-camp has an easy to figure out animal identity, and each year the camp chooses a theme as well. Lots of groups have stuffed animals they bring that represent their sub-camp, and lots of groups also dress themselves in sub-camp or theme related attire for opening. In most cases it is worn over the uniform. (Maybe a hat, or pull over shirt with a picture on it?) Decorating your campsite to theme is also fun, and can make for a good project at a meeting or two in September.

Other – You will need water jugs. Typically, groups use 5 gallon plastic water jugs, and most groups have 3-4 of them at least. Bring a wagon or cart so that Cubs can get water themselves and bring it back to your campsite. Cooler jugs are also handy if you plan to make juice. Camp Bel does not provide tables, so you need to decide if you want tables for eating at, as well as tables or stands to use for cooking and cleaning stations. Most groups have plastic 5' folding tables, and some groups have folding or easy assemble picnic tables. Most groups bring bag chairs for everyone. Your Cub flag can be strapped to a shelter pole, or secured in a flagpole holder. Garbage needs to be collected and managed as per food handling above in a container that can be secured shut. Some groups use pails with lids, others have full sized plastic garbage cans with lids. A garbage bag is obviously a good start, but Rocky Raccoon can and will defeat that container in seconds, leaving a trail of disaster for someone to clean up in the morning.