

Happy Wanderers

Camping Club Guide



A COMMITTEE OF THE SIMI VALLEY ELKS LODGE # 2492

www.Happywanderers.net

Welcome !!

Dear Fellow Camper,

We welcome you to the Happy Wanderers Camping Club!

Camping with a group may be new to you, and somewhat different than the solo camping you are familiar with. While morning cocktails, bean bag toss, horse shoes, afternoon socials and potluck dinners may not be what you are used to, it is a big part of our group.

Some of you already have friends and family within the club and know what to expect. Others are perhaps new to the Lodge and are not acquainted with anyone. Please know everyone here is ready and willing to answer your questions, and help you join in as quickly as you want.

Most of us here remember our first campouts—knowing nobody, not sure who or what to ask, where to go or when – we want everyone to be included.

If you like, please ask to be “partnered up” with a seasoned camper for a couple of outings, they will be happy to be your guide.

Everyone has a name tag to help you get started with that first conversation. You will have one soon. In no time, you will be on a first name basis with everyone here.

Once again, Welcome! Now let's go camping

Happy Wanderers Guide Book
GENERAL POLICIES OF THE
"HAPPY WANDERERS CAMPING CLUB"

ARTICLE I

The name of the club shall be "The Happy Wanderers Camping Club of BPOE Lodge 2492" and shall be a committee of said lodge.

ARTICLE II

The object of the Happy Wanderers shall be to provide social activities for members, their families and guests in the form of camping.

ARTICLE III

Any member, in good standing, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and their families are qualified to become members.

ARTICLE IV

The Happy Wanderers Camping Club may hold meetings each month on the second Monday of the month for the purpose of reviewing past campouts, planning new campouts, socializing, and supporting the lodge.

ARTICLE V

A new Committee Chairperson shall be voted in at the March meeting each year or appointed by the current Exalted Ruler, and shall officially take over responsibilities as of April 1st of the same year.

ARTICLE VI

General Policies may be amended at any regular meeting of the Lodge with the Happy Wanderers Committee Chairperson present. Any amendments to the General Policies shall be reported to the Happy Wanderers members, for their information by the Committee Chairperson.

ARTICLE VII

The Happy Wanderers Camping Club of BPOE Lodge 2492 shall hold no monies. All monies needed for payment of reservations, necessary supplies, and miscellaneous items shall be submitted to the Lodge in the form of a voucher. The Lodge will provide said needed monies from the Lodge's Line Item and shall be reimbursed by the camping club upon collection from the club members.

ARTICLE VIII

All activities of the committee shall be in conformance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Order.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book
"HAPPY WANDERERS CAMPING CLUB"
STANDING RULES

The Happy Wanderers camping club is a committee of the Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492

1. There shall be \$20.00 per year per family voluntary donation. The year shall run April 1st to March 31st with new members donation pro-rated. If a single camping member, the voluntary donation will be \$10.00. All collected donations shall be deposited in the Lodge's Line Item assigned to the Happy Wanderers Camping Club committee. No lodge member, in good standing shall be denied membership as a result of non-payment of the donation.
2. The Happy Wanderers want to make sure every new member feels welcomed as part of the group. To promote this, every member will have a name badge to wear at the campouts. This helps new members when starting the first conversations and introductions. This is a time-tested method of "ice breaking" those first meetings. The badge donation is currently \$17.00 to cover the cost of manufacturing.
3. There shall be one camp out per month on the second full weekend, with the exception of December, which will be optional. The "weekend" is defined as having a Friday before it can be counted as a "weekend". Due to conflicting functions with the Lodge, the camping club may choose an alternate weekend. Members must be notified at least one month prior of any such changes.
4. The Happy Wanderers will hold a meeting on the second (2nd) Monday of each month (see General Policies), unless it conflicts with other lodge business. The meeting time will be 7:00 p.m. at the Simi Valley Elks Lodge.

5. The November camp out will be known as the Thanksgiving campout and will be free to all members who have made voluntary contributions specified in Standing Rule #2 above. Camping fee and the cost of the meat for the dinner will be requested, by the Camping Club Committee Chairperson, to be paid from the Line item. See the guest policy, in this document, for the attendance of guests and non-members.
6. If a member makes a reservation (i.e, signs up to attend) for a campout for himself / herself or for a guest of his/hers but fails to show up, he will be assessed the amount the club is charged for that "no-show", Where there is a fee for reservation, the person canceling will be responsible for that fee.
7. All members of the Elks and guests of the Happy Wanderers members will be welcomed at all camp outs, but will incur the same campsite expenses as do the regular members.
8. Visitors or guests of a Happy Wanderer may attend three camp outs without joining the club. If they wish to attend any more of the campouts, they must become a member of the Happy Wanderers. However, any prospective camping club member must first become a member of the B.P.O.Elks organization.
9. Pets must be controlled so as not to disturb the campers, nor are they allowed to run loose. Pet owners must clean up after the pet(s).
10. For members who pass away, the Camping Club Committee Chairperson will request a donation, from the Happy Wanderers Line Item of \$150.00, \$50.00 for flowers and \$100.00 to charity of choice for the member's family.
11. For any charitable donations recommended by the Camping Club, the Camping Club Committee Chairperson will request said donation be made from the Line Item. All recommended donations shall be limited to \$150.00 Maximum for each recipient.

12. Any party requesting a donation from the club must present their request at one of the monthly meetings so it can be put to a vote. If approved, allow 2 weeks minimum for processing the request.

13. For any donations, if the line item does not have excess funds already deposited, the Camping Club shall define how reimbursement funds will be raised and shall define a reasonable timeline for said reimbursement.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book Club Guest Policy

The Happy Wanderers Camping Club is a fun organization which welcomes guests on any given camp out. Within the camping club, we have certain events and procedures in which we invite guests to partake.

A current Camping Club member, who is not in good standing within the Elks, may not attend any camping function as a guest and shall be dropped as a Camping Club member until such time as he/she re-establishes good standing in the Elks.

On Saturday evening, the usual fare is a potluck, which can either be a theme with attendees signing up in advance for the dish they will bring or it can just be a general potluck which makes for an interesting and always good dinner.

Our Standing Rules provide that guests may attend three campouts with the club. We do, however, ask that the guests bring a dish to the potluck as well as paying the camping fees just as the members do.

In those instances where guests do not wish to bring a dish for the potluck, or if they are only coming for the potluck dinner itself and do not wish to bring a dish, we ask that they contribute \$10.00/person which will be deposited into the Lodge's Line Item along with other monies raised by the camping club.

These rules apply throughout the year except for the Thanksgiving campout. This campout is funded (i.e. camping fees and main components for the meal. Turkeys, hams, etc.) from funds accumulated by the club throughout the year and placed in the Lodge's Line Item. Members will still bring prepared dishes to complement the main meal based on a sign up list. At this camp out, we ask guests and members, who have not made voluntary contributions as specified in Standing Rule #2, to pay their camping fees, bring their dish for the main meal and pay \$10.00/person (over 12) to defray the cost of the "club furnished Portion of the meal. If guests are only coming for the main meal, we ask them to bring a dish and pay \$10.00/person (over 12) as previously mentioned.

To alleviate any embarrassment of the wagon master, we ask that the members bringing guests handle all the financial arrangements between their guests and the wagon master. It is also advisable that the members inviting guests call to notify the wagon master so that the wagon master has advance information for planning the camping weekend.

We look forward to having you join us in our great hobby and recreation.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book
DUTIES OF A WAGON MASTER FOR THE HAPPY
WANDERERS CAMPING CLUB

PRELIMINARY DUTIES

Campouts are usually located within a maximum 250 mile radius and are generally scheduled on the 2nd weekend of the month.

Ask another camper to be your co-wagon master. Their assistance makes the campout easier. Determine how much of a deposit is required and what is the refund policy in the event of cancellation.

Contact the facility for reservation requirements.

- Inquire about group rates.
- Are there any charges for children, pets and guests?
- Are there any other hidden charges?
- Ascertain all information about the site.
- Will we have a specific group location?
- Will we have the use of indoor facilities for preparing food and eating? If so, what charges are associated with those facilities?
- What amenities are provided at the site Recreation facilities (swimming pool, Jacuzzi, rec. room.
- Are fire pits available and if not, can we have fires in our own fire containers?

Reserve the site. (The earlier the better).

- Deposits come from the Lodge's Line Item. Have the Committee Treasurer submit a voucher to get a check made.
- Make the reservation deposit, get a receipt and the name of the person who accepted the deposit.

Important Reminder, if you set up a campout at another Elks Lodge campground, remember that **ONLY ELKS IN GOOD STANDING** can stay as registered guests, Non-Elk friends and guests may visit, but not camp there.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book

PUBLICIZE THE CAMP OUT

1. Make up a flier, either of your own design or use the "club provided" flier.
 - Include the location of the camp out.
 - Dates of the camp out.
 - Names of the Wagon Masters and Co-Wagon Master.
 - Phone number of the Wagon Master and Co-Wagon Master.
 - A complete listing of amenities, hook-ups, etc.
 - A list of special conditions such as extra charges for children, pets, etc.
 - A map to the camp out site.
 - Phone number of the facility in case of attendees getting lost or having to notify of an emergency.

2. Pass out flyers at prior camp outs, camping meetings or mail.

3. Get comments from members.
 - Make up a sign-up sheet.
 - Get commitments from camping club members at prior camp outs, camping meetings, etc.
 - Have members notify you of any guests which they intend to bring
 - Decide on the type of Saturday dinner you want (Straight potluck, theme dinner etc).
 - Have members sign up for specific dishes which they will bring to the campout if planned.
 - Note the start time for all events.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book PRIOR TO THE CAMP OUT

The Camping Club signs and supplies are stored in the Camping Club shed behind the lodge. Contact the committee chairman for both the shed and gate lock combinations.

1. Ensure that you have all the proper supplies.
 - Bloody Mary, mimosa and screwdriver supplies.
 - Make sure there is enough Vodka.
 - Make sure there are 2 bottles of Champagne.
 - Make sure there is enough Bloody Mary Mix.
 - Make sure there is enough orange juice.
 - Make sure there are enough plastic glasses.
 - Provide sufficient ice cubes.
 - Provide celery, garnish fruits, vegetables and spices for the drinks.
 - Make sure that there are enough rolls of paper towels, soap, SOS, aluminum foil.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book AT THE CAMP OUT

1. It is incumbent on you to be one of the first to arrive.

Select your site so that you will be visible as the leader, it is best if you arrange to be in the middle next to the assistant Wagon Master.

Display the wagon master sign and set up the Happy Wanderers signs to show who we are.

Interface with campground personnel to assure that we will get everything we agreed to.

At the discretion of the wagon master, a "Happy Hour" may be held on Saturday afternoon (or any other afternoon) of the campout weekend. However, the provision of beverages and/or hors d'oeuvres will NOT be at the expense of the camping club, but will be provided by individuals or by the wagon master if he/she chooses.

Take charge of any and all other facets of the weekend. Always ask for help and advice from seasoned campers if something unusual occurs.

Keep an accurate record of all donations collected and expenditures for the weekend. **Do not pay expenses from the donations collected,** Turn everything in to the Treasurer and allow him/her to submit a voucher to the lodge for your reimbursement. We are responsible for keeping accurate records for the Lodge bookkeeping.

Make sure that the campground owners or managers have been properly paid and any and all refundable cleaning deposits on contingency deposits have been refunded. Keep an accurate record, save all receipts for supplies. You cannot get reimbursed without them!

Perform a final walk through of the entire camping area. Be aware and pick up any left behind sunglasses, cell phones, jewelry, hats, can cozies, tablecloths and clips. Bring these items to the next meeting for Lost and Found. Lastly, pick

up all trash and doggy droppings left behind. A clean camp on departure will make campground managers happy and want us to return next year.

Happy Wanderers Guide Book AFTER THE CAMP OUT

1. Make sure to keep all receipts. Present the Committee Treasurer with an income/expense report along with all bills which must be reimbursed. Turn in all money donated along with all of your expense receipts.

Give a report of your camp out at the next camping meeting.
Please use all forms provided for wagon master.

Please submit a written report to the current Bugle correspondent. There is a report template on the www.happywanderers.net website that you can use for the bugle report.