

Medication Administration at Camp Horseshoe

Beginning in 2016, the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Health Lodge will no longer take the lead in the administration of medications for Scouts and Scouters who are attending summer camp. We realize that this is a major change, but feel that doing so will ultimately provide a better experience for the campers whom we serve. This change is being made to bring the camp in line with the medical administration guideline developed by the Boy Scouts of America which is copied below.

Prescription and Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications Brought from Home:

All meds brought from home are to be managed using one of the following three methods.

- A. Managed by the unit's adult leader provided he or she maintains the medications under lock and key and records the administration on issued documents/forms.
- B. Managed by the participant's parent/guardian provided he or she maintains control of the medication in a secure fashion under lock and key.
- C. Managed by the camp health officer in conjunction with the participant and/or adult leader or parent. This option should be used only when the medication must be stored or prepared in the health lodge (refrigeration, clean countertop, etc.) or when the medication regimen is complex and may require assistance from a camp health officer (on prearrangement) who is licensed and/or trained to assist in the medication process.

In essence the BSA requires that troops handle their own medication administration throughout the year and feel that summer camp should be no different. Troop leaders know their Scouts better than anyone and because they have significant contact with them and can more easily ensure that the medications are administered as they are prescribed. It should be pointed out that per BSA policy, the ultimate responsibility for taking the medication is the Scout's.

We realize that certain medications need to be refrigerated or need to be administered through devices that require electricity. In these cases, the health lodge will keep the medication at the lodge, but ask that a responsible leader accompany the Scout to the lodge to ensure that it is administered at the correct time. If there are other circumstances in which the troop leadership feels that the administration of a certain medication would best be accomplished by having the Scout come to the Health Lodge, the health staff will certainly work with your troop. Please identify these circumstances to the Health officer at the time of your troop's Health Lodge check-in on the day you arrive at the camp.

When you check-in, your troop will be provided with a lockable box in which to store your troops medications. If you would like to bring your own medication box, make sure that it is lockable and can hold all of your troop's medications. National policy states that all medications need to be stored in a locked container, including over the counter medications. An exception to this policy is that Scouts can carry Rescue Asthma Inhalers (e.g. Albuterol) and Epi Pens with them since they need to be available immediately if the need for their use arises. Scouts taking Lactaid can also keep this and self-administer this prior to eating lactose containing products.

Each troop will need to keep records of when medications are distributed. We are providing sample forms in the form appendix of the leaders' guide that you may choose to use; these forms will also be made available to you at the time of check-in. Whatever form you choose to use must have the Scouts name,

medication, and dose on it and should indicate when the medication is to be taken (e.g. before breakfast). When the medication is administered, the responsible adult should sign off that the medication has been administered. It is desirable that one or two adult leaders from each troop be designated to handle the medication distribution duties. The Health Officer will be available to consult with your troop whenever a question or concern arises.

It is highly desirable that prescription medications be in their original containers with the original label prepared by the pharmacy or physician which provides all of the customary information such as the patient's name, drug name, dosage and instructions. For non-prescription medications, it is also desirable for the medications to be in the original container with the Scout's name on it and how it is to be used. We recognize at times that parents wish to utilize a pill box and put what medications need to be given into their appropriate box within the container. In this situation, the box must be clearly labelled with the Scout's name and there should be a list of what all of the medications are (name and dose), what they look like (e.g. small round blue pill) and when they are taken (e.g. after breakfast). You should also check with the parents if the Scout states that they take the medication differently than how it is prescribed and stated on the label of the medication.

The Health Lodge is available to administer medications from 7:30 am until fifteen minutes after Taps, with the exception of times when we are in the dining hall for meals. Emergency medications such as albuterol via a nebulizer can be administered at any time.

On the last day of the camping week, medications are returned to the Scouts. Please have a leader stop at the Health Lodge on the way out to ensure that all of the medications have been picked up. We keep all of the medications left throughout the season until the end of the camping season. Scouts can return to pick up the medications at camp during the camping season. At the close of camp, any medications left are disposed of in a proper fashion. The camp and council cannot store these medications or return them. The Health Lodge will continue to provide care for injuries or illnesses which arise while your troop is at camp. We will have our usual array of over-the-counter medications to administer as needed. We look forward to another summer of providing for your health care needs.

If your troop is unable to administer your Scout's medications, the health lodge will be willing to do this for you. In this circumstance, we ask that one of the leaders checks in daily to ensure that their scouts have taken their medication as prescribed.