



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Patuxent Research Refuge
12100 Beech Forest
Laurel, Maryland 20708



Dear Youth Leader,

In response to your request concerning camping on Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract, I have enclosed an information packet. The camping season begins mid-March through the end of June. The camping facilities are only to be used by the Boy and Girl Scouts of America and National 4-H groups.

As you may already know, the North Tract was historically used as a military training and impact area. A sweep for ordnance has been conducted but there will always be a remote possibility of encountering unexploded ordnance. Due to direct mandates in the land transfer legislation, we are required to notify all persons upon entering the property of the prior military use and potential for unexploded munitions. Each scout must have a signed Parental Notification Form to be allowed to camp on the refuge. **Any scout without a signed Parental Notification Letter will not be allowed to camp on the Refuge.**

Refuge volunteers are helping facilitate scout camping on Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Your complete group must check-in at the Hunter Control Station, located inside the refuge entry gate off of 198, between 5 – 7pm on Friday evening to be issued Access Permits. Groups or individuals arriving outside these operating hours cannot be accommodated. Check-out time will be between 10am – 12pm on Sunday morning.

Camping facilities on the North Tract consist of two sites. Both sites are reasonably leveled, have little or no understory and are interspersed with trees. Site 1 is a terrace adjacent to the Patuxent River and is restricted to 25 campers. Site 2 is a woodland area and is restricted to 15 campers. Camping is primitive (use of tents only) and the area should be left looking as it did upon your arrival. More detailed information is contained in the enclosed Scout Camping Guidelines.

Please read the enclosed information carefully. If you are interested in camping on the North Tract, please return the completed Request for Camping form to me as soon as possible as reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Completed forms must be received at least two weeks prior to the date requested.

If your request is approved, you will receive a confirmation letter. If the dates you request are unavailable, you will be offered alternate dates. No reservations or confirmations will be given over the phone.

If you need further information, please contact Dionne Briggs at 301-776-3090 or Dionne_briggs@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Brad Knudsen
Refuge Manager

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