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# C.A.M.P. Book

(“Cool Activities in Missouri Parks”)

Nampa-tsi Lodge #216  
Great Rivers Council, BSA

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## Introduction

This book is an expansion of the tradition “Where To Go Camping” booklet. It is designed to be a resource for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Ventures in the Great Rivers Council. Unit committees, patrol leader’s councils and other planning groups should consult this text when planning their yearly calendar, allowing units to know well in advance where activities will be held. Some sites are also suitable for district events and should be thought of as such in that planning process as well.

Information herein is as complete as possible; however, conditions at parks and areas change. We recommend before camping or holding activities at any area listed in this book you call ahead to confirm availability.

This book is organized by district in the Great Rivers Council. In each section, federally maintained areas are listed first, followed by state parks and historic sites, followed by conservation areas. Camps maintained by the Great Rivers Council are listed in a separate section under “Council Camps.” This section also includes available information on camps in from neighboring councils that are also in Missouri. Finally, a section on “Commercial Camps” is included at the end. Please note that private property (“Mr. Jones’ farm, where troop 9999 always camps”) is not included. This is to allow landowners to continue to have local relationships with troops. We have, in the volume, listed all state and federally maintained properties in Missouri. There is no other publication that attempts to do this.

You will notice that this book is about more than camping; hence, why it is not called “where to go camping.” Reviews of each site include fishing, hiking and nature activities, as well as any special items of interest for that site. For federal and state parks and sites, web addresses are also given, for more information. An index is included at the end of the book, arranged by district, with the activities and amenities available at each site. Most entries also have directions to the site. These were supplied by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Conservation; we recommend consulting local maps, as well.

Following the description and directions, any comments from other scout units will be listed. In the first edition, there are very few of these. We hope that this will grow, so that other scouters will be able to rely on information given to them from previous experiences. As you camp in these locations, please pass your thoughts on to the Nampatsi Lodge, using the C.A.M.P. recommendation form included with this book. These will be included in future editions. Future editions will also include a section simply on hiking trails, camping areas that border our council, out-of-council and out-of-state opportunities, and so forth.

Following comments, we have included a rating system. This is to provide brief information about each site and includes what we believe to be the most commonly considered criteria for camping and other activities. These include:

- Campsites:** how many are there?
- Groups?:** is there a group camping area, or can the site accommodate groups, such as district events?
- Water:** is water available at the site?
- Scout rates:** does the site offer a special rate for scout units?
- Toilets:** are there restrooms or other toilet facilities?
- Trails:** are there any marked trails at the site?
- Fishing:** is fishing permitted?
- Aquatics:** are aquatic activities permitted? “limited” refers to canoeing and/or swimming only; “yes” means all types are generally permitted.
- Service:** are there opportunities for service projects at the location?
- Firewood:** is firewood available at the location?
- Shelters:** are there shelters at the location?
- Privacy:** how much privacy is available for co-ed units?
- Special:** is there anything unique about this location?

These thirteen criteria also form the basis of the index. In the index, answers will be numbers (such as the number of campsites), “y” for “yes”, “n” for “no”, “lim” for “limited” or “unk” for unknown.

A few general words about Missouri parks. First, most of the information here was supplied by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Department of Conservation. As such, this information states what *should* be available at each site. Actual on-site facilities *may* differ somewhat. Experience says, for example, that there may not be as many privies/restrooms at Conservation areas as are listed. Second, as a general rule, there is no water at Conservation sites; be prepared to generally take your own. Next, there are many conservation areas that do not list camping; however, local conservation officials may allow scout troops to camp at these sites. Get to know your local conservation officials. Some of the best places to camp in Missouri are conservation sites. Along these same lines, if you want to go to a state park that has a group camping area, you are not *required*, generally, to camp in that area. Group camp areas, with a few exceptions, do not have water or restrooms. Many troops request not to be in a group area; if the park is not expected to be crowded, often this is fine. Most will charge the regular park price for the sites, which can be expensive for troops of 15 or more boys; some may still only charge the scout rate (\$10, +\$1 per person over 10 people). For more information on Missouri state parks, you can look on the web at [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com); for conservation areas, go to [www.conservation.state.mo.us/atlas](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/atlas); for Corps of Engineers camping areas, go to [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com).

This book will be updated and edited yearly. Additions, deletions, corrections or suggestions should be given to Nampa-tsi Lodge, Great Rivers Council, 1203 Fay, Columbia, MO 65201

In Service,  
Jason A. Cruse, Editor, C.A.M.P Book

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