



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

PACIFIC HARBORS COUNCIL

SLCA Open House at Camp Thunderbird August 27th 2023 3:00-5:00 pm

Camp Thunderbird is the Pacific Harbors Council's (PHC) premier Cub Scout and Leadership Development Camp. The Camp has been operational as a scout camp since 1944. The camp sits on about 126 acres on the shore of Summit Lake in Thurston County Washington. The camp also has the beneficial use of another 100+ neighboring acres owned by the Green Diamond Resource Company.

The camp has a full time property superintendent (Camp Ranger), as well as being home to the local Olympic District scout office, and a scout store/trading post.

The camp offers camping, hiking, wood craft, aquatics, archery/BB-guns, and many other outdoor and scouting activities. The summer program is generally focused on Cub Scouts. For example in 2023 the camp had five sessions of 3 or 4 day long camping for Cubs (K-5th grade) and one session of first year Scout campers (11-17) for a 5 day camp.

The PHC is also a proud member of the Summit Lake Community Association. One of the main reasons for PHC's focus on Camp Thunderbird is the wonderful resource we all share; Summit Lake. We are absolutely committed to being great stewards of the lake and keeping it the pristine watershed we all know and love.

Camp FAQs

- 1) *Is the camp open to Summit Lake residents?* No, just like our local schools, access is controlled for youth safety. Checking in and checking out is a required part of that program. That said, that's exactly why we are holding this open house today. Most SLCA members are aware of the camp, but many have never been through it. We hope you enjoy your visit today.
- 2) *Who owns Camp Thunderbird?* The Pacific Harbors Council, a 501(c)3 not for profit, owns the camp.
- 3) *Tell me more about PHC?* The mission of the Boy Scouts of America and the Pacific Harbors Council is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting programs focus on character building, lifelong fitness, service to others and career exploring; allowing our youth to grow into

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future leaders, business owners, and active citizens. While our programs focus on youth development (over 3100 girls and boys), we also work closely with our 1700+ adult volunteers who improve our community through these same virtues. Pacific Harbors Council serves youth and adults throughout the South Sound in South King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason and Pacific Counties.

- 4) *Are girls allowed?* Absolutely! Girls have been part of Exploring since the early 1970's, and the coed Venturing Program since 1998. The Cub Scout program was opened to girls in 2017, and the Scouts BSA program opened to girls in 2019. In 2021, nearly 1,000 girls were part of the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts, nine of those are from Pacific Harbors Council.
- 5) *Are other youth groups welcome?* Yes. We work with the Olympia School District, church youth groups, the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Clubs to support their youth programs to get kids outdoors.
- 6) *Is Camp Thunderbird used year round?* Yes, but there is certainly more use in the summer.
- 7) *What's up with the expansion project?* Well, it's not really an expansion, but rather an upgrade. Camp Thunderbird is set up to handle 300 people when overnight camping is part of the program, that's not changing. What is changing is the facilities. The cabins, washrooms, water and septic systems, as well as activity and camping facilities are all getting upgraded to provide better and safer conditions. In addition over 9 acres of wetlands are being deeded into a non-developable parcel so the natural end of the lake will stay that way in perpetuity. The camp will also be setting up a drinking water kiosk for lake residents use during the occasional event of unsafe lake water. The camp, with its own well, does not consume or discharge any water to/from the lake.
- 8) *I have heard about 600 campers and RV parks?* On the rare occasion, we may have more than the 300 person load. For example a "last day of school" event from Olympia could bring up to 600 participants, but these are rare, normally only a couple times a year, and only a single day activity. The project will include up to 30 RV campsites that will only be used for parents or staff directly associated with the camping program ongoing. No long term camping will be allowed.
- 9) *Are the camp facilities available to rent out?* Yes, contact PHC for more details.





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- 1) Check-in & wrist band
- 2) Bishops Circle Cabins
- 3) Totem Lodge - Dining Hall
- 4) Assembly Field
- 5) Dale O. Training Center
- 6) Chapel
- 7) Amphitheatre
- 8) Waterfront
- 9) Old swim pond
- 10) Lake-level-control dam
- 11) Outer Loop Trail
- 12) Thurston Trail
- 13) Showers
- 14) Typical campsite – Daniel Boone
- 15) Camp Store
- 16) Check-out

Note – all visitors must check-in, get a wrist band, and check-out when leaving

Note – The walk is on a mix of dirt roads and woodlands trails. The Outer Loop Trail (11) and northern sections of the Thurston Trail (12) (dashed red lines) are NOT recommended for anyone with mobility issues

Note – all buildings are closed except (5) for washrooms, but do peek in the showers to see why we are upgrading

Note – this map is provided for tour purposes only, the base map is currently under revision by PHC

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