

2016
ETERNAL FLAME
and
Scout Fellowship Weekend

Honoring the past, challenging the future



September 23 to 25, 2016

Keeping the “Outing”
in
SCOUTING

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT'S NEW

We welcome each Scout, Team, Crew member, Webelos, Cub Scout, Scouter, Girl Scout and member of the general community to the 2016 Eternal Flame brought to you by the Pioneer Express District of the Golden Empire Council. As with all previous Eternal Flames, we will learn proper, respectful, methods of retiring our Nations Flag.

Updates have been made to the Weekend Activities section of page 4 as well as the Registration Fees and a new section, Activity Purchase Trade In Kind, on page 5. Please read those sections. Minor changes have been made throughout this leader guide as well. Please take the time to become familiar with this document.

A word about this guide: It is written using terms that are familiar to the Boy Scout program, particularly the term patrol. If you are attending this event and are not affiliated with the BSA (or maybe you just don't know what that word means) it basically means a group of kids that number between 6 and 8 and work together to reach a common goal.

We hope that everyone will have a great time!

LOCATION

Gibson Ranch County Park is located in the community of Elverta, across the road from Cherry Island Golf Course. See page 12 for directions to Gibson Ranch. Your best bet? One of the many map programs available to us. When arriving, staff will direct Units to their campsite(s).

You can use the address of **8558 Gibson Ranch Park Rd, Elverta, CA 95626.**

THE WEATHER

Be prepared. The show will go on rain or shine. Check the weather forecasts leading up to the event often. Please have your scouts PREPARED.

UNIT FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONIES

Beginning Friday evening around 8:00pm and continuing non-stop until approximately 10:00am Sunday morning will be the main reason for our gathering. Units will sign up for available time slots, normally 1 hour in length. This will depend on participation. During your shift you will have the responsibility of retiring flags. This year we will have two pyres burning at the same time. With this we will be able to have more participants get the experience of retiring flags.

Flags will be provided, but if your unit has flags in storage that you would like to bring to Eternal Flame to retire you are welcome to do so. In past years we have retired mainly U.S. Flags, but the occasional state or other flag has been included in the process as well.

Eternal Flame staff will provide the first unit in the rotation with a retirement ceremony and this unit will then be responsible for teaching the next unit in the rotation this ceremony so that a standard of care is maintained throughout the weekend. This teaching process will continue at each rotation exchange.

TYPES OF FLAGS TO BE RETIRED

We have struggled in recent years with the retiring of synthetic fabric flags. These types of flags emit a much darker and toxic smoke than those made with natural fibers. The issue is that there just aren't that many natural fiber flags around anymore. We will still retire any flag that we have but added attention must be given when retiring these synthetic flags. Synthetic flags are made with an oil based material and they can be much more combustible and will burn hotter than flags made of cotton.

SPECIAL OPENING CEREMONY

A special opening ceremony will be performed Friday evening at 9pm. This ceremony will be used to set the tone for the weekend. All units attending Eternal Flame are encouraged to attend. Units not camping but that plan on visiting Saturday are also encouraged to attend this special ceremony. This will be a field uniform event.

SATURDAY EVENING MOVIE

Maintaining an Eternal Flame tradition, we will again be showing a movie on Saturday night. Start time will be 8:00pm or when it is dark enough as necessary. As with the campfire, all units are encouraged to attend, whether camping with us or not. Also maintaining the tradition, the movie title will not be known until the movie starts.

CLOSING CAMPFIRE

There will not be a traditional summer camp type closing campfire. Instead we will hold our tradition of showing a movie on Saturday evening. Please join us.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

In addition to retiring flags, we have many games and activities to keep your scouts active and engaged. The activities will be centered (for the most part) around this year's theme of "Siege the Day". The main attraction is sure to be the Catapult competition. The 'Rules of Engagement' for this activity are contained in a separate document. If you would like to receive a copy of the document, please email bsaeternalflame@gmail.com to request one.

Also, as with any scouting activity where multiple units come together, these other activities don't happen without the help of those units attending. We rely on you to step up and organize, staff and run an activity for those in attendance. I have put together a list of activities that I feel fit with this year's theme. If you are capable of running a station, you can request a copy of the list by emailing bsaeternalflame@gmail.com as well.

A SCOUT(ER) IS HELPFUL

An event like this takes a lot of people to make it happen. Many times we are running short handed during the day. You may be asked to help out at some point. Please make yourself available so that we can provide the best experience for the youth possible.

Also, we will have KYBO's, hand washing stations and trash cans on site. Each unit should be prepared to help with maintaining these areas so they are clean and useful. Cleaning supplies will be provided by the staff, but you may be asked to check a KYBO and give it a wipe-down or restock it.

REGISTRATION FEES

\$20.00 per camper. Deadline to register is September 17th, 2016. This fee covers camping, entry into the park, parking and all awards for the catapult competition. Units will be responsible for providing and preparing their own food.

Cub Packs and Webelos Dens are allowed to camp. The price is the same. All Guide to Safe Scouting and recommended Cub camping rules will be followed. Each Pack / Den is responsible for providing all needed leadership.

Girl Scout units are allowed to camp. The price is the same. All Girl Scout appropriate guidelines to leadership and camping will be followed. Each Girl Scout unit is responsible for providing all needed leadership.

Any person (BSA, GS, other) that just wants to visit (see Visitor definition below) and participate on Saturday may also do that. The cost is \$5 per person plus a \$5 per carload fee to enter the park. This park entry fee will be collected by park personnel when you arrive. The \$5 per person fee will be collected by EF staff upon arrival, if you haven't pre-registered online beforehand. **This fee does not include the option of camping overnight. Those of you participating for just the day may, or may not, get take away items such as a patch.**

We are encouraging teamwork this weekend. Units will work together in their Dens or Patrols. A unit will register a total number of people attending, but will also need to state how many dens/patrols will be in attendance. Due to the cost of program materials we are requiring that a den/patrol have a minimum of three (3) members. If you have a den/patrol that is smaller than this, you will be partnered with another den/patrol to bring your minimum number up to the required number.

ACTIVITY PURCHASE TRADE IN KIND

This year we will offer some help with purchases you may need to make for an activity station your unit is putting on. If your unit is sponsoring an activity and needs to purchase materials, Eternal Flame will reimburse you with free attendance. For every \$25 you spend on materials your unit will receive 1 free attendee. There will be a cap of \$100 and 4 free attendees. Please let me know (bsaeternalflame@gmail.com) if you plan on making use of this benefit.

ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to all registered members of the Boy Scouts of America. Also welcome (and encouraged) are Girl Scout Troops and members of the general community that would like to experience a weekend with the premier youth organization in the U.S. All registration will be done via the Golden Empire Council Event Registration page.

HOW TO REGISTER

All registration will be done via the Golden Empire Council Event Registration page. This page can be found at: <http://www.gec-bsa.org/webpay/event/new>

Once at this page search the available list for the name Eternal Flame 2016 (or something similar). Fill out the requested information and pay via your chosen method. You are not required to be a registered Boy Scout member to use this registration page. Girl Scout Troops are also welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct, or the rules of the event if you will, are simple: The Scout Oath and Law. All attendees are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with these simple principles. All non-Scouts and Scouters will be encouraged to follow our example.

THE ATTENDEE

Anyone and everyone are welcome to attend. For the purposes of camping and eating, this event is being treated like a camporee. Only those registered will be allowed to camp.

THE VISITOR

Non-registered youth or adults (family or friends) and the general public may also attend Eternal Flame. Visitors are prohibited from camping. While we understand that visitors may not be familiar with the Scout Oath and Law, all campers are expected to set the example and use this as an opportunity to educate those unfamiliar with our principals these values we as Scouts hold dear.

THE NEW ATTENDEE

It was always the vision of the Eternal Flame founder for this to be a community event. In trying to honor his vision we have opened up our registration pool to the Girl Scouts. Please join me in welcoming any Girl Scout units that decide to join us this weekend. It is our hope that these new campers will spread the word within their program and we will both be able to see growth in our programs.

CHECK IN PROCEDURES

Check in time is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 23rd. All Unit Leaders must check in their Unit at the Check-in table. Those arriving on Saturday, September 24th may need to find a staff member to help with checking you in. Please be patient.

Campsites will be assigned prior to arrival and will be clearly marked. You **MIGHT** be allowed to drive to or near your campsite to drop off gear. Every accommodation will be made however for those needing to be close to their campsite due to physical limitations. If you are allowed to drive to your campsite the expectation is that you will drop off your gear and exit the area as quickly as possible.

The Unit Leader must have the following to check in their unit:

1. The cell phone number for the onsite adult leader.
2. Boy Scout units must have a minimum of two Adult Leaders, as required by the Guide to Safe Scouting.
3. Venturing Crews must have the appropriate Leadership for the make-up of their Unit.
4. Webelos units must have a maximum ratio of 2 youth to 1 adult, with a 2 adult minimum being maintained.
5. Girl Scout units must have the appropriate Leadership as required by their guidelines.
6. Any additional fees which are still owed for Eternal Flame (prior committee approval required).
7. Completed BSA Medical Forms (parts A & B only) for each Scout and Scouter in attendance. These medical forms will not be collected, but as a responsible leader you should have them with you. Get in the habit now, if you aren't already.
8. Guests visiting Eternal Flame are not required to have completed BSA Medical Forms on file, but if one is available, please bring a copy. We ask this to be as prepared as possible in the case of an emergency.
9. Eternal Flame is not requiring a Tour Planning Worksheet be provided (if you are a Boy Scout unit), unless your unit is visiting from outside of the Golden Empire Council boundaries. In this case, the specific guidelines in the Worksheet would require that a Tour Planning Worksheet be completed.

UNIT TOUR PLAN

To follow the best recommended practices for BSA events, we are requesting that a unit Tour Plan be filled out. We will not be collecting these items, but you may be asked to show it when checking in.

UNIT MEDICAL RECORDS

Also to follow the recommendations for BSA events, we are requiring that each unit have in their possession a BSA Health Form for each person attending. As this is a short term camping experience, you will only need Parts A & B. We will not be collecting these items, but you may be asked to show them when checking in.

CRACKER BARREL

There will be a cracker barrel held immediately following the opening campfire (Friday night) at the headquarters area. We will use this time to answer any questions you may have and to pass along any new information that you need to know. We ask that the on-site unit leader as well as the unit youth leader (if applicable) attend.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

Units may check out at any time during the weekend with a few exceptions (listed below). Campsites must be clean and ready for inspection. No trash or fire materials may remain. You must contact the event staff prior to leaving Gibson Ranch for a final approval.

Check out times NOT allowed:

All meal times

Quiet times between the hours of 10pm and 7am both Saturday and Sunday

Naturalization Ceremony on Saturday afternoon

Interfaith Worship Services

Closing Flag Ceremony (Sunday morning)

PARKING AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

CAMPING AREA PARKING

Parking in the camping area is NOT allowed. IF you are allowed to drive to or near your campsite it is expected that you will unload your gear and move your vehicle to a designated parking space as quickly as possible.

OVERNIGHT PARKING

All vehicles must be parked in designated parking area(s). *Access roads must not be blocked!*

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Unit Leaders, please pass this information to all parents and leaders that will be driving Scouts or equipment! All vehicles will be expected to observe the posted speed limit. Gibson Ranch is a county park. The general public may be at the park and you never know who could run into the road.

CONCESSION STAND

A concession stand may be available during the weekend.

THE UNIT & PATROL EQUIPMENT

Each Unit should bring to the Eternal Flame:

1. Weather protection for each youth member.
2. Plenty of SCOUT SPIRIT.
3. Patrol and personal camping & cooking equipment.
4. A shovel, rake and bucket for fire protection use only. BSA also recommends a fire extinguisher.
5. First Aid kit – One per patrol
6. A “No Open Flame” placard for each tent. This placard should also bear the names of those Scouts/Scouters, along with their leadership position if appropriate, occupying the tent so that individuals can be found if needed. Placard should be affixed to each tent in an obviously visible spot.
7. Any additional questions should be directed to Jeff Berg at bsaeternalflame@gmail.com (preferred) or by phone at 916.704.1715 (please use email as first choice).

ETERNAL FLAME RULES

Two adult leaders from each Unit must be present at Eternal Flame at all times while the Unit is participating in Eternal Flame. Two-deep leadership must be maintained at all times. The Unit Adult Leaders are responsible for the actions of the Unit's youth and shall take action, as necessary to ensure that the Eternal Flame rules are followed. Additional two-deep leadership items are listed below, see 2-Deep Leadership header.

Vehicles remaining overnight must be parked in designated area(s). Vehicle ID placard must be placed on dashboard so it is clearly visible.

LOCAL RULES

1. Do not cut any living or standing trees, shrubs or bushes.
2. Camp quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please be good citizens. A Scout is Courteous.
3. The creek is off limits.

THE CREEK IS OFF LIMITS

Dry Creek, which runs to the east of where we will be camping, is off limits. Please stay away from the creek for the duration of Eternal Flame. Anyone found not following this rule may be asked to leave.

DRINKING WATER AND TRASH REMOVAL

1. Limited potable water is available at the camp. You are advised to bring your own drinking water. The general rule is one gallon per person per day. **There will be no dish washing at any park water supply.**
2. There are limited trash receptacles available at Gibson Ranch. At least not the size that can handle the amounts of trash our event can generate. Eternal Flame will provide additional trash receptacles, but each Unit is requested to pack out all trash that your Scouts create.
3. As Scouts and Scouters, we must leave Gibson Ranch better and cleaner than we found it.

ETERNAL FLAME REMINDERS

Do

Activity uniform is acceptable for events.
Field uniform is required for all flag ceremonies.
Participate in all activities and events.
Meet other Scouts and Scouters from different units.
Remember to use the "Buddy system."
Think Safety!
Have fun!

DON'T

Bring electronics: iPods, radios, TV's or stereos.
Bring non-approved knives.
Litter
Go to or in the Creek or other OFF-LIMIT areas.

2-DEEP LEADERSHIP

As is required by the Guide To Safe Scouting, 2-deep leadership must be maintained at all times while participating in Eternal Flame. This requirement will also need to be kept while your unit is retiring flags. The Eternal Flame committee understands that this can be a burden for some units as this means that 4 adults will need to be present at certain times. The Eternal Flame staff will work with those units that need additional adults by joining with other units so that enough leadership is present.

CAMPFIRES

1. **Only above ground fires are allowed. Bring fire rings!**
2. Bring your own firewood!
3. At no time leave any fire unattended.

CLOSING CAMPFIRE

There will not be a traditional summer camp type closing campfire. Instead we will hold our tradition of showing a movie that fits the theme of the weekend. Please join us.

Eternal Flame has a standing tradition of retiring flags that have been used to identify soldiers' graves at the National Cemetery in Dixon along with similar flags used during Memorial Day ceremonies throughout the area. This takes place on Sunday morning and begins at 9:00am.

CHECKOUT

Units may check out at any time during the weekend with a few exceptions (listed below). Campsites must be clean and ready for inspection. No trash or fire materials may remain. You must contact the event staff prior to leaving Gibson Ranch for a final approval.

Check out times not allowed:

All meal times

Quiet times between the hours of 10pm and 7am both Saturday and Sunday

Naturalization Ceremony on Saturday afternoon

Interfaith Worship Services

Closing Flag Ceremony (Sunday morning)

We would like all units attending to use Sunday morning as a time of fellowship with the other units in attendance. If not attending the camp wide Interfaith Worship Service, we encourage all units to hold a service of their own. This weekend is a perfect opportunity for all of us to show our Reverence and share that with our fellow Scouts and Scouters.

ADULT LEADERS

Adult Scouters and Unit Leaders have a special responsibility to ensure that all youth, especially their own, adhere to the rules, obey the OFF LIMITS areas and participate in a Scout-like manner.

The Eternal Flame staff members are REQUESTING additional adult support to help out as needed. We will need adults to help those units in attendance that may not have enough for full coverage while a unit is in camp and retiring flags. Please make your availability known at check-in. All adults and Units are responsible for their own food and cooking.

ETERNAL FLAME SCHEDULE

FRIDAY (1:00 PM – 10:00 PM)

		EVENT	LOCATION
1:00	5:00	Staff, event setup time	GIBSON RANCH
5:00	8:00	Units arrive	
5:00	8:00	Registration	
6:00	8:45	Dinner / Camp set up	UNIT CAMP SITE
9:00	9:45	Opening Ceremony / Retirement Pyre lit	FLAG RETIREMENT PYRE
9:45	10:00	Cracker Barrel	HEADQUARTERS
10:00	10:15	Eternal Flame Staff meeting	HEADQUARTERS
10:00		Taps - - quiet time in the CAMP/No traffic	
10:00	7:00	Lights Out – Quiet time. A Scout is Courteous	UNIT CAMPSITES

SATURDAY (7:00 AM – 10:00 PM)

7:00		Reveille	
7:00	8:15	Breakfast	UNIT CAMPSITES
7:00am	10:00pm	Concession stand (closed during Opening flag ceremony, and Naturalization Service)	HEADQUARTERS
8:30	8:45	Opening Flags	FLAGPOLES
9:00	11:45	Games/Activities/Events & Catapult competition*	EVENT AREAS
12:00	1:20	Lunch	UNIT CAMPSITES
1:30	2:20	Naturalization Ceremony	
2:30	5:00	Games/Activities/Events & Catapult competition*	EVENT AREAS
5:00	7:00	Dinner	UNIT CAMPSITES
7:00	7:45	Fellowship – get to know your neighbor	UNIT CAMPSITES
8:00		Movie	
9:45	10:00	Eternal Flame Staff meeting	HEADQUARTERS
10:00		Taps - - quiet time in the CAMP/No traffic	
10:00	7:00	Lights Out – Quiet time. A Scout is Courteous	UNIT CAMPSITES

SUNDAY (7:00 AM - ????)

7:00		Reveille	
7:00	8:15	Breakfast	UNIT CAMPSITES
8:30		Unit Flag retirements end	FLAG RETIREMENT PYRE
8:30	10:00	Closing Flag Ceremony	
10:00		Unit check-outs	UNIT CAMPSITES
10:00		Camp tear-down	GIBSON RANCH

*The catapult competition will be held in two phases. Phase 1 will see each type of unit (Cub, Boy, Girl, Venturing) competing against each other to determine the overall winner for that type of unit. Phase 2 will be the overall competition where the four winners will challenge each other to determine the Eternal Flame Champion.

2016 Eternal Flame and Scout Fellowship Weekend
at
Gibson Ranch County Park

Below are general directions to get to Gibson Ranch.

From Sacramento and point south – take Hwy 99 North to Elverta Road. Drive east approximately 7 miles. Turn left into Gibson Ranch.

From Folsom and points east – Hwy 50 to business 80 to Watt Ave. Drive north approximately 7 miles and turn left onto Elverta Road. Approximately 1 mile, turn right into Gibson Ranch.

From Roseville and points north – I-80 to Antelope Road, head west. Drive west approximately 4 miles and turn right on Watt Ave. Another mile, turn left onto Elverta Road. Approximately 1 mile, turn right into Gibson Ranch.

From Woodland and points west – Get to Hwy 99 northbound. Exit on Elverta Road and drive east approximately 7 miles. Turn left into Gibson Ranch.

When you get to the Ranger Station, tell the attendant you are with the Boy Scouts. They should wave the parking fee. (It is part of the overall fee.)

You can use the address of **8558 Gibson Ranch Park Rd, Elverta, CA 95626** in your favorite mapping software / web link.