

How the Campout works



Every year we host a Church Family Campout at Howard Prairie Lake. This year it is from noon Thursday, June 29 to Monday, July 3 at noon, though most people will come up Friday afternoon or evening and leave Sunday (since you're going to the trouble, why not take an extra day?). There are tent spaces and spaces for RVs or whatever. A 100-foot Winnebago will prob not fit down the dirt driveway. We use the group campground called Sugarpine, which we have all to ourselves. Look for the sign that says "Bear Creek Church" on it. Expect tons and tons of water, where in past years the lake has been kind of dehydrated.

Because your church is awesome, there is no cost. By "awesome," I mean "you are all so generous" so we can pull this off, and last week's Father's Day BBQ, and give a great percentage of our gifts to others, for free.

We camp there on the edge of the lake and it's beautiful. Some people don't camp at all but just drive up for a day, or for every day. It's not a long drive. About an hour from my living room here in northwest Medford. Real pretty, though windy so if you have someone who suffers from carsick drive as fast as you can.

Mostly folks just chill out, help each other set up camp, play games, and invite friends to their campsite to eat some of the \$500 worth of food they brought. Don't tell anyone but I've discovered that you don't have to bring any food because everyone really over-shops so if you just wander from camp to camp looking hungry you'll eat like an overstuffed pioneer. Don't worry about forgetting something because there will be someone else who brought five.

We supplement the built in pit toilets (really fancy compared to the ones they had when we first started there 20 years ago) with some plush outhouses. They'll be marked "male" and "female" because... you know, us guys are horrid. There will also be two washing stations with clean water, soap and towels. Make sure your little boys become acquainted with their use, although let's face it: your kids will be filthy by Sunday night so everybody just relax.



Bring your water toys and lawn chairs and luxe ski boat, if you have one (launch it next door at the ramp). Down at the beach there will be some shade, some kayaks, floats, etc. On Saturday afternoon after 5 pm or so everyone brings a dish to share, the guys put on a burger/dog BBQ, and then we get together for worship, sharing (what's God been up to in your life?) and a lakeside baptism. On Sunday morning, Elder Bill Pritchett leads a church service, at 9:30 (meanwhile, back in Medford, nothing changes with our services at 8:30 and 10). All are invited and welcome at any and all events.

If you're the campin' type, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with your Church Family. Be sure to make a point of reaching out to new acquaintances. And, ask, is there someone we can bring with us? A child perhaps from a family not likely to camp? Make the weekend as inclusive as possible. The more folks (and food) the more fun (and calories).

These campouts have created many special memories, and a fond appreciation for God's blessing right here in our county.

If you have any questions or know someone who wants to be baptized, don't hesitate to contact us, and by "us" I mean of course "Pastor Jim," who not only has helped to organize this since the late 1800's, but knows everything about the flora and fauna of the region.

Pastor Dale

57 min (39.5 miles)

via I-5 S and Dead Indian Memorial Rd

Fastest route

St. Mary's School

816 Black Oak Dr, Medford, OR 97504

➤ Take I-5 S, Dead Indian Memorial Rd and Hyatt Prairie Rd to Willow Creek

56 min (39.4 mi)

↶ Turn left onto Willow Creek

48 s (0.1 mi)

Sugar Pine County Group Campground

Ashland, OR 97520