

Protect Thacker Pass Blockade Camp Hosting Guide

The mid-level leadership at camp consists of a camp host team of one man and one woman appointed by camp leadership. This team determines the daily needs and jobs of the camp, assigns what they can and does the rest, and provides/manages camp security. When possible, top leadership rotates through this position once a week at minimum (i.e., four days of the month).

Hosting shifts vary in length, sometimes based on how long the host will be at camp. When numbers allow, camp hosts should rotate frequently to avoid burnout. During the week, when camp is often smaller in size, one host may suffice. However, whenever possible, there should be a team of two hosts to cover weekend days (Fri, Sat, Sun). Ideally, someone else should take over on Monday to relieve those who were on duty on the weekend. In summary, try to avoid having the same people host more than 4 consecutive weekdays or 2-3 consecutive weekend days.

Hosting Responsibilities and Tasks

The camp-host team determines the daily needs and jobs of the camp, assigns what they can and does the rest, and provides/manages camp security. Common daily tasks for camp hosts and helpers may include the following:

Camper Orientation

- ❖ Welcome new and returning campers, give them an orientation packet, and answer any questions. (Show locations and systems for bathrooms and kitchen, dishwashing and water stations, extra food storage, communal pots and pans, coffee and disposable cups for guests).
- ❖ Brief campers on the campaign and upcoming events (see camp calendar). Invite campers to morning meetings when appropriate.
- ❖ Assist with elderly or disabled campers' set-up and needs where appropriate.

Camper Engagement

- ❖ Share the "Ways You Can Help Protect Peehee mu'huh, Thacker Pass" document.
- ❖ Ask the camper about his/her background, interests, and specializations, and suggest contributions the campers could make. Connect them with the right people.
- ❖ Suggest ways that campers can connect and listen to the land.
- ❖ Recommend ways to respect and listen to the indigenous peoples. Consult this [Standing Rock guide](#) for insight.
- ❖ Delegate camp tasks to willing volunteers.
- ❖ When possible, identify and elect the next camp host.

Supplies and Facilities

- ❖ Refill water tanks and ice in coolers as needed.
- ❖ Empty latrines and stock latrine supplies.
- ❖ Keep camp clean and free of trash or assign another camper to be in charge of this.
- ❖ Note any camp supply shortages and make requests that arriving campers bring these items or current campers make a trip to the store.
- ❖ Empty trash, compost, recycling. Ask campers who are leaving to take recycling and/or compost home for processing if they are willing and able.
- ❖ Help facilitate the buying of supplies and construction of new facilities, such as shade structures, as needed.

Food Management

- ❖ Make sure someone offers and makes coffee and/or snacks for elders when they visit.
- ❖ Manage food at larger events by assisting those donating food with laying things out at the appropriate time.
- ❖ Make sure paper plates, cups, bowls, napkins, and utensils are in stock and laid out with the food.
- ❖ Store foods after events and throw out food that has been sitting out too long or has passed its expiration date.

Camp Security

- ❖ Study, learn and practice the De-Escalation Team study materials (can do some of this prior to visit).
- ❖ Be familiar with security color codes as well as potential scenarios that might provoke security issues.
- ❖ Review these with your camp host team partner for the day, especially when salient.
- ❖ Know where the first aid materials are and who to call in case of emergency.
- ❖ Be aware of any conflicts and be ready to mediate or know from whom you will seek help.
- ❖ Be aware of the camp vision and goals and direct action plans, so you can be connected to the bigger picture and how you can best assist.