

Protect Thacker Pass Camper Orientation Information

Welcome to Peehee mu'huh! See below for some important information about camp.

Safety:

- ❖ The summer weather is harsh and a constant factor to keep in mind for your own health and safety. The conditions are hot from sunrise to sundown, the sun is almost always shining, and there's intermittent heavy wind. We highly recommend drinking 4 liters (~1 gallon) of water or nourishing fluids throughout each day to avoid dehydration and heat sickness. Staying in shade, wearing a hat and sunscreen, and wearing long sleeves are all the best ways to protect from sun and wind.
- ❖ FIRE SAFETY: Nevada is the driest state in the nation and summer is the driest part of the year. Thacker Pass is full of dry grasses and other ignitable material. Be VERY careful with anything that could spark a fire. We are using extra precautions with camp cook gear. Hot cars parked on top of dry grass also can spark fires. If you have an extra fire extinguisher and/or small shovel you can bring with you to camp, please do. When you arrive, check underneath your car frequently until your car has cooled. If you light a campfire, stay by it and use water to douse it before leaving it.
- ❖ Please **watch out for rattlesnakes and black widow spiders**, including at night, since snakes are nocturnal. Use a flashlight when walking at night. Look before your place a foot or hand anywhere. Snake bites most commonly happen when you scare the snake by stepping or touching it because you did not see it. Snakes do not want to use their venom on anyone they can not eat and will only do so if they feel threatened. ***If you do get bitten by a rattlesnake:*** As quickly as possible, get to a hospital where you will be able to get the anti-venom. Avoid elevating your pulse and blood pressure in the meantime, since that stimulation can cause the venom to spread more quickly through your body.
 - 1) Stay calm to keep your pulse slow, so the venom in your blood does not pump rapidly throughout your body.
 - 2) Depending where you are, call 911 or get a friend to drive you to the hospital ASAP.
 - 3) If you are far from a road, walk slowly to the road, so you do not raise your blood pressure too much. Depending on where you are, you may need a litter or help being carried out to a road. Choose a plan that will get you to the road quickly, but calmly. Do not run.
 - 4) Life-flight is also a possibility if you are way out in the backcountry, far from any roads.
- ❖ There is a first aid kit in a labeled tub by the entrance to the windbreak area at the upper camp. First aid kit contents are listed there. Find out if there is anyone with medical training at camp.
- ❖ When you go for a walk, please let others know which direction you're going and how long you'll be gone. Bring water and sun protection.
- ❖ Please wear a whistle and use it to summon other campers in the event of an emergency. If you are lost or hurt, blow the whistle in three short blasts. That is the emergency distress signal. If you hear three whistle blasts, consider if the scene is safe for you to help and then help if possible. If the scene is unsafe, return to camp and report what you saw to the camp host.
- ❖ If someone acts aggressively toward you at camp, climb in your vehicle, lock the door, and either summon others to your aid or drive away. Use your phone to warn other campers if possible. Call 911 if anyone harms anyone physically or makes verbal threats to do so.
- ❖ Follow the COVID safety and other PTP Blockade policies and protocols, which are available at protectthackerpass.org and at camp. Use hand sanitizer before touching things others may touch. Unvaccinated persons should wear a mask and practice social distancing when around others.

Respect Nature and Local People:

- ❖ Please avoid climbing the canyon directly above the gated road, as redtail hawks are nesting there and may abandon their young if disturbed frequently.
- ❖ Please avoid crushing plants when possible. Consider walking in washes or on roads or trails when possible to protect the wildlands from too much disturbance.
- ❖ Campers should not remove obsidian, feathers, or anything else from the land.
- ❖ Please dispose of trash in ways that keep it from blowing away during high winds.
- ❖ Do not take photos during indigenous ceremonies without explicit permission. Always ask before photographing indigenous people.
- ❖ In accordance with cultural customs, the Paiute-Shoshone elders request that people abstain from participating in ceremonies when menstruating. Please talk to the camp host to discuss this further or to get ideas for alternative activities.

Food, Water, and Ice:

- ❖ Feel free to use kitchen stoves, pots and pans in tubs, water jugs/coolers, and communal food coolers. Just remember to wash hands/use hand sanitizer.
- ❖ Please bring plenty of water. Water jugs can be refilled at the Shell station in Orovada (15 min drive from camp). There is a spigot on the side of the building. Ask inside to get permission. You can also buy ice at the Shell station. The Shell is only open during the day. Please try to bring at least 2-3 extra bags of ice with you when you come to camp, as the communal camp cooler's ice melts quickly.
- ❖ Please do not bring large food donations to camp since we have excess food currently. Please help yourself to anything labeled as communal food, including the donated canned food stored in the horse trailer. However, make sure to check expiration dates and to avoid anything that might have become dangerous due to overly warm temperatures. Ask around to find out how fresh the communal food in question may be. (Eat at your own risk!)
- ❖ Please fix your own food and clean up after yourself (or arrange with others to take turns), and ***please take your leftover food with you or throw it out when you leave!***

Bathrooms, Showers, and Nearby Stores:

- ❖ There are now pit-toilet outhouses at camp. After using the toilet, please sprinkle in a few wood shavings from the bag next to the toilet.
- ❖ There's a solar shower at camp that's available to anyone, although it's not ADA accessible. We ask that everyone use shower shoes to protect from fungus, that it's kept cleaner than you found it, and that the water gets refilled after your use. Feel free to ask someone to help you refill it if you need it. Otherwise, the nearest showers are available at the Shell station in Orovada (15 min drive from camp). The showers cost \$5, plus a \$5 deposit. You can also take a \$15 shower at the Flying J Truck Stop in Winnemucca (about 60 min drive from camp).
- ❖ The town of McDermitt (30 min drive away) has a couple of smaller convenience stores, but for more specialized items you'll probably need to drive to Winnemucca (paper printing, hardware stores, large grocery stores, etc.).

Please review and consent to the additional PTP Blockade Policies and Protocols before coming to camp: <https://www.protectthackerpass.org/take-action/>