

FAQ's Dining Hall Fire

What Caused the Fire?

The cause of the fire has not been determined yet. As a Standard Operating Procedure the fire investigators have been on the scene this week to determine the cause. It is not thought that this is related to the wildfires in the South Mountains.

What are the plans to rebuild?

There have been preliminary plans discussed as we have moved into our second century of service to our community. As of today, there has been a special committee put together to outline our options as we move forward. Our intention is to rebuild and serve all of our scouting family.

What's going on at the actual dining Hall site?

We will be fencing off the site with an orange barrier fencing to keep folks out of the area. Once the investigation is complete, we will bring in a crew to remove all debris and clean up the area.

What can I do to help?

Currently we are waiting for the investigation to be completed and working with our insurance/ risk management committee, chaired by John Cantrell and a building subcommittee, chaired by Mark Dent of Turner Construction. We realize there will probably be a gap between what insurance will cover and the cost to replace a building that has served us well since 1976. We will be sure to let our Scouting family, Alumni, and community know how they can help moving forward. Right now we need your prayers and positive attitude as we begin the rebuilding process. Our camp is open for business and we need your support. A lot of you have asked about helping out financially. Currently, we have established a Go Fund Me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/rebuild-camp-grimes-dining-hall> . Your continued support of Friends of Scouting (FOS) and other council special events is appreciated.

Will Camp Grimes be closed?

No. Camp will remain open and we welcome and encourage our Scout Family to continue to enjoy all the fun adventures that Camp Grimes has offered over the years.

What is the plan for Boy Scout Summer Camp 2017?

In 2017 the plan is to once again offer the best possible program and camping experience for your Scouts. We plan to introduce a new shooting sports program call Cowboy Action Shooting and we're looking at a couple of other new programs that fall under Cope and Climbing as well. We are also exploring various dining hall options for a temporary facility that will allow us to continued provide the proper dining experience, maybe better.

How will this effect unit camping?

The only way this effects unit camping is that the dining hall and open shelter area will be off limits because of safety reasons. Units can still make camp reservations via our on line registration process.

How are the wildfires in the area affecting Camp Grimes right now?

Wildfires continue to burn in western North Carolina with the smell of smoke in the air for miles around. The fire at South Mountains State Park in Burke County reportedly grew to more than 3,000 acres by midday Sunday. The smoke was noticeable across the Greater Hickory Metro area, causing hazy conditions in multiple counties including nearby McDowell County, the site of our Council's Camp Grimes. There was progress reported in fighting wildfires Sunday, according the National Forest Service. They're reporting that higher humidity assisted teams in their efforts to suppress some of the fires.

Can we have campfires in the campsites?

No, not at the time. Until further notice, the N.C. Forest Service has issued a burning ban for all of Western North Carolina, including McDowell County. The camp ranger monitors this daily.

NOTE: At this time, we have no evidence that the fire at our Belk Dining Hall at Camp Grimes is related to the wildfires that burn in western North Carolina; rather we realize that with the heightened sensitivity to recent conditions, we should assure our Scout family that the safety of our members is always paramount in our decision to take aggressive action to remove our members and leaders from impending danger.

