

Fathers Network Campout- June 16,17,18 2023 Washington Park, Anacortes, Washington

Join us for our Annual Fathers Network Campout in beautiful Washington Park, in Anacortes, WA to celebrate dads, our unique and wonderful children, and families.

The campout officially begins Friday night and ends by noon on Sunday. We have reserved the large group camping area at no cost to you. This event is open to ALL families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs. Family friends are also welcome, as we know some of these friendships are unique and important in the lives of our children, and ourselves.

If you haven't joined us before, here's some information that you'll find helpful:

Location and Finding Us: The park is located about 80 miles north of Seattle. Take the Anacortes turnoff from 1-5, heading west. Drive through the town of Anacortes and take the San Juan ferry road. Warning... Do not speed on the road from town to the park! When the road from Anacortes splits, do not go toward the ferry, stay left. Watch for signs marking the Washington Park entrance. After entering the park follow the signs for the campground area and on your left, you'll see a small house, we will be just past the house. Please park your cars in the regular parking lot. Using this [link](#) you can see a map of the park, including the park entrance and the group camping area.

Signing In: Because of reporting requirements for the Fathers Network, there will be a sign in sheet to allow me to capture the following information: one parent's name, zip code, # of males over 18 in your group and total # of people in your group. As I see people arrive, I'll ask one person in their party to fill out the sheet.

To overnight or not to overnight and accommodation options: Some families arrive for a Friday night stay, but most families arrive on Saturday. Some families stay into Sunday and others return home Saturday night. Families bring a variety of accommodations- tents, trailers, and some even 'motel it' in Anacortes. (Note: If you bring a 5th wheel you must pay and contact the City of Anacortes to ensure camping space is open as there is no room in the free group camping area.) There are no hookups for campers, but there is a nice, covered cooking area, restrooms, and even hot showers close by in the campground. There is plenty of space, so we have room for everyone! **Please note:** there is no electricity at our campsite and generators are prohibited between 9pm and 8am by the park's written regulations. Fortunately, 46 of the 68 individual campsites at the park have electrical (and water) hook-ups, so if you need electricity, you can easily reserve (for a small fee) a site for that, and then join us at the group site for daytime activities. Also, by park rules, the campground area becomes quiet at 10:00pm and dogs must be leashed at all times in the park.

Clothes... Stay casual, and bring along an extra sweater or sweatshirt, so the evening activities will be comfortable. An extra set of clothes for the kids would be a good thing, as there is water to play in (Puget Sound) nearby.

Food... is your choice. Essentially, everyone brings their own food, utensils, cups, drinks, etc. However, on Saturday evening, we do share desserts, so fold that into food plans. There is a large grill on site so no need to bring the BBQ.

When Do We Eat? Eating is on your own schedule, but we do shoot for about 5:30pm for a group Saturday dinner. We'll have a campfire going and gathering around it can be a very fun time for everyone. Marshmallows & graham crackers will be provided for s'mores. If you have a musical instrument, bring it along. A few camp songs would be fun!

Weather... be prepared, rain is always a possibility.

Activities... The kids particularly enjoy the nearby playground, the trails to explore, plus whatever you want to add, like bubbles, Frisbees, balls, etc.

Questions... Call me, Matthew Rickmon, at 425-653-4286 with any questions. This is my work number, and it will be forwarded to my cellphone. Just a heads-up cell phone service in the park can be unreliable. Ed Gegen, the lead on making all this happen, says he can also be called with questions. His cell is 360-728-9731. Since Ed lives in Anacortes, he's offered to be available for updated weather reports

A big shout out goes to Ed and Jeannie Gegen, Anacortes residents, and an original WSNF family for all the work they do to make this such an outstanding event. Thank you for arranging our visits over the years!

There will be thank you cards at the campsite for you to sign that will be sent to the Anacortes Parks Department. Or, you can send your own thank you to: Anacortes Parks Department, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221

The Fathers Network Essential Anacortes Campout Checklist

- We have enough clothes to stay warm and dry.
- We have remembered to bring all necessary adaptive equipment
- We have planned for accommodations, (i.e., tent, ground tarp, mats, sleeping bags, pillows, lawn chairs, OR, we have hooked up the trailer, OR, made reservations at a motel.
- We have enough food, even for the hungriest of kids... and dad! Plus, we have a dessert to share on Saturday evening.
- We know how to get to Anacortes.