

TRC Discussion Forum

Purpose

To facilitate communication within the camp, including but not limited to: furthering discussion in a forum-like environment of camp and board of directors (BOD) issues, communicating camp issues in a timely fashion to a large group for immediate action, allowing everyone involved in committees and camp duties to keep up with what's being discussed and in the planning stages. The members of the forum will include all board members, campsite coordinators, committee members and members with an annual membership who choose to be involved in the forum.

Forum Rules

The forum is intended to be an extension of the TRC board meetings and will follow all guidelines for meeting including the items listed in the *Code of Ethics* and *TRC Camper's Guide*. These documents may be found under the 'Board Meetings' tab. The forum will follow standard internet forum rules and guidelines, including but not limited to:

- Be polite and respectful. Personal issues or private conversations should be handled through email or instant messaging. Keep in mind there are differences of opinion, try to remain objective and do not personalize others' comments.
- Stay on topic and discuss issues relative to the thread in progress. "Thread" is the term used for an ongoing conversation. Do not start a new topic within a continuing thread. If the conversation veers away from the topic mentioned in the subject header try to get it back on track. This may be initiated by the forum moderator as well.
- Before starting a new topic, search the forum to see if your topic has been previously brought up and use its thread to add your thoughts. Commenting on any thread brings it back up to the top of the forum.
- Think before you post. Don't let emotions control what you write. Remember what you write can come back to haunt you.

- Never delete a thread you started if there are comments already started by others. Penalties including removal from the forum will be assessed if this happens. Deleting your comments within a thread should be avoided but is understandable under certain circumstances.
- Do not pop into a conversation and drop a completely unrelated comment without adding to the discussion. It is considered rude, much like interrupting a conversation. Do not “troll” (be provocative or post comments intended to incite or bait a negative reaction). Do not “flame” (call names or otherwise demean someone). Friendly joking around is acceptable and expected but don’t overdo it or veer too far off topic.
- Do not post private information.
- Be helpful to those who are just learning forum etiquette.
- In regards to ‘freedom of speech’...yes, you can say whatever you like, but forums are the property of the organization that created it and there can be penalties for not following the rules. Remember, you have a right to say anything you like but the forum moderator also has the right to use the ‘remove’ button.

Moderating

The forum will be moderated much like board meetings are moderated. The moderator’s job will be to redirect the conversation if needed or act upon forum violations. They will not remove any content...everyone is responsible for their own words. The moderators will include the president and one or two persons agreed upon by the board. Should any moderator feel that someone has violated the forum rules, they will be publically notified within the forum so that everyone is aware of the perceived infraction. The person warned may publicly comment or privately communicate with the moderating board if they like. A second offense within one month (a month shall be considered the time between board meetings) will result in removal from the forum until the next board meeting, at which time their removal may be considered for discussion at the meeting or they may simply be reinstated. Further violations may result in permanent removal. The monthly or permanent removal of any person shall be by agreement of all moderators.