

## **Lodging and multiple dog rules for the main DSA camp in MI:**

### **Lodging:**

Campers staying in tents or RV's can have as many persons as they like stay in their RV or tent, but those persons must have paid to attend camp. Each tent and RV is charged individually, even if they share a tent/RV spot. Easy-ups or screen tents to house dogs are not charged as sleeping quarters unless used as such by a person.

Anyone caught "smuggling" extra dogs, cats, children or other animals in to camp without paying for them to be there will be asked to leave, or be charged the usual rate for each offending creature.

If you have only 1 or 2 well mannered dogs with you, your lodging options at camp are plentiful.

If your dog is destructive and can't/won't be crated or if your dog is likely to urinate on things or have housetraining accidents indoors you need to bring your own lodging (tent, RV, etc.)

If your dog tends to threaten other dogs (with evil looks, barking, etc.), or if your dog is an escape artist that will look for the smallest opening/opportunity to go find you, or your dog is likely to get into other people's treats/dog food/stuff and can't/won't be crated then you can't stay in a group room in the lodge.

If your dog barks excessively during the day and/or night, you can't stay in the lodge (private or group room). The walls are too thin and everyone will hear your dog. During the day, this disrupts presentations and generally gets on nerves. You'll need to rent or bring an RV or use a tent or stay at the hotel in town or if it's only during the day, you may need to confine your dog in your car if weather permits. If you find out your dog does this after you get to camp, you'll be asked to move to different lodging and the upgrade or additional fees will be your responsibility. If camp is full, the hotel may be your only option. So plan your lodging accordingly when registering for camp.

Private rooms in the lodge are small, so if you have 2 people and each of you have 2 large dogs, you likely won't all fit in a private room. Check with the camp director if you have questions about who can stay in the private rooms of the lodge.

If you are staying at the hotel, you may use your vehicle or set-up an X-pen or crates in the shade to contain your dogs at camp as long as they are not disruptive or escape artists and the weather does not pose a safety hazard. You are responsible for making sure your dogs are safe and that the sun has not moved to expose them to excessive heat, etc. There is no indoor space available for housing extra dogs during the day.

### **Numbers of Dogs:**

If this will be your first time at Dog Scout camp, you may only bring 2 dogs with you. Special permission must be requested in writing if you need an exception to this rule.

Campers that have been to camp before that want to bring more than 2 dogs will pay a \$50.00 fee per additional dog (animals/pets other than dogs may not be brought onto camp property). The camp director has the right to decline a request to bring more than 2 dogs, even if a person is willing to pay the extra fee. This may happen based on the number of dogs already registered for camp or if a person has demonstrated having trouble managing multiple dogs in the past. If declined, you will be notified shortly after registration.

Campers may have up to 2 dogs with them at a time, so if you brought more than 2, you'll need to take them out in shifts. If this becomes problematic, you will be asked to only have 1 dog out at a time. If any dog is left barking in a room in the lodge, the person will need to move to other lodging as stated above.

Questions to ask yourself to determine if staying in the lodge will work for you or cause you to find other lodging during camp:

- Is your dog stressed by being left alone in a new place?
- Is your dog stressed in a crate or otherwise confined?
- Does your dog bark, whine or howl repeatedly or excessively? (Keep in mind your dog will be able to hear other dogs and people moving in the hall, adjoining rooms and in the lecture room.)
- Does your dog give evil looks or bark at other dogs or people if they get close to your dog's crate, space, food, etc.?
- Are you planning to bring a LOT of stuff with you? (All of your stuff should be able to fit within a 10' x 10' area that includes the bed if you plan to stay in the lodge)
- Is your dog likely to chew things that don't belong to him, urinate or defecate inside, or look for the smallest opening to come find you if a door is opened when you are not in the room?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then the main lodge is probably not your best lodging option. Consider renting an RV on-site (if your dog is not destructive and is not going to potty in it) or bring your own RV, or bring a tent or use the hotel in town. Please don't let your dog destroy property or potty in the hotel. We want them to look forward to having Dog Scout people use their hotel and be able to compliment them on their responsibility and control of their dogs.

### **Mini Camp:**

Mini camps held at the main DSA facility in MI have the same policy as above. Mini-camps in other locations may have different rules and lodging options. Check with the camp host to verify their policies.