

Fathers Network Campout- June 16, 17, 18, 2017
Washington Park, Anacortes, Washington

The **34th Annual Fathers Network Campout** for the *whole family* in beautiful Washington Park, in Anacortes, WA will, as always, be one to remember! Join us and celebrate dads, our unique and wonderful children, and families.

If this is a new experience for you, plan on lots of fun, and meeting great people! Kids, young or old, love having the freedom to play, explore, eat, laugh, and celebrate around the magic of the campfire. And, you couldn't do it in a nicer place with nicer people.

The campout officially begins Friday night, and ends about 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 special 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. Come on out and help us celebrate Father's Day and our families!

Here is the low down for the campout weekend:

Arrival... Some families arrive for a Friday night stay, but most families arrive on Saturday (17th), and join the festivities for the evening BBQ and Fire Side Rituals-all fun! Some families stay into Sunday (18th, Father's Day!) others return home or extend into a vacation in the area. 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 City of Anacortes to ensure camping space is open as there is no room in the free group camping area.) When you arrive just let the ranger know you are looking for the Fathers Network site and you'll be pointed in the right direction. 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!

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 (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, and we'll plan on having some extra fun around the campfire. There are grills on site so no need to bring the BBQ. Marshmallows & graham crackers will be provided, just to make sure we don't run out. S'mores to start the summer season!!

When Do We Eat? We'll shoot for about 5:30 p.m. for Saturday dinner. The campfire can be a very fun time for kids big and small. If you have a musical instrument, bring it along. A few camp songs would be fun! Somebody want to lead the singing?

Weather... Anacortes is usually sunny even when it may be damp in other places. But,

be prepared, it did rain hard on Friday night last year.

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

Location... 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. The park is 1/2 mile west of the ferry turnoff. Watch for signs marking the Washington Park entrance. Warning... Do not speed on the road from town to the park! We will post signs in the park indicating our camping area. Please park cars in the regular parking lot.

Questions... Call Louis Mendoza before the event at 425-653-4286 (Kindering Center) with any questions. In the park, cell phone service is spotty but if you need to reach Louis you can email him at louis.mendoza@kindering.org (you can also use this as an address in a text). Ed Gegen, the lead on making all this happen, says he can also be called with questions. His home # is 360-293-2735 and his cell is 360-421-0550. Since Ed lives in Anacortes he's offered to be available for updated weather reports

A big shoutout 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!

The Fathers Network Essential Campout Checklist

We have enough clothes to stay warm and dry.

We have remembered to bring the kids and all necessary adaptive equipment so we can all have a good time.

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... we have GPS!

We are ready to relax, have fun, meet some wonderful people, and celebrate many amazing years of the Fathers Network campout.

And, please write a letter to the Anacortes Parks Department after the campout thanking them for facilitating the WSNF Campout.

Send to: Anacortes Parks Department, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221