



Food For Thought  
~~ A 2017 Jamboree *Food Team* Communiqué ~~  
~ January 2017 ~

The month of January welcomes us to a Jamboree year. I can tell, because the pace of work to set the plans in place is ever accelerating. In that regard this month all staff received two key communications and, as is sometimes the case, they have presented questions in addition to answers. So our newsletter to all Food Team staff (and interested bystanders) seems a fine time to try to share a bit of perspective on those critical messages rolling out now that are bearing details of things necessary for our staff to plan and do.

Let's cover these critical topics in the next two pages (the page limit long ago self imposed on this newsletter). The topics at hand are Travel Registration and Housing. I know there won't be room to deal with the third topic that is percolating – Driver's Certification – so stay tuned to next month's newsletter for that.

I looked back and it was on January 10<sup>th</sup> when the email concerning Arrival & Departure registration with Transportation Management Services (TMS) was launched. The email contained information about 'required action' (quoting the email with its color: *Please note every staff member is required to register their arrival and departure times with TMS.*) It also included links to such vital information for those flying to the Jamboree about the:

- ❖ airport shuttle services (<http://www.summitbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Staff-Airport-Shuttle-Times-11302016.pdf>)
- ❖ purchasing shuttle passes (<http://events.tms.com/events/2017-airport-jamboree-staff-volunteer-transportation/event-summary-d768985248ed4788b5f627c098110eb1.aspx>)

I included those links again so you have them handy! Now for most of you, this is the precise time to set your travel plans in place and to register them with TMS. Before you do, we are asking Food Team staff to consult with your area lead about your arrival and departure days so you are sure you have them correct. Once you know when you are to report and depart make sure TMS does as well. Here is the link again to that process: <http://events.tms.com/events/2017-jamboree-staff-registration/event-summary-478c932722c24cd8aa9604f8369bfd27.aspx>

As you pin down your days at the Jamboree, we have an offer for those whose schedule might permit a couple more days before the event. A few key Food Team staff (in the staff dining area particularly) will be coming to the Summit earlier than others to set up and be prepared to open meal service for all arriving staff. So for those of you reading this and suddenly are saying something like "I'm available to come early" please get in touch with your area lead and volunteer your services now. We need a handful more folks to help get the staff dining area running smoothly and even though that may not be your assigned area role during the Jamboree we would welcome the help. It is a fun time and you would also more easily get settled on site and be part of the ramp up of this great event with all the Food Team leadership.

Now there is one issue for those of you who have been approved by Food Team for early arrival because we quickly discovered that the TMS registration system does not permit the selection of an



arrival day prior to July 12<sup>th</sup>. So if you are one of the folks who has so graciously volunteered to come early to help and have been asked to arrive before the 12<sup>th</sup>, please wait for further instructions before registering with TMS. We are pursuing the issue so that our staff can report their actual assigned early arrival day and will let you know when we have it worked out. Don't feel that you are not wanted because the system doesn't offer the day you were asked to report, that is just a pesky technical problem.

Next on the list of hot topics is staff camp tent roommate assignments. I'll say that if there is ever a Jamboree topic that evokes emotion, where and with whom one resides for the duration of the event is it! Thinking about the task at hand of matching requests and actually fulfilling the promises made to all staff of having a true choice of tent mates, this will likely be one of the hardest tasks at hand in 2017 and my hat is off to Base Camp E Chief Mark Kriebel and his staff camp housing team who are tackling this.

Though I wish I had precise answers to provide now about how the housing assignments will work in practice as they relate to the Food Team but there are mostly open questions at this point because it is after all just January. A bit of history may help you understand the open topic for in the past Food Team staff have been set apart in the housing process for a couple of reasons. The first is that we are among the earliest to arrive at the Jamboree and always there, needing tent assignments, before the housing folks themselves arrive. Traditionally they just stuck us immediately adjacent to the staff dining hall, which was easy of course. Interestingly enough this placement proved good for everyone else on staff too, because none of the other staff ever seemed happy when assigned to a tent proximate to the dining hall that lights up at 4:00am as our team reports to duty to prepare for 5:00am breakfast service. It is anything but quiet as carts of coffee urns are moved around, tables adjusted from the patch traders use the night before, trash cans emptied and set for the morning rush and the usual array of jocularly that accompanies earlier than desired service to one's fellow staff to enable them to dine at dawn. Since it is understandably way too early to know more, we keep you posted as plans develop.

In the meanwhile, Food Team is preparing to handle our own tent assignments if we are again given the responsibility to position all our staff in the block assigned adjacent to the dining hall. We are glad for the leadership of Lady Angela Smith and Linda Strickland who together will coordinate this process for all our staff and do the job of matching requested tent mates. With all that background you may be asking yourself whether you should reply to the Jamboree Housing email sent to all staff on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Of course look back for that email if what I'm saying isn't familiar. They asked all staff to indicate any preferences for tent mate(s) by May 5<sup>th</sup> and the logical question many may have is whether you do so or wait.

Obviously there is still a lot of time until May 5<sup>th</sup> for things to develop and feel free to wait a while. Certainly before the deadline if things aren't completely resolved, the tactic we are suggesting for Food Team is a sort of belt and suspenders approach as the best course of action for all of us to follow. Under that approach if you know your desired tent mate(s), we suggest you indicate them in reply to the Housing request. Then also be sure also to send that information to our Food Team Housing Liaison, Linda Strickland, at [foxbeaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:foxbeaver@bellsouth.net). On behalf of Food Team she will track your requests too so if we find that our team is going to handle tent assignments adjacent to the dining hall we already will have been advised of your desired tent partners. There will be much more to follow on this topic surely, so stay tuned.



Yikes, this is page three so on that note I'll close. By the way, in just six months the Jamboree is over – ponder that.