

# Welcome



# Beginner-friendly Camping Resource Guide

Camp Shabbona Woods, May 9-11, 2025

Welcome! We're excited to share the weekend with you on Outdoor Asian Chicago's first ever camping adventure!

In this guide you will find all of the information you need for the trip (hopefully!). If not, do not hesitate to **reach out to us** at [outdoorasianchi@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorasianchi@gmail.com) or **DM one of the event hosts in Partiful**.

## How to use this guide:

On the left ← (on computer) or bottom (on phone) of the page, you will see a place where you can view the different document tabs.

They are:

- Welcome (this page)
- Arrival
- Schedule/Food
- Packing List
- Parking/Campground Info
- Campground Rules
- Emergency info

## Trip leaders

- Alex Biswas (757) 375-1839
- Rachel Chen (919) 656-5771
- Justin Fujii (847) 348-9526
- Maria Fujii (847) 773-0386

Arrival

## Arrival

Campers are responsible for transportation to the campground, though we will be offering assistance to connect to other participants to carpool with (as indicated in registration form.) Questions? Email us [outdoorasianchi@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorasianchi@gmail.com)

### Entrance

Type in address manually (not 'Camp Shabbona Woods'), Apple Maps has history of taking ppl to wrong location

**Camp Shabbona Woods**  
**15810 S Torrence Ave**  
**South Holland, IL 60473**

Arrival info, Friday, May 9:

- 4:00 - 6:00 PM - Please plan to arrive at the campground.\* **The campground closes and locks at 10PM and does not reopen until 7AM. If this is an issue, reach out.**
- 4:15 PM - The Forest Preserves will be doing a tent setup demonstration. We will assist campers who arrive after that with their setup.
- 6:30PM - We will be going over the plan for the weekend, safety information, and the activities for Saturday.

\*If you are unable to arrive between 4:00 - 6:00 PM, please make sure to connect with a Leader upon your arrival to get brought up to speed.

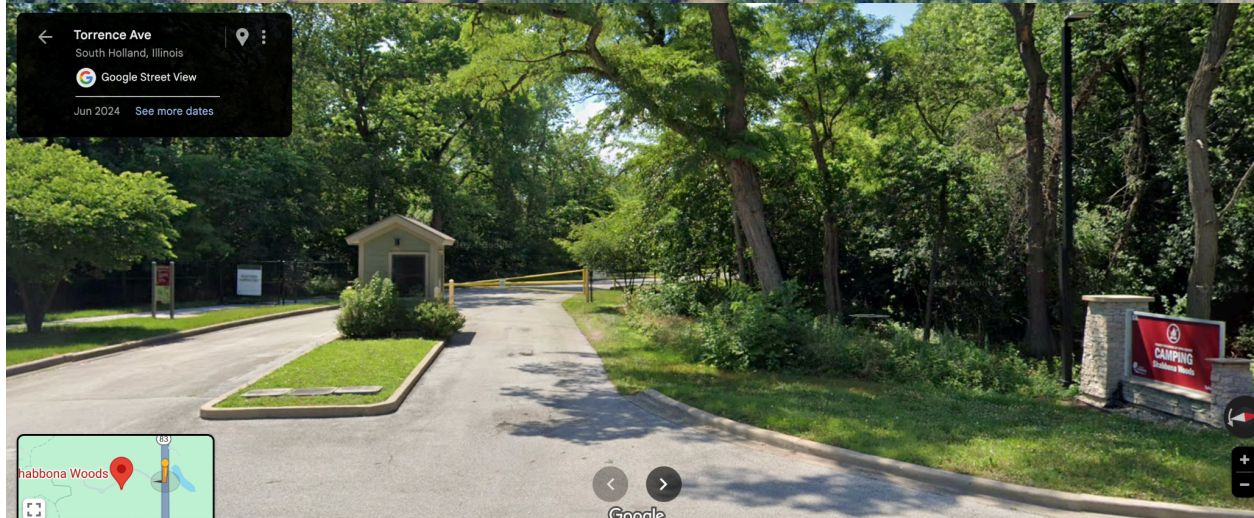
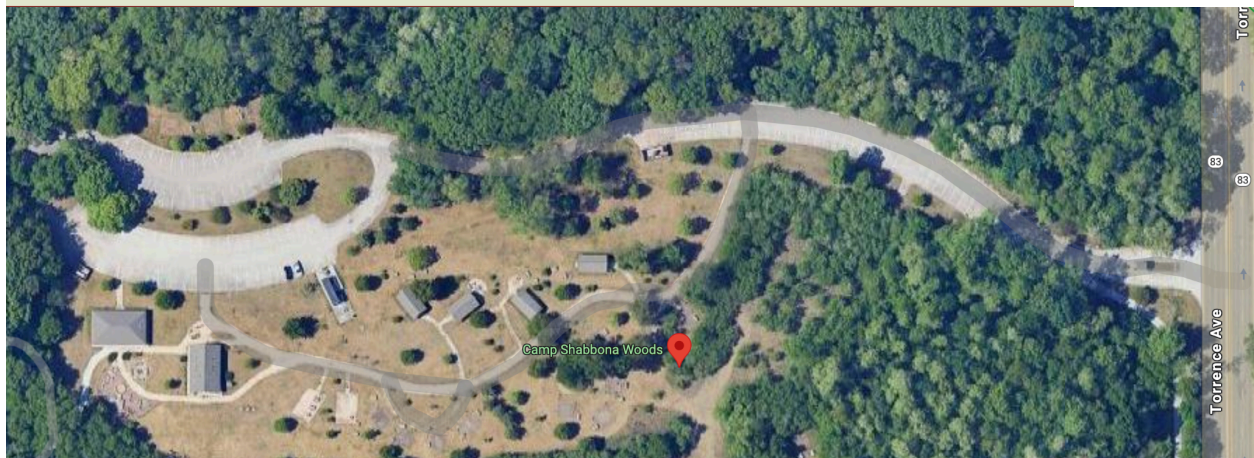
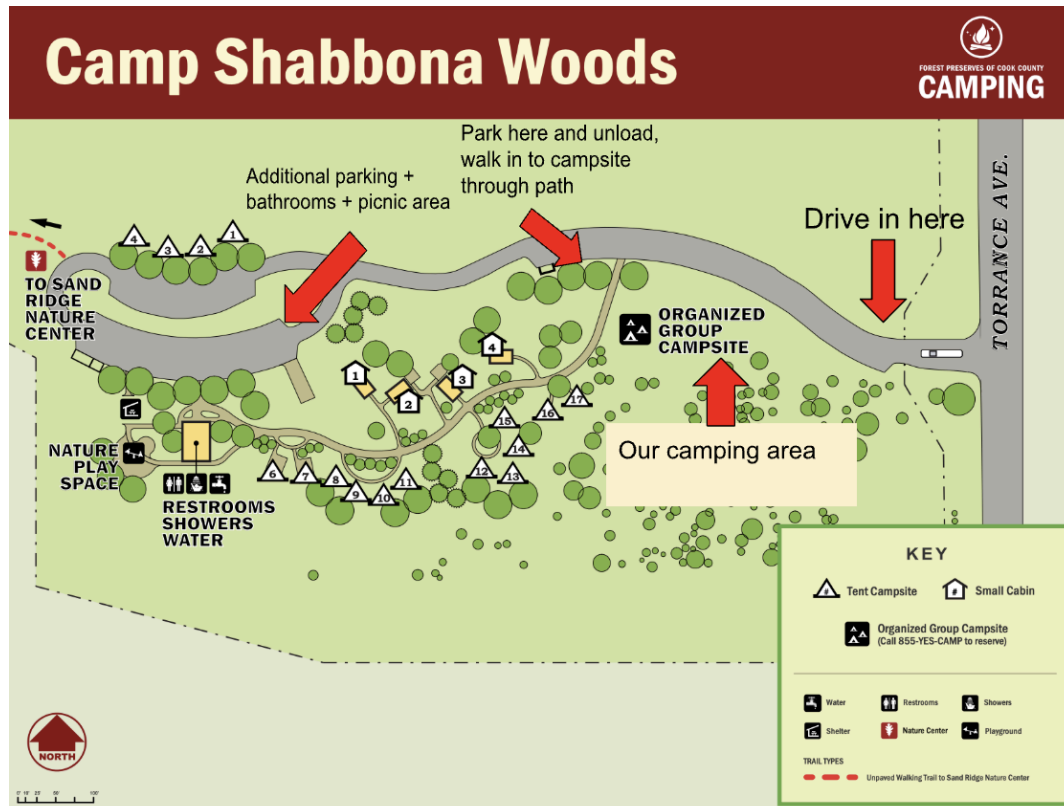
### When you arrive

When you arrive at Camp Shabbona, enter from Torrence Ave. You will see parking on the left. Park there and take the path in and we will direct you to the campsite. It is a short walk (about 2 min). See maps below.

**Please call Alex (757) 375-1839 or message us in the [Whatsapp chat](#) when you arrive.** We will have carts for you to help bring your items to the camping area and will help guide you to the group camping area.

See maps and photos below, and additional info in the 'parking/campground info' tab.







## TO REACH CAMPSITE FROM BATHROOM/PAVILION AREA

**Below:** You can also get to our campsite **from the restroom area**. As you walk down the path (tent pads to right, cabins to your left), this is the view once you turn right off the trail between tent pads 15 and 16 and head back into the group area. You will notice there is an opening in the taller brown/dried grass in the back of the photo - head in that direction.



## Schedule/Food

## Schedule

**Meals are in green**

**Learning opportunities are in pink**

All meals are provided and we will be providing some alternatives for dietary restrictions. However, you are welcome to bring your own food but participants will not have access to the cooking equipment outside of designated meal times. If you have questions or concerns about the food we are providing, don't hesitate to reach out at [outdoorasianchi@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorasianchi@gmail.com).

**If you have anything you'd like to cook over the campfire, feel free to bring it! Alcohol is permitted, but no glass.**

### Friday, May 9

- 4:00 - 6:00 PM → Checkin and camp setup help (**See 'Arrival' tab for important details**)
  - How to pitch a tent
- 6:30 PM → Welcome
  - Introductions and weekend overview
  - Tour of facilities
  - Talk about Saturday daytime activities (sort into groups ahead of time)
- 7:00 PM → Community dinner (ramen)
- 8:00 PM → Dinner cleanup
  - How to clean dishes at camp
- 8:30 PM → Campfire and social time (s'mores)
- 11:00 PM → Quiet time

### Saturday, May 10

- 8:00 AM → Coffee & Campfire Breakfast Prep
  - How to make coffee and cook at camp
- 9:00 AM → Breakfast is served (vegetarian breakfast burritos)
- 9:30 AM → Begin breakfast cleanup (but leave some stuff out for late sleepers)
- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM → Day of activities
  - Breakout into groups depending on activity ([see activity details below](#))
    - **Notify Leaders Alex or Rachel about which activity you choose**
  - Lunch on your own (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches + fruit)
    - Lunch items will be around for people to make or pack
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM → Get settled after a long day

- 5:00 - 6:30 PM → Dinner prep/campfire
  - How to build a fire and cook at camp
- 6:30 PM → Dinner is served (hot dogs, hamburgers/veggie burgers, baked beans)
- 7:30 PM - 8:00 PM → Dinner cleanup
- 8:00 PM → Nighttime activity
  - **Night walk - led by Credell Walls, Director of Sand Ridge Nature Center**
  - S'mores
- 11PM → Quiet time

## Sunday, May 11

- 8:00 AM → Coffee and breakfast prep
- 9:00 AM → Breakfast is served (oatmeal and fruit)
- 9:30 - 10:00 → Clean out tents and debrief
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM → Checkout and camp cleanup
  - How to take down a tent
  - **See 'Campground Rules' tab, section 'Checking out of the campsite' for important details**
- 11:00 AM → Participants depart campground

## Saturday activity details

1. **Hike at EITHER Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie or at Sand Ridge Nature Center (depending on interest and availability of vehicles, may be led by Leader Alex or Forest Preserve staff)**
  - a. Sand Ridge Nature Center offers 4 miles of nature trails you can explore, including 0.6 miles of ADA-accessible trails!
  - b. The [Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie](#) is the largest island in the archipelago of protected areas that collectively comprise the Chicago Wilderness. It includes a full array of species and natural processes typical of tallgrass prairies in the region, including the reintroduction of bison. Turning back the clock from a landscape dominated by rusting munitions factories and abandoned munitions bunkers into a 20,283 acre pristine tallgrass prairie makes the Midewin a compelling vision for landscape scale restoration.
    - i. We will return by 4 pm
    - ii. 45 min drive away
2. **Litter cleanup (led by the Sand Ridge Nature Center)**

- a. As part of Chicago River Day, the Sand Ridge Nature Center will be leading a cleanup event around the nature center. Though this event will **not** be held at a river, the nature center is part of the greater Chicago-Calumet River system and it's important to care for our natural areas!
- b. Litter cleanup will begin in the morning

### **3. Free day**

- a. **Birdwatching** - The Sand Ridge Nature Center is a great place for birdwatching! Binoculars are available to borrow - just ask the nature center staff for assistance.
- b. **Explore Sand Ridge Nature Center (on your own)** - Sand Ridge Nature Center features interactive exhibits, programs and knowledgeable staff to guide you through the natural and cultural history of the Calumet Region. Visitors will find native wildlife ambassadors, including birds of prey, snakes, turtles and fish, as well as hands-on activities and self-guided nature fun.
- c. **Take a nap/lounge about/explore area on own**

# Packing List

# Packing List

## What we're providing *(all gear is to borrow for the weekend, not to take home):*

- Tents (to share)
- Sleeping bag (rated down to 31F comfortably, but can keep you warm down to -12F)
- Sleeping pad (NOTE: pads are not super thick, so consider bringing a yoga mat, twin sized mattress topper, or thicker sleeping pad if you'd like extra cushion)
- Sleeping bag cocoon
- Kitchen gear and utensils for cooking and making coffee
- All meals and coffee/tea/water

## What you should bring:

The facilities will have bathrooms with running water, showers, and limited electrical outlets in the bathrooms.

Deciding what to pack comes down to what will make you most comfortable. This list is exhaustive so pack whatever makes sense for you. However, we have highlighted our recommended **'must-haves'** in orange for those of you who are minimal packers.

### Clothing

- ☐ Pajamas/lounge clothing
  - ☐ Comfortable outdoor outfits for 2 days (We recommend you bring a few options and dress in layers, in case of cooler weather or heat. Moisture-wicking is best if you have it.)
- Our recs:**
- ☐ 1 long sleeve top
  - ☐ 2 short sleeve top
  - ☐ 1 fleece/hoodie
  - ☐ 1 pair of shorts
  - ☐ 1 pair of pants, moisture-wicking. Jeans/denim not recommended.
  - ☐ 1 warmer jacket or shell that is wind/water resistant/proof
  - ☐ Slip-on shoes (for walking around camp, to bathroom)
  - ☐ Hiking/walking shoes (sturdy, comfortable, with good tread)
  - ☐ Flip flops/shower shoes (if you're planning on showering)
  - ☐ 3 pair underwear
  - ☐ 3 pair socks

### Toiletries

- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Skincare



- ☐ Contacts/contact solution/holder (if applicable)
- ☐ Medications (if applicable - don't forget your tums and lactaid!)
- ☐ Shower items (if you plan on showering at camp - some people do not)
- ☐ Towel (for shower)

### **For meals**

- ☐ Plate
- ☐ Bowl/thermos (preferably one that can hold hot ramen ;) )
- ☐ Eating utensils: Fork, spoon, knife
- ☐ Plastic/metal tupperware or ziplock bags (for leftovers)
- ☐ Reusable water bottle (not glass)
- ☐ Reusable coffee mug (not glass)

### **Gear**

- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Sunblock
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Foldable chair (camp chair/beach chair)
- ☐ Headlamp (we recommend one with a red light mode and at least 200 lumens)
- ☐ Lantern/flashlight
- ☐ Small backpack/fanny pack
- ☐ Portable phone charger/battery pack (to charge phone - make sure it's charged up!)
- ☐ Extra blanket (if you get cold easily or want to cozy up by the bonfire)
- ☐ Ear plugs (if you're a light sleeper - people snore)

## Parking/Campground info

## Campground Info

### Introduction to Camp Shabbona

Camp Shabbona Woods is part of the Sand Ridge campus, which includes the Sand Ridge Nature Center, 4 miles of trails (3 of which are paved for biking, walking, or running), a fishing lake, and more.

Explore everything that makes the Calumet Region special at Sand Ridge Campus - a 585-acre nature-based education and recreation area that invites visitors to learn about and enjoy the natural and cultural history of the area.

The campsite has **ADA-accessible features**, including restrooms, some paved paths, tables, and a GRIT Freedom Chair (for all-terrain) available to borrow. Let us know if you have any accessibility needs or questions!

### Participant Entrance

**15810 S Torrence Ave  
South Holland, IL 60473**

**See map below for parking info and campground details.**

#### Amenities:

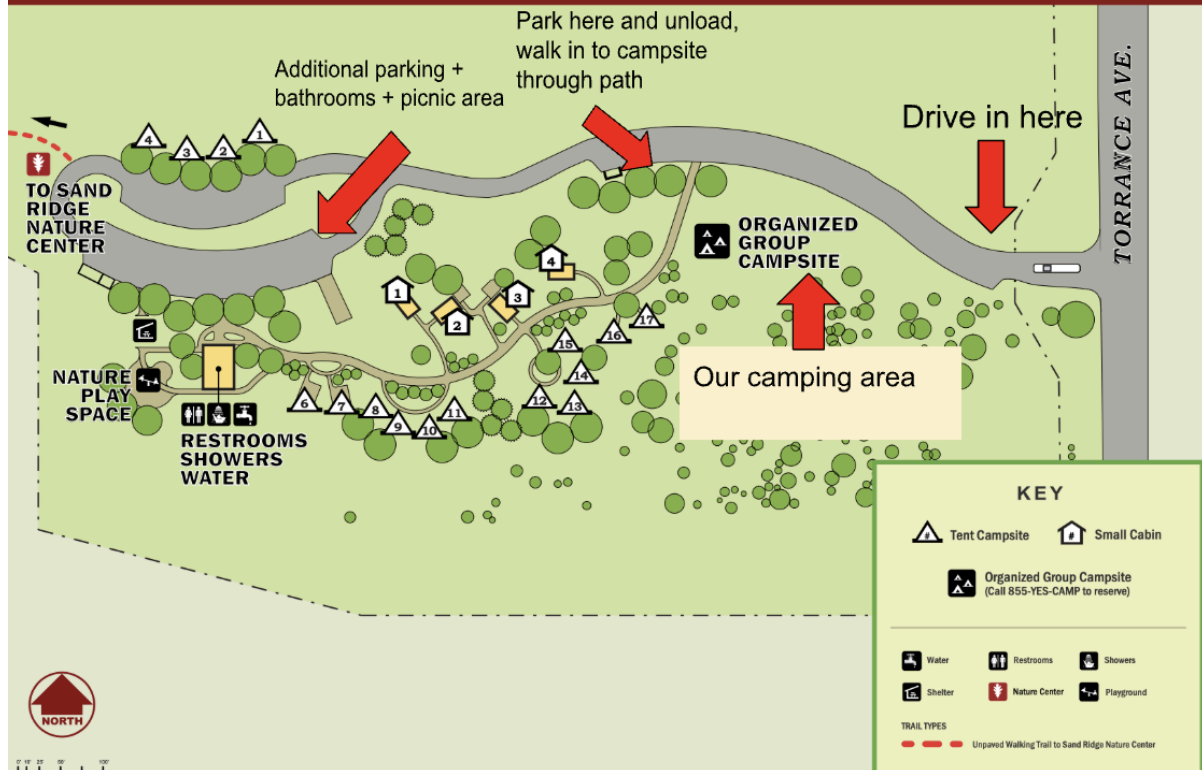
- Accessible bathrooms with running water
- Showers
- Parking
- Water fountain

[Photos of the campsite and tent setup](#)

[Camp Shabbona Woods Website](#)

[Camp Shabbona Woods Map \(pdf\)](#)

# Camp Shabbona Woods



## Trails to Explore

- Lost Beach Trail
- Dogwood Trail
- Redwing Trail
- Pines Trail
- Swallowtail Trail
- Egret Trail
- Burnham Greenway Trail (BGT) System

## Other Areas to Explore

- Green Lake (Family Aquatic Center)
- Fishing Areas
- Clayhole Woods
- 1 Rentable Picnic Grove
- Green Lake Woods
- 1 - 4 Rentable Picnic Grove



Access this map with your device!

# Campground Rules

# Campground Rules

## Campground Rules

- Quiet hours: 11PM - 7AM
- **The gate around the campground locks at night from 10PM to 7AM**
- Outside firewood is not permitted, firewood is available on site
- Firearms, weapons, fireworks, generators, electric heaters, and **glass beverage containers are not permitted onsite**
- Alcohol is allowed but no glass

## Loaner equipment rules from the Forest Preserves

- Do not use aerosol items in or around the tents within 8 ft
  - If you are applying bug spray or sunblock, please do so away from the tent area
  - Aerosols wear away the waterproofing of the tents
- Please do not wear shoes in or on the tents
  - The Forest Preserves would like these tents to last a long time, and removing your shoes will help with wear and tear
- No food allowed in the tents
- You **MUST** use a cocoon in your sleeping bag
  - The cocoons are easier to wash in bulk than the sleeping bags
- If an accident occurs, just tell someone
  - It's easier to clean one tent, rather than mix them all together and have to clean all of the tents

## Checking out of the campsite

- **Check out your gear with Alex - this is required! Be sure all items assigned to you are returned organized**
- Leave things better than you found them
- Sweep out dirt and debris from tents before packing them away
- Pick up litter and food
- Carry out any garbage that doesn't fit in the bins
- Do a walkthrough of the pavilion and campsite to make sure all trash is picked up

# Emergency Info

## Emergency Information

### Trip leaders

- Alex Biswas (757) 375-1839
- Rachel Chen (919) 656-5771
- Justin Fujii (847) 348-9526
- Maria Fujii (847) 773-0386

The Forest Preserves of Cook County Police provides emergency response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**(If it is an emergency, call 911 from any phone.** Depending on the scenario, the dispatcher may forward your call to the Forest Preserve Police.

- **Non-emergency police number:** 708-771-1001
- Camp Shabbona Woods Campground office: (312) 636-0018 (best for after hours)
- Sand Ridge Nature Center front desk: (708) 868-0606

**In the event you call the emergency or non-emergency numbers, notify a Trip Leader immediately afterwards.**

### Nearest hospital/emergency room (3.5 mi.):

Franciscan Health Hammond  
5454 Hohman Ave  
Hammond, IN 46320  
(219) 932-2300