

Camp Charters



A camp may be established when a minimum of ten members are organized. The camp organization date is based on the full roster of ten members and is considered the first year at that point. Once established, a camp charter may be prepared to document the organization.

A camp charter is in a certificate format that declares the name of the camp, the company that the camp is part of, the date organized, the location, the original officers, and the original members within that camp with their registration numbers and signatures. The camp charter is completed when signatures are obtained from the company president, registrar, and secretary as well as the International president, registrar, and secretary.

Camp Charter Member is: One of the original ten members when a camp was organized.

Camp Charter Meeting Minutes are: Minutes recorded at the first meeting of a new camp.

Camp charters were not prepared by ISDUP until recent years; therefore, searching for a camp charter certificate in camp or company materials may prove fruitless.

When camps are interested in obtaining a charter, research is necessary to begin the process. That research is the responsibility of the camp. Consider these points as you research:

- On what date was the first camp meeting?
- Who were the members attending the first camp meeting?
- Who were the officers?
- Minutes of that initial camp meeting are the best resource and should be in the camp materials. Check on both the camp and company levels as the camp establishment is probably recorded in the company minutes as well. Also, scrapbooks are a valuable source.
- What are the corresponding Membership Numbers of each of those Members? The earliest member number (oldest/lowest number) may be a clue. The relationship is that the Members may have joined in time proximity to another camp being formed. Refer to *Membership Number by Year* form found at: ISDUP.org → Forms tab → Secretary forms.
- ISDUP has only a few camp and company histories that can be searched by visiting the ISDUP History Department. (The responsibility going forward for housing camp and company histories remains on the camp and company level, not ISDUP, since space is limited within the Pioneer Memorial Museum.)
- ISDUP has a small listing of camp charter dates that can be accessed by visiting the ISDUP History Department.
- When ready, a blank *Camp Charter Sheet* (certificate format) can be ordered through the online store found at: ISDUP.org → Shop tab. The camp fills it out, sends it to the company for signatures, and then the company forwards it to ISDUP for verification and signatures. The completed Camp Charter will be returned by mail to the camp.
- For camps that were organized many years ago, the original signatures of charter members may not be available so listing their names on the charter is appropriate.
- Membership Numbers can be researched at ISDUP if there are blanks on the charter.
- For ISDUP verification, always provide the full name of the Charter Members, and in a legible format.
- It is recommended that the charter be kept with the archive of camp materials, captain's materials, scrapbook, etc. Make copies.