

ELIOT INSTITUTE
EARLY MORNING COFFEE HOST
(Created February 2017)

[The following information is from Bruce Lawrence who has hosted morning coffee at the August camp for 25 years.]

Hours of Operation

Café Lawrence is open for August Eliot from Sunday to Saturday, beginning at 5:45 a.m. with preparation, and first customers arrive at 6 a.m., and we continue to serve until the breakfast bell.

Adjust Supplies As Required

- It's hard to estimate the number of attendees to expect, but usually is consistent from day to day.
- August camp makes from 7 – 10 pots of coffee each day.
- To begin - suggested you divide number of each item on this list in half as a caution for a first-time effort.
- It's normal to buy more supplies mid-week but probably only cups, coffee, half/half, whipped cream and hot chocolate.
- Youth coffee house can (but seldom does) use the extra Decaf.

Storage of Supplies

- Store all supplies in Pines Kitchen cupboards or below the counters.
- Block the open cupboards with "Do not use" signs (and hope it works)
- Store milk, half/half and whipped cream in boxes in the fridge, again with signs, and separate from Youth supplies.

Preparation

- Lay each day's supplies on the main island in Pines Kitchen.
- Place everything on paper towels or napkins to keep clean.
- Milk, half/half, tea, sugar, stirrers and napkins are placed on paper towels at the end of the counter closest to the outside door
- Use sunken counter area as a hot chocolate work station and coffee serving area.
- Unused cups are stacked on the counter, again on paper, above the sunken counter.
- Plug two of the coffee pots in the electrical outlet nearest the faucet, and one pot beside the existing commercial coffee maker. Because they make coffee at different rates, it is suggested the plain white & black pots should be for regular coffee, whereas the fancy pot (Cuisinart?) is best for Decaf since it is so slow.
- Everyone seems to like strong Folgers coffee. Use one small 8 oz. paper cup as a measuring cup, and fill it to about a 1/4 in from the top with ground Folgers coffee right from the can for each 12 cup coffee maker. Measure half that amount for 12 cups of Decaf because it's finer grind and slower to perk.
- **IMPORTANT: Ignoring standard advice and practice, I fill each pot with near boiling water from the red hot water tap on the existing commercial coffee maker, and pour this hot water into each coffee maker which speeds up their production considerably.** Keep three pots perking all the time and store the resulting brewed coffee in the camp's pump thermos carafes. (Serve mostly from the carafes and discourage self serve.)
- Use the same red tap for hot chocolate, but usually dilute the resulting mixed hot chocolate (for safety reasons mostly) with milk or half / half. With small kids, double cup the hot chocolate. Add marshmallows and let the kids squirt on their own whipped cream. Use one packet of Swiss Miss for each 8 oz. cup; double packs of hot chocolate for 12 or 16 oz. cups.
- Many coffee drinkers like café-mokas: make with decaf coffee since there is little call otherwise for decaf, using half a Swiss Miss packet per cup.

**SUPPLIES PURCHASED
FROM COSTCO:**

Hot Drink Paper Cups:
1 bag: 8 oz (160 ct)
1 bag: 12 oz
1 bag: 16 oz. (160 ct)
Coffee
4 lb cans of Folgers Regular Coffee
1 lb. can of Costco Brand Decaf Coffee
Milk:
2 Gal. 2%
5 ½ Gal Half/half
Whipped Cream: 6 cans

FROM SAFEWAY

2 Bags Kraft Marshmallows (not generic)
6 Family Size Boxes Swiss Miss Chocolate
2 Boxes Misc. Tea (1 reg, 1 decaf)
1 Bos Sugar Cubes
1 Box Splenda Packs
2 Bottle Dish soap
1 Roll Paper Towels
1 Bag napkins
1 Box plastic swizzle sticks (tough to find)
1 Box Coffee Filters (flat bottom)

BORROW FROM SEABECK DINING ROOM

2 1- Gal Pump Thermos Carafes
Handful Wooden Coffee Stirrers

COLLECT FROM ELIOT CLOSET

3 - 12-cup Coffee Makers

HINTS, IDEAS AND TIPS

WINTER VIEWS

[From Roger Golliver - Host, Winter 2016-17]

BRING:

- Your own equipment to make high quality coffee—coffee makers or try making cold brew. Also, bring filters, etc. that you will need.
- About 6 pounds of coffee. People have a preference for dark brew, then medium. Light roast was not popular.
- Sugar and artificial sweetener. (In packets because ants were a problem.)
- 1 ½ quarts ½ and ½, and 1 quart of milk.

GENERAL TIPS AND OBSERVATIONS:

- The hours are 6-8, but you can adjust those if you like.
- Be sure to put an article in the newsletter to advertise the Early Perks Coffee.
- Experience at Winter 2016-17: five or fewer people usually came before 7, five to ten people came between 7 and 7:30, and ten to twenty came from 7:30 to 8.
- Your coffee may be so good, that some people will bring 20 oz mugs. You will probably have to set a limit on the amount any one person can have. That's a good problem to have!
- Be careful not to interfere with Don Morgan's beverage and food preparation.
- Sometimes you'll find a mess in the kitchen when you come in due to people using the kitchen at night.
- Enjoy! People really love the Early Perks coffee

BUDGET: The deans budget includes funding for refreshments. The deans can choose to fund early morning coffee from that.

[From Jim Sloboda - Host, Winter 2014 & 2015]

The Early Perks Café at Winter Eliot 2014 and 2015 offered campers a choice of two upscale brands of coffee each morning. I brought my own brewers and coffee supplies. I found that campers were willing to donate a small package of their preferred coffee blend and this worked well when mentioned in pre-camp information.

Clearly it was very popular with our early morning patrons to feature dark, extra bold coffee. Few early morning coffee patrons wanted decaf coffee, a few wanted the option to add chocolate to their coffee and many preferred the dark French roast coffee.

I made a point of keeping Early Perks coffee supplies separate from Don's supplies.

At Winter Eliot 2015 there was the special treat, thanks to Roger Goliver, who, on two mornings, brought supplies to make and serve freshly baked scones to campers with morning coffee. Left over scones were brought to breakfast in the Inn for others to enjoy.

Besides the person designate for early morning coffee service- it is helpful to request volunteer help.

It has been suggested that the Early Perks Café could operate out of Juniper each morning rather than Pines. This could eliminate the Pines's ant problem and have the advantage of being more accessible to campers, besides providing a little more sleep time for the baristas. This may not be feasible for the larger summer Eliots. It is something to consider for the deans and the person who operates Early Perks for future Winter Eliots.

HISTORY OF MORNING COFFEE

[History from Bruce Lawrence February 2017 - in response to a question re. funding for morning coffee at August]

Sorry for the delay in responding. And even now, the answer is not so simple because I've been doing morning coffee at August Eliot for more than 25 years... and in all those years, financial situations change but we never asked people to donate or for contributions by the morning attendees themselves, and we often refused money when offered, (though we did accept the occasional bottle of milk when offered).

When I first started Café Lawrence, our little group was under the radar and quite outside the formal Eliot program, and for many years, my wife and I funded the coffee social... our gift to the camp, so to speak; But when it became popular, we thought it too expensive to fund it entirely ourselves, so we submitted receipts (<\$100) and August Eliot paid (un budgeted). On a few occasions, and only at the discretion of the Deans, I was offered a partial campership, or some other credit for taking on the coffee duties, which because at that time we were a young couple, with kids in tow, and airline flights etc. to go to Seabeck, such generosity was gratefully accepted.

As time went by, Café Lawrence became more established, and I was asked for a morning coffee budget, (quite reasonable request, in my view) and it became a formally budgeted August Eliot account. (I don't know if partial campership or other credit was ever budgeted.)

In recent years however, our financial situation has changed... my kids are grown and do not attend Eliot quite so often, such that now, even though it is a budged account, I simply ask Bev for a tax receipt for any campership or credit (if offered and which I refuse) and for at least some of the store receipts. Café Lawrence costs these days at August Eliot usually run about \$500 of which I request reimbursement of about half. (Note, I budgeted less for July Eliot.) (By way of comparison, I understand Seabeck Camp charges \$150 for a single coffee set up.)

I say all this, not to inflate my own image, but to provide you possible insight at to how you may be able to fund morning coffee at July Eliot without asking for payment or donations by the clientele... since I know many families can ill afford Seabeck as it is, especially our Canadian friends.

Good luck.
Bruce