

TROOP 537 TRAILER TOWING CHECKLIST

Note: This single-axle trailer does not have an independent braking system. Your vehicle brakes also serve to stop trailer.

Prior to towing

Ensure tow ball is the right size (2-inch.) Lubricate trailer tongue coupler and latch, ensure coupler latch is engaged and the lock in place while towing. After securing to tow vehicle try lifting to ensure the latch is secure.

Inspect safety chains, connect to tow vehicle.

Inspect and/or clean lighting plug and receptacle, connect to tow vehicle. *Note: An adapter is located in trailer for converting from 4-way flat plug to 6-way round plug.*

Inspect all hitch components for cracking or broken welds

Check tires for proper pressure (50 psi cold) and condition.

Check wheel nut torque

Check exterior lighting, brake lights and blinkers

Ensure the pin & clip are installed through drawbar of hitch

Distribute the load, front-to-back and side-to-side. There should be slightly more weight in front of the trailer axle than in rear of the trailer axle. Too much or too little weight on the tongue can cause control problems during towing. Side-to-side weight should be balanced.

Inspect spare tire, bottle jack and lug wrench

Ensure trailer doors are latched and locked

After first hour of towing, and periodically thereafter

Monitor axle wheel bearing temperature, and tire pressure. Feel with your hand at the hub to check for one bearing that may be running hotter than the other. (Be careful. If the bearing is adjusted too tight or is running without grease it can get VERY hot!) A hot bearing needs immediate attention. Most often either more grease or proper adjustment will ease the problem, seek out a professional at the nearest automotive service station or parts store.

After towing and returning to storage site

Ensure trailer is EMPTY; doors latched and locked

Ensure coupler latch is engaged and the lock in place to prevent unauthorized use

Whenever the trailer is detached from the tow vehicle, block the wheels so it is impossible for the trailer to roll off on its own

Trailer Use Guidelines for Troop 537

- Trailer does NOT have brakes, but relies on the towing vehicle for braking.
- Always use a spotter when backing the trailer.
- Load planning info: Empty weight of trailer = 1100 lbs / GAWR (max weight of loaded trailer, both contents and trailer) not to exceed 2990 lbs.
- Trailer is only to be used for BSA Troop 537 related activities
- Please promptly notify the Troop Quartermaster, Tom Satterly, if there is a mechanical problem that requires attention, especially if it affects the safety or drivability of the trailer.
- The trailer is to be stored EMPTY and parked at Butterfly Dreams Farm at the designated location. The trailer shall be locked when not in use to prevent unauthorized use, entry, or accidental entrapment of children or others. A set of combination padlocks for the two doors are provided. The trailer tongue coupler shall be locked to prevent unauthorized towing or theft.
- During towing, insurance coverage is provided by the insurance policy of the towing vehicle. Suggest that owners of vehicles towing the trailer ensure their automobile liability insurance coverage is adequate.
- The entrance to Butterfly Dreams Farm is controlled by an automatic gate opener. To open the gate, whether entering or departing, simply press the button at the post on the driver's side of the road. The gate will close automatically once the vehicle passes through.
- Please note that Butterfly Dreams Farm is home to both a private residence and a business. When accessing the property, please respect the privacy of the residents and any business operations (horse riding).