

# Leaders Guide

Venturing ASCENT Experience

“A day of fellowship, adventure, and personal growth”

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | Cherokee Scout Reservation

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## What is the ASCENT experience?

The ASCENT experience is designed to provide Venturers within the Old North State Council a time to fellowship with their fellow crew members, as well as other crews in the council. The event is sure to be a keystone experience for a Venturer along their “ascent” towards the Summit Award.

Venturers can also expect:

- Time for fellowship with other Venturers
- Competitive and adventurous activities
- Opportunities to take home recognitions for their crew

## What is offered during the ASCENT experience?

### Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>:

- During the 2026 ASCENT experience, there will be no program offered on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>. However, crews may choose to arrive at Cherokee Scout Reservation on Friday Evening and camp in Blackfoot/Cheyenne Campsites. These crews must bring appropriate adult supervision and comply with all Safeguarding Youth policies when camping. Units must also coordinate their own plans for breakfast; no breakfast will be provided by the event staff.
- Units choosing to camp on Friday Night should indicate their early arrival upon registration and may arrive at camp starting at 6:00 PM.

### Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>:

- Participants will begin their morning activities on Saturday with either five-stand shotgun or our land-nav/teambuilding course. Halfway through the morning, the groups will switch to the other activity. (Ie: Crew 123 starts with shotgun and then switches to land nav at the appropriate time)
- After morning activities, participants will meet in the dining hall for lunch. After lunch, participants will resume their adventures with the afternoon activities.
- In the afternoon, participants will compete in a pioneering “raise the flag” challenge and a backpacking based iron-chef competition.

\*Specific details can be found under the section for each activity.

## Activity Info:

### Five Stand Shotgun

- Participants will be guided by ONSC range officers in the fundamentals of shotgun shooting and will be taking on Cherokee Scout Reservations premier five-stand course.
- One individual venturer can receive recognition for “high overall” meaning that they hit the most targets, and a crew with the most cumulative targets will receive recognition as well.
- **Note: ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE a signed hold harmless agreement turned in at check-in to participate with range and target activities.**

### Land Navigation / Teambuilding Course

- This course is a take on a classic leadership game practiced at many Scout trainings.
- Participants will go through the course using a combination of orienteering, gps navigation, and amateur radio foxhunting to reach checkpoints. At each checkpoint the group must participate in a teambuilding activity and once they have completed the activity and have completed the reflection to the crew guide’s satisfaction, they will be given instructions to navigate to the next point.
- Crews will be timed as they navigate through the course, and the fastest crew will receive recognition for the event.

### Pioneering Challenge “raise the flag”

- Pioneering and knots are an essential skill for adventurous outings and wilderness survival.
- Participants will be responsible for constructing a self-supporting flagpole using pioneering techniques and will also be provided with materials to design a crew flag to be raised using the pole.
- Crews will be judged on several criteria including: pole height, pole design, lashing strength/quality, and flag design. The crew that earns the most points across all categories will win this competition.

### Backpacking Iron Chef Contest

- Each group will be provided with access to a “pantry” of ingredients that they can use to prepare a backpacking dish of their choosing. There will be no refrigerated ingredients available, only canned and dry goods.

- Each group will be provided with a backpacking stove, small pot, one pan, and various cooking utensils to prepare their dish. The group will also be given a mess kit for presentation to the judges.
- The group will have one hour from the start of the event to collect ingredients, cook a dish, and present said dish to the judges. Any group that has not submitted their dish at the end of the hour will be disqualified.
- Each group will be judged on ingredient selection, dish taste and dish presentation.
- The best group will be named the “iron chefs” and will receive a recognition for their crew to take home.

## Event Registration

- Crews should register for the event using Blackpug at [www.scoutingevent.com/070-ascent](http://www.scoutingevent.com/070-ascent).
- Registration should be completed for the entire crew by the crew advisor or crew president.
- Individual participant registration is not permitted.
- Venturers who wish to attend but whose crews are not attending the event may contact Hunter Spradling ([hunter.spradling@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.spradling@gmail.com)). The VOA will put you in contact with another crew in your district to request the ability to attend under their leadership. **You must contact Hunter by March 17th to request this.**

## Event Cost

- The cost of the event is as follows:
  - **Youth Participant Fee (14-20): \$27.00**
  - **Adult Leader Fee (21+): \$5.00**
  - **Youth Staff Fee: \$5.00**
  - **Adult Staff Fee: \$5.00**

## Deadlines

- It is strongly preferred that crews complete their registration by **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**
- Registration will close at 11:59 PM on **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

## Required Documents

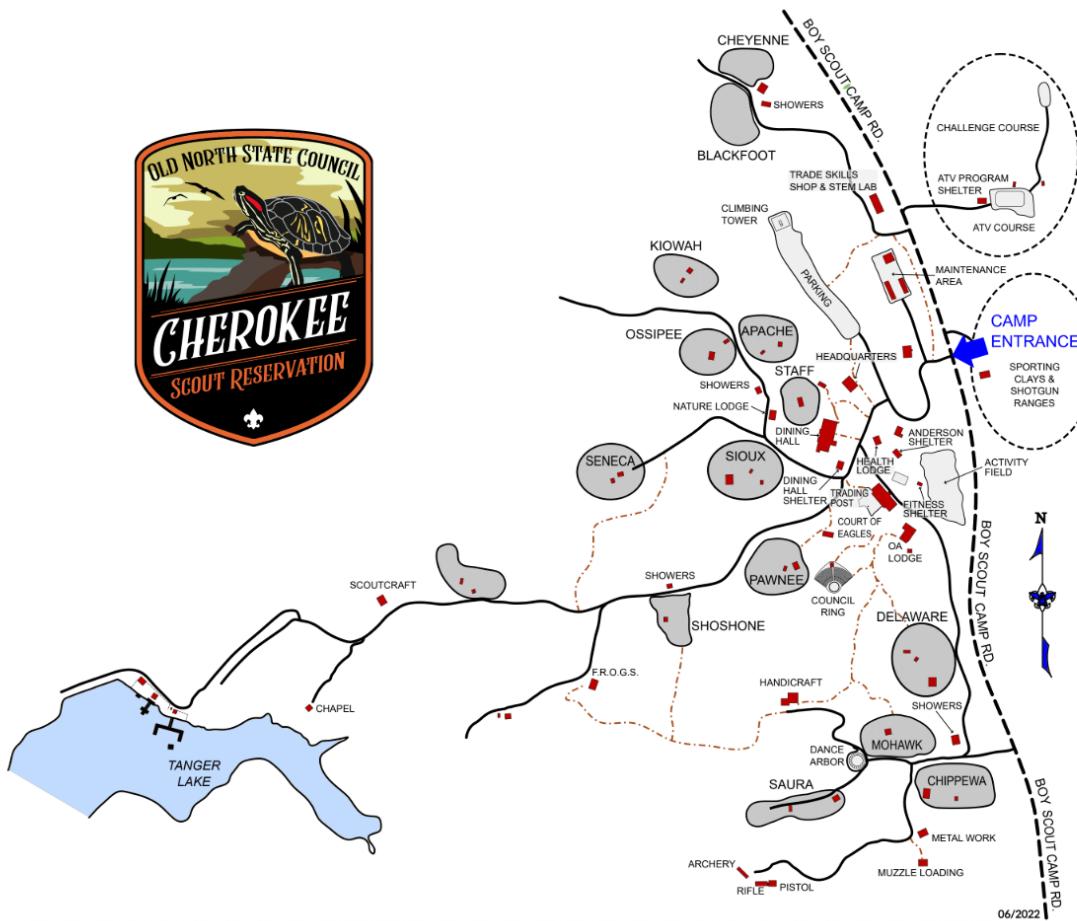
- Unit leaders must provide the following documents for each youth and adult attending with their crew upon check-in
  - [Range and Target Activities Hold Harmless Form](#)
  - [Scouting America AHMR \(Health Form\) Part A&B](#)

- [Old North State Council Pre-Event Screening Form](#)
- [Signed CSR Code of Conduct Form](#)

## Arrival Procedures

### Navigation and Arrival:

- Use the following address in GPS systems to navigate to Cherokee Scout Reservation: 3296 Boy Scout Camp Road, Yanceyville, NC 27379



- Upon arrival at camp, participants should park in the main parking lot and then proceed to Blackfoot/Cheyenne using the STEM trail. Participants will continue down the gravel trail passing the stem building all the way to the campsite.

## Camping Arrangements

- Crews camping on Friday night should setup as follows:
  - Blackfoot A (Adirondacks 1-5):
    - Male youth
  - Blackfoot B (Adirondacks 6-10)
    - Male adults (21+) and adult program participants (18-21)
  - Blackfoot C (Adirondacks 11-15)
    - Female adults (21+) and adult program participants (18-21)
  - Cheyenne (Adirondacks 1-5):
    - Female youth
- *\*Venturers and advisors may bring tents and hammocks but should follow these guides in compliance with Safeguarding Youth.*

## Event Schedule

Time	Event	Location
<b>Friday</b>		
6:00 PM	Check-in opens	Cheyenne Shelter
10:00 PM	Quiet Hours	Blackfoot & Cheyenne
<b>Saturday</b>		
8:00 AM	Check-in opens	Cheyenne Shelter
9:00 AM	Flag / Assembly	Blackfoot & Cheyenne
9:30 AM	Morning Activities Session #1	Various Locations
11:00 AM	Morning Activities Session #2	Various Locations
12:30 PM	Lunch	Dining Hall
1:30 PM	Afternoon Activities Session #1	Blackfoot & Cheyenne
2:30 PM	Afternoon Activities Session #2	Blackfoot & Cheyenne
3:30 PM	Closing Assembly	Blackfoot & Cheyenne
4:00 PM	Dismissal	Blackfoot & Cheyenne

# Camp Policies

## Safeguarding Youth

- ALL Scouting America Safeguarding Youth (formerly YPT) policies must be followed at all times during the ASCENT experience day.
- Buddy System
  - Buddies are always the same gender
  - Buddies must be no more than three years apart in age
  - Truddy – group of three
    - *Can be used if necessary*
    - *Can be mixed gender*
    - *Must be no more than three years apart in age*
- Supervision/Membership Status
  - Each Crew must have 2 adult leaders who are over-21 years of age, registered with Scouting America as a unit leader with the Crew who have a completed criminal background check, and an unexpired Safeguarding Youth certification
  - Coed crews must also have at least one male leader and at least one female leader if they have both male and female venturers attending with their crew.
- Camping
  - All who camp overnight must be registered members of Scouting America
  - Adults/youth must camp separately
  - Unregistered parents are not permitted to camp
  - Tentmates must all be within two years of every other occupant

## Event Contact

- Questions regarding the program for the event should be directed to VOA president, Hunter Spradling at [hunter.spradling@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.spradling@gmail.com)
- Questions regarding registration, facilities at Cherokee Scout Reservation, or other questions requiring a council professional should be directed to VOA staff advisor Bud Harrelson at [bud.harrelson@scouting.org](mailto:bud.harrelson@scouting.org)