

Winter Camp 2026

Leader & Parent Guide

Cherokee Scout Reservation
3296 Boy Scout Camp Road
Yanceyville, NC 27379



What is Winter Camp?

What is Winter Camp?

- A cold weather camping adventure
- Offers merit badges, activities, and adult training not offered elsewhere
- Outdoor, fun adventure between Christmas and New Year's
 - December 27 - 30
- Customizable to meet Scout and family availability
 - Come with the troop
 - Come as a provisional camper
 - Come as a day camper

What happens at Winter Camp?

Program

Day 1 – December 27

- Check-in
- Dinner
- Opening Campfire

Day 2 – December 28

- Merit Badge, Activities, Training begin
- Typically, each merit badge/activity lasts for 1 entire day (unless noted on the merit badge, activity, and training matrix)
- Evening program - klondike derby that focuses on Scout skills from Tenderfoot to First Class rank

Day 3 – December 29

- Merit Badge/activity/training program continues
- Evening program – Early New Year's Eve Dance Party and turtle drop

Day 4 – December 30

- Last day of merit badge/activities/training
- Awards presentation/recognition at flag lowering
- Scouts depart for home after flag lowering
- No evening meal served on December 30

Scout Activities Unique to Winter Camp

- NRA First Steps for Pistol
- Advanced Shotgun Shooting

Bull FROGS

- Rank Advancement Opportunity
- Second Class requirements
- First Class requirement

Prerequisites

- **PAY ATTENTION to pre-requirements, ages, and weights**
- ATV – must complete SafeRider online course prior to camp
- Basic Life Support – online modules must be completed prior to camp
- Leave No Trace – LNT 101 must be completed online prior to camp
- Wilderness First Aid – blended learning, online modules must be completed prior to camp

Merit Badges & Activities that Take 2 Days

- Some merit badges take two days.
- You must attend both days.
- Rifle Shooting Merit Badge
- Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge
- Advanced Shotgun Shooting Activity
 - Day 1 – NRA Basic Shotgun Certification
 - Day 2 – Advanced Shotgun Shooting on the Sporting Clays Course

Trainings that Take Multiple Days

- Some trainings take more than one day.
- You must attend the entire course to receive credit.
- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills - IOLS (2 days)
- Leave No Trace (2 days)

Leave Winter Camp a FULLY Trained Leader

- Arrive with Safeguarding Youth training completed
- Day 2 – Enroll in Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Specifics
- Day 3 & 4 – Enroll in Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)
- Complete Hazardous Weather Training online before or during winter camp

Merit Badge/Activity/Training Matrix

2026 Winter Camp Program Matrix

Schedule – Day 1 – December 27 + DRAFT

2:00 pm – Check-in Begins

5:00 pm – Supper 1

5:40 pm – Flag Lowering

5:55 pm - Supper 2

7:00 pm – Opening Campfire

8:00 pm – Leader Meeting

9:00 pm – Cracker Barrel

10:00 pm - Taps

Schedule – Day 2 – December 28 + DRAFT

7:00 am – Breakfast 1

7:40 am – Flag Raising

7:50 am - Breakfast 2

8:45 am – Program Activities Start

11:45 am – Program Activities Break

12:00 am – Lunch 1

12:40 am – Lunch 2

1:30 pm – Program Activities
Resume

4:30 pm – Program Activities End

5:00 pm – Supper 1

5:40 pm – Flag Lowering

5:55 pm – Supper 2

7:00 pm – Klondike Derby

9:00 pm – Cracker Barrel

10:00 pm - Taps

Schedule – Day 3 – December 29 + DRAFT

7:00 am – Breakfast 1

7:40 am – Flag Raising

7:50 am - Breakfast 2

8:45 am – Program Activities Start

11:45 am – Program Activities Break

12:00 am – Lunch 1

12:40 am – Lunch 2

1:30 pm – Program Activities Resume

4:30 pm – Program Activities End

5:00 pm – Supper 1

5:40 pm – Flag Lowering

5:55 pm – Supper 2

7:00 pm – Free Time

8:30 pm – Early New Year's Eve Party

10:00 pm - Taps

Schedule – Day 4– December 30 + DRAFT

7:00 am – Breakfast 1

7:40 am – Flag Raising

7:50 am - Breakfast 2

8:45 am – Program Activities Start

11:45 am – Program Activities Break

12:00 am – Lunch 1

12:40 am – Lunch 2

1:30 pm – Program Activities Resume

4:30 pm – Program Activities End

5:00 pm –Flag Lowering &

Recognition Ceremony

5:20 pm – Dismissal/Departure

Holidays Celebrated

- Hanukkah
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa
- New Year's

CSR Christmas Tree

- Each unit/Scout is encouraged to bring an ornament, that is unique to the unit, to help decorate the camp Christmas tree
- Ornaments are kept from year to year

Meals

- Day 1 – Meals start with Supper
- Day 2 and Day 3
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Supper
 - Cracker Barrel (before bed snack)
- Day 4
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Depart before supper
- All meals are cafeteria style
- Special dietary needs request must be submitted during the registration process in Black Pug
- Vegetarian options are available at all meals
- Soup is included in most lunches and cracker barrels

Dates

Dates

- December 27-30

How Can You Attend?

How Can You Attend?

- Scouts BSA Troops
- Provisional Scouts
 - Attend even though your troop does not
 - Attend if your troop doesn't meet the adult leadership/supervision requirements
- Day Camper
 - Participate from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
 - Choose the days you want to participate
 - Do not spend the night
 - Do not participate in evening program

How do you register

How Do You Register for Winter Camp

- If the troop is attending, registration should be completed by the troop
- If the troop is attending provisionally (not enough adult leadership), registration should be completed by the troop
- If a Scout is attending provisionally, the family completes the registration
- If a Scout is attending as a day camper, the family completes the registration
- You must register using Black Pug – our event management tool
- Registration link: <https://scoutingevent.com/070-wintercamp>
 - Option 1: One person in the troop can register everyone
 - Option 2: Turn on parent portal to allow parents/guardians to complete registration data and submit payment
 - Both options require management and leadership from the troop

How to use the Black Pug Parent Portal

- These links can help you remember how to use the Parent Portal.
 - [Parent Portal](#)
 - [Parent Portal Leader Guide - Enabling Parent Portal on Your Registration](#)
 - [Parent Portal Parent Guide](#)

What is the Event Cost?

What is the Cost?

- Event fee: \$265
- Early Bird fee: \$240
 - \$25 discount if paid in full prior to 11:59 pm on Thursday, November 26
- Cost is the same for traditional and provisional campers
- Adult Leader Fee
 - \$150
 - No early bird discount

What is the Cost?

- Scout to Leader Ratio to Waive Adult Leader Fees
 - 5 Scouts to 1 Adult Leader = 1 Leader Fee Waived
 - To receive 1 free leader, a unit must bring at least 5 Scouts.
 - To receive 2 free leaders, a unit must bring at least 10 Scouts.
- A unit will not receive more than 2 free leaders.

What is the Cost?

- Day Camper Scout Fee
 - \$75 per day
 - Not eligible for early bird discount
- Day Camper Adult Fee
 - \$15
- The day camper fee includes lunch, an event patch, any merit badge supplies, and supplies for the camp/event.

Camperships

- A limited number of camperships will be available for winter camp.
- Camperships are due to bud.harrelson@scouting.org on December 3, 2025.
- Campership applications must be complete when submitted - include the required evidence of need
- Camperships will not exceed \$80 - a third of the camp fee.
- [Campership Applications](#)

Dates & Deadlines

Dates & Deadlines

- **Saturday, October 24 at 8:00 pm** – Merit badge, activity, training enrollment opens in Black Pug
- **Tuesday, November 17 at 11:59 pm** – T-shirt pre-order deadline
- **Thursday, November 26 at 11:59 pm** – Early bird payment deadline
- **Tuesday, December 3 at 11:59 pm** – Campership deadline
- **Tuesday, December 15 at 11:59 pm** – Merit badge, activity, training enrollment closes
- **Tuesday, December 15** – Submit physical, range and target sports hold harmless, ATV hold harmless and e-certificate, and code of conduct via CampDoc

How do I buy an event t-shirt?

Event T-shirts May Be Pre-Ordered

- Color: Royal Blue
- Long-sleeve
- On-site supplies will be limited
- Adult Small - \$18.00
- Adult Medium – \$18.00
- Adult Large – \$18.00
- Adult X-Large – \$18.00
- Adult 2X-Large - \$20.00
- Adult 3X-Large – \$22.00
- Adult 4X-Large - \$24.00



Event Logistics

Pre-event Logistics

- Campsite Assignments
 - Made by the camp director
 - Communicated to troop POC by December 20
- Housing
 - Adirondacks, with mattresses
 - Bring own personal tent
 - Use hammocks

Arrival

- Day 1
 - Starting at 2:00 pm
 - Arrive as a troop
 - Vehicle with gear can drive into campsite
 - All others to parking lot
 - Submit pre-event medical screening forms
 - Camp Tour
 - Dining hall
 - Flag Pole
 - Medical Re-check in campsite

Check Out on Day 4

- A Scout is Clean.
- Leave campsite better than you found it.
- Garbage in trashcans.
- Start bringing in cars at 2:00 pm
- Review Advancement Paperwork
- Health forms returned to Unit Leader

Safeguarding Youth

Safeguarding Youth: Buddy System

- Buddies are always the same gender
- Buddies must be no more than three years apart in age
- Parents can now be buddies with their children
- Truddy – group of three
 - Can be used if necessary
 - Can be mixed gender
 - Must be no more than three years apart in age

Safeguarding Youth: Supervision/Membership Status

- Each troop must have 2 adult leaders who are over-21 years of age, registered with Scouting America as a unit leader with the pack, who have a completed criminal background check, and an unexpired Safeguarding Youth certification
- All who camp overnight must be members of Scouting

Behavior Expectations

Code of Conduct

- **Cherokee Scout Reservation operations are governed by:**
 - Federal, state, and local laws
 - The Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code
 - *Guide to Safe Scouting*
 - National Camping Accreditation Program (NCAP)
 - Scouting America's Safeguarding Youth policies and Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

Code of Conduct

- **Respect the rights and property of others:**

- I will keep my hands and unwelcome comments to myself.
- I will not touch other people's belongings.
- I will not use disrespectful and abusive language - No profanity, slurs, or putdowns.
- I will not harass or haze others.
- I will be respectful of others (this includes personal space, religious and other deeply held beliefs, ethnic and life histories, gender, and life choices).
- I will follow my unit's dress code.
- I will not bring my pet to camp.

Code of Conduct

- **Respect the camp's property:**
 - I will not damage or deface camp facilities or property.
 - I will respect the camp conservation easements.

Code of Conduct

- **Be concerned for the safety of campers and staff:**
 - I will be in my campsite from taps to reveille except when necessary for health and safety reasons.
 - I will wear closed-toed & closed-healed shoes; open-toed & open-healed shoes are not safe on gravel and uneven terrain.
 - I will follow the safety procedures reviewed in each program area.
 - I will wear the safety equipment and clothing required for each program activity.
 - Prescription and over-the-counter drugs will be under the control of an adult (parent/unit leader or staff member).

Code of Conduct

- **The following items are strictly prohibited (there will be no second chances):**
- Campers, adult volunteers, and visitors participating in these actions will be sent home at the first infraction at their own expense.
 - Alcoholic beverages, fireworks, illegal drugs, and tobacco (or any of its derivatives such as vapes) are not allowed.
 - No personal firearms should be brought on camp property. The only firearms and ammunition allowed in camp must be owned by the council.
 - Gambling or betting for money, public displays of affection between anyone, fighting, threatening/physical abuse, stealing, tampering with emergency equipment, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed at camp.

Required Paperwork

Required Paperwork

- Required items for each person
 - Pre-event Medial Screening Form
 - Code of Conduct
 - Medical Form
- Required by some
 - Range & Target Sports Hold Harmless Form
 - Scouts participating in pistol shooting, rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, advanced shotgun
 - ATV Hold Harmless Form and E-certificate
- Submitted via CampDoc by Tuesday, Dec 15

Pre-event Medical Screening Form

- Completed by the family prior to departing home for camp
 - Elect to stay home if you are ill or you have been in close contact with someone who is ill

Health & Safety In Camp

Health & Safety

- All first aid instances should be treated at the health lodge
- Medication
 - Must be in the custody of the parent/guardian
 - Must be brought in the primary bottle
 - Can be maintained in the health lodge
 - There is a refrigerator in the health lodge for medications
- Closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes must be worn at all times.
 - No Crocs.
 - Flip-flops/sandals may be worn in the showers.

Sick Child at Camp

- If a Scout becomes sick, the parent/guardian will take the Scout home
- If a Scout needs medical attention beyond basic first aid, the parent/guardian will transport the Scout to the local hospital

Mobility

- Mobility needs should be submitted during the registration process in Black Pug
- The camp will NOT provide golf carts for individuals to use
- Units/families with mobility needs can provide their own golf cart
 - Golf cart must be inspected by camp ranger at check-in
 - Golf cart must have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher
 - Golf cart can only be used to support Scout/leader with mobility need
 - If you plan to bring your own golf cart, you must inform the camp director by Tuesday, December 15 at 11:59 pm

Early Departures & Late Arrivals

- People who need to leave early, should complete the early release process in the headquarters building
 - An early release document must be on file with the camp

Will the trading post be open?

Trading Post

- Opens on December 27 in the afternoon
- Closes on December 30 after flag lowering

Firewood

Firewood

- Available in all of the campsites
- Bring your own supply just in case

What to bring?

Clothing

- **Base Layers:** [Polypropylene or wool long underwear](#) (tops and bottoms) to wick moisture.
- **Mid Layers:** Fleece or wool sweaters and pants for insulation.
- **Outer Layers:** A warm parka or jacket with a hood, plus waterproof, windproof pants and a jacket or poncho.
- **Extremities:** A stocking cap or balaclava, a wool scarf, and warm, water-resistant mittens or gloves.
- **Footwear:** Waterproof hiking boots or insulated winter boots, and extra socks (wool or synthetic).
- **Other:** Extra underwear, long-sleeved shirts, and closed-toed camp shoes or booties for around camp.

Sleeping Gear

- **Sleeping Bag**: A zero-degree or colder-rated bag.
- **Insulation**: A closed-cell sleeping pad to provide a barrier between you and the cold ground. A sleeping bag liner can add extra warmth.
- **Warmth**: A hat to wear to bed and a bottle filled with warm water (sealed securely) for a "hot water bottle".

Camp & Safety Gear

- **Personal Items:** A flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries, a water bottle, a first-aid kit, toiletries, and sunscreen.
- **Navigation & Essentials:** A Scout Handbook, compass, and map.
- **General Gear:** A sturdy backpack or duffle bag, a camp chair, and maybe a camera or binoculars.

Important Reminders

- **Layers:** Wear layers that can be added or removed to manage body temperature and prevent overheating.
- **Stay Dry:** Use rain gear to stay dry from precipitation and wear moisture-wicking baselayers to prevent cold from sweat.
- **Hygiene:** Bring toiletries like a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and a towel.
- **Medications:** Have your completed annual health and medical form and any necessary personal medications.

Unit Packing List

- Water coolers
- Camp stove with fuel for hot beverages in campsite
- Coffee pot
- Firewood
- Battery powered lanterns

What not to bring?

Things to Leave at Home

- Please do not bring:
 - Pets (trained service animals are welcome)
 - Fireworks
 - Liquid fuels
 - Personal firearms
 - Bicycles
 - Illegal drugs, medical marijuana, and alcohol
- Scouting America events are non-smoking

If I need support, who do I
contact?

Contacts

- Bud Harrelson

Camp Director

bud.Harrelson@scouting.org