Scouting America
Del-Mar-Va Council

Welcome, BALOO Participant!

Thank you for registering for this important training. Because of you, the youth and families in your pack can go camping!

You'll have a veteran training staff for this training that wants, more than anything, for you to enjoy yourself and gain lots from it. First and foremost is fun. Well, ok, safety is first, and of course, next is respectful treatment of others. Fun is next though!

The staff will sneak in tons of skills, tips, and tricks while you complete interesting activities. Plus, we have the pleasure of hosting you at Camp Rodney, the "Scout Camp on the Chesapeake". It spans more than 900 acres and is internationally renowned. Beginning in 1923, Scouting America was gifted with these diverse shores on the Chesapeake Bay and North East River. Its rolling hills and dense flora provide a perfect setting to practice your outdoor camping skills, and that is what we'll do.

"Be Prepared"

In the following pages you will find helpful information and a map of Rodney Scout Reservation. *Please read this entire letter before you arrive*. BALOO participants camp Saturday evening, as it is part of the course requirements.

Getting here: On arrival at Rodney Scout Reservation, you'll drive past posts displaying the points of the Scout Law and then some buildings. Your BALOO adventure begins at SHAWNEE campsite, which will be down a marked side road on your right after you pass the pool (starred on the included map).

Arrival time: Check-in begins at 7am on Saturday. Participants MUST be checked in and ready to participate by the start of the first session at 8am on Saturday. We have a full day, and you won't want to miss any activities.

What to bring: You probably don't have a copy of the *Scouts BSA Handbook* for a complete list of what you'll need for camping, so here's a handy list:
scoutlife.org/outdoors/outdoorarticles/6976/scout-outdoor-essentials-checklist/

Please also bring note-taking materials, a filled water bottle, mess kit, comfy camp chair, hot beverage container (we don't do paper and plastic), and a pocket knife and compass if you have them. A fire-starting contest may be held, so bring your bag of fire-building tricks if you have any. *Note:* Accelerants, except nature-made, are not permitted.

What to wear: Dress for the weather. We will be outdoors for the weekend. Please wear your Class A Field uniform (tan shirt/olive pants) if you have one. If you don't, that's ok!

What to do ahead of time: Scouting America requires that you complete a self-paced, online *BALOO Prerequisite Training v2* to prepare you for the outdoor portion of your BALOO course. It takes 35 minutes to complete and can be found on my.Scouting.org (Click Path: Sign in > My Training > Expanded Learning > BALOO > Take Course). *Please show us proof of completion*.

Finally, we have two questions for you! Please respond to Hal Garber (hcgarber@yahoo.com) to let us know.

1. Do you have any dietary restrictions or severe allergies of any type?
2. Do you need a power source at your tent site?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are we camping outdoors? Yes. Rain, shine, or snow. This is a chance to learn and hone your skills. We want you to feel successful, so if you have concerns or need assistance of any kind, please let us help you. Just as you would for a Scout.

Are we backpacking to the site? No. From the main road, you may drive down a side road to Shawnee (watch for signs after you pass the pool and trading post) to unload your gear.

Do I need to bring food? No, unless you have a special diet or bring your own snacks or beverages (non-alcoholic). All meals are supplied, and there will be coffee. We will also provide all gear for food preparation, cooking, and clean-up.

What kind of mess kit do I need? There are some nifty kits in almost any camping or sporting goods store, but you don't have to spend a bunch of money. A Rubbermaid® container and lid, some compact or nesting silverware, or even an old Scout mess kit will work just fine.

Should we bring single-person tents, or can we use family tents and bunk together? Your call. Some bring single-person, some two-person, some cabin tents, and some don't bring a tent at all and practice "under the stars" camping. Use what you have or can borrow.

I've camped numerous times with the pack, a troop, or my family. Do I have to attend the whole weekend? Yes. BALOO is not just about learning the outdoor skills ourselves; it's about how we use and teach them in the Cub Scouting program. There's always more to learn, things we can learn from others, and things we can share from our experiences. Plus, it's fun! We validate and present course completion cards at departure, but not before. There is no partial credit for this course, *which includes the online prerequisite training mentioned above*.

Questions or concerns? Don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to meeting you!

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MAP — RODNEY SCOUT RESERVATION

