

FALL-O-REE 2026 Event Guide



America250

Curtis Park

October 16-18, 2026

Lead Organizers: Dan Pare and Brandi Sable

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Overview

This year, Fall-O-Ree's theme is "America 250" in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the country!

Date: October 16-18, 2026

Location: Curtis Park

Check-in time: 5-8pm on October 16

Leader's Meeting: 8 pm

Check-out time: 1030-11 am on October 18

Quiet hours: 10 pm – 7 am

Reveille: 7 am – do not engage in activity prior to 7 am

Contact info:

Dan Pare – (508) 558-3090

Brandi Sable – (504) 655-2999

Eric Gilgenast for Medical – (#####)

Scouts BSA activities will focus on Merit Badges (MB), rank and Scout Skills, awards, and activities related to the theme. Scouts can choose-their-own individual adventures between MBs and activities on Saturday. Each Scout must be enrolled in an event in each session.

Pack activities will focus on rank requirements, adventures, Scout Skills, and activities related to the theme. Dens will rotate through activities together and will receive their schedule at Check-in. AOL dens should practice the Patrol Method with minimal parent attendance to prepare the AOLs for troop style camping.

Stafford County agreed to form a partnership with Aquia District for use of Curtis Park at a potential discounted rate on the condition the Fall-o-ree completed a conservation service project. This year, we are clearing trails and green spaces for conservation service hours. For Cub Scouts, these hours can count for Champions of Nature for Webelos and Citizenship and Champions of Nature adventure requirements for AOLs. For Scouts BSA, these hours count toward the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award, as well as the National Outdoor Award Conservation Award. The service project will be completed Sunday morning to ensure time is maximized for advancement activities.

Rules and Requirements

1. Scout Oath, Law

2. Leave No Trace
3. Review relevant Safety Moments:
 - a. [Knife Safety](#)
 - b. [Woodworking Tools](#)
 - c. [First Aid Kits](#)
 - d. [Wilderness First Aid](#)
 - e. [Campout Safety Checklist](#)
 - f. [Transporting Scouts Safely](#)
 - g. [Using Unit Trailers](#)
4. All Medical issues will be reported to the Fall-o-ree HSO, Eric Gilgenast, if it requires anything other than basic first aid (band aid, splinter, blisters, etc.). For basic first aid, it should be handled by the unit's HSO or unit member(s) in consultation with their adult leader. If in doubt, report it to the HSO for guidance.
5. First aid –
 - a. First aid will be rendered, when necessary, in accordance with individual or unit skill. When in doubt, seek help or guidance from the Fall-o-ree HSO.
 - b. Each unit shall bring a first aid kit and have it readily available in a central location at their assigned campsite.
 - c. Review your kit prior to the event to ensure contents are adequate for the activities offered. There is a focus on knife skills, woods tools, and a service project involving cutting and clearing brush and logs. Units should consider adding additional items to mitigate risk of potential injuries. Some examples include zip stitch wound closure devices, Israeli pressure bandages, and a CAT tourniquet.
 - d. Units are STRONGLY encouraged to have a Health Safety Officer (HSO) trained member and follow practices outlined in NCAP standard SQ-405. Training is found at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-141-CHO-Training-012021-Rev-Day-and-Short-Term-Camp.pdf>.
 - e. Units are STRONGLY encouraged to send at least one direct contact leader and/or unit leader attending the event to a First Aid/CPR/AED course. District is offering a course on September 26, registration is available at [Conservation Merit Badge Day](#). While there is no requirement for a unit to have any first aid trained members unless your unit is participating in high adventure,

backcountry events, or events greater than 30 minutes from medical help, it is a great idea to have training regardless of activity.

6. Campfires are permitted. Each unit who intends to have open flames must use an elevated fire pit. Units must have a portable Class ABC fire extinguisher no smaller than 10 lbs. Units are also required to have a shovel and fire bucket with water immediately available at the fire.
7. For units with leaders attending IOLS:
 - a. Members attending IOLS cannot be counted toward a unit's two-deep leadership. If a unit has a member attending IOLS, that's great! The unit must have at least two registered leaders in attendance for the entire event, not including the IOLS attendee.
 - b. Members attending IOLS cannot be counted as the designated female leader for units with female Scouts. The unit must provide a female registered leader for units with female Scouts attending in addition to the female registered leader attending IOLS, as applicable. The registered female leader must be in attendance for the entire event.
8. Each unit must provide its own two-deep leadership. Many adults are registered leaders for multiple units. For example, a registered adult leader cannot serve as part of the required two-deep or designated female leadership for a Pack and a Troop during the event, even if they have children in both unit types attending the event.
9. Award patch purchases for Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award, Liberty in Action, and JOTA/JOTI are unit responsibility.

Registration Process

1. The event will be posted on Black Pug and all registrations will be entered through the official event.
2. Registration will be by unit with only one registration per unit allowed.
3. Registration will open no later than August 15, 2026.
4. Please use the 'pay by bank account' selection for payment to keep more of the registration fee in the event budget. Units may 'pay by card,' but the 3% processing fee comes out of the event budget if used.

5. Registration must be completed and paid in full prior to merit badge and activity selection for troops.
6. Each Den will be assigned to activities in a rotation to ensure each activity is completed.
7. Each individual Scouts BSA member can choose any appropriate activity from the event catalog. These selections can be changed until October 2, 2026.
8. Each individual Scouts BSA member must be enrolled in an activity each session.
9. A Unit Scheduling Worksheet is available as an enclosure to assist with planning for your individual Scouts' activities. The first column is for individual Scouts BSA member's name. Each row has space for up to 3 ranked choices for each session, with 1 being individual's preferred choice and 2 and 3 being ranked back-up activities.
10. Units willing to offer woods tools and knife safety equipment for use in Babe's Ox Yard for the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award, please notify organizers and label equipment with unit number.

Check-in Procedures

Check-in begins at 5 pm on Friday, October 16, 2026. The Leader's Meeting will be held at 8 pm and all units should check in prior to the meeting start.

1. Units will check-in at HQ.
2. Units will receive a Check-in packet with campsite location, Fall-o-ree Map, schedules, unit streamer challenge instructions, satisfaction surveys, etc.
3. Assigned campsites will be indicated on the map and at the campsite with signage. Please set-up in your designated areas only.
4. If your unit is participating in the Unit Flag Streamer Challenge and chooses to donate an item to the Liberty in Action time capsule, it needs to be turned in at check-in. The item will not be returned.
5. No vehicles will be allowed to remain in the campsite and vehicle access ends at 8 pm. Parking will be in the Menzi Pool parking lot. Carpool to reduce number of vehicles.

6. Trailers are allowed at campsites for drop-off only. Tow vehicles will be parked in the parking lot by the pool. This is a drive in, drop the trailer, and park event. No vehicles will be allowed into the campsites for trailer retrieval until Sunday morning for check-out.

Check-out Procedures

Check-out begins at 1030 am on Sunday, October 18, 2026. Units may not check-out until the service project is complete.

1. For units that participated in the Unit Streamer Challenge, the sheet and surveys MUST be turned into HQ by 7 am for presentation at the Closing Ceremony.
2. Units will check out at HQ.
3. Units must turn in both Adult and Youth Satisfaction Surveys to receive unit patches.
4. Units need to turn in Liberty in Action and Paul Bunyan awards tracking sheet.
5. Units will receive a check-out packet with the Liberty in Action CSP their Scouts decorated and event patches.
6. Units will receive an email to the registration POC outlining completed requirements for Scouts within 2 weeks of the event.

Events and Activities

Activities will align with advancement or award requirements and [SAFE Project Tool Use](#) guidelines.

Cub Scout Activities

Cub Scouts will participate in a variety of advancement and award activities. Each Pack will receive their Dens' schedules at check-in. Dens will rotate through 5 activities. Each activity is advancement or award based. The Advancement Matrix shows all overall advancement activities for Cub Scout units. The Master Schedule – Dens outlines all activities available for each Session.

Scouts BSA Activities

Scouts BSA members will participate in a variety of advancement and award activities. Individuals will select their preferred activities and register individually for an activity each session. The Advancement Matrix shows all overall advancement activities for

Scouts BSA individuals. The Master Schedule – Troops outlines all activities available for each Session. This matrix and the Unit Scheduling Worksheet will assist the Black Pug registration process.

Unit Flag Streamer Challenge

This year, we are introducing a unit flag streamer challenge. The Challenge requirements are posted on the Black Pug event registration page and a copy will be in each check-in packet.

1. The Unit Flag Streamer Challenge is optional.
2. Each unit that completes the requirement of earning 30 points will receive a streamer for their unit's flag.
3. The Challenge contains two parts with a variety of ways to earn points –
 - a. Section 1 is optional and helps to serve planning objectives.
 - b. Section 1 includes multiple ways for adults to volunteer. Points for adult volunteers will only be awarded to the unit with which the adult registered for the Fall-o-ree. For example, you are a registered leader of both a Pack and Troop in attendance and serve as a MB counselor. You can only count those points for the unit with which you registered for the campout, not both units and not the unit that needs the points the most.
 - c. Section 2 is two parts and is mandatory. Section 2 helps serve participation and performance objectives and at least one item from both parts must be completed (even if your unit earns 30 or more points from Section 1 activities).

Campsite Decorations

This year's theme is America250! You are invited to decorate your campsite in accordance with the theme and activities offered. Please have your campsite decorated prior to Flags and Opening Ceremony on Saturday if you are participating. No balloons are allowed.

Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award

Scouts BSA members can earn the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award at the Campout. This award encourages proper use of woods tools, earning the Totin' Chip, training others in Totin' Chip skills, and requires completion a conservation service project.

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This year, we are incorporating the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award into the campout to meet the requirement by Stafford County for use of Curtis Park while tying the activity into service hours and fulfilling an award requirement. Participation in the award is optional. Scouts can complete the requirements by:

1. Hazards and first aid requirements will be covered at Babe's Ox Yard.
2. Babe's Ox Yard will be set up to give Scouts an opportunity to become familiar with the use and care of woods tools. This area is open to both Packs and Troops. Packs can participate in knife safety skills and Troop members can complete the award requirements. Designated areas will be identified.
3. Scouts working on the award can earn their Totin' Chip, or Scouts can teach other Scouts the Totin' Chip requirements, during Siesta at the Babe's Ox Yard. Scouts can earn the Totin' Chip prior to the event. AOLs can learn the skills and knowledge required of the Totin' Chip and will be prepared to earn it upon crossing over to a troop.
4. Woods tools will be available at Babe's Ox Yard for familiarization and use.
5. The conservation service project is required of all attendees and will meet the award's two-hour requirement, as well as give Scouts two conservation service hours. This meets the AOL Citizenship Adventure service requirement.
6. The event needs the gear listed on the award to use for the program. Scouts BSA members can carry the equipment to and from Babe's Ox Yard, provided they have earned their Totin' Chit.

JOTI/JOTA

The RADIO CLUB has graciously agreed to set up a station so all Scouts in attendance have the option to participate in JOTA/JOTI.

1. Dens are scheduled to attend.
2. Scouts can sign up to attend a session. Sessions are split with Liberty in Action into 45-minute sessions. If you sign up for this, you are signing up for both activities and will move stations at the 45-minute mark.
3. Individuals may go to the JOTA/JOTI station during Siesta but this is a walk-in only time an individuals may not be able to participate due to time constraints or crowd size.

Lagniappe

We are working on a little something extra. Some ideas include having a local official answer questions, a local museum providing displays, and a special appearance by a Continental Soldier. Any lagniappe will be announced at the Leader's Meeting.