

Flight of the Thunderbird - 2025

District Scout Festival

Leaders and Participants Guide

Jan 10-12, 2025

@ Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation,
1201 Boy Scout Camp Rd,
Lake Wales, Florida 33898



Early Registration Ends: **December 13, 2024**
Event Registration Closes: **Dec 27, 2024 11:59 PM**

Register at: <https://scoutingevent.com/089-77087>



Dear Scouts and Scouters,

On behalf of the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council, we WELCOME you to the 2nd round of ***The Flight of the Thunderbird*** - District Scouts Festival. This Festival has been designed to accomplish 3 main facets of Scouting namely:

1. Scouts Skills >> Fun Competitions
2. Scouts Recruiting >> Buddy Invites opportunity
3. Scouts Training >> Merit Badge Qualifiers

The festival will be an awesome opportunity for youth in your Units to connect with other Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts from across the council to gather in friendship and fellowship in a safe and fun environment. There will be activities for the adults to participate and compete as well (but of course youth first). It will be a nice and comfortable environment to connect with like minded volunteers involved in various levels of service through the Scouting programs.

The purpose of the Festival is to showcase all the fun and adventurous activities that the Youth can partake in, by being registered within the various programs offered. This will be an opportunity for the different units to recruit new youth members using the high energy environment at the event.

The following pages of this Leaders Guide will include everything you and your Units need to know about this festival, including scheduling to logistical details. If we missed out any details please feel free to contact us via email or the Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing each of you and your Units with as many Scouts and “**Scout’s Buddy**” at ***Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation*** on **Jan 10-12, 2025** to make this a monumental event !!

Sincerely

Serving through Scouting,

Team - Flight of the Thunderbird

Event Director:

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Advisor:

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Event Registration Page: <https://scoutingevent.com/089-77087>

Event Facebook Page: [Flight of the Thunderbird - 2025](#)

Emergency Procedures for Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation can be found at :
<https://tampabayscouting.org/council-emergency-action-plans>

Register Here:



Tentative Schedule

Activity uniform recommended for Saturday. Field uniform *required on Sunday. Unit's option on Friday. Scheduled events are subject to change.

Friday - Jan 10th, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
from 5:00pm	Camp Check In begins	Saunders Hall
till 9:00pm	Campsite Setup	Assigned locations
9:00pm to 10:00pm	Unit Leaders/ SPL meeting	Wood Hall
by 11:00pm	Lights Out	

Saturday - Jan 11th, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
6:00 AM	Wakeup/ Breakfast etc.	respective campsites
7:45 AM	Flag ceremony **	Council Ring
8:00am to 12:00pm	Program Round robins	Program areas
12:00pm to 1:00pm	LUNCH	respective campsites
1:00pm to 5:00pm	Program Round robins	Program areas
5:00pm to 6:00pm	DINNER	respective campsites
6:00pm to 8:00pm	Program Round robins	Program areas
8:00pm to 10:00pm	Open Time activities	Program areas
10:00 PM	Units may have campfires at respective campsites	
11:00 PM	Lights Out	
** field uniform required		

Sunday - Jan 12th, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
7:00 AM	Breakfast	Campsites
8:00 AM	Campsite/ Gadget inspections	Campsites
9:00 AM	Flag Ceremony/ Interfaith worship**	Council Ring
9:30 AM	Awards and Recognition	Council Ring
10:30 AM	Camp breakdown/ Cleanup	
** field uniform required		

General Recommendations

Based on feedback from the 2023 event, in the interest of time, we are letting the adults run the events for the Youth, in order to maximize the effectiveness of the event FOR the Youth. It is highly recommended that Adults take charge of the Lunch/ Dinner at the campsites on Saturday, so the youth can make the best use of their time at the activities and explore as much as they can.

Check-In Procedures

1. Units will be allowed to check in starting at 5:00pm on Friday.
2. The parking lot will be open at 4:30pm on Friday. No participants will be allowed to enter camp though until 4:30pm. The unit leader or unit representatives need to check in first to verify roster information.
3. All Unit leaders must check in with the event staff at the Check-in station in the parking lot/ Saunders.
4. Unit leaders to ensure they have the following forms up to date for all the participants:
 - a. Current YPT certificates for participating adults
 - b. Med forms A/B1/B2 for all participants
 - c. Swim test certificates for all participants partaking in aquatic events
 - d. List of invitees expected as "Scout Buddy"
 - e. Completed Youth application (no payment necessary) for each Buddy. Form can be downloaded from <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406.pdf>
5. Unit leaders make sure to collect the following items during **Check-IN**
 - a. Event Wristbands for each Registered participant
 - b. Event T-shirt/ swag as ordered by your Units.
 - c. Event Round robin list (additional details to be provided at Leaders meeting)
 - d. Camp Assignment, Camp Map etc.
6. No personal vehicles will be allowed into camp after 9:00pm for safety reasons. Arrivals after 9:00pm will have gear taken to camp using special transfer methods.
7. Participants will be given a map of the Camp and a window sign that needs to be placed on the front dash of the vehicle with the contact information of the vehicle driver.
8. Remember that multiple units could be sharing a site, so be courteous when setting up.

Check-Out Procedures

1. Clean up campsites and bathhouses in your respective areas, make sure all lights/ fans/ water faucets are turned off and secured.
2. All trash should be bagged, and placed at the entrance to the campsite for pickup by camp staff.
3. LEAVE NO TRACE—all sites should be left in better shape than you found them.
4. Staff members will check the site for any damage and report it to the camp master.
5. Unit leaders collect the following items from the Checkout station **AFTER** the awards ceremony and after cleanup.
 - a. Event Patch for all registered participants
 - b. Any missing swag items
6. All units should be cleared from Camp by 12:00pm on Sunday.

Scout Skills Competitions

There will be a whole lot of activities planned out for the Youth and their “Non BSA-Registered Buddys” to enjoy. The activities have been broken down into 5 different Treks. Units/ Individuals can pick what Treks they want to choose in the order and time slots will be allotted for each, so the youth can participate at least once in the following key areas: **Team building**, Water Sports, High adventure activity and Shooting sports. Every Event area will be manned by 2 staff members. Staff will also be on their own round robins to keep things more interesting.

Rules of the game :

1. Most events will be scored on an individual Scouts basis.
2. Scout Buddy’s points will be **Added** to the Scout’s points.
3. Scouts will be recognized individually for 1st and 2nd place for most of the events.
4. **Overall Trophy** for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded to the Unit with Most Points (Average)
5. The 1st place **Overall Trophy** will be the property of Thunderbird District and will be circulated every year to the New Champions.
6. Only one score from an event can be used per scout towards the totals.

Convenient Round Robin schedules have been made for every participating unit such that everyone gets a fair chance at every event being offered. Lots of events have been left as **Open** meaning those events are Open for anyone throughout the schedule. Lunch/ Dinner/ Cracker barrel times have also been included in the schedule. Food arrangements have to be handled as per the directions given under “Food Accommodations” section of the Leaders Guide.

The activities and events being offered have been grouped into 5 different Treks. While there is no added advantage of one Trek over the other, everyone registering is required to pick 1 of the 5 Treks available at the time of Registration to secure their time slots for each of the activities. This has been done in order to distribute the crowds in an organized manner. The detailed Round Robin schedule for the different treks is attached as a separate PDF document available for download. Please download the Round Robin schedule and share it with your units so all the participating Youth and Adults are aware of where they need to be based on the Trek chosen at the time of Registration. Availability will be on a first come first served basis within the Treks.

Treks include :

- Acadia Trek**
- Denali Trek**
- Glacier Trek**
- Rocky Trek**
- Smoky Trek**

A copy of The **Event Round Robin schedule** based on the Treks chosen at registration will be provided to Unit leaders/ SPL on Friday night leaders meeting. A downloadable copy of the same will be available on the Event Facebook page for planning purposes.

Scouts Buddy Invites (Only Saturday Jan 11th - 8:00am - 10:00pm)

The idea of the *Scouts Buddy Invites* is to give the Youth a chance to invite their friends and family for FREE to see what Scouting is all about. Every registered Scout youth can bring ONE Buddy for FREE to the event. This will be a recruiting opportunity for the units to bring on their potential recruits and demonstrate in a high energy environment how Scouting is a program providing safe haven for the youth to train and learn life skills and have fun all at the same time.

1. Scout Buddy is any non-Scouts registered, eligible youth within the age group of 11-20.
2. Scout buddies can be accompanied by the buddy's parents.
3. Scout buddy and Parent cannot camp with the Unit on Friday and/or Saturday night.
4. Scout Buddy has to have a completed BSA application form for insurance purposes, payment is NOT required. The form MUST be signed by a parent or guardian and submitted beforehand.
5. Scout buddy and parent will also be expected to follow Scouts BSA YPT protocols and all the safety regulations, while on camp property.
6. Scout buddy/ parent has to check in at Saunders between 8:00 am - 9:00 am on Sep. 9th- Saturday.
7. Scout Buddy/ Parents to leave the campsite by Saturday, 10:30pm at max.

Scouts Training (Only Saturday Jan 11th - 10:00am - 8:00pm)

The idea of the Scouts Training opportunity is to give the Youth a chance to finish their qualifiers for the following Merit Badges while having fun with their Non-Scout registered buddies. This way they can practically demonstrate to their buddy how to earn a Merit Badge by finishing the qualifiers. Registered Merit Badge Counselors will be available on site to sign off the completion. The Scouts have to finish their qualifier within the allotted time for their Units within the round-robin Treks or wait for **Open** time.

Merit Badges qualifiers offered during the event include (only these qualifying requirements are covered):

1. Chess (req. 6 a)
2. Archery (req. 5 Option A (f)(2), Option B (f)(2))
3. Fishing (req. 9)
4. Rifle Shooting (req. 2 A(L) ; 2 B(k))
5. Climbing (req. 10 a,b; req. 11 a,b,c)

Fee Structure and other costs

Fee structure includes, activity fees, accommodation, patch, awards and other regalia. Every registered unit gets one 10x10 booth location for FREE to be set up outside of Trading post for recruiting or information purposes. Every registered youth gets to participate in Merit badge qualifiers for FREE.

1. All BSA registered Youth/ Adults can register for 20\$ each (Early Registration) and participate in all age appropriate activities within the allotted 2 Hr time slots.
2. FREE for Non-registered Scouts BSA eligible youth, accompanying a registered Scout youth.
3. If a "**Lone Scout**" or any individual scout whose unit is Not registered, wants to attend the event, only to finish the qualifiers for their Merit badge, the fee is only \$20, like any other registered participant.
4. TShirts will be available for purchase at the time of registration for an additional cost.
5. Extra patches and TShirts from the event may be available for purchase from the events staff.

Unit Accommodations and Parking

1. Units will be allowed to set up at designated areas, as notified at the Check in point on Friday.
2. Only adults will be allowed to use Adirondacks, unless there is any compelling medical condition that demands that the youth be accommodated in an adirondack.
3. All youth from a unit have to pitch their tents within the designated areas of their unit, maintaining YPT requirements.
4. Any special needs such as power for CPAP machines etc. needs to be brought to our attention ahead of time and we will do our best to accommodate such requests to the best of our abilities.
5. Non-Registered youth and adults will not be permitted overnight camping under any circumstances.
6. Parking will be allowed only in the general parking area and not near the campsites. Unit trailers can be parked near camp-sites.

Vehicles in Camp

NO vehicles will be allowed to be parked in Camp. Any vehicle left in Camp after 9:00 pm on Friday will be towed at the owner's expense. Vehicles needed for handicap reasons need pre-approval of the event director prior to arrival at camp. A window tag will be issued at check-in. Pre-authorized vehicles will only be allowed on the main roads. These policies will be in effect from 9:00 pm Friday until 9:00 am on Sunday for the safety of all campers and staff.

Food Accommodations

In order to keep the cost of the event minimal food will NOT be provided as part of the registration. All Units are responsible for their own food arrangements. Units can cook at their designated camp sites or purchase from outside. A wide range of snacks and drinks will be available for purchase through the **Trading Post**.

First Aid Provisions

All Units are responsible for their First aid. Please "Be Prepared" with a first aid kit in your campsite and a personal one to carry with you. In the event of major illness or emergency, contact the first aid officer or event director, contact information will be provided at Check-in.

General Rules

1. All the Events are open to All Council members and friends; however overnight camping will be strictly allowed only for Scouting registered members (Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts and Exploring).
2. In an effort to maximize the effectiveness of the event FOR the Youth, it is highly recommended that Adults take charge of the food at the campsites on Saturday, so the youth can make the best use of their time at the activities.
3. Camping allowed ONLY for BSA registered members and in the designated areas.
4. Youth are expected to follow Buddy System all the time within the YPT guidelines, NO Exceptions.
5. Participation in the Event can be prohibited for YPT violations.
6. Participant Vehicles Need to be Parked in Designated Parking Areas Only.
7. NO Parking In Front of Wood Hall, Except for the Event/ Kitchen Staff.
8. Tazers, Straight Knives, Swords, firearms of any sizes are NOT permitted on site during the event.
9. Attendance to Flag Ceremony is Expected to be in Full Field Uniform, (Troop Flags and other regalia highly encouraged)
10. Scout Buddy/ Buddy parents NOT allowed to camp after activities on Saturday (Jan 11th)
11. Scout Buddy needs to have a Signed & Completed BSA form. (forms available upon request)
12. All Scouts and participants to have most updated Med forms (A, B1, B2)

13. All Adults must have up-to-date YPT certification at the time of Check In.
14. All participants engaging in water activities need to have their swim tests done or be ready for a swim test as demanded by the staff on site.
15. Troop trailers will need to be parked close to the camp site allotted.
16. *This is **NOT** a Merit Badge Academy, only qualifying rounds available for the allotted Merit Badges.*
17. To keep event cost minimal, **Units are responsible for their Own Food** - Cook on-site or buy from outside or at the Trading post.
18. Participants are expected to abide by the rules in place at each of the Activities/ stations.
19. Participants may be removed from the site for disciplinary or non-compliance issues at the Discretion of the event organizers in view of general safety and liability.
20. 11:00pm - Lights Out for registered overnight campers.

Register Here:

<https://scoutingevent.com/089-77087>

