

UPDATED PREREQUISITES! 10/30/26

Conservation Weekend Guidebook

Nov. 13-15, 2026

Dear Scouts & Scouters:

Welcome to the Atlanta Area Council's Conservation Weekend!

The Conservation Weekend staff is excited to have you join us for this campout weekend focused on conservation merit badges, awards, training, and connections with service opportunities.

In this guidebook, you will find some important information to prepare you for the weekend including the schedule, map, packing list, merit badge information, and more. As you plan for your weekend, please be sure to check out our website at https://www.campwoodruff.org/conservation for any important updates. If any of your questions aren't answered in this document, please send an email to aacconservationweekend@gmail.com.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at Woodruff on November 13-15!

Yours in Scouting,
The Conservation Weekend Leadership Team
Atlanta Area Council

p.s. **A Note about our Software & Advancement Data Entry:** We are the FIRST event with advancement entry in Atlanta Area Council to use the newly installed Black Pug software. Please have patience with us as we hit the inevitable hiccups along the way!

What is Conservation Weekend?

Conservation Weekend is an overnight camping event for Scouts BSA Scouts and Adult Scouters. Sessions offered during the weekend include training in Outdoor Ethics, Conservation Project Planning, and clinics for multiple conservation-themed merit badges.

We are offering 24 Merit Badges, giving Scouts the opportunity to enroll in up to three (3) merit badges from our dynamic instructors! Additionally, our most popular sessions continue to be the Conservation Service opportunities. This event also includes a Conservation Midway on Saturday during the lunch period and conservation-themed activities Saturday night with games, food, and information on how to engage in conservation activities with your troop after you return home.

Educational Sessions

Merit Badge Sessions, Conservation Projects, and Conservation Midway

- **Merit Badge Sessions (Choose up to 3)** *(*new this year)*
  Bird Study - Citizenship in the World - Energy - Engineering* - Environmental Science - Fish and Wildlife Management - Fishing - Fly Fishing - Forestry - Geology - Landscape Architecture - Mammal Study - Nature - Nuclear Science - Oceanography - Plant Science - Pulp and Paper - Reptile and Amphibian Study - Soil and Water Conservation - Sustainability – Textile* - Weather - Wildland Fire Management*
- **Other Sessions**
  Angling Educator - 16+ Youth and Adults
  Conservation Scout Skills – all Scouts, particularly newer Scouts
  Conservation Weekend Service Projects – all Scouts and Adults
  Conservation Weekend Trails & Tools Service Projects – all Scouts and Adults
  Trail Crew Leader Training - 13+ Youth and Adults
  Earth Tribe Challenges – all Scouts
  Catch, Clean & Cook a Fish – All Scouts
- **Full Weekend Opportunities**
  Fun with Outdoor Ethics Leave No Trace Skills Training – Youth ages 14 – 17 and Adults
  Certified Angler Instructor – 16+ Youth and Adults

Registration

Conservation Weekend is open to all registered youth in Scouts BSA Troops or Venturing Crews. Leave No Trace participants must be 14 years old by November 13, 2026. CAI Participants must be 16 years old by November 13, 2026. Trail Crew Leader Training must be 13 years old by November 13, 2026.

All Scouts BSA registered Scouts are eligible to attend Conservation Weekend. Some merit badges offered have age restrictions. Any Scouts under 13 must bring an adult (either an adult leader or parent) with them to Conservation Weekend. All adults must register as either an adult participant or as staff. All adults must be Youth Protection / Safeguarding Youth trained and be able to show current certification upon request during the weekend.

All participants must register online at https://www.campwoodruff.org/conservation.

Cost

- All Scout Registrations - **$95**
  - **Youth** Certified Angling Instructor and Outdoor Ethics Registrations no additional cost.
  - CAI Youth Participants must be 14 yrs old by Nov 13th
  - Fun with Outdoor Ethics Youth must be 16 yrs old by Nov 13th
- Basic Adult Registrations - **$60**
  - **Adult** Certified Angling Instructor and Outdoor Ethics Participant Registrations - **$95 Total Reg**
- Volunteer Adult Registrations - **$40**
- Merit Badge Counselor Registration – **Free**

There are no late registrations or walk-in registrations allowed. All registered participants will receive a Conservation Weekend patch and a long-sleeve tee-shirt to be worn throughout the weekend, including during mealtime.

Volunteers/Staff

Adults are welcome and encouraged to join us in one of the following positions:

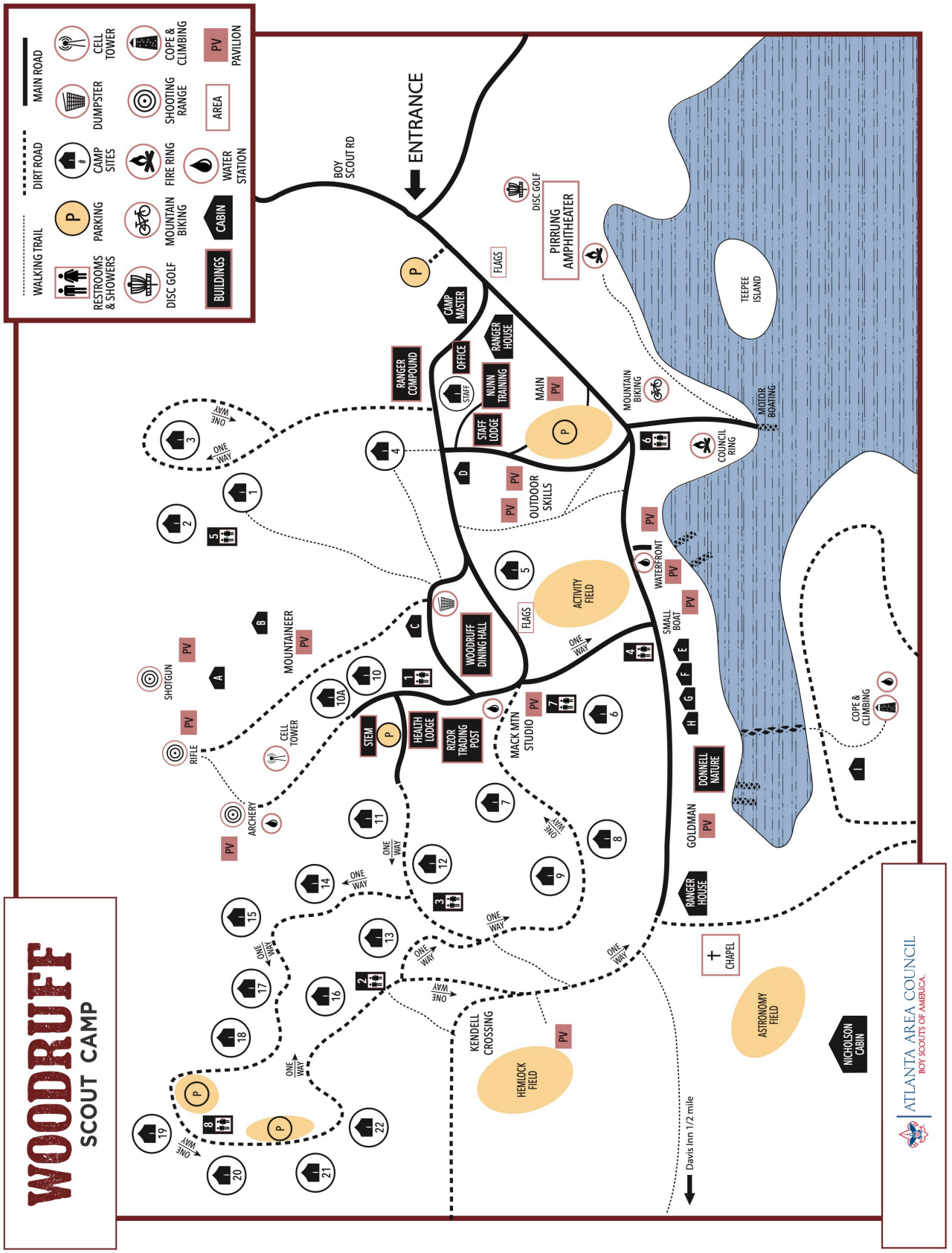
- Merit Badge Counselors – *FREE registration!*
- Merit Badge Session Assistants
- Conservation Project Assistants
- Logistics Staff
- Event Administration Staff
- Troop and Program Commissioner Staff
- Dining Operations Staff

Volunteer registration is $40 for the weekend (*Merit Badge Counselors are free*). Each adult volunteer will receive a Conservation Weekend patch, t-shirt, and meals. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, message aacconservationweekend@gmail.com to get the discount registration code for registration at https://www.campwoodruff.org/conservation.

Location

The event will be held at Woodruff Scout Camp, 31 Woodruff Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512. https://www.campwoodruff.org/files/19436/Directions-to-Woodruff. Upon arrival, every person must Check-in at the Sharp Welcome Center to turn in paperwork, pickup tee shirts and nametags, and receive the full packet of info for the weekend.

Map – Final Class Locations available at Check-In



Schedule – ***Tentative – Final Schedule available at Check-In***

CONSERVATION WEEKEND 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE		
Outdoor Ethics & Certified Angler Instructor schedules will be sent by the course directors.		
Friday, November 14		
TRADING POST & CONCESSIONS HOURS	7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Woodruff Trading Post
Check In	5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Sharp Welcome Center
Participant Campsite Setup Time	5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Campsite Assignments at Check In
Prerequisite Check-Off w/Instructors	8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Dining Hall
Registration Help Desk Open	8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Dining Hall
Event Volunteer Orientation Meeting*	9:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Mack Mountain Studio
Cracker Barrel	9:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Dining Hall
Check In & Help Desk Close	10:00 PM	
Campsite Lights Out & Quiet Time	11:00 PM	

Saturday, November 15		
TRADING POST & CONCESSIONS HOURS	7:30 AM – 9:00 AM 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Woodruff Trading Post *No Concessions 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM*
Check In	7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Sharp Welcome Center
Registration Help Desk Open	7:00 AM	Dining Hall
Grab & Go Breakfast Pickup Open*	7:15 AM – 8:15 AM	Dining Hall
Flag Ceremony	8:15 AM	Activity Field
Merit Badge / Class Session 1	**8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**	**Program Areas**
Conservation Midways	11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Activity Field
Grab & Go Lunch Pickup*	12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM	Activity Field
Merit Badge / Class Session 2	**1:30 PM – 5:00 PM**	**Program Areas**
Out-of-State Adult Leader Porch Talk*	1:00 PM	Carlock Pavilion (Dining Porch)
Dinner Available*	6:00 PM – 7:15 PM	Dining Hall
Conservation After Dark *Get Your Patch Passport at Dinner*	7:30 PM – 9:00 PM	Nature, Life Skills, Activity Field
Cracker Barrel	8:45 PM – 9:30 PM	Dining Hall
Registration Help Desk Closes	10:00 PM	
Campsite Lights Out & Quiet Time	11:00 PM	

Sunday, November 16		
TRADING POST & CONCESSIONS HOURS	10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon	Woodruff Trading Post
Interfaith Worship Service	7:00 AM	Mack Mountain Studio
Grab & Go Breakfast Pickup Open*	7:15 AM – 8:15 AM	Dining Hall
Flag Ceremony	8:15 AM	Activity Field
Merit Badge / Class Session 3	**8:30 AM – Noon**	**Program Areas**
Checkout Open	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Sharp Welcome Center

*__Volunteer Meeting Details__ – Calling all "Helpers!" If you're a Merit Badge or Conservation Class Assistant, Dining Hall Steward, or want to volunteer your time this weekend, join us for this meeting to discuss locations, assignments, and get a thank you gift!

*__Meal Details__ – Breakfasts & Dinner are open for you to come at any time during the window – don't rush and avoid the lines. Lunch is served on the Activity Field for lunch in the great outdoors while you explore our Conservation Midway.

__* Out-of-State Adult Porch Talk Details__ – Join the Event Directors to talk about Summer Camp at Woodruff and to hear about an opportunity to join our Conservation Weekend team in a special role for our Out-of-State Adults!

CONSERVATION WEEKEND ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

	**Event Volunteer Team** Come volunteer with us for all or part of the weekend! Assistance is always needed for Merit Badge Classes, Conservation Projects, and Dining Logistics. Join the Event Volunteer Orientation Meeting at Mack Mountain Studio at 9:00 PM on Friday.
	**Conservation Service Projects** Drop in to join one of the Conservation Teams! We've got teams headed out for each class session to plant and tend to trees, clear invasive species, build trails, and more. Meet at the Nature Center at 8:30 AM and 1:30 AM Saturday or 8:30 AM Sunday.
	**Angling Educator Course** Angling Educator is a national course taught by a Scouting America Certified Angling Instructor. Participants learn age-based and skills-appropriate fishing tools and techniques for simple cane pole and spin cast fishing. It prepares adult Scouters to teach fishing skills, and plan and run fishing events for their troop, district, or council. Join us for class 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM on Saturday.

Check in & Check Out

- During check-in, attendees will get their campsite assignments, t-shirts, submit any missing paperwork, and receive the full packet of info for the weekend's events, including schedule, meal, and parking information. There will be a map of assigned tent locations.
- **Check In & Registration Help Desk times:**
    - **5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Friday Night: Sharp Welcome Center**
    - **After 10:00 pm Friday Night:** Check the campsite list at the Welcome Center and head to your campsite, then check in the next day at the Dining Hall.
    - **7:00 - 8:30 am Saturday morning: Sharp Welcome Center**
    - **After 8:30 am Saturday: Dining Hall**
- **Sunday Checkout will be available from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Sharp Welcome Center**. Participants must check out before leaving Woodruff. You will want your patches!

Parking

Parking is limited to designated areas at Woodruff. There will be staff to direct adult drivers to long-term parking over the weekend. Please be courteous of pedestrian traffic during the weekend. Attendees will not be allowed to drive from class to class. Only authorized vehicles with a pass on the windshield will be allowed to drive around during the weekend. If you have mobility concerns that warrant assistance with getting between locations, please let the Registrar know at aacconservationweekend@gmail.com.

Meals & Dietary Restrictions

All meals will be provided. Please bring a re-useable water bottle and hot beverage cup. We can accommodate many dietary restrictions and allergies. Complex restrictions may require that participants bring their own food for safety. Dietary requirements must be submitted to us no later than October 29, 2026 to ensure we can accommodate your request. The food order will be placed on October 30, 2026 and we need to have dietary requests submitted to the Meal Planning Team by the close of registration. If you have any dietary restrictions, please email aacconservationweekend@gmail.com.

Housing/Tent Areas

We will be camping outdoors in assigned camp areas at Woodruff. Sites have platforms with frames but NO CANVAS TENTS. We recommend that Scouts bring the appropriate camping gear – this weekend tends to have very cold weather. We will accommodate troops to pitch their tents together. Everyone will need to bring their own tent or hammock. Campsite Assignments will be handed out at check In and cannot be provided beforehand. Tenting requests can be emailed to aacconservationweekend@gmail.com.

Merit Badges

We are unable to complete all data entry for Merit Badges during the weekend. Data Entry is typically completed within 10 days of the event end. **The event team will not send out a report but will send instructions to access the report when it is ready.** For each merit badge selected, a printout report and an electronic copy of a blue card can be accessed for the event through Black Pug. The owner of the Black Pug account will be able to enter the event registration to retrieve the report. **Follow this link to the most current version of merit badge requirements:**
https://www.Scouting.org/programs/Scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/

Conservation Weekend 2026**
Merit Badge Prerequisites – Changes Regularly – Look for Updates!

Some merit badges will have a prerequisite activity that must be completed prior to earning the merit badge. Most merit badge counselors will be available to meet for prerequisite sign off on Friday evening from 8:00 – 9:00 pm in the Main Pavilion. Listed below is a list of merit badges with prerequisites that may be worked on before the weekend. Watch this book for changes leading up to the event. **Some badges have requirements that cannot be done until after the event. Conservation Weekend does not promise or guarantee the completion of badges.**

The following requirements must be completed prior to the AAC Conservation Weekend in order to be signed off by counselors at the event. Some merit badges have requirements that cannot be done before the event. Conservation Weekend does not promise or guarantee the completion of badges.

**Most of these have been updated for 2026! Updated & Confirmed prerequisites are marked in RED. Many have not changed or are less than in previous years.

Merit Badge	Prerequisite Requirements
Bird Study	**5**
Citizenship in the World	**4b.** Read articles. Most counselors will email you article 10 days out.
Energy	**1a; 4a**
Environmental Science	**2a, b; 6a or b or c**
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt.	**none**
Fishing and Fly-Fishing	**None.** Please familiarize yourself with the required knots for fishing.
Forestry	**1 and 8**
Geology	**none**
Landscape Architecture	**none**
Mammal Study	**2 and 6**
Nature	**none**
Nuclear Science	**1, 2a, 3b, and 8 ***
Oceanography	**8**
Plant Science	**5 (bring picture), 7, Field Botany requirement E**
Pulp and Paper	**none**
Reptile and Amphibian Study	**8a or 8 bp**
Soil & Water Conservation	**7e**
Sustainability	**2 (choose 1 from a, b, c); 6 (choose 1 from a, b, c); 8c**
Weather	**2.** Scouts will receive a 1-page handout by email 10 days out.
Wildland Fire Management	**10**

What to Bring

REFERENCE: *Scouts BSA Handbook, chapter 9, Camping*

- Overnight gear, outdoor essentials, and appropriate clothing are the heart of camping equipment. Carry a light load of only what you need to keep yourself safe and make a good camp; leave all unnecessary items at home.
- Use lightweight backpacking tents for two only - no wall or large recreation types.

Uniform

We will be providing a long sleeve activity shirt ("Class B") as part of the registration. We encourage all our participants to wear their Conservation Weekend activity shirt throughout the weekend. Troops can decide if they would like for Scouts to wear the Field Uniform during the weekend at all.

Gear Packing List

We recommend that you check the weather to ensure you've got the right gear for the weekend. It's best if it fits in one duffel or backpack as you may walk some distance to find your site. Camp latrines and water are close by. Camp bathrooms and shower houses will be available for use. **Weather in November can vary by a wide temperature range. At past events, we have experienced everything from extreme cold to warm weather. Check weather and plan accordingly.**

Due at Check-In	**Dining Items**
☐ Completed Medical Forms A&B ☐ YPT Certificate (required for adults)	☐ Reusable Water Bottle ☐ Drinking Cup for hot drinks
Outdoor Essentials	**Additional Items**
☐ Pocketknife ☐ First-aid kit ☐ Extra clothing ☐ Rain gear ☐ Water bottle filled with potable water ☐ Flashlight ☐ Matches and fire starters ☐ Sun protection ☐ Map and compass ☐ Clothing for the season* ☐ Backpack or Duffel ☐ Rain cover for backpack ☐ Sleeping bag ☐ Sleeping pad ☐ Ground cloth ☐ Tent or Hammock	☐ Personal Hygiene & Toilet articles (*Towels, washcloths, bath soap, shampoo, toothbrush & toothpaste)* ☐ Medications ☐ Camp stool/chair ☐ Pen/pencil & pad (for notes) ☐ Completed prerequisite work for merit badges ☐ *Scouts BSA Handbook* ☐ Religious Book, if desired ☐ Campsite shoes ☐ Sunglasses ☐ Personal size blanket ☐ Money for trading post ☐ Conservation Project Needs: Work gloves, close-toed shoes, long work pants

BSA Annual Health & Medical Record – "Med Forms"

A current Part A and B of the BSA Annual Health & Medical Record will be required at check-in and returned at check-out. Due to HIPAA guidelines, **medical records cannot be emailed or faxed.** All medical forms will be returned to the participants Sunday at checkout. Those not retrieved will be shredded.

Forms can be found here:
https://filestore.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Dietary or Physical Limitations

If you have a dietary or physical limitations, we ask that you please bring that to our attention now. Please contact us at aacconservationweekend@gmail.com.

CPAP Machine Policy

If a healthcare provider has prescribed a CPAP/BiPAP device for you, it should be used at the camp. If you require a CPAP/BiPAP machine, it is your responsibility to obtain it, take care of it, and follow these directions:

- Limited electricity will be available in the participant campsites. Please email aacconservationweekend@gmail.com or put in your event registration notes that you would like access to power and we will do our best to accommodate your request. The use of an extension cord from a power outlet or shower house to your tent for charging/powering any device is prohibited.
- All CPAP/BiPAP machines must be powered by APPROVED batteries. Approved batteries include OEM (Official Equipment from the Manufacturer) and 12-volt marine batteries within a case. All other types of batteries, for example, a car battery, are prohibited.

Youth Protection

All adults attending the Conservation Weekend must be registered adult Scouters and have current Safeguarding Youth Training. A copy of the certificate is required at check-in. As we all know, Youth Protection is part of the adult registration process. If you do not have a current (un-expired certificate), please log into my.Scouting.org and take the online course. It takes about 65 minutes to complete.

Trading Post

The WOODRUFF TRADING POST will be open! We will have a trading post available with snacks, drinks, sweatshirts, patches, and other items. We will take cash, credit cards, and "tap to pay".

Inclement Weather

We will follow the standard Woodruff procedures for inclement weather. In the case of inclement weather, the following shelters will be available: Shower houses or any permanent building near your current location.

Electronic Devices

We ask that participants limit their use of electronic devices when not attending a course, using them only between dinner and lights out. There are limited locations to recharge devices, and Scouts are advised to bring their own portable chargers.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations requested before the published deadline will receive a 100% refund of the registration fee. No refunds are given if a cancellation is requested after deadline.

Substitutions are not allowed without the assistance of the registrar. If you wish to switch a participant before registration closes, please cancel the attendee, and submit a registration for the new participant, or reach out to the registrar at aacconservationweekend@gmail.com. Fees applied will be based on the registration date.

No-shows, or registrants who do not submit a written explanation for cancellations, will not be eligible for a refund before the published deadline. Refunds cannot be deferred or transferred to other programs.

Fun with Outdoor Ethics Leave No Trace Course

Participants enrolled in the Fun with Outdoor Ethics Leave No Trace Skills Course will receive specific course instructions from the directors. Course participants have a separate class schedule that is setup in different blocks from the Scout merit badge class schedule. **Anticipate that this course will include a Friday night check-in and use all 3 sessions over the weekend.** Participants in this program will have the opportunity to participate in some weekend activities and help oversee their units.

Certified Angler Instructor Course

Participants enrolled in the Certified Angler Instructor (CAI) Course will receive specific course instructions from the CAI Course directors. **Anticipate that this will run the entire duration of the weekend. Please note: to be credited with the CAI course, it is mandatory that participants start their class on Friday night.** This is a minimum 16-hour course and to end on time, the instructors will need all attendees to be mindful of the limited time this weekend offers for activities outside of the CAI course.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **I can't get there on Friday, can I still arrive Saturday?** We ask that you get there safely as soon as you can. Check the schedule for what you may be missing. There is limited time on Saturday morning for check-ins before the sessions begin, but Check In will be open. Certified Angler participants must arrive Friday for 7:00 pm start.
2. **I have a CPAP, can I get electricity to my tent?** There are limited areas with electrical outlets. See CPAP Machine Policy.
3. **Can I bring a hammock instead of a tent**? Due to the unpredictability of the weather in November, we recommend tent camping.
4. **Will I be able to get with my MB counselor after the weekend to complete my MB?** Yes, you will need to arrange this with the merit badge counselor.
5. **Can I bring my own food**? No, unless you have special dietary requirements.
6. **How much money should I have**? The Camp Woodruff Trading Post will be open, with concessions, so plan accordingly. Credit card purchases will require a $10 minimum purchase.
7. **Is there going to be another one of this type of event again**? Yes. This is an annual event.
8. **Are siblings allowed**? Non-Scouting siblings are not allowed. Only registered participants.
9. **Are pets allowed**? No, pets are not allowed at Woodruff except for service animals.
10. **Are the MB locations far apart**? There will be designated merit badge locations throughout Woodruff. Ample time will be provided to travel to each location.
11. **What are our break times**? Please refer to the weekend schedule. Each morning will begin with a Flag ceremony, with lights out by 11PM each night. Schedule is subject to change.
12. **What are the bathroom facilities arrangements?** Bathroom accommodations will be provided for individual use. Showers and restrooms throughout Woodruff will be available.
13. **Where is the medical office**? The medical building is located up the hill from the Dining Hall.
14. **Can I go fishing if I don't participate in the fishing or fly-fishing MB?** Due to the program schedule, extra activities may not be possible but you are welcome to try.
15. **Do I need to really need to bring a chair?** Not necessarily, but we recommend you pack a lightweight portable chair for use at the merit badge clinics, campsite, etc.
16. **Do I need a mess kit?** We will not be using mess kits for provided meals. Please do bring a reusable water bottle and a hot beverage mug or tumbler.
17. **What are adult participation requirements for troop attendance at this event?** Conservation Weekend is open for troop and individual registration. We have adults staffing the event along with Scouters attending with their Scouts. *There is no requirement for a certain number of adults from your troop to attend, however we encourage troop adults to come, and to especially join the volunteer team*. Any Scouters wanting to attend are welcome and encouraged to attend.
18. **Will I be able to complete the merit badge during the weekend?** For most badges, if prerequisites are completed prior to course, Scouts should be able to complete the merit badge. Some merit badges have requirements that must be completed after other requirements are taught and reviewed, meaning they must be done after the weekend ends.