



**FLINT RIVER COUNCIL
FAYETTE DISTRICT
March 13th-15th**



**Spring Camporee
Flint River Adventure Area
March 13th to 15th, 2026**

Leader's Guide



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Overview:

Theme: Siege of Mafeking

Location: Flint River Adventure Area

Address: 1166 Dripping Rock Road, Molena, Georgia 30258

[Flint River Adventure Area Map](#)

[Flint River Adventure Area Directions](#)

Dates: March 13th – 15th, 2026 - Friday – Sunday

Questions? Contact Diane Gentzke or Halie Hammond

Diane: 678-200-9363 E: dgentzke@gmail.com

Halie: 770-298-7259 E: halie.hammond@scouting.org

Registration: Register [Online](#) NO LATER THAN March 7th, 2025. Includes a request to sign up for each troop to run a [Daytime Activity](#)

Cost:

\$15.00 per Scout and Scouter.

1. REFUNDS POLICY

- 50% refund if cancellation is made 2 weeks prior
- NO refund if cancellation is made less than 2 weeks prior

2. You may transfer registration fees to another participant as needed.

3. Make checks payable to “Flint River Council”

Campsite Selection:

Staff at the main entrance will direct units to their Troop campsite, which will be pre-selected to accommodate the unit's corresponding size. **We will not be camping in areas with platform tents, and pavilion space will be very limited. Ensure your unit is prepared to set up their own tents, if desired, group canopies, and portable fire pits.**



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Site Rules:

Do not cut live trees.

Do not dig any holes or trenches.

Use only existing fire pits.

Follow BSA “Leave No Trace” camping guidelines (pages 244-245, Boy Scouts Handbook, 1998 edition).

Do not park personal vehicles in individual campsites except for loading/unloading gear.

Toilet Facilities:

Toilets are on site; therefore, do not dig latrines.

Water: Spigots are strategically placed throughout the campground.

Health/Safety Reminders:

BSA policy prohibits passengers in beds of pickup trucks, whether or not the pickup bed is covered. Drivers, please maintain a safe speed and drive cautiously on camp property, watching out for adults and youth. Keep an appropriate fire extinguisher rated for flammable liquids accessible in your campsite. **“NO FLAMES IN TENTS!”** Units should take care of minor injuries if possible.

A Red Cross-certified individual will be on staff in case of emergency. If medical attention is needed, have authorization forms for medical care/treatment readily available.

All units should bring:

Roster of participants

Medical forms/insurance information

U.S. and troop flags

Troop first aid kit

Standard troop camping equipment



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Uniforms of the Day:

Class "A" uniforms (if headgear is worn, it must be Scout-related) are required at the following events:

- Flag Raising/Lowering Assemblies
- Saturday Campfire
- Vespers Services

Class "B" uniforms are preferred during all other Camporee events.

Schedule of Events

Friday, 13 Mar

	Event	Location*
6:00 PM	Camp Open for Check-In	Guard Post 1
9:00 – 10:00 pm	Cracker Barrel	Scout Headquarters

Saturday, 14 Mar

	Event	Location*
9:15:00 AM - 9:45 AM	Opening Assembly	Scout Headquarters
10:00 - 12:00 pm	Scout Skill Challenges	Town of Mafeking and Vicinity
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	Encampments
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Scout Skill Challenges	Town of Mafeking and Vicinity
4:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner	Encampments
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Camp Fire	Town of Mafeking
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Mafeking Relief Night Ops	Boer Territory

Sunday – Mar 15

	Event	Location*
8:00 – 9:00 am	Night Ops Awards & Vespers	Scout Headquarters
9:00 – 11:30 am	Check-Out	Encampments

*** Location Legend**

Guard Post 1	Entry Road to Flint River Adventure Area
Town of Mafeking	Area surrounded by Flint Rock Road Loop
Encampments	Troop Camp Sites
Scout Headquarters	Grand Pavilion
Boer Headquarters	Flint River Adventure Center



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Troop Daytime Activity: Each Troop has been asked to organize and run one Scout Skill Challenge event that will be attended by multiple patrols in a round robin fashion during the day. Skill choice is up to the Troop and should be loosely related to the theme, but creativity and fun are key. Related skills that may be tested during the Mafeking Relief Night Ops event include:

- **TENDERFOOT** - Knots: square knot, two half-hitches, taut-line hitch, First Aid: Venomous snakebite
- **SECOND CLASS** - Fire building, Knots: sheet bend, bowline knot, Compass and map orientation to include use of pace counts, First Aid: Puncture wounds, hypothermia
- **FIRST CLASS** - Knots: timber hitch and clove hitch, Lashings: Square, shear, and diagonal, First Aid: bandage and transport sprained ankle case

Troop Nighttime Activity:

Background of Mafeking

Introduction

In 1899, Colonel Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell was sent to South Africa to raise a force to help defend the lands Britain considered its own from the Boers (Dutch settlers). When war broke out, Baden-Powell was in the town of Mafeking ("Mafe-uh-keng"), having decided to use it as a staging area for supplies. Mafeking was a small town that lay about two miles off the Transvaal border, and was used as a rail-depot and garrison. Baden-Powell was unprepared for a siege, with few supplies and just 1,200 soldiers to hold the town of 8,000 against a force of some 9,000 Boers.

The siege lasted 217 days, with Baden-Powell successfully holding on until reinforcements arrived on May 17, 1900. The boys of Baden-Powell's "Cadet Corps" were used as mailmen and couriers, as they were able to move freely about the area with little attention from the Boer soldiers. The siege was followed closely in England, and Baden-Powell returned a hero. Boys' organizations all over the country asked him to visit and speak of his adventures. A few years later, Baden-Powell held the first scout camp at Brownsea Island, and Boy Scouting began.

This exercise is designed to test Scouts on their ingenuity and scouting skills as they recreate the relief of Mafeking. Staged and conducted after dark, individual Scout Patrols will deliver food and essential materials to Col Baden-Powell, by way of an orienteering course, interspersed with intermediate Supply Stations, each with its own challenges and rewards. Scouts will have to draw on their individual and team skills to successfully navigate their way to Mafeking and deliver the supplies needed by Col Baden-Powell. And along the way, they will experience some of the history of Lord Baden-Powell and the origins of Scouting.



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History of the Siege

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell became the Commanding Chief of her Majesty's Forces in South Africa during the late 1800's. He was an excellent soldier and was well known for his ability as a spy and a commander.

The English Colony in Africa was heading quickly to a war with their Dutch neighbors, the Boers. Historians debate the events that led up to the siege of Mafeking, but the 217-day siege is one of the most fascinating stories in military strategy.

Baden-Powell was supposed to have a highly trained commando force under his command to use in fighting the Boers. But things didn't work out in his favor. He found himself quickly trapped in the small town of Mafeking with a terribly inadequate force.

Mafeking was a trade center for its area and had been the center for the region's government. It had a railway line running to it, but was at the bottom of a valley, which made it very difficult to defend. What made it worse, there were no natural defenses in the town, like rivers, hills, or forests. England came to watch this town with interest during the siege, and Baden-Powell's incredible game of bluff won him a hero's status. But things did not look good during the siege. Baden-Powell was out-gunned, ill-equipped, and hopelessly outnumbered. If Mafeking was to hold out, it would only be through Baden-Powell's skill as a military strategist.

Barbed Wire

It was not long before Baden-Powell ran out of barbed wire to protect the city. One Saturday evening as he watched the Boer soldiers leave their trenches for the Sunday cease-fire (no one fought on Sunday), he saw them crawling carefully through the barbed wire, but at that distance, he couldn't actually see the rolls of wire. All he could see were soldiers twisting, ducking, and crawling as they moved back toward their camp. Baden-Powell instructed his men to continue putting up posts, pretending to string rows and rows of barbed wire around Mafeking. From their observation points, the Boers wouldn't know the difference! He taught his men to pretend they were crawling through barbed wire as they left the trenches. This fooled the Boers, who decided that they wouldn't be able to get through barbed wire if they attacked.

Spies

Baden-Powell worried about spies in his town. If the Boers found out about his fake defenses, Mafeking would fall. So Baden-Powell got up early one morning and posted this sign in the village square:

SPIES

There are in town today 9 known spies. They are hereby warned to leave before 12 noon tomorrow, or they will be apprehended.

Of course, he had no way of knowing how many spies were in town. But the trick worked!



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Land Mines

Lacking sufficient real land mines, Baden-Powell filled small boxes with sand and had the soldiers bury them all around the outside of the town during daylight so that the Boers would think they were burying land mines. To make sure the trick worked, he took some of the dynamite he actually had and pretended to test his "land mines". Again, the Boers kept their distance, not wanting to run into Baden-Powell's extensive mine fields.

Cannons

One thing Mafeking really lacked was cannons. The Boers lobbed shells from their cannons for days on end, destroying much of the strangled town. Once again, Baden-Powell feared that the Boers would storm his town any day. It was then that he came up with another terrific idea.

He had trenches dug all around the town and built cannon bunkers along Mafeking's perimeter. His soldiers would fire the few cannons they had, and then the town's boys would drag the cannons through the trenches to the next empty cannon bunker, where the soldiers would fire them again. To the Boers, it appeared that Mafeking had dozens of cannons that soldiers were firing at their leisure!

Conclusion

When Troops arrived to liberate Mafeking 217 days into the siege, Baden-Powell returned to England a hero. The country watched his every move, eager to see what the brilliant soldier would do. Boys' organizations all over the country asked him to visit them or write them letters. Through his fame and concern for boys, he eventually started Boy Scouting, and tens of thousands of boys joined to follow their hero, Baden-Powell.



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Supplies/Skills needed for Saturday's Activities:

Scout Outdoor Essentials:

- Pocketknife
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Clothing
- Rain Gear
- Canteen or Water Bottle
- Flashlight
- Sun Protection
- Paper plus Pen or Pencil
- Compass

Knots to Know:

- Two-Half Hitches
- Taut-Line Hitch
- Square Knot with eyes closed
- Bowline – one-handed or two
- Sheet Bend

Show first aid for the following:

- Simple cuts and scratches
- Blisters on the hand and foot
- Minor burns or scalds (first-degree)
- Bites or stings from insects and ticks
- Venomous snakebite
- Bandages
- Frostbite and sunburn



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