

Leader's Guide



ISLAND PARK

SCOUT CAMP

GTC

2026

ADVENTURE IS HERE



WELCOME TO CAMP....

Dear Scouting Volunteer,

We are excited to welcome you to Island Park Scout Camp this summer, so many have not had outdoor experiences. Some of the fondest memories of my youth are the weeks I spent at Scout Camp. What a great way to help Scouts build character, develop values, and receive critical lessons.

We want to help you have a successful summer and have worked to provide you with the resources you need to plan effectively. This guidebook has been extensively redone to give you accurate and helpful information about our camp. Use it to help your Senior Patrol Leader grow as he or she learns to lead this summer.

Scouting is fun, exciting, and full of adventure. Scout Camp is truly one of the most exciting and adventurous things we do in Scouting. We hope that each youth and leader who participates in Scouting an summer camp will have many adventures and that those adventures will continue throughout their lives, helping them grow and become better. Beginning your camp preparations now will help prepare each Scout in your troop to have a tremendous adventure this summer.

Thank you for your contribution to the Scouting Program. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Your Friend in Scouting,

Clarke Farrer
Scout Executive
Grand Teton Council

Welcome Unit Leaders!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you and your Scouts to an unforgettable summer adventure at Island Park Scout Camp!

As you know, the heart of Scouting America lies in empowering our youth to grow in character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Through engaging, hands-on challenges and real-world leadership opportunities, Scouts develop courage, initiative, resourcefulness, and self-reliance. This summer, our goal is to help your troop amplify those strengths while having the time of their lives!

To help your PLC prepare for a seamless and exciting week, this guide includes:

- Program Overviews:** A comprehensive look at our thrilling activities—from high-ropes courses to our aquatics programs—designed to ignite every Scout's curiosity.
- Merit Badge Planning Tools:** Easy-to-use worksheets for every badge offered. These will help your Scouts identify their interests, map out their daily schedules, and prepare for our online registration portal.
- Leader Resources:** Helpful checklists, sample budgets, and step-by-step timelines to keep your adult leadership team and your PLC on track and stress-free.

With careful planning now, your troop will be free to focus entirely on making memories once you arrive—waking up to crisp lake views, mastering new skills, and sharing stories under our starry Idaho skies.

Thank you for your continued dedication to guiding these young people as they grow, explore, and laugh together. Here's to our best camp season ever—we can't wait to see you at the campfire!

Yours in Scouting,
Heather Branson Camp Director, Island Park Scout Camp

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Troop Attendance Roster
Island Park Scout Camp Map & Directions IPSC



Camp Fees, Arrival & Departure

Camp Fees & The New Scout Discount Program

Island Park had an incredible season last year! To keep providing a top-tier experience, we're adjusting our fees this season—but we're also thrilled to introduce the **New Scout Discount Program** to help you save! (*Grand Teton Council Registered Scouts only*).

Here's how to save:

Bring a Friend: When a youth brings a newly recruited Scout (joined Jan 2024 or later) to camp, **both Scouts get \$25 off** their registration!

No Limits: The recruiting Scout earns an extra **\$10 off** for every additional new Scout they bring. There is no cap!

Stack Your Savings: These discounts can be combined with the Early Bird Discount if you register and pay on time.

Included! Don't forget—Island Park features a Central Dining Area, meaning **all your camp meals are completely included** in your registration fee.

Help us grow Scouting, save on fees, and make this summer at Island Park the best one yet!

	Deposit	\$200
Early Bird Registration <small>Paid in full by May 30th, 2026</small>	Youth Participant	\$285
	Out of Council Participant	\$300
	Returning Out of Council Participant	\$285
Standard Registration <small>Paid in full by June 20th, 2026</small>	Leader	\$140
	Youth Participant	\$295
	Out of Council Participant	\$310
	Returning Out of Council Participant	\$295
Late Registration <small>Paid in full by June 20th, 2026</small>	Leader	\$150
	Youth Participant	\$305
	Out of Council Participant	\$310
	Returning Out of Council Participant	\$305
Misc. Registration Fees	Adult Daily Rate	\$40
	Youth Daily Rate	\$75
	Guest Meals	\$8

²For the special price of "Returning Out-of-Council Youth", the unit must have attended a Grand Teton Council summer camp in 2024 or 2025.

³A unit who brings at least eight youth **AND** one leader who stays the entire week will be eligible for one free adult registration.

⁴A late fee of \$10.00 will be added to each standard registration if paid after the June 20th deadline.

Refund Policy

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a campsite. This fee will be used towards registration fees. Any excess registration fees will be deposited into your unit's account (**in Council only**) or a check can be issued to your chartered organization.

All camp fees are due by June 20th 2026. Other than the \$200 deposit, all other camp fees may be refundable up to two weeks prior to the start of the troop's assigned week at camp.

Fee refund requests within two weeks of the troop's assigned week of camp will only be granted in cases of verifiable, major medical emergencies and with the approval of the camp director and the Grand Teton Council Scout Executive.

A refund request form (see Appendix) must be completed and submitted by mail to:

Grand Teton Council Service Center
 3910 S. Yellowstone Highway
 Idaho Falls, ID 83402

¹Units will be eligible for a \$10 discount per youth if units REGISTER and PAY a \$200 per campsite deposit prior to **April 1, 2026**.

Deposits are nonrefundable. In order to keep the Early Bird Discount, all registration fees must be paid in full no later than **May 30, 2026**. Additional youth or adult registrations not paid in full after the May 16 deadline will be charged at the full fee.



Camp Fees, Arrival & Departure

Arrival (Check-in)

Check-in and registration on Monday and will begin at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. An early arrival will give more time for setting up camp. A late arrival may cost the youth program time that first day.

Registration and check-in will take place at the lodge.

Upon arrival, the youth will need to grab their swim suits and towel from their gear. At their assigned time, the troop will perform their swim checks at the waterfront. After swim checks, the troop will go to their campsite to unload and set up camp. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

The Scoutmaster is responsible for check-in and should have the following ready upon arrival (all forms are found in the Appendix):

- Official BSA Health and Medical Record forms (A, B & C) for every person attending.
- A troop Attendance Roster.
- Receipts for fee payments made prior to camp
- 2026 Campsite Reservation Form, if desired.
- Notification of any member of your unit using prescription medication.

Please note that the camp does not provide services to troops who arrive prior to the Monday 8:00 a.m. check-in. This includes dining services, waterfront, and program area access.

Departure (Check-Out)

Troops that plan to leave early should notify the Camp Director so that all paperwork, including merit badge worksheets, will be ready in time.

Please note that all pioneering projects except the campsite gateway must be disassembled and removed on Friday. Poles and unused twine should be returned to the Ranger. Trash should be placed in the proper dumpster.

A continental breakfast will be served on Saturday from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Central Dining Area. Troops should be checked-out and vacate their campsites by 9:00 a.m.

The following checklist will help troops in the check-out process:

- If not already completed, submit a Campsite Reservation Form for the following year.
- Clean the campsite. and method of payment for outstanding fees.
- Complete final campsite inspection with troop friend.
- Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader complete and submit camp evaluations.
- Pick up the Troop Exit Packet:
 - Final Camp Fees Receipt
 - Camp copies of health forms
 - Camp patches (1 per person)
 - Merit badge progress sheets and blue cards
 - Other memorabilia



Camp Rules & Information

Everyone at Island Park Scout Camp is expected to speak and act in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. In addition to the guiding principles found in the Scout Oath and Law, the following policies have been developed in accordance with the policies of the Scouting America and/or the laws of our state and country.

Adult Leadership

The role of adult leaders at summer camp is very important. In planning, supervising, teaching, and participating, their influence and support is critical. Adult Leader Responsibilities at Camp

- **Two registered adult leaders (21+)** are required at all Scouting activities.
- **Units with female youth** must have at least **one registered female leader (21+)**.
- **Supervision must always be age- and program-appropriate.**
- **Adult leadership is required at all times**, including hikes and offsite activities.
- **Mandatory Training:** All adult leaders must complete **Youth Protection Training** and **Hazardous Weather Training** before arriving at camp.
- **Check-In/Check-Out:** An adult leader must complete the check-in or check-out process when arriving or leaving camp.
- **Youth Protection is everyone's responsibility.**

Alcohol • Illegal Drugs • Tobacco • Vaping

Island Park Scout Camp is a strictly alcohol-, illegal drug-, tobacco-, and vaping-free environment. The Scouting America organization prohibits alcoholic beverages at all youth events and on all BSA properties, including surrounding areas where youth program activities are offered. Youth members are not permitted to use tobacco in any form. Adults may only use tobacco products in designated areas, away from Scouts and camp activities. For information about these designated areas, please contact the Camp Director.

Allergies

Scouts and leaders with any allergies must notify camp leadership by completing the Special Needs Form found in the Appendix.

Animal Safety

Our camp is located in bear, skunk, moose, deer, and other wildlife country. Safety training will be provided upon arrival at camp. Please be sure to review the Bear Policy on page 11 for important details.

Axes • Hatchets

Axes and hatchets are permitted at camp but must be used only within designated axe yards. These tools are not to be used to cut, chop, carve, or otherwise damage living trees. All use of cutting tools must follow the principles

of Outdoor Ethics and the Outdoor Code.

Bicycles & ATVs

At Island Park Scout Camp, we love adventure—but safety comes first! **ATVs and motorcycles are not permitted** without special permission from the Camp Director. Bicycles are welcome, but must stay on **service roads**—not on trails.

Helmets must be worn whenever riding. Let's ride safely and have fun!

Buddy System

Camp is always better with a buddy! All Scouts are expected to use the **buddy system** at all times to help ensure everyone's safety and support.

Campsite Accommodations

We're all part of the camp family! Smaller units may be asked to **share campsites** with other troops. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends and build new memories.

Camp Dress Code

Show your Scout spirit! The **official BSA uniform** is the perfect choice for camp and should be worn proudly at flag ceremonies. **Camp and troop t-shirts** are also great options for daily wear and are available for purchase at the Trading Post. We recommend wearing camp/troop t-shirts during service projects with your **official Scout pants or shorts** when available.

Swimwear should be comfortable, functional, and appropriate for the specific aquatic activity.

- Designed as swimwear
- Appropriate to the activity
- Secure as to not shift or fall off while participating
- T-shirt or additional layer may be allowed if it does not hamper movement in the water

Campsite Inspections

Keep your camp clean, safe, and awesome! **Daily campsite inspections** will be done by your Senior Patrol Leader and a camp commissioner. Inspection results will be posted each day at your campsite's bulletin board—let's aim for top marks! Get ready for an amazing summer!

Join us for the **Camp Leaders Meeting on May 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Idaho Falls Service Center**. Leaders will also have the exciting chance to **sign up early for the 2027 camp season!**



Camp Rules & Information

Chainsaws

Chainsaws may **only** be used with permission from the **Camp Director** or **Camp Ranger**, and only by trained adults wearing proper protective gear. Please be considerate of other campers if chainsaws are in use.

Courtesy

Your campsite is your troop's **home** for the week! Troop behavior is the responsibility of the unit's adult leaders, with Camp Friends and Commissioners there to assist. Please remind Scouts to **respect other troops' campsites**—no entering unless invited, keep noise levels down, follow **quiet hours**, and leave personal property alone.

Duty to God

The Scouting America welcomes all faiths and encourages Scouts to live their religious beliefs while respecting others'. Scouts are free to pray as they have been taught. Island Park offers a "**Scout is Reverent**" patch, which can be earned and purchased at the Trading Post.

Ecology

Animal Conservation: Help protect the balance of life—no feeding, harassing, or harming animals, land or aquatic.

Vegetation Conservation: Trails are there for a reason—stay on them! Do not pick flowers or cut trees, and use only dead and down wood for fires. Hammocks must be hung with **1-inch wide straps** to protect trees.

Emergencies

If an emergency arises, the camp siren or horn will sound. Scouts and leaders should immediately **return to their campsites**. Leaders must account for everyone. Instructions will follow.

For emergencies at home, parents can call:

- Grand Teton Council (Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM):
(208) 522-5155
- After hours: Heather Branson, Camp Director:
(208) 716-4495

Encounters with Bears

Please review the **Bear Safety Regulations and Bear Guard Plan** on page 11 before camp.

Fire Prevention

A single spark can cause devastating wildfires. Fires must be kept in designated **fire pits** and must **never** be left unattended. No flames (including propane lanterns and heaters) are allowed inside tents. Every unit should complete a **unit fireguard plan** and take fire safety seriously!

Firearms, Ammunition, Weapons

Bringing firearms, ammunition, or any personal weapons to camp is **strictly prohibited**. Items will be safely se-

cured by the Camp Director and returned at check-out.

Fireworks

No fireworks of any kind are allowed at camp—thank you for helping keep everyone safe!

First Aid

Camp staff trained in advanced first aid are available to help. More serious needs will be referred to nearby clinics or hospitals, including Island Park Medical Clinic and Madison Memorial Hospital.

Fishing Regulations

No Idaho state fishing license is required for our private stocked lake! However, an **Island Park Scout Camp fishing license** (\$5.00) must be purchased at the Trading Post.

Gambling

Gambling is not permitted at camp—let's keep the focus on fun and adventure!

Health & Medical Records

To help keep everyone safe, the **Scouting America** requires that **every person at camp** — including day visitors — submit **Parts A and B** of the Health and Medical Record at check-in.

No one will be allowed to stay at camp without a completed form.

If you are staying **longer than 72 hours**, you must also submit **Part C** — a record of a physical exam completed within the past 12 months by a certified and licensed healthcare provider.

To make check-in smooth and easy, we encourage troops to **submit copies of all health forms** to the **Grand Teton Council Service Center** at least **two weeks before camp**. If forms are not submitted ahead of time, they **must** be turned in during check-in at camp.

☐ Please note: The camp health officer **cannot** perform physicals at camp.

Health forms will be returned to units at checkout.

For members of the Christian Science faith, a **written letter from a practitioner** must be provided instead of a physical.



Camp Rules & Information

Insurance

Each troop must carry **adequate liability insurance**. Please make sure all campers are protected and that **insurance policy numbers are listed** on their medical forms.

Knives

At Island Park Scout Camp, folding pocketknives are preferred over fixed-blade knives. A sharp pocketknife is a handy tool for camping and backcountry use! (See the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.) As a guideline, knives with blades up to 4 inches are fine, and locking folding knives or multitools are highly recommended. If you're unsure about a particular knife, just check with the Camp Director.

Liquid Fuel/Propane Equipment and Storage

Propane and gas stoves and lanterns are **welcome** — but must be used under the **supervision of a knowledgeable adult**. Extra fuel must be stored in a **camp-approved safe location**. Please check with the Camp Director or Camp Ranger when you arrive.

Lost & Found

Lost something? Find the Lost and Found **right outside the business office**. After camp ends, unclaimed items will be taken to the Idaho Falls Service Center and donated to charity after **August 31**.

Mail

Parents are encouraged to send **letters and care packages** to Scouts at camp — it's always exciting to get mail! Please send mail a week earlier than your camp time to ensure that it gets to camp and your scout.

Stamps and postcards are available at the Trading Post. Outgoing mail can also be dropped off there.

Send mail to:

Scout's Name and Troop Number
Island Park Scout Camp
General Delivery
Island Park, ID 83429

Meals

All meals are served in our **Central Dining Area**, and we provide dishes and utensils — no need to bring your own! You're welcome to make extra snacks or treats at your campsite if you wish. However **CLOSELY** follow the Bear guidelines on PG 11.

If anyone in your group has **special dietary needs**, please notify the Grand Teton Council Service Center **at least two weeks before camp**. (See Appendix for form) Questions? Ask the Camp Director!

Medication

Per Idaho State Law, **camp medical officers can only administer prescription drugs if they are**

- In the original packaging
- Has written orders from a licensed prescriber
- Assisted within 20 mins of designated time
- Responsible for storing and safeguarding

We can **refrigerate medications** if needed — just let us know.

Personal Hygiene

A Scout is clean! Hot showers and toilet facilities are available throughout camp for youth and adults. Scouts should **wash hands after using the restroom and before meals**, and **shower regularly** during the week (especially after swimming). Please help keep shared facilities **clean and sanitary**.

Facility	Available for:
Central Showers	Youth Female
South Showers	Youth Male
White House	All Staff & Adults

Pets

Pets are not allowed at camp — even visitor pets — to protect both wildlife and pets themselves. Only **medical support animals** on a leash are permitted.

Pornography

Pornography and suggestive materials are strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal from camp.

Quiet Hours

We believe everyone deserves a good night's rest! Please respect **quiet hours between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.**

Special Needs

The Scouting America welcomes all youth who are willing to live by the Scout Oath and Law, and Island Park Scout Camp is committed to helping every Scout have a successful camp experience!

If your Scout has special needs, please submit a **C-Special Needs Form** to the **Grand Teton Council Service Center before June 1**. If you are from **outside the Council**, please fax a copy of the **Adapted Requirements Form** to the Grand Teton Council by June 1 at **208-522-5158**.

This helps us prepare and ensure every Scout has the support they need!



Camp Rules & Information

Trading Post

Our camp Trading Post is your go-to spot for merit badge materials, basic camping supplies, snacks, cold drinks, camp souvenirs, and more! We accept cash, checks, and debit/credit cards for your convenience. On average, Scouts spend between **\$50 and \$75** during the week. If you'd like to **pre-order camp T-shirts**, please use the Camp T-shirt Order Form found in the appendix.

Transportation

For everyone's safety, **Scouts are not allowed to ride** in the beds of trucks or trailers. All drivers transporting Scouts must be **licensed and at least 18 years old**, and everyone must wear **seat belts** at all times.

Vehicles in Camp

At check-in, **only one vehicle** will be allowed into some campsites to drop off gear. For the rest of the week (Monday afternoon through Saturday morning, vehicles must stay parked in designated areas. Trailers should be placed inside your campsite and off the road. Please consolidate gear before arriving to make this easy!

Visitors

We love having visitors at camp!

All visitors must **check in at the Camp Office** when they arrive.

They will need to bring their Medical Forms, and wear out camp wrist bands to verify those that have permission to be in camp.

If visitors would like to join a troop for a meal, please notify the cook ahead of time. The **meal fee is \$8.00 per person**, payable at the Camp Office.

Youth Leadership

Every troop should select a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) before arriving at camp.

The SPL will help lead troop activities and pre-camp preparations, building leadership skills and making camp even more fun!



Camp Week at a Glance

Week at a Glance						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:15	POLAR BEAR PLUNGE (6:15)					
7:00	STAFF FLAG CEREMONY (7:00)					
7:30	BREAKFAST (7:15)					CHECK OUT & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (7:30-10:00)
8:00	GATES OPEN & CHECK-IN (8:00) SWIM CHECKS	SPL & Scout Master MEETING (8:00)				
8:30		COMMISSIONER AREA FLAG CEREMONY (8:30)				
9:00		PROGRAM TIME (9:00-12:00)				
9:30						
10:00						
10:30						
11:00						
11:30						
12:00	LUNCH (12:30)					
12:30						
1:00	PROGRAM TIME (2:00-5:00)					
1:30						SPL & Scout Master MEETING (1:30)
2:00	EMERGENCY DRILL					
2:30	CAMP TOUR	SM OLD PEOPLE GAMES (3:00)	SM HURL THE SQUIRREL (3:00)	SM DUTCH OVEN COOKOFF (3:00)	MOUNTAIN MAN GAMES (3:30)	
3:00						
3:30						
4:00	Dinner (5:30 PM)					
4:30						
5:00						
5:30	Comm. Closing Flags (6:45)					
6:00						DINNER (6:00)
6:30	CAMPWIDE FLAGS & OPENING CEREMONY (7:00)					
7:00						TROOP NIGHT NIGHT HIKES TRADOREE (7:00)
7:30	HONOR TRAIL (8:30)	ORDER OF THE ARROW (8:45)				
8:00						
8:30	CAMPWIDE FLAGS & CLOSING CAMPFIRE (7:30)					
9:00						
9:30	QUIET TIME (10:00)					
10:00						
10:30	LIGHTS OUT (10:30)					

Bear Safety Regulations/Procedures

Welcome to bear country!

The beautiful wilderness surrounding our camp is home to both Black Bears and Grizzly Bears. By staying alert and carefully following a few simple procedures, you can help protect not just yourself, but everyone who camps here — now and for years to come. Bears have remarkable memories: if they find food even once, they'll likely return around the same time the next year. But if they find nothing, they'll have no reason to come back, keeping our camp — and future adventures — safer for everyone. Your actions make a real difference. Thank you for doing your part!

Bear Safety Discussion

Your troop friend and your commissioner will visit your campsite for a friendly discussion on bear safety. Together, you'll review how to recognize signs of bear activity, how to avoid encounters, and how to protect yourself and the bears. This is a great chance to ask questions and ensure a safe and memorable camping experience.

Camp Commissioners

Your camp commissioner will inspect your campsite daily to support you in following these important procedures. Your camp friend will also visit several times each day to help answer questions and provide tips.

You will use the **Bear Guard Plan** — a self-evaluation tool — to help you prepare for inspections and maintain a safe, bear-smart campsite.

Eating Areas

After every meal, clean all tables, gear, and eating areas to remove:

- Micro-trash
- Drink spills
- Food crumbs
- Ketchup and mustard drips, etc.

Even tiny bits of food or smells can attract bears, even if they don't lead to an immediate food reward. A clean camp is a safe camp!

Dish Washing and Gray Water Disposal

- ◆ Strain all dishwater to catch food particles.
- ◆ Place strained food scraps in garbage bags and dispose of them in bear-resistant dumpsters.
- ◆ Store straining cloths inside bear boxes when not in use. Never dump food or particles on the ground — even small bits can attract bears.

Attractants

Anything with a scent can attract bears!

Keep all attractants secured, including:

- Food (snacks, candy, soda pop, etc.)
 - Toiletries (toothpaste, deodorant, bug repellent, lotions, petroleum-based products)
 - Fuel (gas, oil)
 - Household cleaners
 - Anything else with a strong smell
- If it smells, secure it!

Tents and Sleeping Areas

No attractants are allowed inside tents or sleeping areas.

Leaders should check tents, sleeping bags, and gear each evening to ensure no food, snacks, or scented products remain. A scent-free sleeping area is a safe sleeping area!

Garbage and Bear-Resistant Dumpsters

Bear-resistant, IGBC-approved dumpsters are located throughout camp.

Always latch dumpsters securely after each use.

Loose trash bags, open cans, or other uncontained waste are prohibited.

All garbage — including food scraps and leftovers — must be taken to dumpsters immediately and **before bedtime**.

Do not store food or drinks in creeks or streams.

Never dispose of food or drink in the bushes, fire pits, or on the ground.

Bear Sightings

If you see a bear:

Notify the Camp Director immediately.

Do not approach, engage, or follow the bear.

If a bear finds human food or causes a problem ("bear reward"), remove the attractant only if it's safe, and follow the camp's notification protocol.

The Forest Service and Fish & Game will assist the camp in managing any bear-related issues.

Safety

Never entice, invite, or attempt to interact with a bear.

Never provoke a bear by throwing objects, using camera flashes, or approaching too closely.

A mother bear with cubs is highly protective — give all bears at least **300 feet** of space.

Respect for wildlife keeps everyone safe.

Compliance

For the safety of everyone, compliance with these regulations is mandatory. The **Grand Teton Council** reserves the right to dismiss any individual or group that fails to follow these bear safety rules. Thank you for helping to protect this wild place — and everyone who enjoys it!



Personal & Camp Gear

The following list is not all-inclusive, but it draws from various Scouts BSA Handbooks and serves as a strong foundation for your packing. Your overnight gear, outdoor essentials, and appropriate clothing are the heart of your camping equipment. Aim to pack light — bring only what you truly need to stay safe, comfortable, and ready to make a great camp. Leave unnecessary items at home. Remember, you'll be at camp for a full week. Plan thoughtfully, pack smartly, and you'll be set for an incredible adventure!

Personal and Troop Camping Gear Checklist

(Plan carefully for a full week at camp!)

Overnight Camping Gear

- Scouts BSA Handbook
- Backpack with rain cover
- Sleeping bag (or two to three warm blankets)
- Sleeping pad
- Ground cloth

Clothing for the Season

- Official BSA Uniform
(shirt, neckerchief, pants, belt, socks)
- Short-sleeve shirts
- T-shirts
- Hiking shorts
- Long pants
- Underwear
- Socks (extra pairs)
- Hat (sun hat, baseball cap, or beanie)
- Sweater or warm jacket
- Pajamas or sleepwear
- Hiking boots or sturdy shoes
- Spare pair of shoes
- Bandannas
- Rain jacket or poncho

Personal Hygiene Kit

- Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Comb or brush
- Deodorant
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine hygiene products (if needed)
- Shaving kit (if needed)
- Washcloth

Important Reminders

No food, toiletries, or scented items inside tents! Label all personal items with your name and troop number. Pack smart: bring only what is necessary for comfort, safety, and fun!

Outdoor Essentials

- Pocketknife (Totin' Chip required if applicable)
- Personal first aid kit
- Water bottle (filled at camp)
- Flashlight or lantern (with extra batteries)
- Matches and fire starters (in waterproof container)
- Sun protection (sunscreen, lip balm)
- Compass
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol preferred)

Personal Extras (Optional)

- Watch
- Notebook or binder with paper
- Pencil or pen
- Sunglasses
- Small musical instrument (e.g., ukulele, harmonica)
- Swimsuit
- Water shoes (for aquatic activities)
- Gloves (for cool weather or service projects)
- Baseball cap or beanie
- Twine or rope

Troop Camp Gear Box *(Shared Troop Equipment)*

- Patrol box with:
- Fire building materials
- Water containers
- Twine/rope
- Patrol first aid kit
- Ground cloths
- Tarps
- Tents
- Lanterns
- Hand tools (including shovel)
- U.S. and patrol flags
- Axe and hatchet
- 5-gallon buckets (several)



Camp Planning

Keys to a Successful Summer Camp Experience

Planning ahead is the foundation of a great summer camp. There are three key steps that will help ensure your troop's camp experience is successful.

1. Include all members of the troop early in the planning process. Gather input from Scouts about which merit badges and activities they would like to complete during camp. Using the merit badge table found on page 19 can help guide your decisions and ensure that Scouts are working toward their goals and advancements.
2. Hold a camp promotion meeting for Scouts and their parents. During this meeting, review the gear and equipment list that each Scout will need, including any specialized gear required for extra activities. Provide an overview of advancement opportunities available at camp, and discuss any prerequisite work needed before camp begins. It is important to also share practical information, such as the total cost of camp, scheduled dates of attendance, emergency contact procedures, and anything else parents might need to know to help their child prepare for a successful summer camp experience.
3. Make sure to include all new Scouts who join your troop before camp starts. Inviting and preparing these new members early ensures they feel welcomed, included, and ready for their first adventure at summer camp.

Backdating Your Camp Planning

Good camp planning requires early action and careful timing. Following this schedule will help keep preparations on track.

In April, secure camp leadership by identifying which Patrol Leaders, Senior Patrol Leader, and adult leaders will be attending. Remember, BSA policy requires that you have at least two registered adult leaders at camp, one of whom must be at least 21 years old.

Leaders must also plan to attend the Pre-Camp Leaders' Meeting on **May 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Grand Teton Council Service Centers in Idaho Falls or via Zoom. This meeting provides important last-minute updates and allows leaders to reserve a campsite for the following year's camp season.

In May, begin collecting registration fees and, if desired, money for camp T-shirts. The early bird pay-in-full deadline is **May 16, 2026**, while the regular pay-in-full deadline is **June 20, 2026**. Details for payments are located on page 4.

Distribute Health and Medical Record forms to all Scouts, and remind families that a completed physical is required. Leaders should make two copies of each health form, one to submit to the Council Ser-

vice

Center and one to keep with the troop's camp records. It is highly recommended to send the Council copies at least two weeks before your troop's week at camp.

Three weeks before camp, submit any remaining registration fees and updated health forms. Double-check the BSA registration status of all Scouts and adult leaders. This can be done through the unit roster available on my.scouting.org or by contacting the Council registrar at (208) 522-5155. Out-of-Council troops should contact their local council office for membership verification.

If any Scout withdraws from camp due to a medical reason, a Refund Request Form must be completed and submitted to the camp director at check-in. This form can be found in the Appendix.

Summary

Successful summer camp experiences are built on early preparation, clear communication, and strong troop involvement. By starting the planning process early, including every member of the troop, and paying close attention to important deadlines, your Scouts will be ready for a memorable and rewarding camp adventure.

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Camp Planning

One Week Before Camp:

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- Submit all paperwork to the Council Office.
- Finalize transportation plans to and from camp.
- Review the troop roster to ensure all Scouts have been invited to attend.
- Conduct a gear inspection for both personal and troop equipment (see page 10).
- Ensure all merit badge homework (prerequisite work) is completed and packed.
- Review camp rules and policies again with your troop (see pages 6–9).
- Gather camp copies of any last-minute health forms and organize them with the troop roster.
- Scoutmasters: bring a backup copy of every health form to camp.

The Day Before Camp:

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

- Gather and load all personal and troop gear into trailers or vehicles.
- Label all medications with the Scout's name and troop number; keep medications in original containers.
- Send parents a final reminder about emergency contact information, travel plans, and pick-up.

The Morning of Camp:

- Arrive at camp as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible (do not arrive early).
- During check-in, have Scouts take out their swim suits for swim checks.



Camp Staff & Gatherings

Campsites and Camp Staff

The heart of camp for every Scout is their troop's campsite — their home base for the week's adventures!

At Island Park Scout Camp, our staff is committed to supporting troop leadership and helping each troop create an amazing camping experience.

Our camp staff team includes enthusiastic members ranging from 14 years old to seasoned adults, all eager to serve, guide, and enhance your time at camp.

Commissioner Service

Our commissioners are ready to help your troop thrive! Commissioners assist with flag ceremonies, organize special events, and help solve any issues that may come up. They also work alongside each troop's Senior Patrol Leader to lead daily campsite inspections, making sure everything stays safe, clean, and in line with Outdoor Ethics.

Flag Ceremonies

We encourage each troop to proudly display their United States flag and troop or patrol flag in their campsite. Troops are also invited to participate in camp-wide and commissioner-led flag ceremonies.

Please remember: The official Scout uniform should be worn during all flag ceremonies.

Senior Patrol Leader's Council

Each day, Senior Patrol Leaders will meet with the camp commissioners at 1:30 p.m. in the Lodge.

These meetings are a chance to plan activities, share ideas, and help shape the camp experience for everyone. If your SPL can't attend, please send an assistant or another Scout to take their place.

Troop Friends

Every troop will be assigned a **Troop Friend** — a camp staff member dedicated to helping your troop connect with camp resources and make the most of your camp experience!

Troop Friends will check in with your troop daily to answer questions and offer support.

Scoutmaster Meetings

Senior camp staff will hold regular Scoutmaster meetings throughout the week to:

- Review upcoming schedules,
- Provide helpful training and updates, and
- Address any concerns or issues.

These meetings help keep communication strong and ensure your troop has the best possible experience at Island Park Scout Camp!



About Camp, Programs & Activities

About Island Park

Island Park is named for the natural clearings that look like “islands” in the dense forest. Island Park Scout Camp (IPSC) covers 160 acres near Yellowstone National Park and is part of the Grand Teton Council. Opened to Scouting in 1974, it hosts hundreds of Scouts and leaders each July. Please help preserve its fragile volcanic soil during your stay.

Aquatics / Sailing / Mile Swim

Enjoy the lake! Swimming, sailing, and boating are all part of the waterfront fun. Scouts interested in earning the Mile Swim Award must sign up online before camp.

Branding

Bring leather, hats, boots, mugs, and more to get the official Island Park Scout Camp brand stamped onto your gear!

BSA Lifeguard

Youth (15+) and adult volunteers can work toward earning the BSA Lifeguard certification by completing training and demonstrating required skills while at camp.

Campfires

- **Monday Night:** Welcome campfire with staff-led skits and songs.
- **Wednesday Night:** Troop-led campfires in each commissioner area.
- **Friday Night:** Camp-wide campfire with the week's best skits and songs.

Families are encouraged to attend. **Important:** All performances must follow the Scout Oath and Law. No inappropriate content (no death, bullying, inappropriate humor, cross-dressing, bodily functions, etc.).

See your commissioner if you have questions.

Colter's Run

Test your endurance with John Colter's Escape! Compete as a relay team or take on the course Ironman-style as an individual.

C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience)

Build teamwork and leadership on our Low COPE course and challenge yourself on our High COPE ropes course. These courses are unique to Island Park and among the best in the Council.

Handicraft

Located at the west end of the Simpson Building, the Handicraft area offers merit badges and projects. Purchase \$4 material tickets at the Trading Post for each project.

Honor Trail

An evening event that allows Scouts to reflect on how Scouting's values apply to their lives. Troops are encouraged to participate and plan for a quiet evening afterward.

Honor Troop

Troops that consistently demonstrate Scout Spirit, participate in camp activities, and maintain clean campsites can earn the Honor Troop distinction. Commissioners will provide guidance throughout the week.

Mountain Man Award

Earn beads throughout the week by completing different challenges and skills. Collect 10 different beads to receive the Mountain Man emblem.

Mountain Man Rendezvous

Celebrate Friday afternoon with camp-wide games, skills competitions, and lots of fun. A great way to end the week and meet new friends!

Nature Area

Centered around the Simpson Nature Lodge, the Nature Area offers hikes, terrarium projects, plant/soil identification, and conservation activities. There's always something happening!

Order of the Arrow Call-Out Ceremony

Scouts elected into the OA will be recognized during a special Native American-themed call-out ceremony at camp. Elections should happen at your campsite before Thursday noon. OA members should bring their sash and connect with their Commissioner on arrival.

Note: Out-of-council call-outs require a signed letter from the Scout's home Lodge Chief and Advisor plus a copy of the unit election form.

Paddle Boarding

Scouts and adults can enjoy paddle boarding on the lake — a fun way to build balance, confidence, and water skills.



About Camp, Programs & Activities

Patch Trading

Bring patches to trade! Meet up with other campers Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge for the big trading event.

Polar Bear Plunge

Take the chilly plunge into the lake at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. Brave Scouts who plunge *every morning* earn a special patch at Friday's campfire!

Scoutcraft Area

Learn key outdoor skills like orienteering, pioneering, and wilderness survival. Perfect for Scouts aiming to strengthen their camping abilities.

Scoutmaster Opportunities

Scoutmasters can join in on a variety of activities: Mountain Man Award, leader training, trivia contests, COPE, Mile Swim, archery, and more! Special leader activities happen at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday. Details at Monday's Scoutmasters' Meeting.

Service Projects

Every troop is encouraged to complete a service project while at camp. The Camp Ranger will help coordinate projects that leave a lasting impact.

Shooting Sports

Scouts can practice rifle, shotgun, and archery skills in a safe, controlled environment. Tickets are required and available only at the Trading Post.

Snorkeling

Build your snorkeling skills and have fun exploring the lake! See the Waterfront Director for session details.

Trail to Eagle

Work toward Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks at camp. Scouts will receive a progress sheet documenting completed requirements for leaders to review and sign.

Warm River Rendezvous

Bring your canoe and your sense of humor! Swamp canoes, battle friends, and watch out for the staff "sharks" at this splashy camp favorite.

A Word About the Weather

Island Park weather can change fast: expect sunny days, sudden thunderstorms, rain, or even snow. Pack layers, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent, and always be ready for surprises!



Merit Badges

Merit Badge Program

One of the most exciting parts of summer camp is the opportunity for Scouts to advance in their Scouting journey! At Island Park Scout Camp, Scouts will have the chance to earn several merit badges during their stay—as long as they come prepared and ready to work hard.

Every merit badge is designed to teach Scouts new skills while encouraging them to challenge themselves and have fun. Merit badges vary in difficulty and cover a wide range of subjects. **Scouts are free to pursue any badges that interest them!**

While the badge itself is a simple embroidered patch, the real reward is the confidence, knowledge, and sense of accomplishment that comes with earning it.

Preparation is key!

Before arriving at camp, Scouts should choose which merit badges they would like to work on.

If a Scout has partially completed a badge, they should **bring proof of their work** to camp. Merit badge counselors will do their best to help Scouts complete them. Some badge requirements cannot be completed during camp and are listed in this guidebook as prerequisites. Scouts should finish these prerequisites before camp whenever possible.

If a merit badge is only partially completed at camp, the Scout's progress will be recorded on the Merit Badge Progress Sign-in Sheet and given to the Scoutmaster at the end of the week.

While merit badge achievement is important, **camp is about so much more!**

Patrol leaders and Scoutmasters are encouraged to make camp a well-rounded experience by participating in all the fun, adventures, and activities available — outlined on **pages 15–17** of this guidebook.

Lord Baden-Powell had these timeless words to say:

“We are not a club or a Sunday school class, but a school of the woods.”

“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.”

“Leave it better than you found it.”

“The Scoutmaster teaches boys to play the game by doing so himself.”

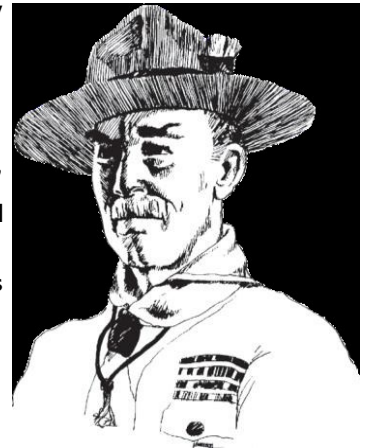


Table of Merit Badges Offered

Merit Badge	Difficulty Rating	Prerequisites	Req. Done Individually	Information	Fee
Canoeing	Medium	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Need to know basic water safety	None
Kayaking	Medium	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Need to know basic water safety	None
Lifesaving	Hard	Swimming Merit Badge	None	Must be a very strong swimmer	None
Mile Swim	Hard	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	Swim one mile	Must train for endurance prior to camp	None
Paddleboarding	Easy	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Requires good balance	None
Rowing	Medium	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Basic water safety	None
Small-Boat Sailing	Hard	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Basic understanding of wind direction	None
Snorkeling	Easy	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Comfortable breathing face-down in water	None
Swimming	Medium	Pass BSA Swimmer Test	None	Familiarity with multiple swim strokes	None
Climbing	Medium	None	None	Need to overcome fear of heights	None
Climbing - BOOK	Medium	None	None	Reading material for climbing	None
COPE	Hard	Must be at least 13 years old	None	Requires teamwork and physical agility	None
American Heritage	Easy	None	Req 3c (visit historic site or interview)	Basic knowledge of local/family history	None
American Indian Culture	Easy	None	None	Respect for diverse cultures	\$4.00
Basketry	Easy	None	Weave three baskets	Patience and manual dexterity	\$4.00
Game Design	Medium	None	Design and test a new game	Creativity and understanding of rules	\$4.00
Inventing	Medium	None	Build a working prototype	Problem-solving mindset	\$4.00
Leatherwork	Easy	None	Complete a leather project	Safe use of stamping tools	\$4.00
Textile	Easy	None	None	Interest in fabrics and weaving	\$4.00
Wood Carving	Medium	Totir' Chip	Carve two projects	Safe knife handling	\$4.00
Astronomy	Medium	None	Nighttime observation logs	Needs clear night skies	None
Bird Study	Medium	None	Field observation notebook	Patience and quiet observation	None
Environmental Science	Hard	None	Detailed observation logs (Req 4)	Analytical skills and patience	None
Fish & Wildlife Management	Easy	None	None	Interest in conservation	None
Forestry	Easy	None	Collect and ID 15 leaves	Basic tree identification	None
Geology	Easy	None	None	Interest in rocks and minerals	None
Insect Study	Medium	None	Create an insect collection	Comfortable handling bugs	None
Leave No Trace	Easy	None	None	Familiarity with the 7 LNT principles	None
Mammal Study	Easy	None	None	Basic animal knowledge	None
Mining	Easy	None	None	Interest in earth resources	None
Nature	Easy	None	Collections/observations in multiple fields	General interest in flora and fauna	None
Oceanography	Easy	None	None	Interest in marine science	None
Pet Science	Easy	Own a pet for 4 months	Req 1, 2, 3 (Care for a pet)	Must have a pet at home	None
Photography	Easy	Cyber Chip	Take and present a photo portfolio	Must have access to a camera	None
Plant Science	Medium	None	Grow a plant	Patience for plant growth	None
Pulp & Paper	Easy	None	Make a sheet of paper	None	None
Reptile Study	Easy	Keep/observe reptile for 1-3 months (Req 8)	Req 8 (Observation log)	Access to a reptile or amphibian	None
Soil & Water Conservation	Medium	None	None	Interest in earth science	None
Trail to the Eagle	Hard	None	Complete individual rank requirements	Preparation for Eagle rank	None
Weather	Easy	None	Keep a daily weather log	Understanding of basic meteorology	None
Emergency Preparedness	Hard	First Aid Merit Badge	Personal emergency kit (Req 8b)	Family emergency plan	None
First Aid	Medium	First Class First Aid requirements	None	Basic CPR and injury treatment	None
Fishing	Medium	None	Catch at least one fish	Patience and knot tying	None
Geocaching	Easy	None	Find geocaches	Basic GPS navigation skills	None
Orienteering	Medium	None	Complete 3 orienteering courses	Map reading and compass skills	None
Pioneering	Hard	Knowledge of basic knots and lashings	Build a pioneering project	Strong knot tying abilities	None
Signs, Signals, and Codes	Medium	None	Spell name in Morse/Semaphore	Memorization skills	None
Wilderness Survival	Medium	None	Build a shelter and sleep in it	Comfortable sleeping outdoors	None
Archery	Medium	None	Qualify in shooting scores	Arm strength and focus	\$4.00
Rifle Shooting	Hard	None	Qualify in shooting scores	Maturity, focus, and safety awareness	\$4.00 / 20 Rounds
Shotgun Shooting	Hard	Typically 13+ years old recommended	Qualify in shooting scores	Upper body strength for recoil	\$15.00/25 Shells

Merit Badge Schedule

Area	Merit Badge	Sessions	Tuesday				Wednesday				Thursday				Friday		
			Monday	9:00	10:30	2:00	3:30	9:00	10:30	2:00	3:30	9:00	10:30	2:00	3:30	9:00	10:30
Aquatics	Canoeing	A B		A				A				A					
	Kayaking	A B		A				B				A					B
	Lifesaving	A B C				A				B				C			
	Mile Swim	Every Day	4:00 PM	8:30 AM				8:30 AM				8:30 AM					7:30 AM
	Paddleboarding	A				A	A	A		A	A	A		A	A	A	A
	Rowing	A B C		A	B			A	B			A	B				
	Small-Boat Sailing	A B		A	B			A	B			A	B				
	Small-Boat Sailing	C				C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		
	Snorkeling	A		A	A	A	A			A	A			A	A	A	A
	Swimming	A B				A				A					B		B
Climbing	Climbing - BOOK	A				A		A									
	Climbing	B								B				B	B		
	COPE	A		A								A				A	
Handicraft	American Heritage	A B				A	B	A	B					A	B		
	American Indian Culture	A B		A	B					A	B	A	B				
	Basketry	A B				A	B	A	B					A	B		
	Game Design	A B		A		A		B		B		C		C			
	Inventing	A B				A	B	A	B					A	B		
	Leatherwork	A B C			A		A			B		B		C		C	
	Textile	A B C		A	B					A	B	A	B				
	Woodcarving	A B		A	B					A	B	A	B				
Nature	Astronomy	A B C				A				B				C			
	Bird Study	A				A											
	Environmental Science	A B C		A		A		B		B		C		C			
	Fish & Wildlife Management	A B		A								A					
	Forestry	A B			A				B				A			B	
	Geology	A				A				A				A			
	Insect Study	A													A		
	Mammal Study	A						A								A	
	Mining	A B		A				B				A				B	
	Nature	A B									A				B		
	Oceanography	A B			A				B				A			B	
	Pet Science	A					A				A				A		
	Photography	A B								A				B			
	Plant Science	A B					A				B						
	Pulp & Paper	A B		A				B				A				B	
	Reptile Study	A			A				A				A				A
	Soil & Water Conservation	A B		A								B					
	Trail to the Eagle	A B C D				AB	D				C	C			D	AB	
	Weather	A B					A					B					
Leave No Trace	A			A				A					A			A	
Outdoor Skills	Emergency Preparedness	A B C				A	B	A	B					C		C	
	First Aid	A B C		A	B					A	B	C		C			
	Fishing	A				A	A	A	A				A		A		
	Geocaching	A B C		A	B					A	B	C		C			
	Orienteering	A B C				A	B	A	B				C		C		
	Pioneering	A B C		A	B					A	B	C		C			
	Signs, Signals, and Codes	A B C		A	A			B	B			C		C			
	Wilderness Survival	A B C				A	B			A	B		C		C		
Range & Target	Archery	A B		A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B	A&B
	Rifle Shooting	B		A	A	A	A	AB	AB	A	A	AB	AB	A	A	AB	AB
	Shotgun Shooting	A		A	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A

Resources

[Guide to Safe Scouting](#)

[Guide to Advancement](#)

[Consent Form](#)

[Health Form](#)

[Youth Inspection Form](#)

[Adult Inspection Form](#)

[Leave No Trace Resources](#)

Scouts, BSA Handbook:

[Boys](#) [Girls](#)

[Troop Leader Guide Volume 1](#)

[Troop Leader Resources](#)

[Guide to Awards and Insignia](#)

[Scouts BSA Rank Requirements](#)

[Merit Badge Requirements](#)



Appendix

Camp T-Shirt Order Form

Campsite Reservation Form -
2026

Health Forms (Parts A, B, C)

OA Election Form

Refund Request Form

Special Needs Form

Troop Attendance Roster

Island Park Scout Camp Map



