



THREE FIRES COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Summer 2023



Camp Big Timber Outdoor Academy Parent Guide

Adventure. Character. Leadership.

At Outdoor Academy we prepare young people for life by teaching them leadership skills, immersing them in adventure, and building character along the way. We provide programs for schools to supplement in-classroom teaching, with nature based immersive experiences that include learning from the natural environment, engaging students with team-building exercises, and challenging them to get out of their comfort zones.

In a world with unlimited “online” connections, Outdoor Academy teaches youth how to form personal connections and communicate with their classmates and friends. Students of our program will leave having had real, hands-on experiences in our outdoor classrooms while having fun along the way.

Our program is unique as we are working to provide an experience that promotes healthy living, unlimited exploration, and fosters a child’s desire to learn all while in the great outdoors!

Our Mission

1. Use experiential education to reengage students with project based learning.
2. Partner with teachers to augment the classroom and meet education requirements.
3. Spark an interest in the outdoors and sustainability that can last a lifetime.
4. Promote the physical, social, and emotional development in students entering grades 1-6 in the fall of 2023.

Commitment to Diversity

Everyone is invited! The Outdoor Academy is open to the public.

We seek to build and support a diverse community of people who come from and interact with individuals from every community we serve. Every person who participates in the Outdoor Academy has the right to expect an environment that is welcoming and values the richness of their lives and experience.



Activity Descriptions

Geology

Students will explore a variety of rocks and soil in camp. They'll collect samples, study characteristics of the rocks around us, and learn about the past by studying clues within the rocks.

Dendrology

Students will have the opportunity to learn about native tree species to our region and will set out on nature hikes to experience the forest first hand. During this hike campers will find examples of leaves, seeds, or other identifying items to expand their knowledge of the biodiversity around us.

Cartography

Students will learn how to use a GPS unit and other technological tools to help guide your way in the Big Timber Wilderness. Campers will also become familiar with a map and compass by learning basic map terminology, orienteering skills, and signaling skills. Campers will work as a team to locate points on camp during their time spent at Big Timber.

Teambuilding

COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) is a fantastic program where young people learn the aspects of team dynamics in a fun and exciting way. Through initiative games that focus on team and individual skills, students will grow in the areas of communication, problem solving, teamwork, trust, and self esteem.

Limnology

Illinois is home to many inland water ecosystems. Students will learn about the water cycle, and how it relates to the waters in our area. They will study how their usage of water at home can have an impact on the world's supply of water. Students will have a chance to get their feet wet in Tyler Creek while studying how a water molecule from their home can travel to Big Timber and wind up as part of our ecosystem.

Meteorology

Students will measure precipitation by designing a device to catch simulated rainfall. They will use easily obtainable materials to solve an engineering problem. Students will test their results, learn about standardized calibration, and why precise measurements are so important.

Propulsion

3... 2... 1... BLAST OFF! Students will learn about jet propulsion and rocketry, its history, and its future potential all while designing their own rocket to test in the Big Timber launch site. Students will experiment with a variety of propulsion systems from mechanical, air, and water based propulsion systems.

Archery

Students will have fun learning to fire bows and arrows safely at our archery range. Students will demonstrate how to follow range commands, use proper safety equipment, and effectively shoot a bow and arrow using correct stance, grips, and technique. Students will learn how to identify the parts of a bow and arrow and a brief history of archery.

More activities will be conducted throughout the summer. This is just a sample.

Policies and Procedures

Student Attendance

Your student is registered for all nine weeks of programming. Attendance will be taken daily for camp reporting policies. If you are going to be absent and know ahead of time please let the camp leadership know in advance. (This helps with lunch and snack counts!)

Meals

Full Day Students will be provided with a lunch and a snack each day of programming. Half Day Students will only receive an afternoon snack. Lunch and snack are provided free of charge by the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We are truly grateful to partner with the food bank to provide a healthy, well balanced, and filling meal program. Meal schedules and menu's will be posted once available and sent out via email to all campers.

Water

Water jugs are available at each area of camp. **Students are responsible for their own water bottle to use at each station. Make sure water bottles are marked with the student's NAME!** Keeping the students well hydrated at camp is a priority for staff and students alike, as it keeps everyone happy and healthy.

Healthy at Camp

We ask every adult and student to wash their hands before and after lunch to prevent the spread of germs or possible allergic reactions between students. The camp will provide adequate restroom facilities and time to sanitize hands prior to meals. Restrooms have locks that can be unlocked from the outside for emergency access. Students should never lock or unlock a toilet from the outside. Please discuss privacy and appropriate bathroom behavior with your child prior to camp.

Camp Schedule*	Times
Drop Off for Full Day Students	8:30 am – 9:00 am
Morning Programming	9:00 am – Noon
Lunch Break/Rest Period	Noon – 1:00 pm
Half Day Students Drop off	1:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Afternoon Programming	1:15 pm – 3:30 pm
Afternoon Snack	3:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Full Day Students Depart	3:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Half Day Students Depart	4:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Camp Closed	5:00 pm

Camp schedule subject to change

Late Pickup

We ask every student to be picked up by 5:00 pm at the latest. No extensions can be made at this time. Please notify camp in advance if you are unable to pick up by camp closing. Any student picked up late will result in a fee of \$10.00 per minute past time of camp closing.

The Essentials

Students: As a reminder this camp is outdoors **RAIN or SHINE!** Please come prepared daily! Please mark all students gear with FIRST and LAST name to help with lost and found items.

- Health forms (part A & B) for all students. A fillable Health Form can be found at this link: [Click Here](#)
- **Water bottle (This is required)**
- Insect repellent (Please apply prior to arrival)
- Hat and sunscreen. (Please apply sunscreen prior to arrival)
- Rain Gear. Please check the weather and camp communication for updates. Ponchos, jackets, boots, and extra socks!
- **Day pack to carry items in (This is required)**
- Medication*
- Comfortable enclosed shoes (**no open toes, heels, sandals**)

As a reminder this camp is outdoors and with that comes the elements and mother nature! Please be prepared for sunny days, rainy days, hot and cold days! This means applying **sunscreen prior to arrival and packing rain gear when needed.** Ticks are common at camp so please apply insect repellent prior to arrival and pack extra just in case!

Please label all items with your Camper's first and last name. Do *not* bring any video games, toys, media players, computers or valuables to camp. Students should not bring cell phones, as all communication can be handled through camp leadership. Inappropriate possessions may be confiscated and returned to the student at sign out.

***Medication** must be checked in with the camp health officer. Students should continue taking all medications prescribed to them while at camp. Camp is not an appropriate time or place to "take a break" from medication. Please inform the camp leadership of any medication being taken and how to prescribe to avoid confusion.

Items not allowed in camp: alcoholic beverages, pets, controlled substances, fireworks and firearms.
Anyone found with these items will be asked to leave immediately and the appropriate authorities will be called.

Check in and Check out

All campers should be checked in and checked out by the times listed in the daily schedule (see previous page). If the need arises to check out a camper early, please check with the camp leadership. No visitors are allowed to enter the camp property. Camp leadership will collect the camper and their things and proceed with check out procedures. If someone other than the registration contact (person who completed the registration prior to camp starting) will be picking up the camper, please notify the camp leadership ahead of time.



Emergency Procedures

Camp Emergencies Staff and students will review emergency procedures at the beginning of each week of camp. In an emergency, a signal will sound and staff will follow guidelines and practiced procedures. Our staff are CPR/First Aid certified and trained on how to respond to weather, medical, and first aid.

Lost Student. In the event of a lost student an emergency sound will be activated. Everyone should then gather in a seated circle and take attendance of everyone present. Once attendance is taken, students can sing a song or play a game but must stay seated until the Camp Director gives the all clear.

Weather Every effort will be made, consistent with BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines, to offer a full outdoor program each day. Please make sure students are dressed appropriately for the weather including rain and heat. Students should dress in layers to either keep them warm or be able to cool off. Please be sure to label jackets and sweatshirts clearly as students are often chilled in the morning and then discard their jackets as the day warms up and these get left behind.

***Tip: Check with your student at pick up time for jackets, water bottles, and project items from the day.**

Rain - Camp will continue **IN THE RAIN!** Students must provide their own ponchos or raincoats. Umbrellas are not considered rain gear as the student cannot safely participate in games while holding an umbrella. Students without rain gear will not be allowed to participate in all activities. Proper waterproof rain jackets and pants provide a student with the ability to stay warm and dry. Some of our most fun and memorable camp experiences have been on muddy, rainy days. Please help your student be prepared to be safe and dry to have fun in the rain. Don't forget the extra socks! (And be sure your student knows to change into them!)

Thunderstorms and Lightning - Camp does not usually close for rain and lightning. Staff track lightning within a 30 mile radius and will call all to shelter when lightning strikes within 10 miles of camp. Students will be sheltered until the weather passes and we receive an all clear. Camp cannot resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike, no matter how lovely the skies may seem. Please avoid picking up students during lightning warnings as much as possible and wait for staff to notify you if we do have the need to close camp. We may delay the start of camp or close camp early if storms are lingering. Please be sure to provide your own cell phone numbers as emergency numbers in your camp registration online and you will be notified. This is the fastest and easiest way to stay informed on camp weather situations.

Heat - There will be times where heat and humidity will have an effect on the programming we are offering. In the case that heat will be extreme in the afternoon, we reserve the right to end camp early. We will communicate the day before that our early dismissal will be in effect the following day. We take heat seriously and our camp health officer and staff will make sure students stay hydrated, cool, and comfortable as much as possible.

Other Hazardous Weather - Camp may be closed for the safety of everyone. Severe storms and threat of tornado will cause camp to close. This is a rare situation.

No Make-Up Days

There are no plans for make-up days. If camp is closed, camp leadership will begin the task of contacting each registered parent through email and phone as indicated in the online registration.

Health and Medical

Health Information

A trained Health Officer will be on site at all times. All injuries, regardless of how small, must be reported to the Health Officer to ensure proper documentation and treatment. Emergency numbers are required in your online registration to help expedite your location in an emergency.

Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B)

Prior to coming to camp, this form must be filled out for **EVERY** student. **Only Parts A and B** are required. The newest version of this form **MUST** be used. [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

Students without a medical form will not be allowed at camp. If you would like your forms returned, you may pick them up at the end of the season from the Health Officer. These completed forms are kept confidential and all forms not returned are shredded at the conclusion of the summer camp season.

Health Advisory and Accommodation Form

The [Advisory Form](#) for students is to be completed for students that have health or behavior concerns that may limit their full participation or present safety issues. An example would be if your student has a severe peanut allergy and requires special accommodations, or your student has sensory issues and you would like to discuss their needs. **Any student who has the assistance of an aide at school is required to provide their own additional adult support at Camp.** A member of the Council staff may contact the parent or guardian prior to camp to discuss any special accommodations. If there are repeated behavior concerns the camp leadership will have a discussion with the parent about any safety concerns that arise.

For repeated behavior issues: We are committed to the safety of all students. We will work to remove students from situations where behavior issues are less than desirable. Students will move groups, take breaks, and work with staff to cool down. The camp will communicate all issues that arise with parents. In the event that the behavior repeats the following steps can be taken. Based on the severity the steps may be conducted.

- First time: The camp leadership will ask the student to refrain from attending the next day in order to take a break and reset at home.
- Second time: The camp leadership will work with the parent to determine what an appropriate return to camp looks like.
- Third time: The student will be asked not return to camp and will be removed from the program.

Medication

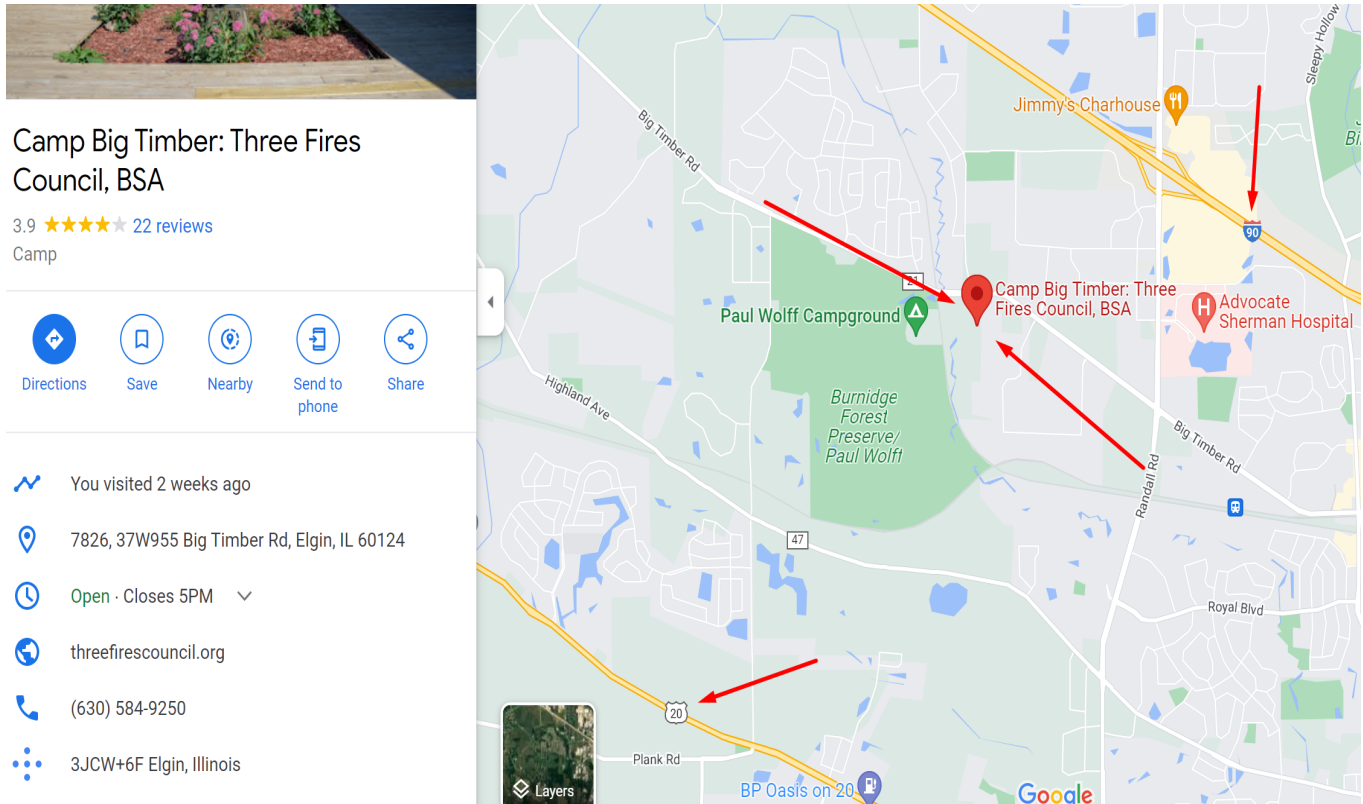
Any medication brought to camp must be logged in at the health headquarters by the Health Officer. Medication must be in the original labeled container with clear dosage instructions. Allergy kits, EpiPens, inhalers, and other instant self-administered medications will remain in the camper's possession after it is logged in by the Health Officer. If medication requires refrigeration, you will need to provide an insulated cooler with ice. Clearly label it with the camper's name and you may leave it with the Health Officer. ***Written permission is needed for another adult to supervise your child in taking medication.***

Directions to Big Timber Outdoor Academy

Driving Directions

Camp Big Timber is located in Elgin on Big Timber Road west of Randall road, south of I-90, and North of US-20 near the Burnidge Forest Preserve.

Physical Address: 37W955 Big Timber Rd, Elgin, IL 60124



Contact Information

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email Address
Donnie Helstern	Program Director	630-797-4618	Donnie.Helstern@scouting.org
Patrick Seeden	Program Specialist	630-797-4600	Patrick.Seeden@Scouting.org

For general inquiries contact Donnie Helstern.
ThreeFiresCouncil.org/OutdoorAcademy