

**The Crossroads and
Lowaneu Districts
proudly presents:
Cro-Lo Cook-o-Ree
2025 Spring Camporee**



**April 11-13, 2025
Comlara State Park
13001 Recreation Area Dr.
Hudson, IL 61748**

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET

GENERAL INFORMATION: Troops 8888, 1957, 920, and 912 present the 2025 Spring Camporee: Cook-o-Ree. This camporee is for Troops and Crews.

Theme: The theme for this event is based on cooking and food safety. Saturday will consist of approximately 6 competition and 6 Demo/educational stations for Patrols to test and learn cooking and cooking related skills that relate to Scouting skills such as Woods Tools, Scoutcraft Skills, and Health & Safety. Throughout the day, each patrol will be expected to cook Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner that will be judged.

Contact Information: If you have general questions or concerns, contact:

Mike Heger: 309-825-7386 CrossroadsCommissioner@gmail.com

Chris Knoll: 309-824-8794 chris.knoll62@gmail.com

Registration: The registration fee is \$15.00 per Scout or Leader wishing to take part in the event. This fee includes program supplies, awards, participation certificates, and event recognition items. Early and on-time registration allows for us to have sufficient staffing, patches, other recognition items, and supplies. On April 3rd, the fee will increase to \$20.00 per Scout or Leader who will attend. Late registrants on and after April 3rd are not guaranteed to receive patches or other recognition items. Units that sign-up by the on-time deadline date can add scouts and adults but they will be charged the \$20.00 late fee if they are added on or after April 3rd.

Check-In: Check-in will be from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Friday evening for units spending the weekend. Please have one adult check-in to complete your unit's registration and turn in your Unit Roster on Friday evening by 7:30 pm. Upon check-in, your unit will be assigned a campsite area to set up. We will have check-in from 7:30 am – 8:30 am on Saturday morning for anyone coming just for the day. Please have one adult check-in to complete your unit's registration and turn in your Unit Roster on Saturday morning by 8:45 am. Please use ONLY the Unit Roster in this leader's guide.

Units who do not use that roster will be asked to complete that roster before participating in the event. Increases in registration will be corrected at that time.

Please make sure you check in on time if you are arriving Saturday morning. Our flag raising and opening will start at 8:50 pm.

Patrols: We recommend a patrol size of 4-8 scouts. We will do our best to spread Troops amongst the stations before pairing two Troops to the same station at the same time.

Each patrol should prepare a patrol flag to carry throughout the day.

Camping: Campsites must be left in better condition than they were found. Make sure you practice Leave No Trace ethics. A staff member will inspect your campsite before you leave on Sunday morning.

Vehicles and Parking: All vehicles must be parked in the parking areas. This includes trailers. There will be no vehicles permitted in the program area. This is to ensure the safety of our scouts.

Campfires: Units must bring their own firewood. All fires must be either above ground or in an existing fire pit. All use of charcoal must follow the same guidelines. Units should bring their own equipment to protect the ground.

Trash: Units are responsible for removing all trash from their campsite. This also includes wood, ashes, or charcoal. Remember to Leave No Trace.

Water: Units are asked to bring their own water containers. There are potable water spigots available refill water containers throughout the weekend. (not the best tasting)

Pets and Animals: Animals are not permitted except for service animals.

Health & Safety: First aid will be available during the event. Units may take care of minor injuries but must report all injuries and first aid administered to the Health Officer. Contact information for the Health Officer will be distributed at our Leader's Meeting. Unit leaders are responsible for having a current BSA Health and Medical Record parts A & B for each participant from their unit.

Leadership: Leaders and parents are responsible for the health, safety, and behavior of all scouts in their care. Please provide sufficient leadership so Scouts are supervised at all times. If a situation warrants, individuals will be asked to leave the premises. Please remember to follow Youth Protection Training by providing at least two 21-year or older registered leaders who have current YPT for each unit. A combination of one or both of these two leaders should be of the appropriate gender for the unit or patrol they will be supervising.

Uniforms: Activity uniforms are acceptable, and encouraged, for flag raising and program activities on Saturday. Class A field uniform is encouraged for the Flag retirement/award ceremony.

Weather Contingency: The events will continue in weather safe to do so. In the event of hazardous weather, the nearby boat/swim house is available for shelter. No reschedules.

Leader's Meeting: There will be a virtual Leader's meeting on THURSDAY April 3rd at 8:30PM via Zoom. Please make sure your unit has adult representation at this meeting. The meeting will be recorded, so we ask that no youth participate in the meeting. If you would like to share the meeting's details with your unit, you can request a copy of the recording through Doug Schwalm - dschwalm@gmail.com.

Recognition: Awards will be given for the competitive program stations. A first, second, and third place award will be given for each meal course served in the cooking contest (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner). Tiebreakers will be determined by station judges based on factors they choose!

Check Out: Check out for anyone not spending the night will be immediately following dinner/awards. Checkout will be at the same location as checkin. Check-out for units spending the weekend will be Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 11:00 am in the picnic shelter.

Units who camp overnight must have a staff member inspect their site before they leave on Sunday morning.

Program Information:

Each Patrol is expected to participate in each activity or challenge throughout the day. Each Patrol will be issued a station card with a "station schedule" and a "station map" providing times and locations for each station. If a Patrol finishes earlier than scheduled, they must stay at the station they are currently at until they are dismissed to the next station by the station leader. Patrols should NOT move through the stations at their own pace. Please follow the path outlined on your cards. Leaders will be responsible for making sure their patrols follow these instructions.

Troops Or Crew Program Stations:

Each Patrol will rotate through up to 12 educational/interactive stations covering many aspects of cooking and food safety:

1. Flapjack Relay (competitive)
2. Cook a snack – with a TWIST (competitive)
3. Pioneering Cooking Gadgets (competitive)
4. Meal Planning (competitive)
5. First Aid (competitive)
6. Spice Identification (competitive)
7. Fry an Egg (competitive)
8. Professional Cooking Demo
9. Backpacking kitchen Demo
10. Smoker Demo
11. Rocket Stove Demo
12. Paella Demo

At the conclusion of the morning & afternoon program rotation, units will be dismissed to their campsite to prepare competition meals.

Other Items: Lunch will not be provided at this event and units will need to bring and cook their lunch as part of the competition. See the description below and consider the time allotted (lunch is a quick trail meal).

Unit Roster and Registration: Please provide the staff a copy of your Unit's roster upon registration Friday evening/Saturday morning. Registration payment must be done on Blackpug. You will be contacted after registration to collect supplemental information for the weekend if needed. Please respond to those emails promptly so that we can prepare for your unit. Any additional scouts added on the day of the event will incur the \$20 late fee, regardless of when the unit signed up.

Camper Security: For purposes of camper security, every unit MUST submit a roster that includes all youth and adults attending using the roster in this leader's guide.

Program Activities

Scoring: Scoring will be described in each event and will be based on Stars.

Since this is a Cook-O-Ree, we will start and continue the day with the meals being scored. Each meal requires a SAMPLE, enough for 3 judges, of each item in the meal. A representative scout (and buddy) should retrieve a carryout container from the judge's tent. Each Patrol/Troop must deliver the samples by the allotted time on the schedule.

The meals will be scored using the following categories by our guest judges. 20 Stars are available for each meal with up to 5 stars being awarded for each category.

Taste
Complexity/Skill Level
Originality
Visual appeal

- Breakfast+: (must use propane stoves)
 - Open competition – make us your best and heartiest breakfast
- Lunch: The Most Flavorful On-The-Trail meal
 - Scouts – (must use backpacking stove)
 - ADULTS - gourmet grilled cheese throwdown*
- Dinner: Shared Smorgasbord
 - Scouts (must use Dutch oven) – Make us your best Dutch oven dish. Make sure your judging sample is on time and be prepared to share your dish with the camp in a giant buffet. So, make enough to feed your patrol plus some.
 - Allergens – Please avoid common allergens for the shared dishes (peanuts, tree-nuts, seafood, soy)
- Dessert: Shared dish by adults
 - Adults (no score) (same time as dinner)
 - Best tasting sweet treat – no holds barred.
- Crackerbarrel: If you still have a hole to fill, that was your own fault 😊 No scores, not required, on your own.

+ Breakfast - If your unit is checking in and only participating for the day, the breakfast score will be the average of the remaining meal scores of the unit for the day when calculating the grand champion score. (i.e. prorated) Those units will not be eligible for the breakfast awards.

*Adults compete for the coveted "Golden Grilled Cheese" Award. Same judging rules as the scouts, but these scores do not impact the patrol/troop score. Grilled cheese rules; 1) Must be a sandwich with bread. 2) Must contain cheese. 3) May contain any other component in the grilled cheese, side sauce, or side garnish.

PACKING LIST FOR COMPETITION (Recommend each patrol uses a wagon or similar to carry)

1. Unit/Patrol First Aid kit (each patrol competing will require one in their possession)
2. Blank Meal Planning worksheet of your choice
3. Completed Meal Planning sheet for your competition Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. (units not making breakfast because they are here for the day must still provide a meal plan for Breakfast.)
4. Wood, twine, rope, and common camping gear needed to build a pioneering cooking gadget of your choice
5. Frying pan and spatula for eggs and pancakes, cooking oil for same. Hot pad(s)
6. Natural fire building supplies (starter, tinder, kindling, fuel-wood) {no petroleum products}
7. Pan holder/sticks etc for frying pan (egg competition) [i.e. how would you hold your pan over a fire]
8. Practice medical first aid gear so not to use your sterile gear (common cooking injuries)

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM Check-In & Campsite Assignment

10:00 PM Lights Out

SATURDAY

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM Check-In

8:30 Breakfast Judging Sample Due (earlier is better)

8:40AM – 8:50AM Opening Ceremony & Flag Raising

9:00AM – 12:00 noon Morning Station Rotation

12:00 noon – 1:00PM Lunch

12:45 Lunch Judging Sample Due

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Afternoon Station Rotation

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Camp-Wide Cooking Contest

5:50PM Dinner Judging Sample Due

6:00 PM – 7:20 PM Dinner & cleanup

7:20 PM Flag Retreat and Award Ceremony

10:00 PM Lights Out

SUNDAY

9:00AM – 11:00 AM Check-Out

*- schedule is subject to change. The schedule will be finalized by the Leader's Meeting.

If your unit would like to volunteer for either flag raising or lowering, please contact Mike Heger.

We encourage units to stick around for the award presentations so your patrol(s) may accept any awards they earned that day, and leaders can collect all the recognition items they are due. Thank you very much!



UNIT ROSTER

UNIT# : _____ Council: _____ DISTRICT : _____

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