



Version 3- updated Feb 5th, 2025 -TZ

Get Ready and Excited for the Upcoming HTC 2025 Spring Camporee

SPL/Adult Leader Meetings Via Zoom and Friday Night – 9p of Camporee

Welcome to the Hoosier Trails Council Spring Camporee!

Hey Troop Leaders,

Before you know it, Spring will be in the air, and you know what that means—it's almost time for our crazy early Spring Camporee – “Could You Survive?”. It's an Oregon Trail themed camporee in which scouts, AOLs and adult leaders all can engage in so many different competitions, demonstration stations and getting together around a campfire to catch up with one another. Get ready to embark on an adventure filled with laughter, challenges, and unforgettable moments. This Camporee is VERY different from ones we had in the past... Reading this document over with your units will get the excitement started as well as start preparations for it. We will cover overall themes to generate excitement, things to start preparing for now and highlighting why it's important to bring along your brand new AOL crossovers, new scouts and older scouts to this event.

Zoom Meetings: Meeting ID: 893 3217 6550 Passcode: 341434

Join Zoom Meeting Either Wednesday -Feb 5th or Thursday Feb 6th from 8p-9p
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89332176550?pwd=wTAQb5RHlhlblrbuF3xARKGPRgioE.1>

Event **GOOGLE DRIVE** Shared Folder for this event:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UYee6ly8626OW74QgH9DoP7Z9z9c8wuC?usp=sharing>

Why the Spring Camporee Rocks

We have so many different activities for everyone (youth and adult) to do. It would be a VERY full day if someone tries to do all of it. As of January 25th, we have the following themed based activities lined up:

- **Pan for real gold.** If you find it, you keep it! We have the **Indiana Gold Prospecting** group coming in to setup and demonstrate real gold panning equipment as well as another station giving every registered person to pan through some paydirt with gold pans.
- **Bluegrass Band:** That's right. We got a band! **The Backwoods Bluegrass Band** will be coming to play a 45 minute to 1 hour set of some of the older music. Completely acoustic. This will be a dedicated camporee wide event allowing everyone to enjoy the music.
- **Blacksmith demonstration:** We have a local blacksmith coming in to demonstrate and talk through blacksmithing. Patrols going out on the Oregon Trail (more below on that) will see them but adults and older scouts can hang around as long as they want.
- **Trapping station:** We have the **Indiana Trappers Association** coming out to talk about and do demonstrations of the trapping sport here in Indiana.
- **Butchering/Processing station:** (older scout and adults) The skillset behind this job and the tools needed for the skills of butchering animals to use as much of the animal as possible was a very needed skill during this time period and still today. We have a local expert coming in to talk through tools and demonstrate efficient and safe ways to process meat for long term storage. No animals will be hurt but there will be carcasses being processed at this demonstration station.
- **Cooking Competition:** Muster up teams of up to 4 for this event. Adult teams can enter as well. Themed event using cast iron... cast iron awards. Rules attached below.
- **Fishing Competition:** Bring your own tackle and bait. Provided that the lake is up we will have an older scout (14 and above) and adult fishing competition going for the largest panfish, bass and catfish. Youth 13 and under who catch any fish need only supply a picture of their fish for an award.
- **The Oregon Trail:** An epic quest of a course that spans nearly the whole campgrounds filled with fun learnings and testing of skills. Patrols with their wagon will traverse and decide their best routes from the OA circle to Fort Erie. Patrols are competing against themselves for this event. The fun and success comes from completing the course and not from competing against other patrols. More about this below. Fun challenges, teamwork, bartering, bandits, rangers and other things await each patrol as they set out from Bartertown
- **Best Wagon Competition:** We will have 3 different competitions for the wagons brought on the Oregon Trail. Details below.
- **Natural Medicinal Treatments/Therapy:** This was a vital skillset to understand how to identify and use plants in different ways to help people stay healthy

enough to make it to their destination. We have an expert coming in to discuss her experience and demonstrate some prep work.

- **More stations/demonstrations:** We are still lining up more groups to come in and demonstrate/discuss their passions which are related to our camporee theme.

Get Your Troop/Crew/AOLs Pumped Up

Build the Hype

To get everyone super excited, start spreading the word about the Camporee. Share this epic list of activities above. Talk through some fun stories from past camporees, talk about the food you will eat, the outfitting of your patrol wagons and let the anticipation build. When your scouts see how much fun is in store, they'll be counting down the days!

Rally the AOLs and New Scouts

This could be the first campout for these scouts and we want it to be epic where they want to come back to be with your troop and go to summer camp. Each Oregon trail station which tests skills will have an advantage offered to with AOLs or new scouts which joined the troop in the past 3 months. We want to provide a very positive team building experience where the patrol highlights these newer scouts just coming into the troop. If your troop is willing to host AOLs who don't have a troop coming to the camporee, please let us know in the online registration. [Host Troops can include AOLs in their registration or AOLs signing up independently will have the option to list a troop they wish to camp with during event registration.](#)

Rally the Parents

Don't forget to loop in the parents and guardians. Host a fun info session where you can share all the juicy details about the Camporee—dates, location, and why it's a can't-miss event. Encourage them to get involved, whether it's helping with gear, driving scouts to the site, or joining in as chaperones. The more, the merrier! ***** Reminder that parents that stay overnight must be a registered scout leader, having taken Youth Protection Training. *****

Prep for an Epic Camporee

Pre-Camp Training Fun

Make sure your scouts are ready for all the excitement with some pre-camp training sessions geared at skills learned from Scout Rank to First Class Scout Rank. Turn skill reviews into fun challenges—setting up tents, mastering fire safety, first aid relay races, and fun compass and map activities. Make sure everyone knows the schedule and what's expected, so they can hit the ground running.

Gear Up

A scout who's prepared is a scout who's ready for fun! Hand out a packing list that covers all the must-have gear and supplies. Do a gear check to ensure everyone has the right stuff—comfy clothes, camping essentials, and personal items. Remind them that packing smart means they're ready for anything! Have a ready made list to hand out to new parents and scouts. Look for opportunities to help them with borrowed gear because they may not have everything needed.

Stay Safe and Healthy

Keeping our scouts safe is a top priority. Make sure medical forms and emergency contacts are up to date. Address any special health needs or dietary restrictions within your troop. Provide any special health needs to the staff at registration. Teach your scouts the importance of staying clean, hydrated, and following safety guidelines throughout the Camporee.

Special Items of Note or Specific for the Camporee to Bring

- **Wagon:** Each patrol will need to bring a wagon to traverse the Oregon Trail to transport gear they need or get outfitted. It can be a Klondike sled retooled for trails. It can be a red flyer 4 wheel wagon. These should be ready to carry items across the trails and foot paths at MSR. Total space needed could be as much as (2) 5 gallon buckets. The scouting 10 essentials should be included on the wagon. There will be a competition for best dressed, best functional and most innovative. Details below.
- **Fishing Gear and Tackle:** MSR does not have cane poles or extra fishing poles to hand out so all fishing will need to be done with personal gear. Please make sure all your anglers are prepared with their own gear. You will need a way to measure your caught fish accurately and provide a picture of it to our judge(s).
- **Cooking competition items:** Please read through the cooking competition rules listed below to get a handle on items you will need to bring including any food items or cooking equipment. MSR has very limited items which could be borrowed so it's important to read the rules and plan your meal early.
- **Camp Chairs:** Always good in making sure each person has a camp chair at the camporee that can be easily transported along the trail.
- **Wagon Schedule Signup:** Before arriving to the camporee troops will be able to sign up their patrol(s) for start times. Those who register earlier will be able to sign up their patrols earlier. We will email out those links on a week-by-week schedule till the camporee starts.

Boost Leadership and Team Spirit

Encourage Leadership

The Camporee is a perfect time for scouts to shine as leaders. Make sure your SPL and Patrol Leaders are out front and leading your troop as much as possible. Encourage older scouts to mentor younger ones, building their leadership confidence. Watching them step up will be one of the most rewarding parts of the experience. Stay in the Loop

Keep the Communication Flowing

Clear communication is the secret to a smooth Camporee. Keep everyone in the know with regular updates. Make sure scouts, parents, and leaders are all on the same page about the schedule, travel plans, and any last-minute changes.

Texting Group Established for Camporee

In order to ensure all adult leadership can get immediate, needed information before or at the camporee, we will be making a text group. It will come from this number: 8125788248. All adult cell phone numbers put in their troop registration will be included. We ask that no youth cell numbers are used. At a minimum, we ask that all scoutmasters and 1 assistant scoutmaster from each troop provide cell phone number able to get texts. We will send out an initial text test just after registration closes. To simply not receive texts after the text, reply with STOP.

Be Ready for Anything

Prepare for the unexpected with a solid emergency plan. Go over emergency procedures with your troop, covering what to do if someone gets hurt, bad weather hits, or something else comes up. Ensure everyone knows where the nearest medical facilities are and has emergency contact info handy.

Volunteering at the Camporee

Our camporee is fortunate to have so many outside specialized groups coming in to show off their trades/skills/passions. We also have a dedicated crew of volunteer staff coming in early to prepare and run vital roles to make this camporee successful at a baseline level. We will still need other adult volunteers/parents to help us out for very easy tasks which require the ability to keep scouts moving along the trail without the need of in-depth scouting skills knowledge. We will have signup sheets prior to and at the adult leader meeting held the Friday night of the camporee.

Wrapping It Up

The upcoming HTC Spring Camporee is a golden opportunity for our scouts to learn, grow, and create memories that will last a lifetime. As troop leaders, your enthusiasm and preparation are key to making this event a huge success. By building excitement, involving parents, ensuring solid training and packing, promoting leadership, and

keeping communication clear, you'll set your scouts up for an incredible Camporee experience.

Let's make this Spring Camporee the best one yet. Happy scouting and get ready for an adventure of a lifetime!

Yours in Scouting,

Tony Zizak

Event Chair and VP of Programs

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Below are all the competition/course rules you will need to know now in order to prepare for the camporee

*** Weekend Schedule will be posted after zoom meetings***

“Oregon Trail”

Camporee Cooking Competition Rules

- **Registration:** Teams shall register their intent to participate not later than 9:30am the day of the Competition.
- **Teams:** Each Patrol may enter the Competition. Adults in a troop (18+) are considered a single separate “patrol” for this purpose. Troops may enter one team per patrol and not more than one adult team. Youth and Adults will be judged separately.
- **Team size:** Teams shall be no more than four people, and may be as small as two people. (On a duty roster, not everyone in a patrol cooks at the same time!)
- **Preparation:** Ingredients may be re-packaged at home, but any chopping, slicing, mixing, or use of heat must be done at camp the same day as judging.
- **Meal:** Teams shall submit ONE main course and ONE additional dish (vegetable, bread, side dish, or dessert). The entire entry shall include (1) a protein, (2) a *green* vegetable, and (3) at least one other food group (grain/starch, fruit, dairy).
- **Recipes:** Teams shall submit the recipe(s) describing the dishes *as made*. (If you deviate from a recipe, make a note!) Teams may choose to submit two versions of recipes: “as designed” and “as made”. Recipes shall be presented as part of entry, either on index cards or letter-size paper. Legibility is important!
- **Tools:** Teams shall safely use (1) a knife and (2) a dutch oven or other cast iron pan during preparation.
- **Cooking:** At least some part of the entry shall require cooking. Teams shall use camp fires, wood stoves, or charcoal. (Cow/buffalo “pies” are acceptable fuel.) Teams shall NOT use electricity, gas, propane, butane, lighter fluid, etc.
- **Cold:** No artificial cooling, including ice! Exception: Meat may be kept in coolers only for reasons of food safety. No other ingredients may be chilled prior to use (including dairy).
- **Presentation:** Teams shall provide SIX portions for judging at the time/place indicated, and may select one of the six portions for Presentation scoring.
- **Dinnerware:** Judges will have plates, forks, and spoons. Teams should provide any other necessary items (cups, bowls, etc.).
- **Scoring:**

Presentation	20	
Recipe(s)	10	

Main Dish	50	Taste (30), Complexity (20)
Side Dish	20	Taste (10), Complexity (10)

- **Safety:** Wash your hands and follow safe food handling guidelines! Giving any person dysentery—especially one of the judges—will result in disqualification.
 - If anyone has a question, ask the judges!
- else comes up. Ensure everyone knows where the nearest medical facilities are and has emergency contact info handy.

“Oregon Trail” Fishing Competition Rules

- Competition is for youth 14 and up, including adults. Any youth 13 and under will get a recognition item that they caught a fish at the camporee.
- **Items of note:**
 - Staff will be there to accept fish lengths but won't be there to untangle reals, get lures out of trees, etc... we are expecting the youth buddy system to be leveraged here.
 - Bring your own tackle and gear and fish measuring device. MSR does not have extra fishing gear or tackle or bait.
 - Fish lengths can be shown to staff or pictures can be brought to the admin office by 4pm Saturday.
- **Registration:** SPLs should be ready to let us know at the Friday leader meeting on how many people 13 and under and 14 and older are fishing.
- **Lake Height Dependent:** Our fishing competitions are completely dependent if the lake has risen from winter levels. This is due to ensure people are not wandering out on mudflats and risking exposure or falling into the water.
- **No State Permits needed:** This is a private lake and no Indiana Fishing License is needed.
- **Out of Bounds areas:** Standing on shorelines past the dam heading around the south part of the lake is out of bounds. Standing on shorelines past the OA circle heading around the west part of the lake is out of bounds. The aquatic swimming areas are out of bounds.
- **Areas to Fish:** From the southside of the dam to the outside edge of our waterfront area. From the outside edge of our waterfront area to the OA circle.
- **Longest Fish**
 - **Panfish longest length – Fly Rod Fishing - Youth**
 - **Panfish longest length – Standard Rod Fishing - Youth**
 - **Bass longest length – Fly Rod Fishing - Youth**
 - **Bass longest length – Standard Rod Fishing - Youth**
 - **Panfish longest length – Fly Rod Fishing - Adult**
 - **Panfish longest length – Standard Rod Fishing - Adult**
 - **Bass longest length – Fly Rod Fishing - Adult**
 - **Bass longest length – Standard Rod Fishing - Adult**
 - **Most fish caught – Everyone**

“Oregon Trail”

Best Wagon Competition Rules

- **Registration:** All wagons wishing to be judged must enter their wagon by 5p Saturday evening at the Outpost Barter (Scoutcraft shelter area). Presentations of entry will begin at 5:15p
- **1 wagon per patrol:** Only one patrol can enter a wagon. If a wagon is shared across multiple patrols in a troop, the troop can enter the wagon as a troop.
- **Wagons:** Wagons can be retooled Klondike sleds, garden wagons or anything resembling the typical “radio flyer” red wagon. It must have 4 wheels and a pull handle and can carry all the equipment needed for the course.
- **Included equipment:** The equipment used on the Oregon Trail course must be included in the wagon during the judging.
- **Entry Needed Information:** Using a single index card it must list out the Troop number, patrol name, campsite name, the name of the SPL/Patrol leader and which award it’s entered to compete.
- **Presentation of entry:** a delegate of the team who used the wagon on the trail will have 1 minute to cover all the modifications which were employed on their wagon entry.
- **3 Different Awards**
 - **Best Historic Wagon:** Judged to be the closest looking to the traditional Conestoga wagon including cover hoops, cover, miniature bench seat, modified wagon handle to pull with a team of horses (scouts)
 - **Most Innovative Wagon:** Best functional wagon to traverse the multiple trails and footpaths of camp. Using a single index card, it must outline the accommodations made and how it helped along the trail. Cannot spend more than \$50 for improvements.
 - **Best Futuristic Wagon:** “The decked out” award. If the scouts and can think it and it held together on the trail... it fits in this overall catchall third award. I fully expect to see a wagon with ground effects. ☺
- **Extra Point Opportunities:** Each patrol member wearing some historic period specific clothing will get extra points. All patrol members wearing historic clothing will get a bonus.

“Oregon Trail” Course Details

This event is a teambuilding challenge and not designed to be competing against other patrols. It’s a “Could you survive it?” scenario built with examples of what wagon trains had to do in order to get out West. We will simply ask how much money and supply a patrol had at the end of the course. We are planning for 1.5 to 2.5 hours to complete the course depending on their chosen route. Course signup times will start at 9am and the last time slot to start will be 2:30p. Course closes at 4p. Patrols should bring their lunch if they want to eat lunch on the trail.

- **Registration:** All patrols wishing to participate in the Oregon Trail must have their wagons entered by the end of the Friday Night Adult Leader Meeting at the Camporee. SPLs can pick available time slots. *****NOTE: troops who register early will be given a URL to pre-register for timeslots allowing them more options for time. 2 wagons/patrols per troop can pre-registered allowing for as many troops to participate. After every troop has been given a chance to signup at the Friday leader meeting, then more patrols per troop are able to register by the SPL.**
- **Wagons:** Wagons can be retooled Klondike sleds, garden wagons or anything resembling the typical “radio flyer” red wagon. It must have 4 wheels and a pull handle and can carry all the equipment needed for the course. It must be pulled by the patrol. It can be carried by the patrol across obstructions only.
- **Money / Widget System:** There will be money system leveraged to earn, purchase or barter for supply at “Bartertown” and “Outpost Barter”. Patrols can also barter between patrols on the trail. Bartering was crucial for survival on the trail and is still a skill leveraged today in many circles. Patrols will quickly figure out which items are in need or is rare and will learn bartering skills from it.
- **Overall Course:** Not every path will have identical stations. Some paths will have very specific stations for learning or testing skills. The patrol will have a map and will plan their way through the course via multiple foot trails. They will be funneled through the Scoutcraft shelter area (Outpost Barter) where they can resupply and will cross a river and then can branch back out on trails heading towards Fort Erie. Some sections of the trail will be super easy and some harder to get through (like the real Oregon trail).
- **Stations:** Stations will be scattered throughout the trails between the OA ring and Fort Erie. There will be a mix of learning stations, skill testing stations, ad hoc stations. Some will take food supply away while some may add supply. Some may give an extra bonus or accommodation at an attempted skill. Some will require the whole patrol to participate and some will require the youngest scout and oldest scout only to participate.
 - **AOLs – a new scouts:** It will be a big advantage for patrols to have AOLs or brand new scouts (joined within the last 3 months) as they will have built in advantages helping out the patrol.
- **Bandits and Rangers:** Like the Oregon Trail being fraught with bandits who took supply and food when they needed it. We will have a couple bandits on the trail. There will also be Rangers to help step in if a wagon is feared lost or in desperate need of supply being able to get back to Bartertown or Outpost Barter to resupply.
- **Older Scout Items:** There is a station going over a Buffalo hunt where older scouts (14 and above) can shoot buffalo targets with cowboy action revolvers or lever action rifles.
 - **AOLs:** In keeping with ScoutsBSA guide to age appropriate activities. AOLs will be shooting at paper targets with the typical target image. They cannot shoot at animal silhouettes/targets while scouts can shoot at animal targets.

Oregon Trail Course Strategy

1. Objective

The goal of the Oregon Trail camporee is for your patrol, known as a Wagon Train, to navigate through the camp and reach Fort Erie. To successfully complete the journey, each member must finish with at least one food token. This demonstrates that you could have "survived" the trail. You should complete the trail in 90 to 120 minutes from the time you start.

2. Course Format

****Choose Your Own Adventure:**** Once you leave Bartertown, your Wagon Train can select from different trails. All routes will eventually lead to a midpoint called Outpost Barter, where you will regroup before continuing your journey.

- After crossing the Maumee River, you'll venture into the wilderness, choosing your own path to Fort Erie.

3. Monetary System

Participants will use a unique system of tokens during the journey:

****Gold Coins:**** Regular money to make purchases.

****Silver Coins:**** Food tokens necessary for survival during the trail.

****Bronze Coins:**** Advanced skill tokens earned from learning new skills and spent on challenges.

These tokens can be earned, spent, or lost as you travel.

4. Key Features Along the Trail

A. Learning Stations

****Purpose:**** These stations are strategically placed along the trail to teach participants useful skills like blacksmithing, wild plant medicine, and gold panning.

****Benefits:**** Listening and participating in these stations can earn you Advanced Skills tokens, helping you in future challenges.

B. Skill Stations

****Function:**** These are marked locations where you can complete specific tasks to earn different types of tokens (food, gold, or skill tokens).

****Advantages for New Scouts:**** Each new scout has extra benefits that the whole Wagon Train can use.

C. Food and Water Tollgates

****Purpose:**** These tollgates collect tokens and also provide opportunities to demonstrate food-gathering skills.

D. Bartering Opportunities

****How It Works:**** Your Wagon Train can trade surplus tokens for needed items or food.

****Best Bartering Place:**** The main bartering area is at Outpost Barter, but trading can occur with other Wagon Trains along the trail.

E. Bandits

****Risks:**** You may encounter bandits who could cause you to lose tokens.

****Chance to Fight Back:**** If faced with a bandit, you might have the opportunity to answer skill-based questions to thwart them.

F. US Marshals

****Role:**** They help Wagon Trains that get lost or run out of food tokens and are also on the lookout for bandits.

G. Impromptu Stations

****Surprise Locations:**** These stations appear unexpectedly and offer fun activities or valuable lessons.

5. Planning Your Journey

****Initial Tokens:**** At Bartertown, your Wagon Train receives gold and other tokens based on the equipment you bring as well as if AOLs/New Scouts are in your Wagon Train. You will have opportunities to earn additional tokens during the journey.

****Strategic Decisions:**** Make smart choices about purchases and plan for activities like hunting or cattle wrangling to gather more food tokens. Not all stations will require the whole patrol. Some will only allow 1 or 2 people to participate.

****Trail Maps:**** You will be provided with a map featuring known trails and marked stations to help you navigate.

6. Final Notes

As you embark on your adventure, teamwork and strategic planning are essential. Make thoughtful decisions to ensure the survival of your Wagon Train and successfully reach Fort Erie!

Maps:

AUMEE SCOUT RESERVATION
 HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



North Gate
 W County Road 925 N

LEGEND

- Building Cabin
- Restroom/Latrine
- Shower/Restroom
- Shooting Range
- Road
- Trail/Walkway/Gatewalk
- First Aid
- Shelter
- Maintenance

