

Conservation Spring Camporee 2026

Leader's Guide

Date of Event: April 24 – 26, 2026

Location: Prides Creek



Event Chair: James Schoenbachler, jamesschoenbachler@gmail.com, 812-630-2026

Event Co-Chair: Ethan Barton, barton9614@yahoo.com 812-686-2874

Event Medical Officer: Joshua Popp, joshua.a.popp@gmail.com, 812-296-7024

Council Representative: Ryan Abbott, ryan.abbott@scouting.org 315-247-1180

Note: All times listed are Central Time

Registration / Check-In- Friday, April 24, 2026, 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM CT

Clean-Up / Check Out- Sunday, April 26, 2026, 9:00 AM CT

A detailed schedule of the weekend's activities will be provided at check-in.

Leaders: Please read and review the rules listed prior to attending the camporee.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CAMPOREE. Units will be responsible for their own meals.

This year's Conservation Themed Camporee will be held at Prides Creek in Petersburg. This event is open to all Troops and Crews in Scouting America! **WEBELOS will be allowed if units have required training.** Our weekend is based on Conservation. We are planning a weekend of fun and excitement for your Scouts, and we look forward to seeing you here.

RULES FOR THE CONSERVATION CAMPOREE

- ✚ Check-in will be near the parking lot, marked by signage, Scoutmaster and SPL only. Be prepared to turn in Medical Forms A & B for each person in attendance at this time.
- ✚ Scouts and Scouters will adhere to the Scout Oath and Law throughout the event.
- ✚ Webelos are not permitted to participate in any merit badge seminar. Merit badge work is only for registered Scouts BSA members.
- ✚ Classes will be assigned in order of receipt of PAID registration. Registrations will be accepted until classes are full or one week prior to the event.
- ✚ Scouts will leave technology alone, unless using a device is requested by a merit badge counselor for tasks relating to the merit badge coursework.
- ✚ No PLAYING on playground equipment.
- ✚ Quiet hours are from 10 pm CT to 7 am CT.
- ✚ Any questions please review the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- ✚ Off-limit areas: In the lake, on the golf course, and any are marked by camp staff
- ✚ Once Scouts arrive, they may not leave the grounds until their unit has checked out at the end of the weekend. They will stay in their designated area, NO wandering around the buildings, grounds, or parking lots. The Buddy System is in use for the event.
- ✚ Each participating unit **MUST HAVE AT LEAST 2 REGISTERED ADULT LEADERS 21+ YEARS OLD** in attendance during the entire weekend.
- ✚ Each Scout is also responsible for his own paper, pencils, merit badge pamphlets, as well as a merit badge "blue card" signed by the Scoutmaster. Blue cards are not available at the event. Not all requirements for each merit badge will be covered during the MBC weekend. Some requirements must be completed either before or after attending the session. Each Scout will benefit by reading the merit badge pamphlet and be familiar with the requirements. **Having all of the prerequisite requirements completed before that day is a MUST to complete the Merit Badge at the event.**

- ✚ Prerequisites, while most are listed in the class descriptions, this is not necessarily a complete list. Updates will be made as counselors submit requests. We will try to notify Scoutmasters of updates; however, it is ultimately the Scout's responsibility to check the site and know what is required.
- ✚ All the counselors are volunteering their time for the benefit of the Scouts. In order to be prepared, please do your part ahead of time and read the book before the event. This will ensure the course is successful not only for you but for all the others to include your counselor and other scouts. Signing off on Blue Cards is solely up to the course counselors.

BRING MERIT BADGE CARD SIGNED BY SCOUTMASTER

2026 Spring Merit Badge Camporee Courses

Merit Badges

Soil and Water Conservation;

Fish and Wildlife Conservation;

Environmental Science; Lewis Wagner

Fishing; Ethan Barton

Sustainability;

There will be an Order of the Arrow Call Out at the Camporee at the end of the Saturday night campfire

REGISTRATION

There will be no unit on-site registration. Registration must be accomplished on or before the registration deadline of April 17, 2026. If you are unable to accomplish this, the unit MUST contact the chair or designated representative on or before the deadline date. SPL & SM ONLY will need to present their unit roster at check-in on Friday evening. Go to <https://www.buffalotracedcouncil.org/calendar> to register and pay online or submit the registration form with a check (Make checks payable to: Buffalo Trace Council) by mail by April 17, 2026.

Eykamp Scout Center
3501 E Lloyd Expressway
Evansville, IN 47715

The cost per Scout will be \$15.00 and \$10.00 for Adult Scouters for in-council units.

Out of council Scout costs will be \$30.00 and \$20.00 for adult leaders

Late fee is applied if not paid in full by Fri 04-10-2026 12:00 AM

Saturday Attendance only. If for some reason you cannot camp overnight, you can come and enjoy the event between flag raising and the end of the campfire. The cost will be the same.

NO MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED. Registration fees pay for Prides Creek campground rental, patches, insurance, cracker barrel supplies, program, janitorial and office supplies.

At check-in, you will be required to turn in the following:

1. Unit Roster with every participant, both youth and adult.
2. Additionally, you will be required to show that you have in your possession the Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A&B for each participant both youth and adult. Go to [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) and search for the form.

Financial assistance is available if needed, please call Ryan Abbott, District Executive at the Council office. 812-423-5246. No scout will be turned away because of cost.

For Cold-Weather Camping Essentials and tips go to: <https://www.swcbsa.org/cold-weather-camping/>

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT/TALENT RELEASE AGREEMENT

By attending this event, you agree with the following: You understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk. You have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for yourself or your child to participate in the activity. You understand that participation in the activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. In case of an emergency involving your child, you understand every effort will be made to contact you. In the event you cannot be reached, you hereby give your permission to the medical provider selected by the adult in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for your child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the leader in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for the purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the

participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities. You hereby assign and grant to the Buffalo Trace Council– Scouting America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and or sound recordings made of you this date by the Buffalo Trace Council– Scouting America, and I hereby release Buffalo Trace Council– Scouting America from any liability from such use and publication. You hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage, and/or distribution of said photographs/film/videotapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Buffalo Trace Council– Boy Scouts of America and you specifically waive any right to any compensation you may have for the foregoing.

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Fly Tying Booth

There will be a station where scouts can learn to tie flies for fun or for the fly-fishing MB

Fishing Derby

- Each scout can bring their own gear
- Scouts will be expected to carry their own gear in and out of the area. PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT.
- If a scout wants to bring multiple poles they can, but the scout is to maintain each rod.
- Scouts are encouraged to keep a safe distance from each other, be respectful of each person on the lake. That's including other campers (non-scout related)
- All scouts will follow state and local guidelines for harvesting of fish.
- Judging:
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd weight of fish
 - Different awards will be given out for various categories.

Campfire Build Off

- Each patrol will be given 2 wooden matches.
- The patrol can use a form of fire-starting technique. Ex. Dryer lint, tissue paper roll, etc. NO COMBUSTIBLE ITEMS ARE ALLOWED.
- Scouts will have a 10-minute prep time for building.
- Scouts can choose which fire-starting technique they want. Ex. Log Cabin, teepee,

pyramid, star fire.

- Fires are to be started by small tinder and kept small, the fire should be kept going for a duration of 10 minutes.
- Once the fire is started, all scouts will be advised to stay with their fire.
- Judging:
 - Each patrol will be judged upon how well they perform with their construction.
 - Each patrol will be assessed by how well they can use time management skills to get done in time.
 - All fires should stay in a 6"-12" tinder measurement.
 - Scouts will be timed on how fast they can get their fire started and kept going.

Knotting Tying Relay

Set-up

Knot Area (6' x 6' Area)

Knot Box (small to hold tied knots)

Stand w/box (hold the knot cards)

Knot Cards

Rules:

- Troops/Patrol may bring a Scout Handbook; no phones/mobile devices can be used
- Two scouts may enter the knot area; only one can tie the knot, No outside the knot area assistance.
- Scout will pull a **single** knot card with the knot that needs to be tied
- Once a knot is tied, it will be placed in a box. Scouts must go back to pulling another knot card, or the next scout(s) go
- If a scout cannot tie the knot, they may go back to the start, and another scout may enter the knot area and attempt
- A returning scout may not tell the other scouts what the knot is
- If the troop/patrol decides not to tie a knot, they may place the card in the box
- Only one knot card at a time can be pulled

- Points awarded in order from shortest time to tie the knots

1st—50 points, 2nd—40 points, 3rd—30 points, etc. You may earn negative points if you exceed 15 minutes.

- Points awarded: 10 points for a correct knot; incorrect knots receive 0 points.

(There may be a few knots that are not in the Scout Handbook)

Cooking Competition: Patrol Dinner and Scoutmaster Dessert

THE CHALLENGE: The Best Fish Dish!

PRIZE AND BRAGGING RIGHTS TO THE WINNER!

THE RULES: Dinner can be anything you want to enter but must include FISH. The dessert should be made from your favorite recipe and made by the Scout leaders. Any cooking method can be used. The entry must be prepared by Scouts or Scoutmaster at your campsite and can't be made before the Camporee. A serving needs to be brought to headquarters between 6:00 and 6:15 PM on Saturday for judging. The official entry form (on next page) listing ingredients (including quantities), preparation directions and cooking instructions must be submitted with the completed entry for each dinner and dessert. One dinner and one dessert can be submitted per unit. Patrols may also choose to submit one or the other.

PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY SUBMITTAL: 1. Each entrant will provide a sample of their dinner and dessert. (no assembly of any ingredients allowed at the judging area). 2. The entry is to be marked with the patrol name and Unit number. Please note the entry will not be returned. 3. The recipe with instructions and the entry form are required to be submitted along with the entry. We are using this method for several reasons; dinner will be on time, there will be less danger of anyone getting hurt carrying a heavy, hot oven, less chance of spilling the dinner while transporting food, and your meal will not be cold.

THE JUDGING CRITERIA: Entries will be judged on the following criteria: Presentation: Does it have eye appeal? Does it look like it would be good to eat? Does it relate to the Camporee theme? Aroma: Does it smell good? Taste; Is it pleasing to the palette? Recipe: Are the ingredients and directions clearly stated? Could the entry be duplicated using the instructions? Overall: Is it something different? What is your overall impression?

Judging will be performed by a panel of independent leaders and youth with experience in eating. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL! Results to be announced at the campfire.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM Dinner and (or) Dessert Cooking Contest Fill in completely and submitted with each entry. Please print clearly.

Patrol, or Scout Master Name: _____

Unit #: _____

Entry Name: _____

Ingredients: Your favorite recipe must include fish for dinner. Your favorite recipe for dessert

Directions: _____
