



SUMMER 2023

# CAMPING EXPERIENCE GUIDE

FOR SCOUTS, LEADERS AND PARENTS



**CROSSROADS**  
OF AMERICA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Chris Myers**  
Reservation Director

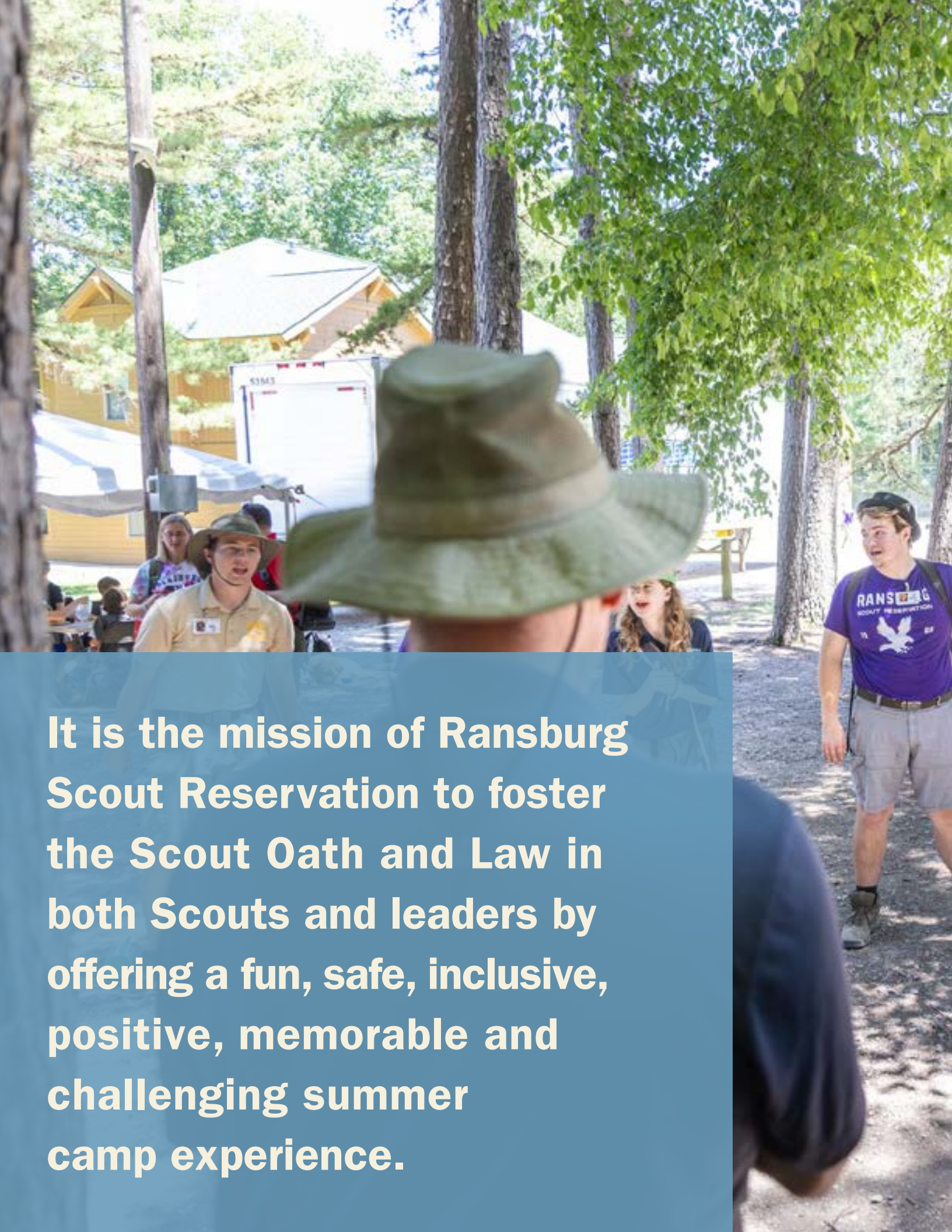
Nestled in Hoosier National Forest, Ransburg Scout Reservation is located on the beautiful Monroe Reservoir near Bloomington, Indiana. We continue to be the premier Scout camp in the Midwest because of our diverse programs, state-of-the-art facilities, excellent camp staff and our commitment to outstanding service to Scouts and leaders.

We know you have many great camps to choose from and appreciate that you are coming to Ransburg Scout Reservation. We hope to serve you to the best of our ability and want our camp experience to be outstanding for both you and your Scouts. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will respond as best we can.

Since 1966, we have offered unmatched customer service and unparalleled experiences for Scouts and leaders with one of the most diverse program offerings in the country. Thank you in advance for placing your trust in Ransburg Scout Reservation. We are eager to serve and hope this guide will assist you in making your plans.

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**It is the mission of Ransburg Scout Reservation to foster the Scout Oath and Law in both Scouts and leaders by offering a fun, safe, inclusive, positive, memorable and challenging summer camp experience.**



# SUMMER LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**Patrick Shilson**  
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Assistant Program Director  
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From August through April,  
our general email address is  
[support@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:support@ransburgbsa.org).  
The leadership email addresses  
are monitored only during the  
summer season.

**Camp Office Phone: (812) 837-9423**

## PROGRAM AREA CONTACT INFORMATION

**Aquatics**  
[aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org)

**Scoutcraft**  
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**Sports**  
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**Order of the Arrow**  
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**ATV**  
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**Nature**  
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**Eagle Quest**  
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**Handicraft**  
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**STEM**  
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**Shooting Sports**  
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**Firecrafter**  
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**High Adventure**  
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**Communications**  
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## YEAR-ROUND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TEAM



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**Jen Ugen**  
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317-813-7094



# CAMP FEES & DEADLINES

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY FEE	REGULAR FEE
In Council Youth	\$470	\$495
Out of Council Youth	\$500	\$525
Adult	\$235	\$235
Partial Week Leader	\$120	\$120



PAYMENT TYPE	DUE DATE
\$200 (per unit)	At time of reservation
\$50 (per Scout, non-refundable)	February 15, 2023
Early Payment Balance	April 15, 2023
Final Payment Balance	May 15, 2023

New in 2023, the Ransburg experience is now all-inclusive! The camp fee is the total cost of attending camp with no added merit badge fees. Additional merit badge activity fees and project fees are now included in the overall price of your experience.

All fees are due at least two weeks prior to your arrival at camp. No payments will be accepted on-site. Camp fees are non-refundable except in cases of participant medical reasons. A doctor's note is required to request a refund and \$50 will be retained. If there is a Scout not already on the reservation that can take the place of the canceled Scout, then fees are allowed to be transferred. For more information on the official Crossroads of America Council refund policy, please visit: [crossroadsbsa.org/resources/refund-policies/](https://crossroadsbsa.org/resources/refund-policies/)

## CAMPERSHIPS

Camperships provide supplemental funding for registered CAC Scouts whose families cannot afford to send them to summer camp. The hardship must be certified by the Scout leader, who also must acknowledge that the Scout is deserving of the grant and sincerely interested in participating in the outdoor program. We also require the youth, their family, and the unit or sponsoring organization to make some contribution.

Youth must learn to pay their own way and to honestly earn the money to do so. Teaching Scouts to be self-reliant is an integral part of our training. Funding will be considered for up to 50% of the early payment camp fee. Applications must include all requested information. Click the following link to apply: [247scouting.com/forms/160-Camperships2023](https://247scouting.com/forms/160-Camperships2023). Funding is limited.

CAMP DATES	
Week 1	June 4 - 10
Week 2	June 11 - 17
Week 3	June 18 - 24
Week 4	June 25 - July 1
Week 5	July 2 - July 8
Week 6	July 9 - 15
Week 7	July 16 - 22

# CAMP PROMOTION

Your unit should be holding a camp promotion event for your Troop sometime between December and February. This event is one of the most important things that you will do to prepare to come to camp. The camp promotion event can be held during an already scheduled event or it can be a stand-alone event. Regardless of when it is held, you should make sure that each Scout has one parent in attendance. A properly run camp promotion event should last between 15 – 40 minutes. If it is held during a pre-existing event, it should be approximately 20 minutes. If it is a stand-alone event we would suggest 40 minutes.

## **Elements of a camp promotions event include:**

- High energy with a program delivered by an older Scout and dynamic leader
- Multi-media presentation, including exciting camp promotional videos and segments
- A few Scouts sharing their favorite memory/activity from camp last summer
- Literature to hand-out to parents/leaders on why attending summer camp is important for their Scout
- Hand-outs with dates, Troop information, and costs (including methods of fundraising)

Your Troop should recruit an individual that will coordinate camp promotions. If you're reading this, it might be you! Getting each Scout to attend camp should be your primary goal. Attending summer camp results in extraordinary benefits for each Scout. You should put your time and energy into convincing each Scout and parent that they should attend camp this summer.

There are numerous resources available for you. You can find them at:

[www.crossroadsbsa.org/camps](http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/camps)

# CAMPSITE COOKING

*Only available at Denali and Yosemite campsites*

Units who wish to cook at their campsite, rather than eat in the dining hall, can do so on a limited basis by reserving either the Denali or Yosemite campsite. By electing this option, your unit will provide your own food to prepare and cook at your campsite, for all three meals daily. No food is provided to cook.

Both campsites are equipped with larger shelters containing a storage room, refrigerator, electricity, and propane grill. Your unit is encouraged to bring additional cooking supplies and equipment, such as that typically packed for a weekend outing. Limited equipment is available for checkout from the Quartermaster.

*Fees are adjusted accordingly (\$85 per registrant) for the campsite cooking option.*





# CROSSROADS OUTFITTERS & TRADING POST

Make sure you stop by Crossroads Outfitters, at the Indianapolis office, prior to camp to stock up on all camp essentials. While at camp, the trading post is the place to go for a full selection of souvenirs, Scouting items and snacks. We also sell ice and select hot food items. We accept cash, check (payable to CAC BSA), Mastercard/Visa and gift cards.

Gift cards are available for purchase on-line at:

[squareup.com/gift/MLFGX8WA17W43/order](https://squareup.com/gift/MLFGX8WA17W43/order)

Gift cards are digital through Square. For this reason, it is encouraged that you associate a phone number with your card and encourage your Scout to memorize that phone number for an easy transaction process.

## TALENT RELEASE

A tradition throughout the council and at Ransburg Scout Reservation is to make multimedia presentations part of the week-long summer camp experience. As a result, numerous pictures and videos are taken throughout the week, and a slideshow is presented at the closing campfire. This is an exciting closing to the week at Ransburg, and it is an integral part of the experience. Therefore, Ransburg Scout Reservation requires Scout families to fill out of this talent release. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Ransburg Leadership Team. The Talent Release is a portion of the Annual Health and Medical Record.



# ANNUAL HEALTH RECORDS

To ensure the safety of all participants an Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR), with a completed exam and medical provider's signature dated within the past year, is required for all Scouts and leaders regardless of their length of stay in camp.

Following the Boy Scouts of America national guidelines, only the official BSA Annual Health and Medical Record form will be accepted. School forms and sports physical forms cannot be accepted (even if stapled to the official Annual Health and Medical Record).

**New in 2023:** Your Troop must bring printed **copies** of the Annual Health and Medical Record forms to camp. Your forms **will not be returned** at the end of the week. This is due to Indiana State Law requiring the retention of these records. In addition, we request that you do not send these to camp ahead of time.

**Action Requested:** As the camp coordinator, we ask that you check and review your Troop's AHMR forms before arrival at camp. Please check for the following common errors/omissions:

- Missing date under the medical provider's signature
- Date outside of 12-month window
- Missing medical provider's signature
- Missing parent/guardian signature
- Missing immunization record and dates
- Missing health insurance card copy

As a part of the check-in process each individual form will be checked with the Scout or Adult present and a verbal health questionnaire will be completed. Any errors or omissions with the form will be discovered at this time. The Health Officer will work with your Troop leadership to assist you in correcting these errors for your Scouts/Leaders. This may include facilitating a visit to UrgentCare clinic.

## HEALTH LODGE

Our Health Lodge is located in main camp just a few steps from the Camp Office. We are committed to providing friendly, helpful service to Scouts and leaders with all kinds of health and safety needs. Whether it's cleaning a cut or scrape, lifting a camper's spirits after a rough day or tending to more serious injuries, our fully trained medical staff take great care to make Scouts feel comfortable while receiving medical attention. A staff member is available in the Health Lodge 24 hours a day.

**CPAP Machines:** We encourage you to bring your own marine-grade batteries. Most campsites do not have electricity for you to plug in a CPAP machine or to charge batteries on-site. Limited CPAP batteries are available for rental (for \$35) on a first come first serve basis. Please communicate this need to our camp commissioner at [commissioner@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:commissioner@ransburgbsa.org).

# CAMPSITES

Ransburg Scout Reservation provides high-quality equipment and a prepared campsite for all Troops in camp. Each campsite is fully equipped with the following:

- Wall tents on platforms
- A cot for each participant
- A 2-inch mattress for each cot
- Permanent shelter with two picnic tables
- Solar lights (and solar-powered charging station) in shelter
- Flagpole with American flag
- Campfire ring

In addition, each campsite has access to the following conveniently located facilities, which have multiple locations along each ridge:

- Latrines with running water, toilet paper and cleaning supplies (several per ridge). A broom and hose are also available at each ridge latrine.
- Campfire rings with larger gathering areas (in addition to your campsite's fire ring).

Additional equipment is available for checkout from the Quartermaster (such as Dutch ovens, cook kits, stoves, water jugs, coolers, etc.).

## Tent Policies

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youths.
- Youths sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- Youths and adults must tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

**Interactive photos of each campsite are available on our interactive map, visit:**

<https://www.ransburgbsa.org/planning-1>



# CHECK-IN

When arriving at Ransburg Scout Reservation, you will be greeted by a staff member at our gate. If you decide to arrive early beginning at 10:30am you will receive directions to proceed to your campsite with your trailer where you can begin to get settled. The intent of arriving prior to initial check-in, is to provide your Troop with a more flexible timetable on Sunday with more time to get settled into your campsite. Check-in will still occur at 1pm at the STEM Center.

To allow for a smooth check-in process your Troop should arrive in camp no later than 1pm and report to the STEM Shelter no later than 2pm. If there are circumstances that require later arrival, please communicate that need with our camp commissioner and we will set-up a separate check-in process for your Troop.

The first step of the check-in process is at the STEM Shelter and begins at 1:00pm. Please be sure that the Scoutmaster and SPL reports to the check-in table located at the STEM Shelter between 1pm and 2pm.

If you are new to Ransburg you will meet your staff guide at the STEM Shelter who will lead the troop through the camp check-in process. This will include medical checks, a tour of camp, a dining hall orientation, and a swimming ability check.

If you are returning to Ransburg, following initial check-in at the STEM Shelter you will receive instructions for the remainder of the self-guided check-in process including the locations and order of each stop.

Troops with qualified lifeguards may take their swim check on their own prior to camp and communicate it to our staff, see Swim Checks. This can save time at check-in eliminating the need to walk down to the Aquatics Area. Our aquatics staff retains the right to require a retest at their discretion. There is a form available on our website that will need to be completed for pre-camp swim checks. For more information about early arrival and the check-in process please visit the Planning for Camp section of our website at [www.ransburgbsa.org/swim-checks](http://www.ransburgbsa.org/swim-checks).

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

<b>10:30 am – 1 pm</b>	Arrival
<b>1 pm – 2 pm</b>	Initial check-in at the STEM Shelter
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Leadership meeting at the Inlow Aquatics Center*
<b>5:45 pm</b>	A dinner
<b>6:20 pm</b>	Flag lowering
<b>6:30 pm</b>	B dinner
<b>7:15 pm</b>	Merit badge schedule changes
<b>7:45 pm</b>	All-faith chapel service
<b>8:30 pm</b>	Opening campfire

*\*Be sure to have at least one adult leader and the SPL in attendance*



# CHECKOUT

A hot breakfast will be served Saturday in the dining hall. Scouts staying for a second week of camp will not be able to stay over the weekend because Ransburg will not be able to provide supervision. Please make sure the Scout is picked up on Saturday and returned on Sunday.

CHECKOUT SCHEDULE	
<b>7:15 am</b>	First Breakfast
<b>7:30 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pick up final merit badge information</li><li>• Review all advancement records for your Troop prior to departure. Discrepancies are best corrected now while still in camp</li></ul>
<b>7:50 am</b>	Flag raising
<b>8:00 am</b>	Second Breakfast
<b>8:45 am – 9:00 am</b>	Your staff guide will meet you at your campsite to complete a campsite checkout
<b>Before/After Breakfast</b>	Check out at the Health Lodge. Turn in medication box, lock, key and log.
<b>After Campsite Checkout</b>	Check out at the Camp Office. Pay for any damaged camp equipment and turn in any remaining evaluations.

# LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items are a common occurrence at camp. All lost and found items will be located on the porch of the camp office. Any valuables (knives, wallets, phones, etc.) will be available inside the camp office.

Valuable lost and found items will be available after the conclusion of the summer at the Crossroads of America Council office (7125 Fall Creek Road North, Indianapolis, IN 46256)

# DINING

Ransburg Scout Reservation has employed a professional food service management company to provide high-quality food for Scouts and leaders. A licensed dietitian has reviewed the menus for balanced nutrition. Each meal has two serving times, and your Troop will be designated a time upon arrival. A detailed menu for your week of camp can be found on our [website](#).

## SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

We want every Scout and leader to enjoy their stay at camp. If Scouts and leaders need special meal substitutes because of dietary needs, please complete the on-line form **at least three weeks prior to your Troop's arrival, available at [www.ransburgbsa.org/dining-hall](http://www.ransburgbsa.org/dining-hall)**.

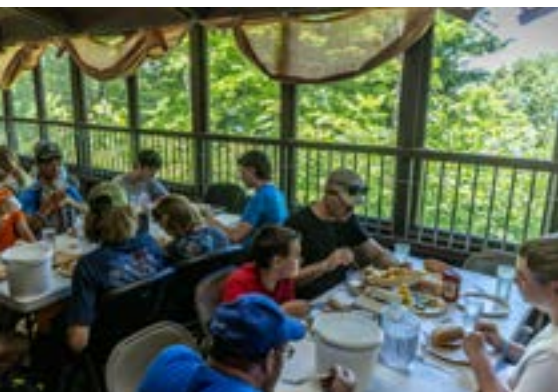
For any questions or inquiries, please contact [dj@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:dj@ransburgbsa.org).



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Meals will NOT be served on Wednesday nights. Each Troop must make plans to find an alternate source for Wednesday night dinner. Some Troops over the years have chosen to order pizza from town, and others have chosen to cook in their campsite. Special arrangements will be made to have pizzas delivered to camp for those Troops wishing to order pizza. A special pizza order form will be available on the Sunday of your camp stay. Troops should plan on a nominal fee for this pizza meal. All orders for pizza must be placed by Monday at noon in the Camp Office.

Special arrangements can also be made for those Troops wishing to cook in their campsite. If you are planning to cook in your campsite Wednesday night and need help getting the food you need, please seek assistance in the Camp Office.



## VISITORS

Your Troop can invite guests to dine with you at camp. Please purchase meal tickets for your guests at the Camp Office at least twenty four hours in advance. Guest meals cost \$9.50 each.



# ADULT LEADERS

The role of a Scout leader is to be a teacher, listener, motivator, disciplinarian and more. In camp, these roles are amplified. Thus, every Troop is required to have a **minimum of two leaders (over age 21) in camp at all times.**

The guideline is one leader for every eight Scouts. If your Troop has 16 Scouts, you would be required to bring two leaders. For Troops with 17 to 24 Scouts, three leaders are needed, and so on. In addition, a Troop of boys must have at least one male leader age 21+ and a Troop of girls must have at least one female leader age 21+.

We understand the investment every adult makes to be at camp with their Scouts. We find this supervision is necessary to ensure their stay is as enjoyable and productive as possible.



## LEADER MEETINGS

On Sunday at 4:30 p.m., Scoutmasters or contingent leaders will meet for an orientation with the camp director in the Inlow Aquatics Center. Additional adult leader meetings are held every weekday morning at 9:15 a.m., in the picnic area in main camp. Each Troop should have a leader present to receive all necessary information for the day's program. Senior Patrol Leaders also have the opportunity to meet daily in the afternoon.

## SCOUT LEADERS' LOUNGE

Ransburg Scout Reservation offers leaders opportunities to learn and have fun while at summer camp. We also have an air-conditioned leaders' lounge in the Inlow Aquatics Center where you can find fresh coffee, Scouting-related information, comfortable chairs, and high-speed internet. In addition to the leaders' lounge, high-speed internet is available in numerous areas throughout camp.

## LEADER ACTIVITIES & TRAININGS

We offer a full complement of training available for all adult leaders during their week in camp. These include official BSA trainings and numerous other topics (e.g. CPR). An adult can come to camp as a brand-new leader and walk away fully trained. In addition, an experienced leader will find numerous opportunities to further their knowledge.

View a full adult leader schedule that is available: [ransburgbsa.org/schedules](https://ransburgbsa.org/schedules)

# PARTIAL WEEK LEADERS

Partial week leaders are those who will be in camp three nights or less. Leaders in camp for four nights or more must pay the regular leader fee.

Two part-time leaders cannot split a full leader spot on the registration. Every leader attending must be listed on the registration as either a full or partial week leader. All leaders must submit a completed Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) form, including Part C, even if the leader is staying less than 72 hours.

# PROVISIONAL SCOUTS

If you have a Scout who cannot attend the same camp week as the Troop or who would like to come for a second week, you can sign them up as a Provisional Scout. Provisional Scouts need to have their own registration linked to their Troop number.

To register Provisional Scouts, call Stephanie Marron at the council office (317-813-7123). She will place the Scout with another Troop for an entire camp week. If you already know the Troop you would like to place your Scout with, please let us know at the time of registration.







# PACKING CHECKLIST

- Complete Scout uniform (worn at dinner)
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt
- Swimsuit
- Sleeping bag
- Comfortable hiking boots, athletic shoes
- Shoes that can get wet (for boating merit badges)
- Shoes with a heel (for Horsemanship merit badge and trail rides)
- Long pants for welding, ranch, COPE, ATV and RansburgX
- Raincoat
- Toiletry kit
- Notebook, pen and Scout Handbook
- Sun block
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Watch, first aid kit, camera, religious materials
- Medical form and prescription medication in its original container
- Folding pocketknife (folding blades are encouraged)
- \$80 or more for spending money

Please leave all valuables at home.

**Be prepared and plan ahead to have the best experiences at camp!**

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

**If you are new to Ransburg, please let us know!** Attending a new camp can sometimes be overwhelming. We are more than willing to schedule time with you and/or your Troop to help you plan for camp.

- If you have a special need or want to do something spectacular, tell us about it and we will give it our best shot.
- A printable camp map is available online at [www.ransburgbsa.org/docs](http://www.ransburgbsa.org/docs).
- Uniforms are encouraged for chapel service, campfires, evening flag ceremonies and evening meals.
- Merit badges are not the only things going on at Ransburg. We encourage Troops to try new adventures and activities, and to allow Scouts time to participate in open program activities! We recommend Scouts leave the last hour of the day open for these program activities and to take time to enjoy the beauty of the Hoosier National Forest and Lake Monroe.
- Troop t-shirts are encouraged and help to foster camp spirit! If your Troop would like to purchase a custom Troop t-shirt that option will be available on-line through our vendor. Information will be communicated via email to the camp contact.

# PROGRAM & MERIT BADGES

Ransburg is proud to offer one of the most diverse and extensive programs in the country. You will find something to excite every Scout on your trip.

Merit Badge counselors are instructed to let out their classes 10 minutes before the end of the merit badge period, except in the case of 2 hour merit badge periods which release 20 minutes prior. This time buffer allows for Scouts to transition between periods of activity. Even with 10 minutes of travel time, new Scouts may find it challenging to get from one side of camp to another. When scheduling, please keep in mind travel times to each location. New Scouts are encouraged to group merit badge scheduling by location/geography (i.e., morning merit badges are on one side of camp and afternoon badges are on the other side of camp).



## REGISTERING FOR MERIT BADGES AND ACTIVITIES

Ransburg Scout Reservation utilizes an on-line system to schedule and document the advancement of each Scout while at camp. Merit badges are chosen through the same Scouting Event Reservation site called Black Pug. Unit coordinators will be provided with a specific time and date by which to register. This should alleviate too much traffic on the registration site with staggered registration times. The current year Activity and Merit Badge Schedule will be released in early spring. Registration of activities will occur in March and April.

This guide does not contain any information regarding merit badge schedules. Please check the activity schedule on the Ransburg website for a full schedule of what will be offered this summer:

[www.ransburgbsa.org/activity-schedule](http://www.ransburgbsa.org/activity-schedule)



# HIGH ADVENTURE

The high adventure area is one of the most popular areas in camp. We offer Project C.O.P.E., high course, low courses and a climbing wall.

Project C.O.P.E. consists of team-building activities and a challenging ropes course that inspire Scouts and others to realize their full potential. C.O.P.E. activities include climbing, swinging, balancing and soaring on our zip line. Each adventure is carefully designed and constructed so participants can feel free to challenge themselves.

The Climbing Tower is individually challenging for all Scouts. Group size is limited. Boy Scouts of America Standards are followed for participant safety. These standards require Scouts to reach their 13th birthday by January 1 of the current camping season to participate in the climbing program.

Scouts are required to wear long pants when participating in High Adventure activities.



# PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Ransburg's Personal Watercraft (PWC) program is a great opportunity for older Scouts (15+) who love the water to take their interest to the next level. In this five-day program, Scouts learn to operate a watercraft and to use it to explore Lake Monroe. Through a nationally approved education program, Scouts will gain confidence and have a blast! Participating Scouts must complete the on-line Indiana Boating Safety Education course prior to camp and bring a state-issued ID card. The on-line course is available on our website via the link below and is a requirement by the State of Indiana and the BSA.

*The on-line course fee is \$34.95. The "Temporary Boater Education Certificate" should be printed and brought with the Scout to camp. You do NOT need to purchase the "official" certificate.*

Scouts registered for this program will need to bring a signed waiver for PWC and have passed the swimming test.

**For more information and to fill out the waiver for PWC activities:**

<https://www.ransburgbsa.org/pwc>



# ATV ADVENTURE

Ransburg offers an ATV Safety Institute program designed to expose Scouts to ATV training. Space is limited; Scouts interested in participating must be at least 16 years old and bring to camp sturdy ankle boots, a long-sleeved shirt and pants. All safety equipment is provided.

Prior to camp, Scouts must complete the ASI ATV Waiver and the ASI E-Course, which can be found on our website link below.

**For more information and to fill out the ASI ATV Waiver/E-Course**

<https://www.ransburgbsa.org/atv>



## RANSBURG X

This program is a week long experience scattered throughout the day for Scouts who have completed most activities offered at camp but still want to attend for the week. In Ransburg X, Scouts are able to support their Troop while still participating in a higher level of camping adventure.

Ransburg X is offered each camp week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Scouts have an opportunity to participate in caving at Marengo Cave, ASI ATV, climbing, mountain boarding, mountain biking, overnight trek, water skiing, sailing and much more.

Those interested in participating in Ransburg X must be at least 16 years old. With a variety of programming options in camp and an array of great adventure locations within a day's drive of camp, we expect the Ransburg X program to continue to change and grow, bringing new activities for older Scouts looking for something new to try each year.



# ORDER OF THE ARROW

Ransburg Scout Reservation has a thriving Order of the Arrow program. Staff are responsible for all O.A. ceremonies, elections and promotions. If your Scouts are members of a dance or ceremonial team, they are invited to talk to the office staff about joining in the ceremonies while they are in camp.

**We welcome Scouts and Scouters from other lodges to participate in our Order of the Arrow programming. Out-of-council Troops must have a letter from their lodge stating the names of Scouts and leaders who have been elected to the Order of the Arrow.**

Tuesday dinner is O.A. Sash Night. After a camp-wide event, the Order of the Arrow will conduct a “call-out” ceremony for all Scouts in camp. All newly elected O.A. candidates will be called out, and candidates who have recently been called out may be recognized at the ceremony.

*Please Note: Unit elections must be held prior to summer camp.*



# BADEN-POWELL

Scouts can earn several Eagle-required merit badges in the Baden-Powell area, including Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in World and Personal Management. These three merit badges are generally geared to ages 14+ because they contain high school-level content. However, this is only a guideline. Scouts should consult with their Scoutmaster prior to signing up for one of these merit badges.

**The Game Design merit badge is also available in the Baden-Powell area. It is designed for Scouts who enjoy playing games and are interested in learning how to create their own original game.**



# FIRECRAFTER

Firecrafter is a camp rank system that recognizes and develops a Scout's camping skills. Firecrafter started in 1920 at Camp Chank-Tun-Un-Gi (now Belzer Scout Camp). This popular program is unique to Crossroads of America Council and is open to all Scouts. The desire to be a Firecrafter is often the push a Scout needs to return to summer camp for another year. In addition, becoming a Firecrafter gives Scouts the added confidence to strive for Eagle and other advancements.

Camp ranks can only be earned at camp. They serve to complement a Scout's advancement work. Most camp rank requirements are taken directly from Scouts BSA rank advancements. Scouts may try for more than one rank during the week, but it is not encouraged.

## CAMPER

Camper is the first-year program. All first-year Scouts, and Scouts new to Ransburg, are encouraged to become Campers. The requirements cover camp citizenship, the Scout Oath and Law, the origins of Scouting, map and compass reading, hiking and one hour of camp service.

## WOODSMAN

Woodsman is the second-year program. Those who completed Camper should be encouraged to go for Woodsman. The Woodsman rank covers camp skills (fire building, knot tying, knife and ax), nature studies, first aid, leadership and two hours of service.

## FIRECRAFTER

Firecrafter is the third-year program for First Class Scouts and above. While some exceptional Scouts have attained Firecrafter in their first or second year of camp, it is usually the third year before a Scout has the physical and emotional maturity to be a Firecrafter candidate. The standards for Firecrafter rank are high and include all areas of Scouting skills. The three most difficult requirements are planning and leading a campfire, building a fire by friction and an "unknown test" of Firecrafter ritual, which takes place after camp is over.

## MINISINO

Minisino is a Miami Indian word meaning "tried and proven." A youth is eligible for Minisino following his or her second summer with Firecrafter rank. A Firecrafter tapped out for Minisino must successfully complete a two-week candidacy at one of the council camps.





# RANCH

During the summer season, the Ranch is home to 20 horses. Many of these horses come back year after year. The Ranch offers several merit badges including Horsemanship, Dog Care, Animal Science and more. The Ranch is located down Ridge 5.

## WRANGLER

The Wrangler program is for Scouts who have successfully completed the Horsemanship merit badge and are looking for more advanced instruction on riding and caring for a horse.

## TRAIL RIDES

There is no age restriction for the trail rides. Trail ride tickets are available for purchase from the Crossroads Outfitters Trading Post. Rides are scheduled daily from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Shoes or boots with 3/4" heels and long pants (jeans) must be worn while riding, so come prepared to camp! While we have an assortment of boots and pants, we cannot guarantee all sizes.**



# AQUATICS

The Aquatics area is one of the most popular areas in camp. It features many activities, and Scouts can earn several merit badges here. Shoes that can get wet are encouraged for Scouts wishing to use any boating equipment for merit badges or for fun.

Scouts looking to earn the Aquatics merit badge are encouraged to complete the CPR and First Aid merit pages before coming to camp. They are prerequisites for Aquatics and won't be included in instruction here. A printed form is available in the camp office for a leader to report that a Scout has completed these prerequisites.

**Swimsuit Guidelines: Swimsuits should be comfortable, functional and modest. For males, swim trunks or board shorts are appropriate. For females, modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate. Inappropriate swim-wear includes bikinis and swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow immodest exposure.**



# PRE-CAMP SWIM CHECKS

**Personnel** – The most important criteria is to have a certified adult conducting the tests. Certification would include Aquatics Instructor BSA, Lifeguard BSA or Red Cross Water Safety Instructor. Those who administer individual tests to Scouts should be: 1) adults with strong aquatics skills or 2) older Scouts with a Lifesaving merit badge or Red Cross Lifeguard or BSA Lifeguard training and/or certification.

**Swim Defense** – A qualified person should review the Safe Swim Defense plan (and possibly the Safety Afloat plan as well) for the entire unit. All points of the Safe Swim Defense should be adhered to during the test, and during all swimming activities. One note here: All Scouts should have their camp medical form turned in before taking the test.

**Ability Classification** – Each classification should be administered individually with one guard following and watching a single swimmer for the duration of the test. If you do this at a pool, you could have one guard combination on each side of the pool and run Scouts through in a relatively short time.

**Beginners Classification** – Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 25 feet, turn sharply and return to the starting point. (Emphasize the feet-first jump and the ability to turn without holding on to something.)

**Swimmers Classification** – Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 75 yards in a strong manner using any combination of accepted strokes (crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen) on your front or side. Continue swimming an additional 25 yards using a resting backstroke (elementary, not racing). At the end of the 100 yards, float on your back and stay as motionless as possible.

**Records** – Careful records should be kept that include Scout's name, medical check, swimming classification, date and who supervised the testing procedure (include certification). Copies of these records should be provided to the Aquatics Director upon arrival in camp. To ensure these records are as expected, please email them to [aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org) at least two weeks prior to your arrival.

**For more information and to sign the waivers for Aquatics forms:**

<https://www.ransburgbsa.org/swim-checks>







# SHOOTING SPORTS

We offer Archery, Rifle and Shotgun shooting merit badges at camp. However, merit badge qualifications are not the only time Scouts can practice at the range. We have open programs that don't require sign-up.

- Open Shoot for rifle and archery is on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- New on Tuesdays and Fridays: Open Sporting Arrow Program.
- Open Shoot is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday for all Scouts.

**Optional, yet highly recommended:** Shooting practice is offered at 2 p.m. daily for Scouts working on merit badges. Experience indicates Scouts wanting to earn these merit badges should plan on attending these sessions. We use .22-caliber, single-shot, bolt-action rifles and 12-gauge shotguns.

# SPORTS

Our Sports area is home to one of two gaga ball arenas in camp. Scouts can participate anytime the Sports Shelter is open. Open Sports is offered from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Try your hand at riding one of our mountain biking trails! Mountain biking is also available and offered during open program time from 3pm until 5pm and starts promptly on the hour. Mountain bikes and safety equipment will be provided.

The Sports area is located between the rifle range and the archery range. Just look for the Sports Shelter and basketball court! Scouts are encouraged to enjoy the merit badges, intramural sports, gaga ball, team competitions and much more!



# STEM

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center encourages Scouts to further their interests and passion through the different disciplines in STEM. This area offers a variety of STEM-related merit badges for Scouts, ranging from Environmental Science to Robotics. It's no wonder this continues to be one of Ransburg's most popular program areas.

The STEM Center also offers a daily open program called Mad Science. Scouts will have the opportunity to take part in fun, hands-on experiments that will allow them to explore the scientific mysteries of the world.



# COMMUNICATIONS

The objective of the Communications area is to teach Scouts the exciting ways to use and interact with technology, not only in the camp setting but also at home. Scouts participating in activities from this area spend a lot of time moving around camp. Participants will meet in the campfire ring on the first day, at which time a schedule will be devised for the rest of the week.

Scouts will have an opportunity to use a number of state-of-the-art technologies such as iPads, video cameras and media editing applications. Content created by participants may be showcased at the final campfire and in the following year's version of this camping guide.

**Check out RansburgBSA on YouTube to watch Content Created by Scouts!**

[www.youtube.com/RansburgBSA](http://www.youtube.com/RansburgBSA)



# NATURE

The Nature Center provides many opportunities for Scouts to engage with our natural surroundings and discover a love of the outdoors. There is so much to learn outside of merit badge requirements. Scouts can visit the Nature Center in their free time to examine the animals found right here at Ransburg. Staff stand ready to share additional knowledge and provide insightful and applicable facts to the Scouts and inquisitive leaders!

At the Nature Center, Scouts explore and learn about the diverse environment at Ransburg and beyond. They also learn about their place in the environment and the environment's place in their lives. Our hands-on approach allows Scouts to earn nature-related merit badges while experiencing nature outside of the classroom.



# SCOUTCRAFT

Outdoor skills are a key component of a well-rounded Scout. The Scoutcraft area, located at the top of Hoosier Heritage Ridge (across from the chapel and behind the dining hall), is a great place for Scouts of all ages to learn and strengthen skills such as knot-tying, pioneering, camping, wilderness survival and outdoor cooking. Many first-year Scouts earn merit badges in this area, including First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Camping and Cooking.

Like most areas in camp, Scoutcraft offers many opportunities for adult leaders to help Scouts with their merit badges. In particular, many adult leaders enjoy assisting with cooking and camping activities.



# HANDICRAFT

The handicraft badges are a good start for many first-year Scouts. They benefit from learning the pride and satisfaction that come with making something with your hands. New Scouts always find success in this area; we recommend encouraging them to pick at least one handicraft activity. Open Handicraft provides Scouts with time to finish their own project or merit badge requirements before leaving camp. We also welcome adults to participate and assist during Open Handicraft.



# EAGLE QUEST

Eagle Quest is the place to be for new Scouts and first-year campers. It provides many activities for new campers and Scouts to work on the Scout ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.

Eagle Quest is located in the middle of Hoosier Heritage Ridge. Scouts can check the Eagle Quest area for the schedule of rank requirements that will be covered that day and see what they may need to take for advancement. Scouts will complete a select number of rank requirements. The area will be open in the afternoons for unscheduled advancement opportunities.

Scout leaders are always welcome to observe the area and assist the staff. Eagle Quest provides a meaningful learning experience throughout the camp week for Scouts seeking advancement.

In addition to Eagle Quest programs, new Scouts are encouraged to sign up for additional merit badges and participate in open activities.





# POLICIES

At Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Scout Oath and Law are our guiding principles. We expect each leader to provide guidance to the Troop on following these principles as well as the policies of Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Crossroads of America Council and the Boy Scouts of America.

## Camper Release Policy

Campers will only be released early from camp to custodial parents. Release to others must be communicated in writing in advance, with the Troop leaders' knowledge. Parents must indicate in writing who the Scout will be leaving with and the time and day of departure. For the Scout's safety, Scoutmasters must escort the Scout to the Camp Office and sign the Scout over to the approved person.

## Damaged Equipment

Scouts are expected to take care of all equipment they use. Sometimes, however, equipment is damaged, and it needs to be replaced or repaired. If equipment is misused by the Troop, the cost of any damaged equipment will be settled before the Troop leaves camp on Saturday. Damages to equipment should be reported to the Quartermaster or your Ridge Commissioner.

## Camp Visitors

Parents and families are always welcome at Ransburg Scout Reservation. Wednesday evenings and the Friday night campfire are two excellent times for visitors. Visitors who desire to eat a meal can purchase a visitor meal ticket at the Camp Office. All visitor meals cost \$9.50.

**Note:** Our dining hall has limited space and it is difficult to sit visitors with their Troop. If an open seat exists (for example, a partial adult is no longer in camp) visitors will be able to sit with their Troop. In most cases, however, visitors or a member of their Troop will need to sit at the visitor table. The dining hall steward can help visitors locate their table upon arrival.

## Dining Hall

All Scouts are required to be at all meals unless the Troop is cooking in the campsite for the week. For no reason should a Scout be denied or allowed to skip a meal. Food should not be taken out of the dining hall.

## Smoking & Vaping

Smoking is prohibited in camp (per state law and BSA policy). This includes electronic nicotine delivery systems. The goal of this policy is to keep smoke away from Scouts. All buildings are smoke-free environments; smoking outside the entrance or exit of any building is not permitted. In addition, all campsites must be smoke-free. There is a designated smoking area in the large camp parking lot at a picnic table with a cigarette disposal receptacle.

## Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted in camp. Possession or use of them on camp property will be cause for removal from camp.

## Vehicles

Vehicles are not permitted in campsites. Vehicles should be parked only in the main parking lot. One vehicle is allowed to make a single trip to the campsite for Troop and personal gear at check-in and checkout. Only camp service vehicles are allowed on camp roads during the week. No individual should ever be transported in the back of any pickup truck or trailer.

# POLICIES CONTINUED

## **Bikes in Camp**

No personal bikes are permitted on camp property or any trails, except for the designated Mountain Bike Trail. In order for you to use your own bike on the trail you must ask for permission from the Sports Director.

## **Golf Carts**

Individuals with disabilities who want to bring a golf cart type vehicle to camp must apply for a permit to the Camp Commissioner two weeks prior to arriving at camp. Once in camp, an inspection must occur, and an authorization form completed. You will also need liability insurance, a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit. In addition, per BSA policy, no utility vehicles (UTV's) are permitted.

## **Boats**

There is no access to Lake Monroe for personal boats at camp. If you have a boat and would like to take your Troop on an activity in it, you must check your Troop out of camp and put in at a local boat ramp. No personal boats are allowed at any Ransburg dock.

## **Personal Items**

The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items. If such an unfortunate event occurs, we recommend filing a police report for insurance purposes.

## **Fuel**

All fuels must be kept locked. The camp Quartermaster can assist with this service. Remember that any type of open flame is not permitted in any tent.

## **Youth Protection**

We adhere to all youth protection provisions of the Boy Scouts of America. Two-deep leadership is required at all times. Please remember that

leaders and Scouts cannot sleep in the same quarters and that mixed genders are not allowed to tent together. Exceptions are a parent/child or married couple.

Any adult accompanying the Troop to a residence camp or other Scouting activity lasting 72 hours or more must be registered as a leader including completion of a criminal background check and youth protection training, even if they are the parent of a youth on the trip.

Hazing is strictly prohibited. We are committed to preserving both the physical well-being and emotional stability of our Scouts. Even a "mild" incident can convince a Scout never to return. Be aware that new campers are particularly susceptible to hazing. Knowledge of any abuse MUST immediately be reported to the Reservation Director, and appropriate authorities per law.

## **Personal Tents**

Personal tents must meet the BSA standard of 30 square feet of sleeping space per Scout.

## **Firewood**

Due to the outbreak of harmful tree pests and diseases, no outside firewood can be brought into camp.

## **Pets**

Please do not bring pets to camp.

## **Medication**

All prescription medications must be stored in their original containers at the Health Lodge or in the camp-issued lock box at the campsite. The Scout or leader may keep inhalers, EpiPens and heart medication on their person at the discretion of the Health Officer. Upon leaving camp, it is the responsibility of the unit leader to pick up unused medications that were brought to camp.



### Medical Insurance

Each Scout and adult leader should bring a copy of his or her medical insurance card and prescription card. Upon Sunday check-in, this information will be collected with the appropriate physical form.

### Accident & Illness Insurance

All registered Scouts and leaders are covered by an accident and illness insurance policy while participating in or traveling to and from any Scout-sponsored activity, including summer camp. Scouts and leaders must be registered members of the BSA to be covered by the insurance.

This is a secondary insurance policy administered by Health Special Risk Insurance (HSR). A claim must be filed with HSR within 90 days of the accident or illness. All medical expenses must be filed with the injured person's primary insurance before they can be considered by HSR. This policy generally covers usual and customary expenses up to \$15,000 per accident, including \$7,500 for illness, \$5,000 for dental treatment and \$6,000 for ambulance service, among other benefits. Any expenses beyond these limits are the responsibility of the parent/guardian or leader. Forms and complete details of this policy can be found at:

[www.crossroadsbsa.org](http://www.crossroadsbsa.org)

Initial questions concerning filing a claim may be directed to the Crossroads of America Council Director of Human Resources. Questions concerning insurance coverage at camp should be directed to: Natalie Pearce

### Boy Scouts of America, CAC Council

7125 Fall Creek Road North  
Indianapolis, IN 46256  
Phone: 317-813-7125  
Fax: 317-813-7126



# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The camp has established procedures to be followed in the event of most emergencies. Emergency procedures are posted throughout the camp and will be reviewed with everyone in camp upon arrival Sunday. Persons in orange vests are to be recognized as authority figures.

## **Fire**

An intermittent siren means assemble at the main camp flagpole by Troop. Report any missing persons to the camp director. Follow all directions.

## **Severe Weather**

A continuous siren indicates you should head to the nearest emergency post and take cover immediately. It is important to remember to avoid open fields, hilltops and the bottoms of ravines, which may flood during severe weather. When the danger has passed, an intermittent siren will follow to signal “all clear.” Once you hear the intermittent siren, assemble at the flagpoles with your Troop.

## **Medical Needs or Accidents**

If needed, provide first aid and report to the Health Lodge or Camp Office. If bodily fluid spills are present, keep individuals away from the area and report to the Health Officer, who will clean the area.

## **Fatality**

Report to the Reservation Director in the Camp Office.

## **Youth Protection**

Notify the Reservation Director and remove victim from the situation. Do not talk to anyone about the situation.

## **Lost Scout**

Notify the Reservation Director and report all information about the lost Scout. Assist in the search as directed. Follow directions.

**CAMP PHONE NUMBER**  
**Ransburg Scout Reservation:**  
**1-812-837-9423**



**Crossroads of America Council participates in the USDA's Free Milk program and is required to publish the following statement.**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age, or commit reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found on-line at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](https://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

**Mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
Fax: (202) 690-7442  
Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





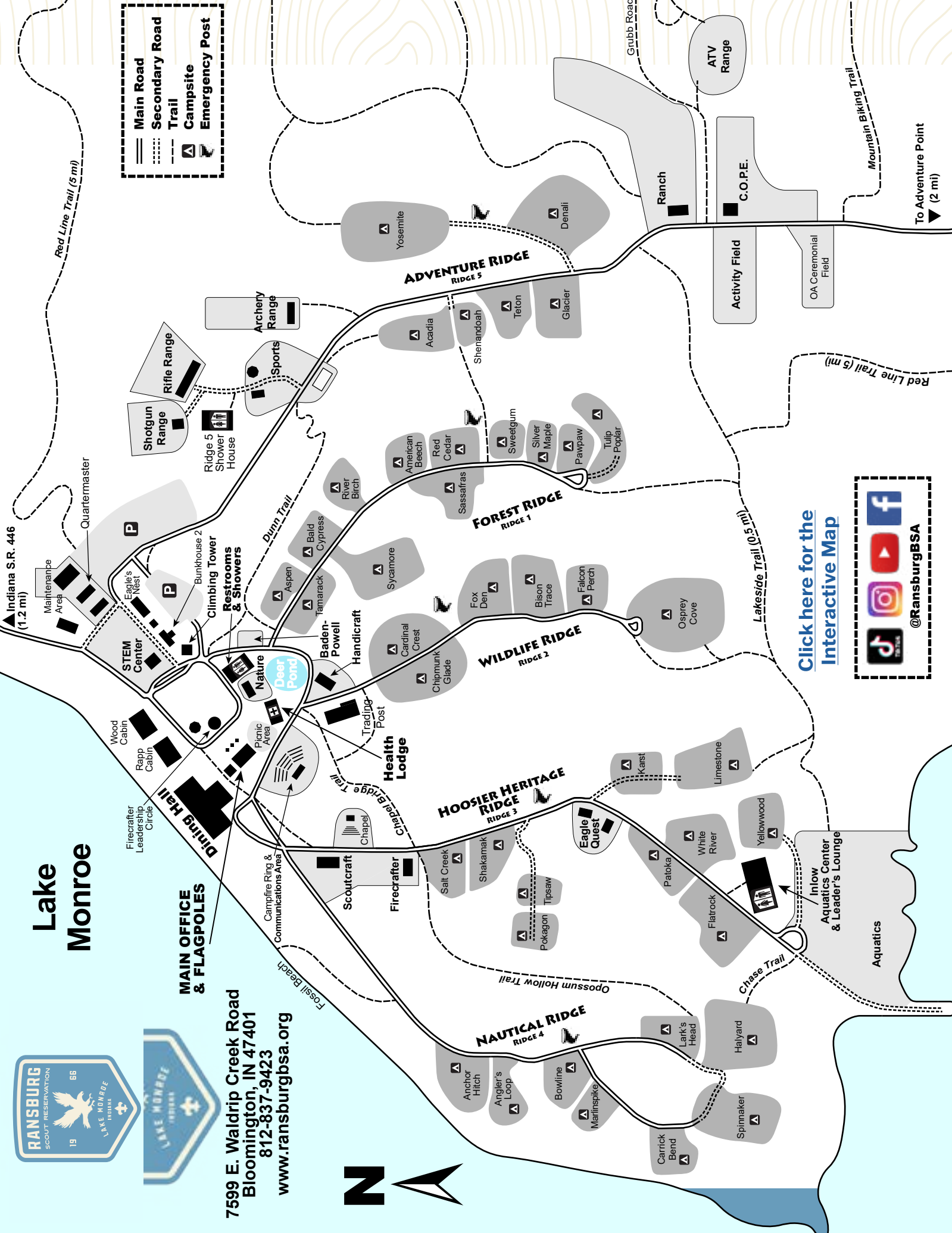
# Lake Monroe

## MAIN OFFICE & FLAGPOLES

7599 E. Waldrip Creek Road  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
812-837-9423  
www.ransburgbsa.org



- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Trail
- Campsite
- Emergency Post



[Click here for the Interactive Map](#)

- Instagram icon
- YouTube icon
- Facebook icon
- @RansburgBSA

To Adventure Point (2 mi)



# SENDING MAIL TO CAMP

Parents are encouraged to send a letter or a package to their Scout at Ransburg Scout Reservation. Allow a minimum of five to six days delivery time. Items arriving after Scout's departure will be returned to sender when possible. To ensure delivery, have the campsite and Troop number listed to this address:

## **Scout's Name, Campsite, Troop #**

Ransburg Scout Reservation  
7599 E. Waldrip Creek Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

***Please allow for an additional 25% time as USPS, FedEx, and UPS all underestimate the time for delivery. Approximately 20% of packages and mail are returned to sender due to late delivery.***

USPS delivers early afternoon, and FedEx and UPS deliver late in the evening (5p-8p). Mail will be delivered by our commissioner service the next day to your Scout's campsite.

We hope this guide has given you a taste for what's ahead for your Troop or crew at Ransburg Scout Reservation. We sincerely hope to see you next summer. As one of the best camps in the Midwest, our staff works year-round to ensure the traditions of excellence that past Scouts have enjoyed will be carried forward to the next season of campers. Please feel free to contact a member of our leadership team or council office at anytime throughout the year with questions or concerns you may have. We are just an email or phone call away.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Ransburg. We hope you'll join us for a week you won't soon forget. We cannot wait to meet you! **For the most current information about Ransburg Scout Reservation, please visit our website.**

For over 55 years, Ransburg Scout Reservation has participated in the BSA National Camp Accreditation process. We consistently achieve the highest level of accreditation and continue to do so today.





[ransburgbsa.org](http://ransburgbsa.org)

[facebook.com/RansburgBSA](https://facebook.com/RansburgBSA)

[youtube.com/RansburgBSA](https://youtube.com/RansburgBSA)

Instagram: [@ransburgBSA](https://instagram.com/@ransburgBSA)

TikTok: [@ransburgBSA](https://tiktok.com/@ransburgBSA)



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®