



**Scouts BSA Summer Camp
Camper & Leader Guide
2025**

Welcome to Camp Buffalo Summer Camp 2025!

Dear Scouts, Leaders, and Families,

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to **Scouts BSA Summer Camp at Camp Buffalo**! Whether you're a first-time camper or a seasoned veteran, we're excited to have you join us for a week packed with adventure, friendship, and unforgettable memories.

This year's camp promises to be one of our best yet, with action-packed activities, engaging merit badge sessions, refreshing swims in Liberty Lake, and campfires that light up more than just the night. From our state-of-the-art Range & Target Activity Complex to new twists on classic favorites like the Escape Room and the Troop Float Trip, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Our dedicated camp staff is eager to meet you and help make your week at Camp Buffalo extraordinary. You'll find new challenges, learn new skills, and grow as a Scout and as a leader. And yes—there will be s'mores!

As you prepare for camp, be sure to check out the [official registration and information page](#). It's your go-to source for schedules, forms, and updates to ensure a smooth and successful experience.

Get ready to explore, achieve, and most importantly—have fun. We can't wait to see you in Monticello this summer!



Yours in Scouting,

Jennifer Vandeburg

Camp Director

jennifer.vandeburg@scouting.org

(765) 432-1685

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Guiding Principles

Scouting America MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
to help other people at all times;
to keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient,
cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

CAMP BUFFALO MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Camp Buffalo Summer Camp is to provide a safe, quality, fun-filled program for both new and returning Scouts, while continuing the tradition that is the Spirit of Camp Buffalo and the Boy Scouts of America.

AIMS OF SCOUTING

Citizenship
Character
Personal Fitness
Leadership

METHODS OF SCOUTING

Scouting Ideals
Patrol Method
Outdoors
Advancement
Personal Growth
Adult Association
Leadership Development

GOALS FOR CAMPERS AT CAMP BUFFALO

Growth

Administrative Information

Sagamore Council, Scouting America
P.O. Box 865
Kokomo, IN 46903-0865
(765) 452-8253
www.sagamorebsa.org

Camp Buffalo
9400 N. Boy Scout Road
Monticello, IN 47960
(574) 278-7114 (Emergency Only)
<http://www.campbuffalo.com>

Summer Camp & Merit Badge Registration:

<https://scoutingevent.com/162-2025SummerCamp#>

Camp Leadership

Camp Ranger: Eric Brush
Camp Director: Jennifer Vandeburg
Commissioner: Alan Harvath

Program Director: Abby Thatcher
Health Officer: Warren Penrod

2025 Summer Camp Dates

All summer camp sessions begin on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM and end on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM.

The session dates are:

Week 1: June 8 – June 14

Week 2: June 15 – June 21

Camp Fees

	By April 1	After April 1	Notes
Scouts	\$375	\$400	Can be registered for classes if \$100 deposit paid for that Scout Early bird available for all Crossovers the entire registration window.
Adults	\$175	\$200	No partial week registrations allowed All camping adults must be registered adult volunteer

A Camp Buffalo 2025 t-shirt and patch are included in both the Scouts' and the leaders' camp fees.

Provisional Camping

If you have a Scout or Scouts who are unable to attend summer camp with your Troop, please don't let them miss the opportunity to experience camp! Contact the Scout Office so that the Scout can be connected with another Troop. These provisional campers will go through the same check-in process as described in this guide but will be partnered with a host Troop for the week. The host Troop will have to get approval by the Chartered Organization of the provision camper's Troop.

Campsite Reservation

Make your Troop's reservation on Black Pug, which will require a \$100.00 campsite deposit at that time. This deposit will be applied to your troop's total bill. Note: Quick Claim reservations for the 2026 camp season will open before June 14. \$100 deposit will guarantee your campsite choice.

Campsites

Camp Buffalo currently has 14 campsites. These sites are situated throughout camp from the high banks of the Tippecanoe River to near our own Liberty Lake. Many returning troops have campsites that are like second homes to them. We are sure your Troop will find a place that it will love and be able to call home itself! Our campsites include:

Small	Medium	Large
Acorn	Chipmunk	Rain Crow
Shady Side	Hickory	Whispering Pines
Red Pine	Ivey	Sioux
	Oaks	Pines
	Trailblazer	Pioneer
	Raven	

A considerable amount of time and money has been invested to better prepare your campsite. Please take full advantage of your site and remember to take care of the provided equipment. Each campsite will be provided with the following equipment:

- Picnic tables
- Fire buckets
- Flagpole
- Trash can
- Bulletin board
- Toilet Paper
- Shovel & rake
- Toilet brush
- Broom
- Surface Sanitizer
- Hose
- Soap Bars
- All dead and down wood is available for campfires, gadgets, etc.

Damaged Equipment

Camp Buffalo puts a very high value on its program and campsite equipment. Our goal is to use it for several years. To do so, we need your help in maintaining it and practicing proper use with your Scouts. Any damage to camp-owned equipment through negligence and/or abuse will be the sole responsibility of the troop. Replacement costs will be assessed to the troop based on the retail costs of the damaged item. Troops will be responsible for paying for any damaged items before leaving camp.

Please Note: This includes picnic tables made of a plastic material that will melt if put in contact with high heat. Any repairs will be charged to the unit.

Medical Forms

- Summer Camp requires Scouts and leaders complete and turn in Parts A, B, and C of the Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record.
- This is the **ONLY** acceptable form per Scouting America regulations. Parts A and B must be attested to by the Scout's parent or guardian by signature on the form (unless over 18 years of age).
- Tetanus shot must have a date within the last 10 years. Please attach the complete immunization record.
- Additionally, the Scout or leader must have received a medical evaluation (Part C), completed within the last 12 months (1 year) and signed by a person licensed to practice medicine.
- This is a National Scouting America Policy. Scouts and Scouters will not be permitted at camp without this form.
- Please include a copy of the participant's insurance information to make dealing with offsite care easier.

The official Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record forms are available at www.sagamorebsa.org.

School athletic physicals are NOT accepted.

**The physical MUST be on an official
Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record form.**

Scoutmasters should verify that all Scouts have complete medical forms and verify that all medication is labeled and in its original containers, including aspirin, cough medicine, etc. Email the Camp Director Jennifer.vandeburg@scouting.org advising of any food allergies by 5/15/24.

Youth Medication

If a Scout takes medication during the school year for behavior or mental health reasons, it is highly recommended that the Scout continue to take it during Scout Camp.

Sagamore Council Summer Camp Rules

The principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law are the guiding principles of Sagamore Council Summer Camps. The following rules have been established for the health, safety, and protection of all persons attending camp:

1. Closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times. **NO** flip-flops or sandals! (Imagine running a stick up under your foot...)
2. Only Scouts and leaders who are registered as summer camp participants may stay at camp and participate in activities.
3. All camping adults must be registered adult volunteers.
4. Adults may not share a tent with any Scout. See Guide to Safe Scouting.
5. Youth may tent together only if they are no more than 2 years apart in age.
6. Each tent should be clearly marked identifying the names of the campers inside. "*No Flames in Tents*" must be displayed on or in front of each tent.
7. Campers should not keep food in their tents.
8. Energy drinks are **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**. Do not send them with Scouts.
9. Scouts are to be in their campsites by 10:00 PM, unless they are involved in a night class or night observation for a merit badge. Quiet time is from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM.
10. No pets are allowed in camp. This rule applies to visitors as well. Please advise visiting family of this rule.
11. Outside of check-in time and check-out time, vehicles are not to be in camp without prior permission of the Camp Director or Camp Ranger. Parking is available in the grass along Boy Scout Road and in the parking area behind Handicraft.
12. **Camouflage gear and clothing is not permitted.** This is in accordance Scouting America's congressional charter and Article X, Section 4, Clause 4(b) of the Scouting America Rules and Regulations.
13. All bulk liquid fuel will be stored in the camp's flammable materials storage area.
14. No aerosol products.
15. Fireworks are prohibited.
16. Firearms are not allowed in camp. No personal firearms are allowed on the range.
17. Alcoholic beverages & illegal drugs are prohibited on Council property.
18. Tobacco & vaping are not allowed in the presence of Scouts at camp. There will be a smoking area available

SCOUT CELL PHONE USAGE AT SUMMER CAMP

Unit Leaders are responsible for establishing youth cell phone rules while in the campsite. Scouts are encouraged to take photos and videos while participating in activities and during free time as long as it is not disruptive or unsafe. Phones and cameras are prohibited in all showers, toilets, and changing areas. All participants are encouraged to be present in the experience rather than viewing the world thru the phone screen.

Camping Equipment

TROOP EQUIPMENT

Each Troop and patrol are urged to bring their own equipment to enable the Troop to have an independent operation in its campsite. Troops that attend Summer Camp should plan to bring the following items:

- Tents
- "No Flames in Tent" signs
- Name signs for each tent
- USA, troop, and patrol flags
- Safety Tape (to mark tent and fly ropes - any bright yellow or orange ribbon)
- Water containers
- Lanterns
- Trash bags
- Clothesline
- Dining fly
- Cooking equipment for outpost meals
- Aluminum foil
- Hand saws or axes
- Merit Badge books
- Gateway signs, posts, and twine
- A wagon or wheelbarrow is handy

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Through 100 years of camping experience, we have learned that a Scout's stay is much more enjoyable when they **put their name on everything** and bring:

- Complete Scout uniform: shirt, pants, belt, socks (must be worn at all evening meals)
- Clothing: pants, shorts, t-shirts, underwear, socks, light jacket, sweatshirt (all t-shirts should be "Class B" or of an acceptable design)
- Swimsuit/towel
- Hiking boots or tennis shoes – at least two pairs; open-toed shoes are NOT allowed at Camp Buffalo
- Water shoes recommended if doing boating
- Rain gear
- Pillow/sleeping bag
- Cot/sleeping pad
- Toiletries
- Scout Handbook (In a plastic bag)
- Sunscreen and bug repellent (non-aerosol)
- Headlamp (Flashlight)/batteries
- Canteen/water bottle
- Mess Kit (Including cup)
- Pocket knife (Scouts must carry their Totin' Chip card)
- Notebook/pencils
- Merit Badge books
- Watch
- Change for soda machine/snacks
- Spending money (Trading Post will be open!)
- Hand sanitizer
- Necessary medication, properly labelled, including pharmacy label & dosage information

In the modern world of lunch accounts, debit cards, and Venmo, many Scouts are unaccustomed to carrying cash. Parents and Leaders should coach Scouts on handling cash at camp. Thankfully, a Scout is Trustworthy, so found valuables should be turned into Lost & Found at the Trading Post.

The official Boy Scout uniform supports the mission of Scouting. Does your troop wear it? Please do! Be proud of your uniform and encourage the same from your Scouts. Everyone being in full field ("Class A") uniform can have a huge impact on your troop's performance, morale, identity, and spirit. For those troops that accept variations on the official Boy Scout uniform, please coordinate all Scouts in your unit to have a similar look for evening meals, vespers, and campfires.

Arrival at Camp

For the Scouts in your Troop, Summer Camp is an adventure, and we understand that they are anxious to arrive at Camp Buffalo and begin the fun! However, to allow our staff time to prepare for your arrival, we ask that you **do not arrive before 1:00 PM on Sunday**.

What to expect upon arrival:

- Possibly a line: there may be a line of vehicles backed up on to Boy Scout Road. Please stay to the right side of the road as this is a public road.
- Troop Guide: You will be met at the checkpoint & a Troop Guide will greet you. Your Troop guide will be working as a liaison for you & your Troop during your stay at Camp Buffalo.
- Gear to Camp site: The vehicle hauling your gear will be directed to your campsite. Only one vehicle per Troop is allowed in the campsite.
- Park: All other vehicles will park along Boy Scout Road. Your Troop guide will direct you to a parking space.
- Scout Check in: Your troop guide will walk your Scouts thru the check-in process, including health check & swim checks.
 - Health Officer: Each Scout needs to have their health form in hand. At this station, Scouts' health forms will be reviewed for completion and accuracy. After their health assessment, the Scout will be given their aquatics buddy tag. *It is the Scout's responsibility to keep this tag until his swim check.*
 - The Pool: You may wish to have Scouts travel to camp in their swimwear to save time if they need to take their swim test on check-in day. Once complete, the Scouts need to gather as a Troop to connect with their Troop Guide.
 - The Campsite: The Troop Guide will include a tour of camp as they guide the Scouts thru all these stops.
 - To aid in the check-in process, at least one adult leader needs to be with the Scouts and the Troop Guide
- Troop Check in: while one leader guides the Scouts thru check-in, another leader will go to the Dining Hall
 - Roster Review: The Scoutmaster will first verify the Troop's roster and receive:
 - T-Shirts and wristbands for all participants
 - Troop leader packet
 - Any Trading Post Pre-orders for your Troop
 - It is IMPERATIVE that contact information for every person in your unit is accurate. This expedites matters when emergency contacts are needed.
 - Program Review: The Program Director will verify that all Scouts are registered for Merit Badges and Activity Badges. Any schedule conflicts or restrictions will be addressed. **If corrections need to be made to the badge schedule, please inform the Program Director of those by the end of supper.** Schedules will be printed and available at the Leaders' Meeting before the campfire Sunday evening.
 - Camp Fees Reconciliation: Any fees added in the process of Merit Badge scheduling, or any additional campers will be addressed, as well as any outstanding balances. If

a refund is required, payment will not be made at Camp Buffalo; rather, the troop will receive refunds in their unit account at the Council office or by check if out-of-council.

- Health Check & Swim Test (*can be done after setting up camp*) Sunday afternoon, Scoutmasters and adult leaders need to report to the medical officer for their health checks and to the pool for swim tests. At the health check station, leaders will be issued the Troop's "medicine cooler" so that Troop members medicine can be secured in the campsite.

Setting up Camp

After these stops, Scoutmasters are then free to take equipment to their campsite and begin the set-up process. **Only one vehicle at a time may be used to transport equipment to each campsite.** Vehicles may not park in fire lanes at any time. After unloading, the vehicle must be returned to the overflow parking area. All vehicles must be out of the campsites and parked by 5:30 PM.

A troop trailer may be left at the campsite for the camping week. No private vehicles are allowed in the camp for the duration of the week without the express permission of the Camp Director or Camp Ranger.

Troop/Patrol Information

Come to camp prepared. Have patrols already organized. Work on ideas as patrols and have the patrol leaders represent the group at camp.

Your campsite is your home for the week. Make it comfortable and pleasant by bringing banners and flags to dress it up.

Top troops show Scout spirit. Display patrol flags, sing your Troop song as you come to the flagpole or to campfires and other troop events, etc. Get your youth involved in the patrol and Troop activities throughout the week.

Field (Class "A") uniforms are required for campfires, evening meals, and vespers. Encourage Troop activity (Class "B") uniforms (T-shirts) for the remainder of the time at camp. Non-scout apparel is discouraged.

Commissioners will begin inspecting your campsite for cleanliness and campsite improvements starting Monday morning. Items of interest include clean campsites, structures, and improvements. All campsite structures should be made with spars you bring or only from downed trees from camp. The winner of the weeklong inspection will receive an award at the closing Campfire on Friday.

Please communicate with each other and with the staff. If you have a special need or want to do something unique, tell us about it. We believe in good customer service. The best way to

communicate special requests is to put them in writing and give them to the Camp Director or Program Director.

Some Scoutmasters complain that there is "too much to do." That's by design! As a staff, it is our job to provide a wide selection of program opportunities from which your Scouts choose. You don't have to participate in everything! Rest is important as well! We give Troops the chance to create their own experiences at summer camp.

Schedule time to rest. Too often Scouts and leaders don't take the time to sit and enjoy the beauty of the camp around them. Don't maintain such a busy schedule that you miss the trees, nature, and clean fresh air.

Sleep can make or break a week. It is essential that everyone gets the rest they need. Please help ensure "Quiet Time" is enforced between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Noise travels very well at night, so please respect your neighbors. Scouts should not be wandering around camp during quiet hours for the sake of safety & courtesy.

Be flexible! Each week more than 150 Scouts and 40 adults may attend camp. While the camp staff tries to meet the needs of everyone and have everything go along perfectly, unexpected things sometimes happen. If you quickly pass concerns along to Commissioners, we can better ensure that Scouts have an enjoyable camp experience.

Severe Weather Procedure & Drill

There will be a severe weather drill on Sunday afternoon to allow everyone to practice our Severe Weather Procedure, which is:

- Douse fire if one has been lit.
- All people will walk, with purpose, to the Dining Hall.
- At the Dining Hall, the Senior Patrol Leader will conduct a headcount, then report the number of youth and adults to the Camp Director
- Once EVERYONE in camp has reported to the Dining Hall and been accounted for, the rest of the evening's activities may proceed. We will all wait until all individuals are accounted for.

Dining Hall and Outpost Procedures

We will be using family-style dining for most meals in the Dining Hall. If your troop would rather cook one or more meals at your campsite, we can also facilitate outpost meals with 10 days notice before your arrival at camp.

DINING HALL PROCEDURES

All Dining Hall tables will be assigned by Troop. Plan to have a staff member seated with you at each table.

Scouts are helpful and Troops will be required to assist with meals. This is Scout Camp, where the goal is to have fun, learn and grow. Sometimes that means some volunteer work and learning how to make working fun. There will be a hopper roster in the leader packet at check-in.

Outpost Cooking

Wednesday night is family night, no dining hall service. We will have a suggested outpost meal available for pickup if you request it. Many troops rely on families to bring food, so the Scouts have a break from camp cooking. For your designated Outpost Meals, supplies will be picked up from the kitchen. Units are expected to supply their own cooking equipment. Troops may cook the suggested meal but are welcome to augment the meal with their own supplies. Pick-up times for outpost meals will be announced at the Sunday Leaders Meeting. Headcount for Wednesday Supper is due on Sunday night at this meeting.

Trading Post Pre-Order

In 2025, we will again be offering trading post pre-order. Prior to summer camp, Scouts and their families will have the opportunity to order from a limited trading post catalog prior to Summer Camp. Items ordered will be available to the Scout on Arrival Day. Products in the catalog will include Camp Apparel, slushie mugs, and punch cards for treats at the trading post. Each order will be bagged and waiting with your Troop's camp T-shirts & wristbands when the Scoutmaster handles Troop check-in. The Catalog will not encompass all of the products available in the Trading Post at camp.

Parents and Visitors

Parents and friends are always welcome at camp! We invite them to visit, see the camp, and see what the Scouts have been doing. While visitors are welcome at any time, the visit must be scheduled.

Certain visitation times tend to be better than others. Mornings and afternoons are much busier in camp when Scouts are in the Merit Badge classes, while late afternoons and evenings tend to offer a more relaxed atmosphere. Wednesday evening is preferred as troops do outpost cooking and /or many families bring food for a break from Dining Hall cooking, and then enjoy a Troop Campfire. Families and visitors are also welcome to attend meals at other times during the week. Tickets can be purchased for \$7.00 at the Trading Post.

All visitors should use the main parking lot or park along Boy Scout Road. All visitors **MUST** check in outside the Commissioner's office/trading post before entering camp. Each visitor will be issued a wristband that must be worn in compliance with the youth protection standards.

Campers should plan on meeting their parents/visitors at the Trading Post porch to escort the visitors back to the Troop's campsite. Persons with mobility limitations should notify the Commissioners, preferably prior to their arrival, so transportation can be arranged to the campsite. You can email Camp at Jennifer.vandeburg@scouting.org.

No overnight camping by visitors is allowed without the permission of the Camp Director.

Pets are not allowed in camp for campers or visitors. Please leave them at home. Service animals need to be wearing their vests.

If there is someone who is not to have contact with a Scout, please notify the Camp Director in writing at Jennifer.vandeburg@scouting.org. Also identify that individual in the appropriate place on the Health Form.

Contacting Scouts at Camp Buffalo

To send mail to a Scout, please include the following in the mailing address:

Scout's name
Troop # _____
Camp Buffalo
9400 N. Boy Scout Road
Monticello, IN 47960

The mail has been slower in recent years. Senders are advised to send mail very early.

A frequently asked question is, "How can I reach my Scout in case of emergency?" Cell phone coverage at camp is spotty and, in most buildings, non-existent. Parents are encouraged to contact Troop leaders directly. If you have difficulty reaching a leader outside of meal time (in the Dining Hall, cell phone reception is unavailable), call the Camp (land line) at (574) 278-7114. Instruct your parents not to call unless it is a true emergency. The camp phone is reserved for camp business and emergencies only.

Advancement and Merit Badges

Planning how to best take advantage of the advancement opportunities offered at Camp Buffalo can be some of the most exciting and difficult choices a Scout will make. The Class Catalog is available on Black Pug:

<https://scoutingevent.com/162-2025SummerCamp#>

For newer Scouts we offer the following suggested schedules:

- **Rank Focus:** 3 Brownsea Island Sessions, Brownsea Island Swimming
- **Great Blend:** 1 Brownsea Island, Archery, Ecology MB, Brownsea Island Swimming (Ecology MB recommendations: Bird Study, Mammal Study, Nature, or Weather)

Many Merit Badges or activities require physical or mental maturity. We indicate these as recommended for older Scouts. Any Scout may sign up for these, but it is less likely they will have fun and be able to complete the requirements. Scoutmasters, we ask that you please advise your scouts accordingly.

Some Merit Badges have age requirements. This will be indicated in the Class Catalog. Please honor them. Most are stipulated in the Guide to Safe Scouting. The Scout must be the required age on Check-In Day.

First Aid Merit Badge requires completion of all First Aid Rank Requirements prior to starting camp.

The Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge requires completion of the First Aid Merit Badge.

Many merit badges now require investigation into careers and hobbies in that field. We will make every effort to facilitate the completion of this requirement, but resources may be limited in a camp environment. We recommend that Scouts take a bit of time to dig into this requirement prior to arriving at camp. We would all prefer to be doing active fun things at camp instead of online research! We do not expect extensive essays, but some notes would be welcome so that the requirement can be completed and signed off by the instructor.

All merit badge requirements can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

In-Camp Boards of Review

Many younger Scouts will complete the requirements for rank. We are offering the opportunity for a Scout to go thru their Board of Review on Thursday evening. Scoutmasters will have to verify that the Scoutmaster Conference has been completed. Scouts completing their Board at camp will be recognized at the Friday Campfire. There is no requirement for a Scout to participate, merely the opportunity. Scoutmasters are welcome to be a nonparticipating observer at the Board.

Registered leaders who would like to volunteer to sit on these Boards should contact the Camp Director.

AQUATICS

Ability Groups

All youth and adult participants are designated as swimmers, beginners, or non-swimmers based on swimming ability confirmed by standardized Scouting America swim classification tests. Each group is assigned a specific swimming area with depths consistent with those abilities. The classification tests must be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the season even if the youth has earned the Swimming merit badge.

Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a non-swimmer. The non-swimmer area should be no more than waist to chest deep and should be enclosed by physical boundaries such as the shore, a pier, or lines. The enclosed beginner area should contain water of standing depth and may extend to depths just over the head. The swimmer area may be up to 12 feet in depth in clear water and should be defined by floats or other markers.

Beginners pass this test: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, and return to the starting place.

Swimmers pass this test: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Our swimming programs are designed for 3 different level swimmers:

1. Brownsea Island & rank advancement: for Non-swimmers
2. Instructional Swim: Beginner swimmers & a Scouts who can swim but need more water experience.
3. Swimming Merit Badge a Scout who can swim in different conditions, by themselves and without help, can name different swim strokes, can swim long distances without a break, etc.

Special Activities

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Takachsin Lodge #173 of the OA is very important to Camp Buffalo and the Scouting Mission. At the beginning of the week an OA Staff representatives will contact each Scoutmaster to get a list of those who were selected by their units in the spring elections. These members will be recognized during a special call-out on Wednesday evening (Family Night). The OA will host some special events for the Scouts attending summer camp.

OPENING CAMPFIRE

Our opening campfire is a preview of the fun in store for the week ahead. Let us entertain, inform, and amaze you. OK, you'll probably be amazed at how bad our entertaining is, but we learned the lesson well in Cub Scouts, DO YOUR BEST. Actually, I think you will really enjoy the show.

DINING HALL CEREMONIES

Your Troop, or patrols within your Troop, will have the opportunity to sign up for ceremonies at our Dining Hall. We will need flag raising and lowering teams for each day, as well as Scouts willing to say grace at each meal. Your ceremony need not be perfect, just respectful. You are honoring our country and all the good it stands for as well as our constant progress to become better.

CLOSING CAMPFIRE

After such a fantastic week, it seems only fitting to have a closing campfire on Friday evening to recap the week, recognize some outstanding Scouts and leaders, and say goodbye. Our staff have planned the program, but if a Troop wants to be involved in the campfire, the SPL should advise the Program Director at the SPL Meeting.

TROOP CLOSE OUT PACKETS

After the closing campfire, leaders should stop by the pavilion across the trail from Beasy Hall and pick up their Troop's packet, which includes a merit badge report, swim tags, and camp patches. Please sort through all the items, making sure that the packet is complete before you leave. Our area directors will be on-hand to answer any questions.

Open Program Activities

Open Program Activities are those special things that make your Camp Buffalo a lifelong memory. While we encourage Troops/Patrols to choose an activity together, due to age requirements and personal preferences that is not a requirement.

Activity availability may vary. The options will include the following and more. The week's list will be available at check in on Sundays. Some activities may have an activity fee. Sign up will either be made available at the Sunday meeting or with the Director of that program area. The list of activities may include, but is not limited to:

- Troop Float
- Stand-up Paddleboards
- Canoeing
- 5 Mile Hike
- Escape Room
- Cowboy Action Shoot
- Troop Shoot
- Conservation Projects
- Geocaching
- Orienteering
- Service Project
- Mountain Biking

ESCAPE ROOM

This year's Escape Room has a Monopoly Theme!

COWBOY ACTION SHOOT

Shooting Sports activity. Your opportunity to fire cowboy style revolvers, rifles, and shotguns in an action range setting. Must be 14 Years old. Schedule allows for about 5 shooters/30 minutes. Fee: \$8 per Scout. Waiver must be signed by parent or guardian. Available here: <https://scoutingevent.com/162-2025SummerCamp>. Print and bring to camp

TROOP FLOAT TRIPS

Float trips on the Tippecanoe River are available for Troops as an afternoon or evening activity on Friday. A minimum of two adults must accompany the Scouts on these trips, in addition to having two adults in camp with the remainder of your troop. Camp Buffalo staff members will be available to help you with your adult staffing needs in camp while you are on the river. Scouts who are beginners must be in a canoe with an adult swimmer, and non-swimmers must be in a rowboat with a lifeguard. (Camp Buffalo **cannot** provide the lifeguard.) The Troop leadership is required to be certified in CPR, Safety Afloat, and Safe Swim Defense.

Hours of Facility Operation

HEALTH LODGE

In case of injury or sickness, the Health Lodge is open 24 hours a day. Please be sure to immediately report any injury or sickness, no matter how minor it may seem at the time. Remember that everyone who goes to the Health Lodge needs to have a buddy. Please note, the Health Officer will be out of the office during meals times and camp-wide activities. During these times, please locate a staff member with a radio to assist in contacting the Health Officer. If you are having trouble locating a staff member, be sure to check the Trading Post.

QUARTERMASTER

Commissioners are available throughout the day to issue equipment, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. Their office is located adjacent to the main parking lot, but they are normally not there, as they visit every campsite daily. A staff member with a radio can assist in contacting them.

TRADING POST

The Trading Post will be open daily between meals and most evenings. It is supplied with Scouting America camping items, books, shirts, and other Scout merchandise. It also has merit badge books, items needed for specific merit badge classes, and coupons for shooting activities. On the sweet side, it is also stocked with slushies and other snack items. Check the schedule outside the door or in your Scoutmaster packet for specific hours of operation.

CHAPEL

A chapel service will be held each week on Monday evening. All campers and staff are encouraged to attend, participate, and live up to the twelfth point of the Scout Law. The chapel area is reserved throughout the week as a place of reverence, contemplation, and meditation. Feel free to stop by to sit and think for a few minutes or just reflect.

PROGRAM AREAS

Generally, all program areas are open during the four scheduled sessions, 9:00-11:00am, and 1:00-3:00pm. Open Program time runs from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Only selected Program Areas will be open during Open Program time.

Shower Facilities

YOUTH (UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

- Ivey showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.
- The pool house showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.
- The Beasy Hall exterior showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.

ADULTS (18 AND OVER)

- Ivey showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.
- The pool house showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.
- The Beasy Hall exterior showers are available from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily.
- Shideler Hall showers are available 24 hours a day.

Adult leaders are not allowed to enter while youth are showering unless it is an emergency!

Only use appropriate age group and gender assigned facilities.

Latrines, Restrooms and Shower facilities will be clean before you arrive on Sunday. Please follow the posted cleaning schedules as Units will take turns cleaning the shared facilities twice daily. Cleaning the latrines in each campsite is the responsibility of the troop that occupies that campsite.

Departure from Camp

Beginning at 6:00 AM, **one vehicle at a time may return to your campsite** on Saturday for loading and departure. Please note that the speed limit in camp is 10 MPH. **At no time are Scouts or leaders allowed to ride in trailers or in the back of trucks. Do not park in fire lanes!**

Early Saturday morning: a light breakfast/continental breakfast will be provided. A Troop Guide will be at the campsite to help with check-out at a time the Troop selected at Friday's Leaders' Meeting. The Troop Guide will have a departure checklist to be completed.

Please be sure to return your medicine coolers to the Health Officer. **If your unit returns a damaged cooler, or if your unit takes the cooler with them from Camp Buffalo, your unit will be billed \$30.00 to replace the equipment. If lock or key is lost or damaged, a \$10 replacement fee will be charged.**

Please be sure to return all equipment that your unit checked out to the Commissioners.

Once your campsite has been cleared, the troop is ready to leave. Please arrange to have Scouts picked up by 9:00 AM on Saturday. Those Scouts who are staying for an additional week of camp must be picked up on Saturday and brought back on Sunday.

Leader Information

THE REAL WORLD

While enjoying nature and camp, we understand that leaders still like to connect with the “real world.” Every morning, well before the Scouts desire to stir, leaders are invited to come to the Dining Hall. There will be hot coffee and Wi-Fi available from 6 AM to 9 PM. The northeast corner of the dining hall will be set up as a “Scoutmaster’s Lounge” with tables, chairs, and power access.

ADULT LEADER EVENTS

- Leaders’ Meeting is held Sun. 7pm in the Dining Hall.
- Connect with the Camp Director: The CD will be at the Dining Hall every day at 10:15 if leaders need to talk to her.
- Wednesday there is a Leaders’ Lunch where we will be joined by the Scout Executive. Location will be communicated at the Sun leader meeting. The Escape Room will be available for Scout Leader challenge after this lunch
- Each week, Scoutmasters and leaders face off in a cooking competition. Date and time will be announced at the Sunday leader meeting..
- The Scoutmaster Shoot is open to all leaders at camp. The shoot will take place Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. One leader from each Troop receives a complimentary entry. Additional tickets are in the Trading Post for \$15, priced to cover the cost of ammunition.

ADULT LEADER TRAINING

We intend to offer Adult Training Courses such as CPR/AED, First Aid, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, but this will be dependent on staff availability. More details will be available as we get closer to camp.

Check-in Checklist
(Don't leave home without this stuff!)

For Scouts		For Adults
Scouting America Health Form (ABC), signed		Youth Protection Certificate
Medication, properly labelled		Scouting America Health Form (ABC), signed
Immunization record		Immunization record
Copy of insurance card		Copy of insurance card
Swim test results, if available		Swim test results, if available
Any required signed waivers		Roster, including ages