

Northern Star Scouting Spring Camporee  
May 9-11, 2025  
Phillippo Scout Camp

**Scout Chef Showdown!**

Plan ahead for Fall Camporee:  
September 26-28 at Stearns Scout Camp  
Theme: Craft and Trades  
Demonstrations and hands-on activities involving  
skilled crafts and trades for hobbies or careers.

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to the Northern Star Scouting "Scout Chef Showdown" Spring Camporee. This event focuses on cooking and food! There will be several aspects to this including:

- Scout Chef Showdown competition in which Troops or Patrols can submit entries for judging in several categories. Trophies will be awarded!
- Cooking Midway with Scouts and Scouters demonstrating various recipes and techniques and handing out tasting samples.
- Cooking Merit Badge Counselors available for sign-off on some of the Merit Badge requirements. Scouts can also work toward cooking related rank advancement requirements within their unit as part of cooking for their patrol.
- Experts available to talk about their careers in food and cooking related fields.

This event will not have fixed rotations through stations. Rather, Scouts will choose the areas and activities they want to visit during the program day based on their interests. Scouts who want to use the Shooting Sports ranges will need to be registered for specific time slots in advance and must arrive on time for their assigned time slot.

There is only 1 hour allocated in the schedule for lunch. We recommend that units plan a simple lunch with little or no cooking in order to be able to make the most of the program day.

In addition, we are providing other activities during the program day including rifle shooting, climbing tower, inflatable axe range, and GaGa Ball! There will be a Venturing Outpost available throughout the day Saturday (see map for location).

We also will be providing four different training sessions for adult leaders. See the details later in this guide.

As usual for Council Camporees, units will be preparing their own meals in their campsites. In this case, a unit may be doing additional cooking to take part in the Cooking Midway or Scout Chef Showdown competition.

## **Scout Chef Showdown Cooking Competition**

The cooking competition is the centerpiece of this Camporee. Any Troop or Patrol can enter and there can be more than one entry per Troop. Could be for any meal: breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Entries can be made in the following classes:

- Dutch oven
  - Majority of meal prepared in Dutch oven
- One pot/Foil dinner
  - One 'vessel' used to cook entire meal
- Dessert
  - Any method of cooking
- Backpacking/Camp stove
  - Focus on lightweight meals
  - Nutrition focused on calories and energy
  - Not utilizing prepackaged meal

- Open class
  - If your entry is cooked in a unique fashion not listed above (reflector oven, cardboard box oven, etc.) This can be any type of food item

#### **OVERALL REQUIREMENTS/JUDGING CRITERIA**

- Complete meal (except dessert class)
- No pre-packaged meals (Packaged ingredients are allowed but more points will be awarded for cooking from scratch.)
- Kitchen safety - fire, woods tools, knives
- Kitchen health/hygiene
- Creativity in cooking method - extra points
- Taste
- Presentation
- Teamwork
- Scout spirit

Teams will be evaluated by judges while they are preparing their entry looking for things like

- Kitchen safety
- Health and hygiene
- Ingredients used
- Teamwork
- Scout Spirit

**Completed entries should be brought to Kipling Shelter for tasting and judging between 4 and 5 pm. Bring one plated entry for judging.**

#### **Cooking Midway**

In the program field between Gwin Center and the Dining Hall, volunteers will be demonstrating various camp cooking techniques and recipes and providing tasting samples. We have a few volunteers who have already agreed to participate in the Midway. However, **we encourage all participating units to consider demonstrating something at the Midway and providing tasting samples. The more variety we have, the more fun it will be! Groups who do so can request reimbursement for the cost of ingredients and fuel (e.g. charcoal).** Participants are encouraged to provide everything needed. You may want to bring a pop-up shelter, folding table, as well as charcoal starter chimneys, Dutch oven tables, above ground fire pits for wood fire cooking, etc. Charcoal chimneys can be placed on the gravel road. The camp does have 3 above ground fire pits that can be provided on request.

If you are planning to demonstrate at the Midway or have questions about it, please contact Dave Yarusso (daveyarusso@gmail.com).

## Cooking Merit Badge and Cooking Rank Advancement

Scouts may want to use this event as an opportunity to satisfy cooking rank advancement requirements or to complete some of the requirements for Cooking Merit Badge. Rank advancement requirements will be evaluated by unit leaders as usual. Cooking Merit Badge counselors will be available to work with Scouts to evaluate completion of requirements done prior to the Camporee as well as guide and evaluate work done at the Camporee. Scouts wishing to work on the Cooking Merit Badge should have a paper merit badge card signed by their Scoutmaster and bring it with them when meeting with Counselors.

The following requirements for the Cooking Merit Badge (2025 revision) can be worked on at the Camporee. It is up to the scout to meet with a merit badge counselor after working on requirements to complete the discussions and secure a signature on the merit badge blue card. **Counselors will be located at Gwin Cabins and Gwin Center.** *If you are working on a partial of the 2016, 2023 or 2024 version, please let the counselor know that when meeting with them. Otherwise, it will be assumed and recorded that you are working on the 2025 version.*

2025 Requirements:

- 1abcde
- 2abcde (The first part of 2c would need to be done ahead)
- 3abcd
- Scouts could get requirement 5 signed off if they did 5 a, b, and c in advance with another counselor.
- 7a or b (if Scouts have done the research in advance). Discussion with cooking career experts at the Camporee can be a part of fulfilling requirement 7a.

Requirements completed prior to camp can be presented to a counselor for sign offs with proper documentation/discussion/demonstration as noted in requirements.

PLEASE NOTE that this badge cannot be completed fully at the Camporee due to the nature of the home/camp/trail cooking components.

**Advancement Note:** The meals prepared for Cooking merit badge requirements 4, 5, and 6 will count only toward fulfilling those requirements and will not count toward rank advancement or other merit badges. Meals prepared for rank advancement or other merit badges may not count toward the Cooking merit badge. You must not repeat any menus for meals actually prepared or cooked in requirements 4, 5, and 6.

## Cooking and Food Careers

Several Scouters with experience in cooking or food related careers will be available to discuss their career, the training needed, and why they chose it. Discussion with these folks can be part of the research for requirement 7a of Cooking Merit Badge. These folks will be in or near Gwin Center.

## Venturing Outpost

Venturers will host a model Wilderness Survival Outpost. Stop in to learn more about the Venturing program available to older Scouts and see:

- Bushcraft shelter
- Bear bag set up (Scouts could learn how to hang)
- Examples of different cooking methods (stove, fire, dehydrated food)
- Other lashing structures to exemplify possibilities for wilderness survival
- Dutch oven bread (samples will be given!)

## Other Activity Areas

***Shooting Sports (Advance reservations for time slot and additional fee are required. These are made on the registration site for each individual Scout.)***

Shooting sports will include 22 caliber rifles (Scouts BSA only) at the range east of Gwin (see map). Shooting Sports Waivers and wristbands (issued to those with reserved Shooting Sports tickets) are required for everyone who will be shooting. See waiver form included on the registration page.

### ***Inflatable Axe Throwing***

Try your hand at hitting the target on our inflatable axe throwing range (with Velcro axes and targets). It's all in the timing of the axe rotations! (Near Gwin Center)

### ***Climbing Tower***

With multiple climbing faces, scouts will have several ways to reach new heights! All climbing gear is provided at the tower. Climbers must have closed toe shoes to climb. Experienced and trained climbing staff will run this station.

### ***Gaga Ball***

Ga....Ga....Ball!!!!!! Everyone's favorite outdoor scout game. Due to the popularity of this station, the time for each group of participants will be limited and this event will be supervised.

### ***Quiet Room***

Need a break from the hustle and bustle of camporee? The Quiet Cabin (Gwin Cabin #4) is a calm, low-stimulation space for Scouts and leaders to relax, reset, and recharge. Whether feeling overstimulated, overwhelmed or just need a moment of quiet, this cabin is here for you.

## Adult Training

Four different adult leader training classes will be offered during the Camporee. No pre-registration is required. Simply attend whichever sessions interest you.

These will be held in the Powell shelter and the Kipling Shelter. Each session will run between 60 and 90 minutes.

### **10:00 am at Powell Shelter: Merit Badge Counselor Training**

This session is for all adults: registered merit badge counselors, unit leaders, advancement chairs, and parents. We will discuss the process for earning merit badges, counselor qualifications, and best practices in teaching and counseling. We will also answer any advancement administration questions you have including the most recent changes to the Guide to Advancement.

### **10:00 am at Kipling Shelter: Maintaining your Camping Equipment**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of proper maintenance and care for your essential camping equipment, empowering you to keep your gear in top condition for years of reliable use. From the essential contents of a patrol box and its upkeep, to lantern and camp stove maintenance, the class covers everything you need to know. Participants will learn about water container sanitation, propane safety, and even basic trailer maintenance. Hands-on activities include assembling a patrol box, lantern and stove maintenance workshops, and a trailer maintenance demonstration, ensuring you gain practical skills alongside valuable knowledge about the quartermaster's role in equipment management.

### **1:30 pm at Powell Shelter: Life to Eagle for Adult Leaders**

Learn what it takes to successfully guide your Scouts from Life to Eagle. Who does what, when and why are just a few of the questions that will be answered. Learn about the latest changes in the process with the newly updated Guide to Advancement. Bring any questions you want answered or ideas you want to share.

### **1:30 pm at Kipling Shelter: Introduction to Wilderness First Aid**

Introduction to Wilderness First Aid course equips participants with some basic information and skills to handle medical emergencies in remote areas. Through a blend of discussions, hands-on activities, and demonstrations the course begins the fundamentals of care: patient assessments, life-threatening situations, and treatments for common wilderness injuries and illnesses. Areas covered will include wound care, fractures, sprains/strains, allergic reactions, and environmental hazards. Participants will learn about preparing for wilderness trips, including review of A/B/C health forms, first aid kit essentials, appropriate gear, communication and navigation strategies, emergency planning, and legal considerations. Hands-on will include wound care simulation, splinting techniques, and emergency scenario discussions. Participants will have an overview of more detailed WRFA training (16 hours) and be more confident in responding to medical emergencies in remote areas.

## **Gear and Parking**

All participants should be prepared to carry their personal gear up to a half mile from the parking area to the campsite. Although gear carts are available, they are limited. If you have wagons or carts, please bring them. If you take a cart from the parking area to haul gear to your site, please unload it **immediately** at the site and return it to the parking area for another load or to allow another Troop to use it. Do not leave the cart at the site.

Units will be directed to a parking area based on the campsite location to which they have been assigned. Vehicles with trailers will be directed to specified areas.

There may not be a fire ring available for each participating Troop. If you have an elevated campfire ring, please bring it.

Camporee participants will be assigned to areas including the sites near Powell shelter on the north end, the sites near Gwin Center, and the sites on the south end, all on the lower level of camp. We will assign sites based on the number of registrants for each unit and the date of registration, trying to fill the sites closest to the program areas first.

### **Personal Gear to Bring**

1. A Class A uniform shirt is a must for all Scouts.
2. A hat.
3. A pair of comfortable hiking boots or walking shoes (Keep them properly tied to prevent blisters).
4. One extra pair of shoes, in case the first pair gets wet.
5. One change of trousers and shirt.
6. Three pairs of socks.
7. Two sets of underwear.
8. Toiletry kit, containing: towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb.
9. Sweatshirt or light jacket. (Heavier outerwear if the weather dictates).
10. Poncho or raincoat, with rain hat or hood (A MUST).
11. Sleeping bag or blankets. We will be tent camping. A cot, air mattress, or sleeping mat will also make you more comfortable.
12. Pillow
13. Eating utensils: plate, cup, knife, fork, and spoon (unless your Troop provides these).
14. Flashlight or headlamp and extra batteries.
15. Lawn chair or camp stool for adults. (You may want to bring reading materials for your free time).
16. Water bottle
17. Handbook
18. Compass
19. Watch. Don't be late for meals!
20. Sunscreen
21. Insect repellent. Ticks are likely to be active. Take appropriate precautions.

**NOTE: Make sure all your personal gear is marked with your name!**

## **Check-In, Check-Out, Health Form Procedures**

On Friday evening between 8 and 10 pm, a representative from each unit should go to the Gwin Center and turn in your final unit roster of attendees as well as signed shooting sports waiver forms. You will receive a wristband for each waiver. The Scout must be wearing the wristband when he/she arrives at the range to be allowed to shoot. You will also receive a packet with copies of the map and schedule, one printed copy of this Event Guide, evaluation forms for your unit to complete before check-out.

Each unit is responsible for keeping a file of the completed health forms for all your participants (adults and youth) available at your site. We will not collect these but may need to access them in case of a medical emergency.

Please sign up at Gwin Center for a desired time window for someone from the Camporee staff to visit your site to check you out before departure. We will ensure that the site is clean and the firepit is cold, we will collect your evaluation forms, and then send you on your way.

## **Severe Weather Procedure**

In the event of severe weather that will require participants to take cover, a siren will sound. The primary severe weather shelter is the lower level of the Dining Hall. There is also a large concrete culvert under the road just northeast of the Dining Hall.



## Event Schedule

<b>Time</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Location</b>
5:00 to 8:30	Arrival, camp setup, introductions	Parking by camping location: You will be directed to your designated parking area.
8:00 to 9:30	Unit check-in with final rosters Complete Scout Chef competition entry forms.	Gwin Center
10:00	Taps – Quiet Time	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	
7:00 to 8:30	Breakfast & Cleanup	Troop campsites
8:30 to 8:45	Camp wide Flag Raising - Opening Ceremony	Flagpole at field west of Dining Hall
9:00 to 12:00	Activity stations open, MB counselors available, adult training	
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch & Cleanup	Troop campsites
1:00 to 4:00	Activity stations open, MB counselors available, adult training	
4:00 to 5:00	Scout Chef judging	Kipling Shelter
4:00 to 5:00	Free time or Cooking MB work	Troop campsites
5:00 to 7:00	Supper and cleanup	Troop campsites
7:00 to 8:00	Campfire Program, Awards, and Recognition	Campfire ring across road from dining hall
8:00 to 9:00	Troop Fellowship, snacks	Troop campsites
10:00	Taps - Quiet Time	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
7:00 to 8:00	Breakfast, cleanup, break camp	
8:00 to 9:30	Site inspection, checkout	