



**PRESENTED BY
TROOP 16 - COLLINSVILLE, MS**

**Location: The Meridian OHV Park – Meridian, MS
April 17-19, 2026**

Into the Wild: Spring Wildcraft Camporee

Scouts, look around you.

Beyond the glow of the fire...

Beyond the reach of modern comforts...

Beyond the sound of engines and electronics...

...lies **the Wild**.

This weekend, we step back in time—before gadgets, before convenience, before shortcuts. At **Into the Wild**, you'll rely on the skills that Scouts have practiced for generations: fire by hand, shelter from the land, food prepared with care, teamwork forged by challenge, and leadership tested by the elements.

Here, the forest becomes your classroom.

The ground is your shelter.

The fire is your lifeline.

You'll learn not just how to survive—but how to thrive—using knowledge, grit, and trust in your patrol. Every knot tied, every ember sparked, and every mile traveled is a step closer to understanding what it truly means to be prepared.

So, leave behind what you don't need.

Sharpen the skills you have.

Support your patrol.

Respect the land.

This weekend, you are not just

camping.

You are answering the call.

Welcome to **Into the Wild**. 

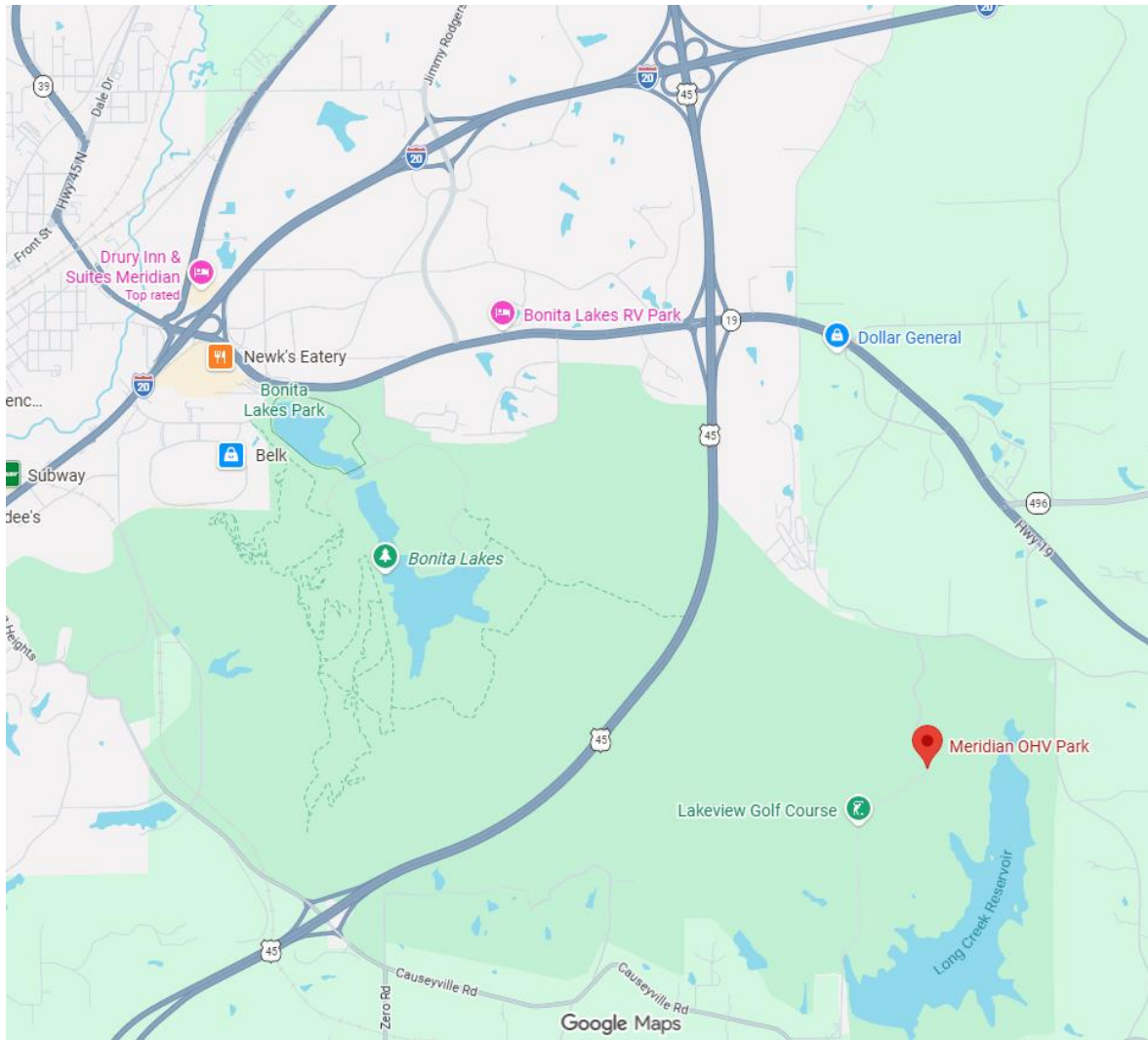
The fee to cover insurance and program materials is \$15 per person. This does include a patch.

Yours in Scouting,

Camporee Committee

Camporee Location:

**The Meridian OHV Park
2397 Lakeview Golf Course Rd
Meridian, MS 39301**



History of the Primitive Camporee

Primitive camping has been part of Scouting since its earliest days. When the movement began in the early 1900s, camping was intentionally **simple, self-reliant, and skill-focused**. Scouts learned to live comfortably outdoors using minimal gear, natural materials, and practical knowledge—skills drawn from frontier life, early explorers, and Indigenous traditions.

As Scouting evolved and modern equipment became common, leaders recognized the importance of preserving these foundational skills. The **Primitive Camporee** is designed to take Scouts *back to basics*—removing modern conveniences to recreate the challenges and learning experiences of early outdoor life.

Spring became the ideal season for these camporees. Historically, spring marked a time of **renewal, preparation, and survival after winter**, making it a natural fit for teaching fire-building, shelter construction, navigation, and outdoor self-sufficiency.

Over time, the Spring Primitive Camporee became a tradition in many councils and districts, offering Scouts a shared experience rooted in heritage, teamwork, and respect for the outdoors.

Purpose of the Primitive Camporee

This camporee is more than just a weekend in the woods—it is an ultimate test of Scout skills, teamwork, and perseverance. The event has been carefully designed to reflect Scouting's core values while also offering a thrilling, competitive experience.

INTO THE WILD! – Unlike traditional camporees, this event incorporates a navigation element. Scouts will embark on a 5-mile hike, using orienteering skills to navigate from one wildcraft station to the next. Each stop presents a new primitive wilderness challenge, reinforcing both traditional and modern Scouting techniques.

Skill-Based Competitions – Throughout the hike, Scouts will compete in events tied to rank advancements and core Scouting skills. Each wildcraft station will test the Scouts' critical thinking, leadership, and teamwork.

The Spirit of Friendly Competition – Each patrol will compete for points, with bonus awards for teamwork, leadership, and creativity.

A Tradition of Leadership and Growth – Camporees have always been about more than competition—they shape future leaders. Scouts will not only sharpen their skills but also develop confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills.

As Lord Baden-Powell once said, *“The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others.”* This camporee aims to do just that—bringing Scouts together for a weekend of adventure, camaraderie, and personal growth, ensuring they leave better, stronger, and more prepared for future challenges.

INTO THE WILD!

Goal: To gain experience and improve Scouting skills in orienteering, pioneering, and wilderness survival. Each station will also include rank advancements and a competitive edge.

Course Structure:

- Wilderness course with troops given a map and directions to their first wildcraft station.
 - Each wildcraft station will issue directions to the next station.
- Each wildcraft station will be a timed challenge, allowing 45 minutes to complete the assigned task.
- At each wildcraft station, Patrols will be tasked and judged accordingly on a prepared scorecard.
- The distance between competitive stations will be far enough apart that a 5-mile hike will be completed by the end of the event! There will be a 15 min travel time between activity stations.

Orienteering skills to find wildcraft stations: Map, Hike, Direction.

Wildcraft Station 1: Fire (Time/Success Challenge)

Fire From Rock Challenge tests a Scout's ability to demonstrate traditional firecraft by creating fire using natural stone and steel methods, relying on skill, preparation, and teamwork rather than modern convenience. Using flint and steel, patrols must produce sparks, ignite tinder, and build a sustainable fire under controlled conditions. This competition emphasizes primitive technique, fire safety, and deliberate planning, reflecting the earliest methods of wilderness survival.

Wildcraft Station 2: Shelter (Success Challenge)

The Debris Hut Build Challenge tests a Scout's ability to construct a survival shelter using natural materials found on the forest floor. Scouts must demonstrate proper site selection, insulation, and teamwork to create a shelter capable of protecting someone from wind, rain, and cold. This station emphasizes primitive survival skills, environmental awareness, and low-impact outdoor ethics.

Wildcraft Station 3: Tools (Success Challenge)

The Improvised Tools Challenge tests a Scout's to solve practical wilderness tasks using limited materials and creativity. Scouts must demonstrate how everyday or natural items can be adapted into useful tools when standard equipment is unavailable. This station emphasizes problem-solving, safety, and ingenuity, key skills in primitive and wilderness survival situations.

Wildcraft Station 4: Wilderness First Aid (Time/Success Challenge)

The Evacuation Relay Challenge tests a Scout's ability to safely move an injured person using improvised transport methods in a backcountry scenario. Scouts must work together to build a stretcher, communicate clearly, and navigate an evacuation route while maintaining patient safety. This station emphasizes team coordination, problem-solving, and safe patient handling in wilderness conditions.

Wildcraft Station 5: Signaling (Success Challenge)

The Signaling for Rescue Challenge tests a Scout's ability to demonstrate how to attract attention and communicate distress in a wilderness emergency. Scouts must use simple, reliable signaling methods to indicate location, need, and urgency when help is not immediately available. This station emphasizes

clarity, preparedness, and calm decision-making—critical elements of survival situations.

Wildcraft Station 6: Hunting (Score Challenge)

The Axe Throwing Challenge tests a Scout's ability to demonstrate control, focus, and discipline while using a traditional woodsman skill in a supervised setting. Scouts learn proper stance, grip, and throwing techniques while emphasizing safety, awareness, and respect for tools. This station reinforces mastery of tools and self-control, core traits of responsible outdoor leadership.

Wildcraft Station 7: Water Purification Challenge (Success Challenge)

The Water Purification Challenge tests a Scout's ability to make unsafe water safe for drinking using wilderness-appropriate methods. Scouts must demonstrate knowledge of contamination risks, purification techniques, and safe handling practices in a backcountry scenario. This station emphasizes judgment, patience, and health awareness—critical survival skills when clean water is not readily available.

Wildcraft Station 8: Cordage Challenge (Success Challenge)

The Cordage Challenge tests a Scout's ability to understand the importance of cordage in wilderness survival and to demonstrate how cordage can be **created, evaluated, and used** when manufactured rope is limited or unavailable. This station emphasizes **resourcefulness, technique, and patience**, highlighting one of the most fundamental survival skills.

Wildcraft Station 9: Search and Rescue Challenge (Success Challenge)

The Search and Rescue Challenge tests a Scout's fundamentals of locating and assisting a missing person in a wilderness setting. Scouts practice organization, communication, navigation, and safety while conducting a controlled search operation. This station emphasizes that successful search and rescue depend on planning and discipline, not speed.

Wildcraft Station 10: Team Challenge (Success Challenge)

The Team challenge tests a patrol's ability to work together to solve wilderness-based problems that cannot be completed individually. Scouts must communicate clearly, plan effectively, and support one another to succeed. This station emphasizes leadership, cooperation, and trust, reinforcing the patrol method at the heart of Scouting.

Scoring: A point system for each station, plus bonus points for teamwork, leadership, and creativity. Awards from each station will be announced at the conclusion of the camporee.

Awards: (36 Total)

- Wildcraft Fire Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Shelter Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Tool Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft First Aid Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Signaling Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Axe Throwing Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Water Purification Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Cordage Award 1/2/3
- Wildcraft Search and Rescue Award 1/2/3

- Wildcraft Team Challenge Award 1/2/3
- Honor Campsite Award (Top Overall Campsite)
- Fire to Feast Award (Top Primitive Cooking Dinner)
- Primitive Art Award 1/2/3
- Spirit of the Wild Award (Top Overall Troop)

Proposed Schedule of Events:

*** Schedule is subject to change.*

Friday, April 17, 2026 – Arrival & Setup

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM – Arrival, Check-in, Campsite Setup

7:30 PM – Opening Flag Ceremony & Welcome

8:00 PM – Leader Meeting & Patrol Leader Council (PLC)

8:30 PM – Cracker Barrel (Snacks & Fellowship)

9:00 - 10:30 PM - Night Capture the Flag / Primitive Art Contest

11:00 PM – Lights Out

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - Full Day of Activities

6:30 AM – Reveille

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM – Breakfast

9:00 AM – Flag Raising Ceremony

9:15 AM - 12:00 PM – INTO THE WILD (Hike to wildcraft stations)

*** Each patrol will get its coordinates at the flag.*

12:00 – 12:45 – Grab-n-Go Lunch

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM BACK INTO THE WILD (resume at your next station)

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM – Primitive Dinner Cooking - Contest

7:15 PM – 8:45 PM – Campfire Program (Skits, Songs)

9:00 PM – 10:30 PM – MUD PIT TUG OF WAR!! – Troop Contest

11:00 PM – Lights Out

Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Closing, Awards, & Departure

6:30 AM – Reveille

7:00 AM – Flag Raising Ceremony

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM – Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM – Interfaith Service

10:30 AM – Campsite Inspection & Pack-Up

11:30 AM – Closing Flag Ceremony & Awards

12:00 PM – Departure

Have a Safe Drive back home!

Camporee Rules

NO TROOP TRAILERS!

**** Pack in what you need.**

NO RUNNING WATER!

**** Potable water will be provided for drinking, cooking, and showers.**

PRIMITIVE COOKING METHODS ONLY

**** No gas stoves, grills, or other modern cooking methods.**

Ground fires will be allowed.

**** Make every effort to minimize impact. "Leave No Trace"**

Port-a-Johns will be available.

**** "Cat Holes" with appropriate privacy cover will be allowed if you choose.**

We will all be expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law at the Camporee. Remember, we are guests, and we need to treat our campsites as such.

Camp Inspections

Starting approximately 4:00 PM on Saturday, we will inspect each participating troop's campsite. Special awards will be presented to units having the best campsite, the best gateway, and the best patrol flags, etc.

Campsite Inspection forms will be available at check-in.

GENERAL CAMPSITE INSPECTION CRITERIA

- Campsite uses the guidelines found in the Scout Handbook.
- Its organization and arrangement are appropriate to the size of the troop and the space available
- Living quarters are clean and neat, and troop equipment is properly stored.
- The area is hazard-free, and the cooking area is clean and safe.
- The area has been improved above and beyond a basic campsite.
- Primitive camp gadgets using proper knots and pioneering skills.
- Camp gateway is both creative and appropriate to the Camporee theme.
- American Flag and Troop Flag are present and are properly displayed.

Spring Camporee Campsite Evaluation Sheet

Troop: _____ Judge's Name: _____ Date: _____

Category	Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
1. Campsite Organization	Tents arranged neatly and properly staked; pathways clear	10	
	Duty rosters are posted and visible	10	
	Patrol gear and personal items are stored properly	5	
	The cooking area is organized and clean	5	
2. Safety & Health	Fire safety observed (fire ring, bucket of water/sand, no unattended fire)	10	
	First aid kit visible and accessible	10	
	Food is stored properly to prevent wildlife issues	5	
3. Leave No Trace & Cleanliness	Campsite is clean and free of trash	10	
	Trash is properly contained and disposed of	10	
	Ground cover and trees undisturbed (no trenching, damaged branches, etc.)	10	
4. Camp Gadgets & Pioneering	Functional camp gadgets built (table, tripod, wash station, etc.) Must have 3 camp gadgets	10	
	Proper knots and lashings are used	5	
5. Scout Spirit & Teamwork	Scouts display teamwork and cooperation	10	
	Demonstrate respect and hospitality to visitors and judges	10	
Bonus Points	Creativity or unique campsite improvements	5	
	American and Patrol flags displayed	5	
Total Score			

Scoring Guide:


- 90-100 Points: Outstanding – Model campsite with excellent organization and Scout spirit.
- 75-89 Points: Very Good – Well-maintained campsite with minor areas for improvement.
- 60-74 Points: Satisfactory – Functional but needs more organization and cleanliness.
- Below 60 Points: Needs Improvement – Must address significant safety and organizational issues.

WILDCRAFT INFORMATION & PLANNING FOR LEADERS

1. Fire From Rock Challenge (Time/Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Natural flint stone
- Steel striker
- Natural or prepared tinder (char cloth)
- Kindling gathered from the provided area
- One designated fire lay location

 No matches, lighters, ferro rods, or accelerants

Challenge:

- Produce sparks using stone and steel
- Ignite tinder successfully
- Build a self-sustaining fire capable of:
- Burning for 60 seconds or
- Charring a suspended string (judge's choice)

Optional Variations

- One-Strike Challenge (limited strikes)
- Wet Tinder Round (advanced patrols)
- Silent Fire (no talking once started)

Safety:

- Fire buckets and tools on site
- Adult supervision at all times
- Fires extinguished and cold-checked before dismissal
- Clear safety briefing before competition begins

Scoring (10 Points Total):

- 4 pts – Technique & spark control
- 3 pts – Fire lay construction
- 2 pts – Safety & fire control
- 1 pt – Teamwork & Scout spirit

 Time may be used as a tiebreaker, not the primary score.

“The Fire From Rock Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice advanced fire-building skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

Rank Advancement Alignment

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates safe outdoor behavior
- Follows fire safety rules and instructions

✓ Reinforces basic outdoor responsibility and safety awareness

Tenderfoot

- Demonstrate proper handling of woods tools
- Explain and follow fire safety rules
- Build, light, and extinguish a fire safely

✓ Fire lays, ignition control, and cold-check practices demonstrated

Second Class

- Build a fire using natural materials
- Explain appropriate use of fires in the outdoors
- Practice environmental responsibility

✓ Stone-and-steel ignition clearly meets *natural materials* intent

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Apply Leave No Trace principles
- Show leadership and preparedness in the field

✓ Advanced ignition method shows higher-level mastery

Merit Badge Alignment

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Build a fire without matches
- Use natural materials
- Demonstrate survival priorities

★ Direct alignment — strongest match

Camping Merit Badge

- Campfire preparation and safety
- Proper fire use and extinguishing
- Outdoor ethics

✓ Skills demonstrated may support requirements when documented

Fire Safety Merit Badge

- Fire behavior and ignition sources
- Safe fire-building practices
- Fire prevention responsibility

✓ Practical demonstration of controlled ignition


Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation **does not automatically complete** advancement requirements
- Final approval rests with the **unit leader or merit badge counselor**
- All skills must be demonstrated according to **current Scouting America guidelines**

2. The Debris Hut Build Challenge (Success challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Natural debris (leaves, pine needles, grasses)
- Downed sticks and branches (no cutting live material)
- Cordage (provided by staff)
- One designated build area per patrol

 No tents, tarps, plastic, or modern materials

Challenge:

- Select a safe, well-drained site
- Build a debris hut sized for one Scout
- Include:
 - Solid frame
 - Weather-shedding roof
 - Thick insulating debris layer
- Demonstrate proper entry and body fit

Optional Variations

- Time-Limited Build
- Silent Build (no talking)


Safety:

- No live vegetation may be cut
- Inspect for overhead hazards (“widowmakers”)
- Leave the build area restored after judging
- Adult oversight at all times

Scoring (10 Points):

- 4 pts – Shelter design & insulation
- 3 pts – Site selection & stability
- 2 pts – Teamwork & organization
- 1 pt – Leave No Trace practices

“The Debris Hut Build Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice emergency shelter construction skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

 Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates outdoor responsibility and safety
- Practices Leave No Trace awareness

✓ Reinforces understanding of outdoor conduct and preparedness

Tenderfoot

- Select a safe campsite
- Explain weather-related risks
- Demonstrate basic outdoor skills

✓ Site selection, hazard awareness, and shelter purpose are reinforced

Second Class

- Explain how to respond to weather hazards
- Demonstrate outdoor preparedness
- Practice environmental responsibility

✓ Debris hut design addresses insulation, drainage, and weather protection

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Show leadership and preparedness in the outdoors
- Apply Leave No Trace principles

✓ Shelter construction using natural materials demonstrates higher-level outdoor competence

Merit Badge Connections

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Build an emergency shelter
- Use natural materials
- Understand survival priorities

★ Strongest alignment

Debris hut construction directly supports emergency shelter requirements.

Camping Merit Badge

- Campsite selection
- Shelter considerations
- Outdoor ethics

✓ Skills demonstrated may support shelter-related requirements

Outdoor Ethics / Leave No Trace

- Minimize site impact
- Restore area after use
- Use natural materials responsibly

✓ Emphasized during build and teardown phases

Advancement Disclaimer

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- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- All skills must be demonstrated according to current Scouting America guidelines

3. Improvised Tools Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Natural materials (sticks, stones, bark)
- Limited cordage
- Basic tools (knife or saw if approved)
- Assigned task materials (stakes, poles, containers, etc.)

 No pre-made tools or modern devices

Challenge:

- Design and construct one improvised tool
- Explain the tool's purpose and safe use
- Successfully complete a task using the tool
- Demonstrate teamwork and efficiency

Example Tasks (choose one):

- Lift and move an object without hands
- Dig or scrape a shallow trench
- Retrieve an item from a distance
- Carry water using improvised means

Optional Variations

- Limited-Time Build
- No-Cordage Round
- Silent Planning Phase
- One-Handed Tool Challenge

Safety:

- No throwing or striking tools
- All sharp edges inspected by judges
- Dismantle tools after judging
- Adult supervision required

Scoring (10 Points):

- 4 pts – Creativity & effectiveness
- 3 pts – Safe construction & use
- 2 pts – Teamwork & communication
- 1 pt – Resourcefulness & explanation

"The Improvised Tools Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice problem-solving and tool-use skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval."



Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates responsibility in using tools
- Practices safe outdoor behavior

✓ Reinforces awareness of tool safety and preparedness

Tenderfoot

- Demonstrate proper handling of woods tools
- Explain safety rules for tools and outdoor activities

✓ Improvised tools require safe handling and hazard awareness

Second Class

- Use tools and outdoor skills appropriately
- Demonstrate problem-solving in outdoor situations

✓ Scouts adapt tools to meet a task using limited resources

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Show leadership and preparedness in the outdoors
- Apply Leave No Trace principles

✓ Creating and dismantling improvised tools shows higher-level judgment and skill

🔗 Merit Badge Connections

🏕️ Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Improvise tools and equipment
- Use natural materials effectively
- Demonstrate survival priorities

★ Strongest alignment

Improvised tools directly support survival equipment requirements.

🏠 Pioneering Merit Badge

- Use tools and materials safely
- Construct useful camp gadgets
- Demonstrate lashing and structural understanding

✓ Improvised tools reinforce pioneering concepts with minimal gear

🏕️ Camping Merit Badge

- Use tools safely in camp settings
- Practice outdoor responsibility

✓ Supports safe tool use and campcraft concepts


⚠️ Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- All skills must be demonstrated according to current Scouting America guidelines

4. The Evacuation Relay Challenge (Time/Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Poles or staves
- Blankets or tarps
- Limited cordage
- Cones or markers for the evacuation route
- Dummy or role-playing patient

 No pre-built stretchers or wheeled devices

Challenge:

- Construct an improvised stretcher
- Secure the patient properly
- Transport the patient through a marked route
- Maintain control, safety, and communication throughout

Optional Variations

- Uphill / Downhill Section
- Obstacle Carry
- Leadership Swap Mid-Route

Safety:

- No running during transport
- Proper lifting techniques are required
- Adult spotters along the route
- Stop immediately if patient safety is compromised

Scoring (10 Points):

- 4 pts – Stretcher construction & patient security
- 3 pts – Safe movement & route navigation
- 2 pts – Teamwork & communication
- 1 pt – Patient care & Scout spirit

 Speed should never outweigh safety.

“The Evacuation Relay Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice patient transport and emergency teamwork skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates responsibility and safe participation in activities
- Follows instructions and safety rules

✓ Reinforces basic readiness and cooperation

Tenderfoot

- Demonstrate first aid basics
- Explain the importance of safety and helping others

✓ Patient awareness, teamwork, and safe movement concepts reinforced

Second Class

- Demonstrate first aid skills
- Respond appropriately to emergency situations
- Show how to get help and protect an injured person

✓ Improvised stretcher building and controlled movement support emergency response skills

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced first aid knowledge
- Show leadership in emergency situations
- Explain how to transport an injured person safely

✓ Evacuation planning and execution demonstrate higher-level preparedness and leadership

Merit Badge Connections

First Aid Merit Badge

- Transport a person with an injury
- Demonstrate proper first aid response
- Show leadership and patient care

★ Strong alignment

Evacuation Relay directly reinforces patient movement and transport concepts.

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Respond to backcountry emergencies
- Demonstrate teamwork and decision-making under pressure

✓ Evacuation under primitive conditions mirrors wilderness response priorities

Camping Merit Badge

- Practice safe outdoor behavior
- Participate responsibly in camp activities

✓ Reinforces camp safety and emergency preparedness


Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- Skills must be demonstrated according to current Scouting America guidelines

5. The Signaling Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Whistles
- Signal mirrors (or reflective surfaces)
- Ground-signal materials (rocks, sticks, flags)
- Scenario cards (lost or injured situations)

 No electronic devices

Challenge:

Patrols must:

- Choose appropriate signaling methods for a given scenario
- Demonstrate at least two forms of signaling
- Explain the meaning of common distress signals
- Communicate clearly and safely as a patrol

Required Signals (choose 2–3):

- Whistle (three short blasts)
- Signal mirror flash technique
- Ground-to-air symbols (SOS, arrow, X)
- Audible voice signaling (controlled)

Optional Variations

- Timed Signal Recognition
- Silent-to-Signal Transition
- Scenario Swap Mid-Station


Safety:

- Whistle use is controlled and station-limited
- No shining mirrors on faces or eyes
- Voice signals kept within station boundaries
- Adult supervision required

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Correct signal use & technique
- 3 pts – Scenario-based decision-making
- 2 pts – Teamwork & communication
- 1 pt – Safety & Scout spirit

“The Signaling Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice emergency communication skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

 Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates awareness of safety and emergency procedures
- Follows instructions and shows responsibility

✓ Reinforces understanding of how Scouts seek help safely

Tenderfoot

- Explain what to do in case of an emergency
- Demonstrate how to get help

✓ Use of whistles, voice signals, and basic distress signals supports emergency response learning

Second Class

- Demonstrate methods for signaling for help
- Explain when and how to seek assistance in the outdoors

✓ Correct use of distress signals and situational decision-making align well

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Show leadership and preparedness in emergency situations

✓ Choosing appropriate signaling methods based on scenario demonstrates higher-level judgment

🏆 Merit Badge Connections

🕒 Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Demonstrate methods for signaling for help
- Explain survival priorities and emergency response

★ Strongest alignment

Signaling is a core wilderness survival skill.

🏠 First Aid Merit Badge

- Explain how to get help in an emergency
- Demonstrate emergency preparedness

✓ Reinforces communication as part of emergency response

🔦 Search and Rescue (Related Skills)

- Communicate location and status
- Use visual and audible signals effectively

✓ Complements SAR and evacuation skills stations


⚠️ Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- Skills must be demonstrated according to current Scouting America guidelines

6. Axe Throwing Challenge (Score Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Throwing axes or hatchets (approved type only)
- Wooden target rounds or approved backstops
- Clearly marked throwing line
- Safety fencing or rope boundary

 **No personal axes or unsupervised throwing**

Challenge:

1. Demonstrate proper stance and grip
2. Execute controlled throws from the marked line
3. Achieve successful target contact
4. Follow all safety commands and procedures

Throw Format (example):

- 3–5 throws per Scout or patrol
- Only one thrower at a time
- Retrieve axes only on the judge's command

Optional Variations

- Distance Adjustment by Age
- Accuracy Rings

Safety:

- Certified or trained adult supervision required
- Closed-toe shoes required
- Clear range commands enforced (“Clear,” “Throw,” “Retrieve”)
- No horseplay—violation results in removal

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Proper technique & consistency
- 3 pts – Accuracy
- 2 pts – Safety awareness & compliance
- 1 pt – Focus & Scout spirit

 Overall score per patrol

“The Axe Throwing Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to demonstrate safe woods tool handling and disciplined technique that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

 Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates responsibility, focus, and rule-following
- Practices safe behavior during activities

✓ Reinforces self-control and safety awareness

Tenderfoot

- Demonstrate proper handling of woods tools
- Explain safety rules for tools

✓ Axe handling, stance, and range discipline reinforce tool safety expectations

Second Class

- Use woods tools safely and correctly
- Demonstrate outdoor skills with attention to safety

✓ Controlled axe throwing demonstrates proper grip, balance, and tool respect

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Show leadership and responsibility in outdoor activities

✓ Proper technique, supervision, and peer safety awareness reflect higher-level maturity

Merit Badge Connections

Wood Carving Merit Badge

- Demonstrate proper handling and care of cutting tools
- Explain safety rules for woods tools

✓ Axe throwing reinforces edge awareness, grip control, and respect for sharp tools

Camping Merit Badge

- Demonstrate safe behavior in camp
- Use tools responsibly

✓ Supports camp safety and tool-use principles

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Demonstrate safe use of tools in survival situations
- Show judgment and discipline under pressure

✓ Reinforces tool control and safety mindset (supportive, not primary)

Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- All activities must follow current Scouting America safety guidelines

7. Water Purification Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- “Dirty” water source (simulated)
- Containers or bottles
- Heat source and pot or filtration materials (per method used)
- Cloth, sand, gravel (for pre-filtering)
- Instruction cards (judge-controlled)

 No commercial filters unless specifically approved for comparison

Challenge:

- Identify hazards in untreated water
- Choose an appropriate purification method
- Demonstrate correct purification steps
- Explain when the water would be considered safe to drink

Approved Methods (choose 1–2):

- Boiling
- Improvised filtration + boiling

 *No actual drinking required.*

Optional Variations

- Cloudy Water Scenario
- Limited Fuel
- Timed Boil Calculation (decision-based, not speed)

Safety:

- No consumption of treated water
- Hot water handled only by a designated Scout under supervision
- Adult supervision required at all times

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Correct method & procedure
- 3 pts – Hazard identification & explanation
- 2 pts – Safe handling & cleanliness
- 1 pt – Teamwork & Scout spirit

“The Water Purification Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice making water safe for drinking, supporting rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

 Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates awareness of outdoor safety
- Follows instructions and practices preparedness

✓ Reinforces understanding that clean water is essential to safety

- Explain the importance of drinking water
- Describe how to stay safe in the outdoors

✓ Introduces basic water safety and health awareness

Second Class

- Demonstrate how to obtain and prepare safe drinking water
- Explain hazards associated with untreated water

✓ Identification of water hazards and purification methods aligns directly

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor preparedness
- Explain how to prevent illness in outdoor settings

✓ Correct method selection and explanation demonstrate higher-level judgment

Merit Badge Connections

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Explain how to obtain and purify water
- Understand survival priorities

Strongest alignment

Water purification is a core wilderness survival skill.

Camping Merit Badge

- Demonstrate safe outdoor practices
- Explain health and sanitation in camp

✓ Reinforces sanitation, hydration, and camp health concepts

Environmental Science / Outdoor Ethics (Supporting)

- Discuss environmental impacts and contamination

✓ Complements broader discussions on water sources and stewardship


Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- No water is consumed during the activity
- Skills must follow current Scouting America safety guidelines

8. Cordage Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Natural fibers (jute, sisal, raffia, grasses, bark strips)
- Optional pre-cut plant fibers (to save time)
- Simple tools (sticks, dowels, hooks)
- Sample finished cordage (for reference)

 No modern rope except for comparison/demo

Challenge:

- Identify at least two natural cordage materials
- Demonstrate a basic cordage-making method
- Produce a usable length of cordage
- Explain how it could be used in a survival situation

Accepted Methods:

- Reverse wrap (two-ply)
- Simple braid
- Twisting and splicing demonstration

Optional Variations:

- Strength Test (gentle weight only)
- Timed Twist Challenge
- Cordage Use Scenario (tie, lash, carry)

Safety:

- No cutting live vegetation (use provided materials)
- No wrapping cordage around necks, wrists, or fingers
- Adult supervision required

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Correct technique & construction
- 3 pts – Cordage strength & consistency
- 2 pts – Teamwork & participation
- 1 pt – Application explanation

“The Cordage Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice creating and using cordage, supporting rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”



Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates preparedness and safe participation
- Practices responsibility with materials and tools

✓ Reinforces understanding of basic outdoor readiness

Tenderfoot

- Demonstrate basic outdoor skills
- Explain the importance of being prepared in the outdoors

✓ Introduction to cordage as a fundamental survival resource

Second Class

- Demonstrate how to use simple tools and materials in outdoor settings
- Show problem-solving skills in outdoor activities

✓ Using and creating cordage supports outdoor self-reliance

First Class

- Demonstrate advanced outdoor skills
- Show leadership and preparedness in the outdoors

✓ Constructing and applying cordage reflects higher-level resourcefulness

Merit Badge Connections

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Demonstrate survival skills using natural materials
- Construct tools and equipment as needed

Strongest alignment

Cordage is essential for shelter, tools, and survival tasks.

Pioneering Merit Badge

- Use rope and materials effectively
- Demonstrate lashings and structural concepts

✓ Cordage fundamentals directly support pioneering skills

Camping Merit Badge

- Demonstrate responsible campcraft
- Use materials appropriately in camp

✓ Reinforces safe and effective camp practices


Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- All skills must follow current Scouting America guidelines

9. Search and Rescue Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Simple map of the search area
- Boundary markers or flags
- Clue cards or trail markers
- Whistles or signaling devices
- Dummy or role-playing subject (optional)

 No running or uncontrolled searching

Challenge:

- Review of the missing-person briefing
- Assign patrol roles (leader, navigator, communicator, safety)
- Conduct a controlled search within defined boundaries
- Locate clues and/or the subject
- Determine and explain appropriate next actions (signal, first aid, stay put, evacuate)

Practiced Search Skills:

- Hasty search
- Line or sweep search (age-appropriate)
- Clue awareness and tracking basics
- Accountability and headcounts

Optional Variations

- Map-Only Search
- Clue-Based Search
- Silent Communication Round
- Leadership Rotation Mid-Search

Safety:

- Clear boundaries enforced at all times
- Buddy system required
- Adult supervision required
- Stop immediately if unsafe behavior occurs

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Organization & search plan
- 3 pts – Communication & accountability
- 2 pts – Safety & boundary control
- 1 pt – Leadership & Scout spirit

“The Search and Rescue Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice organized searching, communication, and emergency decision-making that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates responsibility and awareness during activities
- Follows safety rules and instructions

- ✓ Reinforces safe participation and preparedness
-

Tenderfoot

- Explain what to do in case of an emergency
- Demonstrate basic outdoor safety awareness

- ✓ Introduces emergency response thinking and situational awareness
-

Second Class

- Demonstrate how to respond to emergencies
- Show how to get help and protect others
- Practice teamwork in outdoor situations

- ✓ Organized searching and communication align well with emergency response skills
-

First Class

- Demonstrate leadership in outdoor situations
- Show preparedness and sound judgment
- Apply teamwork and safety principles

- ✓ Search planning, role assignment, and accountability demonstrate higher-level leadership
-

Merit Badge Connections

Search and Rescue—Related Skills (Program Support)

- Organize a search
- Communicate clearly and safely
- Maintain accountability

- ✓ Strong practical foundation for SAR concepts (age-appropriate and controlled)
-

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Respond to wilderness emergencies
- Demonstrate survival priorities and decision-making

- ✓ Search planning and lost-person response support survival preparedness
-

First Aid Merit Badge

- Explain how to get help in an emergency
- Demonstrate calm leadership and response

- ✓ Complements first aid and evacuation skills
-

Camping Merit Badge

- Practice responsible outdoor behavior
- Participate safely in camp activities

- ✓ Reinforces camp safety and emergency preparedness
-


Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete rank or merit badge requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- All searching conducted within defined boundaries and safety controls
- Skills must follow current Scouting America guidelines

10. Team Challenge (Success Challenge)

Provided Materials:

- Ropes or cordage
- Poles, planks, or logs
- Buckets or objects to move
- Cones or boundary markers

 No individual-only solutions

Challenge:

Patrols must complete a team challenge using provided materials.

Example Challenges (choose one):

- All Aboard – Entire patrol balances on a platform
- Cross the Canyon – Move patrol across a boundary without touching ground
- Blind Build – One Scout directs others who are blindfolded
- Human Machine – Perform a task using coordinated movements

Optional Variations:

- Silent Round (no talking)
- Leader Swap Mid-Challenge

Safety:

- No lifting Scouts off the ground
- Spotters required when balancing
- Stop immediately if unsafe behavior occurs
- Adult supervision required

Scoring (10 Points)

- 4 pts – Cooperation & communication
- 3 pts – Leadership & planning
- 2 pts – Problem-solving & adaptability
- 1 pt – Scout spirit & encouragement

“The Team Challenge provides Scouts an opportunity to practice leadership, cooperation, and the patrol method—skills that may support rank advancement and merit badge requirements with unit leader approval.”

Rank Advancement Connections

Scout Rank

- Demonstrates cooperation and respect for others
- Follows instructions and participates responsibly

✓ Reinforces the importance of teamwork and Scout spirit

Tenderfoot

- Participate in patrol activities
- Explain the patrol method and working together

✓ Team problem-solving directly supports patrol method fundamentals

Second Class

- Demonstrate teamwork in outdoor activities

- Show responsibility and communication within a group
- ✓ Patrol coordination and shared decision-making align well
-

First Class

- Demonstrate leadership and teamwork
 - Show preparedness, planning, and adaptability
- ✓ Planning, leadership rotation, and cooperation demonstrate higher-level skills
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🏆 Merit Badge Connections

🕒 Citizenship in Society / Citizenship Skills (Supporting)

- Demonstrate cooperation and respect
 - Work effectively with others
- ✓ Reinforces communication, inclusion, and shared responsibility
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🏕️ Camping Merit Badge

- Participate in patrol-based outdoor activities
 - Demonstrate Scout spirit and teamwork
- ✓ Supports the patrol method and cooperative camping skills
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🌲 Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

- Work as a team to solve survival problems
 - Demonstrate leadership and cooperation under stress
- ✓ Team-based problem-solving supports survival preparedness
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🏠 Pioneering / Outdoor Skills (Supporting)

- Apply teamwork to solve physical challenges
- ✓ Complements rope, shelter, and tools stations
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⚠️ Advancement Disclaimer

- Station participation does not automatically complete advancement requirements
- Final approval rests with the unit leader or merit badge counselor
- Emphasis is on safe cooperation, not speed or strength
- All activities follow current Scouting America guidelines