

# **Andrew Jackson Council Cub Scout Family Camps Camp Guide**

**2025 Akela  
October 17 - 19, 2025**

# **Let's Get Spooky**

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# **CUB SCOUT FAMILY CAMP**

Welcome to Hood Scout Reservation. As you might know, Cub Scouting is a family activity. Part of Cub Scouting is an outdoor experience. When you combine the two, you get Cub Scout Family Camp. Cub Scout families can participate in Council Organized Camps. The program is planned by the council's Cub Scout Outdoor Program Committee. The events normally last two nights.

In the follow pages are the guidelines, policies, and procedures for all Cub Scout Family Camps – Akela Cub Weekend (fall), Polar Bear Weekend (winter), and Cuboree (spring) – with specifics to this particular camp.

Scouts, Scouters, and parents will be expected to exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law while in camp.

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## GENERAL CAMP POLICIES

**Tobacco:** Our Scout Oath reminds us to keep ourselves physically strong, and our Scout Law reminds us to be clean. The use of tobacco products adversely affects our bodies and may cause cancer. The use of cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vaping, and electronic cigarettes is not permitted at Hood Scout Reservation.

**Alcohol & Drugs:** Possession or use of any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or the misuse of any prescribed drug is expressly prohibited. Groups or individuals found in violation of this will be asked to leave camp immediately.

**Firearms and Fireworks:** No Firearms or fireworks should be at Hood Scout Reservation. If you have registered firearms, we asked that you leave them locked in your vehicle or check them in at the Shooting Sports Area.

**Fuels:** Propane and liquid fuels are allowed at camp but must be used under adult supervision. Please dispose of “empty” propane containers properly.

**Campfires:** Campfires are only allowed in designated fire rings. All fires must be monitored by adults at all times and must be fully extinguished prior to departure. Per the Hood Scout Reservation Forestry Plan, **NO OUTSIDE WOOD** is allowed to be brought onto camp property. Portable raised fire pits may be allowed for large group events. Use proper fire safety around all fires and open flames. Do not move fire rings.

**Pets:** No pets are allowed at HSR. Service animals are permitted. They must have the proper documentation and wear service animal gear. We ask that you let us know that you will have your service animal on camp.

## VEHICLES IN CAMP

Speed limit through camp is **5 miles per hour**. This includes the main camp road. All vehicles must be parked in designated parking lots so as to ensure ready access to the camp facilities by emergency, law enforcement, and camp vehicles. Please park and lock vehicles and pocket your keys. No vehicles will be allowed past the service road gate after dark.

We would prefer that families transport their camping equipment to and from the camp site using either a wagon that the family brings or one of our wheelbarrows. The HSR Staff will open the service road gate from **4:00 PM until just before dusk**. You may drive in, unload your vehicle, and then return it to the parking lot **BEFORE** you set up camp. **The gate will close at 7:00 PM or dark - whichever is first. All vehicles must be out of camp before dark.** Once the gate is closed, individuals will have to transport their gear to the individual campsite. Arrangements will be made for any unit trailers arriving after dark. We encourage you to bring a wagon or small cart to transport your gear to and from your campsite. HSR does provide wheelbarrows to help move your gear. We ask that you bring the wheelbarrow back to the parking lot before returning to set up your campsite.



## CHECK IN

**EVERYONE MUST REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.BSA-JACKSON.ORG](http://WWW.BSA-JACKSON.ORG).**

We have two check-in time frames:

- **Friday** from **4:00 PM to 7:30 PM**. at the Shooting Sports Building.
- **Saturday** from **7:00 AM to 8:15 AM** on the main road just before the main parking lot.

You and your family will receive colored armbands for the event. We ask that you wear the armband the entire weekend. You will receive a parking pass – please fill in your last name, unit number, and campsite number and place this on the dash of your car. You will also receive a printed schedule for the weekend.

## CHECK OUT

If you have to leave during the day, please inform one of the Hood Scout Reservation camp staff members.

**Campsites:** Should be clean – no trash or debris around the site. Latrine/Central Showers Facility should be cleaned. Stack any firewood left by the fire ring. Any other sticks or wood are to be removed to the edge of the campsite in the woods. Please report any maintenance items to the Ranger or Campmaster.

**Trash Removal:** All trash is to be removed from the campsite. You may place your tied trash bags along the side of the main road at the entrance to your campsite before you leave. Staff members will collect the trash.

## CAMP STAFF REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

The Cub Scout Outdoor Program will follow the Camp Staff Requirements found in NCAP Standards. **Camp Staff includes all personnel, paid or volunteer, retained by the council or camp management, who interact with camp participants. Camp staff includes employees, CITs, and continuing volunteers.**

**Adult Camp Staff Members** - Must be at least 18 years old, registered with Scouting America as Camp Staff Members, and must complete Safeguarding Youth Training and Hazardous Weather Training.

**Youth Camp Staff Members** - Must be at least 14 years old, registered with Scouting America as a Camp Staff Member, and must complete Safeguarding Youth Training and Hazardous Weather Training.



## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Although it is never planned, emergencies happen. The Camp Staff has taken steps to mitigate any injury or other issues at camp. However, our staff cannot be everywhere on camp all the time. In the event of an emergency, please follow the directions of the staff. If you hear continuous ringing of the bell, please move to the parade field as fast as possible. It is recommended that all participants have on file with their units a current and properly completed Annual Health and Medical Record. Units should have at least both A & B completed. **All injuries, no matter how small**, must be reported immediately to the Health Officer.

**Child Abuse, Youth Protection, and Membership Violations:** - In the event of any suspected or observed abuse or violation to the Youth Protection Guidelines or the Guide to Safe Scouting, it is the responsibility, by law, to report it to the Camp Director or a designated individual.

**Lost Campers:** To prevent Lost Campers, it is important that all scouts use the **buddy system** at all times. If a camper is lost, please follow these steps: Notify an HSR Camp Staff Member. Give a detailed description of the missing Scout(s). This would include but not limited to Height, Weight, Skin Color, Clothing

**Fire:** Notify the Ranger immediately and safeguard all personnel. If a fire cannot be controlled by the staff, the camp will be evacuated. It is recommended that all people who drive to camp keep their car keys with them at all times.

**Severe Weather** is one of the highest threats at scout camp. We encourage both parents and volunteers to take care of their kids. Several steps are taken to prevent any injury or damage. This includes observing weather forecast before camp begins and while camp is happening. Multiple weather radios are located around camp. In addition, the Camp Ranger has direct communication from the Copiah County Emergency Management Center and the National Weather Service. If weather is forecasted to be hazardous prior to camp, the Camp Director will make the decision to postpone the event. If while at camp, severe weather approaches, the Camp Ranger will be in direct contact with the Copiah County Emergency Management Center. It is important to follow all directions given by camp staff to ensure safety.



## HEALTH LODGE

In an effort to provide a safe environment for all who come to Hood Scout Reservation, all participants (including scouts, siblings, parents, guardians, guests, leaders, and staff are encouraged to have a BSA Health and Medical Form - Parts A and B completed before coming to camp. It is recommended that the unit leader at camp maintain the health forms in an easily accessible location.

A medic will be on camp while campers are present. If you need the medic and he/she is not in The Health Lodge, please locate a staff member with a radio.

**Injuries: All injuries, no matter how small,** must be reported immediately to the Health Lodge. An accident report must be filed.

In case of serious medical emergencies, transportation will be available. Copiah County Medical Center is the closest hospital.

## CAMPING

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Whether you are new to Scouting or a seasoned professional, it is important to make sure you have everything you need for camp. It is highly recommended that Packs work with families (especially those new to Scouting) to help them prepare to camp. Many units have a practice camp before the Cub Scout Family Camps to work out kinks, make sure you know how to set up your equipment, etc.

### WEATHER

Weather plays a significant role in comfort at camp and what clothing and equipment you bring. Here are some general rules of thumb to follow:

- Always plan for rain, even if it is not in the forecast.
- When determining temperature, remember to subtract 5 - 10 degrees from the forecasted temperature in Hazlehurst.
- Plan for dust and/or mud.
- Always remember to factor in wind chill and heat index.
- Consult your Scout handbook or talk with your Cubmaster.



## CAMPSITES

There are varied sizes of campsites at Hood Scout Reservation. **The Cubmaster may email [traci@bsa-jackson.org](mailto:traci@bsa-jackson.org) and request their first and second choice of campsites.** This is subject to change based on the number of participants for each unit and the overall number of participants at the campout. Some units will have to share campsites.

Hood Scout Reservation offers established campsites numbering 1 - 9. These campsites include the following:

- Outdoor Latrine (Restroom) and Outdoor Shower
- Water Access
- Pavilion (with a fan, lights, and electrical outlets, except campsites 4 and 10)
- Platforms with Tent Frames\*
- Fire Ring

A number of non-established campsites are also used. These include Cubworld, Ecology Conservation, Gillwell Field, field in front of campsite 1, area behind the Administration Building, Handicraft Shelter, and the old archery range. These temporary campsites are used when a unit requires a large amount of space or the available space is full. These campsites are considered primitive. When using these campsites, units are required to observe leave no trace principles.

\*The Platforms and Tent Frames are designed for the canvas tents that are used during Summer Camp. Families are welcome to use the platforms to set up tents. No part of the metal frame can be used to tie a guideline to the pole. Example would be hammocks. Any damage to the tent frame will be charged to the units using the campsite.

## Hammock Camping

Hammock camping is allowed but must be attached to trees only or use the designated hammock area. No hammock stacking. Do not set up under pavilions or tents frames.

## CUB SCOUT FAMILY CAMP PROGRAM

**Description of Program for 2025 Akela - See page 13.**

## Unit Leaders Meeting

Unit leaders and staff will have a brief meeting on Friday Night at 9:00 PM in the Dining Hall. This meeting will provide information for the weekend including any schedule changes, locations of activities, a brief review of rules and guidelines at Hood Scout Reservation, and to answer any questions. It is recommended that at least one member from each unit attend.



## Scouts Own Service

A Scout is Reverent. A devotional will be provided to each unit for use as a Scouts Own Service within your unit at a time of your choosing.

## Closing Campfire Program

Our Closing Campfire Program will be in the Arena Saturday Night. Packs / Dens will be able to submit Songs and Skits for the campfire starting at the Leadership Meeting. Submissions must be in by Saturday afternoon. A specific time will be given at the leaders meeting on Friday night.

## Lost and Found

If you find something that does not belong to you, we ask for it to be turned in to the Administration Building or the Trading Post. If an item is found with a name, we will attempt to return it to that person. Hood Scout Reservation is not responsible for the loss of any items or devices at camp. Remember . . . A Scout is Trustworthy.

## Riding Bikes

A bike is a great way to get around camp. Hood Scout Reservation also offers mountain biking trails. Anyone with a bike on camp must obey the following rules:

- Helmets must be used at all times and be buckled.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Bikes cannot block trails, walkways, roads, or entrances to buildings.
- Bikes should be parked in bike racks.
- No Riding Bikes After Dusk.

Hood Scout Reservation is not responsible for any damage to bikes.

## Participants with Special Needs

Scouting America strives to include everyone with age-appropriate activities. All facilities have been modified for handicapped participants, including one campsite. If you have a special requirement for camp, please contact Traci Osborn at [traci@bsa-jackson.org](mailto:traci@bsa-jackson.org) at least one week prior to camp to make some arrangements.

## Camper Security

In an effort to provide a safe environment for all, all Campers and Staff will be required to wear an armband at all times. This provides the ability to identify those who have not checked in with our administration. If an armband is lost, please come to the administration building for another.



## Buddy System

Scouts are friendly and kind. Having a buddy to do things with makes camp a lot more fun, plus helps keep everyone safe. We ask that every Scout travel with a buddy (preferably a parent) around camp. For 2025 Akela, units will travel as a group to the locations and activities.

## Wildlife

Please be mindful about local wildlife. Snakes are common around camp. We also have deer, turkey, opossums, raccoons, and other animals on the property. This is their home – we are the visitors. Do not leave food or trash unattended or unsecured in your campsite.

## FISHING

Fishing is encouraged. You will need to bring your own fishing equipment.

### LIMITS AT HOOD SCOUT RESERVATION

#### Bass

Under 14" – remove from lake

Over 14" – return to lake

**Bream** – 5 bream per person may be kept if planning to eat them. Return all others to lake.

**Crappie** – Remove all crappie caught from lake.

**Catfish** – Remove all catfish caught from lake.

**Do not** fish behind the Arena or in the Aquatics (swimming/boating) areas.

**Do not clean any fish at Central Showers or latrine sinks.**

Give a catch report (species/numbers removed) to the Ranger upon checkout.



# RECOMMENDED PACKING LIST

## **Below is a general list of what to bring on a Cub Scout Family Campout:**

- Tent w/Ground Cloth or Tarp
- Sleeping Bag(s) and Pillow(s)
- Air Mattress or Sleeping Pads
- Folding Chair(s)
- Cub Scout Uniform (both Field Uniform & Class B t-shirt)
- Cub Scout Cap
- Clothing (weather appropriate, Be Prepared!)
- Comfortable **Closed-Toe** Shoes
- Camp Shoes
- Rain Gear
- Bug Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Flashlight or Headlamp with Extra Batteries
- Canteen or Water Bottle or Hydration Pack
- Personal Hygiene Items
  - Toothbrush & Toothpaste
  - Deodorant
  - Soap & Shampoo
  - Brush or Comb
  - Bath Towel and wash cloth
  - Feminine Hygiene Products
  - Any daily medications

## **What NOT to bring on a Cub Scout Family Campout:**

- Fixed Blade Knives (not allowed for Cub Scouts or at HSR)
- Axe or Hatchet (only trained leaders can carry & use these)
- Toys (we want kids to play in the outdoors)
- Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)
- Tobacco Products (including vape products)
- Firewood (prohibited at HSR)
- Electronics (TVs, gaming devices, stereos)
- Glass Products (drink bottles, containers)
- Pets (unless authorized service animals; must be approved by HSR)
- Air Rifles or Pistols
- Firearms
- Archery (Bow & Arrow, Crossbows, Blowguns)
- Alcohol Fuel Lanterns or Stoves
- Off Road Vehicles (ATV, UTV, golf cart, etc.)
- Cooking Gear (unless notified by the Cubmaster or Den Leaders; the Pack Kitchen for each unit provides gear to prepare meals)
- Fire Pits / Rings (fire rings provided at HSR)
- Charcoal Grills
- Open Flame Torches

**If you are unsure if you should bring an item to camp, then please ask the Cubmaster or a Den Leader. More often than not, if you have to question if you should bring it, then most likely you shouldn't.**

Cub Scouts, regardless of rank, are encouraged to always have “at the ready” a small daypack stocked with the Cub Scout Six Essentials.

- Water Bottle (with fresh drinking water)
- Flashlight or Headlamp (with fresh batteries)
- First Aid Kit (a small, compact kit for cuts and scrapes)
- Trail Food (try to provide a healthy, protein packed snack)
- Sun Protection (a hat or sunscreen is fine)
- Whistle (for emergencies . . . not for play!!!)



## SCHEDULE FOR 2025 AKELA

### FRIDAY

|                 |                          |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4:00PM - 7:30PM | Check-In                 | Shooting Sports Building |
| at dusk         | Service Road Gate Locked | All Vehicles Out Of Camp |
| 9:00 PM         | Leader's Meeting         | Dining Hall              |
| 9:30 PM         | Staff Meeting            | Dining Hall              |
| 10:00 PM        | Lights Out               | All Of Camp              |

### SATURDAY

|                   |                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30AM – 8:15AM   | Check-In on Main Road just before Parking Lot               |
| 8:15AM - 8:30AM   | Dance Music at Parade Field                                 |
| 8:30AM – 9:00AM   | Opening Ceremony at Parade Field                            |
| 9:00AM - 9:55AM   | Rotation #1 – see schedule                                  |
| 10:00AM - 10:55AM | Rotation #2 – see schedule                                  |
| 11:00AM - 11:55AM | Rotation #3 – see schedule                                  |
| 12:00PM - 2:00PM  | Lunch and Clean Up Campsite                                 |
| 2:00PM Deadline   | Skits and Songs for closing ceremony due to admin by 2:00PM |
| 2:00PM - 2:55PM   | Rotation #4 – see schedule                                  |
| 3:00PM - 3:55PM   | Rotation #5 – see schedule                                  |
| 4:00PM - 4:55PM   | Rotation #6 – see schedule                                  |
| 5:00PM - 7:00PM   | Dinner and Clean Up Campsite                                |
| 7:15PM – 8:15PM   | Haunted Fort and activities at Eco Pavilion                 |
| 8:15PM – 9:00PM   | Closing Ceremony at Arena                                   |
| 8:30PM - 9:00PM   | Leaders' Cracker Barrell                                    |

### SUNDAY

|                  |             |                    |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 8:00AM - 10:00AM | Check-Out   | Admin and Campsite |
| 10:00 AM         | Camp Closed |                    |



## SATURDAY ROTATION SCHEDULE

| Time              | BB      | Archery | Climbing | Crafts  | Games   | Unit Time |
|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 9:00AM - 9:55AM   | Group 1 |         | Group 2  | Group 3 |         | Group 4   |
| 10:00AM - 10:55AM | Group 2 | Group 1 |          | Group 4 | Group 3 |           |
| 11:00AM - 11:55AM |         | Group 2 | Group 1  |         | Group 4 | Group 3   |
|                   |         |         |          |         |         |           |
| 2:00PM - 2:55PM   | Group 3 |         | Group 4  | Group 1 |         | Group 2   |
| 3:00PM - 3:55PM   | Group 4 | Group 3 |          | Group 2 | Group 1 |           |
| 4:00PM - 4:55PM   |         | Group 4 | Group 3  |         | Group 2 | Group 1   |

Specific rotations, campsite assignments, and bathhouse cleaning schedule will be shared a few days before the event once registration numbers are in and group sizes can be determined.



## **DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM FOR 2024 AKELA**

### **Boulder Wall at Climbing Area**

- See if you can make it all the way across the wall

### **Archery at Archery Field**

- Take aim and shoot arrows at the target

### **BB at Shooting Sports Range**

- Listen to the BBs hit a pie tin as you aim and shoot

### **Games at ODT and Parade Field**

- Play some fun games with your scout friends

### **Crafts at Handicrafts**

- Find your crafty side with some fun crafts

### **Free Time for Unit**

- Use this time to work on your skit/song for Closing Ceremony, complete some den activities, or go for a hike.

### **Haunted Fort**

- Meet at basketball court and Snack Shack pavilion to be picked up via trailer and taken to CubWorld for the Haunted Fort. Afterwards, you will be picked up and dropped off at the Eco Pavilion until time for Closing Ceremony at the Arena.

### **Activities for Prizes**

- Scavenger Hunt - prizes given {until gone} when completed and turned in
- Scarecrow Contest at entrance to campsite – prizes given for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in categories of scariest and most creative
- Costume Contest – prizes given for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in categories of scariest and most creative



# MAP OF HOOD SCOUT RESERVATION

