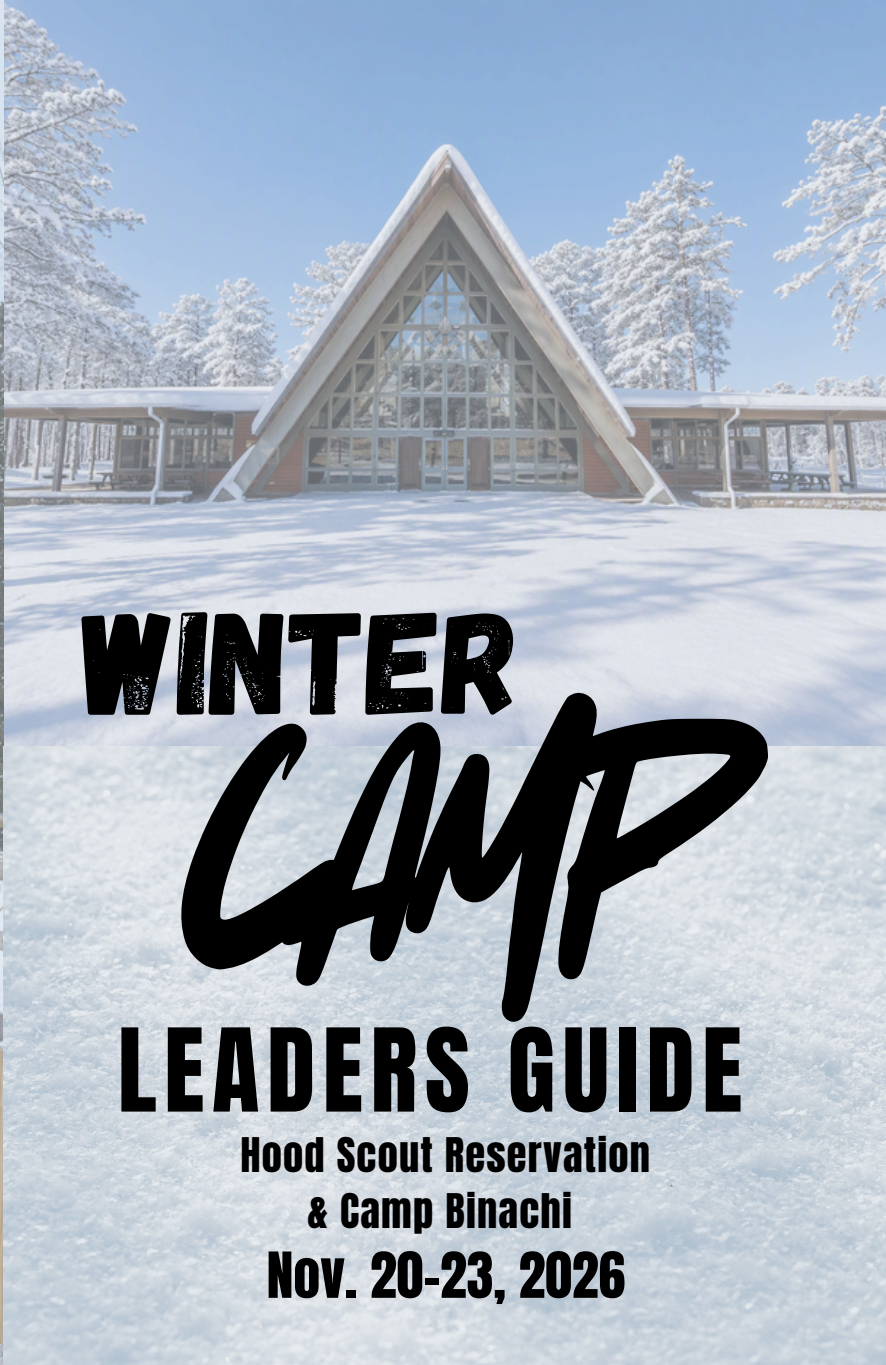




WINTER CAMP LEADERS GUIDE

Hood Scout Reservation
& Camp Binachi
Nov. 20-23, 2026



Revised 8-14-2026





Dear Unit Leaders,

Welcome to the 2026 Winter Camp at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi!

As Winter Camp continues to grow in popularity, our goal is to ensure that every Scout and troop wishing to attend has the opportunity to participate in a high-quality experience. While we are excited about the increasing interest, we are also mindful of the limitations in capacity for Scouts, adult leaders, and staff to maintain the program's excellence.

This Leader's Guide is designed to assist you and your unit in preparing for Winter Camp. Each year, we renew our commitment to providing a dynamic and meaningful program that reflects the values and mission of Scouting. Winter Camp offers a unique experience held just before the Thanksgiving holiday, and we are proud to offer a distinctive merit badge structure where Scouts focus on one merit badge per day.

On October 1st, the Winter Camp merit badge schedule, including detailed class descriptions, will be made available online. We encourage you to begin your planning now to ensure your unit has the best possible camp experience.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Mississippi Riverlands Scout Service Center. We also invite you to express appreciation to our dedicated volunteers—merit badge counselors, kitchen crew, camp administration, and others—who make Winter Camp possible through their time and service.

Now in its third decade, Winter Camp has become a cherished tradition within the Mississippi Riverlands Council and throughout the Southeast. We hope your time with us creates unforgettable memories and strengthens your Scouts' passion for learning and adventure.

On behalf of the Mississippi Riverlands Council and the 2026 Winter Camp staff, we look forward to welcoming you this November!

Yours in Scouting,
The 2026 Winter Camp Staff
Mississippi Riverlands Council

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

The unit must register online at www.scoutingriverlands.org. The unit can pay camp fees online, by mail, or at the Scout Service Center. There will be a 3% charge on credit cards. The unit must have all fees paid before arriving at Hood Scout Reservation or Camp Binachi.

FEES	HOOD	BINACHI
Scouts	\$195.00	\$175.00
Adult Leaders	\$90.00	\$90.00
Late Fee - Starting November 1st, 2026	\$40.00	\$40.00
Shirts - Pre Order (2XL and up add additional \$2	\$20.00	\$20.00
ADULT LEADERS WHO REGISTER TO TEACH A MERIT BADGE PAY ONLY \$50		

CAMPERSHIPS

Camperships may be available for Scouts with financial hardships. Campership information is available online at www.scoutingriverlands.org.

REFUND POLICY

Fees are not refundable. Troops are encouraged to try and find a replacement for the Scout not attending. A participant may be refunded based on each individual due to a medical issue (doctor's note required) or death in the immediate family.

2025 KEY DATES	
EVENT DESCRIPTION	DATE
UNIT REGISTRATION OPENS	AUGUST 1
MERIT BADGE/ PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS	OCTOBER 1
WINTER CAMP PAYMENTS DUE	OCTOBER 31
WINTER CAMP BEGINS	NOVEMBER 20
WINTER CAMP ENDS	NOVEMBER 23

CAMPSITE RESERVATION

UNIT LEADERS

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING

If an adult leader needs electricity for a medical device, make sure that you let the camp staff know in your registration. All youth and adults must be registered members of Scouting America. All adults must have current Safeguarding Youth Training. Youth members sharing a tent must be at most two years apart in age. Youth members cannot share a tent with their parents. Male and female adults must have separate tenting arrangements provided unless they are married.

Campsites will be assigned depending on the size and needs of the troop. Most campsites have a shelter with electricity, lights, fans, a fire ring, and picnic tables. Troops must bring their tents, cots, and sleeping gear. Those attending Camp Binachi will also need to provide their own cooking equipment.

LINKED TROOPS

Let us know as soon as possible for “linked” troops who need to share a campsite and leadership. Your charter partner will need to provide approval for the units to share a campsite. Boy and Girl units must still be separated by the distinct barrier and proper leadership for both groups is required.

HAMMOCK

For the safety of the participants that use hammocks we ask that you hang them at height no more than the waist height of the user at the center point while empty. Hammocks cannot be tied to the metal tent frames or shelters. Hammocks will be secured to stable trees in and around the campsite area but out of main paths and walkways.

UNIT LEADER INFORMATION

Unit Leader Responsibilities and Camp Communication

At Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi, our staff and volunteers are dedicated to ensuring your Scouts and adult leaders experience the true promise of Scouting- fun, adventure, and personal growth. Achieving this goal relies heavily on strong communication between unit leaders and the camp leadership team.

We encourage you to engage with us throughout your stay. The Camp Director and other key leaders will be available daily for in-person conversations, and we maintain an open-door policy that welcomes you to speak with any member of camp leadership at any time. Your input is valued, and we rely on your feedback to continually improve the Winter Camp program.

Please take a few moments during and after camp to complete both the paper and electronic camp surveys. Your insights help us shape a better experience for your unit and for future campers.

We also ask that all unit leaders remain actively engaged with their Scouts throughout the day, including during program time, transitions, meals, and while using shared facilities such as the central showers. Active supervision ensures safety, accountability, and a positive experience for everyone.

Adult Leadership Requirements

Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi adhere strictly to Scouting America's national policies regarding adult leadership requirements.

For Scouting America Boy Troops:

- A minimum of two adult leaders, each at least 21 years old and currently registered with Scouting America, must be present with the unit at all times.
- All adult leaders must have up-to-date Safeguarding Youth Training certification.

For Scouting America Girl Troops:

- At least one of the two adult leaders must be a female age 21 or older, registered with Scouting America.

If your unit is having difficulty meeting these requirements, please contact us in advance. We will work with you to identify and assign a qualified adult leader to support your unit during camp.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All Scouts, adult leaders, staff, volunteers, and visitors at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi are expected to exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, as well as adhere to the Scouter's Code of Conduct at all times while on camp property.

Tobacco

The Scout oath reminds us to keep ourselves physically strong, and the Scout Law calls on us to be clean in thought, word, and deed. The use of tobacco products contradicts these principles, as it negatively impacts health and is known to cause cancer.

For the safety and well-being of all participants, smoking, chewing tobacco, vaping, and the use of electronic cigarettes are strictly prohibited anywhere on the grounds of Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi.

Vehicles

Vehicle Access and Parking:

To maintain a safe and organized environment within camp:

- Only vehicles pulling trailers or transporting troop equipment will be permitted beyond the main gate.
- All other vehicles must be parked in the designated parking lot.
- Trucks pulling trailers may drop and secure them in front of their campsite but should then return to the main parking area.

Please remember to lock your vehicles and keep your keys with you at all times. These policies are in place to ensure the safety, order, and smooth operation of Winter Camp for all attendees. Thank you for your cooperation.

Alcohol & Drugs

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or the misuse of any prescription medication is strictly prohibited on any camp property.

Any individual or group found in violation of this policy will be required to leave the property immediately, and appropriate authorities may be notified if necessary. This policy is in place to ensure the safety, well being and integrity of the Scouting experience for all participants.

Firearms & Fireworks

For the safety of all participants, fireworks of any kind are strictly prohibited at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi.

If you are in possession of a registered firearm, it must remain secured in your vehicle or be checked in at the Shooting Sports Area in accordance with camp policies and Scouting America guidelines. Firearms are not permitted elsewhere on camp property.

Fuels & Outside Firewood

Propane and liquid fuels are permitted at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi; however, their use must be supervised by a responsible adult leader at all times. Please ensure that empty propane containers are disposed of properly in designated disposal areas.

In accordance with Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi's Conservation and Forestry Plan, outside firewood is not allowed on camp property. This policy helps protect our forested areas from invasive pests and diseases. Units are welcome to gather fallen limbs and wood from within their campsite for firewood. If additional firewood is needed, please contact the Camp Commissioner for assistance.

Campfires are allowed only in designated fire rings. Before starting any fire, unit leaders must confirm that the camp is not under a fire ban due to dry conditions or local restrictions.

Your cooperation in following these policies helps us preserve the natural environment and ensures a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone at camp.

Pet & Service Animal Policy

Participants and visitors are not permitted to bring pets or other animals to Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi. This policy is in place to ensure the safety, comfort, and well being of all campers and wildlife on the property.

Only verifiable service animals are permitted for individuals with a documented need. In order to bring a service animal onto camp property, the following conditions must be met:

- The owner must provide proof of training from a recognized service animal training organization.
- The owner must also present documentation confirming the animal's temperament and its ability to perform include large crowds, bicycles, gunshots, and other loud or expected events.
- The service animal must be clearly identified and wear a proper service animal harness at all times while on camp property.

We appreciate your cooperation in upholding this policy to maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Health Lodge and Medical Services

The Health Lodge at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi is staffed 24 hours a day by qualified healthcare professionals, operating under the direct supervision of a licensed physician. Please note that while the Health Lodge team is equipped to respond to medical needs and emergencies, they are not authorized to conduct physical examinations. Campers requiring a physical exam must complete it prior to arriving at camp, in accordance with Scouting America's medical requirements. Your cooperation helps us ensure the health and safety of all participants during Winter Camp.

Medical Form Requirement

All individuals staying at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi - including Scouts, adult leaders, staff, and volunteers- must have a current Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A, B, C) on file at the Health Lodge upon arrival. This is a mandatory requirement for participation remain at camp without a fully completed and current medical form.

Please note: All medical forms left behind after Winter Camp will be securely disposed of immediately following the conclusion of camp.

Besure to collect any original copies you wish to retain before departure.

Medication Policy and Medical Recheck Procedure

During the medical recheck at check-in, adult leaders are required to turn in all Scouts' medications to the Health Officer at the Health lodge.

Parents must send all medications in their original packaging, clearly labeled with the Scout's full name and troop number, along with written instructions for proper dispensing. This ensures that medications are administered safely and in accordance with medical guidelines.

Scouts who require immediate access to emergency medications, such as inhalers or EpiPens, may retain those items with them.

Adult participants may retain and mange their own medications throughout duration of camp.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and well-organized medical environment at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi.

Transportation Policy

Unit leaders are responsible for transporting Scouts and adult leaders in their unit to and from any non-emergency medical appointments or services during Winter Camp.

In the event of a serious medical emergency, emergency transportation by ambulance will be provided. The nearest hospital to Hood Scout Reservation is Copiah County Medical Center, located in Hazelhurst, Mississippi. The nearest hospital to Camp Binachi is Ochsner Rush Medical Center in Meridian, MS.

If a Scout or adult leader requires special transportation accomodations while at camp, the Camp Director or Staff Adviser must be notified as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

Golf Cart and UTV Use:

- All golf carts and UTVs must be approved by the Camp Ranger prior to the unit's arrival at camp.
- Any individual operating a golf cart or UTV must complete required training in accordance with National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) standards.
- When transporting a Scout, only the Scout and their designated buddy may ride in the vehicle- no additional passengers are permitted.

Thank you for following these guidelines to help ensure a safe and well-coordinated camp experience for everyone.

Emergency Procedures

The safety of all campers is our top priority. All staff and volunteers at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi are trained to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. We have established written agreements with the Copiah County Sheriff's Department, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Agency, and the local hospitals to ensure a coordinated and rapid response when needed.

During any emergency sitation, the first responsibility of adult leaders is to account for and ensure the safety of their unit. Please remain calm, listen carefully, and follow all instructions provided by camp staff. A detailed list of emergency procedures can be found in your Campsite Leader's Guide. All unit leaders are expected to review these procdures with their Scouts upon arrival.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and prepared camp environement.

Wildlife Awareness

Campers at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi should always be mindful of the local wildlife, which is an important and natural part of our outdoor experience. Common wildlife sightings may include snakes, spiders, raccoons, deer, turkey, and wild hogs.

To reduce the risk of unwanted animal encounters:

- Do not leave food or trash unattended in tents or campsites.
- Use the trash can with a secure lid provided at each campsite.
- Refer to your Campsite Guide for more information on safely coexisting with local wildlife.

Your cooperation helps protect both our campers and the animals that call our camps home.

The Buddy System

The Buddy System is a fundamental component of Scouting and is essential for ensuring safety, accountability, and youth protection throughout Winter Camp.

Guidelines for Using the Buddy System:

- Scouts should pair with a friend or two for all activities. A buddy team may consist of two or three Scouts when necessary (e.g., an odd number in a group)
- Buddy pairs should be mutually agreeable – no Scout should be forced into an uncomfortable buddy situation.
- It is strongly encouraged to pair Scouts of similar age, ability, and maturity.
- Buddy teams must be single-gender. Mixed gender buddy pairs are not permitted in any Scouting program.

Using the Buddy System teaches responsibility, fosters trust, and supports Scouting's Barriers to Abuse.

Please reinforce this practice with your Scouts regularly throughout Winter Camp.

Camper Safety and Conduct

Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable camp experience for all Scouts and adult leaders. If at any time there are concerns regarding the health, safety, or well-being of a Scout or adult leader, please report them immediately to the Camp Director or a member of the Camp Management Team. We maintain zero-tolerance policy for bullying, harassment, or any form of misconduct. All concerns will be taken seriously and addressed promptly in accordance with Scouting America's standards and values.

Armband Policy

As part of our youth protection and event security measures, every participant will be issued a color-coded armband upon arrival at camp.

- Armbands must be worn at all times and remain clearly visible.
- Armbands help staff identify authorized participants and ensure compliance with safety protocols.
- If an armband is lost or broken, a replacement may be obtained at the Trading Post or the Administration Building.

Your cooperation with this policy helps ensure a secure environment for all.

Camper Release Procedures

To maintain a safe and secure environment, all participants must check in and out through the Administration Building.

Scouts leaving camp early must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian along with a unit leader at the time of checkout. The parent or guardian must:

- Complete a Camper Release Form
- Present a valid driver's license (a copy will be retained)

Only the Camp Director, Program Director, Camp Commissioner, Camp Ranger, or Camp Clerk may authorize the release of a Scout.

Adult leaders are encouraged to verify with a Scout's parent or guardian in advance if a Scout is scheduled to leave early. Leaders should also be informed who is picking up the Scout and what day and time they are expected to depart.

PARENTS' INFORMATION

Review the weather before Winter Camp to determine what to pack. Winter Camps in the past have been in the mid-70's and dry to the mid-30's and raining.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

CLOTHING ITEMS

- ☐ Scout Field Uniform
- ☐ Activity Uniform/ Scout T-shirts
- ☐ Shorts or Pants
- ☐ Multiple pairs of underwear
- ☐ Multiple pairs of socks
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Rain gear or poncho
- ☐ Closed toed shoes or hiking boots
- ☐ Shower Shoes

OTHER ITEMS

- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Camp Chair
- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Sleeping bag/pillow
- ☐ Personal First-aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight/batteries
- ☐ Notebook/ Pen or Pencil
- ☐ Pocket Knife***

PERSONAL CARE

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ 2 to 3 Towels
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- ☐ Hairbrush
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Bible/Prayer Book
- ☐ Dirty Clothes Bag
- ☐ Spending money for Trading Post/Snack Shack

***Scouts must have their "Tot'em Chit" to carry or use as a pocket knife.

Firearms, Weapons, and Prohibited Equipment

To ensure the safety of all participants, personal firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment are not permitted at Hood Scout Reservation or Camp Binachi. All shooting sports activities will utilize equipment provided and managed exclusively by the Shooting Sports area staff.

Additionally, Scouts are not allowed to carry or use sheath knives at camp. Any prohibited items that are mistakenly brought to camp must be immediately turned over to the unit leader, and the Camp Director must be notified.

Electronics and Cell Phone Policy

Winter Camp is designed to be a hands-on outdoor learning experience with a full schedule of classes and activities. While we understand the importance of communication between parents and Scouts, we also strive to create an environment that encourages personal growth and active engagement.

Cell phone usage is left to the discretion of each unit's leadership. If your Scout brings a mobile device:

- Charging stations are available in select locations throughout camp.
- Use of mobile devices should be respectful of others and not disruptive of camp activities.
- We strongly discourage bringing tablets, electronic games, or other non-essential electronic devices.
- Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

Stay Connected: Follow us on Facebook

We understand that parents, guardians, and family members want to stay connected with their Scouts during camp.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook to view:

- Updates from select camp activities
- Photos and videos from across the week

This is a great way to "check in" on your Scout and share in the Winter Camp experience from home!



@HoodScoutReservationBSA

@CampBinachi

@MississippiRiverlandsCouncil, Scouting America

UNIT INFORMATION

WHAT UNITS SHOULD BRING TO CAMP

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ☐ Tents | ☐ Water Cooler(s) | ☐ Flags | ☐ Additional Fire Ring |
| ☐ Lanterns/Fuel | ☐ Rope, Tarps, Dining Flys | ☐ Cooking gear if attending Camp Binachi | ☐ Medical Forms |

CHECK-IN PROCESS

Check-in will begin at 5:00 PM on Friday.

As darkness will be setting in around this time, we aim to move each unit through the check-in process as efficiently and smoothly as possible. To help expedite your arrival, please take the following steps before you arrive at camp:

- Pay all camp fees in advance
- Bring copies of the complete Annual Health and Medical Forms (Parts A, B, and C) for every youth and adult attendee
- Preparing a roster listing all Scouts and adult leaders

Arrival & Check-In Process:

1. Parking: Upon arrival, please park in the designated main parking lot.
2. Reporting to Check-In:
 - The Unit Leader, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), and Chaplain's Aide will proceed to the Snack Shack Area to begin the check-in process at Hood Scout Reservation. Check-in at Camp Binachi will begin in the Admin Building.
3. Administration Table:
 - The Unit Leader will check in at the Administration Table, confirm the total number of Scouts and adults attending, settle any outstanding balances, and receive the Campsite Guidebook.
4. Medical Recheck Table:
 - Next, the Unit Leader will meet with the Activities Director to receive an overview of each participant's health form and turn in any medications.
5. SPL Meeting:
 - The Senior Patrol Leader will meet with the Activities Director to receive an overview of SPL responsibilities and expectations during camp.
6. Chaplain's Aide Meeting:
 - The Chaplain's Aide will meet with the Camp Chaplain to receive chapel materials and coordinate any support for religious services.
7. Troop Guide Assignment:
 - Once all check-in steps are completed, your unit will be assigned a Troop Guide, who will assist in moving your troop and gear to your assigned campsite.

Proper preparation before arrival will ensure a quick and efficient check-in, settling the tone for a safe, enjoyable, and well-organized Winter Camp experience.

CHECK-OUT PROCESS

Beginning at 3:00 PM on Monday, units may begin pulling their vehicles into camp to hook up trailers and load gear. Before leaving your campsite, please ensure the following:

- All trash is completely cleared from the campsite.
- All campfires are fully extinguished and cold to the touch.
- Trash and trash cans are brought to the road for pickup.

When your unit is ready to depart, please schedule a check-out time with the Camp Commissioner to complete the campsite inspection and checkout process.

After checking out of your campsite:

- Visit the Administration building to pick up your unit's program records and patches.
- Stop by the Health lodge to collect your unit's health forms and any remaining medications.

Thank you for helping us maintain a clean and safe environment. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures to ensure a smooth and efficient departure.

TRADING POST & Snack Shack

The Trading Post & Snack Shack at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi offers a wide selection of items for Scouts and leaders, including:

- Souvenirs
- Scouting merchandise
- A limited supply of personal care items (e.g., toothpaste, soap, sunscreen)
- A variety of drinks and snacks

We accept the following forms of payment:

- Cash
- Credit and Debit Cards





Dining Hall

The dining hall staff at Hood Scout Reservation provides nutritious and delicious meals under the guidance of the Food Service Committee. All meals are prepared by professional cooks, ensuring high quality and safety standards.

Menus are developed and approved by a certified dietitian in collaboration with the Food Service Committee to meet the nutritional needs of all participants.

Menus are posted at the front entrance of the dining hall and may be subject to change based on availability and other factors.

Special Dietary Needs

Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi is committed to accommodating participants with special dietary requirements within reasonable limits. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals with food allergies, intolerances, or religious dietary restrictions.

To ensure proper accommodations, the parent or unit leader must **contact the Food Service Chair at least two weeks prior to camp**. This advance notice allows us to plan and prepare appropriate meal options.

Upon arrival at camp, participants with special dietary needs are required to check in with the Dining Kitchen Manager. This helps us ensure that the correct meals are provided consistently throughout the camp session.

Thank you for helping us provide a safe and enjoyable dining experience for all participants.

For special dietary needs please contact Micheal Williams at gruvygrit@gmail.com

Dining Hall Procedures

Meals at Hood Scout Reservation are served cafeteria style. Due to the size of Winter Camp, we operate on a shift schedule to ensure that everyone has a chance to eat promptly. The order of shifts alternates at each meal to provide all participants with the opportunity to eat first at least once. The first meal of camp will be served on Saturday morning.

There are no assigned seats in the dining hall; participants may sit wherever they choose.

Table Waiters

Each unit is required to provide one to two Scouts to serve as table waiters per meal. Table waiters should arrive at least 10 minutes before meal service begins. Please note that not all table waiters may be selected to serve during every meal.

Table waiters are expected to stay until the end of the meal service to assist with cleanup duties.

Participants and units are also encouraged to help clean their tables before leaving by:

- Wiping down the table surfaces
- Sweeping the area beneath the tables

Camp staff will be available to assist with cleanup if needed.

NOTE ON MEALS:

HOOD SCOUT RESERVATION MEALS ARE COOKED BY CAMP STAFF AND SERVED IN THE DINING HALL.

CAMP BINACHI UNITS WILL PREPARE USING FOOD PROVIDED BY CAMP; EXCEPT FOR LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT THE DINING HALL.

Bikes on Camp

Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi spans over 1,200 acres and features approximately 15 miles of hiking, biking, and ATV trails. Participants are welcome to bring their bikes to camp for personal transportation or to participate in the Cycling Merit Badge Program.

Please note:

- All bikes must follow camp bike safety rules.
- Helmets are mandatory while riding.
- Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi not responsible for lost helmets or damaged bikes.

Bringing a bike can be a great way to explore camp- just remember to ride safely and responsibly!



Rules of the Road for Bikes

To ensure the safety of all campers and staff, the following bicycle rules must be followed at Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi:

- Helmets are required at all times while riding a bicycle.
- Pedestrians have the right of way-always yield to foot traffic.
- Park bicycles only in designated bike racks.
- Bicycles must not block trails, walkways, building entrances, program areas, or campsites.
- No riding is permitted after dusk or in the dark..
- Knee and elbow pads are recommended for added protection, but are not required.

These rules help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone on camp property.



SENIOR PATROL LEADERS

Beginning with check-in on Friday evening, your troop's Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) will serve as the primary point of communication between camp staff and your unit. The SPL will attend daily meetings after lunch, where they will receive important updates about camp programs and general information. They will also help coordinate games and activities, and play a key role in planning the closing Campfire Program on Sunday night.

CHAPLAIN AIDE | DUTY TO GOD

At Hood Scout Reservation and Camp Binachi, we honor the Scout oath's opening line, "duty to God", and the final point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is reverent." While at camp, we encourage each troop to embrace and practice these principles.

Your troop's Chaplain's Aide, in collaboration with our Camp Chaplain, will help deliver daily devotionals and offer spiritual encouragement throughout your stay. This partnership fosters reflection, reverence, and a supportive environment for all Scouts as they grow in character and in faith.



Spiritual Life at Camp

Your troop is encouraged to say a blessing before each meal and participate in one of the Vespers services on Sunday night. The Camp Chaplain will provide a book of devotionals to each Chaplain's Aide, who will then work with the Senior Patrol Leader to schedule an appropriate time each day for devotionals.

These devotionals are designed as interfaith services, ensuring they are inclusive and respectful of all beliefs. Troops that complete the daily devotionals will have each participant awarded a special "Duty to God" patch during the morning ceremonies.

Flag Ceremonies

Units will assemble for the evening flag ceremonies each day of camp. Scouts and unit leaders are asked to wear their full field uniform for these ceremonies. Please note: there will no evening flag ceremony on Monday.

UNIT INFORMATION

MERIT BADGES AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Our camp staff and merit badge counselors are dedicated volunteers committed to delivering a high-quality program that ensures Scouts have fun while working toward advancement. Winter Camp 2026 is expected to offer over 40 merit badges along with several specialty programs not typically available during summer camp.

The Winter Camp Merit Badge Schedule will be released on October 1st and will be available for download in the Winter Camp Merit Badge Guide.

Scouts will have the opportunity to camp outdoors and participate in unique programs while earning merit badges. Merit badge sessions are limited to 20 Scouts per class, though some class sizes may be smaller based on the counselor's discretion or safety guidelines.

While many merit badges can be completed during Winter Camp, some may include pre-requisites, require special skills, or need to be completed at home with a merit badge counselor due to time limitations or the nature of certain requirements. Weather conditions may also affect how much can be accomplished during camp.

MERIT BADGES AND MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Following is a list of merit badges we plan to offer at Winter Camp, provided we are able to secure qualified merit badge counselors. A finalized list of available merit badges along with session times, will be published by October 1st, 2026. Merit badge registration will also open on October 1st.

If you are interested in teaching a merit badge or know someone who is a qualified counselor and would like to assist, please contact us. We welcome volunteers who are willing to present badges not currently listed. Your support helps us expand opportunities for Scouts.

Unit leaders who teach a class will receive a discount on their camp fees.

For more information about becoming a merit badge counselor, please refer to the Appendix section of this guidebook. Merit Badge Counselors and other staff may sign up via the following link or QR code:

<https://scoutingevent.com/303-102742>



MERIT BADGES

- Archery
- Chemistry
- Chess (pop-up)
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Climbing
- Communications
- Crime Prevention
- Dentistry
- Disabilities Awareness
- Electricity
- Electronics
- Engineering
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Science
- Farm Mechanics
- Fingerprinting (pop-up)
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Fish & Wildlife Management
- Fishing
- Fly Fishing
- Genealogy
- Geocaching
- Geology
- Healthcare Professionals
- Home Repair
- Horsemanship
- Indian Lore (pop-up)
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Metalworking
- Music
- Painting
- Personal Management
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Programming
- Orienteering
- Scouting Heritage
- Search & Rescue
- Surveying
- Traffic Safety
- Veterinary Medicine
- Weather
- Welding
- Woodworking



ATV EXPERIENCE (Hood Scout Reservation Only)

The ATV program is limited to Scouts who are 14 years of age or older. Due to safety and instructional needs, class sizes are limited to 8 Scouts per session.

To participate, each Scout must have a signed Hold Harmless Agreement on file.

Scouts are required to wear the following appropriate gear:

Long-sleeve shirt, Long pants, Over-the-ankle boots or shoes.

These safety requirements are mandatory.

Scouts not meeting these standards will not be permitted to participate in the ATV Program.



OTHER TRAINING OPPURTUNITIES (FOR ADULTS ONLY)

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is a hands-on training program required for all Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters to be considered fully trained. This course is also highly recommended for other adult leaders who want to enhance their outdoor skills and support scouts in achieving rank advancements.

During this course, participants will learn and practice the basic outdoor skills taught to Scouts through First Class rank. Topics include:

- Campsite selection and setup
- Outdoor cooking
- Fire building
- Knife, axe, and saw safety
- Map and compass use
- Hiking and packing techniques
- Plant and animal identification
- Leave No Trace Principles

IOLS is typically delivered over a weekend in a camp setting and emphasizes learning by doing. Leaders gain confidence in their ability to teach outdoor skills, provide meaningful support to their Scouts, and lead safe, fun, and effective outdoor programs.

Successful completion of IOLS is a key component of adult leader training in the Scouting America program.

CHAINSAW SAFETY CERTIFICATION

This course is taught by our Camp Ranger and is required for all adult leaders planning to participate in High Adventure programs. Participants will use gear provided by Hood Scout Reservation. The course is one full day in length and offers essential training for responding to medical emergencies in backcountry settings.

Completion of this course is mandatory for High Adventure participation and helps ensure the safety and preparedness of every unit.

APPENDIX

Daily Schedule Winter Camp

**ATV Experience Hold Harmless Agreement (Hood Scout
Reservation Only)**

Camp Support Information

Campership Application 1st page

Campsite Inspection Score Card

Map of Hood Scout Reservation

Map of Camp Binachi

DAILY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

5:00-7:00 PM CHECK-IN
7:45 PM - EVENING PROGRAM
9:00 PM - UNIT LEADER/SPL MEETING
10:00 PM - LIGHTS OUT



SATURDAY & SUNDAY

6:30 AM - REVEILLE
7:00 AM - BREAKFAST (1)
8:00 AM - BREAKFAST (2)
8:45 AM - MORNING ASSEMBLY
9:15 - 11:45 AM - MORNING PROGRAM
12:00 PM - LUNCH (1)
1:00 PM - LUNCH (2)
DURING 2ND LUNCH SHIFT - SPL MEETING
2:15-4:30 PM - AFTERNOON PROGRAM
5:00 PM - AFTERNOON ASSEMBLY
5:30 PM - DINNER (1)
6:30 PM - DINNER(2)
7:30 PM - UNIT LEADERS MEETING
8:00 PM - EVENING PROGRAMS
10:00 LIGHTS OUT

MONDAY

6:30 AM - REVEILLE
7:00 AM - BREAKFAST (1)
8:00 AM - BREAKFAST (2)
8:45 AM - MORNING ASSEMBLY
9:15 - MORNING PROGRAM BLOCK
12:00 PM - LUNCH (1)
1:00 PM - LUNCH (2)
DURING 2ND LUNCH SHIFT - SPL MEETING
2:15-4:30 PM - AFTERNOON PROGRAM
5:00 PM - CAMP CLOSSES



MISSISSIPPI RIVERLANDS COUNCIL SCOUTING AMERICA ATV HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Hood Scout Reservation will be conducting an ATV program at camp, Scouts will be instructed how to ride on and drive an ATV. Scouts must be 14 years old or completed the eighth grade Scouts will be taught ATV safety and will drive on a training course, then on approved trails only. Scouts will be on the unit individually and in control of the power and the brakes. Scouts will be required to wear a helmet, goggles, gloves, over the ankle boots, long-sleeve shirts, and long pants. Scouts are expected to abide by all safety rules and the instructions of the camp instructor(s).

I, the undersigned, give my child _____, permission to participate in this program. I understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given participants to abide by the rules and standards of conduct. I release the Scouting America, the ATV Safety Institute, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with activity from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation.

1. Complete the ATV safety class taught at Hood Scout Reservation.
2. Wear all required safety gear at all times on or around the equipment.
3. Follow all safety rules provided in the training class.
4. Follow the instructions of the camp staff instructors(s).
5. Maintain control of the ATV at all times and remain within the speed determined to be safe by the camp instructor(s).
6. Be in full compliance with all local, state, and federal guidelines, including age restrictions and original equipment manufacturer standards.
7. Respond to the camp satisfaction survey from the Scouting America as it evaluates the ATV Program.

For safety, my child and I agree that he/she will do the following or he/she will be removed from the program. Because space is limited, any additional cost associated with participation in this program will not be refunded.

Participants signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/guardian printed name: _____ Date: _____
Email address: _____ Preferred phone: _____



MISSISSIPPI RIVERLANDS COUNCIL SCOUTING AMERICA CAMP SUPPORT APPLICATION

The Mississippi Riverlands Council 's mission is to prepare young people for ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Our vision is to be the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future Scouting will continue to: • Offer young people responsible fun and adventure • Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership.
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality safe, values-based program.

In this mission, we will not deny any youth the right to attend camp due to financial reasons. The Mississippi Riverlands Council has developed a fund that is available to help when family finances, unit money-earning opportunities cannot provide sufficient funds for Scouting membership fees. This money is raised through donations from individual, civics, clubs, small businesses, corporations, foundations, and grants.

Please complete the following application, with the required signatures:

PARENT/GUARDIAN, UNIT LEADER (Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Skipper), **THE COMMITTEE CHAIR or CHARTER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE.**

To ensure that we have funds to support these Scouts and their families, we ask that the **Unit** (Troops, Crew, or Ship) to actively participate in the **Annual Popcorn Sale** and allow a **Family Friends of Scouting Presentation** at a parent event like **an awards ceremony, Court of Honor or Blue & Gold Banquet.**

The Mississippi Riverlands Council defines **actively participating** in the Popcorn Sale as the having a popcorn kernel (chairperson), being registered to sell, attend the popcorn kick-off, promoting and encouraging all Scouts and their families to participate in the sale.

Any application that is not signed or completed will not be processed. Families and Unit Leaders will be notified by email if their request is approved.

FUNDS WILL BE AWARDED AS LONG AS THERE ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE



MISSISSIPPI RIVERLANDS COUNCIL
SCOUTING AMERICA
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SUITE 320
FLOWOOD, MS 39323
601.948.6111 · www.scoutingriverlands.org

UNIT INFORMATION

SELECT YOUR DISTRICT

☐ BOGUE CHITTO ☐ PEARL RIVER ☐ CHUNKY RIVER
☐ MISSISSIPPI RIVER ☐ RESERVOIR

SELECT YOUR UNIT

☐ TROOP ☐ CREW ☐ SHIP

UNIT NUMBER

APPLICATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

SCOUT'S INFORMATION

SCOUT'S NAME

AGE GRADE SCOUT RANK

NEW SCOUT NUMBER OF YEARS IN SCOUTING

DID YOUR SCOUT SELL POPCORN? ☐ Yes ☐ No AMOUNT SOLD

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

EMAIL: PHONE:

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS FAMILY COMBINED ANNUAL INCOME

REASON FOR NEED

BY SIGNING, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE

PARENT/GURADIAN

DATE

**MISSISSIPPI RIVERLANDS COUNCIL
SCOUTING AMERICA
CAMPSHIP SUPPORT APPLICATION**

UNIT INFORMATION

CHARTER PARTNER NAME _____

DID YOUR UNIT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE SELL OF POPCORN? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
TOTAL AMOUNT SOLD _____

DID YOUR UNIT HAVE A FAMILY FOS PRESENTATION? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
DATE OF PRESENTATION _____

BY SIGNING, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE

UNIT LEADER/ COMMITTEE MEMBER

DATE

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

AMOUNT REQUIRED TO REGISTER _____
AMOUNT THE UNIT/CHARTER PARTNER CAN PROVIDE _____
AMOUNT THE FAMILY CAN PAY _____
AMOUNT NEEDED (SUBTRACT AMOUNT REQUIRED BY AMOUNT PROVIDED) _____

BY SIGNING, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE

UNIT LEADER/ COMMITTEE MEMBER

POSITION

DATE

COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVED BY COUNCIL TREASURER _____

APPROVED BY SCOUT EXECUTIVE/CEO _____

AMOUNT APPROVED _____

DATE _____



Hood Scout Reservation & Camp Binachi CAMPSITE INSPECTION SCORECARD



Troop# _____

Day _____

UNITED STATES FLAG

_____ 5 POINTS

Is it properly displayed

TROOP IDENTIFICATION

_____ 5 POINTS

Is the Troop's Flag or other appropriate insignia displayed and easily seen?

TENT APPEARANCE

OUTSIDE TENT APPEARANCE

_____ 15 POINTS

Are all the tents in the campsite consistent in appearance
Are all non-camp tents/hammocks pitched properly
Is there trash around the tents. Are the outside clothes lines set up correctly? Are they neat and orderly?

INSIDE TENT APPEARANCE

_____ 10 POINTS

TENT FLAPS OR SCREENS MUST BE OPEN TO RECEIVE THESE POINTS

Is there trash in the tent?
Is the Scout's personal gear stored, nothing out between the cots
If there is an inside clothes line, is it set up correctly. Is it neat and orderly?

GENERAL CAMPSITE

Does the troop have the FIREGUARD CHART filled out & posted? _____ 5 POINTS

Does the troop have a DUTY ROSTER for table, latrine duty, and other duties as needed? _____ 5 POINTS

Does the troop have a FIRST AID KIT visible and clearly marked? _____ 15 POINTS

Is the campsite free from hazards, Does the troop have a **wood yard**? _____ 10 POINTS

Is the campsite clean from trash? _____ 15 POINTS

Is the campsite latrine, reasonably clean. Is there plenty of soap at the handwashing station? _____ 10 POINTS

BONUS POINTS

CENTRAL SHOWERS

If it is Troops turn to clean their Central Shower. Have they? _____ 10 POINTS

SCOUTCRAFT - GATEWAY OR CAMPSITE GADGET

Must have a new project each day to earn these points. _____ 10 POINTS

_____ Total Points





Use the following link or QR Code to complete registration
<https://scoutingevent.com/303-26WinterCamp>

Camp Leadership Contact Information:

Camp Director - Hood Scout Reservation
Leonard McDonald -
posidon91@yahoo.com

Camp Director - Camp Binachi
Shannon Culpepper -
william.culpepper@outlook.com

Josh Fisher - Assistant Scout Executive
joshua.fisher@scouting.org

Traci Osborn - District Executive
for Pearl River and Bogue Chitto
Traci.Orborn@scouting.org

Rachael Daleo - District Executive
for Chunky River District
Rachael.Daleo@scouting.org

Kimberly Paul - District Executive
for Mississippi River and Reservoir
Kimberly.Paulescouting.org



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