

PINE RIDGE ECLIPSEFEST 2.0 - USER'S MANUAL

EclipseFest 2.0 is intended to provide local and regional Scouts BSA the opportunity to experience the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse in a well informed and safe manner while enjoying a weekend of various scouting experiences at Pine Ridge Scout Reservation and the surrounding Southern Illinois. The event is scheduled for 70 hours: 6:00 pm Friday April 6 until 4:30pm April 8, 2024.

Cost per camper \$25.00. Included in the cost are: Camp fees, most programs, eclipse observation glasses, and an EclipseFest 2.0 collectible event patch. Items with extra costs are noted below. Meals will be prepared at the campsite by the Troop with the Troop provided provisions and equipment. All camping reservations shall be made through the Greater St. Louis Area Council website.

Campsites: 500 campers are expected. Campsites will be shared with two or more Troops depending on Troop and campsite sizes. Campsites have a shelter and three picnic tables and one fire pit. Open fires are not permitted outside of the firepit. Troops are responsible for its own tentage. Latrines will be located throughout the property but will not be in each campsite. All Current BSA policies will apply. BSA Part B (minimum) physicals. The Outdoor Code will be Law regarding behavior when in the outdoors, at or away from camp. Please limit our impact on the local environment. Campsites are to be broken down and trailers loaded immediately after lunch on Monday and prior to the viewing of the Eclipse. Campsite will be assigned based on capacity and trailer parking needs. A preference may be requested. You will be advised of your campsite approximately 2 weeks before the event. "Girl" troops will be congregated in campsite(s) or camp with their same-sponsor "Boy" troop.

Parking: Troops are asked to bring as few vehicles as practicable. Vehicles bringing 7 or more people will be given priority parking in the main parking lot. Please carpool. Additional parking is located in a temporary parking lot near the camp. Notify the event staff if you will need to park a (maximum of one per troop), trailer at your campsite (see checkbox during registration). Tow vehicles will be returned to general parking. Other vehicles will only be allowed at the campsite in special circumstances preapproved by event staff. Scouts, that are physically able, are expected to hike to/from the camp entrance, main parking area, and their campsites. It is recommended that all gear be loaded in trailers going to/from campsites, so that the least traffic in the camp can be maintained. If a troop requires gear be transported to campsites, it will be dropped off and the vehicle promptly moved to the parking lots.

Environment Concerns. April in Southern Illinois is generally warm during the days and cool at night with high probability of rain at anytime. Be Prepared and plan accordingly. There are various pests in our region. There will be ticks and some may carry Lyme's disease. There will be chiggers, so long pants will help avoid contact. There will be some

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mosquitoes, but not black flies. Bring and use insect repellent and consider treating clothes with Permethrin (or equivalent) and avoid tall grass. While venomous snakes are rare, they do exist in the area. Raccoons, skunks, mice, and chipmunks will want your food as much as you will. Protect your food and your trash.

Trash. Trash will be picked up at campsites Saturday and Sunday evenings after dinner. Details will be provided at the Friday night leaders meeting. Please, leave your final trash bag(s) at the parking lot dumpster when departing.

Local Traffic: Many area communities and camps are holding eclipse events. Little Grassy Lake and surrounding areas are expected to have the longest eclipse viewing times, in the same locale, for the second eclipse, in seven years. Traffic volume cannot be predicted outside the camp, so travel times, even to local sites, may be longer than typical. Expect major delays on Monday as you leave camp (go to the bathroom before leaving camp!).

Emergency Contacts. Cell phone service is available in most areas of the camp. The back-up emergency camp phone number is (618) 549-0673. If an emergency occurs in camp, please contact the event staff immediately, so staff can contact local authorities and can be prepared for the arrival of first responders. We will provide emergency protocols at the Friday night leader's meeting and check-in. There will be medical personnel at the event.

Day Visitors. With specific prior arrangements with event staff, Day Guests will be permitted as space allows. The cost per Guest is \$10 per day.

Maps. Maps of Pine Ridge and to/from the camp will be linked on the registration page and the Facebook page. Maps to the local attractions mentioned above will be available at check-in.

Other details regarding the event will be on our Facebook page, Pine Ridge EclipseFest 2.0. The site is "private", so you must ask to become a member. Event t-shirts must be pre-ordered. Order forms for t-shirts will be available on the Facebook site. Preordered shirts shall be picked up at check-in. A limited number of event t-shirts, patches, and event neckerchiefs will be available at the Trading Post. The Trading Post schedule will be posted approximately one month prior to event. Monitor the Facebook page as additional clothing options may become available.

If your unit has leaders that are willing to help with related merit badge classes, waterfront, or other activities please let the Camp Advisor, Chuck Wiese know (cwwiese@yahoo.com).

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Merit Badges and STEM Nova Awards – All are all day sessions (morning and afternoon programs):

Saturday		Sunday	
Badge / Max. No.	Location	Badge / Max. No.	Location
Space Exploration / 16	Musgrave (Section 1)	Space Exploration / 16	Musgrave (Section 2)
Nature / 20	Troop Lodge	Geology / 20	Troop Lodge
Astronomy★ / 16	Bailey Pavilion	Chess	Bailey Pavilion
Weather	BB Range	Health Care / 16	Council Ring
Indian Lore	Council Ring	Shoot (Nova) / 20	BB Range
Radio / 20 (Section 1)	Corner near Bowie	Radio / 20m (Section 2)	Corner near Bowie
Robotics / 16	Akela's Lodge	Art	Akela's Lodge
Fishing / 16	OA Stage	TBD	
* Rocket kits obtained at Trading Post		★ Nightly observation sessions Sat. &/or Sun.	

Note – Schedule and locations are subject to change. Limit 1 class per scout.

Registration forms for classes and troop level activities will be posted on the event registration site.

The earlier the submission the better chance of getting first choice.

On site activities:

Troop Reservations needed prior to arrival

- Canoes – Limit 10 canoes – 1.5 hour sessions
- Pontoon Boat – Limit 12 per 2 hour lake tour
- Repelling – At Giant City SP – Limit 16 participants per 3 hour session (tentative)

Notes:

Limit one reserved activity per camper

Troops need to provide 2-deep adult leadership.

Open schedule or schedule after arrival

- 5 mile hike around camp perimeter
- Nature Trail / Tree Identification
- 1-mile Orienteering Course
- Human Foosball
- Fishing
- Ham Radio (Saturday only)
- Geocaching – afternoons only (tentative)
- Gr. St. Louis Area Council STEM Trailer (Sat/Sun)

Offsite activity options - Troops are responsible for transportation to offsite activities and to Giant City.

- Tunnel Hill Bike Trail – (plan for all day) ♦
- Hiking in Crab Orchard, Giant City SP, Ferne Clyffe SP and/or Shawnee National Forest (half or full day). ♦
- Visit Southern Illinois University – Hosting NASA's eclipse coverage (half day)
- Visit Cache River Wetlands Center and/or Heron Pond (plan for all day). ♦

The following potential activities are not encouraged as travel and reservations may interfere with EclipseFest event schedules. # Fees and scheduling to be made directly through merchant.

- Mermet Springs# – Try Scuba session (plan for all day – call to reserve). ♦
- Shawnee Canopy Zip Lines & Mountain Bikes# – (plan for half or full day – call to reserve). ♦

♦ Directions will be available. Note that travel time for outside camp activities could be longer than normal, depending on traffic, especially around SIU and state parks.

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ECLIPSEFEST 2.0 BASE SCHEDULE

Fri. , Apr. 5	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Check in – Bailey Lodge
	9:00 – 9:45 pm	Cracker Barrel / Leaders Meeting – Bailey Lodge Pavilion
	11:00pm	Lights out – showers closed for youth
Sat. Apr., 6	6:30 am	Reveille – Showers open for youth
	6:45 – 8:15 am	Breakfast / Cleanup - Campsites
	8:30 – 8:50 am	Opening & Flag Ceremony – Parade Grounds
	9:00 – 11:45 am	Program Activities or Troop Activities
	11:45 am -1:15 pm	Lunch – Campsites
	1:30 – 4:45 pm	Program Activities or Troop Activities
	4:45 – 7:00 pm	Dinner – Campsites
	7:00 – 7:45 pm	Guest Presentation & Flag Lowering – Parade Grounds
	8:00 – 8:50 pm	Campfire or Vespers – Council Ring or Family Point
	9:00 – 9:45 pm	Star Study - Waterfront
	10:45 pm	Lights out – showers closed for youth
		Quiet time
Sun., Apr. 7	6:30 am	Reveille – Showers open for youth
	6:45 – 8:15 am	Breakfast / Cleanup - Campsites
	8:30 – 8:50 am	Opening Ceremony – Parade Grounds
	9:00 – 11:45 am	Program Activities or Troop Activities
	11:45 am -1:15 pm	Lunch – Campsites
	1:30 – 4:45 pm	Program Activities or Troop Activities
	4:45 – 7:00 pm	Dinner – Campsites
	7:00 – 7:45 pm	Guest Presentation & Flag Lowering – Parade Grounds
	8:00 – 8:50 pm	Campfire or Vespers – Council Ring or Family Point
	9:00 – 9:45 pm	Star Study - Waterfront
	10:45 pm	Lights out – showers closed for youth
Mon., Apr. 8	6:30 am	Reveille – Showers open for youth
	6:45 – 8:15 am	Breakfast / Cleanup - Campsites
	8:30 – 9:15 am	Closing Ceremony and Flag Raising – Parade Grounds
	9:30 – 10:30 am	Rocket Launches – Parade Grounds (optional activity)
	9:30 – 11:00am	Breakdown camps – Campsites
	11:00 – noon	Lunch (cold preferred) - Campsites
	12:15 ish	Move to assigned observation locations
	12:30 – 2:45pm	Eclipse Observation – Assigned shoreline areas
3:00 – 4:30pm	Checkout / departure (staggered departures, generally non-local troops will leave first.)	

Schedule subject to change