

# BLACK OTTER DISTRICT, MONTANA COUNCIL, BSA 2025 FALL CAMPOREE

## LEADER AND PARENT'S GUIDE (rev. 8/28)



### A Nocturnal Experience

September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 am

**SWIFT RIVER RANCH, 4313 DUCK CREEK ROAD BILLINGS, MT**

**OVERVIEW:** When the sun dips below the horizon, a hidden world awakens where beneath the cover of night many creatures roam, forage and live mysterious lives that we seldom witness. Don't be afraid of the dark; join us on Friday night for a new and different component of the camporee from 8 pm to midnight. FWP talk about nocturnal creatures at 7pm.

On Saturday Scouts will test their skills and knowledge on first aid, knots & lashings, map and compass, fire building, and target range (BB gun). Award ribbons will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place positions. Then plan on preparing a dessert for the Dutch-oven dessert contest. Also have a skit or song ready (must be approved) for the campfire that evening.

## Registration

- **Registration will be done online through Black Pug found on our District Calendar.**
- Cost: \$15.00 per Scout and \$10 per adult leader /parent. This includes a patch and a continental breakfast on Sunday.
- All meals are on your own at the Troop level, except Sunday breakfast.
- Adult Leaders must be registered, with current Youth Protection Training.
- Sign up for the *Dutch Oven Dessert competition* – prize for best tasting dessert – at camporee headquarters upon arrival at camporee.
- This Guide will be available to all leaders online and at the September roundtable meeting.

**NOTE:** Upon arrival and check-in, be ready to tell them how many patrols (need patrol name and number of scouts in the patrol) from your troop will be participating on both Friday's and Saturday's challenge. Due to the nature of this camporee and number of stations, we may ask units to combine if necessary.

## Facilities

- Port-A-Pot facilities will be provided by the district.
- Water buffalo will be available for water *refills*. Bring your own water supply.
- We are guests at Swift River Ranch - Please show respect for property and apply the "Leave No Trace" principles.
- Trash: Pack it out with you.

## Fires and Cooking

- Plan to use propane camp stoves to cook your meals.
- Charcoal fires for cooking are permitted in a metal container or pan **OFF THE GROUND** with a "non-combustible blanket" underneath. Some of these will be available at HQ.
- **TBD:** Campfires in campsites, if permitted, must also follow the conditions mentioned above under charcoal fires. Bring your own firewood.

## Driving Plan

Upon arrival at the Swift River Ranch, proceed down the gravel road past the upper parking area to the entrance to the camporee site. Vehicles will be directed to park in a designated parking area near the camping area. Vehicles towing trailers may be given permission to drive down to their campsite to drop off the trailer and/or unload what they need. Vehicles will then move to parking area.

## Health and Safety

- Scouts and leaders will receive a wristband that must be worn throughout camporee. Replacements are available if needed. Anyone seen without a wristband should be reported to Camp Staff immediately.
- Visitors must check in and out at HQ and receive a wristband.
- Any scout who needs to leave camp early must check out with HQ, with authorization of the Unit Leader, and into the care of a parent or guardian.
- Bring your troop's first aid kit and display it in your campsite.
- First Aid station will be available during the camporee. Scouts coming to First Aid Station should come with their adult leader and buddy.
- Due to the proximity of town, any needs beyond basic first aid will be handled by calling parents. 911 is available for emergencies.
- Troop leaders should have current BSA health forms and emergency contact numbers for all their members with them at camp.
- All Units need to follow Adult 2-deep leadership and Youth Protection Training. Scouts need to use the Buddy System.
- Troops should ensure a clean cooking site, hand-washing station, and appropriate food storage. Make healthy choices for your menus. ***Bears reported in the area, follow rules.***

## Camporee Code of Conduct

- All participants are to always stay within the Camporee boundaries, unless checking out with a parent or guardian to go home.
- "Go Ask Your SPL." During the camporee the Senior Patrol Leader will be responsible for primary communications using the portable radios. Monitor for announcements and questions from Camporee Staff.
- All participants are expected to display appropriate behavior and follow the Scout Oath and Law, as well as National BSA policy and the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- No Smoking, illegal drugs, alcohol, firearms or fireworks allowed.
- Adults, if you must leave the camporee site, you must check out at HQ. Also check in upon arrival.
- We are guests at this camporee site, treat it accordingly.
- Quiet hours on Friday night are midnight to 7 am. On Saturday night, quiet hours are 10 pm to 6 am.
- Pack out your own garbage.
- Report any injuries, incidents or security concerns to the HQ staff immediately.
- Troops should prepare for one quest at each meal.
- All scouts, as a patrol, are encouraged to participate in the activity at each station. Teamwork is strongly encouraged as this is not just for one scout to do it all while others watch.

**NOTE:** Scout Leaders, parents, adults, family members, or friends may observe scouts as they rotate through the stations but may not assist them in any way (unless the station manager says otherwise). One of the objectives of this camporee is to encourage the scouts to use their own resources and make decisions as a patrol/team.

## **Stations and Events**

This camporee challenges Scouts to use the patrol method and apply the skills and knowledge they have learned. They will rotate through various stations to complete a task and/or teamwork challenge.

### Friday night

FWP talk about nocturnal creatures

Stations:

- Astronomy (telescopes)
- Communication (morse code)
- Emergency Shelter & Fire Building
- Target Range (BB Gun)

### Saturday stations:

- Knots & lashings (basic knots include square, two half-hitches, taut-line hitch, timber hitch, clove hitch, bowline, sheet bend, and whipping rope ends. Lashings include (round, square, diagonal, tripod).
- First Aid scenarios (symptoms, splints, bandages, slings, moving a person).
- Map and Compass course (bearings and distance).
- Fire building (flint and steel)
- Target Range (BB gun)

On Saturday, at each station, points will be awarded for the following categories: completing the task, Scout knowledge (understanding, skill, correctly tying/applying knots, lashings, bandages, etc.), Scout Spirit (cheer or yell, attitude, enthusiasm), Teamwork (initiative, creativity, support, working together), and some may be timed. First, second and third place finishes will be determined and ribbons awarded at the closing campfire.

### Other events and activity:

- Dutch Oven Dessert competition. Will you receive the trophy this time?
- Saturday evening campfire: Troops should have an appropriate and camp director approved skit or song to do. **Bring any US flags** your troop would like to retire.
- Possible service project (TBD).

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FRIDAY NIGHT COMPONENT**

### **Each patrol needs to bring with them:**

- \*Scout Spirit - Have a patrol yell or cheer as they will be asked to give it at each station.
- \*Patrol flag attached to a pole or stave
- \*Flashlight (2), extra batteries
- \*Handbook
- \* Scout Basic (10) essentials + rope, tarp, and matches
- \*Pencil and paper

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SATURDAY**

### **Each patrol needs to bring with them:**

- \*Patrol flag attached to a pole/stave.
- \*Scout Spirit - Have a patrol cheer or yell as they will be asked to do give it at each station.
- \*Handbook
- \*Pencil and paper
- \*Material for splints and bandages
- \*Ropes for lashings
- \*A five-gallon bucket with tinder, kindling and fuelwood.

#### **NOTE:**

- 1) Since wood may be sparse, you will need to bring a bucket of firewood (natural material for tinder, kindling, and fuelwood) from home. You will be instructed to take the bucket to the fire building station in the morning, so you won't have to carry it around all day. You can pick it up and take it back to your campsite after 4 pm.
- 2) You can only use a Vaseline- coated cotton ball as a fire starter; newspaper may also be permitted. No liquid fuels, solid fuels, or other fire starters containing petroleum or other similar assist are permitted.

### **Each Scout needs to have with them:**

- Scout neckerchief or blindfold
- Compass
- Water bottle
- Hat
- Scout Spirit

Black Otter District 2025 Fall Camporee **REVISED SCHEDULE**

**Schedule:**

**Friday, September 19th**

4:00pm	Camp Opens
4:00pm -8:00pm	Entrance open. Check in. Hand out SPL radios Troops go to and set up campsites. Make dinner.
6:30 pm	Leader Meeting (SM, ASM, SPL, ASPL) at HQ Patrol assignments for station rotation.
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	FWP talk about Nocturnal Creatures
8:00 pm -11:30 pm	Station Rotation (4)
Midnight	Lights out, all quiet, SPL radios off

**Saturday, September 20th**

7:30am	Revile, SPL radios on
7:30am -9:00am	Troops Breakfast and clean up
9:00 am	Leader Meeting with SM & SPL
9:15am	Opening Flags; Patrol assignments for station rotation
9:45am -11:45am	Morning stations (2)
11:45am -1:15pm	Lunch at Troop sites for all scouts and adults.
1:30pm - 4:30pm	Afternoon stations (3)
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Service Project (TBD)
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Troop dinners and clean up
6:30 pm - 7:00pm	Dutch Oven Dessert judging
7:15pm	Flagpole – Flag closing.
7:30pm - 9:00pm	Fire bowl Campfire – unit skits and songs, awards, flag retirement ceremony,
9:00 -10:00pm	Troop time in sites
10:00pm	All Quiet, SPL radios off

**Sunday, September 21st**

6:00 - 8:00am	Pack up campsite
7:00 - 8:00am	Cold Breakfast for all participants and staff at HQ
8:00 - 8:30am	Church service HQ
8:30 - 9:00am	Checkout

## **HELP NEEDED**

If you have any adults who are interested in assisting in running a station during the Camporee, and they are YPT trained, have them contact me or Dennie.

Also we welcome any Older Scouts and Eagle Scouts who would like to help on Saturday at stations as assistants, or who would like to help staff in any other way.

## **Questions**

Please feel free to contact me or Dennie with questions.

Thank you for all of your help to make this event happen for our scouts.

Co-Camporee Directors:

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**NOTE: Bears have been reported in the area, so follow protocol with no food or smellables in tents, store food in vehicles or trailers, and keep kitchens clean – don't leave food out or dirty dishes/pans.**



