

Spirit of America Camporee

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday!

War Eagle and Northwest Iowa Districts Spring Camporee 2026



April 10-12, 2026

Buena Vista County Conservation Park

359 440th St, Peterson, Iowa

Leader's Guide

Important Information

All Policies in this packet should be read thoroughly. They are intended to ensure a safe, fun, and informed weekend.

Camp Staff

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Camp Health Officer/Medic - Lucas Farrington | 712-210-3331 | lfaring621@gmail.com

NWIA District Executive - Keli Studyvin | 515-408-4752 | keli.studyvin@scouting.org

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Camp Date & Location

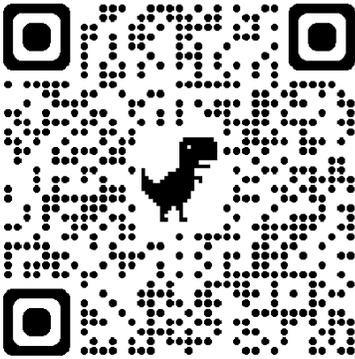
Pre-Camp Information

Spring Camporee will be held April 10-12, 2026, at Buena Vista County Conservation Park, 359 440th St, Peterson, IA 51047. We will be occupying the North Lodge and camping in the sites in the vicinity of that facility. There are vault toilets, and a full bathroom in the lodge.

Registration & Fees

Registration is open to all Scouts BSA and Venturers for the entire weekend. Registration includes the activities, cracker barrel, and weekend patch. The cost is \$20.00 per Scout and \$5.00 for adults. Additional patches can be purchased for \$5.00.

WALK INS allowed, but must pay an additional \$5 late fee, and there is no patch guaranteed available.



-OR- Register: <https://scoutingevent.com/326-109808>

Refunds

In general, fees for district and council activities are transferable to other Scouts within the unit should a scout or adult be unable to attend. Partial refunds may be approved for all activities/events/camping programs based on the type of event and impact to the planning process for that event. If approved, the refundable amount will be returned using the original method of payment, if possible.

There will be no refunds issued for less than \$10.00. Refund requests must be received no later than 7 days following an event. More information available at: <https://247scouting.com/forms/?OrgKey=BSA326&id=937>

BSA Annual Health Forms

All campers, including adults, MUST bring a copy of their BSA Annual Health & Medical Record with parts A & B completed within the past 12 months. ***School physical forms cannot be accepted.*** Please have these filled out for all attendees prior to arrival. You can download a copy of the BSA health form here. https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf. **There are no waivers or exemptions.**

What to Bring to Camp

- Health Form Parts A and B. You can download form here:
https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf
- Water Bottle
- Medications must be in the original container, clearly marked with name; all medications placed in a baggie with name clearly written on the outside.
- Tent or tarp, poles, and stakes
- Waterproof ground cloth or plastic sheet
- Sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress or pad
- Scout uniform and Class B (t-shirt)
- Day pack for carrying gear during the day
- Poncho or raincoat, warm jacket or coat
- Clothes for sleeping and appropriate for the weather
- Durable shoes, shoelaces (No flip-flops or sandals permitted)
- Hat or cap, gloves
- Extra socks, shoes, other extra clothes
- Toothbrush, comb, toiletries as needed
- Personal first aid kit, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Flashlight, headlamp, batteries
- If coming as a troop, please bring an American flag, Troop flags and/or Patrol flags (if you have them)
- Bring a skit to perform at Saturday night campfire turn in at lunch
- Fire Starting kit
- Excitement for camp!**

What to Expect at Camp

Arrival & Check In Procedures—Subject to change

Please plan to arrive between 5:00-9:00 pm on Friday. Please come to the North Lodge to check in before proceeding to set up your camping area. Medications and Health Forms will be verified. All registrants must keep their forms on their person or nearby in their daypack.

Campsites will be assigned upon check in. Watch for signs for directions around camping areas.

**Campers who plan to depart early must have a signed permission slip and notify their unit leader and the camp director. For those adults who are not registered campers, the individual's name must be included on the BSA Health Form as an approved adult. Any non-registered individual planning to pick up a scout from camp will need to contact the Camp Director, and be prepared to provide a photo ID at the time of pick up.*

Parking

Due to the high volume at the camp, after unloading, please park in the designated areas until the end of camp. Please back your vehicles in when parking, if you are able. In case of emergency, this will allow for easy evacuation.

Camp Headquarters

Camp Headquarters will be at the North Lodge building. Administrative, program, and medical needs will be handled at the headquarters. Headquarters will be staffed 24 hours a day during the event in case of an emergency. All camp staff can be contacted through the camp headquarters. More details at registration.

Health & Safety

Our health station is maintained and staffed with qualified personnel for the health and safety of all campers, at all times. The health officer must check all medications, prescription and non-prescription drugs brought to camp, in accordance with BSA policy. Drug/Medications - These can stay with the unit. If they are over the counter or regular prescriptions, they must be in a locked box at all times. If the medications are a Schedule 2 (meaning control substance like psychotropic meds, etc.) then these need to be doubled locked. That means in a lock box and locked in the trailer, vehicle, etc. OR locked in a lock box that is then locked in another lock box.

Campsites

Campsites will be first-come, first served, and are spacious and spread out. Campfires are only allowed in the fire rings, and must be conducted according to Scouting policies and guidance. Firewood will cost \$5 per bundle, but gathering firewood is permitted. There will be no roping off of your campsite area due to safety issues. Police your area for trash, lost items or other materials before checking out.

Restrooms

Vault toilets are available for youth or adult males and females, as each stall is separately accessed. The buddy system should be used. Adults should use the bathroom at headquarters (adults only) to the max extent possible. No shower facilities are available.

Food

Units will be on their own for meals in their own campsites. A cracker barrel will be provided both nights.

Garbage

Please help to keep our camp clean. Please pick up all trash and take it to the designated containers. In some instances, trash may need to be packed out of camp.

Water

Hydrants are available throughout camp. Additional water is available at headquarters if necessary.

Photos

Many photos are often taken throughout the event. If you or any members of your unit have objections or privacy concerns, please make sure to indicate this on the Medical forms consent page (Part A) and notify the Camp Director so we can honor those wishes. Also, if your unit is willing to share any pictures, please share them on Facebook.

We're always looking for photos that capture Scouts and staff in action!

Valuables and Gear

Leaders should ask Scouts to bring as few valuables as possible to camp. ***All Scout electronic devices should be left at home.*** Each unit is advised, if possible, to have a leader responsible for their Scout's valuables. **Adult supervision is a MUST.** Scouts should be encouraged to respect their own gear as well as that of all others. Please oversee the behavior of your Scouts to guard against theft or vandalism of camp property.

Emergency Procedures

While camp is in session, the camp will always have someone on duty to help handle any emergency that may arise; including those that may involve the Camp Health Officer. In the event a scout needs off-site treatment, a staff member (along with the scouts' parent, guardian or leader) will take the scout to **Cherokee Regional Medical Center, Cherokee, Iowa**, which is 22 miles from camp. Should any person need emergency medical services on site, the Camp Health Officer is a professional paramedic.

Severe Weather/ Storm

- Check the daily weather report at Headquarters or ask the Camp Director as needed.
- The Camp Director will alert unit leaders of impending weather conditions and procedures to follow.
- Whenever a severe storm occurs, everyone in camp should move into the closest secure building.
- Avoid wide open areas (parking lots, open fields, etc) in an electrical or windstorm and avoid ground contact (assume a lightning position if needed).

Other Hazardous Weather Conditions

Special consideration must be given to atmospheric conditions that may affect campers' staff. You will be alerted to any changes in schedule and program when the following conditions exist:

- Extreme temperatures or extreme cold— Headquarters will be available to come in and get warm.
- Severe Weather Warnings—Camp Director will monitor weather warnings and notify as needed.

Personal Accident

- Administer first aid immediately.
- Report the accident to the Headquarters.
- As required, the Camp Health Officer will administer further first aid and/or make contacts for needed assistance.

Lost Person

- Report the situation to the Camp Director at once who will spearhead operations.

Wildfire or Flood

- Mobilize Scouts to a safe area. Send someone to Headquarters and report the location of the fire or flood.
- In the event of wildfire, no units are to fight the fire. In the event of a flood, move to higher ground, stay safe and in a group.
- Emergency Management Personnel and Camp Directors will spearhead operations, Evacuation, if required, will be led by local authorities.

Active Shooter or Threat to Safety

- Notify Headquarters immediately (use the radios or phone, as needed). Give all known facts clearly and carefully.
- If in the vicinity of the threat, RUN-HIDE-FIGHT. Review BSA and DHS training aids for more information.
- Law Enforcement and Camp Director will spearhead operations. Be patient; efforts could take time.

2026 Spring Camporee Schedule

Friday, April 10

5:00 - 9:00 pm Check in. All attendees check in with health forms. Leaders meeting, cracker barrel at 9:00. Unit Leader and SPL should be present to hear announcements and any event or time changes.

11:00 pm All Quiet in camp. Please ensure all scouts are in camp. Be considerate of others and abide by park rules.

Saturday, April 11

6:00 am Reveille

7:00 am Breakfast in Campsites

8:00 am Flags/Announcements at Pavilion

9:00 am Activity rotation 1

10:00 am Activity rotation 2

11:00 am Activity rotation 3

12:00 pm Lunch in Campsites —Turn in skits 1:00 pm

1:30 pm Activity rotation 4

2:30 pm Activity rotation 5

3:30 pm Medical Exercise (be advised that actors will be role playing as victims and will act injured)

5:45 pm Supper in Campsites

9:00 pm Campfire Program and OA Call Out, then Flag Retirement Ceremony

12:00 am All Quiet in Camp

Sunday, April 12

7:30 am Clean up and strike camp

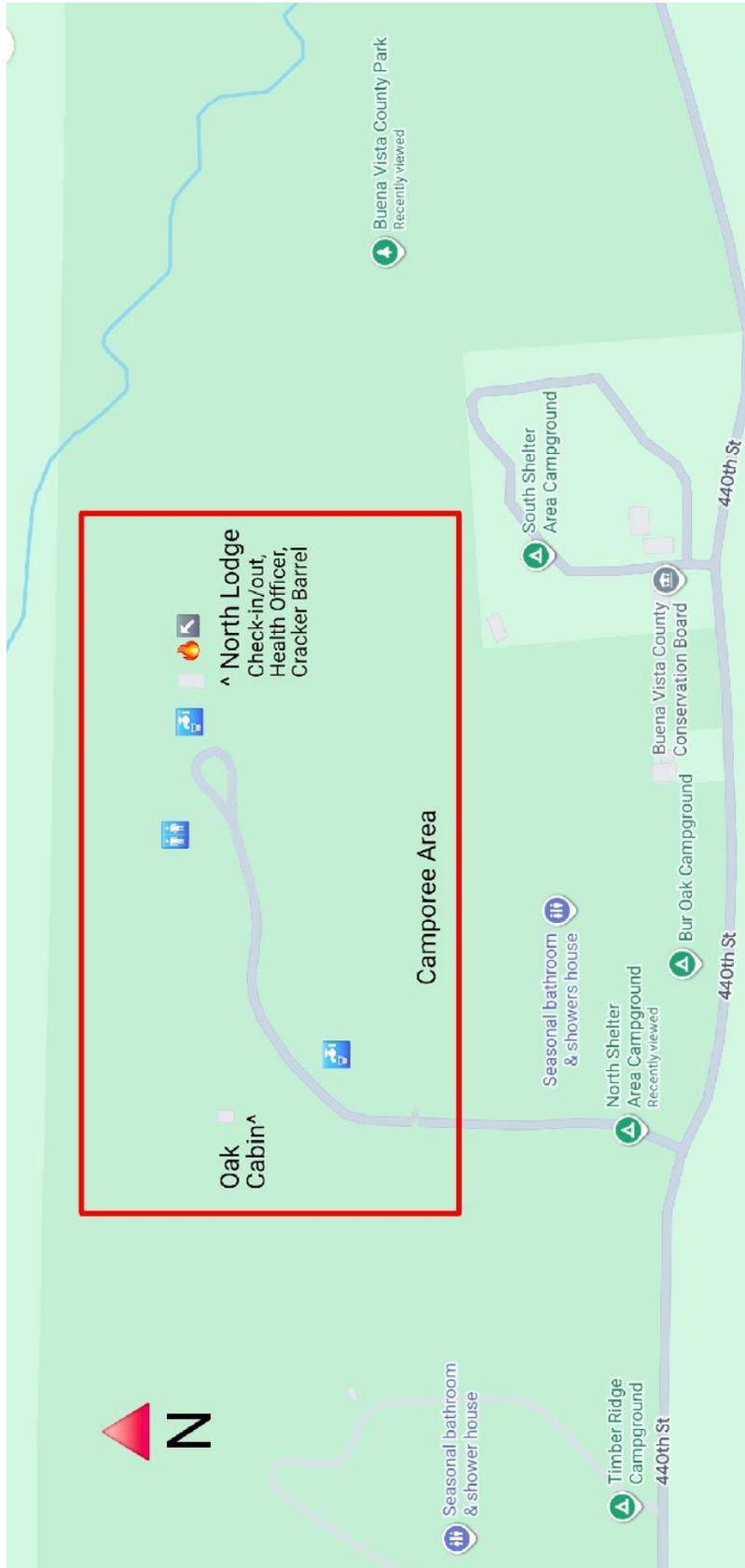
8:00 am Breakfast on your own in troop campsites

8:30 am Scouts' Own Interfaith Service

9:30 am Checkout with Camp Staff

11:00 am All Troops have Vacated Camp

CAMP MAP



Departure from Camp

Campsite Clean-up

Time will be allotted for campers to pack up camp and load vehicles. Remember a scout is clean, please police your campsite and leave it better than when you arrived. Remember to please “Leave No Trace.”

Camper Departure and Check Out Procedures (Other than Final Checkout Sunday)

Campers must sign in and out at the Headquarters. Campers must notify their unit leader and the Camp Director prior to leaving camp. For campers to be released or picked up, permission must be indicated on the medical form and signed by the parent. At the time of departure, an in-camp adult leader must be present to verify all records and that all adults involved are approved.

**Campers who plan to depart early must have a signed permission slip and notify their unit leader and the Camp Director. For those adults who are not registered campers, the individual’s name must be included on the BSA Health Form as an approved adult. Any non-registered individual planning to pick up a scout from camp will need to provide a photo id at the time of pick up.*

Evaluations

Each adult is welcome to email the Camp Director with comments, following the Camporee. Your feedback is valuable to our camp staff. We appreciate your comments, concerns, and opinions.

Camp Activities Saturday (Subject to change)

There will be five one-hour rotations, with the following activities available:

- Basic First Aid Practice/Refresher (not a certification) (Sam M.)
- DELTA team-building game (Noah R.)
- Color Guard Training/Practice (Russell E)
- Knots/Lashings Project (Kevin Ortmann)
- Flagpole Challenge - fashioning a flagpole using basic Scout knots, with flag-raising practice, along with historical flag discussion (Kyle Bartz/Troop 103)

After dinner and free time, there will be a campfire program, hosted by members of the Order of the Arrow. The campfire will be followed by the Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony. Afterward, all attendees are welcome to participate in a Flag Retirement Ceremony – the dignified disposition of old United States flags.

Adult Leadership

It is the policy of Scouting America that trips and outings may never be led by only one adult. Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required for all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants. If you do not have two deep leadership, please contact any of the camp directors and we will combine your units.

Youth Protection

BSA Youth Protection rules are in effect for camp. Refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting.

- Two deep leadership is required in the campsite any time there are youth present, and both **MUST** be registered with Scouting America.
- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
- In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately. ([Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQs](#))--available at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/yp-faqs/>
- Spouses may share tents.

Insurance

All adult leaders and Scouts must be registered members of Scouting America. The Mid-America Council has purchased the National Council Accident & Sickness Insurance Plan, which will cover all registered Mid-America Council Pack, Troop, and/or Crew members for both accidents and illnesses that manifest during participation in Scouting activities. Out-of-council units (if any) will not be covered by the Mid-America Council plan and should bring proof of insurance from their council (BSA Annual Health & Medical parts A & B). **All other non-Registered persons will not be covered by the Mid-America Council insurance plan** and the parent or adult will assume responsibility for any accidents and illnesses at camp for their youth.

Special Needs

We work hard to make our camp comfortable and accessible to those with special needs. If anyone in your unit has special dietary, health, or mobility needs, we ask that you please make your needs known as soon as possible to allow time for reasonable accommodations for your requests. **To allow adequate time for arrangements to be made, please email the camp director two weeks before the camp session.**

Peanut Allergy: We recognize that the occasional Scout or Scouter may have a peanut allergy. Please notify the Camp Director if we need to ensure cracker barrels are peanut-free.

Activity Leadership

Each activity area will be run by a person who is familiar with the program, camp layout, and camp policies. He or she will be a youth or adult registered member of Scouting America and will be the primary resource for guidance in that area. This person is not there to provide adult leadership and discipline. The same holds true for all staff members.

Parking

Only vehicles pulling trailers or hauling large loads of equipment should be driven to campsites. After unloading, please park in the designated parking area, near the Oak Cabin. All other vehicles, please remain outside the camping area, at the Oak Cabin. Your cooperation is most appreciated!

Camp Behavior

The Scout Oath and Law will govern the behavior of all participants during the weekend. Any form of bullying, hazing, ridicule, or fighting is unacceptable and may result in expulsion from camp. Profanity is unbecoming of a Scout or Scouter and is not tolerated at camp.

Camper Discipline

Discipline is the responsibility of the adult leadership attending with the unit. The camp staff is available to help with, but not take over, any discipline problem. Under no circumstances is corporal punishment allowed. Take all serious discipline problems to the Camp Director. The Camp Director reserves the right to remove any person from camp who may present a threat to any camp staff or attendees, or to camp property.

Alcohol and Drugs

There are absolutely no alcoholic beverages or unapproved drugs allowed in, or to be consumed at camp. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave immediately and, if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted. Prescription drugs need to be noted on your health form. Controlled substance prescriptions will be dispensed by the camp health officer.

Tobacco Usage

Tobacco usage is not allowed at camp. If it is legal for you to use tobacco and you must do so, you must secure permission from the Camp Director and follow strict directions on where and when it is appropriate to use.

Knives

All persons must abide by Scouting America regulations regarding the use of knives.

Pets and Wildlife

No pets are allowed. Do not attempt to touch or feed any wildlife. Report any wildlife that behaves in a strange manner to a staff member. This includes showing no fear of humans, biting, scratching, etc.

Electronic Devices

These devices are not needed in camp. If a radio is needed, it must have headphones. Hand-held video game devices and cell phones are discouraged due to their significant program distraction.

Trading Post

There will be no trading post on site. However, additional Camporee patches will be available, for \$5 each. Collect them both!

Dress Code

Clothing should be appropriate for the weather for all attendees. Scouts can be in either Class A uniform or Class B t-shirt. Open-toe sandals and flip flops are not permitted in camp. This is for your safety and protection.

Lost & Found

Please mark all belongings with name, city, and troop number. Lost and found items can be found in the main shelter during camp. Items not claimed after the completion of the event will be posted on the district Facebook page and brought to the next roundtable meeting.

Firewood

In order to control invasive species, NO Firewood may be brought into county or state parks from off-site. Firewood may be gathered from downed trees and the ground in the park. Please do not cut anything out of living trees. Firewood is also available at headquarters for \$5 per bundle.

Quiet Hours and Bedtime

A Scout is Courteous. Quiet hours are from 11:00 pm - 7:00 am on Friday night and 12:00 am - 7:00 am on Saturday night. These hours are in effect both in the main camp and throughout the park. There should be no loud noises or other noisy events to disturb others. Leaders are responsible for their unit's conduct. We also have to abide by the County or State Park guidelines on noise.

Preventing Unauthorized Intruders

Camp Staff and volunteer leaders play a primary role in preventing the intrusion of unauthorized volunteers or guests at camp. The following procedures will be implemented at camp to prevent intrusions of unauthorized visitors from escalating to the youth protection issues.

- Leaders will be instructed to “check in “ at their campsite throughout the day. All units will be encouraged to have a leader remain in the campsite whenever possible.
- All “mobile“ staff members will be trained to watch for unauthorized visitors while traveling throughout camp.
- The buddy system will be emphasized to all scouts and leaders during the welcoming SPL and Leaders meeting.
- All quiet is at 11:00 pm on Friday and 12:00 am on Saturday night. After those times, Camp Staff will tour the camp looking for anything out of the ordinary.

The following procedures will be shared at the SPL and Leaders meeting:

- All visitors must report to Camp Headquarters to sign in and out. The Camp Director keeps a log book of who is in camp at all times.
- Buena Vista County Conservation Park is a publicly-accessible park. However, If an unauthorized visitor is observed in the Camporee area, notify the nearest program area or volunteer leader. All program area directors will be made aware of the best communication methods available. The program area director should report the suspected intrusion to Headquarters. The program area director should remain available to provide more information. Do not allow the suspected intruder to roam free without supervision or monitoring.
- The Camp Director will proceed to the area with another adult member of the camp staff to question the suspected intruder.
- If the suspected intruder flees, the Camp Director and Camp Staff will determine the best course of action moving forward.
- Program areas should continue as usual unless the Camp Director determines the situation warrants a return of all Scouts and leaders to their campsites. If necessary, the camp will implement the lost scout Emergency procedures.
- Depending on the situation, the Scout Executive may be notified. If warranted, the local law enforcement agency will be notified.