Leader's Guide



January 15-17, 2027

10/29/2026

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Welcome

On behalf of the entire planning committee, welcome to the
9th Annual Winter Blast at Camp Durant

We are sure you will have an awesome experience, and the staff is ready to deliver the best program possible. The materials contained in this guide will assist you in preparing for your camping and merit badge class experience. Please note that this information is what we have planned at this time, but all details are subject to change. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!

We look forward to a great weekend in January with all of you!

Contacts

Chairman: Scott Sublett 919-389-6635 14scott.sublett@gmail.com

Staff Advisor: Michael Morrell Michael.morrell@Scouting.org

Camp Office: 910-948-2382 (Call during event)
Raleigh Office: 919-872-4884
Ranger's Residence: 910-948-3258 (emergency only)

Location

Camp Durant ~ 4637 Old Carthage Road ~ Carthage, NC 28237

Details, Dates, & Fees

Registration:

- Both unit registration and class registration open at 7 PM on Nov 16, 2026.
- ***Please note – all registrations must have a Scout's name attached. Units may not register generic Scouts as placeholders. Council will be monitoring registrations and will remove placeholders.***
- Registrations are not final until paid in full.

Fees:

Scouts: $100.00	Adults: $50.00	Instructors: FREE (requires prior approval to register as an instructor)

Leadership:

- This is a unit-level event. All Scouts must register as part of a unit.
- Each Scout Unit is required to be accompanied by registered Unit Leaders. Units must have two-deep leadership in accordance with Safeguarding Youth Guidelines and the Guide to Safe Scouting [female units must have an attending registered female leader].
    - Please note… Girl troops will be assigned to sites with other girl troops. Boy troops will be assigned to sites with other boy troops. Family troops will be assigned to sites with other family troops, crews, and/or ships.

Information Meetings:

- There will be virtual meetings offered on January 5th and January 7th at 7 PM. A Unit Representative (adult leader) only needs to attend one of the meetings.
    - A meeting link will be emailed to the unit contact that registered your unit in Black Pug.
    - The link will also be available on the council website and social media pages.
    - Details will also be emailed to unit leaders.
- **Merit badge instructors will have separate information meetings,** January 5th and January 7th at 8 PM (after the Unit Leader meeting)**.** Instructors only need to attend one meeting.
- A unit leader & SPL meeting will be held in the Grand Lodge on January 15th at 9:00pm.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2027?

- New Schedule!
    - The event will end on Sunday at 5 pm, after the last merit badge class.

- New Merit Badges, Programs, and Activities!
    - ATV ($30 additional fee)
    - New merit badges (see merit badge list)
    - Sea Scout Advancements
        - Apprentice / Ordinary Track
        - Able / Quartermaster Track
        - Landship / Golden Dragon Ceremony Saturday night
    - BSA Rank Advancements – Scout/Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class
    - World Conservation Award emphasis
    - 3-hour conservation service project, applicable to:
        - World Conservation Award
        - Camping MB requirement 9c
        - Life Scout requirement 4
    - Saturday night non-merit badge activities
        - Quasar shotgun shooting ($10 fee) [glow in the dark shotgun shooting] Cannot do this and a MB during the evening session.
        - Campfire

~~World Conservation Award~~

Did you know that your scouts can complete the majority of the requirements for the award while at Winter Blast?!?!

- Earn Environmental Science or Sustainability MB
- Earn Soil & Water Conservation or Fish & Wildlife Management MB
- Earn Citizenship in the World MB
- Complete a 3-hour conservation service project

~~Sea Scout Track~~

Winter Blast is welcoming Sea Scouts this year with two full days of Sea Scout-specific advancement opportunities and programming. There will be two rank advancement tracks – Apprentice/Ordinary and Able/Quartermaster. Saturday night will bring a Landship / Golden Dragon Ceremony.

General Information

Medical Needs

- All youth and adult attendees must bring current, signed BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A, B1, and B2 with a current copy of their health insurance card. These will remain with Unit Leaders during camp.
    - https://filestore.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf
- Unit Leaders are responsible for administering medications and keeping them secured.
- There will be a Camp Health Officer available to assist with medical emergencies; however, the unit leaders are the first source of aid for an injured Scout. The camp utilizes 911 services for Moore County. The Health Officer will be based in the Health Lodge.

Emergencies

- If a camp-wide emergency is declared, the siren will be sounded, and everyone will be required to immediately report to the flagpole area at the Grand Lodge. Leaders will account for all members (youth and adults) and wait for further instruction from event staff.

Uniforms

- Activity Uniform (Class B) is acceptable for all Winter Blast activities and classes.
- Please note: It will be cold and merit badges will be held outside. Dress appropriately.
- May we suggest that this year's Winter Blast hoodie would be a great fashion statement?

Refunds

- The refund policy for this event can be found in Black Pug on the registration page.

Leaving Camp/Visitors

- For your protection, all campers (youth and adult) who leave camp must check out with Admin Staff at the Grand Lodge.
    - If a youth must leave camp and is picked up by a parent or guardian, they must be accompanied to the Grand Lodge check out station at administration by a unit leader to verify the adult's authority to pick up the youth.
- No visitors will be allowed on site during the event.

Open Camp Areas

Trading Post

- The trading post will be in operation during the event.
- Hours will be limited. Credit cards and cash will be accepted.

Grill

- The grill will be in operation during the event.
- Hours TBD

Adult Leader Lounge

- We are investigating new options and locations. There will be a heated space for adult leaders to hang out. Specific location TBD.

Meals

Meals

- All meals will be served in the Grand Lodge Dining Hall. Please check the schedule for menus and times.
- Seating areas will be assigned based on campsite. Each unit is responsible for cleaning their tables and the floor in their dining area after each meal. Brooms, dust pans, cleaning towels, and cleaning spray will be provided.
- **Medical / religious dietary restrictions**
    - We will only be able to provide vegetarian, nut-free, and dairy-free options. <u>These must be requested in Black Pug during registration</u>. On-site requests may not be able to be accommodated. See next page for additional information.
    - If a camper has any other restrictions, they will need to provide their own food. Cold storage will be available for these individuals. Microwave ovens are available for use as well.
- **Service Opportunity**
    - At each meal there is a need for servers in the kitchen. Unit leaders should register their adults and Scouts via Black Pug to volunteer to serve one meal at the event.

Menu

Please be advised that the food prepared in the Grand Lodge Kitchen contains, may contain, or may come into contact with the common food allergens: Dairy, Eggs, Wheat, Soy, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sesame, Fish, Shellfish. For product ingredients list, refer to the bulletin board in the kitchen.

The kitchen is unable to accommodate every food allergy and dietary need. A fridge and microwave will be available for anyone who needs to bring their own food.

For any questions regarding the menu, email Mitch Sandman & Tina Deagan at lodge104food@gmail.com

		Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast	**Meal**	Mountain Man Casserole (potato, egg, cheese), Pork sausage link, Biscuit, Country Sausage Gravy	Country Fried Steak, Scrambled eggs, Biscuit, Country Sausage Gravy
	Self-Serve	apples, yogurt, berries, cereal	
	Drinks	milk, juice, coffee, water	
Lunch	**Meal**	Hot Dog, Beef Chili, Chips, Cookies	Chicken Strips, Mac & cheese, Mandarin oranges, Cookies
	Self-Serve	Apples, Soup, Salad Bar	
	Drinks	coffee, water	
Dinner	**Meal**	Smoked Chicken, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, dessert	
	Self-Serve	Apples, Soup, Salad Bar	
	Drinks	coffee, water	



*** Vegetarian, dairy friendly, and gluten free options will be available. If you have medical or religious dietary restrictions, you must fill out the dietary questionnaire during registration (use link or QR code). (https://247scouting.com/forms/421-DietaryQuestionnaire)**

**Menu is subject to change.

Camping Information

How are campsites assigned?

- Campsites will be assigned by camp staff based on unit size.
- Boy troops will be assigned with other boy troops. Girl troops will be assigned with other girl troops. Family troops will be assigned with other family troops. If you are not a Family troop, do not expect to be placed in a site with a corresponding B/G troop.

Will there be working sinks in the campsite?

- Camp has been winterized, so we are working with limited facilities. Toilets are available in the site. Sinks and showers may not be working. Handwashing stations will be provided if sinks are not functional.

Tents

- Canvas tents have been stored for the season and will not be available to use. Participants will need to bring their own tents.
- Do not hang hammocks from the tent frames or from the shelters.

Can we have campfires?

- We sure hope so! Camp must follow the mandates of Moore County Emergency Management and the Fire Marshal regarding fire safety.



Before You Come…

We have limited ability to print while at camp. Please print / bring the following with you:

- Roster – print directly from Black Pug
- Map of Camp Durant for each Scout / Leader.
- Schedule for each Scout – "Class Schedules Report".
    - Do not print prior to 1/11, as class locations may change up until that point.
- Master schedule containing all of your scouts' classes / locations for adult leaders
    - Print by Scout – "Scout Summary Report" [where should all my scouts be, arranged by scout]
    - Print by Class Period – "Period Summary Report". [Where should all my scouts be, arranged by class period]
- Physical copy of the Annual Health and Medical Record forms
- Download the Camp Durant App [scouts and scouters]

Camp Durant App

Did you know that there is a Camp Durant app? Check it out! You can find a map, get directions to your next location, find your / your Scouts' schedules, etc.
www.Durant.OSRhub.org

Arrival Process

Check in at the Grand Lodge

- Each vehicle arriving in camp should proceed to the Grand Lodge for check-in.
    - Send in one adult (please have everyone else remain in the vehicle) to check in the participants in that vehicle.
    - If multiple vehicles from the same group arrive simultaneously, only one adult needs to come into the Grand Lodge.
- At this time, you will be given your campsite assignment and any pre-purchased hoodies.
- Vehicles may then proceed to the site to drop off gear and Scouts.

Parking

- After drop-off, all vehicles must be moved to the Admin parking lot near the camp entrance.
- Units are permitted to park one vehicle and/or trailer at their assigned campsites for their convenience. Once parked, the vehicle cannot be moved until check-out Sunday evening.

Driving in Camp

- Only official camp vehicles and approved staff can drive in camp.

Departure Process

Check out at the Grand Lodge (Sunday night)

- Units will check out from the event at the conclusion of the last merit badge class. Exit packets will be handed out at that time.
- Prior to departure, bathhouses need to be swept out, trash taken to the dumpster, and fires put out and cold to the touch.
- All troops should plan to be out of camp by 7 PM on Sunday night.

Final Advancement Reports & "blue cards"

- Will be available in Black Pug approximately 1 week after the conclusion of the event.

Polar Splash



What would Winter Blast be without the Polar Splash???

Embrace your inner polar bear and take the plunge at the Camp Durant waterfront on Saturday at the lunch break. Those that brave the frigid waters will receive bragging rights and a polar splash patch.

Winter Blast Hoodie

Get your very own Winter Blast Hoodie - the perfect home for your newly earned Polar Splash patch!



Place your order during registration (in Black Pug) no later than **Friday, December 11th, 2026.**

Same price as last year! Only $40 ($45 for 2XL and larger)

Hoodies will be distributed during check-in.

Winter Blast Schedule

❄❄❄**Please note: Schedule is tentative & subject to change**❄❄❄

FRIDAY:

5:00 – 9:00	Check-in at Grand Lodge
6:00 – 9:00	Instructors drop off materials to class locations
9:00 – 10:00	Unit leader / SPL meeting in the Grand Lodge
10:30	Lights Out

SATURDAY:

7:15	Flag Ceremony – inside Grand Lodge
7:30-8:30	Breakfast in Grand Lodge
9:00-12:00	Merit Badge Session 1
12:15	Gather for lunch in Grand Lodge
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch in Grand Lodge & Polar Splash at the waterfront
2:00-5:00	Merit Badge Session 2
5:15	Gather for Dinner in Grand Lodge
5:30-6:30	Dinner in Grand Lodge
7:00 - 10:00	Merit Badge Session 3
7:00 - 10:00	Quasar shotgun (pre-purchased tickets required) [glow in the dark shotgun!]
7:30 - 8:00	Campfire
10:30	Lights Out

SUNDAY:

7:15	Flag Ceremony – inside Grand Lodge
7:30-8:30	Breakfast in Grand Lodge
9:00-12:00	Merit Badge Session 4
12:15	Gather for lunch in Grand Lodge
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch in Grand Lodge
2:00 - 5:00	Merit Badge Session 5
5:00 – 7:00	Troop check out and depart for home

Merit Badge Classes

- Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis via Black Pug registration. Scouts are not guaranteed to get their first choice of classes. Classes will be limited in seating capacity.
- All merit badge selections are final once registration closes.
- Not all badges can be completed at camp. Pre and post requisites may apply. Winter Blast instructors are generally happy to work with Scouts to finalize any remaining requirements after Winter Blast.
- The merit badges listed below are those we plan to offer pending instructor availability
- Official course schedule and list is available in Black Pug.

Minimum Age of 13 by 1/15/2027:

Archery[%]
Emergency Preparedness[%]
Environmental Science
Rifle Shooting[%]
Shotgun Shooting[%]
Quasar Shotgun Shooting

Minimum Age 14 & 1st class:

Personal Management
Welding

American Business
Am. Indian Culture
American Labor
Artificial Intelligence
Astronomy
Auto Maintenance*[%]
Aviation*[%]
Backpacking
Basketry
Camping
Chemistry
Chess
Cit. in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Climbing*
Collections
Communication
Cybersecurity
Cycling (mountain biking)
Digital Technology
Disability Awareness
Emergency Preparedness
Energy
Environmental Science
First Aid[%]
Fishing
Geology
Golf (disc golf option)
Health Care Professional
Home Repairs*[%]
Leatherwork
Music
Nature
Orienteering & Geocaching[%]
Personal Fitness
Photography
Pulp and Paper
Radio
Scouting Heritage
Scuba Diving
Search and Rescue
Signs, Signals, & Codes
Soil and Water Conserv.[%]
Sustainability
Traffic Safety
Truck Transportation
Weather
Wood Carving

Other Opportunities

ATV – minimum age 15
3-hr conservation project
Sea Scout Advancements:
- Apprentice/Ordinary
- Able/Quartermaster

BSA Rank Advancements

[%] double period course

* These classes are held outside of Durant or require longer sessions. Lunch will be provided at the MB location. If the class is on Saturday, registered Scouts will not be able to participate in the Polar Splash.

Registration Instructions

Evening Activities:

- There are several evening activities that are happening simultaneously.
    - If you select a merit badge session in the evening, you cannot participate in any of the other activities.
    - Campfire
        - The campfire is open to anyone who wants to attend.
        - We would love some willing participants to put on a skit, lead a song, etc.
    - Quasar shotgun shooting
        - Each participant that registers will have the opportunity to shoot five targets. You are welcome to watch others shoot.
        - You may be able to do both the campfire and Quasar shoot. However, the range will shut down at 10pm.

Sea Scout Instructions:

- Unlike the regular merit badge sessions, each session of the Sea Scout track is different. So, if a Scout wants to take only the Sea Scout activities, then they should register for each offering of that level of Sea Scout class [e.g., Sea Scout: Apprentice/Ordinary sessions A, B, C, and D].
- Many Sea Scouts are also affiliated with Troops. Scouts can also opt to take a combination of Sea Scout classes and merit badge classes.

Individual Scout Planning Worksheet

For Internal Unit Use Only

There are three merit badge Sessions on Saturday and two on Sunday, giving each Scout the opportunity to work on at least five different merit badges. The schedule is the same for both days. Some badges require more than one session. For each session, choose a first, second, and third choice writing them in the spaces below. Return this completed form to your unit leader. Online registration will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scout Name:_____

Age on January 15, 2027:_____

Rank on January 15, 2027:

_____Scout _____Tenderfoot _____Second Class

_____First Class _____Star _____Life _____Eagle

Session	Times	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
SAT AM	9:00-12:00			
SAT PM	2:00-5:00			
SAT night	7:00-10:00			
SUN AM	9:00-12:00			
SUN PM	2:00-5:00			

Winter Blast Packing List

Outer Clothing

- Raingear
- Ski jacket
- Warm Hat
- Gloves / Mittens
- Boots (if you have them)
- Winter Blast Hoodie (optional)

Clothing

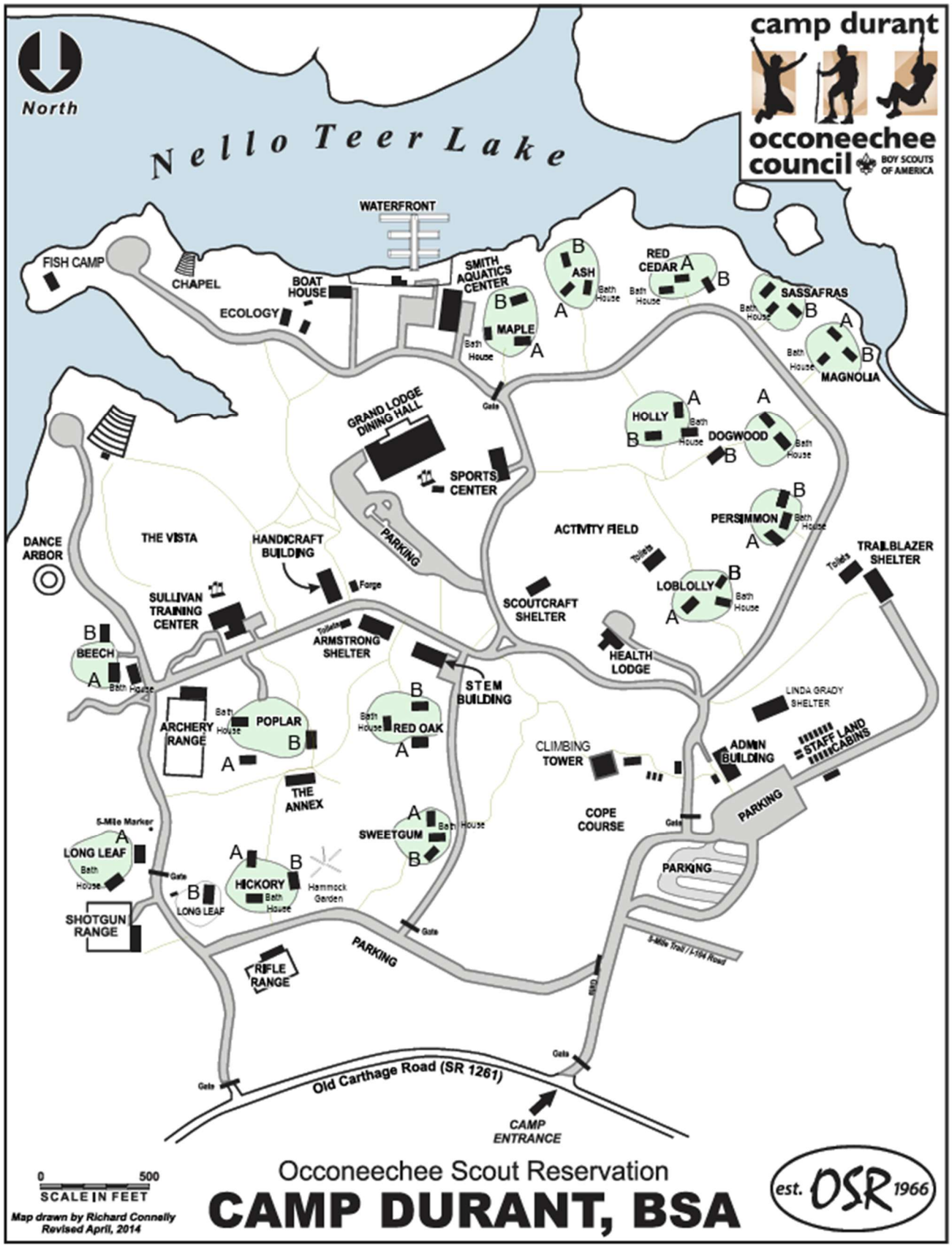
- Hoodie / fleece coat
- Long underwear / base layers
- Shirts & Pants
- Socks (synthetic or wool)
- Extra clothing, gloves, socks,
- Sleepwear
  - Different than day wear
  - Include a warm hat

Sleeping Gear

- Tent
- Tarp
- Closed foam or insulated sleeping pad
- Cold weather sleeping bag(s)
- Camping pillow(s)
- Extra sleeping bag / liner / quilt / blanket

Gear

- Hand warmers
- Day pack
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Headlamp / flashlight
- First-aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Whistle
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Compass
- Toiletries
- Water bottle
- Scout Handbook
- $ for trading post / grill (optional)


camp durant
occoneechee council
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
North
Nello Teer Lake
WATERFRONT
FISH CAMP
CHAPEL
BOAT HOUSE
ECOLOGY
SMITH AQUATICS CENTER
ASH
RED CEDAR
SASSAFRAS
MAPLE
MAGNOLIA
Bath House
Gate
GRAND LODGE DINING HALL
SPORTS CENTER
HOLLY
DOGWOOD
PERSIMMON
ACTIVITY FIELD
PARKING
DANCE ARBOR
THE VISTA
HANDICRAFT BUILDING
Forge
Toilets
TRAILBLAZER SHELTER
LOBLOLLY
SULLIVAN TRAINING CENTER
SCOUTCRAFT SHELTER
HEALTH LODGE
BEECH
ARMSTRONG SHELTER
STEM BUILDING
LINDA GRADY SHELTER
ARCHERY RANGE
POPLAR
RED OAK
CLIMBING TOWER
ADMIN BUILDING
STAFF LAND = CABINS
THE ANNEX
5-Mile Marker
SWEETGUM
COPE COURSE
LONG LEAF
HICKORY
Hammock Garden
SHOTGUN RANGE
RIFLE RANGE
5-Mile Trail / I-104 Road
Old Carthage Road (SR 1261)
CAMP ENTRANCE
0
500
SCALE IN FEET
Map drawn by Richard Connelly
Revised April, 2014
Occoneechee Scout Reservation
CAMP DURANT, BSA
est. OSR 1966

FAQ

Is there any way we can help?

- Yes! We are still looking for merit badge counselors! Contact Scott Sublett to volunteer!
- Yes! We need help serving meals. There is a check box in Black Pug as you register your troop where you can indicate your willingness to volunteer.
- Yes! We need groups to do flag ceremonies. There is a check box in Black Pug as you register your troop where you can indicate your willingness to volunteer.
- Yes! Is your troop coming via bus, minibus, or large van? Would you be willing to help transport Scouts to off-site (but nearby) merit badge sessions? There is a check box in Black Pug as you register your troop where you can indicate your willingness to volunteer to drive.
- Yes! We'd love some help setting up and tearing down. If you (adults) are available to arrive Friday morning or stay after troops depart on Sunday, we would appreciate the help! Contact Scott Sublett to volunteer at 14scott.sublett@gmail.com

Where are Scouts expected to be when they are not in class?

- All Scouts are expected to be taking merit badge classes during all daytime sessions.
- If a Scout does not have a class, troop leaders should be prepared to provide oversight which adheres to BSA Safeguarding Youth policies.
    - The Grand Lodge will not be open to Scouts and all indoor spaces available will be used for merit badge sessions.

What if we have questions during the weekend?

- Winter Blast staff will be at the Grand Lodge to assist unit leaders when needed. Scouts should go to their unit leaders for assistance first.

How will Unit Leaders receive communication from staff during the weekend?

- Staff will be in the Grand Lodge and available via the camp radio network during the event.
    - For non-emergent issues, we will find unit leaders in their campsite, or elsewhere in camp.
    - For emergent issues, we will take immediate appropriate action and contact all event staff and/or unit leaders via radio and/or cell phone.

Black Pug How-To

To get to the various reports available for download, go to the registration details for the event. Click on the "Reports" tab. In the reports tab, you have the following options:

- Unit Roster
- Class schedules – for Scouts. Shows all times / locations. Prints one Scout per page.
- Scout Summary – Scoutmaster master list. Organized by Scout. Prints multiple Scouts per page. Answers the question "Which classes are Scout X taking."
- Period Summary – Scoutmaster master list. Prints organized by Period. Answers the question "Where are all of my Scouts during X time period."
- Unit Advancement Detail – for Scouts. Shows each requirement completed. One Scout per page.
- Unit Advancement Summary – for Scoutmasters. Condensed version of the Unit Advancement Detail showing each requirement completed. Multiple Scouts per page.
- Scoutbook export – the file you need to export your advancement report to Scoutbook.



See You Soon!