



2025 THEME GUIDE



Going into this year I gave a challenge to myself and our staff: make our theme more than just the patch design. Growing up here at Manatoc I experienced adventurous quests, weeklong mysteries, and tales of highland games of old. But over the years these elements have been mostly lost. It is our commitment this summer to either prove that a fun theme will enhance our summer camp experience, or if perhaps it's time to adjust our vision of what camp here at Manatoc looks like. In this brief guide you will find some of what my staff is committing to this summer. But you will also find some ways your unit can join in on the fun! It is my hope that we make this summer one to remember, and I sincerely hope you and your scouts will join me in this endeavour.

Yours in Scouting,

Luke G. Kolasky
Program Director



Campwide Game

The campwide game will have two main ways to earn points:

- A week-long portion where scouts can do different tasks around camp to earn points for their unit. SPLs will receive a "quest list" during the first SPL meeting.
- A mini renaissance fair Thursday evening in the Outdoor Skills Area, with different activities for scouts to earn points. Scouts are encouraged to come in costume, which may also award extra points!



Theme Skit

This year also marks the return of a weeklong theme skit, which will occur during campfires, meals, and morning flags. Scouts should be sure to pay attention for opportunities to earn points for the campwide game.



Morning Flags

After flag raising, units will once again have the opportunity to give brief morning reports. Our staff will be giving the program notes with a royal flair, and we encourage units to try and use the theme in their reports as well!

Gateway Contest

Campsite gateways have always played a big part in the traditions of Manatoc. Showing Troops from other cities and states what is unique or interesting about your Troop or hometown is a time-honored Scouting tradition, and gateways are one of the most visible ways to do that. Leaders and Scouts should allow their imaginations to go wild to create a winning gateway.

Site Commissioners will judge troop gateways on Thursday. Gateways will be judged on their appeal, the demonstration of scout skill, creativity, and adherence to this years theme!

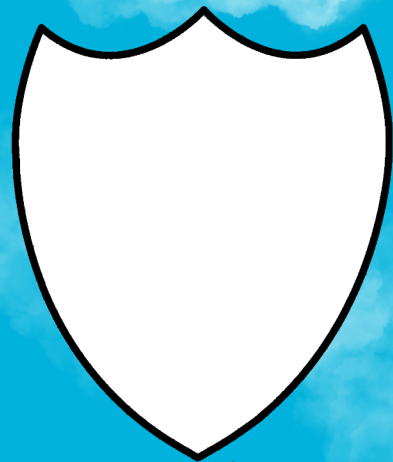
You may want to consider castle like elements, fantasy creatures, or other medieval ideas for your gateway!



Evening Retreat

Retreat this year will still be after dinner with all of the features you are familiar with (more information about retreat can be found in the camp guide.)

To keep the sanctity of retreat while still involving the theme, staff will be marching with a "staff crest" at the end of the marching line. We want to encourage units to make their own crest to march with before camp or at Handicraft on Tuesday night. Please remember to keep them respectful and scouting appropriate.



Other Program Activities

While we don't want to spoil everything, here are some other things you can look forward to during summer knights!

- Special Forge Demos
- Sporting Arrows
- Decorated Program Areas
- New Handicraft activities such as pottery, candle making, and theatre
- Tuesday Night Magic: The Gathering
- And more!



How You Can Get Involved!

We want to encourage you to get creative this year! Here are some suggestions from our staff:

- Costumes!
- Create a unit crest
- Plan ahead for morning flag reports
- Design a medieval gateway
- Try some fantasy-esk marching cadences



Reach out to
program.director@gtcscouting.org
with any questions!

