

## **BALOO & IOLS Participant Packet**

Welcome to Baloo & IOLS weekend!

We are so excited that you chose the Cherokee Area Council for this training! Below you will find some helpful information. This guide will be used for both 2026 Baloo & IOLS training weekends. A link will be emailed out for a zoom meeting to be held the Tuesday prior to your training weekend to cover any updates or clarify any questions you may have. You are also welcome to email Chris and Beth Anne @ [Dadegascouts@gmail.com](mailto:Dadegascouts@gmail.com).

### **What is BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)?**

This in person course is designed as an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities. **BALOO training consists of an online prerequisite component** in addition to a **comprehensive overnight** hands-on in person practical. Scouting America's Cub Scout level camping policies will be taught along with the discovery of the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience.

- **Online component: (MUST DO FIRST)**

- The online portion of BALOO is available 24/7 on the My Scouting Training Site. Just log in to [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) to begin.

## What is IOLS (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills)?

### ***There is not an online component for IOLS***

This course is intended for every adult leader in every Troop/Ship/Crew. It is designed to provide a working knowledge of the basic outdoor skills necessary to succeed as a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. Outdoor skills are critical to the success of the Scouting program, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills will provide leaders with the basic outdoor skills information needed to start a program right.

IOLS is the required outdoor training for all Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Venturing Crew Advisers (if the crew is engaged in outdoor programs). The skills taught are based on the outdoor skills found in The Scouts Handbook. The course is also ideal for Venturing leaders because it focuses on skills that build confidence and competence in leaders conducting outdoor camping experiences.

### **Frequently asked questions:**

1. Is this an overnighter and do I need to stay the whole time?
  - a. Yes. You will arrive Saturday morning stay one night and leave Sunday afternoon and must attend all the sessions outlined in the syllabus.
2. Is camping required for BALOO and IOLS?
  - i. Yes. This is a policy set by the National Scouting America.
3. Do I bring my own food?
  - a. No. Your registration fee will cover all the food cost for the weekend.
  - b. Yes, if you have special dietary requirements that cannot be accommodated. Please discuss this with the course director at least 1 week in advance. Menus are included below so that you have an idea of what is being served.
4. Do I need a tent and what type should I bring?
  - i. Yes, you will need to bring your own tent. But if you do not have a tent ask a local Scouts BSA Troop if you could borrow one of theirs for the weekend. Your tent should ideally be designed for 2-4 people.
5. See the packing included in this packet
6. I am an Eagle Scout, can I test out versus taking the outdoor portion of this course?
  - i. No. Even though we will be teaching all the skills you learned as an Eagle Scout, the purpose of this training is to teach you how to teach the scouts in your unit.
7. Is a uniform required?
  - i. This is a uniform activity, so the Scouting America Field Uniform (Class-A) is highly recommended. We arrive in uniform and wear them through flags then hang them up for the day. We wear them for campfire Saturday night. If you do not have a field uniform, please wear scouting-appropriate apparel like a (Class-B) activity uniform.

8. I have physical disabilities or am diagnosed with hidden needs; how can I be accommodated?
  - i. We will make every effort to meet your needs. Please note your disability on the registration form and a staff member will be in touch with you before the course. Disabilities and Special Needs Advocate Anne Biddle and her email is [dadegascouts@gmail.com](mailto:dadegascouts@gmail.com) if you would like to reach out with questions prior to
9. Can I earn both BALOO and IOLS on the same weekend?
  - i. While we are offering both courses at the same time, because of the significantly different content and course material, you can only earn ONE of the certifications this weekend. Our next training weekend is Sept 26<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> and you are welcome to join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> training! We are also excited to add you to our roster of instructors for the trainings you have completed.

### **Arrival Information:**

#### **Parking:**

Parking will be along the side of the road near campsites 4 & 5 (the back right “corner” of the campground). There are no EV charging stations at camp. \*Signs will be posted to direct you to campsites 4&5.

#### **Check In:**

Check-In will be at the entrance of site 5 between 7:30 & 8:30am. Please bring Med Forms and proof of your Baloo online training for check-in if you are taking Baloo. You will receive a folder with materials for the weekend including a schedule. We will stick as close as possible to the times on your schedule so please be mindful of setting alarms for Sunday morning.

If you would like to arrive on Friday night you are welcome to do so. Our Course Directors for Baloo & IOLS will be staying the entire weekend. Our program will start on Saturday morning at 8:45am SHARP! So please arrive early and have some extra time to settle in. There will be very little time during the day to visit your tent/vehicle. Please leave your gear in your vehicle until after you have checked in.

#### **Medical Forms**

Please bring a current copy of your completed medical forms A&B to expedite check-in.

Medical A&B: [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_AB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf)

#### **Uniform:**

As with all training sessions, Scouters are expected to arrive in their Class-A uniforms and wear them on Saturday and Sunday during flags, campfire & Interfaith worship.

#### **Campsites:**

BALOO will be at campsite #4 and IOLS will be at Campsite #5 with a shared kitchen and coffee station in the middle of them. Toilets are “pit” or “Port a John” type but in a well-managed building and usually have hand sanitizer available inside. A handwashing station will be set up in camp. There are no showers.

### **IOLS and BALOO Gear List**

- Medical Form - Part A and B
- 2-4 person Tent
- Sleeping bag & pillow
- Sleeping pad or mattress (this is very important if you'd like to stay warm!)
- Sturdy shoes or hiking boots (recommend that you bring an extra pair to keep in your car)
- Change of clothes (ideally, a spare scouting uniform, if you have one)
- Extra socks (at least 2 per day). Cotton socks are not recommended for outdoor activities.
- Sleeping attire different from daytime clothing
- Cap and gloves
- Mess kit (plate, cup, bowl, utensils)
- Bath wipes
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Sunglasses
- Camp chair
- Notebook, pen, pencil
- Coat or jacket
- Rain gear
- Hand sanitizer
- Medicine
  
- Daypack with all 10 essentials: *\*may be used during your training lessons*
- Pocketknife\*
- Rain Gear
- Trail Food
- Flashlight
- Extra clothing
- First-aid kit with Whistle\*
- Sun protection
- Map and compass\*
- Matches and fire starters\*
- Water bottle

### **A few nice-to-haves:**

- Your own trolley/wagon to carry your gear to/from the campsite
- Solar charger for your devices
- Tarp/ground cloth
- Large Trash bags in case your gear gets wet from the rain.
- Extra paracord for knot tying (2 colors are preferred). We will have a limited supply.

**Baloo Schedule****Sat Feb 21, 2026**

<b>8:00-8:30am</b>	<b>Registration/Check-In Gear to Campsite</b>
<b>8:30-9:00am</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Flag Ceremony</b>
<b>9:00 AM – 9:45 AM</b>	Campsite Selection
<b>9:45 AM – 10:30 AM</b>	Stoves Lanterns & Fire Safety
<b>10:30 AM – 11:15 AM</b>	Cooking & Sani <b>*with break</b>
<b>11:15 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	Meal Planning <b>*all together</b>
<b>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	lunch
<b>1:00 PM – 1:45 PM</b>	Knife Safety
<b>1:45 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	Knots
<b>2:30 PM – 3:15 PM</b>	Cub Scouts Geocaching
<b>3:15 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	Break
<b>3:30 PM – 4:15 PM</b>	Nature & Hiking
<b>4:15 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	Outdoor Ethics
<b>5:00 PM – 5:45 PM</b>	Gear Selection
<b>5:45 PM – 6:30 PM</b>	Health & Safety & First Aid
<b>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM</b>	Dinner
<b>7:30 PM – 8:15 PM</b>	Aquatics in the Cub Scout Program
<b>8:15-8:30</b>	break
<b>8:30 PM – 9:30 PM</b>	Campfire planning & Ceremony
<b>9:30pm</b>	Cracker Barrel
<b>10:00PM</b>	Lights Out!

**Baloo****Sunday Feb 22nd, 2026**

<b>07:00 – 07:45</b>	Cook & Eat Breakfast
<b>07:45 – 08:30</b>	Duty to God
<b>08:30 – 09:15</b>	Large Group Games
<b>09:15 – 10:00</b>	Break
<b>10:00 – 10:45</b>	Program Planning
<b>10:45 – 11:30</b>	Closing / Graduation/Surveys
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	Leave No Trace Pack Up Clean Up

**IOLS Schedule****Sat Feb 21st 2026**

8:00-8:30	Registration/Check-In/Gear in Campsites
8:30-9:00	Opening & Flag Ceremony
9:00-10:15	Campsite Selection
10:15-11:45	woods tools & Fire Site Prep & Build
11:45-12:00	Break
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00pm	Fire Site Prep & Build cont.
2:00-3:30	plant & animal ID
3:30-3:45	Break
<b>3:45-5:15pm</b>	<b>Ropes Knots &amp; Lashings</b>
5:15-6:15	cooking
6:30-7:30	dinner
7:30-8:30	Packing & Hiking Techniques
8:30-8:45	break
9:00pm	Campfire Program
9:30pm	Cracker Barrel
10:00pm	Lights Out!

**Sunday Feb 22nd, 2026 IOLS**

7:00-8:00	cook & breakfast
8:00AM	Interfaith
8:30-9:45	Finding Your Way
9:45-10:00 Break	
10:00-11:00	Outdoor Ethics
10:45 – 11:30	Closing / Graduation/ Surveys
11:30 – 12:00	Leave No Trace Pack Up Clean Up

## **Baloo/IOLS Meals for Feb**

### **Sunday breakfast**

Build Your Own Mountain Man Foil Packs: hashbrowns, bacon, cheese, green onion with eggs & fried apples on side.

### **Saturday lunch**

Potato Cheese Soup, w/ ADD In's: Broccoli, Bacon, Green Onion & Cheese, Bread

### **Saturday dinner**

Build Your Own Foil Packs: Smoked Turkey Sausage, diced White potatoes, diced carrots, onions & seasonings. On Stove: green beans, corn on the cob.

### **Saturday/Sunday snacks**

coffee, tea, apple cider, hot choc, water, creamer & sugar. Whole Fruit and Granola Bars

### **Cracker Barrel**

Dutch Oven Fruit Cobbler and one more savory Dutch Oven or "Fire Stick" snack.

## **Baloo/IOLS Meals for Sept**

### **Sunday breakfast**

Breakfast Banana Splits (Bananas, Greek Yogurt, Blueberries, Strawberries, Dark Choc chips) and/or Breakfast Nachos: Tortilla Chips, Ground Sausage/bacon, cheese & onion.

### **Saturday lunch**

Tacos: ground chicken, turkey or beef (only one of the three) with lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, olives, peppers, sour cream, salsa, etc. tortillas/ chips

### **Saturday dinner**

Build Your Own Foil Packs: Smoked Turkey Sausage "stir fry": parmesan cheese, diced carrots, broccoli, mushrooms, cauliflower, olive oil. Basmati rice on the side.

### **Saturday/Sunday snacks**

coffee, tea, apple cider, hot choc, water, creamer & sugar. Whole Fruit and Granola Bars.

### **Cracker Barrel**

Dutch Oven Fruit Cobbler and one more Dutch Oven or Fire Stick Savory Snack.