

STEMBOREE

Guidebook for Participants

March 28-29, 2026
Smilin V Scout Ranch
Capitol Area Council



Cub Scout activities, adventures, and awards
with an emphasis on exploring
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

All-day event on Saturday, with optional overnight camping to Sunday.

Version 1.3 (3/20/2026) Version History

Version 1 – February 19, 2026

- Original document

Version 1.1 – February 27, 2026

- Updated the event patch

Version 1.2 – March 4, 2026

- Text content corrections and clarifications

Version 1.3 – March 20, 2026

- Updated camp map and added the evacuation routes

WELCOME TO STEMBOREE 2026!

About

The purpose of this weekend is to provide Cub Scouts and their families, dens, and packs opportunities to explore scouting and have fun in a STEM-focused camp environment. Camping overnight is optional.

STEMboree includes age-appropriate activities for all Cub levels: Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos. (Arrow of Light scouts should have recently crossed to a troop and should explore Scouts BSA STEM opportunities).

During STEMboree we will:

- Deliver a fun outdoor experience for the whole family.
- Foster enthusiasm in STEM in Scouting.
- Promote and follow Scouting methods, skills, procedures, and values.
- Provide scouting families an opportunity to meet and engage with other scouting families.

STEMboree is hosted by the volunteer STEM Committee of the Capitol Area Council and many other Scouting volunteers just like you.

STEMboree is for Cub Scouts and their families.

All program material is geared towards Cubs. Older scouts may attend STEMboree by volunteering to help as staff. Older youth who are looking to enjoy more STEM opportunities, should check out STEM Adventure Weekend, September 18-20, 2026 at Lost Pines. <https://scoutingevent.com/564-111546>

"STEM is part of an initiative Scouting America has taken on to encourage the natural curiosity of youth members and their sense of wonder about these fields through existing programs."

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Volunteer Contact: Nick Rietsch, CAC STEM Committee Chair
(512) 586-7251, nick.rietsch@gmail.com

Capitol Area Council STEM Webpages

<https://www.capitolareascouting.org/activities/stem/>

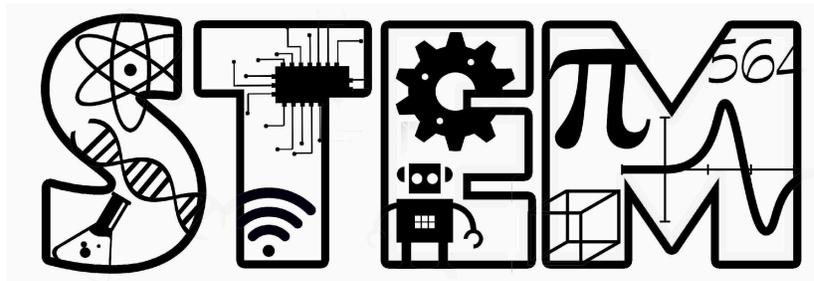
<https://www.capitolareascouting.org/activities/stem/stemboree/>

<https://www.capitolareascouting.org/activities/stem/stem-adventure-weekend/>

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Overview of STEMBoree

- Smilin V Scout Ranch, Liberty Hill. See the [council](#) webpage and also Appendix A for a map of Smilin V and Appendix B for directions to Smilin V.
- Activities all day Saturday
- Check-in Saturday begins at 8:30 AM
- Class rotations begin at 10:00 AM
- Saturday evening activities include a campfire if weather and fire code permits, night hike, and star party
- Overnight camping to Sunday is optional
- Cubs may attend STEMBoree with their families or dens or packs.
- Each youth must have a designated responsible adult on site.
- Lions, Tigers, and any non-Scouting-registered siblings must have a Parent/Guardian with them at all times.
- Cub families are responsible for their own food (Saturday lunch) and if staying for evening activities (Saturday dinner) and if camping overnight (Sunday breakfast).
- Registration link: <https://scoutingevent.com/564-94447>
- Registration fees: Cubs signing up for any of the classes are \$20. Adults and siblings are \$10.
- Cubs may sign up for up to 4 class periods and will also have access to the open STEM Midway activities throughout the day.
- Cubs sign up for activities Adventure, Range & Target Sports, COSMIC STEM Awards, and Midway Activities. You will choose these classes on the online registration form. After registering, you may change classes online or at check-in on Saturday as long as the class has space.
- Checklist of things to bring:
 - Medical form A&B for every participant
 - Refillable water bottle for every participant.
 - Food: lunch, optional snacks & dinner & breakfast
 - Camp chair

Note

- Check-in and check-out are at the Large Pavilion.
- If you leave camp for any reason, even if you will be returning, you must check out with staff at the Large Pavillion. Per the council's [Emergency Action Plan](#), staff must know who is onsite at all times.
- No vehicles are allowed into camp. Bring a wagon or backpack to transport your gear from the parking lot.
- Potable water and restroom facilities are available.
- There is no dumpster at Smilin V. Please plan to pack out all your trash.
- If you need electricity overnight for health reasons (CPAP), please contact a CAC Staff member as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Weekend Schedule

Saturday, March 29		
8:30 AM	Check-in begins	Large Pavilion
8:30 - 9:50 AM	Open STEM Midway activities	Large Pavilion
10:00 - 10:50 AM	Class Session 1	Around camp
11:00 - 11:50 AM	Class Session 2	Around camp
12:00 - 1:50 PM	Lunch on your own	Campsite
1:00 - 1:50 PM	Open STEM Midway activities	Large Pavilion
2:00 - 2:50 PM	Class Session 3	Around camp
3:00 - 3:50 PM	Class Session 4	Around camp
4:00 - 5:50 PM	Open STEM Midway activities	Large Pavillion
6:00 - 7:30 PM	Dinner on your own	Campsite
7:30 PM	(* Campfire and Night Hike	Campfire ring
8:00 - 9:30 PM	(* Star Party	Shooting Range
10:00 PM	Lights Out, Quiet Time to 6:30 AM	-
Sunday, March 30		
6:30 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast on your own, Pack up	Campsite
8:00 AM	Morning Announcements	Large Pavillion
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Clean camp, Check out, and Depart	-

(* If weather and fire code permit

The STEMboree schedule may change due to weather, construction, or other camp considerations. Updates will be provided at the event.

Celestial Events for Saturday, March 28, 2026:

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, the waxing gibbous moon will pass through the constellation Cancer, making a close approach to the Beehive cluster. It is a prime evening for observing the Moon near this prominent open star cluster, following the Moon's pass near Jupiter earlier in the week.

Sunrise 7:24 AM, Sunset 8:11 PM (Twilight 6:59 AM to 8:11 PM)

Moonrise 3:45 PM, Moonset 4:52 AM (New Moon)

See the Waxing Gibbous Moon, the Beehive Cluster (M44), Venus, and Jupiter, and many other objects at the Star Party.

Class Schedule

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Tiger	Designed By Tiger	Floats and Boats		
Wolf	Adventures in Coins and Code		Digging In the Past	Air of the Wolf
Bear	Forensics	Super Science		
Webeleos	Earth Rocks !		Into the Woods	Modular Design
Select Time by Rank	RANGE & TARGET SPORTS			
	Wolf Archery	WEBELOS Archery	Lion & Tiger Archery	Bear Archery
	WEBELOS BB	Wolf BB	Bear BB	Tiger BB
All Ranks	COSMIC Award Class: Each class will cover the COSMIC First-step Patch and on the COSMIC patch topics below:			
	Eclipses	Computer Hardware	Cubs can Transmit	Biochemistry
All Ranks	STEM Midway Activities: For any class period, scouts may choose the STEM activities at the large pavilion including the Lego derby, flight simulator, and more!			

Registered Cubs (\$20) may select up to 4 class periods appropriate for their age group. Adventures and Range & Target classes are rank specific. COSMIC Awards are available to all ranks. The STEM Midway Activities may be chosen for one or more class hours and involve lots of free-play learning. The Midway will also be open during check-in, after lunch, and before dinner (see Weekend Schedule).

Class examples:

A WEBELOS scout wants to try everything and chooses 1) Earth Rocks, 2) Archery, 3) COSMIC, 4) Modular Design. She also enjoys the STEM Midway during the three open times.

A Wolf scout is arriving late, so chooses 2) BB, 3) Digging in the Past, 4) Air of the Wolf.

A Lion can't get enough of the Lego Derby track and chooses: 1) STEM Midway, 2) COSMIC, 3) Archery, 4) STEM Midway.

Class Descriptions

Cub Adventures

- Tiger:
 - Designed By Tiger – Discover the fundamentals of the engineering process of designing, building, and improving.
 - Floats and Boats – Discover what floats and how to make a model boat.
- Wolf:
 - Adventures in Coins and Code – Become a money expert and a secret spy by exploring coins and making hidden codes!
 - Air of the Wolf - Have fun making different types of airplanes and other flying objects.
 - Digging in the Past – Learn about dinosaurs.
- Bear:
 - Super Science – Learn about static electricity, buoyancy and more.
 - Forensics – Learn how crimes are solved with fingerprints and chromatography.
- Webelos:
 - Earth Rocks – Dig into the world of rocks and minerals and discover some surprises about the science of geology
 - Modular Design – Learn about modular design, build using modular-based materials, and practice making directions for others to follow.
 - Into the Woods - Explore the secrets of nature by identifying local trees and planting your own to help Earth!

Range & Target Sports

- Archery and BB: Cubs can work on earning their rank belt loop.

COSMIC Award classes

- Scouts may earn the COSMIC First-step Patch plus work towards awards for computer hardware, eclipses, radio transmission, and biochemistry!

STEM Midway Activities (during class times and at designated open times)

Let your scout run around to enjoy the various STEM stations set up at Smilin V. Activities include (subject to change): Lego derby, experiments, games, animals, astronomy (including some Adventure some requirements), and a flight

simulator.

Group Instruction – Being Respectful and Engaged

Setting Expectations in Advance:

Some classes are rank-specific, but there is no rank or age limit to attend the weekend event; however, it is imperative that all attendees be attentive and engaged in the interactive environment that is created by the instructors, and to not disturb others in the class.

A purpose of STEMboree is for the Cubs to have fun learning STEM. Our STEM instructors will “Do Their Best” to make sure all Cubs are engaged and have the opportunity to complete the requirements.

Cubs have the *opportunity* to complete most class requirements at STEMboree. However, not all awards may be completed at camp, either by limitations of the camp environment or by the Cub’s ability or willingness to do or show or demonstrate or complete or participate in the activity.

From the BSA:

- *“Simply...listening during a group instruction session does not constitute completing a requirement.”*
- *“It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms watching demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions.”*
- *“[Signing off requirements] in such a manner takes away from the Scout’s opportunity for learning and personal growth...”*

Our instructors will strive to make STEMboree fun and engaging. We ask that all adults attending STEMboree help the Cubs to understand and remain engaged.

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Registration

Registration:

- Link: <https://scoutingevent.com/564-94447>
- Fees for 2026 are \$20/Cub and \$10/adult or sibling.
- Sign up individually (family) or as a den or as a pack.
- Registration includes entrance to Smilin V, campsites and facilities, classes, materials and activities, and a commemorative STEMboree patch.

Cubs and dens/packs from other councils are very welcome to participate in the Capitol Area Council STEMboree! Please reach out to our staff if you have any questions about our council and our events.

Because this is a Council event, packs do not need a BALOO-trained leader.

For groups of Cubs (two or more non-sibling scouts), two-deep leadership is required, and a female adult is required for any units bringing female youth.

Classes without a minimum number of scouts signed up one week before STEMboree may be canceled and youth will be offered an alternate class. Participants will be notified as soon as possible of any class changes. In the case that a class is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, Cubs will be moved into alternate instruction areas as available.

Class Changes: There is an opportunity during check-in on Saturday to make changes in Cubs' schedules if the class is available.

For the Council's refund policy please visit <https://www.bsacac.org/refund-policy/>.

Youth Protection / Safeguarding Youth

All adults must have unexpired Youth Protection (Safeguarding Youth) Training.

If you have female youth attending, per Scouting America youth protection (safeguarding youth) policy, there must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit (pack) serving females.

Adult Participation

This camp relies 100% upon volunteers and so we ask that all adults help by monitoring camp and scouts. If you see something that needs help or attention, please let staff know.

Adults with a talent or interest in helping with a specific class or area are asked to please volunteer with the Primary Event Contacts as soon as possible so that we can assign class instructors and assistants.

Adults are reminded to follow youth protection (safeguarding youth) training guidelines at all times. Two-deep leadership is a fundamental tenet of the policies of Scouting America.

Location: Smilin V

STEMboree is held at the Smilin V Scout Ranch, 250 County Rd 286 Spur, Liberty Hill, TX 78642. Smilin V is comprised of 91 acres of improved Hill Country ranch land.

Campsites that will be available for STEMboree are determined that weekend by the ranger and staff and may depend upon weather, logistics, camp repairs, and other factors. Locations are first come, first served.

Large dens or packs (having 8 or more tents) are asked to please notify STEMboree staff ASAP so that an area may be reserved for your group.

For directions, a camp map, and additional information about Smilin V, please visit <https://www.bsacac.org/activities/camping/smilin-v/>. See also Appendix A for a map of camp and Appendix B for driving directions to camp.

Arrival

Upon arrival at Smilin V, you will be directed to park in the main parking lot. The speed limit is 10 MPH everywhere inside Smilin V.

After parking, participants should gather their paperwork and walk to check-in. Follow the signs to the Large Pavillion.

If you are camping overnight, you do not need to bring your gear at this time. There will be time for you to set up later.

Check-in begins Saturday at 8:30 AM at the Large Pavillion. Late check-in and check-out are at the same location.

Check-in

- Please verify your (family/den/pack) head count upon arrival. Is anybody registered but cannot attend? Please let us know so that we can open up classes for others.
- Turn in a copy of parts A & B of the Annual Health and Medical Release (AHMR) form for everyone for review by the health officer.
- Everyone gets a wristband to wear that shows that you belong at camp.
- Scouts get a nametag and class schedule.
- Activities begin as soon as you arrive, and the first class begins at 10:00 AM.
- If you are camping, at any time you may carry your gear from the parking lot to your campsite and set up camp. Many Cubs find a wagon useful.

There will be a map of Smilin V at check-in with the locations of all the events marked.

We need an accurate head count at all times for emergencies:

- All persons entering camp must check in with Staff at the Large Pavillion and must be registered to attend.
- Likewise, every participant leaving camp for any reason must log their departure with Staff.
- The council's emergency action plan may be found here: <https://www.capitolareascouting.org/activities/camping/eap/>

Medical reminders

Please bring a COPY of your AHMR medical forms. Do NOT bring your original. Medical forms not picked up at the conclusion of the weekend will be destroyed.

All injuries should be referred to camp medical staff. Current medical forms (Parts A&B) are required for all attendees.

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Around Camp

Restrooms

There are two bathhouses at Smilin V. They have 6 single-stall restrooms with shower facilities. Follow attire, footwear, and Safeguarding Youth training policies at all times. Only wear shower shoes in the shower – always wear closed-toed shoes to and from the facilities.

Trash

There is no dumpster at Smilin V. Please pack out your trash.

Please help keep Smilin V clean and pick up trash anywhere you see it.

Food

Cub families are responsible for their own food (Saturday lunch and any snacks) and if staying for evening activities (Saturday dinner) and if camping overnight (Sunday breakfast).

There is no dumpster at Smilin V. We ask that you pack out as much of your trash as you can.

Do not leave food unattended: Smilin V has many stinging, biting, and clever critters that adore smellables – please keep food contained.

If you need to leave camp to get food - or for any reason - you must check out at the Large Pavillion and check-in again when you return.

Propane grills are the best option for cooking. Ground fires are not permitted in campsites. Participants will be notified if there is a burn ban, in which case charcoal fires will be prohibited. If you have any questions about bringing any items, please contact staff beforehand. Thank you for your cooperation.

Gear

Dress for the weather. Bring a water bottle. Bring a camp chair.

Bring non-aerosol bug repellent and sunscreen. Aerosols harm the environment, deteriorate tent waterproofing, and are fire hazards. Look for sunscreen without chemicals that harm animal life:

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html>

There is no camp store. Convenience stores in Liberty Hill are about 5 miles away. If you need to leave camp to get supplies - or for any reason - you must check out at the Large Pavillion and check-in again when you return. A Scout is helpful and thrifty: most items you can share, make out of duct tape, or live without.

Utilities

Smilin V has potable water. Campsites have no electricity. Camp staff has access to electricity for emergencies. For any health issues needing electricity (CPAP), please contact Staff as soon as possible.

Personal Electronics Policy

Cell coverage is very limited. Enjoy the outdoors and put your phone away!

Some classes may use electronics as tools for their STEM classes. Scouts are asked not to use devices during class unless instructed.

We ask that all Scouts and Scouters refrain from using devices for any non-Scouting related activities. Playing video games, watching YouTube, TV, or listening to the radio disturb others and are not appropriate at camp (unless directed technology use for a STEM class). There are plenty of activities at STEMboree and acres of land at Smilin V to explore to engage youth and adults.

Departure

Check out at the Large Pavillion.

You may depart camp at any time on Saturday or Sunday after checking out with Staff. Please make sure your campsite is clean.

You will get your STEMboree patches and may pick up medical forms when you check out. Any medical forms left at camp will be shredded for privacy protection.

Drive safely and be careful going home!

Electronic Completion Reports

Congratulations Cubs! Here is your award...

There are no paper reports. Instead, each scout will receive an Electronic Completion Report accessible through the *Black Pug* registration system that lists the Cub requirements that they completed.

This report is a record of a Scout's progress in the pursuit of completing Adventures and other awards. The instructor will call roll at the beginning of each class. After the class, the instructor will turn in the class list and requirements actually and personally completed by each scout. See also Group Instruction Expectations.

The electronic completion report should be turned in to your Den Leader, Cubmaster, or Advancement Chair of your pack for proper verification and recording of your achievements during STEMboree.

Camp Rules & Notes

Safe Scouting

All Scouts must be at camp with a parent, guardian, or adult who is responsible for them.

All Scouting America regulations that apply to your unit's regular campouts apply to STEMboree as well (annual health A & B forms, youth protection (safeguarding youth) training for adults, etc.).

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

Follow the Guide to Safe Scouting:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss>

Vehicles

Park in the main parking lot north of the entrance. *No vehicles are allowed beyond this point or in the campsites.* If you require special assistance, please contact Staff in advance. The walk from the parking lot is not far. Bring a wagon if you wish. These rules are in place for Scout safety. Speed Limit is 10 MPH everywhere in camp.

Conduct Policy

The conduct and discipline of the youth in your pack are your responsibility. Please be vigilant in making sure your scouts' behavior is consistent with the Scout Oath and Law. This is a camp policy that we have found to be of mutual benefit.

Your campsite is your home. Entering or loitering around another campsite without that group's permission invites problems.

Lights out and quiet time is from 10:00 PM to 6:30 AM. All campers are expected to be in their own campsites during that time. If coming back late from the Star Party, please be extra quiet and do not disturb others.

Outdoor Code

There are many newly planted trees at camp – please do not allow scouts to cut, mar, hit, bend, climb, or otherwise disturb the trees or their new irrigation

systems. Help your Scouts know the importance of caring for trees and all property. Climbing of any trees is prohibited in Scouting America.

Capitol Area Council prohibits pets, hammocks, drones, and fixed-blade knives on all our properties, including Smilin V Scout Ranch. We appreciate your cooperation.

Ground fires are not permitted in campsites during STEMboree.

Visitors

Visitors are not allowed beyond the parking lot for pickup/dropoff. All youth and adults on site must be registered for the event.

Arrivals and Departures

Staff must maintain an accurate head count in case of an emergency at all times.

All participants **MUST** check in at the Large Pavilion upon arrival.

All participants **MUST** check out at the Large Pavillion before departing for any reason, including if they are returning.

Uniform

While wearing the official field uniform is always appropriate, it is not required for STEMboree. If desired, it is recommended for traveling to and from camp.

Appropriate Clothing and Footwear

Any Scout-appropriate clothing is acceptable. Not permitted are caps, t-shirts, etc., with words or pictures not representing the best spirit of the Scout Oath and Law.

For safety reasons, closed shoes (sneakers or boots) are to be worn at all times (except in your tent or in the shower). Wear closed-toed shoes to/from the showers. No Crocs or hiking sandals.

A shirt *with sleeves* must be worn at all times.

STEM Gear

There will be some STEM items available for purchase such as t-shirts, patches, and other vintage items while supplies last. Mugs for branding may be available while supplies last.



Lost and Found

Lost and found will be kept at the Large Pavilion. Please take only what belongs to you from the lost and found area. Unclaimed items will be kept at the Fickett Center for 30 days before being donated to a charitable organization.

Camp Staff Areas

Participants are not allowed in the camp staff areas at any time. We ask adults to help enforce this policy.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety of the Scouts and Scouters is a primary consideration at Smilin V. We provide a Health Officer trained to handle minor accidents or illness. They will generally be at the Large Pavilion.

Medications

Medications to be taken at camp must be controlled by the parent/guardian or unit leader. All medications must be in the proper original containers labeled with the patient's name, medication name and written dosage directions. Adults may dispense medications to scouts but must never allow medication to be in the possession of a scout. The only exceptions are epi pens, inhalers, and other medical devices which the scout is trained on and needs to carry on their person for extreme emergencies; please fill out this form and turn it in at check-in: https://www.bsacac.org/my_files/epi_pen_and_inhalers_cac.pdf

Not Allowed

Adult leaders should not allow the use of tobacco/vape products at any Scouting America activity involving youth participants. In addition, tobacco use in the presence of Scouts is not permitted at camp. Adult Leaders wishing to use tobacco products or vape may do so only in the main parking lot. The consumption, possession, or use of any alcohol, illegal drug or controlled

substance is strictly forbidden on any Capitol Area Council property. We will report to authorities where violations involving local, state, or federal laws are reported. Fireworks, pets, personal firearms and ammunition, and personal bows and arrows, of any type are not allowed at camp. In addition, camp policy prohibits the carrying of fixed-blade knives except for the purposes of OA ceremonies and Living History night. Do not touch or take home any wild animal. Pets of any kind are not allowed on camp unless they are a service animal. Violators will be asked to leave camp.

What is COSMIC and What Happened to Nova/Supernova?

"Beginning June 1, 2022, BSA national has delegated STEM Nova and Supernova award program administration to local councils, should they choose to do so. Please see the FAQ at <https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/stem-faq/>

*With your tremendous support, Capitol Area Council has one of the strongest and most popular STEM programs in the nation, and rest assured that our **STEMboree** and **STEM Adventure [TJUI] Weekend** events will continue providing mountain-top STEM experiences.*

*Additionally, because the Nova program will no longer evolve, **the CAC STEM committee is developing a comparable STEM award program with a focus on adding new topics and continuously improving the STEM program.***

We have been delighted by all the scouts that have participated in Nova and Supernova over the past decade; we are grateful for all the adult counselors, mentors, and STEM supporters; and we are very happy to continue this program with your support and to explore new opportunities that expand STEM for our scouts."

*Yours in Scouting,
CAC STEM Committee
June 1, 2022*

COSMIC

NOVA and SuperNOVA have now been sunsetted and the Capitol Area Council's STEM Committee is now focused on supporting the current STEM in Scouting activities (like the Cub Adventures offered at STEMboree) and on the continuous development of the new STEM award called COSMIC.

The COSMIC Awards provide STEM experiences for all levels (Lions through older youth programs), have a simple award system, and are expandable and quickly adaptable to new discoveries, youth interests, available expertise, and special events such as the 2023/2024 solar eclipses. We hope that the new program educates and encourages STEM interest in the next generation of scouts.

The specific requirements are under council review and will be shared at the event.

Contact Capitol Area Council (CAC)

STEMboree - Primary Staff Contact

Jessica Snider, Assistant Director of Support Services

Among her many duties, Jessica oversees STEM and Conservation programs and performs conservation research on our council's camp properties.

Office: (512) 617-8651

Cell: (512) 632-9395

jessica.snider@scouting.org

STEMboree - Primary Volunteer Contact

Nicolas Rietsch, STEM Nova Committee Chair

Nick has been volunteering for more than 7 years in the Capitol Area Council as a STEM advocate and local unit and district leader.

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CAC Webpage

<https://www.bsacac.org>

CAC Main Reception Desk

(512) 617-8611

Ron Settele, Director of Support Services

Ron is responsible for developing council camping and training programs, the Scout Shop, and our council's support staff. He reports to the Scout Executive.

Office: (512) 617-8636

Cell: (972) 822-0984

ron.settele@scouting.org

Jon Yates, Scout Executive

Jon supervises our council's professional staff. He reports to our council's Executive Board as well as the Council Service Territory 7 and Scouting America National offices.

Office: (512) 617-8613

Cell: (512) 496-3289

jon.yates@scouting.org

Please reach out if you have any questions about our event.

Appendix A – Map of Smilin V Scout Ranch



Appendix C – Evacuation routes

