



NESTLED IN THE HEART OF
THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS
★ SINCE 1947 ★

LEADERS GUIDE

2027

**BASECAMP &
HIGH-ADVENTURE**

SESSION 1

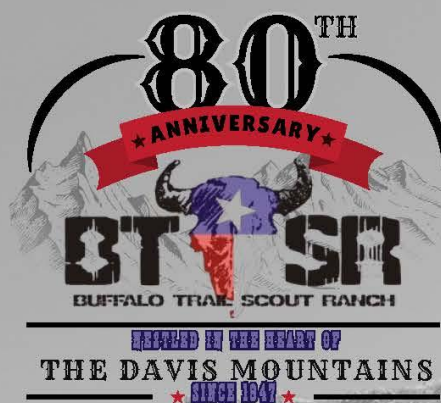
JUNE 13-JUNE 19, 2027

SESSION 2

JUNE 20-JUNE 26, 2027

SESSION 3

JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2027



HIGH-ADVENTURE

SESSION 4

JULY 4-JULY 10, 2027

SESSION 5

JULY 11-JULY 17, 2027

SESSION 6

JULY 18- JULY 24, 2027

SESSION 7

JULY 25-JULY 31, 2027

**SESSION 4-7
HIGH-ADVENTURE
INCLUDES:**

**CAVALCADE
HIKING TREKS
SCUBA**

2027

2027 PRICING

YOUTH

\$450.00

ADULT

\$350.00

CAVALCADE

\$1,100.00

SCUBA

\$975.00

MOUNTAIN MAN

\$900.00

OUTBACK

\$900.00

PER PERSON



Aguja Canyon

By Pete Hardeman

I STAND ALONE ON A MIDNIGHT BLEAK,
FEELING DEFINITELY SMALL AND WEAK,
AND WATCH THE CLOUDS O’ER THE MOUNTAIN TOP
PASS IN ENDLESS STREAM – THEY NEVER STOP

‘TIS BEAUTY AND GRANDEUR, A THING DEVINE
THIS BEAUTIFUL CANYON, A LUCKY FIND
FOR THOUSANDS OF BOYS WHO HERE WILL TRAIN
AND BY THEIR DEEDS ENHANCE ITS NAME

OH, TELL THEM SHEER WALLS OF THE SECRETS YOU HOLD,
OF PIONEERS, BATTLES, AND WARRIORS BOLD
OF THE GAME, THE BIRDS, OF THE WINTERS COLD BLAST
AND I’LL PRAY TO GOD THAT YOUR BEAUTY MAY LAST

LET EVERY BOY HAVE THE BEST YOU CAN GIVE,
MAKE HIM A MAN, TEACH HIM TO LIVE
PLACE GOOD IN HIS HEART, THERE TO REMAIN
THEN YOUR INSPIRING BEAUTY WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN



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ABOUT BUFFALO TRAIL SCOUT RANCH

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Troops,

Thank you! We know you had many options when choosing a summer camp this year, and we are truly honored that you chose to spend your summer with us.

Whether you're experiencing BT SR for the first time or returning as familiar friends, our goal is the same: to provide the best summer camp experience possible. We hope you discover new adventures, strengthen friendships, create lasting memories, and enjoy a week filled with fun, learning, and laughter.

Our staff has worked hard to prepare a safe, engaging, and memorable experience for every troop. We encourage you to participate fully, support one another, and embrace each activity with confidence, curiosity, and an adventurous spirit.

This Leader's Guide is designed to help you and your troop arrive prepared for an outstanding week at BT SR. To make it easy to navigate, we've organized the guide into four main sections:

- About BT SR
- Base Camp Information
- High Adventure Information
- Paperwork & Logistics

While it's impossible to answer every question you may have, we hope this guide addresses the most common ones and provides the information you need to prepare for camp. If you have additional questions or need assistance with anything not covered here, please don't hesitate to contact us at 432-570-7601 or 432-559-6025.

We look forward to welcoming you to BT SR and sharing an unforgettable week of adventure, friendship, and growth. Thank you for choosing to be part of our camp community—we're so glad you're here!

With gratitude,

The Camp Staff

HISTORY OF BT SR

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Davis Mountains in West Texas, this 9,000-acre ranch is one of America's premier High-Adventure council camps. The camp is nationally recognized and fully accredited by Scouting America. In operation since 1947, this beautiful ranch has met the needs of Scouts, Leaders, and their families for 80 years.

Millions of years ago, volcanic activity sent the Davis Mountains 6500+ feet above sea level. Erosion of the calderas left the rocky peaks 2000 feet above the valley floors. The igneous rocks formed some of the most beautiful canyons, highest peaks, and tallest cliffs in Texas. Tall century plants, Spanish dagger, pinion pine, juniper, big tooth maple, yucca plants, cacti, and all kinds of wildlife fill the valleys and peaks of this beautiful ranch.

Opportunities abound for the newest Scout, the oldest Scout, and the Venturer. Quality advancement, nature study, backpacking programs, horseback riding, rifle and archery, swimming, lifesaving, and an amazing first-year camper program are just a few of the exciting programs possible at the ranch.

All key adult staff members are graduates of Scouting America's National Camp School, and the youth staffers are trained and eager to assist your Scouts. The camp staff's objective is to offer a flexible and well-rounded program.

This guide is designed to help you and your troop BE PREPARED for a great summer camp experience. It is impossible to answer all the questions you might have about BTSR, but hopefully the major ones will be addressed.

BTSR MISSION

Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch aims to foster character development, citizenship, leadership, and personal fitness through outdoor adventure, aligning with the Scout Oath and Law. Key behavioral goals include increased self-confidence, teamwork, responsibility, resilience through overcoming challenges, and a commitment to safety, environmental stewardship, and community service.

Overall Goals & Behavioral Outcomes:

- **Character Development:** Participants are expected to demonstrate integrity, courage, and trustworthiness by applying the Scout Oath and Law in daily camp life, such as in patrol or merit badge activities and camp living.
- **Leadership Development:** Scouts are encouraged to take initiative, make decisions, and lead their peers, embodying a "Scout-led" approach to camp planning and activities.
- **Citizenship & Teamwork:** Youth should demonstrate cooperation, respect for others, and a willingness to help, fostering camaraderie within their patrols and units.
- **Personal Fitness & Self-Confidence:** Through challenging outdoor activities, scouts are expected to build physical strength, mental awareness, and self-confidence, learning to step outside their comfort zones.
- **Safety & Responsibility:** Participants will adopt a safety-conscious mindset, utilize the buddy system, and follow safety protocols, as detailed in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Campers are expected to practice "Leave No Trace" principles, demonstrating respect for nature and the environment.

These outcomes are achieved through immersion in nature, merit badge advancement, and peer-led, adult-mentored activities that encourage personal growth.

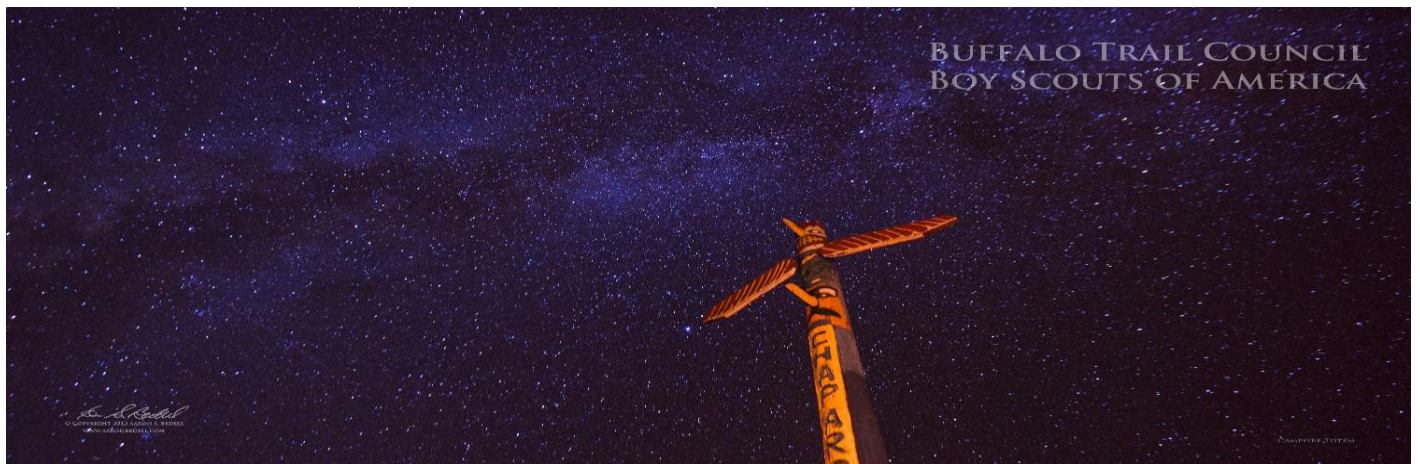
Campsites

Located on the side of Forbidden Mountain, you can find 21 campsites for traditional tent camping. Each site has a small, covered pavilion with a picnic table and bulletin board. Camp sites are a short distance away from latrine and shower facilities. All the latrines have communication equipment, year-round potable water, commodes, urinals, and showers with hot water.

Each Troop will be assigned a campsite prior to arrival at BTSR based on unit size. Special requests can be made in advance, but there are no guarantees that the request can be accommodated. BTSR must ensure that Troops are assigned to sites that best fit their sizes.

Troops will need to bring their own tents. There are no platforms available, and be prepared to fight the rocky dirt to hammer stakes into the ground. A supply of mini-sledge hammers for the Troop will be worth the space to pack them to camp!

It is recommended that Troops do not bring the “10 penny” type stakes for tents. **Heavy-duty stakes and large hammers will make setting up your campsite much easier!** (The ground at BTSR is unforgiving in most spots!) Some heavy-duty stakes are available from the Quartermaster, but numbers are limited, so plan accordingly.



DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday

XXXXXX Early arrivals by scheduled appointment only

1:00 PM Camp Office opens (Staff will not be prepared to check-in units prior to this time.)

3:00 PM Check-in deadline

5:50 PM Assembly & formal flag ceremony at parade grounds. (In Uniform - Troops line up by troop).

6:00 PM Dinner – SM/SPL Meeting in Buffalo Hall

7:30 PM Mandatory Emergency Procedures training

8:30 PM Chapel Service, High Adventure shake downs

10:00 PM Taps

Monday-Friday

6:30 AM Reveille

6:50 AM Flags & Breakfast

8:00 AM Class 1

8:15 AM SM Meeting at the Flag Poles

9:00 AM Class 2

10:00 AM Class 3

11:00 AM Class 4

12:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Class 5

3:00 PM Class 6

4:00-5:00 PM Free Swim

5:00 PM Mile Swim

5:15 PM Wednesday Chapel Service

5:50 PM Flags & Dinner

8:00 PM Special Camp Program Events

10:00 PM Taps

Saturday

6:30 AM Reveille

7:00 AM Pick Up - Boxed Breakfast

1. Campsite breakdown and cleanup for final inspection.
2. Return Camp equipment to Quartermaster for clearance.
3. Camp Commissioner checks campsites and releases troops.
4. Stop by Jersey Lilly for last-minute snacks and souvenirs.
5. Stop by office to check lost and found one last time!

9:00 AM PLEASE PLAN TO BE OUT OF CAMP BY THIS TIME. Have a Safe Trip Home! Come Back and See Us Soon!



SPECIAL EVENTS

A variety of programs will be offered throughout the week for Troops and campers to enjoy. Listed below are the programs offered each night.

- **SUNDAY:** Scoutmaster & SPL Meeting, Camp-wide safety meeting, Chapel, Troop picture
- **MONDAY:** Opening Campfire, Flag Retirement, Crazy Hat Day, Ice Cream Social
- **TUESDAY:** Camp Activity, Cool Shades/Glasses Day
- **WEDNESDAY:** SM Dinner, Chapel, Camp Activity, Wild West Day
- **THURSDAY:** TROOP NIGHT ADVENTURES, Troop Shirt Day
- **FRIDAY:** Picnic Lunch, Closing Campfire, Camp Awards, OA Ceremony, Hawaiian Shirt Day

CHAPEL SERVICE

A Scout is Reverent! Religious services will be conducted on Sunday and Wednesday evening of each week of camp for Scouts, Leaders, and Staff to worship. A Chapel is located at camp for meditation or troop services. Anyone interested in assisting in these services is encouraged to do so. Please check with the Camp Chaplain or Program Director.

SCOUTMASTER & SPL MEETING

A meeting of Scoutmasters, SPLs, and area directors is held Sunday during the evening meal. This group will meet in Buffalo Hall after getting the evening meal. Special announcements concerning the camp, its policies, procedures, and emergency alarm systems will be included in this meeting. Any specific questions you have about camp operations will be answered, so it is very important that the Scoutmaster or an adult in charge, and the Senior Patrol Leader, attend.

Follow-up meetings will be held every morning at the flagpole, after breakfast.

TROOP NIGHT – YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS!

After merit badge classes wrap up on **Thursday afternoon**, it's time for one of the most anticipated traditions of the week—**Troop Night!**

For years, troops have asked for dedicated time to experience everything the Fort Davis area has to offer, and Thursday evening is reserved just for that. Whether your troop wants to enjoy the beauty of camp or venture out to explore the surrounding area, the evening is yours to plan.

Choose Your Adventure!

Make the most of your evening by creating an adventure that fits your troop. Popular activities include:

-  Hiking the backcountry trails
-  Enjoying a picnic in camp
-  Spending the night under the stars on a backcountry trail
-  Visiting the world-famous McDonald Observatory
-  Exploring Balmorhea State Park
-  Touring historic Fort Davis
-  Heading into town for dinner at a local restaurant

No matter what your troop chooses, Troop Night is designed to allow Scouts and leaders to enjoy the incredible natural beauty, history, and attractions that make this area so special. See more info about local attractions below!

Troop Night – Meals

Since many troops leave camp for the evening or head into the backcountry, the Dining Hall prepares convenient **meal kits** in place of the regular dinner and breakfast service.

Meal kits will be available for pickup in the **Dining Hall starting at 4:00 PM on Thursday, so your troop can** begin its adventure whenever you're ready. Friday breakfast kits are available for pickup in the dining hall beginning at 7:00 AM.

Many troops use this opportunity to:

- Cook a meal in camp with their Cooking Merit Badge Scouts.
- Enjoy dinner together at one of the area's excellent local restaurants.
- Pack a meal and picnic while exploring camp or the surrounding area.

Troop Night - Expectations

Whether your troop chooses to relax around camp, explore the scenic Davis Mountains, or make memories at one of our nearby attractions, **Troop Night is your opportunity to experience the adventure beyond the merit badge schedule.** Enjoy the evening, have fun, and make it one to remember!

To help ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience, please remember:

- **The Dining Hall is closed** for Thursday dinner and Friday breakfast.
- **No camp-wide activities** are scheduled for Thursday evening.
- **The swimming pool is closed** for troop swims.
- Troops remaining in camp should stay within their assigned campsite unless participating in an approved trip into town or a backcountry excursion.
- Please ensure your troop returns to camp on time and follows all BSA & SYT policies while enjoying off-site activities.

Thank you for helping make Troop Night a fun, safe, and memorable experience for everyone!

BRANDING AT BTSR

BTSR has its very own registered brand that is used to mark and identify our livestock. Friday afternoon from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, we will have the branding station open at the shop for you to bring your items to be branded! We will only brand items approved by the branding staff. (It's hard to explain to a mom why those \$100 tennis shoes came back home from camp flame-broiled!)

ADULT TRAIL RIDES

A special program has been put together that will allow adult leaders (18 and up) to see the beautiful backcountry of Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch from the back of a horse on the trail! The Head Wrangler sets times for the ride. Rides are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon. All rides go out on the Green Trail. **The price for either of the three-hour rides is a \$75 donation to the horse program.**

Leaders wishing to take part in this program will need to sign up for the rides at the Jersey Lilly and pay for the ticket. **Space is limited by the number of Wranglers and horses available.** Slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-paid basis. **No pre-registration.** *All requirements listed in the Horse Policy, including weight and apparel, must be adhered to.* Also, 2 quarts of water per person is required for the ride.

PROGRAM NOTES

MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

The Merit Badge program of Scouting America is one of the finest educational tools available. Many great careers and exciting hobbies have had their start as a part of the Merit Badge program. BTSR will make every effort to use the program model as you do with your troop at home. Most Merit Badges require more than one short week to complete. However, great progress can be made at camp if the Scout is fully prepared.

Here are some key points to consider in your troop's planning.

1. Share the list of merit badges that will be available at camp with your Troop Leaders' Council, Troop Committee, and Scouts. Be sure that the Scout is qualified to take the badge.
2. Scouts must carefully study and understand all the requirements. YES, they need a correct copy of the merit badge pamphlet and should read it PRIOR to coming to camp.
3. Where possible, the Scout should complete the time requirement portion of the requirements before coming to camp.

Merit Badges offered in camp are generally of an outdoor nature. The Council Advancement Committee has designated the various Directors as Merit Badge Counselors and our youth staff as Skills Instructors. The camp staff is not allowed to change, lower, or modify any merit badge requirement.

BTSR does not require the Merit Badge Card #4124A. All class rosters and progress will be tracked on rosters and printed as a final report. This final report will be given to the leaders on Friday, in their camp checkout packet, to verify its accuracy before leaving camp.

MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

CLASS	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	2:00	3:00	NOTES
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	
American Indian Culture		X					
Animal Science					XXXX		Feeding & cleaning times required.
Archery	X	X	X		X	x	Arrow kit ~\$15 & practice to qualify
Astronomy							Mon-Wed, 9 pm.
Basketry				X		X	
BSA Water Rescue		X					
Camping	X						
Chess				X			
Climbing		X			X		
Emergency Prep.	X			X	X		Must have First Aid MB BEFORE camp.
Enviro. Science						X	Observation time & Written report. 2 hrs.

First Aid			X				Need a first aid kit from home.
Geology	X						
Horsemanship	X	X	X	X			See rider guidelines. \$25 Fee
Insect Study					X		Partial
Instructional Swim		X					For non-swimmers
Leatherwork				X	X		
Lifesaving	XXXXXX						Must earn Swimming Merit Badge before camp
Mammal Study				X			Partial. Extra observation time
Mile Swim							Monday – Friday 4:00 pm
Nature		X					Partial. Extra observation time.
Pioneering		X					Extra time for projects @ 4:00
Photography					X		Bring digital camera
Pottery			X				
Rifle Shooting	X	X	X				Option A will be used. \$20 Fee
Robotics					X	X	
Shotgun Shooting					X	X	Option A. See shooting sports notes. \$20 Fee
Snorkeling		X	X	X			Mask / Fins provided or bring your own.
Swimming		X	X	X			Do #2 before camp
Trail To Eagle	All Day Course!						
Veterinary Med.						X	Req. 6 – Visit a Vet. And report.
Weather			X				
Wilderness Survival.				X			Need a First Aid kit from home.
Wildland Fire Mgt.			X				
Woodcarving	X						

ASTRONOMY

The Astronomy Merit Badge will be taught at different locations around camp during the week to gain different perspectives of the night sky. The first class will begin immediately following the campfire on Monday at the amphitheater. This is an immensely popular program, and our dark skies make BTSR the perfect place to search the skies!

We ask that any Troop with a participant in this class have at least ONE adult leader attend the class with the participants all week. This will expedite roll call and paperwork and allow for more quality instructional time. Times and locations of the remaining classes during the week will be announced at the Monday session. In case of inclement weather, other arrangements will be made for the class, so listen closely to announcements during the week.

AQUATICS

SWIM CHECKS

Leaders and youth will be issued "buddy tags" at the pool following swim checks. Each Scout and leader that plans on participating in ANY activity at the pool during the week will be required to take a swimming test upon arrival to determine his/her swim classification. **Troops are strongly encouraged to complete swim checks prior to arrival at BTSR.** This will save a ton of time on Sunday!

FREE SWIM & TROOP SWIM

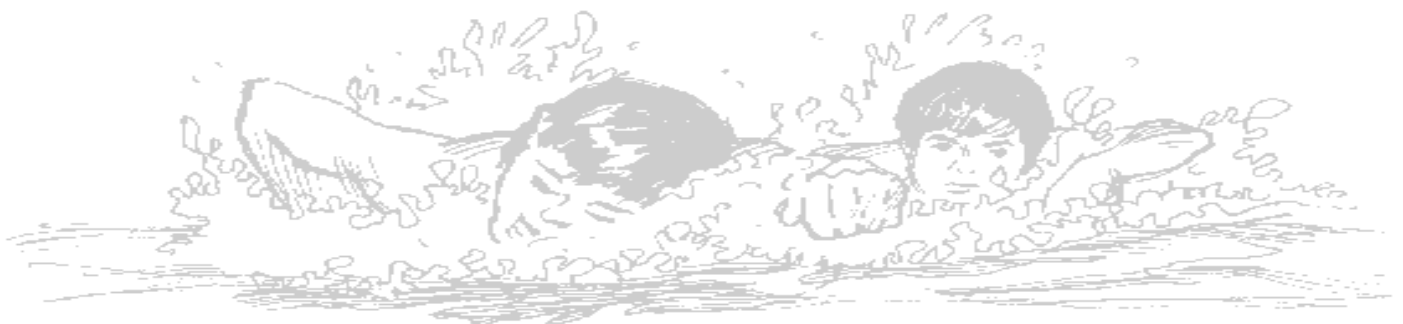
A free swim for all camp participants will be held on Monday through Thursday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 pm. (Camp lifeguards as well as Lifesaving participants will staff this swim.)

Troops may also make reservations with the Aquatics Director to have time for the Troop. These are held outside of the regular program schedule so as not to interfere with merit badge classes. This would be a great time for your Troop to enjoy the pool and practice your Safe Swim Defense. Any Troop wishing to make a reservation **MUST** have a leader who is certified in Safe Swim Defense (offered to adults on Monday at 9:00 am). These times are limited and do fill up quickly, so contact the Aquatics Director early to get a spot. These are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Some Troops may share a swim time to give everyone a chance to participate and ensure adherence to Safe Swim Defense policies (by sharing lifeguards and lookouts).

MILE SWIM

Instruction and conditioning for the Mile Swim award will be held at 5:00 pm daily at the pool. All participants must be classified as swimmers before attempting to begin this course. Participants are required to attend the conditioning laps daily. The actual mile swim will be held on Friday. Adults or youth may participate. The following requirements must be met each day prior to swimming the mile.

- Sunday – 2 Laps: 100 yards (swimmer test)
- Monday – 4 Laps: 200 yards
- Tuesday – 8 Laps: 400 yards
- Wednesday – 16 Laps: 800 yards
- Thursday – 24 Laps: 1200 yards
- Friday – 36 laps – 1800 yards



POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

You might be a bit skeptical about a polar bear plunge in the middle of the summer, and rightfully so! At 6:30 am on Wednesday, you get to enjoy our pool at its finest - cold and empty (with the possibility of ice). After two jumps into our “brisk and refreshing” pool and with a brief discussion of hypothermia, you will be skeptical no more. Instead of asking questions like “are you sure this counts?” and “isn’t this just as warm during the day?” you will be asking “is there another hot shower I can use?” and “do you have a dry towel I can borrow?”

SNORKELING

Snorkeling will be held at the pool at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 daily. Participants must be classified as a swimmer before attempting this class. You may bring your own snorkeling gear or use the camp’s. Some goggles may be available in the camp trading post. Adults or youth may be certified.

SCUBA PROGRAM

Scouts will have the opportunity to earn the Open Water Certification. We have a maximum of 20 divers. This program is open to youth aged 14 and up and adults. This will be a four-day program conducted all day at the beautiful San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea State Park. Participants **MUST** be classified as swimmers.

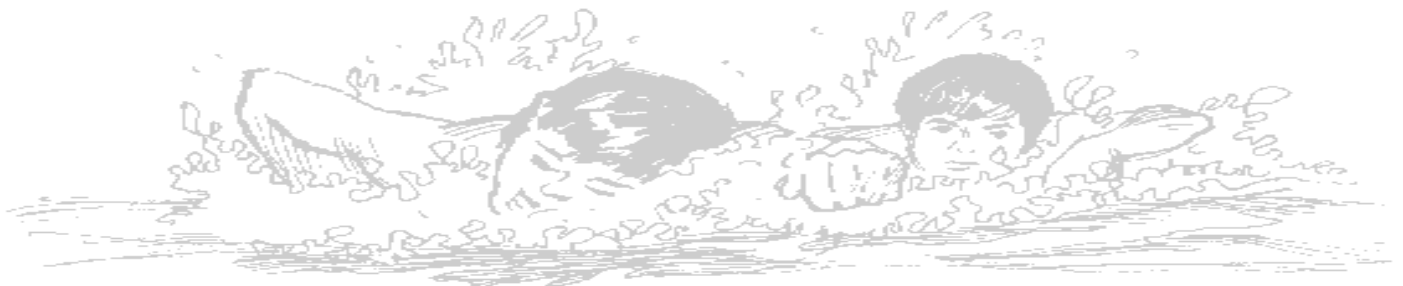
All participants must be 14 years of age or older. Any participants under 18 **MUST** have their parents fill out the swimmer release and SCUB release form in the forms section. These are Scouting America, park, and instruction policies and **CANNOT** be circumvented. Each participant will be required to complete the online class before coming to camp. This class will be emailed to participants by **Aquatic Adventures LLC**, our partner for the SCUBA program. Participants must review the instructional PowerPoint on btsr.org and follow its directions.

Our instructors are certified by SDI (Scuba Diving International), one of the oldest and most respected SCUBA training agencies in the world. They teach lessons year-round at Aquatic Adventures LLC in El Paso, TX. Their expertise and experience will make for a great learning experience for all participants. They will supply all equipment needed for the course.

Diving certification will be at Balmorhea State Park. We will need your assistance in shuttling the group to and from the state park, which is 20 miles from camp. A minimum of 2 adult leaders must go with the group. The leaders do not **ALL HAVE TO BE FROM THE SAME UNIT OR** the unit the youth are in. The Park entrance fees and diving fees are included in the fees paid to BTSR.

HANDICRAFT MERIT BADGES

A variety of Handicraft merit badges are offered throughout the week, some of which take only two days to complete the classroom portion. Scouts will work on their projects in class and in their free time as well. Once they complete their two-day class, they can work on a related Merit Badge offered during the same time frame and complete yet another Merit Badge while at camp!



HORSEMANSHIP/ANIMAL SCIENCE/VETERINARY MEDICINE MERIT BADGES

Each Scout who participates in these Merit Badges will also be required to help with the care and feeding of the BTSR livestock. This is one of the requirements to earn the badges and, due to feeding schedules, must be completed outside of class time. Each Scout will be required to feed at one of the following times and to help clean the stalls at least once during the week. Assignments will be made by the instructors to fit the scout's schedules. Those times are:

- ◆ **Feeding Horses**– Every day at 5:00 pm.
- ◆ **Cleaning Stalls** – Thursday – during classes

Special arrangements may be made when weather or other conflicts arise. Qualified staff members will supervise all feeding and cleaning. Any questions may be directed to the Head Wrangler. Apparel guidelines will be enforced at all times.

RIDING POLICY

It is the policy of the Buffalo Trail Council that all trail riders weighing over 225 pounds are not permitted to ride our horses. This is for the safety of both horses and participants. **ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR BTSR HELMETS! ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ANY OF OUR HORSE PROGRAMS MUST ALSO HAVE LONG PANTS AS WELL AS CLOSED-TOE, STURDY SHOES** whenever in the corrals, barn, or on horseback. This is extremely important to ensure the health and safety of all participants and equines. (Pants can be of any material if they reach the ankles.) Please plan ahead and have these items on hand when coming to BTSR. No exceptions can be made.

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES

Rifle and shotgun classes are very popular at BTSR. Please ensure your Scouts are ready to take these classes. Our biggest concern is with the Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge. Please make sure your Scout is strong enough to pick up, hold, and shoot a shotgun. Some younger Scouts are not strong enough to safely hold the gun in a safe direction or to aim properly to qualify for the badge. Please help us ensure the safety and good morale of our campers by encouraging those Scouts to sign up for another badge.

22-caliber rifle ammunition is included in the program fees for Scouts working on the rifle merit badge, and there is a fee for those participating in open shoots. Likewise, clay targets and shotgun shells are included in the Shotgun Merit Badge program fees. Scouts taking the Archery Merit Badge must complete an arrow kit to complete the merit badge. The cost of the arrow kit is included in the program fees.

Every year we have a consistent problem with scouts not being prepared. As such, our shooting sports director has asked that you share the following message with your scouts:

Read Your Merit Badge Books Before Class

TRAIL TO EAGLE

This class will be a great opportunity for new Scouts to work on the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First-Class requirements. Young Scouts are encouraged to attend this class to receive valuable instruction time toward their requirements to advance in rank. Scouts will have the opportunity to work on over 80 rank requirements for these ranks and complete the requirements for the Swimming and First Aid Merit Badges.

Trail-To-Eagle has always been a popular program with quite a few participants every week. Troops sending Scouts to this class are asked to please send an adult leader to assist the staff. We will have staff members leading the course, but

due to the sheer number of participants, it is difficult to maintain control and quality. This is an excellent opportunity for new adult leaders or young leaders to get involved! Also, it will fulfill a requirement for the SM Merit Badge!

TOTIN' CHIP, FIREM'N CHIT, & PAUL BUNYAN

The Totin' Chip award is required before a Scout can use a pocketknife or take part in the Woodcarving Merit Badge. Learning the safety and proper use of the axe, knife, and saw is important to help a young Scout be prepared for future campouts. There will be a class on Sunday after the Emergency Plan Training only for those taking merit badges that require it. All others can attend the class on Monday at 2:00. Scouts will complete the requirements for the Firem'n Chit on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. Adult leader supervision is suggested, especially when class sizes are large.

Paul Bunyan is a three-part class with the first session being held at 2:00 on Monday. On Monday, the Scouts will be instructed in various wood cutting and conservation techniques. The Scouts will need to plan their own approved conservation project and then report back to the TTE Director upon completion. Any Scout or leader who does not have a Totin' Chip or would like to be a student for the Paul Bunyan award is encouraged to attend.



BTSR PATCHES/AWARDS

Every paid youth and adult participant will receive a unique camp patch to remember their experience at the Ultimate West Texas High Adventure Camp – BTSR! Those who complete the week in the Cavalcade, Outback, and Mountain Man adventures will also receive a special award for their accomplishment.

BTSR PONDWEED AWARD (CONSERVATION)

Awarded by the Camp Ranger (Plaque)

- ◆ Total troop participates in an approved conservation project of no less than 3 hours.
- ◆ All participation in the conservation projects must be approved prior to beginning with the Camp Ranger and will be in accordance with the Buffalo Trail Council Camp Conservation Plan.
- ◆ Troop receives a plaque for the Troop Hut. Patches for all participants are available for sale in the Jersey Lilly.



FT DAVIS HISTORICAL TRAIL AWARD

Another new opportunity at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch is the Fort Davis Historical Trail Award. Although this award is earned outside of camp at the Fort Davis National Historic Site, it is administered by the camp and the Buffalo Trail Council. To earn this award, participants must complete the four requirements listed below and submit the application for approval.

The award comes in the form of a patch and an optional medal, which will be available for purchase in the Jersey Lilly Trading Post. This award is a great opportunity for those Troops visiting the Fort before or after camp or on Thursday night as your "Troop Night" program. Workbooks and award applications will be available at camp.

Requirements

1. Hike the historical trail consisting of about one mile on the course described in the booklet and fill in the blanks found in the booklet.
2. Youth shall take part in one of the Fort's educational games (Mystery of the Talking Walls, Junior Ranger, etc.), and adults shall supervise the youth in completing them.
3. Do a service project either at Fort Davis or at BTSR. Approval of any project must be obtained in advance of any work done.
4. Fill out the application form found in the trail booklet and submit it at the Jersey Lilly when purchasing awards for all participants.



I HIKE 1832 AWARD

Awarded by the Program Director (Sticker)

Any group of campers and leaders that wish to make this **13.4 Mile** hike should check with the Program Director or Outback Director. Hikers start at the cattle guard in front of Buffalo Hall, hike out to the McCoy Ranch, sign the bandanna hanging from the pipeline pole, then head back into the camp. This is a very physical hike that requires lots of water, and you must provide a follow-up vehicle. This program is EXTREMELY strenuous and is also time-consuming. Preparation before camp will help you for this long, tiring hike, as you must be in physical shape to undertake it. The Program Director or Outback Director will be glad to go over the logistics and time required for this award. Those who complete the hike will receive a special marathon-style sticker! Special bandannas and patches are available for purchase in the Trading Post.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

BALMORHEA

A small community located just off I-10. Only 25 miles from camp, the town offers several small restaurants, a couple of gas stations, a hotel, and two small grocery stores. Population 391. Balmorhea State Park and Balmorhea Lake are located near this community.

BALMORHEA STATE PARK:

With a capacity of more than 3 1/2 million gallons, the pool has plenty of room for swimmers, while offering a unique setting for scuba diving. Visitors can enjoy swimming, picnicking, and camping.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/balmorhea>

Reservations are required for park entrance.

FORT DAVIS

Located only 25 miles south of BTSR, Fort Davis has much to offer. Several restaurants, grocery stores, hotels and RV parks, as well as the historical landmark that is the town's namesake can all be found here. Population 986.

www.fortdavis.com

FORT DAVIS HISTORICAL SITE:

Set in the rugged beauty of the Davis Mountains of West Texas, Fort Davis is one of America's best surviving examples of a frontier military post from the Indian Wars in the Southwest. Activities include self-guided tours of buildings and ruins, hiking on designated nature trails, and picnicking.

<http://www.nps.gov/foda>

ABOUT FORT DAVIS

Nationally, more than 300 trails have been approved for use by Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venturers. Scouting America strongly recommends that hikers use only historic trails that have been nationally approved. Each trail is different, varying in length, accommodations, markings, terrain, and awards.

For a trail to be approved, it must meet certain historic trail specifications. They include historic significance, layout, upkeep, and administration. The Fort Davis Historical Trail Award has met all these Scouting America standards and has been approved by the National Council for use by Scouts of all ages!

Following the Civil War, increased hostility from Indians hampered U.S. westward expansion, and it was deemed necessary to rebuild the fort. In 1867, units of the newly formed 9th Cavalry were sent to accomplish this task. Eventually, all four of the Buffalo Soldier units formed after the Civil War would serve at Fort Davis.

The old fort is now a part of the National Park system and is considered the best-preserved Indian Wars fort in the Southwest. It is the only preserved site commemorating the unique military origins of the Buffalo Soldiers.

We hope those who follow in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 1880's will come to better understand how Fort Davis was a vital part of the rich history of Texas! As you tour the museum and hike the trail, we encourage you to learn as much as possible about the lives of the soldiers stationed here, far from their homes, in a very remote part of Texas!

MCDONALD OBSERVATORY

Enjoy a star party, tours, and other events at the observatory under the darkest night skies in the U.S. Also enjoy solar viewing programs as well as Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening "Star Parties."

<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org>

Visitor Information Center: (432) 426-3640

Reservations are required for Star Parties.

ALPINE

Sul Ross State University calls Alpine home and is about 60 miles away from BTSR. Museums, art galleries, several fast-food chain restaurants, laundromats, hotels, RV Parks, Amtrak train station, some great local restaurants, gas stations, and much more can be found in Alpine. Population 6,039. www.alpinetexas.com

MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND, ALPINE, TEXAS:

For more than 100 years, the Museum of the Big Bend has been collecting and exhibiting artifacts of the vast Big Bend region. Encompassing the Davis Mountains to the north and the Mexican borderlands, the Big Bend has been inhabited for over 11,000 years.

Visitor Information: <https://www.museumofthebigbend.com>

432- 837-8143

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK:

Big Bend is one of the largest and least visited of America's national parks. Over 800,000 acres await your exploration and enjoyment. From elevations below 2,000 feet along the Rio Grande to nearly 8,000 feet in the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend includes massive canyons, vast desert expanses, and the entire Chisos Mountain range.

<http://www.nps.gov/bibe/home.htm>

Park information: (432) 477-2251

PECOS

Only 45 miles north of camp off I-20, Pecos is home to the closest Wal-Mart! Here you will find several fast-food chain restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, museums, and even a golf course. Population 11,000. www.pecostx.com

MARFA

Marfa's Mystery Lights are unexplained light sources that appear almost nightly. First reported by early settlers in 1883, they are best seen from the viewing area located approximately 9 miles east of town on Hwy 90. Although theories abound, no explanation can be verified, thus making the Lights a great mystery for locals, scientists, and tourists.

<https://marfachamberofcommerce.org/>

There are many places to see and things to do in the area surrounding BTSR. Here are a few items that may interest your Troop as you plan your trip to the Davis Mountains. (These may offer great opportunities for your Troop's Thursday night activity.) Some Troops even travel a day early, stay overnight at Balmorhea State Park, and enjoy some of the surrounding tourist attractions.



CAMP POLICIES

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH GUIDELINES

All trips to BTSR must be under the leadership of two adult leaders. The unit leader is at least 21 years of age or older and a registered member of the BSA. The second adult may be a registered scouter of 18 years of age or older, or a parent of a participating scout. Leaders may rotate if necessary, but at least two adults must be with the troop 24 hours a day. All adults must have current certification in BSA Safeguarding Youth Training.

PERSONAL PRIVACY

In compliance with BSA Safeguarding Youth Guidelines, youth and adult as well as male and female restrooms and showers are Individual throughout camp. The Camp Commissioner will post a schedule for latrine duty at each facility. Cleaning materials will be at each facility, and additional materials may be obtained from the Camp Quartermaster. The Camp Director and Camp Commissioner ask for cooperation in these matters.

TEXAS YOUTH CAMP ACT

The following is a synopsis of the laws in place that affect summer camp operation:

- 1) The camp management shall have on file a record of any criminal conviction for all adult staff members and all adult volunteers working at the camp. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.)
- 2) Records of criminal convictions and sex offender status will be obtained by an annual criminal background check **and** by performing an annual background check using a Sex Offender Registration database for each staff member's permanent residence and educational residence.
- 3) A youth camp licensee may not employ or accept the volunteer service of an individual for a position involving contact with campers at a youth camp unless the youth camp has on file documentation that verifies the individual has successfully completed the training and examination program required by this subsection. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.)

The following policies are in effect for all adults coming as participants to Buffalo Trail Council camps this summer, whether as an adult camper or adult staff member.

ADULT = ANYONE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

- A. All adults coming to participate in Buffalo Trail Council camps **MUST** be registered as an adult leader with Scouting America. No exceptions. (Since registration with Scouting America requires a criminal background check, this covers rule # 1.)
- B. All adults coming to camp must submit to and show the results of a background check through the Sex Offender Registration database. (This is done through a website and is conducted without charge. This covers rule # 2.)
- C. All adults must show completion of the **Safeguarding Youth Training**, with an unexpired card.

As an aid in complying with these rules, the Buffalo Trail Council has put together an application that **MUST** be completed by **EVERY** adult coming to camp this summer.



The only exception to this rule is a person who comes to camp as a visitor, does not stay overnight, and stays no longer than half a day. All visitors must still "Check-In" at the office, regardless of length of stay. Beyond that, ALL adults at camp (whether it is one day or all week) must complete this form and the steps indicated.

This can be assigned as a duty to a unit leader. That person can collect the forms, conduct the background check in the Sex Offender Registration database, collect Safeguarding Youth certification cards, and obtain a Scouting America copy of the unit roster showing all adults as registered in the Pack, Troop or Crew. This packet must then be submitted to camp management immediately upon arrival at camp.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

IN ALL EMERGENCIES - DON'T PANIC! USE YOUR HEAD!

REPORT TO THE CAMP OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!

Emergency Procedures are outlined in the **BTSR Emergency Action Plan** that has been approved by the Board of Directors and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

All troop leaders must be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan. The Emergency Action Plan will be available to all leaders to share with the parents of your Scouts. An acknowledgment must be signed by all adults, campers, and parents of campers. These acknowledgments are submitted to the Council. An in-person training will also be conducted once your unit arrives at camp.

THE STAFF WILL HANDLE MOST EMERGENCIES. ONLY IF ADDITIONAL MANPOWER IS NEEDED WILL LEADERS BE CALLED UPON.

PLANNING AND PAPERWORK

PLANNING CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Note the payment dates and mark them on your calendar. Make your reservations and payments through the Black Pug link on the Buffalo Trail Council website.
- ☐ ~Optional~ McDonald Observatory "Star Party" Reservation (Required to Attend, limited spots available. RSVP through the Observatory)
- ☐ Review summer camp plans with your Troop Committee and set a date for a parents' information meeting as early as possible.
- ☐ **HOLD A PARENTS' NIGHT.** An extremely important function of your planning is informing parents of summer camp plans. It also helps convince parents who are unsure about letting their kids go, particularly new Scouts. Use your ORDER OF THE ARROW promotion team.
- ☐ Arrange leadership for your troop. Send all Adult Leader Applications to the BTSR Registration Office in May. Camp rules require that there be TWO ADULT LEADERS (One must be 21 years or older, the other 18 years or older) WITH THE TROOP 24 HOURS A DAY.
- ☐ With the aid of your Troop Leaders' Council, work out definite goals to be accomplished by your troop while in camp. Determine what each Scout should accomplish. Plan your troop program in detail, using the "Troop Program Planning Sheet".
- ☐ Discuss personal equipment with your Scouts and make a list of personal gear needed. Have your Patrol Leaders check with patrol members to be sure all equipment is ready. Give attention to troop and patrol equipment.

- ❑ Check your patrol organization, considering the Scouts who will be attending camp. Some rearranging of patrols may be necessary. Select a Senior Patrol Leader and Quartermaster if these two boys cannot attend.
- ❑ A MEDICAL EXAMINATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS ATTENDING CAMP. A SCOUTING AMERICA HIGH ADVENTURE FORM MUST BE USED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ALL HIGH ADVENTURE AND BY ALL ADULTS OVER THE AGE OF 40. **THE SCOUTING AMERICA PHYSICAL FORM IS THE ONLY PHYSICAL FORM APPROVED BY SCOUTING AMERICA.**
- ❑ The troop is responsible for submitting an “Adult Leader Application for Participation” form with a “Discloser Authorization” form for all adults. The “Adult Leader Application for Participation” form must include a current Sex Offender Check.
- ❑ Collect from each camper all monies for fees. Collect medical forms and make 2 copies: one for the camper and one for camp and keep the original for the Scoutmaster or Troop files.
- ❑ Ensure all adults and youth pre-register for all classes and merit badges to be taken at camp.
- ❑ Complete online merit badge pre-registration process.
- ❑ Make final arrangements for safe transportation of your scouts to camp.
- ❑ Complete Check-In Binders
- ❑ Drive Safe!

PARENT PORTAL

- ❑ Parent Portal is an optional registration feature that allows the Registration Contact to give parents access to only their Scout’s portion of the reservation. Through Parent Portal, parents can make payments, update required information, and complete data entry for their Scout. Use of this feature is **highly recommended** to simplify the registration process for both unit leaders and families.
- ❑ To activate Parent Portal, access your reservation and click “Additional Actions” in the Registration Contact section. Then select “Parent Portal” from the dropdown menu.
- ❑ The [Parent Portal FAQ](#) is an excellent resource and provides additional guidance on setting up and using this helpful feature.

RESERVATION DEPOSIT

A \$25.00 camp reservation deposit per person will hold a Scout unit’s campsite until February 1st. The first half of the fee is due February 1st and the final payment is due May 1st. This deposit is NOT refundable if the unit does not attend camp. (The deposit is applicable to the Scout unit’s total camp fee.)

Units participating in Cavalcade are on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$500 deposit per Cavalcade reserved will be due upon submittal of online registration. Cavalcade deposits are non-refundable, non-transferable, but do apply toward the total Cavalcade fee. The first half of the payment is due February 1st and the final payment is due May 1st.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MAY 1, 2027. SUBTRACTIONS FROM HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAMS AFTER MAY 1st WILL HAVE A \$25.00 FEE PER DROP.

Please note that base camp slots fill up VERY quickly at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch, and space is limited during each week of camp. Backcountry program areas are also very popular and are limited to 12 people per program. Please make your reservations early to secure your spots!

If, during the week, a participant must drop out of the CAVALCADE, MOUNTAIN MAN, or OUTBACK programs for any reason, he/she can return to the base camp to participate in activities with available space. There will be NO refund or adjustment of fees because of this change.

SCOUT CAMP TAKES PLACE RAIN OR SHINE, EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE. BECAUSE EXPENSES ARE COMMITTED IN ADVANCE, WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER REFUNDS FOR WEATHER, ACTS OF NATURE, OR OTHER SITUATIONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

SUGGESTED INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Completed Medical Form
- ☐ Cap or Hat (A must)*
- ☐ Sunscreen*
- ☐ Canteen or Water Bottle (A must)*
- ☐ Toothpaste and toothbrush
- ☐ Soap & Shampoo
- ☐ Toilet articles
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Scout Uniform
- ☐ T-shirts*
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Shorts or pants
- ☐ Belt*
- ☐ Shoes or good hiking boots
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Bedroll or blankets
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Cot (The ground is very rocky)
- ☐ Flashlight with batteries*
- ☐ Cup*
- ☐ Scout knife or pocket knife*
- ☐ Work gloves for project
- ☐ Spending money
- ☐ Backpack or day pack for day hikes
- ☐ Footlocker or duffle bag w/lock
- ☐ Poncho or rain suit*
- ☐ Merit Badge supplies and work completed
- ☐ Aquatic Merit Badge essentials
- ☐ Boy Scout Handbook
- ☐ Long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- ☐ Folding camp chair

*Indicates item is available in Jersey Lilly Trading Post

SUGGESTED TROOP EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Troop Flag and U.S. Flag
- ☐ Tents, ropes, heavy tent spikes.
- ☐ Troop library books: Scout Song Book, Scout Handbooks, Merit Badge pamphlets
- ☐ Troop Record Book (for recording advancement and other Scout records)
- ☐ Clothing marker pen
- ☐ Assorted hand tools for campsite/Troop use (Especially mini-sledge hammers for tent stakes!)
- ☐ Cooking Stoves (Optional for cooking Thursday supper and Friday breakfast. Troops may request charcoal.)
- ☐ Chuck Boxes with cooking gear (Full cooking supplies not necessary; meals can be done as foil "Silver Turtles")
- ☐ Dutch oven for cobbler cook-off (May be checked out from Quartermaster)
- ☐ Secret ingredients for cobbler cook-off (basic supplies will be provided: cake & filling)
- ☐ Water cooler
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Your best troop spirit and enthusiasm. A skit for Friday!

SUGGESTED PATROL EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Patrol flags
- ☐ Progress records for each Scout
- ☐ Patrol and troop leadership handbook
- ☐ Patrol Log Book (keep the log going each year)
- ☐ Overnight hike equipment (individual mess gear, canteen, etc.)
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Your best patrol spirit and enthusiasm

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR LEADERS

- ☐ Camp Leader's Guide
- ☐ Complete roster of all Scouts and leaders. Address and phone numbers of parents on vacation!
- ☐ Folding chair and table
- ☐ The Scoutmaster Handbook
- ☐ Advancement objectives
- ☐ Troop program ideas and reference materials
- ☐ Skill training equipment
- ☐ COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORD AND EVALUATION FORMS FOR EACH SCOUT AND LEADER (THE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN AND THE MEDICAL RECORD SIDE MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN).
- ☐ THE CAMP MUST ALSO HAVE A COPY OF ALL PERSONAL/FAMILY INSURANCE CARDS ATTACHED TO THE PHYSICAL FORM.

OPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Writing materials
- ☐ Field glasses
- ☐ Small, metal mirror
- ☐ Ground cloth
- ☐ Musical instrument

Hawaiian Shirt (for Friday picnic day)
Snorkel gear (if participating in program)

- ☐ Camera and film
- ☐ Sewing kit
- ☐ Bible or prayer book
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Team Spirit HAT (For Team Spirit hat day!)

INITIAL CHECK IN

Camp arrival is scheduled for **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** Sunday. You will have sufficient time to check in and set up camp, even with a 3:00 PM arrival. **CAMP PERSONNEL CANNOT ACCOMMODATE UNSCHEDULED EARLY ARRIVALS.** The Camp Staff are in meetings and are preparing for your arrival before 1:00. If your plans call for an early arrival, you must notify the Camp Director in advance. (Reference: **Saturday Arrival** procedures below.)

You will be met at the gate by a camp staff member upon arrival and will be given directions for parking and unloading equipment. A troop guide will be assigned to your troop, and he/she will help you get settled and started on your summer camp adventure.

As your Troop is led into camp and you are assigned a troop guide, please have the adult leader responsible for registration go into Buffalo Hall to complete this process. Please bring all pertinent check-in paperwork.

CHECK IN BINDERS

We ask that you make copies of everything and provide 2 Binders with all your troop paperwork. The first binder will need to contain all Medical Forms and information. The second binder will need to contain all other paperwork. These Binders should be labeled with your Troop Number and City. Upon Arrival at camp, you will be asked to present copies of the following:

Check-In Paperwork – Troop 1234, Midland, Texas

1. Proof of Troop Insurance
2. Official Scouting America Roster
3. Required Adult Paperwork
 - A. Adult Leader Application for Participation
 - B. Disclosure Authorization Form
 - C. Safeguarding Youth Training Documentation
 - D. Sex Offender Background Check
4. Program Specific Forms

5. Merit Badge Pre-Registration Confirmation
6. Order of the Arrow Callout Permission Letter
7. BTSR Liability Release Form
8. Nature Conservancy Release Form

Medical Binder – Troop 1234, Midland, Texas

1. Medical Forms (w/ Family Insurance Attached)
2. Special Requests

OA CALL-OUT

Each troop wishing to have candidates called out for the Order of the Arrow **must** present a unit election form and a callout permission letter from your local council, with the appropriate signatures, upon check-in on Sunday. Buffalo Trail Council Troops must have a Tatanka Lodge #141 Call Out Report.

Out-of-Council troops must provide a letter from their local Scout Executive, or designee, approving candidates to be called out that are listed on the form suggested above. This is a National Order of the Arrow policy; we are attempting to comply with and ask for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact your Council office for the Lodge Advisor's phone number. Election forms and letters may be filed with the camp prior to arrival, at check-in, or with the camp chief. All forms must be received by lunch on Tuesday for the callout on Friday.

MERIT BADGE PRE-REGISTRATION

Once again, we will have a pre-registration process in place for **ALL** Scouts' Merit Badge classes. This process was designed to make your troop's camp experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Online pre-registration has been very helpful in the process of preparing for camp for both the BTSR Staff and the adult leaders coming to camp. You will be able to log into the website from the Buffalo Trail Council website to complete this process! The site will have up-to-the-minute information on class sizes, spots available, and program notes. It also allows you to print your final registration and much more! You will find this to be a great and convenient way to sign up for your classes at BTSR!

Merit Badge registration is open February 1st and after 50% of the camp fee has been paid.

Once your Troop's schedule is entered into the system, you will receive instant confirmation of what your Troop's schedule will look like and be able to print a report at that time. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To guarantee each Scout the best instruction possible, and to ensure the health and safety of all participants, some classes will have a size limit. After you submit your schedule, you will be able to log back on and make changes if a Scout drops out of camp, if you get new Scouts in the Troop, or even if a Scout changes their mind about a class!

Keep in mind that new Scouts added to your roster after May 1st must be added through the camp registrar, not the website. Scouts who do not pre-register and show up to camp may be disappointed when arriving at camp to find that a class is full. Avoid these surprises and enter your Troop's pre-registration ASAP.

Please complete the pre-registration process in a timely manner. All Troops are **REQUIRED** to complete this important task, as it is in your best interest to do so. Knowing which classes are beginning to fill up ahead of time, BTSR will be able to create new classes, ensure proper staffing, or at least give your participants time to choose a new class before they ever arrive at camp.

MEDICAL BINDER

Each camper, adult or youth, **MUST bring a current**, completed Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record Form. A licensed physician must have completed all physicals within the past 12 months.

Upon arrival at camp, medical screenings will be given by the Camp Medical Officer or designee. The medical officer will review health forms and medication needs for all participants. This IS NOT a medical examination! There will be NO medical examinations available at camp. If you do not have a Medical Form when you get to Camp, YOU WILL HAVE TO DRIVE TO ALPINE (60 MILES AND THE NEAREST DOCTOR) TO GET ONE. Please make arrangements before coming to camp.

PLEASE NOTE: A MEDICAL FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE.

For camper safety, all medications (prescription, over the counter, and vitamins) must be in their original packaging and match the doctor's written orders provided to the health staff. Please do not pause or alter daily medications (e.g., ADHD medication) during the camp session, as this can affect their health, safety, and experience.

- **"Consistency is Key" Policy:** To ensure your child has the best experience, please maintain their daily medication routine. We strongly discourage taking a 'holiday' from essential daily medications while at camp, as changes in routine can impact their well-being and interaction with peers.
- **No Changes Without Doctor Approval:** Medications must be administered exactly as prescribed. If a medication dosage changes, a new, signed doctor's order must be submitted.
- **Full Disclosure:** All daily medications, including vitamins and supplements, must be listed on the health form and checked in with the medical staff upon arrival.
- **Original Containers Only:** All medications must be in their original pharmacy containers, clearly labeled with the child's name, medication name, and dosage instructions.
- **Authorization:** The health staff cannot administer medication without proper, authorized paperwork.

Important Safety Note:

- **No "Pocket" Medication:** Campers are not permitted to keep medication in their cabins (except approved emergency items like inhalers or EpiPens).
- **Proper Disposal:** If a camper stops taking medication, it must be reported to the health staff, rather than just skipping doses.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS

Troops with participants who have special dietary or medical needs should fill out the request form. Please submit this form to the Buffalo Trail Council office by **May 15th** so BTSR can make attempts to accommodate these needs. Be aware that we are unable to completely change the menu or purchase specialty items. **It is necessary for Scouts with special dietary requirements to bring food items to supplement items available at camp.** There has never been a problem working with these needs in the past; it is just best for the staff to be aware prior to camp so there are no surprises. Common requests include vegetarian diets, no pork diets, use of BTSR freezers for special food, allergies to peanut butter, etc. **Special medical needs** must also be communicated using this form. Common requests include needing refrigeration for medication, electricity for CPAP machines (VERY limited), use of a camp nebulizer, etc. Again, BTSR can meet needs and accommodate requests with the limited facilities that we have available in most cases. However, Troops and individuals may need to bring specialty items to help make some requests possible.

Gluten-free diets are very hard to accommodate in a camp environment. BTSR will do everything we can to accommodate; however, it may be necessary for campers to supplement with their own items.

SAMPLE MENU

SUNDAY

- **Dinner**
 - Chicken Fried Steak
 - Corn on the Cob
 - Mashed Potatoes
 - Gravy
 - Rolls
 - Peach Dump Cake

MONDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Pancakes
 - Bacon
 - Fruit
 - Cereal
- **Lunch**
 - Corn Dog
 - French Fries
 - Cookies
 - Salad Bar
- **Dinner**
 - Enchiladas
 - Spanish Rice
 - Refried Beans
 - Condiment Bar
 - Cake with Icing

TUESDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Pigs in a Blanket
 - Gravy
 - Oatmeal
 - Fruit
 - Cereal
- **Lunch**
 - Sub Sandwiches (ham or turkey)
 - Pork-n-Beans
 - Potato Chips
 - Condiment Bar
 - Banana Pudding
- **Dinner**
 - Chicken Spaghetti

- Peas
- Garlic Bread
- Salad Bar
- Cherry Cheesecake

WEDNESDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Biscuits with Gravy
 - Sausage
 - Cereal
 - Fruit
- **Lunch**
 - Nachos
 - Spanish Rice
 - Refried Beans
 - Condiment Bar
 - Spice Cake
- **Dinner**
 - **Scouts-**
 - Chicken Strips
 - Mashed Potatoes
 - Gravy
 - Green Beans
 - Salad Bar
 - Ice Cream with Chocolate Syrup
 - **Scoutmaster Dinner**
 - Steak
 - Baked Potato
 - Green Beans
 - Rolls
 - Condiments
 - Salad
 - Scoutmaster Cobbler

THURSDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Breakfast Burritos
 - Oatmeal
 - Fruit

- Cereal
- **Lunch**
 - Pizza
 - Corn
 - Brownies
 - Salad Bar
 - Fruit Salad
- **Dinner**
 - Sandwiches
 - Fresh Fruit

FRIDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Danishes
 - Cereal
 - Fruit
 - Milk
- **Lunch**
 - Hot Dogs
 - Bratwurst
 - Sauerkraut
 - Chili Fritos
 - Condiments
 - Watermelon
- **Dinner**
 - Brisket
 - Ranch Style Beans
 - Potato Salad
 - Salad Bar
 - White or Wheat Bread
 - Chocolate Cake with Icing

SATURDAY

- **Breakfast**
 - Breakfast Kit
 - Fruit
 - Milk
 - TO GO

This is a SAMPLE menu for this summer. As food service contracts, consultation with cooks and other planning takes place, this menu is subject to change without notice! **It may be necessary to bring food items to supplement items available at camp if there is a person in a troop with a special dietary need.**

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SATURDAY ARRIVAL

As mentioned above, early arrivals on Saturday cannot be accommodated due to a tight schedule and staff meetings that take place prior to campers' arrivals. There are several public and private campgrounds in the immediate area, including Pecos, Balmorhea, and Fort Davis, TX.

We will only allow troops with religious restrictions concerning travel to arrive on Saturdays. Please note that NO staff will be on site, NO meals are provided, and ALL campers must remain across the creek in the campsite areas (unless the Troop is taking a trip to town). It is recommended that you stay at one of the local campgrounds that offer full service, if possible.

Please contact the Camp Director with any questions regarding this procedure.

CAMP TOURS

Your group will be given a tour of BTSR by one of our staff members. Your Troop will see the program areas, campsites, and camp facilities during this tour. The first stop on the tour will include your Troop photo, and the tour will end with your swim checks at the pool.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at camp on Fridays, which are Visitor Days. Parents are encouraged to visit on Friday afternoon and evening. The Dining Hall Staff will serve a meal to campers and visitors who have purchased visitors' meals. Please inform the Business Manager by Wednesday of the week you plan to come with the number of visitors you expect. Tickets for visitors' meals may be purchased at the Jersey Lily Trading Post. Younger siblings are also welcome on Fridays. Families are welcome to attend our Closing Campfire on Friday evening. We do not have accommodations for overnight stays. There are several hotels in the local communities.

CHECK OUT – LEAVING BASE CAMP

With over 9,000 acres and 1/4 mile of road, it is necessary to use a checkout and check-in system. All groups going on the trail must receive a trail pass from the Program Director or Outback Director and check out and check in at the camp office. All leaders going to town or to the doctor must check out and check in. All groups going on the trail, even for short hikes, must have 2 quarts of water per person, a trail map, and a First Aid Kit. Log sheets are located at the camp office.

DAY HIKES

The camp encourages both campers and adults to explore its beauty. All hikes **must** be discussed with and approved by the Program Director or Outback Director before any camper or leader may leave base camp. This is for the safety of all participants! A Trail Pass is required, and the buddy system must be used! All hikers must check out and check in with the Camp Operations Office. Hikers will be required to have 2 quarts of water, a trail map, and a First Aid Kit. Youth must always have 2 adults with them on the trail. Hikes must always have at least 4 people regardless of your familiarity with BTSR.



TRIPS TO TOWN

If the Adult Leaders need to go to town, they may do so if there are two (2) Adult Leaders in camp with the troop. People going to town must check out and check in with the camp operations office, regardless of the time of day or night.

DEPARTURE

Please plan to depart camp by 9:00 AM Saturday morning. The Camp Commissioner Staff will be available for campsite inspections as early as you request. Please keep in mind our breakfast routine for Saturday morning. We will not serve breakfast in the dining hall that morning or have a morning assembly. Instead, we will have a delicious, boxed breakfast that your Troop can enjoy in the campsite or on the road. This will allow you to continue breaking camp or hit the road earlier, rather than taking an hour-long break for flags and a meal. BTSR staff will post the colors Saturday.

SCOUT RELEASE REQUEST

Scouts desiring to leave the camp prior to their unit's departure or not as a part of a unit must have a release signed by their parents or guardian and approved by the Scoutmaster. Scouts should normally be permitted to leave only when accompanied by their parents. The Scout Release Form should be used in handling these exceptional cases. Request Form can be found at the back of this guide.

In an emergency, it may not be possible for a parent or guardian to sign the release. In this event, sufficient information must be recorded attesting to the telephone call or means of communication by which word arrived asking for the release of Scout. This information should document the person who received the call, verify the parent's telephone confirmation requesting the Scout's release, and provide detailed reasons for the release.

In signing the request for release, Scouting America and parents or guardians mutually acknowledge that there will be no refund of camp fees; that the council health and accident insurance terminates with the Scout's departure from camp; that upon the Scout's departure from the Scout Camp, Scouting America or its representatives shall not be liable for any loss or injury to the Scout's person or property.

Scouts must check out through the Camp Office. Photo ID and verification will be required to escort any Scout from Camp.

UNIFORMS

The official leaders' and scouts' summer uniform is suggested for camp. All Scouts and Scouters are asked to be in full uniform for the evening flag ceremony, meals, and the Friday night campfire. Scout t-shirts and Scout caps are appropriate for daywear. Staff will be in our uniform for all evening flag ceremonies. We invite you to do the same!

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

Camp is an outdoor experience. A Scout is cheated out of a full outdoor experience by electronic devices. In all cases, personal valuables (watches, wallets, money) should not be left out in the open. It is impossible for the staff to provide security for these valuables. Most valuables are lost at the swimming pool and showers. There are now lockers available at the pool for valuables, but you must bring your own lock. For the safety of your items, **DO NOT BRING ANY** valuables with you to the showers! Lock your valuables away in your footlocker at your campsite or leave them in the care of a unit leader.

PLEASE use a permanent marker or etcher and mark all personal items with first and last name, Troop #, or all 3! Many valuable items are left at camp year after year, and nobody claims them. Please have your scouts take the time to mark their personal belongings! A Troop shakedown would be ideal to ensure this takes place!

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items will be kept at the camp office. Leaders and parents should urge Scouts to mark all possessions with their names and troop numbers. Valuable items will be kept in a lockbox until identified and claimed by the owner. Please check with the office manager to inquire about lost-and-found items or to turn in found items.

BANNED ITEMS

FIREARMS

Personal firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, and fireworks are not allowed in camp.

FLAMMABLES

Fires are to be built only in the designated areas and under proper supervision. Liquid and propane fuels are to be used only under adult supervision. Bulk liquid fuels must be stored under lock and key in a location designated by the Camp Quartermaster. Under NO circumstances are they to be stored in the campsite. Liquid fuels **must not** be used on open fires or to start a fire. Empty cylinders and cans must be given to the Camp Quartermaster for disposal. National policy prohibits the use of open flames in tents. This includes mosquito coils, catalytic heaters, gas lanterns, stoves, candles, and smoking material. **ALL TENTS AND FLYS MUST BE MARKED "NO FLAMES IN TENTS".**

ALCOHOL & ILLEGAL DRUGS

The consumption, possession, or use of alcohol or illegal drugs or controlled substances while participating in the program of the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch is not permitted. We will enforce all local, state, and federal laws where violations involving the above are reported. Violators will be asked to leave camp immediately.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO

Smoking and tobacco use is banned in the presence of minors. THE BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL CAMPING COMMITTEE HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIFIC SMOKING AREA. It is required by Scouting America policy that leaders who smoke do so ONLY in the designated area. The use of tobacco in any form by underage campers is not allowed.

BICYCLES

BICYCLES ARE NOT TO BE USED ON CAMP PROPERTY.

MEDIA, MAIL, TRAVEL

INTERNET ACCESS

BTSR has very limited wireless internet capability in Buffalo Hall for **adults only**. Please no streaming, video calls, or large downloads. If you need to do so, please talk to the office staff about the best time to do these activities.

We must always have internet access for camp business. If abuse occurs, users will be blocked from accessing the internet.

CELL PHONES

Due to BTSR's location in the Little Aguja Canyon, a virtual "black hole" is created when it comes to cell phone reception! **NO** cell phone coverage is available in the canyon! Adult leaders may drive out onto RR 1832 until a signal is found or may have to drive all the way into town, depending on the cell phone company. **Leaders leaving camp to use the phone must check out at the camp office before doing so. (Please maintain proper leadership in camp.)**

MAIL

BTSR does have daily mail service. Please mail all letters to Scouts by Wednesday morning; otherwise, they will not reach the camp. To write a Scout at camp, address the card or letter as follows:

Scout's Name, Troop #
Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch
P.O. Box 188
Balmorhea, TX 79718

FEDEX & UPS

The camp does receive both services. No early A.M. service is available. The proper shipping address is:

Scout's Name, Troop #
Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch
16400 Ranch Road 1832 #525
Fort Davis, TX 79734

Note: Due to BTSR's remote location, delivery times may be limited. Please check with the shipping company before sending packages.



TRANSPORTATION

Each troop is responsible for transportation to and from camp. Parking is limited, so please limit the number of vehicles that a unit brings to camp. NOTE: ONLY camp-owned vehicles are permitted on the upper-level campsite roads! Please do not bring additional equipment. We are limited by our mountain environment to how many troop trailers we can accommodate. Please indicate on your special request form if you cannot be in an upper campsite that does not accommodate trailers.

Charter buses are ideal for large groups or for groups traveling long distances. Troops using charter buses need to notify the camp so arrangements can be made to transport equipment to your campsite.

LOCATION

BTSR is in the heart of the Davis Mountains between Ft. Davis and Balmorhea State Park. The camp is easily accessed from Interstate 10 by exiting onto State Hwy. 17 South (Balmorhea State Park – Ft. Davis Exit). Follow Hwy. 17 through Balmorhea to the State Park in Toyahvale, TX. Turn south after the State Park to continue Hwy. 17. Follow Hwy. 17 for 7 miles and turn west into Ranch Road 1832. BTSR is located at the very end of RR 1832, only 12 miles to the end!

TRAVELING TO BTSR

Bus: Some Troops may choose to charter a bus and save the hassle of being behind the wheel! Contact your local charter bus company to make arrangements for this mode of transportation. This is ideal for larger Troops traveling long distances. You may want to check and see if another Troop in your area is coming to camp the same week you are and split the costs with them! BTSR has plenty of space for a bus to maneuver at the entrance and unload.

Plane: The nearest commercial airport is about 150 miles away in Midland-Odessa. www.midlandinternational.com American, United, Delta, and Southwest are the scheduled carriers. El Paso International Airport is about 205 miles from the camp, with most major airlines offering services to and from El Paso. For private aircraft, there is the well-equipped Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport (432) 837-5929 on Texas 118 about 50 miles south of BTSR. The Marfa City Airport on Hwy 17 about 40 miles south of BTSR (432) 729-3102.

Train: Amtrak makes its only regular stop between El Paso and Del Rio in Alpine, coming through town 3 times a week, both eastbound and westbound. Amtrak's schedules and rates are on their website at www.amtrak.com or by calling 800-872-7245.

Cars: Most Troops travel to BTSR in cars or vans. Please be aware of how many vehicles you bring to camp, as parking is extremely limited.

BTSR does not have EV charging stations. The closest charging station is in Balmorhea or Pecos.

Rental Vehicles: Auto rentals are available at Alpine Auto Rental, 2501 U.S. 90, Alpine, Texas, 8 am to 5 pm, 1-800-894-3463. There are several rental companies available at Midland International Airport. www.midlandinternational.com

PARKING

PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE CAMP SITES. All vehicles must be parked in the parking area along the road unless exempted by the Camp Director. This is for you and your campers' safety! Certain vehicles approved by the Camp Director will be allowed to tow Troop trailers and equipment to campsites but must be promptly moved after equipment is unloaded. Some vehicles cannot navigate our roads, so this policy is a must. Thank you for your cooperation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health Lodge is staffed by EMTs, Paramedics, or RNs trained to handle accidents and illnesses. Arrangements for treatment of serious cases have been made with a local physician and the hospitals (60 miles from Camp).

TROOP FIRST AID KITS

Troops should bring their own First Aid Kit and Logbook. Many minor cuts and scratches can be handled in your own campsite. Routine medications that do not require refrigeration can be kept in a lock box at your campsite.

MEDICATIONS

All prescription drugs (including those needing refrigeration) are to be locked up. An exception may be made for a limited amount of medication to be carried by a camper, leader, parent, or staff member for life-threatening conditions, including bee-sting or heart medication, and inhalers, or for a limited amount of medication approved for use in a first aid kit. (National Camp Standard)

TRIPS TO HOSPITALS & DOCTORS

Campers requiring the attention of a doctor or hospital services will be handled as follows:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the unit leadership to provide transportation for unit members requiring services from a doctor or hospital. The camp will provide transportation only if the unit has none available.
2. One adult leader from the unit **MUST** accompany the Scout to the doctor or hospital and must carry insurance forms for the hospital or doctor to complete. You must pick up the Scout's medical health record at the Health Lodge before leaving camp. The leader must check out and check in at the camp office when going to the hospital or doctor.
3. Parents should be notified immediately of any serious illness or accident. If the parents will not be home during the week of camp, have them advise you where they can be located.
4. Directions to doctors and hospitals are available at the Camp Office.

WILD ANIMALS

Summer camp is an outdoor experience, and as such, we are visitors to the camp's natural area. As Scouts, we must remember to live up to the Outdoor Code and be "considerate in the outdoors." Throwing rocks at or attempting to catch animals such as rabbits, snakes, armadillos, and skunks is dangerous not only to the animals but also to campers. Please report any troubles with snakes or other animals to the camp maintenance staff immediately.



"Skunkzilla" is a longtime resident of BTSR and a common visitor to Troop sites in the middle of the night! He is looking for food and usually finds it. PLEASE do not store any food or snacks in any tents or sleeping areas at any time. Remind your scouts of this and lock up all food items outside of living areas and keep your campsites litter-free!

Risk Management for Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch

Each participant must understand the nature of the terrain, weather conditions, and creatures of Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch while attending the camp. Our outback areas are unimproved, and difficult conditions and hazards such as falling rocks, unfenced cliffs, abrupt drop-offs, steep, slippery and/or narrow hiking trails, strenuous rock climbing or hiking, caves/sinkholes, wildfires, unpredictable water currents, flash floods, mountain lions, bobcats, venomous snakes, bees, yellow jackets, scorpions, poison ivy, and other potentially harmful wildlife or vegetation, as well as numerous other hazards, may be encountered.

You must also be aware that injuries may require emergency medical treatment at a medical facility, and that our nearest hospital is over an hour away (one way). The ranch is in a very secluded area, and with this being the case, we take every means possible to have the best prepared staff. That being noted, there are things beyond our control due to the unlimited possibilities that exist.

Everyone must take every reasonable precaution to avoid any injury to themselves and others and be conscious of the effects of the heat and lack of humidity. It is very important to drink plenty of water. This cannot be overemphasized as to the importance of remaining hydrated. It is also important to understand and follow our rules for NO Running, NO rock throwing, NO open-toe shoes, and keeping shoelaces tied.

It is of utmost importance that each and every visitor to Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch be aware of the hazards that exist and follow any directions from staff pertaining to any immediate or potential risk.

The venomous snakes on the ranch consist of various species of rattlesnakes, such as the Diamondback, Velvet Tail, Rock Rattler, Pygmy Rattler, and Mojave Rattler. Copperheads are also present.



HEAT CONDITIONS

The Camp Director may curtail extreme physical activities where high heat or high heat and humidity exist. This includes hiking, work, or other "heavy demand" physical activities. ***Dehydration is a major problem in this climate; if troops will push water consumption, the programs may be able to continue. Due to low humidity and 95+ temperatures, Scouts often feel cool from evaporation and do not drink water.***

Heat index (or apparent temperature) is how the heat and humidity in the air combine to make us feel. Higher humidity and higher temperatures often combine to make us perceive a temperature higher than the actual air temperature. The old saying, "IT'S NOT THE HEAT, IT'S THE HUMIDITY," holds true. Sometimes in the summer in the Davis Mountains, our relative humidity is so low that we actually feel cooler!

First-aid treatment recommendations for heat-related illnesses can be obtained from local Red Cross offices, hospitals, clinics, public health agencies, and physicians. BTSR's health officer will use this chart to ensure the health and safety of our campers. Schedules may be adjusted or certain activities curtailed for the safety of all participants, staff, and livestock.

HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAM

SUNDAY AND FRIDAY

All High Adventure participants are allowed to stay in either Buffalo Hall or the Chapel on Sunday and Friday nights, but it is not mandatory. This helps alleviate crowding at Troop campsites and accommodate Troops coming to BT SR with nothing but High Adventure participants. Plan and have your participant's gear set aside and ready to be carried to the site upon arrival AT BT SR.

THE BACKCOUNTRY

TRAILS

There are over a dozen trails that wind through the over 9,000 acres of rugged and beautiful BT SR terrain. Many of these trails were established almost 6 decades ago and still see traffic today as we continue to put hikers into our wonderful backcountry. They range from easy trails with little to no elevation change to the most rugged and challenging trails that will test even the most experienced hikers. These are not roads or wide national park trails; they are very rustic trails that leave little impact on the surrounding beauty you will experience as you hike along these paths. Our itineraries are designed to utilize the most appropriate trail based on the experience level required for each program. Ranging from 4,400 ft. at base camp to 6,475 ft. at Bear Mountain. There is something for everyone!



SCENERY

With over 50 miles of trails winding through our corner of the Davis Mountains, you can experience some of the most beautiful scenic overlooks in the state. Our camp includes portions of Little Aguja Canyon, Madera Canyon, Pig Pen Canyon, and Million Dollar Canyon inside its boundaries. Looking down into one of these canyons, or up at the rising towers of rock at their bottoms, you will not go home dissatisfied with the beauty and variety of nature found at our camp.

LANDMARKS

BT SR is home to many unique geological formations and landmarks, many of which you can see on one of your treks. Be on the lookout for Needle Rock, Natural Arch, The Notch, Balance Rock, the Columns, Blue Hole, and Forbidden Castle. You might even see the Indian Paintings and our many natural springs!

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

- 2.00 Miles to Needle Rock
 - 2.50 Miles to Notch
 - 3.00 Miles to Pole Pen
 - 3.11 Miles to Mountain Man
 - 6.80 Miles to Indian Paintings
 - 8.64 Miles to Jenkin's Cabin
 - 13.1 Miles to Bear Cave Mountain
-

OPEN WATER DIVER CERTIFICATION

BTSR will offer SCUBA Open Water Diver Certification for Scouts, Venturers, and Leaders aged 14 and up. This will be a four-day course, conducted every day, all day, at the beautiful San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea State Park.

Each participant will be **required** to complete the online class **before** coming to camp. This takes approximately 8-10 hours to finish the 5-chapter online course. At the end of each chapter, there is a review of the materials that must be completed, printed, and brought to camp. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Fees will include ALL food and base camp fees, ALL supplies needed for the course (dive gear, air, park fees), as well as instructor fees. You do not have to bring any masks, fins, wetsuits, air tanks, etc., unless you choose to bring your own personal supplies. You are not required to purchase any of your own equipment. Once you pre-register and pay for the course, you will receive a training package to begin using before coming to camp. It requires completing online training and bringing the completion certificate. You will also need to provide your own transportation to and from the park. The park entrance fees are included in the fees paid to BTSR.



PREREGISTRATION AND PREPAYMENT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THIS COURSE! OUR INSTRUCTORS HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE HERE AND HAVE INFORMATION THAT YOU MUST RECEIVE BEFORE ARRIVING AT BTSR!

OUTBACK HIKING ADVENTURE

Enjoy the challenge and the sights of the most beautiful canyons, highest peaks, and tallest cliffs in Texas during your week in the BTSR Outback. Created thousands of years ago during the formation of the Earth, volcanic activity sent the Davis Mountains over sixty-five hundred feet above sea level. Calderas and erosion left the rocky peaks two thousand feet above the valley floor, creating the Outback that BTSR Rangers proudly call home.

PROGRAM

Treks consist of a weeklong guided hiking adventure based out of our 9,003-acre Scout Ranch (one of the largest council-owned Scout Ranches in the USA!). Crews hike on rugged trails with amazing views. Each crew will stay at pre-existing campsites where dinners, breakfasts, and cooking gear will be made available. Once at the campsite, crews will have time for independent activities and exploration as well as arranged programming.

LOGISTICS

The treks are week-long, with no resupply stops at base camp. The terrain is very rough, and the treks are physically challenging. Crews must follow trip age and experience requirements.

Each unit signs up a minimum of 6 members, including 2 adult leaders, one 21+ for a trek. The program is open to all Scout groups and may be coed, with proper adult leadership.

Guides: Your assigned Outback Guide is your resource for local history, water sources, trail information, and safety tips. The Guide's experience should be a reliable resource to lead your crew through the not-so-distinct trails. The Guide's primary goal is to ensure a fun and safe week. He or she is NOT supposed to lead your group or set up Troop operations such as cooking, eating, or sleeping arrangements.

Food: Dinners and breakfasts are already at outback camps, waiting for basic preparation. Lunches are the only meals that will be packed; they are packaged and require minimal, if any, preparation. Meals are designed to be healthy and meet the caloric needs of each group. It is recommended to bring personal or troop food, such as Gatorade or snacks; just be sure to package and store it properly. As part of the Leave No Trace policies, each crew will be expected to carry out ALL garbage.

Water: Water is available at several locations in the Outback, but it is scarce. Due to the area's arid nature, **5 liters of water per person** are required. A water filter or purification tablets are also encouraged.

Weather: The weather in West Texas is very unpredictable. Most summer temperatures range between 75 and 95; however, temperature extremes may be as low as 65 and as high as 115. The humidity in the Davis Mountains is usually in the 20% range during the summer. Humidity can swing from lows of 5% to highs of 100%. The extremely low humidity makes high temperatures seem cooler. This often results in dehydration. All crews must ensure that the entire crew stays properly hydrated. Most weeks the camp will not receive any rain, but all crews **should bring rain gear**.

Clothing: Most members will be fine on most trails wearing a pair of shorts and a T-shirt. All trails have their share of catclaw, a feared briar bush often compared to ugly rose stems. Sensitive-skinned members will prefer protection from the brush and sun. A hat and sun block are a MUST for all crew members. Clothing dries rapidly in the arid climate, so washing is made easy; there is no need to sacrifice water capacity for extra changes of clothes. Deodorant and other items which will attract wild animals should be left at base camp.

Adult Leadership on Treks: All crews going on the trail must have adult leaders; one must be 21 years of age or older, the other 18 years of age or older. Coed Crews must have coed leadership. At least one adult must hold a current Wilderness First Aid certification.

TREK DESCRIPTIONS

When you sign up for the BTSR Outback, please specify which of the following Treks you will be taking. Please include an alternative trek preference, in case one has already been filled up for the week of your choice.

Intro to Backpacking

- ◆ Minimum Age = 14
- ◆ Experience = Camping only
- ◆ Difficulty = Beginner
- ◆ Mileage = ~10-14 miles
- ◆ ONLY 3 days on trial!

Spend two days learning the basics of backpacking, from how to pack and wear a backpack to how to travel using Leave No Trace practices. On Wednesday, head out for a three-day, two-night backpacking trip to practice and reinforce the skills learned in base camp. Participants will earn partial credit for LNT and the backpacking merit badge and will earn the camp conservation award and Trek Safety card.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast • Trek Safely • First Aid • What to bring & How to pack • Maps and Navigation Lunch • LNT • Setting up tents & Tarps Dinner • Campfire	Breakfast • Menu planning and outback foods • Itineraries • Living with Wildlife • Pack organization and adjustment to body Lunch • Foot care and outback hygiene • Water purification and food preparation COOK Dinner • Shake down • Troop games	Breakfast • Hike the Green trail • First aid role play Lunch • Swimming/exploring at The Notch • Review first aid/ role play Dinner • Create mock menu and itinerary	Breakfast • LNT conservation project • Hike the Green trail to the Black trail Lunch • Hike the Black trail to WB tanks • Optional hike • Camp games Dinner • Fire building • Campfire	Breakfast • Hike Black trail Lunch • Return to base camp for lunch, optional. • Hike to Base Camp • Return to Base Camp Schedule

The above itineraries are recommended schedules, but might be adapted based on your group's needs, environmental conditions, etc. No set schedule for work crews since they will work on areas as needed.

Davis Mountain Trek

- ◆ Minimum Age=14
- ◆ Experience = Advanced / Mature
- ◆ Difficulty = EXTREMELY Difficult
- ◆ Mileage = ~30-50 miles

Pre-trek training is required for all participants, and GPS will be provided. Must be able to use a map and compass.

This trek is the most difficult and physically taxing program at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch. Hiking over 50 miles in five days is a proud and difficult accomplishment for those who complete the trek. People cry, feet bleed, and their thighs will feel the burn. Enjoy climbing, team building, and a search-and-rescue role-play as you take the grand tour of the BTSR Outback. Hike over 50 miles through the rugged terrain of the outback AND earn the RR 1832 Marathon award. Trek crews also have the option to earn the 50-miler award.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
• Breakfast at Base Camp • Hike RR 1832 to the Orange trail • Hike the Orange trail through Million Dollar Canyon • Hike the Black trail to Whisky Bottle Tank	• Breakfast • Hike the Green trail to the Tall Rock Shelter • Lunch at The Tall Rock Shelter • Hike to Needle Rock • Swim at The Notch	• Breakfast • Hike Rustler's Pass to Ezra's Bedground • Hike to Madera Canyon Overlook • Camp III activities • Black powder rifle program	• Breakfast • Hike the Grand Saddle Pass to White Tank • Lunch at White Tank • Swim at White Tank • Explore Escondido Canyon • Camp IV activities	• Breakfast • Hike Pig Pen Canyon to RR 1832 • Hike RR 1832 for 50-mile award (optional) • Base Camp • Post-hike plunge at BTSR swimming Pool

• Lunch at Whisky Bottle Tank • Hike the Black trail to Tricky Gap Park • Camp I activities	• Dinner with the Mountain Man Camp • Hike to Rustler's Flat • Camp II activities		• Archery program	
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The above itineraries are recommended schedules, but might be adapted based on your group's needs, environmental conditions, etc. No set schedule for work crews since they will work on areas as needed.



OUTBACK EQUIPMENT

Personal Trek Equipment

- ◆ Packing
 - Pack (internal or external frame)
 - Padded hip strap
 - 6-12 Ziploc Bags (for packing items below)
- ◆ Sleeping
 - Sleeping Bag
 - Straps/Bungee cords to attach bag to pack
 - Foam sleeping pad (optional)
- ◆ Wearing (packed in plastic bags)
 - Hiking boots (already broken in!)
 - Sandals or water shoes
 - 2 pairs heavy hiking outer socks
 - 3 pairs lighter inner socks
 - 3 changes of underwear
 - 1-2 pairs hiking shorts
 - 1 long-sleeved shirt
 - 1 long pants
 - 1 warm top or light jacket
 - 2 short-sleeved shirts
 - 1 hat or cap with brim
 - 1 sturdy poncho or rain suit
- ◆ Eating
 - Bowl or plate
 - Cup
 - Spoon or fork
 - Pocketknife
 - Water Bottles/hydration system (TOTAL 5 Liters)
- ◆ Personal and Misc.
 - Daypack or hip-pack
 - Lighter
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
 - 2 Bandannas
 - Hygiene items (soap, comb, toothbrush, etc.)
 - Insect repellent (or dryer sheets)
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Moleskin, foot powder
 - Sunscreen and sunshades
- ◆ Optional Items
 - Compass or GPS
 - Small, light entertainment items

- Camera
- Hiking stick

Cook (Group) Equipment

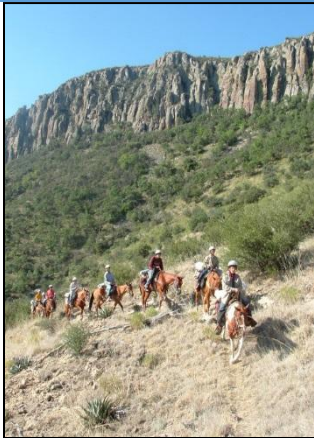
- ◆ Backpacking Tents & tent pegs
- ◆ Duct Tape
- ◆ Mini-shovel or trowel
- ◆ Antibacterial biodegradable soap
- ◆ Water purifying tablets or filtration system
- ◆ Collapsible water containers
- ◆ Backpacking stove
- ◆ Fuel bottles (spun aluminum containers only)
- ◆ 1 Crew First Aid Kit
- ◆ Snacks as desired

Special Equipment by Program

Intro to Backpacking	Davis Mt. Trek	
Please bring everything listed on the pack list. Ziplocs in the gallon, extra huge, and qt. size are good.	Positive Attitude	
	Extra Socks	
	Extra Moleskin	
	Gold Bond	
	Personal Snacks	
	Hydration Packs	

NOTE – Some items, such as sunscreen, bug spray, etc., can be shared among a cook group to cut down on weight. Quantities listed include what you would be wearing.

CAVALCADE



Cavalcade is a week-long guided horse ride in and around Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch. Riders see the best of the Davis Mountains from the saddle, riding over the ridgelines, past box canyons, down narrow trails lined with Alligator Juniper and Pinion Pine, sometimes scraping stirrups on rugged rhyolite outcrops. Led by trained Wranglers, Cavalcade covers over 20 miles on narrow trails or jeep roads. Riders can expect very full days in the saddle, riding mountain-trained horses or sure-footed mules.



Each rider *must* be at least 14 years old by check-in, be in good physical condition, weigh less than 225 lbs. dressed to ride, provide a current, completed Scouting America physical, bring a signed BTSR Liability Release, and have completed the Horsemanship Merit Badge. Please bring proof of merit badge completion.

The program is designed to be a unit activity for troops or units. The minimum size for each Cavalcade is 6 paid riders; the maximum is 10 riders. There must be a minimum of two SYT-trained adults (at least one over 21 years old) among the paid riders. There must be at least one SYT-trained female adult over 21 years old among the paid riders if there are youth female participants. At least one adult must hold a current Wilderness First Aid certification.

Cavalcade begins with REQUIRED weigh-in, then safety and skills training, followed by individual ability testing. After the training, and before ANY RIDER leaves Headquarters, each rider must pass the following:

- ◆ “Unaided, catch and correctly halter, bridle, and saddle a designated horse or mule, then mount without assistance and clearly demonstrate the ability to control that animal, to the satisfaction of the Head Wrangler.”
- ◆ Participants who do not qualify as above may not ride outside of the Headquarters area.
- ◆ All riders are required to always wear BTSR helmets astride a horse.

BTSR provides trained wranglers, saddles, tack, safety helmets, cookware, food, and all the horses and mules. Cavalcades ride point to point, single file, at a walk, and stay overnight in cabins, under the stars or established camps where food, feed, water, and cooking gear are cached. Adequate shelter will be provided, and primitive latrines are available near all overnight stops.

Cavalcades travel light to maximize trail time, so all loose personal gear (not including bedroll, rain gear, jacket, and water bottles) carried must fit into one saddle bag about the size of a gallon zip-lock bag. Riders may not wear backpacks or bladder-packs while astride an animal. Drinking water may be carried on the saddle horn, in the saddle bags, or as directed by the wrangler. There are opportunities to refill water bottles and primitive latrines along the trail.

Each rider will be responsible for care and feeding of his or her mount and must pitch in to accomplish necessary camp chores. Self-discipline is required; the Scout Oath and Law are the rules of the camp.

Wranglers carry a First Aid Kit, keep in touch with Headquarters by radio, and receive daily weather reports. Emergency vehicles and support from headquarters are on call 24 hours a day. At least one Cavalcade wrangler on every trek is trained in Wilderness First-Aid and CPR.

PROGRAM

Your Wranglers will greet you at check-in. A brief orientation, medical check, and weigh-in will follow. Training begins Sunday, right after supper. The trek will be discussed at this time, and your questions and concerns will be addressed. Training will continue past dusk down at the corrals. Your Cavalcade meets again with the wranglers at the corrals at 5:30 am the next morning to feed and resume training. Saddling, packing, knots, riding, bridling, grooming, and many other skills will be taught the first part of the day. Expect a thorough shake-down of your personal gear by the Wranglers around lunch; see the list of what to bring that follows. Unnecessary personal belongings should be left at camp.

After individual rider testing, the Cavalcade should hit the trail in the late afternoon. Over the week, riders will cover over 20 miles on horseback, starting at an elevation of 4,400 ft. and peaking at over 6,000 ft. Cavalcades change camps daily, and the group will be expected to pitch in with chores at each night's stop. Some of the camps visited are staffed and may offer additional program opportunities. Your wrangler can tell you all about the history and ecology of the Davis Mountains as you travel along the trail. Days will be full of riding and exploring, so sleep will come easily to most. Cavalcade returns to Headquarters Friday morning in time for the picnic lunch.

EQUIPMENT

◆ Necessary Individual Equipment

- ☐ Long durable pants, properly fitted
- ☐ Baseball cap
- ☐ SMALL Flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Blanket, bedroll
- ☐ Long-sleeved Shirt
- ☐ 4-1 Liter narrow Water Bottles
- ☐ Western-style boots or hiking boots with low heel (Broken in & comfortable!)
- ☐ Leather Gloves
- ☐ Pocket knife or multi-tool
- ☐ Rain Gear (Close fitting, not floppy)
- ☐ Bandana or neckerchief

☐ Mess Kit

◆ Optional Individual Equipment

- ☐ Camera (Be careful with valuable digital cameras!)
- ☐ Pocket hammock
- ☐ Camp Map
- ☐ Pocket First Aid Kit

◆ Shared and carried by one rider in 1 gal. Plastic bag:

- ☐ Hand Soap/Towelettes
- ☐ Bug repellent
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Sunscreen

◆ Wrangler Carries:

- ☐ Comprehensive First Aid Kit, Radio, Horseshoeing Supplies

◆ Leave in Camp:

- ☐ Billfold & valuables
- ☐ Scout Uniform

- ☐ Changes of clothes
- ☐ Shampoo, conditioner
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Extra Shoes
- ☐ Cowboy hat for Friday campfire

◆ Don't Bring:

- ☐ Privately owned horses
- ☐ Cell phones
- ☐ Sheath Knives
- ☐ Floppy rain gear
- ☐ Radios, iPods, or noisemaking devices
- ☐ Thermarests
- ☐ Big Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Bladder type water canteens

ALL RIDERS WILL WEAR BTSR RIDING HELMETS.

MOUNTAIN MAN

PROGRAM

Here is your chance to see how a real mountain man lives and survives in the mountains! Mountain Man is a weeklong experience for older Scouts and Venturers who would like to experience the life of a Mountain Man in the fur-trade era of the 1840's. Participants will experience the primitive lives of men like Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, and Daniel Boone. Scouts will explore the contributions these men made to the growth of our country.



Participants will enjoy activities such as stories around the campfire, Dutch-oven cooking, tomahawk and knife throwing, black powder shooting, tanning hides, flint knapping, rope making from plants, and Mountain Man swimming. Scouts will learn about tracking in the wilds and reading trail signs, as well as information on edible plants and plants for survival.

LOGISTICS

Participation in the Mountain Man program is open to campers 14 years of age and older as well as adult leaders. The entire Troop may sign up for the program, individuals may sign up, or the Troop may send a small contingent from their base camp group. We require any group of 4 or larger to send AT LEAST one adult leader with the group. This greatly helps our staff, especially when participation reaches 12 youth. The Mountain Man program may be coed if female leadership is provided. A minimum of 4 participants must be registered by April 15th for a session to continue.

Please Note

All participants are expected to pitch in to accomplish necessary camp chores and to follow the leadership of the staff. Self-discipline is expected; the Scout Oath and Law will be the rule of the Mountain Man camp.

At the end of the week, the Mountain Men will receive their Mountain Man names, awards from the Mountain Man games, and the exclusive John McAhon Award, which can only be earned by participants in the BTSR Mountain Man program. This week into the 1840s promises to be full of fun, interesting activities and even some learning!

Staff & Equipment

BTSR will provide the Mountain Man Program staff with group-use camping gear (Rain fly, pots & pans) and food. Each participant will get to sleep in an authentic mountain man tent! Due to the rugged terrain, a sturdy pair of shoes is a must. NO open-toed shoes or sandals. Scouts are welcome to wear outfits of the era.

Location

Mountain Man camp is located 3 ½ miles from base camp up the Green Trail at Mabee Park. You will need a backpack to carry your personal gear, so weight and bulk must be minimized. Keep it simple and light. (Limit 35 lbs.) There are no roads where we are going!

MOUNTAIN MAN ACTIVITIES

- Trip to Indian Painting (Tall Rock Shelter)
- Mountain Man Cooking
- Knife Throw
- Hawk Throw

- Iron Forging
- Tracking and Track Identification
- Fire Building, Flint and Steel
- Black Powder
- Tanning Hides
- Flint Napping
- Rope Making
- Edible Plants
- Medical Plants
- Campfire Stories
- Mountain Man Swimming
- Night under the Stars
- Conservation Projects
- Trail Building
- Exploring Game Trails
- Knife Sharpening

REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

For Mountain Man

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ Long pants | ○ Leather gloves |
| ○ Cap or Hat | ○ Pocket Knife |
| ○ Flashlight with Batteries | ○ Rain gear |
| ○ Blanket & Bed Roll* | ○ Hiking Backpack |
| ○ Long-sleeved shirt | ○ Camera (optional) |
| ○ 4 1-liter Water Bottles | ○ Clothing of the era |
| ○ Mess Kit | (Optional) |
| ○ Sunscreen | |

*A blanket bedroll fits the mountain man better than a sleeping bag.

HONOR TROOP AWARD

Troop: _____

SPL: _____

Campsite _____

SM: _____

Get a staff member to sign off on the following requirements. To earn the award, as a troop, complete at least 10 of the following items:

_____ Have your SPL and Adult Leader attend the Sunday Program Meeting or Morning Meetings

_____ Construct a campsite gateway or pioneering project

_____ Complete the Pondweed Conservation Project

_____ Spend 1 night sleeping under the stars

_____ Invite your troop guide to a campsite activity

_____ Participate in at least 1 BTSR Hike:

a. Sunrise

b. Goat Cave

c. Needle Rock

d. The Notch

_____ Participate in at least 1 aquatic event:

a. Polar Bear Plunge

b. Mile Swim

c. Free Swim

d. Troop Swim

_____ Participate in at least 1 free time activity

a. Free Swim

b. Free Shoot

c. Free Ride

d. Free Climb

e. Camp-wide Games

_____ Take a troop photo with everyone participating in one of the Themed Day Activities.

a. Crazy Hat Day

b. BTSR T-Shirt Day

c. Hawaiian Shirt Day

d. Troop Shirt Day

_____ Friday Campfire Skit (approved by Program Director)

_____ Participate in a Thursday Troop Night Activity

a. McDonald Observatory

b. Balmorhea State Park

c. Historical Ft Davis

d. Hike RR 1832 (half marathon)

e. Troop Activity at Campsite

- _____ Teach another troop a new game/activity
- _____ Lead a Song at Flags
- _____ Attend a Chapel Service or Lead Prayer at Meals
- _____ Participate in an Evening Program
- a. Camp-wide Games
- b. Movie Night
- c. OA Social or Activity
- _____ Spend over \$100 in 1 visit at the trading post.
- _____ Adults earn the SM Merit Badge

To validate all entries, a report of activities from the Senior Patrol Leader for each participating troop must be filed with the Camp Commissioner at lunch on Friday.

SCOUTMASTER MERIT BADGE

NAME: _____ TROOP: _____ DATE: _____

The BTSR Scoutmaster Merit Badge is an award that may be earned by any adult leader 18 years of age and older. Its purpose is to get the leaders more involved in the advancement of their Scouts and better acquaint them with the BTSR programs available for Scouts and Scouters alike!

To earn this badge, adult leaders must complete **10 of the following requirements**, including 4 mandatory (*) requirements. Please have a staff member in the respective area initial the requirement as they are completed.

1. *Assist in instruction at one of the Trail-To-Eagle classes _____
2. *Participate in two other Programs _____
 - a. Mile Swim _____
 - b. Snorkeling _____
 - c. Polar Bear Swim _____
 - d. Adult Trail Ride _____
 - e. Lifesaving _____
 - f. Sunrise Hike _____
3. *Assist with Merit Badge instruction or help test Scouts _____
4. *Teach a Scout Skill in your campsite _____
5. Participate in the Troop's Pondweed Award project _____
6. Take a nap in Buffalo Hall _____
7. Attend Scoutmaster Dinner _____
8. Attend Order of the Arrow Activity _____
9. Attend Free Swim or Free Shoot _____
10. Participate in Scoutmaster Shoot Out _____
11. Attend Chapel Service _____
12. Prepare a Dutch Oven Cobbler _____
13. Invite a staff member to join you for campsite activities _____
14. Trail Hike at BTSR _____



Remember to have a staff member sign or initial each requirement. Return this form to the camp office by lunch on Friday to earn this special award. We hope you enjoy your stay at BTSR and that you get as much out of this adventure as your Scouts do!



SPECIAL REQUESTS FORM

TROOP: _____ WEEK ATTENDING: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DIETARY NEEDS

Please list any special dietary needs below. Be aware that we are unable to completely change the menu or purchase specialty items. **In some cases, it may be necessary to bring food items to supplement items available at camp.** Common requests include: vegetarian diets, no-pork diets, use of BTSR freezers or refrigerators for special foods, allergies to peanut butter, etc.

MEDICAL NEEDS

Special medical needs must also be communicated using this form. Common requests include: refrigeration for medication, electricity for CPAP machines (available at only two campsites; BTSR does not provide generators), use of a camp nebulizer, etc. Again, BTSR can meet needs and accommodate requests with the limited facilities that we have available in most cases. However, Troops and individuals may need to bring specialty items to help make some requests possible.

CAMPSITE REQUEST

Each Troop will be assigned to one of the 21 campsites prior to arrival at BTSR. The Camp Commissioner will make these assignments based on the Troop's size and the size of the campsite. Special requests can be made in advance, but there are no guarantees that the request can be accommodated. BTSR must ensure that Troops are assigned to sites that best fit their sizes.

SATURDAY ARRIVAL REQUEST

This service is open only to Troops that have travel restrictions due to religious considerations. Instructions for early arrival will be provided for those Troops that are selected. Troops arriving early must remember these basic guidelines: NO staff will be on site, NO meals are provided, and all program areas are off-limits.

OTHER REQUESTS

Please submit this form to the Buffalo Trail Council office by May 15th

SPECIAL FOODS REQUEST

Please complete and submit it to the BTSR Registrar at least 2 weeks prior to arrival.

Camper's name: _____ Age: _____ Unit _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____ Phone number: _____

Description of camper's medical, allergy, dietary, or religious need that restricts his/her diet:

Foods to omit:

Please be very specific when listing foods to be avoided as well as foods that are acceptable and may be substituted.

This should allow us to have those acceptable foods available.

Other information regarding allergies, diets, or other special dietary needs: [please provide additional information below, on the back of this form, or on an additional sheet attached to this form].

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

****** When in doubt, bring your own food. ******

SCOUT RELEASE REQUEST

Request is made that: Scout's Name: _____

Scout's Home Address: _____

Verification Phone Number: _____

Unit: _____ Council: _____

Be permitted to leave camp for the following reason(s):

Leaving On: Date _____ Time _____ Method of Travel _____

Accompanied by _____

Driver's License # _____

Request made by: _____

(Parent or Guardian)

Address _____

Telephone (H) _____ (B) _____

Approval of Scoutmaster _____ Date _____

(SIGNATURE)

Scouts must check out through the Camp Office. Photo ID and verification will be required to escort any Scout from Camp and written approval from the Camp Director.

Approval:

Date _____ Time _____

(Camp Director or Representative)

