

2026 Brownsea-22 Participant Letter

Dear Scout,

Congratulations for registering to participate in the High Desert Council's 49th Annual Brownsea-22 (Brownsea Double-Two) on the 119th anniversary of the Brownsea experience! It will be a Scouting adventure which you will enjoy and remember the rest of your life! Please make sure to read everything in this email/document to help prepare you for this wonderful experience.

We will follow a program very similar to the original Brownsea Island Camp where Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout movement, tested his idea of teaching Scouts self-reliance, citizenship, and physical fitness—an idea that became our World Brotherhood of Scouting.

The Brownsea-22 Troop is organized very carefully like any good Troop should be. We have a staff of outstanding adult leaders and experienced youth leaders, all selected because of their Scouting experience and dedication to the program. During the course you will learn the meaning behind the Brownsea Crest of Leadership (shown below). You will be in a Patrol of six to eight Scouts of different ages and experiences from all across New Mexico, Colorado, and beyond. You will form a Patrol, live together, work and have fun together, and learn and use many Scout skills.

Please examine the attachments very carefully and be sure you and your parents understand them. If there are any questions, please let us know. We are here to help you.

It is a real pleasure for us to serve as your Course Director and Scoutmasters. Our staff has worked hard to be sure you will have lots of **FUN** and find the Brownsea-22 experience an enjoyable and worthwhile Scouting adventure.

We are looking forward to meeting you and having a great time at Brownsea!

Yours in Scouting,

Clifton Russell
Course Director

Gemma "Gabby" Smith
Scoutmaster - Girl Troop

James "Mr. K" Kuropatwinski
Scoutmaster - Boy Troop

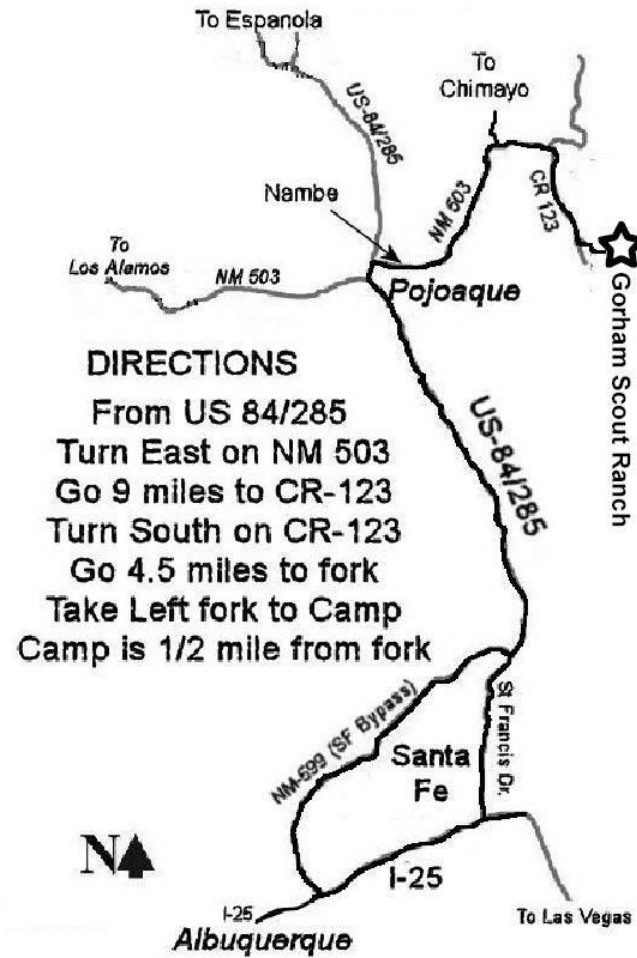
brownsea22camp@gmail.com

970-570-3796

(phone active only at camp)



Map to Gorham Scout Ranch



Map to Gorham Scout Ranch
<https://goo.gl/maps/bBWjf67pgH4SgpT49>

<u>REQUIRED GEAR LIST</u>	
_____ 1 Complete Official Scout Field Uniform - <u>No Neckerchief or Merit Badge Sash</u> (Note 1)	_____ 1 Wrist Watch (no cell phones as timekeeper)
_____ 4 T-shirts (Note 2)	_____ 1 Pencil
_____ 2 Shorts (Note 2)	_____ 1 Toilet kit with Soap, Shampoo, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Personal Items, etc.
_____ 2 Long Pants or Jeans (Note 2)	_____ 6 Handkerchiefs (or Kleenex)
_____ 1 Visored Cap (Note 3)	_____ 2 Bath Towels
_____ 1 Belt	_____ Hand Towel
_____ 1 Pair Shoes or Boots for Hiking	_____ 1 Personal First Aid Kit
_____ 6 Pair of Socks	_____ Water Bottle/Canteen or Optional Hydration Bladder (Note 8)
_____ 6 Changes of Underwear	_____ 1 Day Pack (Note 8)
_____ 1 Light Weight Long Sleeve Shirt	_____ 1 Large Backpack (Note 7)
_____ 1 Sweatshirt or Jacket	_____ Insect Repellant
_____ 1 Poncho or Raincoat (Note 8)	_____ 1 Scout Handbook
_____ 1 Waterproof Ground Cloth or Tarp (Note 9)	_____ 1 Compass (Note 6)
_____ 1 Sleeping Pad (Note 9)	_____ Medication, if needed (note on Medications and Food Allergies)
_____ 1 Sleeping Bag (20-40 Degrees F) (Note 9)	_____ 1 Pocket Knife - <u>Only if you have earned your Totin' Chip</u> (Note 5)
_____ Sun Screen (Note 3, 8)	_____ Masks (COVID-19 mitigation Addendum)
_____ 1 Flashlight with Batteries (Headlamp is best)	_____ Swimsuit

<u>OPTIONAL LIST</u>	
_____ Bag for Dirty Clothes	_____ Folding Cot (strongly recommended)
_____ Pillow	_____ Battery Lantern
_____ 1 Change of Shoes	_____ Sunglasses
_____ Money for trading post	_____ Anti-chafing powder
_____ Tarp and rope to cover canvas tents, this keeps the tent cooler and prevents leakage	_____ Extra blanket

KNOTS TO PRACTICE BEFORE ARRIVING AT BROWNSEA

_____ Square Knot	_____ Bowline (around waist)
_____ Sheet Bend	_____ Clove Hitch

Note 1: The Official Scout Field Uniform includes the Scout Shirt, Scout or olive green pants, Scout Belt is required for the evening meal each day. Sometimes this uniform is unofficially called a "Class A" uniform. Neckerchiefs and Merit Badge Sashes are not required for Brownsea.

Note 2: The Activity Uniform worn during the day is a Ball Cap, T-Shirt, Shorts or Pants, Closed Toed Shoes and Socks. Shorts should be Scout Shorts or Solid Color Shorts with pockets. No plaid shorts or gym shorts. Scout related T-shirts and caps are preferred; T-shirts and caps with objectionable messages or advertisements (tobacco, alcohol, etc.) are NOT appropriate for a Scouting event.

Note 3: The sun is intense at camp and Scouts will sunburn easily. A Cap and Sun Screen must be used daily. Scouts should bring a cap to camp with them and expect to wear it all week. A scouting-related cap is preferable.

Note 4: Scouts take turns in leadership positions, and as a leader, will need to take notes on the program in leadership meetings to help keep the program running smoothly.

Note 5: **To carry a knife each Scout will need to bring a valid Tote-N-Chip from home.** Totin'Chip is the training that Scouts must go through before being allowed to use cutting implements. Absolutely NO fixed blade knives are allowed. A folding blade that locks is OK. While the Brownsea 22 program will cover knife, ax and saw training it does NOT issue Totin'Chip cards.

Note 6: Scouts often find it easier to grasp the concepts of orienteering using a base-plate type (Silva, Suunto, etc.) compass before learning to use a lensatic (military type) compass. Either style is sufficient for our purposes though.

Note 7: Scouts will complete an overnight hike of one half to one mile and will need a pack suitable for carrying their sleeping gear and food. **If you do not have one, let us know. We have a small supply that we can loan out to the Scouts for the overnight camping experience.**

Note 8: Scouts must carry a daypack with their water bottles, rain gear, sun screen, etc. at all times. Hydration bladders are very useful but should not be the only water container a Scout has due to the possibility of the bladder breaking. One (1) Liter bottles are a good size to carry at camp.

Note 9: If possible, bring your own cot. You should have a pack for your clothing and equipment, and you will need it when you go on your overnight hike with your patrol. Don't forget a waterproof ground cloth or tarp large enough to protect your sleeping bag. Your sleeping bag and pad should be lightweight types, ones you can backpack, and should be rated for temperatures below 40 Degrees F or include a blanket. It is not uncommon for the temperature to drop to the upper 30's during the night and then soar to mid-80's during the day.

Note 10: Please pack your equipment so it can be easily carried. It is a good idea to include a bag for clothing and items that you won't need on your overnight hike so you can leave them in your campsite tent. A neat and orderly tent is one that results in the fewest lost items and the highest inspection points. It is also recommended that you mark all of your equipment with your name. Delivery of your equipment to the campsite is provided on the first day. Delivery of your equipment from the campsite on closing day may NOT be provided so you should be prepared to carry your equipment from the campsite to the parking lot. Vehicles are only allowed in the campsite under special permission.

Note 11: Camp may run a Trading Post where snacks, sundries, and souvenirs can be purchased, so some spending money is recommended. Each Scout will receive three meals a day plus a Cracker barrel (evening snack).

DO NOT BRING: cell phones, radios, snacks (NO FOOD IN TENTS), electronic games, matches or lighters, laser pointers, etc. If you have any questions, please email us.

INFORMATION FOR BROWNSEA SCOUTS

FEES: The course cost is \$375 and is due in full by end of day April 30, 2026.

BROWNSEA CHECK-IN: Check-in will run between **5:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Sunday June 7, 2026**. Check-in will be at the Gorham Scout Ranch check-in shelter. Please do not arrive prior to 5:00 pm as there will not be anyone there to assist you.

****NOTE**** *The first meal provided in camp will be breakfast on Monday, June 8. Scouts should have dinner prior to arriving in camp and possibly bring a snack for Sunday night.*

Please note that NO DINNER will be served on Sunday night.

ARRIVAL IN CAMP: Please arrive wearing your Scout Field Uniform (Class A), including cap and wrist watch. Arrive at camp with your day pack packed with the following items: Full water bottle, snack (if you need one before bed on Sunday), jacket, raincoat or poncho, bug repellent, flashlight/headlamp, sunscreen, pencil, and first aid kit, you will need these items right away. Please have all of your other gear labeled, packed and contained as neatly as possible so that it can be identified and transported easily.

SCOUT MEDICAL RECORD: Parts A, B, & C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record must be completed and a **COPY of the form brought to camp.** Please keep the originals at home. Do not bring your medical forms to the Council Service Center as they do not accept medical forms. **Please note: Scouts must have an examination by a licensed medical provider within 12 months prior to the start of camp. The medical form must be signed by the licensed medical provider.** If you do not have a medical form you can download one at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf. This is the only form that can be accepted.

MEDICATIONS AND FOOD ALLERGIES: Brownsea 22 will have a Medical Officer on staff. For security purposes the adult staff will hold medications and the Medical Officer will oversee dosage of all medications (other than EpiPens, Inhalers, etc.). Bring medications in original bottles with PATIENT NAME and DOSAGE clearly legible. Please bring sufficient medication to last through camp plus 2 doses (e.g. if 6 doses are required for the time in camp send 8 doses). If a Scout has food allergies or needs other accommodations, please submit an Accommodation Request stating your needs for Brownsea

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HIGH DESERT COUNCIL

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22 and email it to the Brownsea-22 Scoutmaster and Course Director. Please bring a copy and present it to the Medical Officer at check-in.

CAMP MAIL ADDRESS: If anyone wants to send you mail while you are at camp they are welcome to do so. Mail takes longer to get to camp so plan ahead. It can take up to a week for mail to arrive at camp, and mail that arrives after you leave will be returned to sender. Please use this address for personal mail and do not send any forms or official correspondence.

The mailing address is:

SCOUT'S NAME

BROWNSEA 22

Gorham Scout Ranch

Post Office Box 459

Chimayo, New Mexico 87522

VISITORS AND TELEPHONE: Brownsea is a youth scouting and camping experience and hence is not a parent/child camping experience. Part of the adventure of Brownsea comes from using the patrol method where a group of Scouts learn to live and work together. Our youth and adult staff assist this process.

Visits and phone calls from home and to home are STRONGLY DISCOURAGED unless there is a REAL emergency.

TELEPHONE & EMAIL SERVICE: The Course Director will have email and phone service at camp and can be reached using the information on the first page of this letter. If you have an emergency that your scout needs to be aware of or mobilized for, please reach out to the Course Director. However, if you are curious how your scout is doing at camp, please be patient. The Course Director will strive to send out at least one or two email updates during the week. If you feel your issue will be better served through the Council Service Center you may also reach out at (505) 345-8603 or 1-800-368-9218 (Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 PM) or after-hours to Mary Mazza Anderson (EMERGENCIES ONLY) at 575-209-9004 or mary.mazzaandersen@scouting.org

UNIFORMS: We encourage Scouts to wear the Camp Uniform during the day and evening activities. This saves wear and tear on their Field Uniform, which is required only at evening meals. Don't bring a neckerchief.

MEALS: All meals, except while on your patrol overnight hike, are served in the dining hall, cooked by regular camp cooks. Also, there are cracker barrels every night after activities.

IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL DIETARY CONSIDERATIONS: It is imperative that you contact the Course Director no later than Monday, May 21, 2026 so that arrangements can be made. Also, please inform the first registration station again when you check-in at Brownsea.

IDENTIFICATION: You should find a way to mark your personal items with your name, initials, or some sort of marking. Many Scout items look alike, and some are identical. Items most often lost are: knives, Scout caps, water bottles, Uniform parts, and rain gear.

SWIMMING POOL: The swimming pool MAY be available this year. If it is available, the pool will only be open for Brownsea scouts during free time in the afternoons (approx. 3:30-5:30pm) and under direct supervision of the Gorham Scout Ranch Aquatics Director.

TRADING POST: The Camp Trading Post MAY open during Brownsea at certain hours and during free time. Scouts may want to purchase snacks or souvenirs so it is recommended to send some spending money with each Scout. Scouts will be solely responsible for holding on to their own money.

BE PREPARED: Come to Brownsea prepared to have FUN, prepared to learn something new and prepare to share the work. Your outlook on Scouting will probably be changed by the Brownsea experience. You should want to absorb every minute of every day. Based on the original design of Baden-Powell, it is one of the greatest Scouting adventures out there.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS:

In addition, the Brownsea Staff suggests that parents work with their scout(s) to prepare for camp physically, mentally, and emotionally. Some ideas are listed below.

- Parents and scouts should pack the scout's gear TOGETHER so scouts know what they have and where to find it once they are at camp. This helps scouts stay organized and maintain a healthy sense of control over their circumstance at camp.
- Parents may wish to discuss with scout(s) the ideas that: At camp, the scout will be in a more primitive setting than what they are likely accustomed to. The routine at camp will be quite different than the scout's routine at home. The scout may miss home and/or comforts of home while they are at camp. The scout will likely know none of the other participants or staffers at Brownsea and that may be jarring. The scout may acquire scrapes, bumps, and sunburns during normal activities at camp. The activities and busy schedule at camp might wear the scout out of energy. Scouts may also feel run-down or fatigued at camp. Calling home during the week and/or leaving camp early due to longing for home are not realistic options.
- Additionally, parents should emphasize that ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE OK AND NORMAL. It is OK to be intimidated by being in a group of strangers. It is OK to feel tired. It is OK to scrape hands and knees. It is OK to feel overwhelmed by a full schedule. It is OK to miss parents, siblings and pets. It is OK to not make fast friends with everyone in your patrol. These things are all normal human experiences and are also part of the adventure. By being Brave (point #10 in the Scout Law), however, scouts CAN overcome these trials and live a truly incredible scouting experience at Brownsea not in spite of, but BECAUSE OF, the trials. Being Brave is not going through life without ever feeling scared, or worried, or sad. Being Brave is acting on what is in front of you in the BEST way you know how even though you are scared, or worried, or sad.
- It is also advisable for parents to emphasize that it is NOT OK for scouts to act out in ways that are violent or disruptive to other scouts' experience at camp. Remember, scouts are not only Brave, but they are Courteous and Kind as well.
- If a scout is struggling with anything, they should talk to a Brownsea Staffer IMMEDIATELY. The Brownsea Staff is here and dedicated to teach scouts, guide, and support them throughout the adventure, whatever the trials may be. We are all in this TOGETHER!!!

ADVANCEMENT: The Brownsea program addresses (in whole or in part) nearly half of the rank advancement requirements through First Class, but the purpose of Brownsea is not to sign off requirements or earn merit badges. The purpose of Brownsea is to teach young scouts how to be good scouts in a properly led and run troop as well as to help them discover the Scouting Spirit that will drive them forward in their scouting career. After the completion of camp, a list of skills and requirements covered will be provided that scouts can take to their troop leadership and demonstrate their new skills. If you want to use Brownsea for advancement, make sure you take the time to demonstrate your new skills to your Scoutmaster and get signed off as soon as possible after camp.

DEPARTURE: Brownsea will conclude with a final assembly on Brownsea Field to which all parents are invited. The final assembly is planned for **10:00 a.m. on Saturday June 13, 2026** and will last for approximately 30 minutes. Your transportation should plan to be at camp about 9:30 a.m. to allow time to

park and then walk to Brownsea Field. Brownsea Field is beyond the pool along the road that services both the pool and many of the campsites. Plan to carry your equipment from Brownsea Field back to the parking lot, bringing a wheeled cart to the final assembly is encouraged. Parents may also want to bring stools or camp chairs to the assembly. There is limited shade at the assembly, so plan accordingly.

FINAL COMMENTS: The goal of this participant letter is to provide you with as much information as possible. However, if you have any further questions regarding Brownsea please contact the Course Director (Clifton Russell) at brownsea22camp@gmail.com. You may also visit the Brownsea-22 Camp website at www.brownseacamp.com for more descriptive information about the program.