

# 2026 HIGH DESERT COUNCIL SPRING CAMPOREE LEADER GUIDE



CAMPOREE  
APRIL 24-26, 2026  
WILDLIFE WEST NATURE PARK  
87 N FRONTAGE ROAD, EDGEWOOD, NM 87015

ALL TROOPS, CREWS, AND AOLS WELCOME FOR  
TRADITIONAL CAMPOREE PROGRAMMING AND  
OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION DEMONSTRATIONS.

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HOSTED BY TROOP 640

APRIL 24-26, 2026

WILDLIFE WEST NATURE PARK  
EDGEWOOD, NM 87015

Scoutmaster: Amber Eichstedt  
ASMs: Rich Beckman, Melanie Beckman, Kevin McCarty

# **INTRODUCTION**

Howdy partners! Troop 640 welcomes you to the High Desert Council Spring 2026 Camporee at Wildlife West Nature Park. We look forward to a wonderful weekend filled with camaraderie and scout spirit and exciting challenges and opportunities.

Please remember that Wildlife West is a working animal sanctuary, featuring over 20 species of native New Mexican animals. All the animals are non-releasable rescues, and the park is a non-profit dedicated to their care and public education. As Scouts, it is our duty to respect the nature around us and abide by the Leave No Trace policy to do our part in protecting these animals.

Saddle up and dust off your boots- welcome to the Wild (life) West!

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Friday

5 pm - 8 pm	Check in at Wildlife West Nature Park	Admin Tent
10 pm	Lights out	

## Saturday

6 am - 8:30 am	Reveille and Breakfast with Troop	Troop Campsite
7am - 7:45am	Morning Check in	Admin Tent
7:45 am	SPL Meeting	Campsite Barn
8:30 am	Opening Flag /Announcements	Amphitheater
9 am - 12 pm	Events	Various Locations
12 - 1 pm	Lunch	Troop Campsite
1 pm - 5 pm	Events	Various Locations
5 pm - 7:45 pm	Dinner at Campsite / Cleanup	Troop Campsite
8 pm - 9 pm	Campfire Program / Awards	Amphitheater
10 pm	Lights Out	

## Sunday

6 am - 8:30 am	Reveille and Breakfast with Troop	Troop Campsite
8:30 am - 8:45 am	Interfaith Service	Amphitheater
9 am	Closing Ceremony	Amphitheater
10 am – 11 am	Camp Inspection and Check Out	Troop Campsite and Admin Tent

# CAMPOREE RULES

These rules are the general framework around which this camporee will operate. The Scout Oath, Law and Outdoor Code are the guides for ALL behavior at this Camporee. Troops or individuals that do not conform to this spirit may be asked to leave.

Troops should arrive and depart in uniform. The Scout Class A uniform is to be worn at campfire programs and Sunday service and should be worn correctly. Troops can wear their unit activity shirt any other time of the weekend.

The entrance gate will not be open before 5:00 p.m. Friday. Troops should not arrive before then. Campsites will be assigned based on troop size and gender; therefore, it is not necessary to arrive early to "save a space."

There will be an assigned, designated parking area. In general, vehicles are not allowed in the campsites, although troop gear may be dropped off. Please note- the CAMPGROUND LOOP IS ONE WAY. Parking in camp will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Troops must plan to remove all garbage from the camporee area and haul out with them. Please bring an adequate supply of trash bags. Do not bury trash and remember to Leave No Trace when your unit is ready to depart camp.

Safety and fire protection are the responsibility of everyone at the camporee. Due to local conditions, all open flames, including campfires and charcoal burning, are prohibited in troop camping areas. Elevated propane camp stoves with proper supervision are allowed for cooking. An area will be designated for participation in the Dutch Oven Cook-off.

Weather at this time of year is very unpredictable. BE PREPARED. Bring tents, rain gear, dining flies, and ground cloths. The camporee will not be called off because of rain or snow.

Quiet hours will start at 10:00 p.m. each evening at the camporee and will last until 6 am. Activities such as cooking and playing will not be permitted during quiet time. Units should plan to arrive at the camporee in ample time to have their campsites established by quiet hours, although, we understand that some troops may arrive late in the evening due to the distance they must travel. Please let us know if you are one of these troops and do your best to set up camp quickly and quietly to be respectful of those around you.

Visitors (other than registered participants) are welcome at the camporee. Visitors should sign in at the camporee headquarters. Visitors to a troop campsite must have the permission of an adult unit leader. Visitors are also welcome to attend the field events and evening campfire.

The Saturday night campfire is intended to be fun and entertaining. Each troop is expected to have their skit and song reviewed by Order of the Arrow or Troop 640 Scouts by SATURDAY at 5 pm. All skits must conform to scouting standards and must be in good taste. The skits and songs will be performed at the campfire.

Electronic Devices are discouraged. Please limit the use of cell phones to direct camporee or unit related tasks.

The buddy system will be used all weekend. For co-ed troops, please ensure buddy pairs are single gender or utilize mixed gender “buddy groups” of 3. Adult leaders should be notified before scouts leave the campsite.

Troop 640 and High Desert Council Volunteers will be responsible for all scoring.

## **Safety**

**Any unsafe or improper use of knives, axes or other tools will result in deduction of unit points and/or removal from Camporee. Sheath knives and fixed blade scabbard knives are prohibited.**

**The possession, consumption or use of any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or firearms by a youth or adult at camporee will not be permitted and will result in immediate dismissal from camporee.**

Two deep leadership will be used at all times along with the buddy system. There should be no one on one contact between youth and adults.

All shooting activities will be run by certified range staff. No personal firearms/weapons allowed.

In the event of severe weather, all unites will follow staff instructions and proceed to designated shelter areas.

## **Wildlife Safety**

No feeding animals.

Proper and safe food storage should be followed.

Stay in assigned areas and follow all signage while at the park.

# **CAMPOREE DETAILS**

## **Theme: Wild West**

This will be a traditional Camporee, with events, activities, and a series of tasks, which will be scored for an overall winner. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to participate in other hands on demonstrations and activities that will not be scored for competition.

Camporees are a chance to join in on one of the oldest traditions in Scouts BSA history. District gatherings provide an opportunity to make friends, experience adventures, and match skills against other scouts within our district. There will be fun, friendship, and fellowship. This guide is intended to help your unit prepare for the fun and excitement of this year's Spring Camporee.

The Scout Oath and Scout Law will govern the behavior of ALL participants during the weekend. The Principle of Leave No Trace should always be practiced.

## **AOL Participation**

Arrow of Light Scouts are welcome to participate at the camporee during the day and/or overnight with a Scouts BSA troop they are eligible to join.

Arrow of Light Scouts can attend as an Arrow of Light den/patrol under the supervision of two deep leadership from their Arrow of Light den/patrol or pack. The Arrow of Light Scout's parent or legal guardian(s) may attend with the Arrow of Light den/patrol and their child, either alongside the two-deep leadership or as part of it if they are registered with the pack.

All Cub Scout camping requirements still apply, including the Arrow of Light den/patrol must have a BALOO trained adult leader in attendance and all of Scouting's Youth Protection policies apply.

## **Camporee Patches**

Camporee Patches will be distributed to each troop during the Camporee Checkout and are included in the cost of camporee.

## **Campsites**

As Wildlife West is wildlife refuge and enhanced zoo, units will be assigned a designated campsite location and should be respectful of their assigned boundaries. There will be space at each campsite for separate adult and youth camping accommodations.

# Daypack Supplies

A Scout is prepared. Each scout should carry a day pack with their 10 essentials, their scout book and a notebook and pencil/pen.

- Pocketknife
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Clothing
- Rain Gear
- Water Bottle
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Trail Food
- Fire Starters
- Sun Protection
- Compass

## Electricity

There is limited electricity available in the campground area for adult use and CPAP/medical devices.

## Event Scoring

Patrols will be scored on scout skills and spirit at each station. Station scores will be combined at the end of the day to determine the overall camporee “top o’ the heap”.

## First Aid

While we have a medic on camporee staff, each troop should have a first aid kit readily available and centrally located in their campsite for minor injuries.

All injuries, even if treated at unit level, are to be reported to the health lodge in a timely manner.

Notify camporee staff immediately if medical aid beyond minor first aid is required.

## Lost and Found

Lost and Found will be located at the Bean Barn.

## Meals

Troops will be responsible for their own meals.

# Medical Forms and Medication

Each registered Scout and Scouter must have a completed BSA Annual Medical Form Part A and Part B on file with the camp medical staff.

Scout medications will be stored and administered by unit leadership. Camporee medical staff is available for assistance in case of emergency. All medications must be in original containers and clearly labeled with participant's name, medication name, dosage and frequency.

## Patrols

Baden Powell says that Scout Patrols should be between 6-8 scouts. Patrols for the competition must have at least 4 scouts and cannot exceed 8 Scouts. The SPL will be asked to turn in the Patrol Roster at the SPL Meeting on Saturday morning.

## Registration

Registration is currently open and will close on April 10, 2026. Fees are \$25 for youth and adult participants and \$10 for volunteers. <https://scoutingevent.com/573-101960>

## Sunday Interfaith Service

A scout is reverent. There will be a non-denominational religious service on Sunday morning. Please wear full Class A uniform.

## Trading Post - Snack Shack

A limited cash only Trading Post - Snack Shack will be open on Saturday in the Amphitheater.

## Water

Water is available on site for cooking, cleaning and drinking. Please note, though, that due to its high mineral content, Edgewood water often has an earthy or metallic taste and sometimes has a sulphuric smell. **While the water IS safe to drink, we recommend that you bring drinking water for your scouts.**

# Events

Each Patrol will compete in the event camporee, and all available patrol members must participate. Exceptions will be made for medical or staff conflicts.

## **Cooking with Cookie**

Alright, Partners! Your Cowboss (Scoutmaster) is waiting for their supper! You and your outfit (crew) must build and maintain a fire to cook a “red hot” (hot dog). Hold your horses, though, and don’t be a “hot dog”(showoff) as you build your fire as a team. Remember to have you 10 Essentials on hand! All other supplies will be provided by the “station wrangler”.

## **Fixin’ Up the O.K. Corral**

The cattle broke loose and now you and your crew must build a 4 post “corral” using posts and lashings. Once you have repaired your corral, learn to tie a lasso knot and get your herd back into the pen. Posts, staves and rope will be provided by the “station wrangler.”

## **Follow the Sign**

Critters have ransacked your camp, but what kind?! Put your tracking skills to the test as you learn about and identify the animal prints left behind.

## **Home, Home on the Range**

Are you the next Buffalo Bill or Annie Oakley? Test your aim and see if you’re a straight shooter at the BB and Archery ranges.

## **Western Trail Cattle Drive**

Do you and your troop have the skills needed to “drive” your cattle from the ranch to the railhead? On this One Mile Compass Course, show off your scout skills as you face several obstacles before reaching your destination.

## **Take a Trip to Town**

Time to “head into town” (well...our onsite pop up tent town) and see what they have to offer. This ain’t “all hat and no cattle”! Meet with local hobby groups and experts to learn about ham radio operation, blacksmithing, and other activities.

# AWARDS

## Cowtown Award

Each campsite will be inspected using the following criteria:

- Duty roster posted and filled out
- Troop flag properly displayed
- Stakes and ties marked if above ground
- Camp stove properly set up
- Campsite neat and free of litter and debris
- Drinking water available
- Food properly stored away
- First aid kit in camp is visible and accessible

Make sure your site is squared away before starting your station rotations on Saturday. The best site will be named “Top Notch Cowtown”.

## “Cookie” Cook-off

We don't want to leave out the Cowboses! Each troop's adult leader patrol is invited to participate in a Dutch oven dessert cook-off. Anything goes as long as it's cooked in a dutch oven and is a dessert. Bonus points might be awarded if your dessert fits the Wild West theme. A designated area will be provided for cooking, but participants need to bring their own charcoal, pots/utensils and baking supplies. Award will be presented to the “cookie” of the best dessert.

## Scout Spirit Award

”Success is not about being the best, it's about being your best.” As Lord Baden-Powell said, “the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people.”

Even though your patrol is working this weekend, we want you to have fun. The Scout Spirit Award will be presented to the most lively troop. Songs, marching chants, costumes, and patrol yells tie in with this. Don't hold back. Be proud to be loud.. and it never hurts to sneak in a “Yee-Haw” here and there!

Scout Spirit Competition Considerations:

- Helpful Spirit
- Positive Attitude
- Encouraging Behavior
- Good Sportsmanship and Cheerfulness
- Troop and Patrol Chants
- Costumes

## **“Top Hand” Awards**

The Top Hand Award will be awarded to the troop with the highest score at each individual station.

## **Camporee “Top Notch”**

Troop scores from each station will be combined and averaged at the end of the day’s events to determine each troop’s place in the final rankings. The troop with the highest average will be named “Top Notch” and pronounced the winner of the camporee!

# 2026 High Desert Council Spring Camporee

**Patrol Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SPL \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Name	Troop #	Rank