

George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation

Leaders,

I am excited to be the first to welcome you to GWP!

Your stay at GWP will last just 4 days. As a parent or leader attending camp with your scout(s), these 4 days represent an opportunity to share an experience of tremendous quality and impact with your scout.

Your scout will have the opportunity to develop outdoor skills, confidence, and a sense of personal achievement and growth through a series of fun, values-based activities. You will have the opportunity to take an active role in your scout's journey towards becoming an excellent young leader in the community.

At GWP, we take pride in providing a safe, fun, and exciting environment for our scouts to develop excellent character, self-confidence, and values.

This leader guide is intended to provide a general overview of our offerings and to provide you with the information necessary to prepare for your stay.

We take pride in our program, our staff, and our camp, and it will be our pleasure to share these with you this summer.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miller, Camp Director

Sabrina Stutts, Program Director

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Arriving at GWP

Please plan to arrive at the parking lot no later than 6:00 PM. You will be greeted in the parking lot by GWP Camp Staff who will give you your campsite assignment, a map and directions to park and unload your gear.

Scouts should come prepared to carry their own backpack to their campsite, packs should be a reasonable weight for them to carry. Adults, with the help of staff, will move the rest of the gear to the campsite.

Please have the **Unit Roster** and final **Payment** ready when your Leader meets with the Office Manager at the appointment time.

All adult leaders and Scouts must see the medic for a health check. Each person will need to turn in **Medical Forms, Parts A and B**. When you check in with the Medic you must check in all medications. By Texas State Law, all youth medications must be collected in the original prescription containers.

Campsites

After you check in, you will be assigned to one of our campsites. In most cases, you will share your campsite with one or more other packs. This allows us to use our space efficiently and minimize walking distance to the other areas of camp. This is a great opportunity to interact with youth and leaders throughout the East Texas Area Council and surrounding areas!

You will need to bring your own tents to sleep in. Please bring what you need to be comfortable, such as blow-up mattresses or sleeping pads. **Packing light** is a great way to make move-in easier. We will have staff who will help you take your gear to your campsite. Please do not bring heavy items or bulky items as those will take up too much space. **There will be only 1 staff member provided per campsite.** Please be courteous as there is more than just your pack in your campsite in some cases.

Please keep **Youth Protection** policies in mind as you set up your homestead; adults and opposite youth may not share tents and adults may not enter tents occupied by youth, except in the case of a parent and their own child.

Each homestead has a designated fire ring where you may build a campfire as long as there is no fire ban in effect. You may check on fire-ban status at the camp office.

There is plenty of firewood around; please do not cut any trees or use any type of liquid fuel. A shovel, water bucket, and fire safety chart are provided for each homestead. Please take a moment during move-in to review the fire safety chart with your youth.

Opening Ceremonies, Camp Tour

Opening ceremonies is a sensational presentation that will get you and your Scouts excited and motivated for the days to come! It will be directly followed by a tour of camp with your Pack led by our staff.

Health checks are also part of the tour, during which our camp medic will collect and review medical forms for every individual in camp. **Make sure at least one adult attends the camp tour with your scouts and brings their medical forms with them. Each scout will be asked questions so they need to be prepared with medication and anything else that may need to be turned into the Medic.**

Adult Leader Meeting

During the tour will be the first adult leader meeting. There is an adult leader meeting every day of the camp session. At least one adult leader from your pack should attend each of these meetings. At these meetings, we will cover additional information to ensure that your day is successful. Please come prepared with any questions you may have.

Meals

In true Wild West fashion, here at GWP, we call lunch “dinner,” and dinner “supper.” Each Pack will be assigned tables in the dining hall according to your number of scouts and adults.

Waiters: Each pack will be asked to provide two Scouts per table with adult supervision for each meal to be “waiters.” Waiters will be asked to report **30 minutes** before each meal to set the tables.

PROGRAM AT GEORGE W. PIRTLE SCOUT RESERVATION

Morning Routine

For the morning flag ceremony and breakfast (as well as the evening flag ceremony and supper), please dress respectfully in your Class A with your Scout shirt buttoned and tucked in.

Following breakfast, Scouts and adults participate in assigned camp chores. These take little time or effort to accomplish, but by working together, they allow each Scout to take pride and ownership in GWP and our camp community! Your Trail Boss will help guide you.

Station Rotations

Beginning the afternoon you show up, your Scouts will visit activity stations at designated times with their rank posse.

Stations are led by expert staff who have enthusiasm for what they are teaching! At each station, Scouts will gain confidence as they safely learn new skills and explore new activities.

Stations are grouped by location and topic to make the most of your time at GWP. Adults will be asked to participate by assisting station staff to ensure that Scouts have positive experiences. Our station activities include:

BB Gun and Archery Ranges

Scouts can hone their skills and prove their accuracy at our ranges.

Sling Shots

Slingshots will be available during free time.

Woodcraft

Scouts will get practice using tools to make a project that they get to take home.

Cooking

Scouts will get to cook a meal over a fire or coals while they learn about fire safety.

Fishing

Fishing is offered as an activity station and is also available during Open Range time. A staff member will be available to instruct and assist at all times when the lake is open.

You will be provided all materials necessary, but you are welcome to bring your own supplies if

you desire. You will be responsible for the security of your supplies and may not store them in our fishing shed.

We will enforce **catch-and-release** fishing only, as we do not have facilities to clean or store fish.

...And More!

At the time of this writing, new program areas are still being developed. Keep an eye out for announcements about our new programs.

Open Range

During Open Range, each Scout and their buddy are free to roam and further explore the activity stations of their choice, or simply enjoy old-fashioned, unstructured play around camp. During Open Range, adult leaders are free to roam as well, or relax at your homestead. Slingshots, swimming, whittling, Whittling Chip, panning for gold, frontier games, and many more activities will be available during Open Range.

Homestead Time

Homestead time is scheduled for after lunch. This is a chance for homesteads to gather for a quiet moment of rest and reflection. Scouts are encouraged to use this time to rest their bodies, and either reenergize for the rest of the day or wind down for the night. This time after lunch is known as BOB ("Body on Bunk") time at your homestead.

Evening Program

A chapel service will be led by our camp chaplain on the last morning of each session.

GWP staff will also lead a moving flag retirement ceremony on the first night of camp and a campfire program on the third night of camp which the cub scouts will be able to participate in.

ACTIVITIES

Rather than splitting up by pack for station time, scouts will be split up according to their rank. This allows us to provide different program experiences for older and younger Scouts.

Packs will share a campsite and eat together as a pack, but will be separated into groups of Tigers, Wolves, and Bears on the first day after the camp tour.

Plan for your scouts to be in a group that also contains members from other packs. Please take this into consideration when planning for your stay.

AWARDS

Each Cub Scout that participates in Cowboy Up! Activities will get his own rank-specific neckerchief and will have the opportunity to earn a special award by going the extra mile while at camp. Each rank's award will have its own age-appropriate requirements.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Advancement

Please keep in mind that the emphasis of Cub Scout camping is not advancement but exploring new interests that Scouts would not otherwise have the opportunity to discover. We have done our best to incorporate advancement opportunities throughout the program, although most requirements are difficult to achieve in a short camp setting. An **Advancement Guide** can be found at the end of this guide, which lists possible advancement opportunities. It is the responsibility of adult leaders to track Scouts' progress, test for completion after camp, and award achievements. You will also be given a final advancement listing at the time of your departure as these are always changing until program is finalized closer to camp.

Adult Program

Your love for Scouting and youth, as well as your commitment to serve, is the heartbeat and foundation of success for Cub Scouts in the East Texas Area Council. Please take advantage of our Adult Leader Activity Program. It's a fun way to stay busy and productive! Sheets will be available at camp.

Check-out

Your gear will need to be brought down to your cars prior to breakfast on day 4. Please ensure that your youth are not missing out on scheduled program in order to get packed up early. With everyone working together, this process can be completed quickly and smoothly.

Please remember Leave No Trace outdoor ethics as you finish up at your campsite; leave it better than you found it! Camp will be dismissed after the closing ceremony on day 4, which provides a conclusion to the session and recognizes campers for their achievements and participation. Please try to stay until the very end, as this is when you will collect important paperwork, lost and found, etc.

Parent pick-up

For the safety of the youth while they are at GWP, we take a few precautions regarding pick-ups from camp. We ask that you coordinate visitors and drivers **before** camp, and include all individuals involved on your pack roster. If they will be at camp for any length of time, we want to know that you are expecting them. If a parent or other family member is picking a child up at any point before the scheduled camp dismissal, please notify camp management as soon as possible when they get to camp. They will need to check-out their child from camp at the Camp Office before leaving camp.

In order to keep traffic flowing safely as we dismiss camp at the end of the session, parents that are picking up their children are asked to please arrive prior to 9:00 AM. Please check in at the camp office.

Special Needs

In order to help us meet our campers' specific dietary and mobility needs, we request that you submit a Special Needs Form **no later than April 15, 2025. Appropriate planning and preparation is necessary to fully accommodate the needs of attending campers.** Forms submitted after that date will be addressed to the best of our ability.

Bathroom and Shower Facilities

Flush toilets can be found in the shower house, Main office, and at the dining hall. Throughout the rest of camp, we use KYBOs, which are outhouses with pit toilets. There is a shower house with separate stalls, each with a shower and flushing toilet. Please do not use the bathrooms and showers in the staff area as these are for camp staff only.

Trading Post

Our camp trading post is well-stocked with camp supplies, souvenirs, and refreshments. The average camper spends \$15 per day. You may choose to have an adult leader act as the "banker," allowing youth to check money in and out. Adults may use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express.

Communication

A phone is available in the camp office for emergency use only. Cell service is marginally available around the property.

Please only use electronic communications out of sight of campers and only as necessary; do not let it become a distraction from quality time with your Camper! To maintain the Wild West environment, we ask that all youth be discouraged from bringing and using recreational electronics to camp.

Pony Express

Mail can be an exciting surprise for Scouts at camp! To ensure that your camper receives their mail, consider sending it well before they arrive. We will hold all mail until the session it is marked for. Please include the following when addressing your mail:

[Scout's first and last name] [Pack #]

[Session Dates]

George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation, BSA

440 CO Road 1241

Gary City, TX 75643

Outgoing mail from camp can be dropped off in the camp office.

GEORGE W. PIRTLE SCOUT RESERVATION SCHEDULE

| Day 1 | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 6:00 | Camper Arrival Check-In |
| 7:00 | Fire Drill Opening Ceremonies |
| 7:30-8:30 | Camp Tour Adult Leader Meeting |
| 8:30-9:00 | Cracker Barrel Flag Retirement |
| 9:00 | Lights Out |

| Day 2 | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 6:30-7:00 | Rise and Shine! |
| 8:00 | Morning Flag * |
| 8:15-9:00 | Breakfast |
| 9:00-9:20 | Morning Chores |
| 9:30-11:55 | Station Time |
| 12:00 | Homesteads Gather |
| 12:05-12:50 | Dinner |
| 12:50-1:20 | Homestead Time |
| 1:30-3:55 | Station Time |
| 4:00-5:15 | Open Range Adult Leader Meeting |
| 5:25 | Evening Flag * |
| 5:45-6:30 | Supper |
| 6:45-8:00 | Hootenanny |
| 8:00-9:00 | Homestead Time |
| 9:00 | Quiet Time |

| Day 3 | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 6:30-7:00 | Rise and Shine! |
| 8:00 | Morning Flag * |
| 8:15-9:00 | Breakfast |
| 9:00-9:20 | Morning Chores |
| 9:30-11:55 | Station Time |
| 12:00 | Homesteads Gather |
| 12:05-12:50 | Dinner |
| 12:50-1:20 | Homestead Time |
| 1:30-3:55 | Station Time |
| 4:00-5:15 | Open Range Adult Leader Meeting |
| 5:25 | Evening Flag * |
| 5:45-6:30 | Supper |
| 6:45-8:00 | Cub Scout Campfire Program |
| 8:00-9:00 | Homestead Time |
| 9:00 | Quiet Time |

| Day 4 | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 7:30 | Morning Flag |
| 7:45-8:30 | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:45 | Scouts Own (Chapel) |
| 9:00 | Closing/Dismissal |

2025 George W. Pirtle Scout Ranch Adventure Listing

*****The following are advancement requirements that a Scout may achieve while at GWP Scout Ranch. It is possible that Scouts may or may not complete these. Leaders, please talk with your Scouts to decide what they have completed. These requirements are built into the program to be presented but circumstances and opportunities may change during the course of the class, week or summer. If you have questions, please ask.*****

Tigers:

Wolf:

Bear:

Webelos:

Arrow of Light: