



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
EAST TEXAS AREA COUNCIL



*10th Annual Turkey Camp
November 22nd-25th, 2025*

Dear Scouting Leaders,

2025 marks the TENTH year of the East Texas Area Council's Turkey Camp. Each year we take the feedback of our youth and adults to improve upon the previous years' program. This program is driven by YOU and we take your recommendations, needs, and comments seriously.

We are dedicated to delivering the promise of a quality outdoor program in a great setting provided by a staff of volunteers that is second to none. We do all of this in a safe, clean and friendly camp atmosphere here at the beautiful George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation.

If you this will be your first year attending Turkey Camp, welcome! This event has the pace and energy of a Merit Badge Workshop fused with the outdoor experience of a traditional summer camp. Turkey Camp is 100% Volunteer based. There is not a traditional 'Summer Camp Staff', rather Merit Badge classes are all taught by Unit Leaders who are attending camp. Everyone pitches in and the atmosphere and energy reflect it.

The Turkey Camp program is designed to help each Scout in your unit to achieve the best possible experience. We strive to provide engaging programs for every Scout that comes to Turkey Camp, whether they be a first-year camper, or the Scout that has been coming to camp for four or five years. It is our hope that this experience at Camp Pirtle will provide a lifetime of memories and the tools necessary for advancement to the next rank. If you have any questions as you plan your Turkey Camp experience, please drop us a line.

See you in November!

Jason Beaton
Turkey Camp Director
(903) 530-9378 cell (please text before calling)
jason.beaton@etexscouts.org



CAMP REGISTRATION & FEES

A non-refundable CAMPSITE DEPOSIT of \$100 (sites assigned by date of payments) is required to reserve your campsite. This will be applied to your Troop's total camp fees.

All units must have two registered adult leaders (one must be at least 21 and one at least 18) in camp at all times. Two adults per campsite must be present in accordance with national policy. All leaders must be registered with BSA. Compliance with two-deep leadership requirements will be the responsibility of the unit.

Youth Early Bird - \$175 per Camper if paid in full by close of business 10/11/2025

Youth Full Price - \$220 per Camper after 10/11/2025 and before 11/15/2025

Adults Early Bird - \$75 if paid in full to Council Office by close of business Friday 10/11/2025

Adult Full Price - \$100 after 10/11/2025 and before 11/15/2025

**** Any Registration after 11/15/2025 will incur a \$25 late fee. ****

Refund Policy:

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration. Refunds are to be processed via written request to the East Texas Area Council prior to the Unit's attendance at Turkey Camp. All refund checks will be made payable to the Troop (not an individual). Requests that are submitted 15 days before scheduled attendance at camp may receive up to 100% of fees back (minus deposit). Requests that are received less than 15 days before scheduled attendance at camp may receive up to 50% of fees back (minus deposit). Requests that are received 1 week or less before scheduled attendance at camp may receive up to 25% of fees back (minus deposit). Any refund request made during or after the event will not be honored. All requests will be handled on an individual basis as each situation is different and we understand that some things are unavoidable. In the event that Turkey Camp is cancelled by the East Texas Area Council for any reason, a 100% refund will be provided for all fees paid.

Your Troop will receive a final financial settlement statement at camp. This will reflect any last-minute changes and incidental expenses. These accounts must be settled before your Tuesday departure. Checkout packets will not be issued to any unit that has an outstanding balance.

Safeguarding Youth & More

Due to recent changes in the Texas Administrative Code for Camps (Summer Resident Camp, NYLT, and Turkey Camp), any adult attending camp within the State of Texas MUST take the newly required BSA Safeguarding Youth Training Course. Even if you are current in your BSA Safeguarding Youth Training, you must take the new course to maintain compliance with the state code. The past iterations of BSA SYT are not valid for this purpose. This is required for all adult camp staff and leaders (volunteers or paid staff) who are responsible for the immediate supervision of campers at licensed camps in the State of Texas. This training will be valid for two years from the date of completion. Adults must also provide proof of BSA registration. Any unregistered adult staying the night at camp will be required to submit an adult application and answer all questions related to criminal history and consent to a criminal background check.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Alcohol, Drugs or Stimulants: The consumption, possession, or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or misuse of prescription or over the counter medication while participating at Camp Pirtle will not be tolerated. We will enforce all local, state, or federal laws where violations involving the above are reported. Violators will be reported to law enforcement and the National Office of the BSA.

In accordance with national BSA policy, as outlined in the "Guide to Safe Scouting", Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and will not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. This includes e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Camp Emergency Procedures: There is a camp-wide plan to help leaders deal with fire, flood, lost persons, injury, and accident of fatality. This plan will be posted in all campsites, buildings, and program areas. The Troop Fire Guard Plan will be in effect. Each Troop will appoint a troop fireguard to maintain fire equipment at the site.

Troops sharing a campsite should share this responsibility. Troop leaders should provide instruction as troops arrive.

Instructions for Emergency Procedures will be distributed at the Leaders Meeting Saturday.

Campsite Fire Protection: Use provided fire barrels and pails for fire buckets. They should be placed at each tent and fire site. Safety regulations require full fire buckets at each tent. All fires are to be tended at all times with adult supervision. No fire is to be left burning in a campsite when there are no campers. Only one fire per campsite is allowed and must be in the designated fire ring at the campsite. A Troop Fireguard Chart will be provided during check-in. It must be properly filled out for the week and posted on your site bulletin board.

Chapel: A nondenominational chapel service is held each morning at 6:30 AM at the chapel.

Code of Conduct: Leaders and Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Please respect each other's space and do not enter other campsites without permission.

Special Dietary Needs: Scouts or Leaders with special dietary needs must contact the Camp Director Directly prior to arriving at camp. Should a Scout or Leader choose to provide their own food, cold storage in the kitchen will be provided.

Dining Hall Procedures: We eat in shifts at Turkey Camp. The procedure for Table Waiters will be the same regardless if your Troop is assigned A or B meal. Before each meal, Troops will form up around the flagpoles in front of the dining hall. A Scout volunteer will lead the camp in a blessing before the troops are dismissed. The leader at each table is responsible for the conduct, manners, and general supervision of the Scouts at his or her table.

Fires, Liquids & Propane Fuels: Fires are to be built only in designated areas and under adult supervision. Liquid or propane fuels are to be used only under adult supervision. Propane cylinders and cans of liquid fuel must be stored under lock and key. National policy prohibits the use of open flames in tents. This includes mosquito coils, catalytic heaters, gas lanterns, stoves, candles, and smoking materials.

Food and Trash Removal: Units are asked to bag their trash and leave at the entrance to their campsite for pick-up each morning before 9:00 am.

Footwear: NO OPEN TOE SHOES (sandals, Birkenstocks, etc.) or aqua sock type shoes are permitted. Shoes MUST be worn at all times during camp.

Hazing & Bullying: It is the BSA Policy that hazing, and initiations are prohibited. "Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Bullying of another Scout will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

The East Texas Area Council has a zero-tolerance policy on hazing and bullying

Insurance Coverage: All registered members of East Texas Area Council troops are covered by Health Special Risk unit insurance and must follow the normal procedure for filing claims. A claim form must accompany each Scout who is referred to an outside medical facility. Each troop is responsible for filing its own claims. This is secondary coverage and will be filed after any other policy has been filed on and has paid. If there is no other policy, this will be the primary insurance.

Leaving Camp: For your protection, all campers (youth and adult) who leave camp must check out and, when returning, check in at the Headquarters Building. Troop leaders must verify the accompanying adult's (parent or guardian) identity with camp staff at headquarters before a Scout may leave camp. Adults are reminded of the "two deep" leadership rule of Scouting. All individuals entering and re-entering camp will have a temperature check before being allowed back on property.

Mail: Camp Pirtle has a daily mail service. ***Scouts Love Mail!*** To retrieve mail while at camp, go to the Camp Headquarters Building. All outgoing mail leaves from Headquarters and should be placed in the outgoing mailbox. Please make sure all outgoing mail has appropriate postage. Mail should be addressed as follows:

Scout John Doe, Troop #_____
George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation
440 CR 1241
Gary, TX 75643

Medical Services: The Health Lodge is staffed 24 hours a day and is prepared to handle minor injuries and illnesses. Any emergencies that cannot be treated at the Health Lodge will be referred to an appropriate hospital or physician's clinic. The unit leader or assistant will transport the patient to the outside medical facility unless an ambulance is required (following Youth Protection Protocols).

Every Scout and Scouter who attends camp MUST have completed an Annual BSA Health & Medical Record, Parts A, B, & C.

No other medical form will be accepted. This form must have a physician's signature on Part C. No Scout or Leader will be allowed to stay at Camp Pirtle without the Annual BSA Health & Medical Record. This medical form must be completed annually. Military or athletic physicals are NO LONGER acceptable.

All medications must be accompanied by written permission from a parent or guardian. Make sure the Scout's name and instructions on how the medication is to be administered are clearly marked on the container. All prescription medications must be in original prescription bottle. All youth

medication must be collected by the medical staff during screening and will be administered by the medical staff during camp. All adult medications must be kept under lock and key by the adult leaders at all times.

Rifles, Ammunition, Bows & Arrows: Personal firearms of any type (rifles, shotguns, handguns, BB guns, pellet guns, paintball guns, black powder rifles, cannons, bows, arrows, ammunition, and fireworks) are not allowed in camp. Camp Pirtle will provide all equipment needed for shooting sports activities.

Personal Possessions: Camp is a rustic outdoor experience. Personal items such as cell phones, tablets, mp3 players, electronic games, etc. should not be brought to camp unless required to complete a merit badge. In all cases, personal valuables, (watches, wallets, money, etc.) should not be left out in the open at camp. Lost and Found items can be turned in and retrieved from the Headquarters Building. **Bicycles are allowed at Camp Pirtle with proper helmet and lighting.**

Pets: No pets are allowed in camp. Official service animals are welcome, but the official paper MUST accompany the service animal. Please notify the Camp Director should this need arise.

Program Fees/ Merit Badge Specifications: Not all Merit Badges are appropriate for all Scouts nor can all be completed at camp. Please review the Merit Badge Detail List to identify limitations on classes and special items a Scout may need to bring to participate. Pay close attention as some merit badges require program fees for participation. All program fees will be included on the Troop Financial Settlement Statement.

Showers: Male/Female/Adult/Youth times will be discussed at the SPL/Leaders Meeting on Saturday. The showers near Campsite 1, 6, & 13 (New Showers in 2019), and Staff Area have individual locking stalls. A shower cleaning schedule and shower key will be shared at check-in. Each Troop will be responsible for cleaning a shower block 1 time during their stay.

Telephones: Camp Pirtle's Headquarters telephone is 903-693-3286. The "after hours" emergency ONLY number is 903-690-9576 (Camp Ranger's Home). Please do not call this number unless it is an emergency!! No youth is permitted to use the camp office phone for phone calls. Experience has shown that youth who bring cell phones get more homesick, not less. You are strongly encouraged not to let your Scout bring cell phones to camp unless needed to complete a Merit Badge.

As a courtesy to all our campers and in respect of the outdoor experience, adult cell phone use should be outside of any active program area.

Tenting Policy: Scouts are required to follow Safeguarding Youth Guidelines with tenting. All participants are encouraged to sleep head to toe if sharing tents. **Troops need to supply their own tents.** There are some tent pallets in each camp site. Unfortunately, additional pallets or picnic tables in campsites are not available.

Trading Post: Our Trading Post has a limited supply of camp mugs, shirts, patches, souvenirs, equipment, snacks, cold drinks and ice cream. A small supply of Merit Badge Books will be available for purchase. Hours of operation will be posted and announced. The Trading Post accepts Master Card and VISA. Adult volunteers for crowd control are appreciated during peak times.

T-Shirt Orders: Each fully paid participant (both youth and adult) to Turkey Camp will receive a t-shirt at no additional cost. Shirt sizes will be collected during registration. All shirt sizes must be entered no later than Monday, November 17th. Any T-Shirt order submitted after that time cannot be filled.

Uniform: We encourage units to wear their uniforms to and from camp, during chapel services, evening meals and at the evening flag ceremony.

Vehicles in Camp: Troops will be allowed to transport supplies into camp by the use of ONE (1) vehicle and/or a troop trailer. Each unit will receive a pass that will give them access to their campsites at check-in. Troops may park their trailers in their campsites so long as it does not interfere with another troops camping experience. **All vehicles must return to and remain in the parking lot once unloaded. No unauthorized vehicles may travel through camp.**

Turkey Camp 2025 Daily Schedule

	Saturday	Sunday & Monday Times	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday Times	Tuesday
	Nov 22nd	-	Nov 23rd	Nov 24th	-	Nov 25th
Saturday Times						
9:00	Program Area Set Up	6:15	Reveille	Reveille	6:15	Reveille
		6:30	Chapel	Chapel	6:30	Chapel
		7:00	A Breakfast	A Breakfast	7:00	A Breakfast
		7:40	Flag Ceremony	Flag Ceremony	7:40	Flag Ceremony
		7:45	B Breakfast	B Breakfast	7:50	B Breakfast
		8:30	1st Period	1st Period	8:30	1st Period
		10:00	Break	Break	9:45	Break
12:00 to 2:30	HQ Opens Troop Check-In	10:15	2nd Period	2nd Period	9:50	2nd Period
		11:45	Class Ends	Class Ends	11:05	Class Ends
		12:00	A Lunch	A Lunch	11:15	A Lunch
		12:40	B Lunch	B Lunch	11:55	B Lunch
		1:30	3rd Period	3rd Period	12:40	3rd Period
2:30	Instructor Meeting	3:00	Break	Break	1:55	Break
3:30	Leaders & SPL Meeting	3:15	4th Period	4th Period	2:00	4th Period
		4:45	Class Ends	Class Ends	3:15	Class Ends
5:00	A Dinner	5:00	A Dinner	A Dinner	3:20	Break Camp
5:45	Flag Ceremony	5:45	Flag Ceremony	Flag Ceremony	5:00	Camp Closed
6:00	B Dinner	6:00	B Dinner	B Dinner		
6:45	Troop Meetings	6:45	Leaders/ SPL Meeting	Leaders/SPL Meeting		
7:00	5th Period	7:00	5th Period	5th Period		
8:35	Cracker Barrel Movie Night 1	8:35	Cracker Barrel Movie Night 2	Cracker Barrel Movie Night 3		
10:30	Lights Out	10:30	Lights Out	Lights Out		

Merit Badge Offerings

Please Refer to the Merit Badge class list linked on the registration page. Below are the Merit Badge offerings for 2025. All Merit Badge classes are taught by adult volunteers or Eagle Scouts. **Class Registration will open on Wednesday 10/15/2025 at 9 PM.** At that time, Troops may begin to register their Scouts for their desired merit badge classes. Please encourage Scouts to have back-up merit badge choices as classes are limited in size, however additional class offerings for some merit badges may be offered should demand require it. Final locations and maps for classes will be shared at check-in and will be posted in all program areas.

A Comprehensive Catalog of classes is available as an attachment via the online registration page - <https://scoutingevent.com/585-TurkeyCamp2025>

If there is a class that leaders from your Troop would like to volunteer to teach, or there is a merit badge offering that is not on the schedule that you feel should be, please reach out to Jason Beaton at jason.beaton@etexscouts.org. Our desire is to have every Merit Badge instructor identified to allow for proper course preparation.



Check-In Process

The Headquarters will not be staffed until 11:30 on Saturday for questions. **Troop Check-In will begin promptly at Noon.** We will have all campsite assignments provided at the beginning of check-in so that the Troop can begin setting camp.

Only two leaders and the Senior Patrol Leader should be present at Check-In.

All Medical forms will be reviewed by our Camp Medics.

To have an efficient, smooth check-in, please plan to have the following documents prepared to turn in:

- List of any Scouts/Leaders not attending and Last-Minute Additions
- Current BSA Health & Medical Record for attending scouts & adults parts A, B & C
- All medications and instructions for dispensing as prescribed by BSA procedures
- Monies for any remaining balance



Turkey Camp 2025 Youth Service Schedule

Meal Serving Schedule

Meal	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Breakfast A				
Breakfast B				
Lunch A				
Lunch B				
Dinner A				
Dinner B				

Flag Ceremony Schedule

Meal	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Breakfast				
Dinner				

Shower Cleaning Schedule

Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday

Shower 1				
Shower 2				
Shower 3				
Staff Area				

**Dining Hall Clean Up Tuesday (Multiple Troops
Needed)**

Please come to the SPL Meeting Saturday with your Troop's Preferred
Assignments

Adult Service Opportunities

There are many adult service needs at Turkey Camp. Below is a list that should be shared with the leaders of each Troop as you plan your Turkey Camp experience. Please contact Camp Director directly with your commitments.

Merit Badge Instructors and Support (2-3 people per class)

Daily Merit Badge Data Entry at the Headquarters (2-4 w/ Laptops)

Cracker Barrell Serving Leaders (4-6 Nightly)

Audio Visual Team for Movie Night (2 People Nightly)

Water Patrol – Distributes water bottles to all program areas throughout the day (2-3 People w/ Truck)

Program Support Runner – Willing to make runs to town for supplies (1-2 People)

Dining Hall Support at Meals – Coffee, Drink and Trash Team (4-6 per meal)

Camp Maintenance Projects – Any helping hand for proactive maintenance (Open)

Camp Commissioners – Quality and Customer Service Liaisons. Also, may serve as morning Coffee Patrol in campsites prior to breakfast (2-3)

Conservation Project Leaders

Trading Post Supervision (1 leader during all business hours)

Volunteering:
IT'S EASIER
THAN
YOU
THINK.



