

**George W. Pirtle
Scout Reservation
2026 BSA First Class Trail Camp
Leader's Guide**



The GWP camp program aims to provide everything needed for your Troop from the time you arrive until your departure.

Our program is designed to allow time for Scouts to work on advancement while also reserving time for them to experience things unique to GWP. Our goal is to provide an environment in which each Scout is able to participate in everything that GWP offers while making memories to last a lifetime.

We thank you for choosing GWP as your temporary home away from home for this Scouting Adventure.

Charlie Aman
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East Texas Area Council
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GENERAL INFORMATION

East Texas Area Council provides classic camping for all scouts at George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation. Beautiful GWP is nestled in an East Texas pine forest. GWP is positioned on the banks of Lake Murvaul near the community of Gary, Texas and just a few miles from Carthage. GWP has received a Nationally Accredited rating from the National Camping Accreditation Program annually since 1965, 60 years and counting.

It is the policy of the East Texas Area Council BSA to admit all persons in accordance with and in compliance with the rules and regulations of the BSA. George W Pirtle Scout Reservation is for use by all Scouts. Participation in the program and activities are open to every Scout regardless of race, color, creed, ability, religion or national origin. We want everyone to be able to enjoy our beautiful facility.

FIRST CLASS TRAIL CAMP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

June 3rd - 7th

On June 3, 2026 check in will be from 5:30-8:00p.m. Dinner will not be provided, eat enroute or before arrival.

Check out on June 7, 2026 will start at 9:00a.m. There will be a grab and go breakfast.

Reserve your space with a \$100 deposit by February 15, 2026.

Cost-

If paid in full by March, 2026 - \$190 per First Class Trail Camper; \$75 for each Adult Leader or PLC Youth Leader.

If paid in full by May 1, 2026 - \$220 per First Class Trail Camper; \$100 for each Adult Leader or PLC Youth Leader

If paid in full after May 1, 2026 -\$250 per FCT Camper; \$125 for each Adult and Youth Leader.

Register for camp at: <https://scoutingevent.com/585-94935>

REFUND POLICY

Unit deposits are non-refundable if the troop decides not to attend summer camp. Individual camper fees are refundable on a sliding scale with a documented and unavoidable justification:

0% refund will be issued if requested less than two weeks prior to camp

50% refund will be issued if requested 15 days prior to camp

100% refund will be issued over one month prior to camp (regardless of the nature of the request)

Certain provisions can be made for unexpected major events (severe family illness or loss). Individual fees may be transferred to another scout in your Troop.

CAMPERSHIPS

Camperships may be offered by the East Texas Area Council to Scouts experiencing financial hardship. Camperships do not cover the entire cost of camp (up to 50%). We believe that a Scout is thrifty and should work to pay his own way, but we do not want to deny summer camp to a Scout simply because he/she cannot afford it. Campership applications can be requested from the ETAC Office. The deadline for Camperships is May 1. Camperships will be credited into the Troop account at ETAC Service Center

SPECIAL NEEDS

GWP is committed to assisting all Scouts. Special needs can be but are not limited to CPAP needs, physical handicaps and dietary restrictions. We have campsites and shower facilities reserved for Scouts with physical special needs and we pledge to do our best to accommodate every possibility. Please contact the camp director for more information. If a Scout or adult has a special dietary need, please fill out a special needs form and we can and will make arrangements to meet the needs.

Please make sure all Special needs are noted during the registration process.

CAMPSITE INFORMATION

Assignments are determined on a campsite by campsite basis. Campsite assignments will be determined by the camp administration.

Each Troop will need to bring all their own tents and any dining flies or shelters that they may want in the campsite.

Each Troop should provide adequate protection for its valuables. A foot locker with a lock is recommended. The East Texas Area Council and George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

All tents need to be made of flame-retardant material. It is the policy of Scouting America that all tents must be posted "NO FLAME IN TENTS".

Showers, toilets and latrines are available for Scouts and adults. These facilities must be kept clean at all times or privileges will be revoked. Units will be assigned times that they are responsible for cleaning these common areas.

Trash bags and cleaning supplies will be provided, check with your Troop Guide or a Camp Commissioner for availability. Regular trash pick-up will be made.

CAMP PHONE AND MAILING ADDRESS

The emergency phone number for George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation is 903-245-8688. Please discourage parents from making calls to this number and remind them that Scouts are not located near a phone. If they do call, they will need to give the Scout's name and Troop number. Cell phone service is available from most providers. It is a troop decision on Scout usage of cell phones at camp. Keep in mind there are few places to charge phones at camp.

Mail runs daily. Outgoing mail can be dropped off at the headquarters building. The incoming mail will be delivered during the morning and evening flag. We suggest that parents send mail the week prior to their scout being in camp so that it has a better chance of arriving in camp while the scout is in camp.

The camp mailing address:

Scout's Name & Scout's Troop number
c/o Camp Pirtle
440 C.R. 1241
Gary, TX 75643

THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING

GWP is an ideal setting in which a Scout can learn the Aims and Methods of Scouting.

The way GWP uses the methods are:

Troop and patrol method - Scouts will go to instructional areas as a group. They will eat in the dining hall as a patrol.

Advancement plan - The whole purpose of this program is to help advance these young Scouts through the First Class requirements.

Adult association - Troop leaders will go with the Scouts to the various program areas. The Adult leaders will assist with instruction and will be able to sign off requirements as they are completed to their satisfaction right there on the spot.

Uniform - GWP encourages all Scouts and leaders to be in activity uniforms during the day and Field Uniform at dinner/evening flags.

Outdoor adventure - Most of our 'classroom' areas are outdoor shelters. We strive to make learning happen in the great outdoors.

Leadership - Your Troop SPL or a member of your Troop PLC can attend First Class Trail (FCT) Camp with the young Scouts and assist with instruction as well. This reinforces the 'youth led' process in Scouting.

Personal growth - We truly hope that the environment that GWP provides allows all Scouts to grow and develop.

Scouting ideals - Scout camp in general reinforces the ideals and aims of Scouting.

George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation follows the Aims of Scouting. Those aims are Character Development, Leadership Training, Citizenship Training, and Personal Fitness.

The mission of the George W. Pirtle Scout Reservation is to serve the needs of each Scout by providing a quality opportunity to learn within a safe and supportive environment while GWP

continues to improve the quality of our product through management and leadership dedicated to excellence.

DRESS CODE IN CAMP

All Scouts and adults are encouraged to properly wear a complete official Scouting America Field or Activity uniform at camp. Field Uniforms should be worn at the evening Flag ceremony and dinner each day. The rest of the time an Activity uniform is acceptable. Activity uniforms should include a Scouting based tee shirt/fishing shirt/polo style shirt and Scout shorts/pants. Closed-toed shoes, socks, and a shirt must be worn at all times.

Swimming attire should be modest, well-fitting, and cover the body appropriately. Boys should wear trunks that reach the mid-thigh and girls should wear one-piece suits or modest two-piece sets that cover the midriff area.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The East Texas Area Council provides accident and sickness insurance for each person registered with the Boy Scouts of America and attending GWP camp programs.

A health officer is on call 24 hours a day at camp. Area hospitals are 20 minutes away. Initial First Aid treatment should be administered immediately by scouts or adults on site. Additional First Aid treatment may be given at the health lodge by the health officer. The health officer will also use the GWP Medical SOP's to determine if someone needs further medical attention.

It is the duty of all leaders and Scouts to see that all injuries or illnesses, minor or serious, are reported to the health officer. Cases of serious injury or illness should be reported to the health officer and the camp director. It is important that all major treatments be reported to the health officer since we must keep a record of all cases treated for insurance purposes.

In the case of a medical emergency that requires a trip to the hospital, a scout leader will be asked to transport the Scout to one of the local hospitals. This allows the health officer to remain in camp should they be needed again.

If a Scout becomes sick (cold, flu, virus) at camp, we will send the Scout home.

All Scouts and Scouters attending camp must provide a completed copy of the BSA health form. The most updated version of the BSA health form may be found at

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

The form has four pages and is in 3 parts. For summer camping activities at GWP, we require parts A, B and C to be completed.

Per Texas State Health and Safety Code Title 2, sub-title G, Chapter 141... Medicines must be listed on the health form and given to the health officer to be locked up in the health lodge. Any medicines kept in campsites MUST be in a lock box under the supervision of the Scoutmaster. If available, GWP will loan a lock box to a troop for the week if they do not have one.

An important way adult leaders can model healthy living is by following the policies on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youths, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any Scouting America activity involving youth participants. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking. All

Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

As outlined in the Scouter Code of Conduct, Scouting activities are not a place to possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies: alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana.

In addition, the Code of Conduct specifies that if you are taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing any functioning or judgment, you will not engage in activities that would put youth at risk, including driving or operating equipment.

All leaders that are in camp must be current in their Safeguarding Youth Training.

TWO DEEP LEADERSHIP

The Boy Scouts of America requires that 2 adults age 21 or older accompany troops on all their outings. This policy will be in effect at George W Pirtle Scout Reservation. The second leader may be any registered leader that is 21 or older from another unit.

VEHICLES IN CAMP

During the camp session all vehicles must stay parked in the main camp parking lot. One trailer per troop can be parked in the campsite. The trailer must be parked in a manner so as not to block camp maintenance, emergency vehicles, or other campsites.

Occasionally there will be a need for driving in camp. Drivers in camp must be licensed drivers that are at least 18 years old. All vehicles must follow the 10 mile per hour speed limit. One vehicle at a time per troop will be allowed in campsites during check in and check out for the purposes of unloading and loading gear.

FIREWOOD IN CAMP

It is the policy of the East Texas Area Council to not have wood from outside of the camp property brought into camp. We do not want to spread any invasive species into camp property. **DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN FIREWOOD.** Use the downed limbs and wood you find on the camp property. If you need help finding wood, speak to the director.

LIQUID FUELS AT CAMP

It is the policy of the East Texas Area Council to limit the amount of liquid fuels in camp. Liquid fuel lanterns are restricted to the personal use of adults only. Under no circumstances are liquid fuels or lanterns allowed in tents. Gasoline and kerosene may not be stored in the campsite. All liquid fuels must be checked into the maintenance area upon arrival on Sunday. All fuels will be locked up. Anyone wishing to use their own fuel may do so during specified hours.

FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS

Firearms and fireworks are prohibited on scout property. The only firearms allowed are those owned and used by ETAC to instruct range and target activity merit badges. These firearms along with archery equipment must be locked up when not being used for a session.

In an effort to support your Second Amendment rights, any firearms that are brought to camp by licensed individuals need to remain safely locked inside a locked vehicle. If that is not possible the Camp Director can assist you in locking the firearm in the camp's gun safe for the duration of your stay.

SCOUTS LEAVING CAMP DURING THE WEEK

Scouts are not allowed to leave camp during the regular camping period without the approval of their parents, unit leaders and the camp director. With prior approval, a Scout may leave camp with an approved adult once he/she has signed out in the headquarters building. If the Scout is returning to camp, he/she must sign back in at the headquarters building.

CHAPEL AND SERVICES IN CAMP

The chapel is an a-frame style open concept building. It serves as a place for non-denominational worship services. There is outdoor seating for those that attend the services. A Scouts Own (non-denominational) Chapel Service will be held every morning. Scouts are welcome to bring instruments to play music with the camp chaplain. For some Scouts, this may be the only exposure that they receive to religion and values. The camp chaplain is always available.

BICYCLES IN CAMP

GWP allows bicycle usage in camp. Bicycles should stay on the roads only and park in appropriate places out of the way of pedestrian traffic. Riders must wear a helmet. Riders must slow down when passing pedestrians and say out loud which side you are passing on. If bicycles are going to be ridden after dark they must have a light on them.

GOLF CARTS IN CAMP

Golf carts will be allowed in camp for medical or maintenance use only as inspected and approved by the Camp Director.

CAMPSITES

There are 14 campsites prepared for traditional tent camping. Each campsite has a hand washing station, an open pit latrine and a campfire ring. Campsites are assigned by the Camp Director. There is one campsite that is wheelchair accessible. There is a sidewalk leading into the campsite. There is an electrical outlet for medical uses.

TRADING POST

A stock of necessities will replace the forgotten toothbrushes, flashlights and batteries. Items to enjoy during their leisure time will also be available to Scouts. Campers may need to purchase supplies and merit badge pamphlets for their merit badge sessions from the trading post. Our trading post contains a host of snacks and refreshments. Scouts are responsible for their own money. Please be aware of the posted trading post hours once you arrive at camp.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Any unit wishing to perform a service project while in camp should see the Camp Director or Program Director. Prior notification will allow the camp to gather or purchase the necessary supplies. The unit may provide its own tools since the camp has a limited supply.

ROLE OF SENIOR PATROL LEADER (SPL)

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the top leader in the troop. They will be treated as such during your time at camp. Encourage them to attend all SPL meetings and that they check on their Scouts throughout the week to make sure they are having a good time. The SPL will be asked to evaluate the camp on the last day, so encourage them to make notes throughout the week about the things the whole troop feels are important.

PERSONAL CAMP CHECKLIST

Field uniform

Troop Tee Shirts – Activity uniform - 1 per day

5-6 pairs of socks

5-6 pairs of underwear

5-6 tee shirts

5-6 pairs of shorts

Belt

Swimsuit

At least 2 towels

2 pairs of shoes (in case of rain); remember closed toe shoes are required at all times

Shower shoes

Hat

Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb/brush)

Insect repellent

Sunscreen

Sleeping bag, pillow, cot, tent

Watch

Flashlight with extra batteries

Water bottle

Scout Handbook

Pen or pencil, notepad, or paper

Pocket knife (must have a Totin' Chip)

Optional gear might include:

Cot/ Air Mattress/Sleeping Pad, Cord/Rope/ Clothesline / Clothespins, Day Pack, Alarm Clock,

Camera, Sewing Kit, Mess Kit, Compass, Camp Chair, Trading Post Money

CAMP GRACE

For stately pines, and sun-drenched shores.

For starry skies that above us soar.

For the food that gives us health and might.

For the friends that make our days so bright.

We thank you, oh Lord. Amen

