

Outdoor Skills Weekend 2026

We're glad that you've chosen to take the GMC Outdoor Skills Weekend (BALOO/IOLS) to continue and perhaps complete training for your position. We have a great 24 hours planned, filled with learning, fun and fellowship. The benefit of this course is that you not only have the opportunity to learn from the experienced staff that we've put together, but also from each other over the course of the weekend.

Here are some details as to what to expect from the course. BALOO / IOLS are outdoors skills course and we will begin at 19:00 (arrive starting as early as 17:30) Friday evening. This will run until 17:00 on Saturday evening (more agenda details later in this document). The camping experience is an integral part of the course and is required for successful completion. We are going to leverage a patrol method wherever possible to ensure that everyone gets as much as they can out of the course.

Location

The course will be run at Mt Norris Scout Reservation in Eden VT. For GPS use: *242 Boy Scout Camp Rd Eden, VT*

We will be based out of the First Class Adventure Building, please proceed directly there to sign-in and setup your tent, We will be operating in and around this area for the weekend, a camp map is provided at the end of this document. Webelos Woods is also happening this weekend, and if folks are planning to camp with their AOLs that's great, and you don't need to camp with us at FCA.

Meals

This wouldn't be a scout training if there wasn't some really good food involved. We will be providing three meals on Saturday: breakfast, lunch and dinner-to-go. We'll also provide snacks and Friday evening Cracker Barrel. We're going to ask participants to prepare and clean up Breakfast (on stoves), and prep lunch (in dutch ovens). All food and equipment will be provided. This will reinforce the skills taught on Saturday while allowing you to experience firsthand how cooking and cleanup on a camp out can work.

Medical Forms

Every participant is required to bring a copy of their medical forms, parts A and B. This information is necessary to ensure that in the unlikely event that you require medical care while at the course, we have essential information to give to the medical staff, EMTs, and/or doctors who will be caring for you in the event of an emergency. These forms will be returned to you at the end of the course. Note that parts A and B do NOT require a signature. The most current med form can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

Weather

The IOLS course provides for and require an outdoor experience. Most, if not all, of the course will be taught outdoors. This course does run rain-snow-or-shine, so please keep an eye on the weather and plan accordingly. We do have contingencies in place should truly inclement weather occur. Nighttime temperatures may dip into the 40's and of course chance of rain.

Agenda

Friday

5:30 - 7:00 Arrive, setup tents

7:00 - 8:30 Evening Session & Cracker Barrel

Saturday

6:30 - 7:00 Flags & Opening

7:00 - 9:00 B, L, & D prep & Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 Session 1

10:30 - 11:45 Session 2

11:45 - 12:30 LUNCH

12:30 - 1:45 Session 3

2:00 - 3:15 Session 4

3:15 - 4:30 Challenge Course

4:30 - 5:00 Closing & "graduation"

Equipment

To make the weekend as enjoyable as possible, you should bring the following with you. Please note **Bolded items** on this list represent 9 of the 10 "Ten Essentials" - Please keep the smaller items (everything but tent) in a day pack as you will be using them throughout the weekend and you'll want them handy:

- **Tent**
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Field Uniform (Class A)
- Camp Chair
- Notebook / Pens
- Program Book (Scout Handbook), if you have one.
- Backpack / Daypack
- *Water Bottle*
- **Compass**
- **Sunglasses/Hat/Sunscreen**
- **Pocket Knife**
- **Fire Starting tools**
- Rain Gear
- **Headlamp / Flashlight**
- **Weather appropriate clothing** (insulating layers, rain shell, hat/gloves, wool/synthetic)
- Personal Items (soap, toothpaste, towel, toothbrush, etc).
- **First Aid Kit** (please assemble a personal first aid kit)
- Mess Kit (mug, plate, cutlery)
- Scout Spirit!

Uniforming

The Field Uniform (f.k.a. Class A) is preferred for the weekend. If you do not own one, please don't go out and buy one just for this weekend. Any scout appropriate clothing would be appropriate.

Questions / Contact

We look forward to a great Outdoor Skills Weekend Session!
Any questions email or text

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