

SCOUTS BSA

Winter Camp

BLUE RIDGE SCOUT RESERVATION

Join us for a frosty winter weekend full of advancement opportunities, cold weather camping, and lots of Scouting spirit!

JANUARY 2-4, 2026



REGISTER
HERE



INTRODUCTION

Kick off 2026 with us at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation! We are excited to have you join us for an unforgettable experience. Our staff is dedicated to delivering the best program possible to ensure you have a fun and rewarding time.

This guide is your go-to resource for preparing for camping and merit badge classes. While we've got an incredible lineup planned, remember that a few details might change along the way. Your flexibility makes all the difference!

We can't wait to see you in January for an awesome weekend!

♥ Camp Powhatan Winter Camp Staff

CONTACT US

Council Staff Advisor: Bethany Brownfield	bethany.brownfield@scouting.org
Event Chairperson: Jefferson Diuguid	jeffersondiuguid@gmail.com
BRMC Scout Office: Laura Conner, Richard Cohen	540-265-0656
Camp Powhatan Office (during event only)	540-980-3787

Camp Powhatan Location

2600 Max Creek Road
Hiwassee, VA 24347

GETTING REGISTERED

Register on Black Pug [HERE](#)! The deadline to register your Scouts and adults is January 1, 2026, but the earlier the better to ensure that your participants are able to build their ideal schedule. Select the preferred merit badges and programs for your youth and adults to create a full schedule for all of your participants on Black Pug.

Pre-order your Winter Camp sweatshirt online so you can come to camp ready to go! (link coming soon).

Fees

Scouts BSA Youth	\$75
Adult Participant	\$50

Leadership requirements

Each Scout unit must be accompanied by registered unit leaders, with a minimum of two-deep leadership at all times. For female units, at least one registered female leader is required to attend, in compliance with Youth Protection Guidelines.

Please contact us if you would like to send a Provisional Scout so we can make appropriate accommodations for that Scout.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND CAMP PROCEDURES

You and your Scouts will need to bring your own camping tent and plenty of warm winter gear. Expect that it will be chilly and potentially snowy! You may reserve an adirondack cabin via your Black Pug registration for \$40 per adirondack. Units are limited to no more than 3 adirondack reservations.

All troops and Scouts will be camping in the front campsites: Rock Ridge, Tipi, and Cherokee. The Shower Palace adjacent to the main parking lot will be fully functional and is recommended for most restroom and shower needs. Other restroom and shower facilities are very limited at this time of year, so please plan accordingly.

Check In

Please plan to check in between 5:00 and 9:00 PM on Friday evening at the office in front of the Shower Palace by the main parking lot. During check-in, we will collect BSA Health Forms (A & B) and any other required documentation (such as ATV waivers). We will work with you here to determine campsite assignments, which will be first come, first serve. Adirondacks must be reserved and paid for ahead of time.

Check Out

Units can check out after 3:00 PM on Sunday at the camp chapel. Prior to checking out, please make sure that your unit's campsite is entirely clear of food, trash, and belongings. Units will be given an exit packet at check-out. Exit packet will include patches for all participants, individual competition awards, health form returns, and invitations to future camp events.

Please be sure to notify Winter Camp leadership staff of any individuals leaving early.

Medical Care

Unit leaders and Scouts are responsible for managing and securely storing all medications. If refrigeration is needed, it will be available at the Health Lodge. A staff health officer will be stationed at the Health Lodge at all times to assist with medical emergencies. However, unit leaders serve as the first point of contact for providing aid to an injured Scout. BSA Health Forms (parts A & B) must be submitted to the staff health officer during check-in on Friday night and will be returned to units in the exit packet during check-out.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, a camp-wide siren will sound. All individuals must immediately return to their unit campsite. Unit leaders are responsible for accounting for all members and should remain at the campsite until further instructions are provided by event staff.

Trading Post

The Camp Powhatan Trading Post will be open throughout the day and evening on Saturday and Sunday. With our Square payment system, we accept all forms of payment.

Scout Packing List

- Base layers: moisture-wicking thermal top & bottoms
- Insulating layers: fleece/wool sweater & pants
- Outerwear: waterproof jacket & pants
- Scouts BSA field uniform: for chapel service
- Hat: insulated winter hat/beanie
- Gloves: insulated, waterproof gloves/mittens
- Socks: 2-3 pairs of wool or synthetic socks
- Footwear: insulated, waterproof boots suitable for snow/mud
- Sleepwear: warm pajamas or a clean, dry base layer
- Camping tent: include ground tarp
- Sleeping bag: rated for cold weather (0°F to 20°F recommended)
- Sleeping pad: to insulate from the ground
- Pillow and blankets: optional but recommended
- Backpack: to organize daily gear
- Water bottle: durable and insulated to prevent freezing (1–2 liters)
- Mess kit: plate, bowl, utensils, and a reusable cup/mug
- Flashlight/headlamp: with extra batteries
- Personal first aid kit: basic supplies for minor injuries
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb/brush, and biodegradable soap
- Towel: small or medium-sized
- Lip balm: SPF-rated to protect against chapping
- Sunscreen: for UV protection, even in winter
- Hand warmers: single-use or reusable
- Sunglasses: to protect eyes from glare and wind
- Camp chair: lightweight and portable
- Notebook and pen: for notes or journaling

Troop Packing List

- BSA health forms, parts A & B
- Complete set of patrol cooking gear
- Seasoning for meals
- Ingredients for cooking competition signature troop dish

- Extra drinking and cooking water
- Dish washing station
- Troop first aid kit
- Extra fire-starting materials
- Secondary heat sources

Prohibited Items:

- Electronic devices like gaming consoles or tablets
- Fireworks, alcohol, tobacco, or inappropriate items
- Pets

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY		
5 PM - 9 PM	Check in	Shower Palace
8:00 PM	Campfire, Flag Retirement	Amphitheater
10:00 PM	Cracker Barrel	Trading Post
SATURDAY		
7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8 AM - 11:30 AM	Merit Badge Program 1	Program Areas
8 AM - 11:30 AM	Adult Leader Program 1	Program Areas
12:00 PM	Lunch	Dining Hall
1 PM - 4:30 PM	Merit Badge Program 2	Program Areas
1 PM - 4:30 PM	Adult Leader Program 2	Program Areas
5:00 PM	Dinner Competition	Handicraft
7:00 PM	Evening Programs	CTC
10:00 PM	Cracker Barrel	Trading Post
SUNDAY		
7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:00 AM	Chapel Service	Chapel
9 AM - 11:30 PM	Merit Badge Program 3	Program Areas
9 AM - 11:30 PM	Adult Leader Program 3	Program Areas
12:00 PM	Lunch	Dining Hall
1:00 PM	Afternoon Programs	Handicraft
3:00 PM	Check Out	Chapel

MEAL SERVICE AND MENU

Our Winter Camp dining hall staff will cook and prepare warm meals for Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Snacks will also be provided in the Trading Post snack bar area for Cracker Barrel on Friday and Saturday nights.

If any member of your troop has any food allergies or sensitivities that we need to know about, please contact us as soon as you can so that we can ensure the availability of alternate meal options.

The Saturday dinner cooking competition will depend on you! Our staff may choose to submit their own signature dishes for competition, but we will not be providing a regular meal. Plan ahead with your troop to build a unique dish that could win a prize! Keep in mind that your taste-testing judges will be camp rangers and volunteers. Each troop should plan to prepare enough of the dish to share with the camp, so that everyone is able to fill their plate! If you do not wish to participate in the dinner cooking competition, you must plan to do your own patrol cooking.

MERIT BADGES AND PROGRAMS

We are excited to offer a wide range of merit badges at Winter Camp, with a special focus on merit badges that are not offered at Camp Powhatan during Summer Camp. On your Black Pug registration, Scouts will be able to select 3 merit badges/programs to fill the 3 slots on Saturday and Sunday. Adults will be able to do the same with the adult course offerings. We are excited to offer several [Test Lab](#) merit badges* that will give Scouts the opportunity to try out new badges. These Test Lab badges will not receive a completion unless the badge becomes an official Scouting America badge.

Please note that due to the limited time constraints of Winter Camp, our merit badge instructors have outlined pre-requisites for each merit badge, which you can find below. For many of these badges, we cannot offer a full completion if pre-requisites are not completed before camp arrival. If the requirements expected to be completed at camp cannot be, As time allows, we will provide extra time as needed on Sunday before dismissal to complete any merit badge requirements that have not been completed with your merit badge counselor.

These courses do not have any additional costs, with the following exceptions:

1. ATV: \$75 per participant, includes both parts 1 and 2, paid in Black Pug registration
2. Wilderness First Aid: \$120 per participant, paid to instructor at camp
3. First on the Scene: \$30 per participant, paid to instructor at camp
4. First Aid/CPR: \$40 per participant, paid in Black Pug registration

These are the options of activities you will find on Black Pug during registration, with the exception of camp wide activities. Camp wide activities do not require pre-registration. Wilderness First Aid is a separate registration via the instructor, contact us for more information.

Program 1, Saturday Morning

Youth Programs	
Archaeology	Auto Maintenance (Pt 1)
Painting	Public Speaking
Rifle	Cooking (Pt 1)
Sewing and Needlework *	Totin Chip
Robotics	ATV (Pt 1)
Adult Programs	
ATV (Pt 1)	Leave No Trace
Scout Executive Sips	Wilderness First Aid

Program 2, Saturday Afternoon

Youth Programs	
Auto Maintenance (Pt 2)	Shotgun
Emergency Preparedness	Architecture
Cooking (Pt 2)	Welding
Personal Management	Indian Lore
Astronomy	ATV (Pt 2)
Adult Programs	
ATV (Pt 2)	Leave No Trace
First on the Scene (Pt 1)	Wilderness First Aid

Saturday Evening Special Programs

Dinner Competition	Movie Night
Low COPE	Astronomy
Wilderness First Aid	

Program 3, Sunday Morning

Youth Programs	
Crime Prevention	Disabilities Awareness
Personal Fitness	Chemistry

Search and Rescue	Sculpture
Sustainability	Auctioneering *
Wildland Fire Management *	Geocaching
Adult Programs	
First on the Scene (Pt 2)	Roundtable Discussion
Adult Shoot	Wilderness First Aid

Sunday Afternoon Special Programs

Craft Competition	Branding
Nature Hike	BRMC History Display
Wilderness First Aid	Adult First Aid/CPR

Merit Badge Pre-Requisites and Limitations

– STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES –

Archaeology

Prerequisite 7: Do ONE of the following: (a) Visit a museum to observe how artifacts aid to convey history. (b) Bring an heirloom with them (that they're solely responsible for) and talk about the history of it. (c) Make a list of trash your family throws away for a week. Discuss what archaeologists might learn about you and your family if they found your trash a thousand years from now.

Please remember to bring a compass!

Astronomy

Participants should be prepared with layers – dual layers on pants at least! Be ready for cold winter night weather. We suggest bringing a winter coat, hat gloves, lawn chair, head lamp/flashlight, sketch pad and pencils, personal telescope or binoculars.

Prerequisite 4: (c) Make two sketches of the Big Dipper. In one sketch, show the Big Dipper's orientation in the early evening sky. In another sketch, show its position several hours later. In both sketches, show the North Star and the horizon. Record the date and time each sketch was made.

Prerequisite 5: (b) Using the internet (with your parent's permission) and other resources, find out when each of the five most visible planets that you identified in requirement 5a will be observable in the evening sky during the next 12 months, then compile this information in the form of a chart or table.

Prerequisite 6: (b) Sketch the phase and position of the Moon, at the same hour and place, for four nights within a one-week period. Include landmarks on the horizon such as hills, trees, and buildings. Explain the changes you observe.

Prerequisite 8: (b) List the celestial objects you want to observe at camp so we can find them and have them logged in your records.

ATV

Participants must be at least 16 years old to participate. Completion of the [ATV Waiver](#) is required for participation. Class size is limited to 6 participants at a time.

Prerequisites: participants must complete the online ATV e-course before coming to camp and bring proof of completion. <https://atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/>

Riders are required to wear over the ankle boots.

Chemistry

Prerequisite 4(a): Design and conduct an experiment to compare at least two different types of waterproofing. Discuss with your counselor which one you would prefer to use on your tent and which one you would prefer to use on your boots, and why.

Cooking

Prerequisite 4: cook 3 meals at home. Scouts taking the merit badge will need to be involved with troop cooking of at least 3 meals at the event.

Scouts will need to be present at both the first and second period to complete the merit badge. Bring a small pack for a short hike.

Crime Prevention

Prerequisite 2: Prepare a journal from various sources that address crime and crime prevention efforts in your community. Start by finding sources of information. You can read local newspapers or check online news. You can also talk to police officers or community leaders to learn more about local crime prevention programs. Another good source is your school or town's website, which may have information about safety events or neighborhood watch programs. As you gather information, write it down in your journal. Include what types of crimes are happening and what steps are being taken to prevent them. You can also add your thoughts on how these efforts are helping.

Prerequisite 4: (a) Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. (b) Using the checklist found here, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family.

Prerequisite 5. Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.

Prerequisite 7. Do ONE of the following: (a) Assist in the planning and organization of a crime prevention program in your community such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or Crime Stoppers. Explain how this program can benefit your neighborhood. -OR- (b) With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, visit a jail or detention facility or a criminal court hearing. Discuss your experience with your counselor.

Emergency Preparedness

Prerequisite 1: Earn the First Aid merit badge.

Prerequisite 2(c): Meet with and teach your family how to get or build a kit, make a plan, and be informed of the situations on the chart you created for requirement 2b. Complete a family plan. Then meet with your counselor and report on your family meeting, discuss their responses, and share your family plan.

Prerequisite 7(a): Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice drill, with a Scouting unit or a community agency.

Prerequisite 8(b): Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call. Prepare a family emergency kit (suitcase or waterproof box) for use by your family in case an emergency evacuation is needed. Explain the needs and uses of the contents.

Geocaching

Prerequisite 7: With your parent or guardian's permission, go to www.geocaching.com. Type in your city and state to locate public geocaches in your area. Share with your counselor the posted information about three of those geocaches. Then, pick one of the three and find the cache. Note: To fulfill this requirement, you will need to set up a free user account with www.Geocaching.com. Before doing so, ask your parent for permission and help.

Prerequisite 8: Do ONE of the following: (a) If a Cache to Eagle® series exists in your council, visit at least three of the locations in the series. Describe the projects that each cache you visit highlights, and explain how the Cache to Eagle® program helps share our Scouting service with the public. (b) Create a Scouting-related Travel Bug® that promotes one of the values of Scouting. "Release" your Travel Bug into a public geocache and, with your parent or guardian's permission, monitor its progress at www.geocaching.com for 30 days. Keep a log, and share this with your counselor at the end of the 30-day period. (c) Set up and hide a public geocache, following the guidelines in the Geocaching merit badge pamphlet. Before doing so, share with your counselor a three-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for those three months. After setting up the geocache, with your parent or guardian's permission, follow the logs online for 30 days and share them with your counselor. You must archive the geocache when you are no longer maintaining it. (d) Explain what Cache In Trash Out (CITO) means, and describe how you have practiced CITO at public geocaches or at a CITO event. Then, either create CITO containers to leave at public caches, or host a CITO event for your unit or for the public.

Indian Lore

Prerequisite 5: Do ONE of the following: (a) Visit a museum either in-person or virtually to see American Indian exhibitions and collections. Discuss with your counselor what you observed or learned from two exhibitions and identify 10 artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use. OR (b) Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering. Discuss with your counselor proper etiquette for attending as well as what you learned and observed during your visit.

Public Speaking

Prerequisite 1: Give a three- to five-minute introduction of yourself to an audience such as your troop, class at school, or some other group (in this case, the class).

Prerequisite 2: Prepare a three- to five-minute talk on a topic of your choice that incorporates body language and visual aids (we will work on preparing visual aids in class, but Scouts must prepare the talk in advance).

Robotics

Prerequisite 6: Do ONE of the following (a) Attend a robotics competition and report to your counselor what you saw and learned about the competition and how teams are organized and managed. OR (b)

Learn about three youth robotics competitions. Tell your counselor about these, including the type of competition, time commitment, age of the participants, and how many teams are involved.

Prerequisite 7: Name three career opportunities in robotics. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Search and Rescue

Prerequisites: none