

# **The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving Camporee Leader Guide**



**Heart of Virginia Council  
Arrohattoc / Crater District  
October 31-November 2, 2025  
Chesterfield County Fairgrounds  
10300 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832**

# 2024 Arrohattoc / Crater District Fall Camporee

## The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving

### Chesterfield County Fairgrounds

#### Overview

Join Arrohattoc / Crater District for a weekend of outdoor activities at the Fall Camporee on October 31 to November 2 at Chesterfield County Fairground. The information for this event and its activities are provided in this program guide. The theme of this camporee is "The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving".

Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King, has recently discovered Thanksgiving Town, and wants all of the villagers of Halloweentown (our Patrols) to experience Thanksgiving! Each patrol will traverse our very own Halloweentown to experience Thanksgiving traditions seen through the eyes of Jack Skellington (and his helpers). Note: his understanding of Thanksgiving is no better than that of Christmas.

Each location will bring new challenges; the skills needed will be many and varied, but will probably include knot tying, orienteering, team-work, cooking, balance, and other Scout skills and knowledge. Patrols will earn Bones at each station to bid on the amazing items brought from near and far at the live auction!

#### Fees and Registration

The Black Pug registration deadline is 9:00PM on October 27. There is no fee, but walk-in unit registrations will not be accepted.

#### **Arrow of Light Scouts (Day Visitor or Overnight)**

Arrow of Light Scouts (5th graders) are the ONLY Cub Scouts allowed to attend this event. They may attend one of two ways:

- AOL Den - Arrow of Light dens should register as such on Black Pug. Each Den will register individually with appropriate trained Pack Leadership.
- AOL (single) – if an AOL Scout wishes to attend individually, they must register (with at least one parent/guardian) on Black Pug.

Arrow of Light Scouts may attend Camporee as a day visitor or for overnight camping. Please note for which you are registering. Arrow of Light Scouts will compete as an AOL patrol and should not be mixed in with Scouts BSA patrols. If your Arrow of Light den/patrol is not the minimum 4 Scouts please let us know and we will buddy that patrol with another smaller patrol. Arrow of Light parents should plan on attending with their Scouts, and packs should provide appropriate leadership.

\*Scouts BSA troops that host an Arrow of Light den/patrol will be given 25 bonus points to be added to their overall score\*

**A health officer will be available and on duty the whole weekend. Any medical emergencies should be reported to a staff member immediately.**

#### Camp Chesterfield County Fairgrounds

Camp Address: 10300 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832

#### Contacts

Andrew Owens (Arrohattoc Camporee Chair) at arrohattocprogram@gmail.com 804-943-2678

Kevin Kessler (Crater District Camporee Chair) at kiest63@yahoo.com 434-532-5563

# Important Information

All registrations will occur on Black Pug and are final – this is a rain/shine event. The registration link is available here:

<https://scoutingevent.com/602-NightmareBeforeThanksgiving>

## Registration on Black Pug closes on October 27

We encourage you to create a user-id and password for Black Pug (rather than using it as a guest). That will allow you to edit your registration should you have to add/delete attendees. Please only make one Black Pug entry per unit. Using Black Pug allows us to effectively estimate attendance and plan accordingly.

**Please do not show up on the day of the event not having registered on Black Pug.**

**Registration Fee:      \$0 for Scouts    \$0 for Adults**

**Check In:**      Event check in opens at 5:00 PM on October 31.

The following is **REQUIRED** upon Check-in at the Fairgrounds:

- Medical forms (less than one year old, part A and B, minimum)
- Copy of Troop Roster (Attached below)
- Proof of payment on Black Pug – NO CASH/CHECK PAYMENT ACCEPTED AT REGISTRATION

## **Vehicles:**

At registration, only one leader and the SPL are to present the required paperwork. All vehicles should continue straight following the signs to the camp sites. Once your vehicle has been unloaded, you will be required to remove it from the camping area to the parking area (follow signage). One trailer or other vehicle will be permitted at the camp site during the event (vehicles parked in camp sites MAY NOT leave until checkout on Sunday). Arrangements can be made for those with limited mobility or disabilities. Be aware that the roads at the Camporee are one-way and drivers will have to exit the camporee area through the back gate (Gate 4) and return through Gate 3.

## **Campsites:**

Campsites are located along the Eastern Side of the Fairgrounds in three columns as shown on the attached map. Sites will be blocked off in 50 x 100 ft increments. If you have a specific request for a campsite, please contact the event leader before you arrive, and we will try and accommodate you. No trenching or other digging is permitted at the Fairgrounds. Camp stoves are permitted.

## **Campfires:**

Campfires are permitted in the campsites in a fire barrel or other elevated fire pit that is elevated above the ground at least 3 inches. Wood can be foraged from the surrounding area, and there will be some cut and ready for use located near the Camporee area.

**SPL/Leader Meeting:** Scheduled for 9:00 PM Friday at the Auction Pavilion. SPL or ASPL and Scoutmasters, should arrive promptly at 9:00 PM to discuss Camporee details and bring their auction items. SPL or ASPL will then return to their units to brief patrols. Camporee Staff should also attend. AOL Den Leaders and AOL Patrol Leaders should also attend. **Individual AOLs will be given instructions at their campsite.**

**First Aid:** First aid kits are required to be visibly posted at each campsite. During the events, a Camp First Aid Tent will be located at the Check-In pavilion.

**Water:** Potable water is available throughout the Fairgrounds Camp Sites. Running the water for a few minutes should clear up any discoloration.

**Leadership:** All units are required to have two-deep leadership and should utilize the patrol method in accordance with BSA standards.

**Inspections:** Campsite inspections will be performed during the day on Saturday. (See attached form)

**Patrol Flag:** Each patrol should bring a patrol flag.

**Uniforms:** Activity uniforms can be worn for all events and activities.

**Checkout:** SPL or ASPL are to report to a camporee staff member and request a check out inspection. Once the inspection is passed, patches will be distributed, based on the number of Scouts and Scouters turned in at Black Pug registration. Please remove all trash from your campsites as directed by Camporee Staff.

**Patches:** Camporee patches will be presented to all **registered** attendees and will be included with the camporee check out.

**Awards:** Campsite Awards will be given out at Saturday evening campfire program.



**Skits:** Skits must be appropriate for Scouting and approved by the Camporee Staff by **2pm** on Saturday

**Volunteers:** If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact the Event Chair and we can find a task for you.

### **Policy on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs:**

Scouting America expressly forbids alcoholic beverages of any kind. Anyone in violation of this policy will be ejected from the event immediately. This rule will be strictly enforced. Controlled substances (i.e., Drugs) are **ILLEGAL** and are **ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN**. Scouting America prohibits the use of tobacco products in the presence of a Scout. Smoking will only be allowed in the designated area (back parking lot) and not within the presence of youth.

### **Cleaning Schedule**

A Scout is Clean and respects his environment. We should leave camp better than we found it. Check-out procedures will include confirmation of a “clean camp”.

### **Health and Safety Issues**

- ❖ No fireworks or personal firearms
- ❖ **No dogs**
- ❖ Per BSA Youth Protection Policy, no adult shall sleep in a tent with a youth
- ❖ No chainsaws are permitted
- ❖ No ATVs or “Go-Carts” are permitted
- ❖ No Scouts will ride in the cargo area or on the hood of any vehicles

### **Dutch Oven Dessert Contest**

For those Troops interested, please feel free to join us in a Dutch Oven Dessert Contest. We would love for every unit to submit an entry for judging and share the bounty during the evening cracker barrel. Rules are included on the competitions page.

### **Saturday Morning Activities**

Units will participate in sessions at different Tasks throughout the day. Activities may include the following: fire building, axe throwing (Troop Only), sawing, knot tying, slingshot course, compass challenge, dessert cookoff and campfire activities. A finalized schedule will be distributed at the SPL meeting Friday night at 9:00pm

### **Campsite Competition**

Each Unit's campsite will be scored based on the criteria of the campsite inspection sheet included in this guide. Judging begins at 2:00PM on Saturday.

### **Closing Campfire**

Units should come to camp with at least one song, skit, or cheer for the closing campfire. Songs and skits must be pre-approved by the Camporee Chairman no later than 2:00 PM on Saturday.



## PLANNED CAMPOREE SCHEDULE

### Friday, October 21

5:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Arrival and Check-In
9:00 PM	SPL / Scoutmaster Meeting (@ Auction Pavilion)
10:30 PM	Lights Out

### Saturday, October 22

8:15 AM	Colors
8:30 AM – Noon	Morning Activities*
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Afternoon Activities and Campsite Inspections
3:00 PM	Completion of Campsite Inspections
3:30 PM	Turkey Auction
4:30 PM – 7PM	Dinner in Campsites
7:30 PM	Unit Dutch Oven Dessert Deadline
7:45PM to 8:30	Camporee Cracker Barrel (at Auction Pavilion)
8:45 PM – until ?	Closing Campfire
11:00 PM	Lights Out

### Sunday, October 23

7:00 AM – 8:30AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Break Camp, Check-out site with Camp Staff**

\* Detailed schedules for the morning activities will be distributed at the Friday night Unit/Scoutmaster / SPL meeting.

\*\* When ready to check-out send runners to Check-In Pavilion and Camp Staff will be sent to site.



## Dutch Oven Competition

Saturday evening, we would like every unit to submit a Dutch oven desert for judging and to share during cracker barrel.

1. One entry per patrol / unit, no adult help
2. The dessert must be cooked in a Dutch oven
3. Must be cooked with charcoal or coals from wood fire
4. Turn entry in by 7:30pm



## Campsite Gateway

All Units are welcome to build a campsite gateway to be judged

1. No Adult Help
2. Any material may be used, must be "sturdy"
3. Must be completed before 2 PM on Saturday



**Campsite Inspection**

**Unit No.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Campsite Well Defined	10 Pts	_____
2. UNITED STATES FLAG (Properly Displayed)	10 Pts	_____
3. Unit/Troop Flag	5 Pts	_____
4. Campsite Gateway	10 Pts	_____
5. First Aid Kit	5 Pts	_____
6. Designated Cleaning Area	5 Pts	_____
a. Dishes clean	2.5 Pts	_____
b. Pots and Pans Clean	2.5 Pts	_____
c. Kitchen Area Clean	2.5 Pts	_____
d. Hand Washing Area	2.5 Pts	_____
e. Duty Roster Posted	2.5 Pts	_____
7. Campfire Area Clean (Above ground campfires only)		
a. Wood Neatly Stacked	5 Pts	_____
b. Wood Yard Marked	5 Pts	_____
c. Wood Tools Stored Properly	5 Pts	_____
8. Trash Disposal		
a. Trash Bags Available	5 Pts	_____
b. Campsite Clear of Litter	5 Pts	_____
c. Recyclable Bags Available	5 Pts	_____
9. Tents (Safely Arranged and Organized Per Patrol)	5 Pts	_____
10. Leave No Trace Policies in Practice	7.5 Pts	_____

100 Points Possible

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving:

## Patrol Supplies

Each Patrol is responsible for having everything they will need to complete the Tasks with them as they attempt to “survive” The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving! If last minute activity changes occur, the necessary materials will be available at each Task. All required materials are listed under Patrol Required Equipment and on the Patrol Inspection Sheet.

- Patrols consist of a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of eight (8) Scouts.
- Patrols must attempt all Tasks.
- Patrols must follow the designated course.
- Patrols are encouraged to wear matching Activity Uniforms to demonstrate Scout Spirit. It is encouraged for each Patrol to add on matching attire like hats or bandanas.
- All Patrols will be inspected prior to the start of the race for safety.
- No Scout cell phones are permitted on the course.
- Starting positions will be determined by random drawing. Each Patrol will start at a different Task with a Bugle Call start.

### PATROL REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Each Patrol must provide the following equipment to complete their Tasks. Patrols will be inspected at the Safety Meeting on Saturday morning. Bones are awarded based on preparation.

Required Equipment:

- Scouting Essentials
- Patrol Inspection Sheet – With the Patrol portion filled out
- Patrol Campfire Skit – Sign up at the Safety Meeting or at Check-In Pavilion before 2PM on Saturday
- Patrol Flag – Must be visible
- Scouts BSA Handbook (at least one per Patrol)
- Pencil/Pen and Paper
- Secure container to hold Bones
- First Aid Kit
- Two (2) gallons of potable water
- One blindfold per Scout
- One compass
- One 10 x 10 tarp
- Fire starting tools (bonus points for creativity)
- Water and the supplies to prepare lunch (hot/cold) for each Patrol member to eat on the trail
- Trash Bag

## **TURKEY TOKEN AUCTION**

Each participating Patrol must bring at least one item to donate to the Turkey Token auction. Examples of items include bundles of rope, compasses, flashlights, fire starters, boxes of snacks, outdoor games, gently used pre-owned items such as tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, axes, etc. This is what the Patrols have worked for all day so your generosity is much appreciated. Auction items should be dropped off at check-in or at the SPL/SM Friday night meeting at the latest.

# Camporee Roster Form

A copy of this roster is required to accompany your Check-In form and is required to be posted in your camp. Please ensure your roster count equals your Check-In registration totals.

Patrol 1

Patrol 2

Patrol 3

1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.

Adults

1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.

Chesterfield County Fairgrounds  
Traffic Pattern and Camping Locations



**Scouts BSA, Heart of Virginia Council  
Arrohattoc/Crater Districts Fall Camporee:  
Friday, Oct 31 – Sunday, Nov 2, 2025**

*"Nightmare Before Thanksgiving"*