



# **Camp Gorsuch Scouts BSA Program Guide**



## **Summer 2025**

## Welcome to Your Camp!

Camp Gorsuch Scout Camp strives to provide a well rounded Scout experience for all levels of scouting, allowing the Scouts to learn life-long skills as well as earn opportunities for advancement. Attached is the program guide for this year, allowing you an opportunity to plan for evening in-camp activities. It can also help you focus your activities prior to coming to camp so that you can complete the badges you would like while you are here. During the week you will participate in the following activities while at camp:

**Aquatics:** **Note: Must be classified as swimmers at Camp Gorsuch to participate in aquatics merit badges.** A classic camp area, our waterfront is located down on the shore of beautiful Mirror Lake. Aquatics covers a wide range of both activities and merit badges. Activities offered down at the waterfront this year are: Instructional Swim, Polar Bear Swim (at 6:45 a.m.!), Mile Swim, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Paddle Craft Safety, and Stand Up Paddleboarding! The merit badges being offered this year are: Canoeing, Rowing, Kayaking, Swimming, Lifesaving (13+), Small Boat Sailing, and Motorboating. The waterfront is open every day during open area time, as well as during family night after the Battle for Bear Mountain.

**Shooting Sports:** Located up the hill at the rifle and archery range, shooting sports only offers two merit badges, rifle – modern cartridge option, and archery. Riflery has an additional cost of \$10 to cover ammo and targets used during the badge. Archery also has an additional cost of \$7 to cover arrow creation materials. Both ranges are open every day during free time, though ammo will have to be purchased for the rifle range from the trading post.

**Nature/Ecology:** The nature area is located at the base of the hill to the shooting sports ranges. The merit badges being offered in nature this year are: Environmental Science (13+), Fishing, Forestry, Mammal Study, Nature, Fire Safety, and Soil and Water Conservation.

**Scoutcraft:** Scoutcraft is located behind Dan's Palace. The merit badges offered in scoutcraft are: Cycling, Sustainability, Golf (Disc Version), Orienteering, Cooking, Pioneering, and Wilderness Survival. The activities offered in Scoutcraft are: Firem'n Chit, Totin' Chip, Paul Bunyan Woodsman award.

**Cheechako Trail:** The Cheechako Trail is located in Dan's Palace. During the week the Cheechako Trail scouts will cover many of the requirements for rank advancement for Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Each session of Cheechako Trail is a stand alone session. You do not need to take the complete trail from Tenderfoot to First Class, unless you want to. In addition we will have a program for older scouts Silver Sourdough! If you want a challenge this is the program for you.

**Handicraft:** Another classic camp area handicraft is located along the road under the Mary Louise Rasmusson pavilion. The merit badges offered at handicraft are: Animation, Chess, Home Repair, Woodcarving, Photography, Signs, Signals and Codes, Welding and Game Design. Woodcarving requires kits to be purchased from the trading post. Welding has an additional fee of \$30 to cover materials used. Handicraft is staffed during open area time to help any scouts work on projects.

**COPE/Climbing:** COPE and Climbing merit badge take place at the Brotherhood Tower located at the end of the road through camp. Climbing merit badge has an additional fee of \$10 per participant, while COPE has an additional fee of \$30. Both COPE and Climbing have minimum age requirements of 13. Climb on Safely training is also available.

**Personal Safety:** Emergency Preparedness and First Aid merit badges are both offered this year. Both will be taught in the dining hall.

**Silver Sourdough Program** - The Silver Sourdough Program is an older scout program at Camp Gorsuch. Scouts will be given a daily challenge, as well as a daily task, that will allow them to showcase their teamwork and leadership skills. These may include building a coracle at the waterfront, a shooting challenge, an activity at Cope, a dutch oven cook-off, designing an obstacle for the Sourdough Run that younger Scouts will participate in, and this is just the beginning. Scouts will have to complete a specific number of challenges to become a Silver Sourdough. The activities will be scheduled during the last session of every day and some evenings.

**Evening Program:** Every evening during camp there are activities and events planned to help entertain and bring our scouts together as patrols. Most nights have open areas offering scouts opportunities for patrol/troop shoots/swims.

Vespers is a non-denominational spirit of scouting church style service put on by our camp chaplain. Attendees of vespers are requested to wear field uniforms.

Instructional night is an opportunity for scouts and adults to complete their Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chit, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, or Climb on Safely training.

Opening campfire is a show put on by the staff. Scouts and adults are invited to Dan's Palace to enjoy a collection of skits and songs as well as an inspiring closing.

Gorsuch Game Night is a more relaxed night, with various games set up around camp. In the dining hall chess, checkers, and various other board games are available to play. On Scott's Field volleyball and other sports activities will be available. Major program areas will also be open at this time.

Battle for Bear Mountain and the Sourdough Mud Run all take place on the same night. Battle for Bear Mountain is a patrol/troop team based activity. The team will work together to sink the other troops' boats, while keeping theirs afloat. The Sourdough Mud Run starts at COPE and participants run through a course designed by our COPE/Climbing staff, which ends at the dining hall. We love when families come out to camp and get to participate in activities with their scouts, and this is the night for that! You might even call it Family Night! The shooting sports ranges, waterfront, handicraft, and scoutcraft areas will all be open. Families do need to buy ammo for rifle range use though.

Troop night is an open night for the troops to use as they see fit. Troop night is a great night to arrange troop shoots/swims with the program areas, or even to review merit badge progress. Service/conservation projects will be available for troops wishing to complete those. Troop night is also the night that our wilderness survival campout takes place, with the wilderness survival merit badge scouts going out to put their skills to the test.

Closing campfire is always a special night at camp. Troops will be putting on a show for each other and any family that wishes to attend. Staff members give out any special awards earned through the week by campers during the campfire as well.

**Be Prepared Relay:** The relay will test a multitude of scout skills, and find out just how prepared our scouts, and their scoutmasters, are. Teams will have to complete a challenge at every program area in camp.

# Camp Dates, Location, Address, & Phone

## Camp Dates

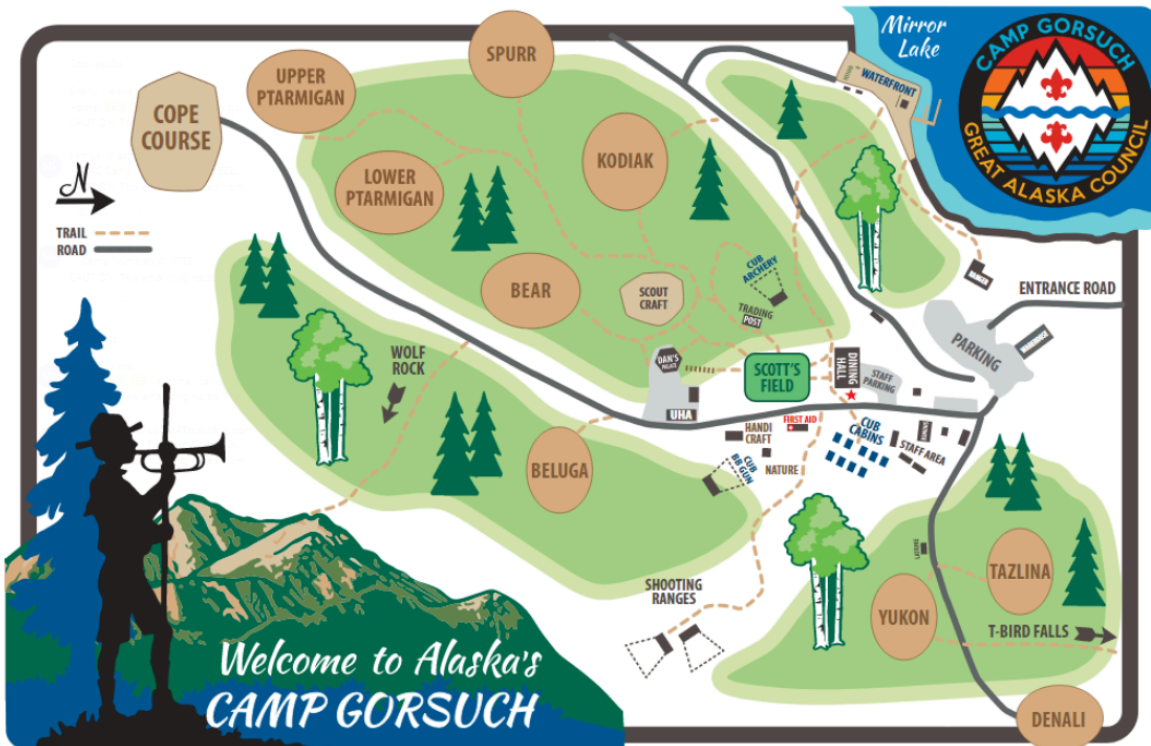
Week #1 -Scouts BSA	June 22 - 27

## Camp Location

Camp Gorsuch is located halfway between Anchorage and Wasilla off the Glenn Highway off the Mirror Lake exit.

## Camp Address

Scout's Name  
Troop Number  
Camp Gorsuch  
22700 Camp Gorsuch Road  
Chugiak, AK 99567



## 2025 Weekly Schedule

TIMES	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
6:45		Polar Bear Swim							
7:45		Morning Flag Ceremony							
8:00		Breakfast							
9:00		Session One (Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.)				Merit Badge Make-up/Open Areas			
10:00		Session Two (Monday – Thursday 10:30 – 11:45							
11:00									
12:00		Lunch							
1:00	Check-In (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)	SPL/Scoutmaster Meeting							
1:30		Free Time				Be Prepared Relay			
2:00		Session Three (Monday – Thursday 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.)							
2:30									
3:30		Session Four (Monday – Thursday 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.)				Open Areas SPL Meeting (3:00)			
4:00	SM/SPL Meeting								
4:45	Evening Flags (4:50), Emergency Drill Sunday								
5:00	Dinner								
6:00	Vespers 7:30 – 8:00	Instructional Night/Open Areas  6:30 - 8:00	Gorsuch Game Night / Open Areas  6:30 - 8:00	Battle for Bear Mountain, Sourdough Run  Families Welcome!  6:30 - 8:00	Service and Conservation Projects / Troop Night	Troop Time			
7:00	Opening Campfire  6:30 - 7:30								
7:30									
8:00									
8:45					Survival Campouts	Blue Card Pickup / Home			
9:00									
10:00	Lights Out								

## Merit Badge Schedule

Camp Gorsuch BSA 2025					
	Merit Badges	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	2:00 PM	3:30 PM
<b>Ecology</b>	Environmental Science		YES	YES	
	Fishing	YES			
	Forestry			YES	
	Mammal Study		YES		
	Nature	YES			
	Fire Safety				YES
	Soil & Water Conservation				YES
<b>Scout Craft</b>	Cycling		YES		
	Sustainability	YES			
	Golf (Disc version)			YES	
	Orienteering		YES		
	Cooking			YES	
	Pioneering				YES
	Wilderness Survival	YES			YES
	Cheechako / Tenderfoot	YES			
	Cheechako / 2nd Class		YES		
	Cheechako / 1st Class			YES	
	Silver Sourdough				YES
<b>Ranges</b>	Archery	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Rifle (Cartridge)	YES	YES	YES	YES

<b>Handicraft</b>	Animation		YES		
	Woodcarving	YES			
	Home Repair	YES			
	Chess				YES
	Signs, Signals & Codes			YES	
	Welding	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Photography			YES	
	Game Design				YES
<b>Aquatics</b>	Canoeing	YES			
	Rowing		YES		
	Lifesaving			YES	
	Small Boat Sailing		YES		YES
	Swimming				YES
	Kayaking	YES			
	Motorboating			YES	
	Activity: Mile Swim	Arranged upon request			
	Activity: Instructional Swim	Arranged upon request			
	Activity: Stand Up Paddleboarding	Evening Activity			
	Training: Paddle Craft Safety	Arranged upon request			
<b>Personal</b>	Emergency Preparedness			YES	YES
<b>Safety</b>	First Aid	YES	YES		
<b>C.O.P.E.</b>	Climbing	YES	YES		
	C.O.P.E.			YES	



## Special Notes

Some merit badges will not be completed at camp.

<b>All Aquatics Merit Badges</b>	<b>Must be classified as <u>swimmers</u> at Camp Gorsuch to participate in aquatics merit badges.</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>\$10.00 supply fee</b>
<b>Wilderness Survival</b>	<b>Requirement 5 not completed at camp unless you bring a prepared survival kit</b>
<b>Cycling</b>	<b>Must bring your own bike. Requirement 7 option B not completed at camp</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>\$7.00 supply fee</b>
<b>Rifle (cartridge)</b>	<b>\$10.00 supply fee</b>
<b>Welding</b>	<b>\$30.00 supply fee / Minimum Age 13</b>
<b>Lifesaving</b>	<b>Requirement 2a Swimming MB must be completed before arrival at camp. 2b will be conducted at camp - Swim continuously for 400 yards.</b>
<b>First Aid</b>	<b>Requirements 2b, 2d not completed at camp / First Class recommended as scouts <u>must be proficient</u> in 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Aid. Counselors will determine skill level at camp.</b>
<b>Climbing</b>	<b>\$10.00 supply fee / Minimum Age 13</b>
<b>COPE</b>	<b>\$30.00 supply fee / Minimum Age 13</b>
<b>Silver Sourdough</b>	<b>Minimum Age 15</b>

# Camp Gorsuch Program

Camp Gorsuch is proud of its diversified and exciting program. The following information will help you become familiar with our program. Take some time to review in detail what is going on and what is new for 2022!

## Senior Patrol Leaders

The SPL are the leaders of the Troop. It is essential for each Troop to have one elected SPL. Meetings are held daily and are designed to be an opportunity for the troops to receive updates on the events or the schedule, and to fill out the duty roster with the Program Director. During these meetings you can bring up questions or concerns your Troop may have.

## Camp Staff

Young men and women, ages 15 and above by the time camp starts are eligible to apply for a camp staff position. Applications for camp staff positions may be obtained at the Great Alaska Council Service Center or online at [scoutingalaska.org/camping](http://scoutingalaska.org/camping). Compensation is a stipend based on position and experience. Room and board are provided for camp staff. Staff in Training (S.I.T.) are 14-year-old Scouts who wish to learn about Staff positions at camp. Those selected to participate in the S.I.T. program will receive room and board at no cost. The minimum time for a S.I.T. to be at camp is staff week and one week of camp. The maximum is staff week and two weeks of camp.

## Uniforms:

We encourage your Scouts to wear full uniforms for evening flag ceremonies each day, as well as the opening and closing campfire. Through the day, encourage them to wear Scout short/pants and some Scout related shirt/t-shirt. The uniform is an important part of the Scouting program.

## Swim Test

All Scouts and Scouters that wish to use the waterfront in any manner will be required to take a swim test at summer camp. Due to the differences between swimming in a pool and swimming in a natural body of water it is important that the Waterfront staff be able to evaluate a Scout's swimming ability in the water that they will be swimming in at camp.

## Cheechako Trail - First-Year Scout Program

The Cheechako Trail program is designed for those campers who are new to Boy Scouting. It helps new Scouts get oriented to camp, make friends, and learn the skills needed for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks.

Adult leaders are encouraged to help on the Cheechako Trail. The more leaders the better! At the end of the week, Scoutmasters will be provided with forms indicating those skills which were satisfactorily shown to the instructor. Nothing is signed in the BSA Handbook. The Scoutmaster may wish to review skills before signing the book.

Cheechakos can also spend time working on other merit badges. They also earn Fireman's Chip, Totin' Chip and the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award

## Evening Activities

There will be special activities and merit badges offered each night at camp. Campers can participate in these activities from 6:00-9:00 PM. Check the schedule for information on which activities will be offered at night.

## Merit Badge Signup

Signup will be available May 1, 2024. Your summer camp coordinator will receive an email with instructions and a password. Units must be paid in full to sign up for merit badges. It will be an online process through the same system that was used to register for camp.

During camp there will be an opportunity to make last minute changes to merit badge schedules. **Some class sizes will be limited due to National Standards or limited physical equipment support. We do our best to try to accommodate all Scouts needs.**

Certain merit badges have costs that are over and above those covered by the camp fee. Make sure Scouts are prepared to cover any costs of their merit badges.

## Age Requirements

National Standards require each camp to have programs for older Scouts. In order to meet this requirement, certain age restrictions have been set for some programs. These programs were chosen based on the size, ability and experience of certain age groups. **Please do not ask for waivers on age requirements.**

## Be a Guest Merit Badge Counselor

Scout Leaders are encouraged to help teach specific merit badges. If you are going to be at camp for a week and would like to teach a special Merit Badge during your stay that isn't offered by the camp please contact the Camp Director to coordinate.

## Project COPE & Climbing Tower

Cope and Climbing will be offered this year! We look forward to seeing your Scouts test themselves with this wonderful opportunity for team building and personal growth,

## Leave No Trace

All of the camp properties of the Great Alaska Council teach and practice the principles of Leave No Trace. Leaders and Scouts are encouraged to take advantage of the training opportunities that are offered at each camp.

**Pre-Camp Meetings**

Pre-Camp Meetings will be scheduled during the spring for each of the camp programs. Watch for notices through e-Trail Talk.

**Trading Post**

Spending money is recommended (between \$50 and \$75) since Camp Gorsuch maintains a well stocked

trading post. Hours will be posted, usually the trading post is open throughout the day and evening except during flag ceremonies, meal hours, and campfires. Items such as craft kits, patches, and items for advancement sessions (merit badge pamphlets, handbooks, etc.) Assorted snacks are also available.

# What to Bring to Camp Gorsuch

Personal equipment should be packed in a pack, suitcase, or duffel. It is helpful if the Scout has their name in their clothing and on their gear. It makes returning lost items much easier. **The Great Alaska Council is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen , or broken at camp.**

## Clothing

Field Uniform  
OA Sash  
Sweater or Jacket  
Rain Gear  
Swim Trunks  
T-shirts  
Long and Short Pants  
Hat  
Underwear  
Socks  
Tennis Shoes  
Hiking Boots  
Sunglasses

## Bedding

Sleeping Bag/Pillow  
Sleeping Pad

## Toiletries

Toothbrush/ Toothpaste  
Wash Cloth/Towel  
Soap/Shampoo Deodorant  
Comb/Brush  
Sunscreen  
Insect Repellant

## Additional Items

Personal First Aid Kit  
Pocket Knife  
Water Bottle  
Camera  
Fishing Gear (*optional*)  
Work gloves  
Spending Money  
Religious material  
Bicycles w/helmets  
Day Pack

## Advancement Gear

Scout Handbook\*  
Notebook  
Pens and Pencils\*  
Merit Badge Books\*  
**Merit Badge work already  
completed**

## *Orienteering:*

Compass (*available to purchase in  
trading post*)

## *COPE/Climbing, Swimming,*

## *Lifesaving MBs:*

Blue Jeans  
Long sleeve button-up shirt

## Troop Gear

Flags  
Patrol Flags  
Troop First Aid Kit  
Alarm Clock  
Rope or Binders Twine  
Merit Badge Books Scoutmaster's  
Handbook  
Program Reference Materials Field  
Book  
Patrol Leaders Handbook  
Dining Fly, poles, and rope  
Shovel/Rake/Broom  
Tools as needed  
Gear Tent/ Shelter

## **Medical Forms for each Scout & Leader**

# Nanuk Lodge

## Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's Brotherhood of Honor Campers. Nanuk Lodge has been an integral part of Camp Gorsuch history.

### **The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is:**

*To recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.*

*Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.*

*Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit, and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.*

*To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.*

The Order of the Arrow is a unique organization in that both members and nonmembers must elect its membership. To be elected, a Scout must be First Class or above and be an active, registered member of a BSA troop or team. After registration with a troop or team, have experienced fifteen days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The fifteen days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

**Fifty percent of the registered members of the Troop must be present at the election. The unit committee may nominate only one adult, if the unit elected at least one youth. If the unit has more than 50 registered members, the unit committee may nominate two adults each year. Adult applications must be turned in to Council Service Center by May 14.**

**Remember that, if your unit desires to hold elections during camp, official OA election teams must do unit OA elections! Elections must be done by Tuesday night to be called-out at the Friday night campfire.**

While a call-out may be held at the Spring Camporee, Scouts can be called-out at Camp Gorsuch. The call-outs will be held on Friday.

### **BROTHERHOOD CONVERSION OPPORTUNITIES**

The Brotherhood is for Order of the Arrow members who have been Arrowmen for at least 10 months and meet certain other requirements. Nanuk Lodge will conduct a Brotherhood Ceremony for qualifying Arrowmen. Check with the OA Camp Chief to find out time and information.

For more information concerning the Order of the Arrow or Nanuk Lodge at [www.scoutingalaska.org/oa](http://www.scoutingalaska.org/oa) or [www.nanuk355.com](http://www.nanuk355.com)

# **Bear Aware**

## **Gear Shelter**

Smellables, food, packs, and day clothes are stored outside of tents. Gear should nev-er be stored in tents or areas where someone sleeps. Bears enjoy investigating gear and the smells that are within. As part of our bear and wildlife procedures we require that troops store their gear in one central location in their campsites. Troops should bring a pop up shelter or tent to keep gear out of the elements.

Only items in tents:

- sleeping bags
- sleeping pads
- sleeping clothes
- pillows

Bear boxes are kept away from tent pads.

Travel with a buddy at all times!

Dispose of trash properly & lock the lid.

Be tree safe. Only use established toilets or latrines.

Never run from a bear.

Transient bear:

- Move out of his way.
- Report sighting to staff.

Local bear and returning bears:

- Move out of the bear's path.
- Stay in a group.
- If the bear causes an issue, deter the bear with loud noise.
- Contact staff immediately.

Repeat offender bear:

- Deter bear from camp with loud noise.
- Stay in a group.
- Contact staff immediately.

Only if necessary, the APD or ADFG will be contacted to take appropriate measures to remove the bear.

For the complete Council Bear Policy, please see the Council website.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**3117 Patterson St. Anchorage, AK 99504**

Register at [scoutingalaska.org](http://scoutingalaska.org)