

Camp Gorsuch Scouts BSA Leaders Guide



Summer 2026



Welcome to Camp Gorsuch;

We are very excited for camp this year. It continues to be our goal to support the aims and methods of Scouting at camp and to help Alaska's youth be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. We can't wait to watch our Scouts learn and grow together, where they belong - outdoors and at their own Council camp! As Baden-Powell said "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room."

This year, as always, they will have many opportunities to get outside, have fun and learn new skills. Cope and Climbing at the Brotherhood Tower, and the Silver Sourdough program will challenge our older Scouts. For our younger Scouts we have the Cheechako Trail where they will learn new skills and further their journey towards Eagle.

The 2026 Leaders Guide is designed to provide information so Scouts and their families, along with the unit leaders, can start making informed decisions about attending camp. While the guide does not cover all the topics, it does provide you with the important and known information at this time. As plans continue to develop, they will be posted on the Council website (scoutingalaska.org) and in the eTrail Talk.

Working at summer camp is also a great way for a Scout to spend their summer and the camps are always looking for good people. If you have a question about employment or anything else about camp please feel free to contact me.

See you at camp!

Mary Maresh
Camp Director

Camp Gorsuch

Camp Gorsuch, located on Mirror Lake, is part of the Rasmuson Scout Reservation offering long term camping (5 nights) to Scouts from the Great Alaska Council and our visiting Councils. It is one of two traditional resident camps operated by the Council. Camp Gorsuch is a 204-acre tract of land dedicated to offering Scouts the chance to experience the beauty of the outdoors.

As part of its Vision Statement, Camp Gorsuch strives to:

- Provided year round facilities to support the Scouting America program ... development of stronger families, training to become better citizens and leaders, and the instilling of ethical character.
- Offer young people challenging, responsible fun, adventure and opportunities to grow physically, mentally, and morally regardless of physical abilities.
- Foster an appreciation for the out-of-doors and an understanding of the importance of our environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Desired outcomes for Scouts attending Camp Gorsuch include but not limited to:

- Stronger personal values and character
- Continued desire to learn
- Social Adeptness
- Positive sense of self-worth and usefulness

The program at Camp Gorsuch has been designed to deliver an experience. One of the successful outcomes of this experience are merit badges, activity awards, and other recognition that a Scout may have earned. Stated another way, emphasis is on the program experience, merit badges recognize the successful completion of that experience.

Our Camp will operate one week this summer. Scouts will sleep in unit provided tents. Meals are provided through the Gorsuch Dining Hall. We offer a variety of programs, merit badges and, of course, a well stocked Trading Post.

The following information will help serve as a guide for your Troop to have a wonderful Summer Camp Experience. Camping is the great outdoor adventure of Scouting. The most crucial element of camping is that each Scout should have the opportunity of adventure promised in the Scout Handbook.

In addition to our Summer Camp Program, the camp is a center for training adult leaders in the Scouting America program.

Nanuk Lodge, of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor society, utilizes the camp throughout the year for fellowship and service gatherings. Their service, combined with that of the Council Properties Committee, provides countless man-hours of upkeep for the camp.

2026 Camp Fees & Fee Schedule

Dates	Type / Fees until 2/28/25	Fees After 5/1/25
Camp Gorsuch - Scouts BSA June 21-27 June 28-July 4	Youth \$ 500	\$ 550
	Adult \$ 300	\$ 350
Camp Gorsuch - Cub Scout Camp June 7 -12 June 14 - 19	Youth \$ 400	\$ 450
	Adult \$ 250	\$ 300

Eagle River Scout Camp - Scouts BSA July 12-18	Youth \$ 500	\$ 550
	Adult \$ 300	\$ 350

Registration opens, \$50 per person deposit required to reserve your slots.	10/06/26 Locals Only 11/15/26 Open To All
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For all local units the first two leaders are free!

50% of total camp fees due to maintain price for camp. Units without 50% of fees paid will have their fees increased to the new price.

100% of camp fees due. 4/29/26

Merit Badge sign-ups begin (Summer Camp) 5/1/26

****Webelos crossovers and new Scouts get the Unit's best price!**

How do we apply?

Registration begins on October 6 and is done online at <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA610&view=1> (navigate to the camp you would like to register for using the camping dropdown menu). The deposit is \$75 per slot (youth and adult) you are reserving. **The deposit is non-refundable** but will be applied to your overall balance. New Scouts/ Webelos Crossovers get the best price no matter when they sign up. Call the Council Service Center to ensure the correct pricing.

Details:

Once camp has reached capacity, units will no longer be able to register. Units that bring large numbers to camp will have priority when assigned a campsite. Smaller units may have to share a campsite with another unit. Please note the deadline to have your balance paid before

late fees are assessed.

Leaders Fees:

Each unit is permitted the first two leaders free each when registering. Remember all units must have a minimum of 2 registered leaders. Cub Scout units are a minimum of 2 but also follow a 1:4 leader to Cub Scout ratio. Tiger Scouts must have a Parent Partner with them at camp. Units serving female Scouts must have a female registered leader over the age of 21 in attendance per YPT and NCAP guidelines. Units should recruit leaders who can stay the entirety of camp.

Re-charter:

The Great Alaska Council has moved to a school year charter calendar. Re-charter is due July 1, 2026. Units that do not re-charter will forfeit their registrations for camp. Refunds will not be given if a unit fails to re-charter. Remember: Only registered BSA members may attend a BSA Camp, work toward advancement and be covered by BSA liability insurance.

Refund Schedule

Requested by April 29th, 2026 may receive 100% less the deposit

Requested by May 15th, 2026 may receive 50%

- Approved refund requests are processed AFTER August 15th, 2026.
- Exceptions may be made for medical reasons (documented by a medical doctor), military deployment, or a death in the family.
- All refunds are subject to *at minimum* a \$50 cancellation fee after April 30th, 2026.
- Refunds are only given for registration fees, not any other fees, i.e., Merit Badges fees, Rafting, etc.

Camp Rules and Regulations

It is the goal of the Great Alaska Council to provide a safe, quality program to the youth in our community. These policies are in effect for all Great Alaska Council camp properties.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

The following activities are forbidden without the express written consent of the Scout Executive or the Council Property Manager/Ranger:
Hunting - Snow machines - All Terrain Vehicles

The following activities are forbidden at all times and violators will be immediately escorted off camp property.

1. Starting fires with gasoline, oil, diesel fuel, lighter fluid, propane, etc.
2. Starting fires outside of designated areas. **No flames in tents!** This includes lit mosquito coils. Battery-powered light is the only acceptable light allowed in tents. Each site will keep a fire bucket (bucket provided) filled and ready.
3. Towing passengers on sleds, wagons, or any other conveyance not intended for such use.
4. Use of firearms (including air guns, slingshots, BB guns, or pellet guns) in any area other than the rifle/shotgun ranges with approved supervision.
No other firearms or ammunition will be permitted at camp. No personal firearms allowed in camp.
5. Use of Fireworks
6. Drug and alcohol laws will be strictly enforced according to the laws of the state of Alaska.
Absolutely no Alcohol or illegal Drugs are allowed on camp property.

The Scout Executive, Director of Support Services, District Executives, Camp Director, and Camp Ranger may, at their sole discretion, direct individuals or groups to leave camp property for other serious misconduct not covered in this document.

Tobacco

Adult leaders should not use tobacco products around young people. Persons under 19 are not permitted to use

tobacco products in the state of Alaska. Smoking is strictly forbidden in all camp buildings and tents. If you feel you must use tobacco, ask the Camp Director where the designated smoking area is.

Marijuana

It is unacceptable for anyone to use or be under the influence of marijuana and related products at or during any Scouting activity.

Chainsaw

BSA policy prohibits people operating a chainsaw on camp property.

VEHICLE POLICY

The speed limit on all camp roads is 5 miles per hour. Parking is limited so we encourage units to carpool whenever possible.

It is the policy of the National Council, Scouting America that: ***Seat belts are required for all occupants in vehicles. The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying passengers.***

The Council has a zero tolerance for violations of this policy. Anyone seen violating the letter or intent of this policy will be immediately removed from camp. The Camp Director and Ranger do not have any discretion in this matter and will notify the Scout Executive when such action has been completed.

Vehicles are not allowed outside the designated parking areas except during check-in and checkout periods and then only one per campsite. Trailers not blocking the road may remain in the campsite. Special consideration will be given to units with disabled Scouts or leaders that require a vehicle near their campsite.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All precautions for the safety of the Scouts will be taken. The first aid lodge is available with a qualified Health Officer on duty 24 hours a day. In addition, Great Alaska Council camps have agreements with local physicians and hospitals in the event that additional medical treatment is deemed necessary. In the case of non-life threatening injury, the unit leader will be asked to provide transportation to the hospital or elsewhere as directed. Emergency services will be called in the case of accidents or illness of a more critical nature. Scouts and leaders that are a danger to themselves and others will be asked

to leave camp.

Immunization

All attendees are required to have adequate immunizations. Immunizations must meet the State of Alaska school attendance requirements; thus, many teenagers are already protected against preventable diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella. Those listed on the medical form must be obtained prior to attending camp.

Registration/Insurance

In accordance with national policy, every Scout and Scouter that attends summer camp must be registered with Scouting America and adults need to be youth protection trained. The Great Alaska Council provides accident and illness insurance for all registered members of the Great Alaska Council. **Scout units from outside the Council must provide a current Troop roster with BSA ID numbers.**

Medical Forms

All Scouts and Adults must have completed the *Annual Health and Medical Record* with Parts A, B, & C completed within the last **12 months** when attending camp for more than 72 consecutive hours. Parts A and B need to be completed when attending camp for less than 72 consecutive hours. Medical forms are available online at www.scoutingalaska.org.

If a Scout or Scouter arrives at camp without an Annual Health & Medical Record form, it is the Scout or Scouter's responsibility to obtain the physical examination and complete the form before being allowed to enter camp.

Prescription Medications

The Health Officer is required to be informed of all prescription medications brought to camp by Scouts and Leaders. Medications are distributed one of two ways. The Health Officer will keep all medications at the Health Office in a locked cabinet and distribute them at meal times. If you choose to keep your prescription drugs in your campsite you must bring a lockable container to keep them in your campsite. You will also need to log the medication each time it is distributed. The log and lockable container must be available for the Camp Director or Health Officer to review at any time.

Footwear

No bare feet. Scouts will need sturdy close toed shoes for hiking and spare shoes in case their shoes get wet. A Scout may also wish to bring a pair of shower shoes for waterfront activities and showering.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency procedures will be posted on camp bulletin boards and in all campsites. As a general rule, Scouts and Leaders hearing air raid siren must report immediately to the camp muster point without delay.

Leaders must make their Scouts aware of this policy.

Restricted Areas

1. Scouts are **restricted from the staff areas at all times.**
2. Campsites of other units are **off limits** and should not be visited or passed through without permission.
3. **No raids allowed!!** Raids cause personal and property damage and will be grounds for removal from camp. No refunds will be given to anyone removed from camp for raids or any other disciplinary problem.

No one may enter these hazardous areas without adult supervision: the waterfront, the BB Gun and Archery Ranges and Cope & Climbing. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** No cell phone use of any kind is allowed at either the Archery or BB Range.

VALUABLES

Participants should not bring valuables to camp as there are no provisions for securing them (i.e. lockers).

Lost and Found

Items lost at camp may be claimed in the camp office. All other items may be found at the camp's lost and found area. All unclaimed items will then be donated to charity 14 days after camp ends.

The Great Alaska Council is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or broken at camp. Any equipment or camp property damaged by the unit will be replaced by the unit (other than normal wear and tear).

PETS / ANIMALS

No pets of any kind may be brought into camp. Wild animals are not to be fed, teased, or captured. If you require a service animal please be sure it meets the requirements per ADA which are: It must be a dog, any breed or size, and it must be trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability. Per ADA service animals are not emotional support or comfort dogs, because providing emotional support or comfort is not a task related to a person's disability.

Cell Phone Usage

While the Council does not have a policy for cell phone use by Scouts in camp, the Council does recommend that the units attending camp establish rules of use by their Scouts in Camp.

LEAVING CAMP

No one, Scout or Leader, is to leave camp without first checking out at the Camp Office. This is for everyone's safety during a camp-wide emergency. Persons leaving camp must also check in upon returning to camp. Leaders needing to send Scouts home during the week need to report it to the Camp Director.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

No person will, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity of the Great Alaska Council, Scouting America.

CAMP FACILITIES

The buildings and developed areas provided: troop campsites, commissary, Dining Hall, trading post, Dan's Palace, shooting sports range, COPE course, showers, program areas and waterfront.

Campsites are provided with a water faucet, picnic tables, bear box, latrines, bulletin board with safety guidelines posted. **Troops are expected to provide their own tents. If your Troop is unable to provide its own tents, please notify the Great Alaska Council.**

DINING HALL

Meals

All meals will be served in the dining hall. Troops will be responsible for cleanup of the tables they have used. In addition troops will take turns emptying the trash cans after each meal. After any meal troops have elected to have in their campsites, all trash will have to immediately be brought to the nearest dumpster for disposal. No trash may be left in the campsite.

Dietary Needs

Special dietary needs can be met by **informing the Camp Director at least 2 weeks prior to arrival** to ensure adequate menu items can be obtained. This information will also be collected via the online registration process. In some cases the Scout's family may be asked to provide specialty food items. The Camps use peanuts and peanut products in its camp kitchens.

BICYCLE SAFETY RULES

Campers, Adult Leaders, and Staff may use bicycles in camp. There will be a mandatory safety meeting for anyone wishing to use a bike in camp. Please observe the following rules:

1. Properly fitted helmets are required.
2. The camp speed limit is 5 miles per hour.
3. The bicycle must be in good repair and should be inspected before use.
4. Bicycles are only allowed on the road system. Bicycle privileges may be revoked for failure to abide by guidelines set forth in this meeting.

CAMPSITE EXPECTATIONS

Garbage & Food in Campsites

All foods and smellables must be in the bear boxes provided in the campsites. In compliance with Department of Health regulations and the National Standards of Scouting America, the storage of perishable foods in campsites is not allowed. This includes all dairy products and meat.

Gear Shelter

Gear should never 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.

Campsite Inspections

Campsites and cabins will be inspected daily to ensure the health and safety of all campers. A clean cabin and campsite is, of course, important to all Scouts, and helps to keep our camp free of wildlife.

Unit Leadership

Each unit must have two **registered** adult leaders, 21 years of age or older, with Youth Protection Training, in camp at all times. Scouts BSA Girls troops must have at least one female adult leader.. For the sake of continuity two primary leaders should be present for the entire week. ***All adult leaders must have appropriate medical forms.***

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LEADER IN CAMP

The leader's primary responsibility in camp is the safety of the Scouts 24 hours a day. You, as leaders, are an extension of the camp staff. Some of you have a great deal of knowledge of camping lore, and as such, will be asked to help in some of the program areas. All leaders will be expected to maintain control of the Scouts in their unit at all times. Do not let Scouts go anywhere alone. Camp leaders **may not** bring other children or siblings to camp.

BEAR TRAINING

In accordance with the Council's bear policy all camp participants will attend a bear safety training at the beginning of each camp session.

Buddy System

Great Alaska Council Camps always use and enforce the "Buddy System" with campers. Every camper should have a designated buddy and stay with them all the time. If you see a lone camper, ask them "Where's your buddy?" This will help maintain safety and avoid lost campers.

Quiet Hours

Each Scout is asked to remain in their campsite and observe quiet hours between 10:00 PM and 6:30 AM.

Preferred Payment Method: We prefer that you pay by check, either a single check or checks payable to BSA. You are welcome to use online payments but keep in mind you will be charged a service fee. Credit card processing fees cost the Council over \$13,500 last year. The Council will manually update your online payment forms.

Fishing

A fishing license is required for anyone 16 years or older. Mirror Lake is a stocked lake. Catch and release is preferred. If you choose to keep a fish you must properly clean, cook and eat it.

Location & Address

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

Scouts Name
Troop Number
Camp Gorsuch
22700 Camp Gorsuch Road
Chugiak, AK 99567



Checking Into and Out of Camp

The Troop Leader must bring the following to Check In:

1. Current camp roster.
2. **The Annual Health Form is required for *all* participants.**
3. Medications
4. Any Camp fees and fees that need to be reconciled. Please bring the unit's latest invoice to reconcile the camp roster to fees paid.

Arrival Schedule:

When your troop arrives in camp, the staff will be in the parking lot to meet you. Your Troop Guide will take you to your campsite, to unload your gear. If you are participating in a waterfront merit badge you will need to prepare for the swim check. Troop Guides will then take the Scouts on a tour of camp and down to the waterfront for swim checks, while a leader goes to the dining hall for check in. All participants participating in waterfront activities must take their swim test on Sunday. If you do not pass the swim test on Sunday you will be dropped from the merit badge class.

Early Arrivals

For those units traveling a long distance, early arrival will be approved upon request. However, note the following points:

- Contact the Camp Director to find out where your campsite is.
- Please do not take it upon yourself to change campsites. It will do nothing but create hard feelings because you **will** have to move.
- Please do not move bear boxes; picnic tables; etc. from other campsites into your own.
- The camp and all program areas are closed; please do not expect any services unless your unit has made arrangements with the Camp Director.
- Please respect staff quarters.

Check Out:

After closing campfire Blue Card Pickup will be in the dining hall. Health forms and any meds will be returned at this time. Campsite check out is done by Troop Guides when you are ready. Please arrange your time for checkout with your Troop Guide by Thursday.

Camp Gorsuch Program

Camp Gorsuch is proud of its diversified and exciting program. Take some time to review in detail what is going on and what is new for 2026 in our Camp Program Guide!

Senior Patrol Leaders The SPL's 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. Sunday you will also 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. Compensation is a stipend based on position and experience. Room and board are provided for camp staff. Counselors in Training (C.I.T.) are 14-year-old Scouts who wish to learn about Staff positions at camp. Those selected to participate in the C.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.

Uniforms:

We encourage your Scouts to wear full uniforms for evening flag ceremonies each day, as well as the opening and closing campfire. Throughout 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. All participants participating in waterfront activities must take their swim test on Sunday. If you do not pass the swim test on Sunday you will be dropped from the merit badge class.

Cheechako Trail - First-Year Scout Program

The Cheechako Trail program is designed for those campers who are new to 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.

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, 2026. 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 call the Scout Office to coordinate (907-337-9547).

Project COPE & Climbing Tower

Cope and Climbing will be offered. 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

We will have a pre-camp meeting on June 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to give you a preview of your camp and answer any questions!

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.

Notes from the Waterfront

To manage expectations please note that the water temperature in Mirror Lake fluctuates between 57 degrees and 70

Camp Gorsuch Swim Test Policy

All youth and adults participating in swimming and/or watercraft activities at Camp Gorsuch resident camp must pass the Scouting America swimmer test at the Camp Gorsuch lake administered by a member of the Camp Gorsuch waterfront staff on the year they are attending camp.

Unit swim checks are highly recommended prior to attending camp to gauge Scouts and adults swimming abilities, and manage expectations before camp. However, unit swim checks will not be accepted at camp.

All participants must be able to perform the swim test in the lake, in the environmental conditions in which aquatics activities will take place. Opportunities to complete these swim checks for adults will be held Thursday afternoon June 4th at 2:00 and that evening from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Swim Test Clothing & Equipment

Only clothing designated for swimming will be worn. Swimwear must be modest, and should conform in form, fit and function for swimming.

Equipment that provides buoyancy, thrust, or breathing advantage are not permitted. These items include wetsuit, drysuit, personal flotation device, fins, and snorkels.

Swim goggles are permitted during the swim check.

Clothing Policy

Only clothing designated for swimming will be worn. Swimwear must be modest and should conform in form, fit and function to the aquatics activity (swimming, paddling, snorkeling).

For males, tight fitting swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure are not allowed. For females, bikinis are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate.

No street clothing (t-shirts, underwear, tank tops, or cutoffs) to be worn for swimming activities.

Excessively revealing clothing or excessively revealing swimwear will not be allowed. Waterfront staff reserves the right to ask a participant to change or be removed from the waterfront area.

Depending on the mix of wind, air temperature and water temperature, participants are recommended to wear synthetic shirts (rash guard) neoprene swimwear, or light wetsuit (3mm).

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 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 Scouting 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 or www.nanuk355.com

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
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
Personal Tent

Medical Forms for each Scout & Leader

DO NOT BRING:

Personal Archery Equipment
Firearms
Fireworks
Sheath Knives
Any kind of weapon

And for the Adult Leaders

Throughout the week, adults have many choices for spending their free time. Camp Gorsuch provides several opportunities to make an adult's stay at camp a pleasant one.

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

While at camp, adults can complete Outdoor Leadership Skills training over the course of the week. This is required training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters to be considered "Trained" in their position.

SWIMMING, WATER RESCUE, & PADDLECRAFT SAFETY

These programs are sponsored by the Council Aquatics Committee and provide valuable hands-on training concerning the BSA's policies for aquatics activities. The training is valid for 3 years and is a prerequisite for conducting aquatic activities on the unit level. This training is offered for adults and youth 16 or older. The Aquatics Director will conduct the training, and the time will be announced at the Monday Scoutmaster's meeting.

SCOUT LEADER MERIT BADGE

This year we are offering a patch that only adults can earn. Requirements follow.

CLIMB ON SAFELY

Climb on Safely is Scouting America's recommended procedure for organizing BSA climbing/rappelling activities at a natural site or a specifically designed facility such as a climbing wall or tower. This instruction will be offered by the COPE/Climbing Director and is sponsored by the Council COPE/Climbing Committee. The time will be announced at the Monday Scoutmaster's meeting.

ADVANCEMENT AND SERVICE

Often, adults in camp bring with them special knowledge or skills that would be beneficial to various merit badge sessions. If any adult would like to assist with a merit badge—or offer one not on the schedule—please see the Program Director on Monday. The Camp Ranger will be glad to suggest a list of camp projects that can use your skills and knowledge to help improve camp. Bring your tools and feel at home.

Camp Gorsuch

Adult Leader Achievement Badge

The Adult Leader Achievement Badge is a patch that adults can earn. The purpose is to encourage adults to get involved in camp programs and have an enjoyable experience. To earn this badge, adults must complete at least 17 of the 25 requirements.

@=Mandatory Requirements

@_____ 1. Visit all of the following program areas for at least 15 minutes and get the Director's initials.

_____ Aquatics _____ Cheechako Trail _____ Shooting Sports

_____ Scoutcraft _____ Handicraft _____ COPE _____ Nature

_____ 2. Attend Vespers Services.

_____ 3. Make a handicraft.

_____ 4. Participate in an Open Shoot at the Shooting Sports Range.

_____ 5. Assist in a First Aid Class.

_____ 6. Attend an Order of the Arrow gathering during camp.

_____ 7. Participate in Outdoor Leadership Skills Training, if offered.

@_____ 8. Participate in a 2-hour camp service project approved by the Camp Dir. or Ranger.

_____ 9. Clean up Dan's Palace prior to any campwide event.

_____ 10. Restock the coffee supply/creamers/sugar/cups in the Dining Hall.

@_____ 11. Introduce yourself to the Camp. Dir., Program Dir., and Commissioner.

_____ 12. Introduce yourself to a Scout Leader that you don't already know.

_____ 13. Hold an inter-troop activity (campfire) with another troop.

_____ 14. Assist in supervising Free Swim or Free Boating.

_____ 15. Buy something at the Trading Post.

@_____ 16. Attend at least 2 Scoutmaster meetings.

_____ 17. Teach a merit badge in your campsite.

_____ 18. Pick up one bag of trash around camp.

@_____ 19. Assist in 2 sessions of Cheechako Trail.

@_____ 20. Have your Troop conduct a Patrol Leaders Council meeting.

_____ 21. Make a dutch oven surprise.

_____ 22. Help in the Trading Post for ½ an hour.

_____ 23. Referee ½ an hour of a field game.

_____ 24. Monitor changing cabins @ waterfront for 1 hour.

_____ 25. Hand out Visitor Passes at the front gate for 1 hour.

Name: _____

Troop # _____

Camp Gorsuch

Senior Patrol Leader Achievement Badge

The Senior Patrol Leader Achievement Badge is a patch that SPLs, as youth leaders of their troops, can earn. The purpose is to encourage SPLs to get involved in camp programs and have an enjoyable experience. To earn this badge, SPLs must complete 15 of the 20 requirements.

Senior Patrol Leaders use “on your honor” to fulfill requirements. Upon completion, turn into the Program Director. Senior Patrol Leaders Achievement Badge will be presented at the closing campfire.

@=Mandatory Requirements

@__ 1. Visit all of the following program areas for at least 15 minutes and get the Director’s initials.

_____ Aquatics _____ Cheechako Trail _____ Nature _____ COPE
_____ Scoutcraft _____ Handicraft _____ Shooting Sports

@__ 2. Assist a new Scout in making a handicraft.

_____ 3. Participate in Open Shoot at the Shooting Sports Range.

_____ 4. Assist in a First Aid Class.

_____ 5. Attend an Order of the Arrow gathering.

@__ 6. Attend the Battle for Bear Mountain.

@__ 7. Participate in a 2-hour camp service project approved by the Camp Direct. or Ranger.

_____ 8. Lead a clean up at Dan’s Palace prior to a campwide activity.

_____ 9. Restock the coffee supplies in the Dining Hall.

@__ 10. Introduce yourself to the Camp. Dir., Program Dir., and Commissioner.

_____ 11. Introduce yourself to another SPL that you don’t already know.

_____ 12. Hold an inter-troop activity with another Unit.

_____ 13. Buy a product at the Trading Post.

@__ 14. Attend an instructional night session.

_____ 15. Attend at least 3 SPL Meetings.

_____ 16. Teach a Scout skill in your campsite.

@__ 17. Lead your troop in picking up one bag of trash around camp.

_____ 18. Make a hiking stick at the handicraft pavilion.

@__ 19. Assist in teaching a Cheechako Trail skill.

_____ 20. Organize a team for Battle for Bear Mountain from your Unit.

Name: _____

Troop # _____

Bear Aware

Gear Shelter

Smellables, food, packs, and day clothes are stored outside of tents. Gear should never 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 its 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.

Application for Campership

*Requests may or may not be granted based on available funds and eligibility. Units are encouraged to provide financial assistance through annual fundraising efforts. Council funds are intended to help families in need when unit funds are not available. This application should be completed by parent or guardian. All information will be kept confidential. **FILL OUT COMPLETELY!***

Youth applicant name: _____ ☐ Youth age: _____

Unit type: ☐ Pack ☐ Troop ☐ Crew ☐ Ship Unit number: _____ Grade: _____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Briefly describe the family's need for assistance: _____

Annual household income: \$ _____ Total household members: _____

Application must be turned in by May 1st!

- ☐ Camp
- ☐ Cub Scout Gorsuch Camp ☐ Cub Scout Eagle River Camp
- ☐ Scouts BSA Gorsuch Camp ☐ Scouts BSA Eagle River Camp

Parent or guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____

Unit Leader Section:

- ☐ I commit to my unit selling popcorn in order to support Scouts

Unit leader name: _____ Unit leader phone number: _____

Unit leader signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications must be filled out completely and signed by a unit leader in order to be considered.

Submit completed application to: Great Alaska Council, 3117 Patterson Street, Anchorage, AK 99504
Or email application to Brenda.bidwell@scouting.org Please contact us at (907) 337-9547 with any questions.

Office Use Only	
Date Received: _____	Approved by: _____
Camp Amount: \$ _____	



117 Patterson St. Anchorage, AK 99504

Register at scoutingalaska.org