



LAKE OF THE OZARKS SCOUT RESERVATION



Adventure Awaits



2026 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM GUIDE

- Expansive aquatics and waterfront programs
- Troop & individual activities
- Sinquefield Invention Campus
- Over 80 unique merit badges
- Leader and adult programs
- Non-merit badge activities

Sinquefield Invention Campus

The camp includes the Sinquefield Invention Campus, featuring cutting-edge labs including the Invention Lab, Program Building, Metalworking Building, and Skills and Trades Lab.



660-221-0443



dennis.kerns@scouting.org



www.lotosr.org



Change Lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation is to provide the best opportunity for Scouts and Units to have fun, learn skills, and practice Scouting programs.

The mission of our Camp Staff is **total commitment** to serving Scouts and Adult Leaders to the best of our abilities. We do this to allow our Scouts and Leaders the best opportunity to grow in the values of Scouting. In pursuit of this mission, we pledge to incorporate the values of Scouting into every activity at the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation. Scouting changes lives. **Our goal is to CHANGE LIVES!**

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Thank
you!

2025

Record Attendance

1965-2025
60 YEARS STRONG



WHAT'S NEW

- **The dates for 2026 Scouts BSA Summer Camp are as follows:**
 - Session 1: June 7th-13th
 - Session 2: June 14th-20th
 - Session 3: June 21st-June 27th
 - Session 4: June 27th-July 3rd (PLEASE NOTE SATURDAY TO FRIDAY DATES)
 - Session 5: July 5th-11th
- **New Merit Badges:** Moviemaking, Law, Crime Prevention, Scouting Heritage, American Heritage, Model Design, and Railroading
- **Session 4 Specialty Programs:** Angler's Course, Afternoon Tubing, Advanced Sailing, Metalworking, Recreational Drone Certification, RSO Training, Advanced Woodworking, and more
- **Program Enhancements:**
 - Adjusted program times for smoother scheduling
 - Daily free swim & boating opportunities
 - Expanded Trading Post hours
- **Camp Upgrades**
 - Expanded WiFi access
 - New shelter at the Climbing Tower
 - Improved campsite vault latrines
 - Archery range enhancements
 - Sound and lighting in the amphitheater
 - Coming soon: Restroom & shower facility

LETTER FROM CAMP LEADERSHIP

Scout Leaders

Choosing the right summer camp is one of the most important decisions you make each year for your Troop. On behalf of the leadership team at the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation, we invite you to see why so many units across the country are calling LOTOSR their summer home.

The summer of 2025 was a historic one. Scouts traveled from 12 different states to experience a program unlike any other. Alongside traditional Scouting adventures like aquatics, climbing, and shooting sports, we offered cutting-edge opportunities that set our camp apart. Scouts designed and created projects in our Skills & Trades Lab—featuring welding, electricity, plumbing, automotive mechanics, and boat repair. They used CNC routers, 3D printers, and laser engravers to turn ideas into reality. At campfires and on the trail, they built friendships and confidence that will last a lifetime.

We are proud to be the only Scout camp in the country offering a program where youth can take an idea, design it, and then bring it to life. Combined with our Invention Lab, blacksmithing shop, woodworking facilities, and year-round trained staff, LOTOSR provides opportunities that few other camps can match.

If you're looking for a camp that will challenge your Scouts, inspire your leaders, and deliver an experience they will talk about all year long, we would be honored to welcome your Troop in 2026. Our team is here to answer questions, provide details, and help you see how the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation can become a highlight of your unit's Scouting journey.

We hope you'll join us in 2026 and add your Troop's story to the history being made at LOTOSR.

Yours in Scouting,

Dennis

Dennis Kerns
Reservation Director

Malachi

Malachi Diehl
Summer Camp Director

Patrick

Patrick Hoffmann
Summer Camp Program Director





ADVANCEMENT PHILOSOPHY

We're excited to offer more than 80 merit badges and specialty programs at Summer Camp! Camp is the perfect place to earn badges that are hard to complete at home—like climbing, swimming, watersports, shooting sports, and metalworking—while also exploring new interests. Scouts should choose badges that spark their curiosity, and leaders can help guide them, including toward Eagle-required badges.

But summer camp is more than merit badges—it's a week of adventure at the Lake of the Ozarks. From personal watercraft and water skiing to paddleboarding, troop activities, or just relaxing at camp, there's something for everyone. We encourage Scouts to keep a healthy balance of advancement and fun. As Baden-Powell said, "Scouting is a game with a purpose"—and our goal is to make camp the most fun and memorable experience of the year.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations consider the Scout's age, experience level, subject difficulty, and safety concerns. Some classes have a required age minimum, which must be met without exception. Suggested programs for Scouts are listed below:

- **Year 1:** Brownsea (first year camper program), First Aid MB, Instructional Swimming, Basketry MB, Swimming MB, Free Swim, Troop Shoot, and other Troop and Patrol activities.
- **Year 2:** Swimming (if not completed in the first year), Canoeing MB, Archery MB, Camping MB, First Aid MB, Rifle Shooting MB, Woodcarving MB, Fishing MB.
- **Year 3:** Climbing MB, Lifesaving MB, Metalworking MB, Shotgun Shooting MB, Movemaking MB.
- **Year 4:** Invention Scouts Startup Program, Lifesaving MB, Swimming and Watercraft Safety, Pistol, Water Sports MB, Motorboating MB, Small-Boat Sailing MB, Welding MB, Horsemanship MB, Counselor-in-Training.
- **Year 5+:** COPE, Pistol, Invention Scouts Startup Program, Swimming and Watercraft Safety, Personal Watercraft, Motorboating MB, SCUBA, Small-Boat Sailing MB, Aviation MB, Camp Staff.

MERIT BADGES

Your ultimate guide



Below is summary of all merit badges taught at camp. Badges that are listed in the same bullet point separated by a "/" are clustered together into one course. Activities and merit badges which have "\$" next to it indicates there is an additional fee. More info about pre-requisites and block scheduling can be found via the course catalog and block schedule.

Merit badges offered are subject to change

- Animation MB
- Archery MB
- American Heritage MB/Scouting Heritage MB
- Architecture MB/Landscape Architecture MB
- Astronomy MB/Space Exploration MB
- Automotive Maintenance MB
- Archaeology MB/Exploration MB
- Aviation MB \$
- Basketry MB/Leatherwork MB
- Camping MB
- Canoeing MB
- Chemistry MB
- Chess MB
- Climbing MB
- Crime Prevention MB/Law MB
- Digital Technology MB/Programming MB
- Electronics MB
- Emergency Preparedness MB
- Environmental Science MB
- Farm Mechanics MB/Marine Mechanics
- First Aid MB
- Fish and Wildlife Management MB/Soil & Water Conservation MB
- Fishing MB
- Fly Fishing MB
- Forestry MB/Plant Science MB
- Geology MB/Mining in Society MB
- Golf MB
- Graphic Arts MB
- Health Care Professions MB
- Home Repair MB
- Horsemanship MB \$
- Kayaking MB/BSA Stand-Up Paddleboard
- Lifesaving MB
- Metalwork MB
- Model Design & Building MB/Railroad MB
- Motorboating MB \$
- Movingmaking MB/Photography MB
- Nature MB
- Plumbing MB/Electricity MB
- Pottery MB/Sculpture MB/Art MB
- Radio MB
- Rifle Shooting MB
- Salesmanship MB/Entrepreneurship MB
- Search & Rescue MB
- Shotgun Shooting MB
- Signs, Signals, & Codes MB
- Small-Boat Sailing MB
- Swimming MB
- Traffic Safety MB/Truck Transportation MB
- Water Sports MB \$
- Welding MB
- Wilderness Survival MB
- Woodcarving MB
- Woodwork MB

\$ Additional fee

NON-MERIT BADGE PROGRAMS

Your ultimate guide

SCOUTING IS FUN!



Non-merit badge program opportunities are available for all Scouts, whether they are first-year or veteran campers. Experienced campers can participate in challenging activities to further develop their skills. Beginner campers focus on activities that help them complete early advancement requirements and develop basic camping skills. Below is a list of all non-merit badge program opportunities.

- **Advanced/Adult Blacksmithing** \$ - advanced blacksmithing program for 14+ youth who have already earned the Metalworking MB and adults
- **Brownsea (first year camper program)** - 1st year camper program with an emphasis on the first 3 ranks in Scouting as well as basic scouting and camping skills i.e. knot-tying, campsite setup, etc.
- **Swimming and Watercraft Safety** - official course to certify participants to be safe with their units on the water. For youth 15+ and adults.
- **COPE** - starts with initiative games, and continues with low and high course activities. Participants will climb, swing, balance, jump, rappel, and learn to develop solutions to a variety of situations. For youth 14+. Adults are welcome to join when they arrive at camp and there is room in the class.
- **Invention Scouts Startup (youth) & Ranger (adult) Programs** \$ - In this program, scouts and adults will learn how to use cutting-edge technology such as 3D printers, laser-engravers, CNC routers, vaquiforms, and more. For youth 14+ and adults.
- **Jet Ski** \$ - a fast, fun-filled program where scouts get to experience the Lake of the Ozarks while piloting a Jet Ski. For youth 14+ and must have a valid Boater's License.
- **OA Summer Camp Service Corps** \$ - special program for OA members only, to help work on service and conservation projects at camp.
- **Pistol** - for youth 14+
- **Scuba BSA/Snorkeling BSA** \$ - Scuba introduces scouts to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with scuba diving and provides a foundation for those who later will participate in the more advanced underwater activity.

\$ Additional fee

RED, WHITE & ADVENTURE

A Session 4 Exclusive
June 28-July 3

SPIRIT OF AMERICA WEEK!



In addition to the standard merit badge block schedule, **Session 4 Scouts will have access to special activities** designed for those seeking experiences beyond merit badges. Join us for our Spirit of America Week, celebrating 250 years as a nation, with unique programs that bring history, adventure, and discovery to life. Registration for activities will be available at camp or online—details coming soon.

Morning Activities ☀️

- Sunrise Fishing - One early morning group session before breakfast.
- Knife Blacksmithing - Four-day program to forge a knife, handle, and sheath

Lakefront & Outdoor Adventures 🌊

- Advanced Sailing - Tentative; pending qualified staff.
- Night Shoots - Rifle range after dark.
- Jacob's Cave Trip - Rock Cluster MB group excursion.

Trades & Skills 🔥

- Advanced Woodworking - Build camp benches and tables.
- New Trades Program - Details coming soon.

Tech & Innovation 💡

- Drones - Build, fly, and certify in one MB block.
- Rocket Launch - Build/customize rockets; group launch at week's end.
- Sewing & Needlework - Test lab certification using ILab tools.

Living History Experience 🏕️

Weeklong frontier & pioneer program at the SDB Cabin. Scouts step back in time to live like early settlers.

- Candle & soap making, canning
- Tomahawks, black powder, flint & steel
- Gold panning & mining
- Quill & ink calligraphy
- Cast iron cooking, woodworking, beadwork
- Oil lantern hike, flint knapping
- Leatherwork & branding

INDIVIDUAL & TROOP ACTIVITIES

Your ultimate guide

SCOUTING IS FUN!

At camp, we also have many opportunities for individual Scouts and troops to participate in during the week. Activities for individuals and troops to participate will be reserved via a lottery system when you arrive at camp. Information about this process and all additional camp activities will be provided to you at check-in and during the leader's meetings at camp.

- Dutch Oven Cookoff
- Feger's Flight (zipline)
- Fishing
- Free Swim
- Chess Tournament
- CPR/AED
- Brick Oven Pizza Making
- Mile Swim
- OA Service Corp
- Open Aquatics
- Religious Services
- Silver Bullet/Golden Arrow
- Spirit Days
- Troop Archery Shooting
- Troop Boating (Out-and-About)
- Troop Climbs
- Troop Free Swims
- Troop Rifle Shooting
- Troop Service Projects



TRADITIONAL SCOUTING

Your ultimate guide



Our traditional scouting program area is split into three groups: ecology, outdoor skills, and show n' do. Each section is designed to enhance the scouting experience by promoting knowledge, skill development, and a deeper connection with the outdoors.

OUTDOOR SKILLS

- Camping MB
- Emergency Preparedness MB
- First-Aid MB
- Fishing MB
- Fly Fishing MB
- Health Care Professions MB
- Search & Rescue MB
- Signs Signals and Codes MB
- Wilderness Survival MB

SHOW N' DO

- American Heritage MB
- Scouting Heritage MB
- Animation MB
- Brownsea (First-Year Scout)
- Basketry MB/Leatherwork MB
- Crime Prevention MB/Law MB
- Paul Bunyan Woodsman

ECOLOGY

- Archaeology MB/Exploration MB
- Architecture MB & Landscape Architecture MB
- Chemistry MB
- Fish and Wildlife Management MB/Soil & Water Conservation MB
- Forestry MB/Planet Science MB
- Geology MB/Mining in Society MB
- Nature MB

Commissioner Village

- Golf MB (Disc)
- OA Camp Service Corp

Welcome Center

- Aviation MB
- Horsemanship MB



AQUATICS LAKEFRONT

Your ultimate guide



Scouts can take full advantage of our expansive Cameron Family Waterfront, which features 1.5 miles of shoreline along the stunning Lake of the Ozarks. Our aquatics program provides exceptional opportunities for swimming, boating, and various water sports not found at many other Scout camps.

LAKEFRONT

- Swimming and Watercraft Safety
- Free Swim
- Kayaking Scouting
- Mile Swim
- Jet Ski
- Canoeing MB
- Kayaking MB/Stand Up Paddleboard
- Lifesaving MB
- Motorboating MB
- Small-Boat Sailing MB
- Swimming MB
- Water Sports MB



AQUATICS POOL

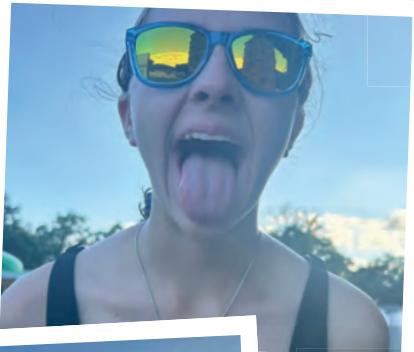
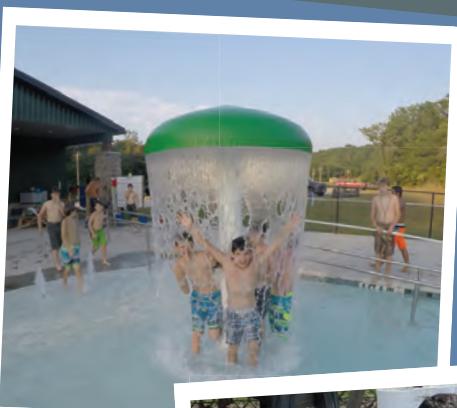
Your ultimate guide



Our pool features a unique design with a zero-entry area, allowing for multiple activities such as swim classes, swimming instruction, and free swim to take place simultaneously.

POOL

- Free Swim
- Instructional Swim
- Scuba/Snorkeling
- Swimming MB



INVENTION LAB

Your ultimate guide



Our Invention Lab is part of the unique Sinquefield Invention Campus, is our fastest-growing area, featuring 3D printers, a computer lab, laser etchers, and tools to foster creativity.

INVENTION LAB

- Astronomy MB/Space Exploration MB
- Chess MB
- Digital Technology MB/Programming MB
- Entrepreneurship MB/Salesmanship MB
- Graphic Arts MB
- Invention Scouts Ranger Program (Adult)
- Invention Scouts Start Up Program
- Model Design MB/Railroading MB
- Movingmaking MB/Photography MB
- Pottery MB/Sculpture MB/Art MB
- Radio MB



PROGRAM BUILDING & WOOD SHOP

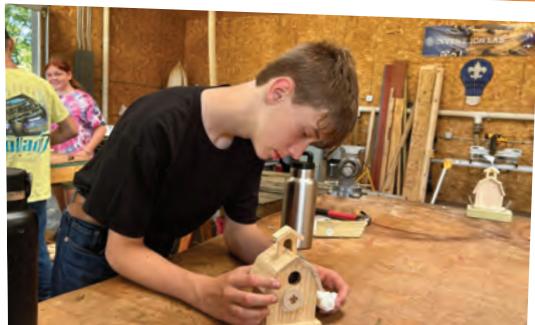
Your ultimate guide



Inside the Sinquefield Program Building, you'll find a fully equipped woodworking shop, featuring essential hand and power tools, including a SawStop for added safety, and a 5 x 8 ft CNC Router for advanced woodworking projects.

WOOD SHOP

- Woodcarving MB
- Woodwork MB



SKILLS & TRADES

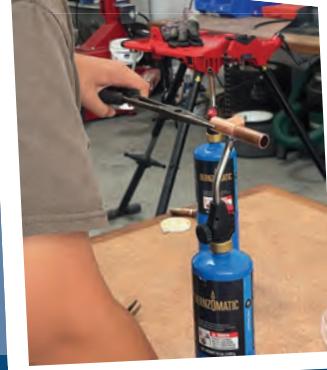
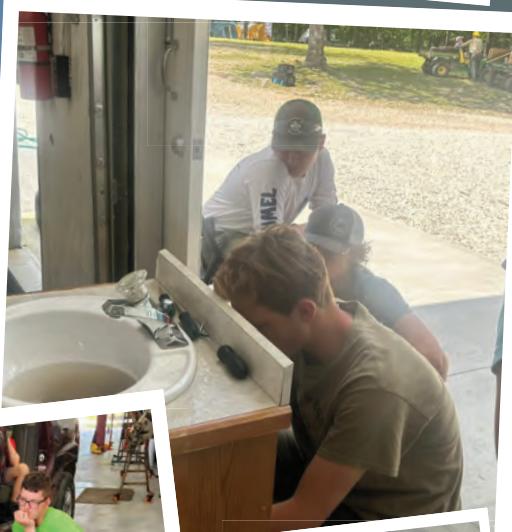
Your ultimate guide



Our Sinquefield Skills & Trades Lab offers merit badges and activities in automotive maintenance, marine mechanics, plumbing, electricity, sheet metal, and painting, with a focus on creativity and workforce development.

SKILLS & TRADES

- Automotive Maintenance MB
- Farm Mechanics MB/Marine Mechanics
- Home Repair MB
- Electricity MB/Plumbing MB
- Electronics MB
- Traffic Safety/Truck Transportation MB



BLACKSMITH & WELDING

Your ultimate guide



Our Sinquefield Blacksmith & Welding Shop offers merit badges and advanced programs for youth and adults, providing participants with hands-on experience in real-world trades.



METALWORKING

- Adult/Advanced Blacksmithing
- Metalwork MB
- Welding MB



RANGE & TARGET ACTIVITIES

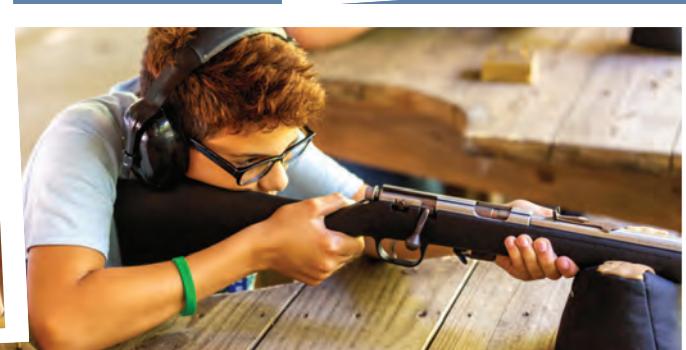
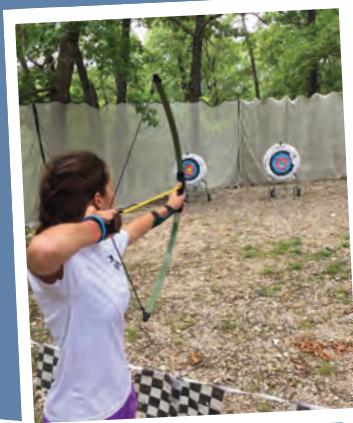
Your ultimate guide



We offer a comprehensive array of range and target activities, giving participants the chance to develop both marksmanship and safety skills. Our programs include shotgun shooting, pistols, and rifle shooting, all designed to instill precision, discipline, and responsibility, guided by certified instructors.

RANGE & TARGET

- Archery MB
- Pistol
- Rifle MB
- Shotgun Shooting MB



COPE & CLIMBING

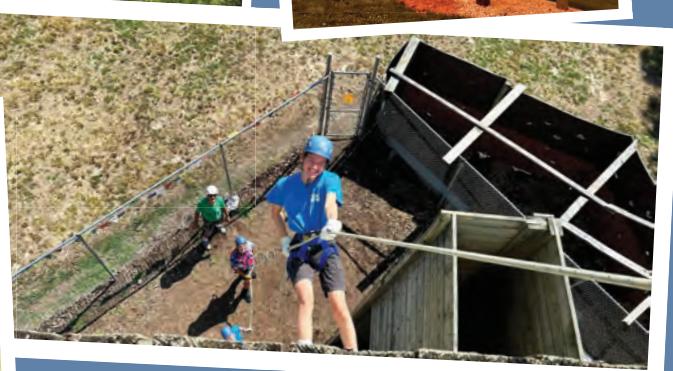
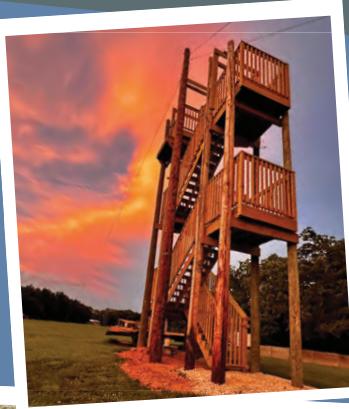
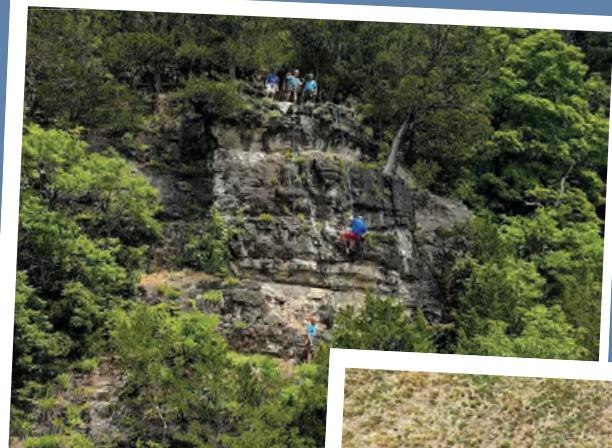
Your ultimate guide



We offer an exciting COPE & Climbing program that helps Scouts conquer their fears and overcome challenges. COPE includes high and low ropes courses and team-building exercises, while climbing features a climbing tower and zip line. Guided by experienced instructors, Scouts will build confidence, teamwork, and personal skills.

COPE & CLIMBING

- Feger's Flight (Zipline)
- Climbing MB
- COPE
- Climbing Tower



ORDER OF THE ARROW

Your ultimate guide

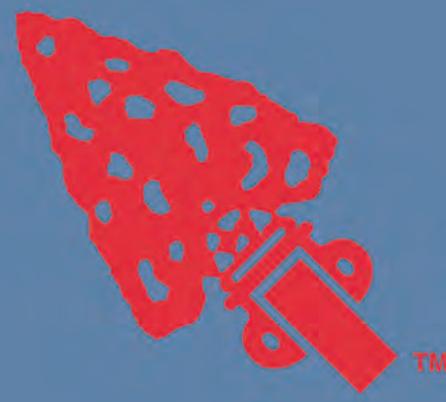


The Order of the Arrow plays a vital role in the Scouting program, fostering year-round camping and contributing to both scouting and the community through service.

At summer camp, the OA offers a chance for troops to conduct their annual elections. Various activities such as OA swims, group service projects, and more are planned. Don't forget to extend invitations to friends and family for our weekly callout ceremony, held every Thursday during each session.

If you're an OA Member, remember to sign the roll book during check-in and volunteer for these events. Utilize these service opportunities to showcase the benefits, camaraderie, and fun of being part of OA to your unit, especially to the younger Scouts.

Further details will be provided by the OA Coordinator during check-in.



CAMP COMMISSIONER CORPS

Your ultimate guide



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER CAMP COMMISSIONER CORPS!

Throughout the summer season, a dedicated team of Volunteer Camp Commissioners will collaborate with the staff to ensure that packs and troops enjoy a successful camp experience.

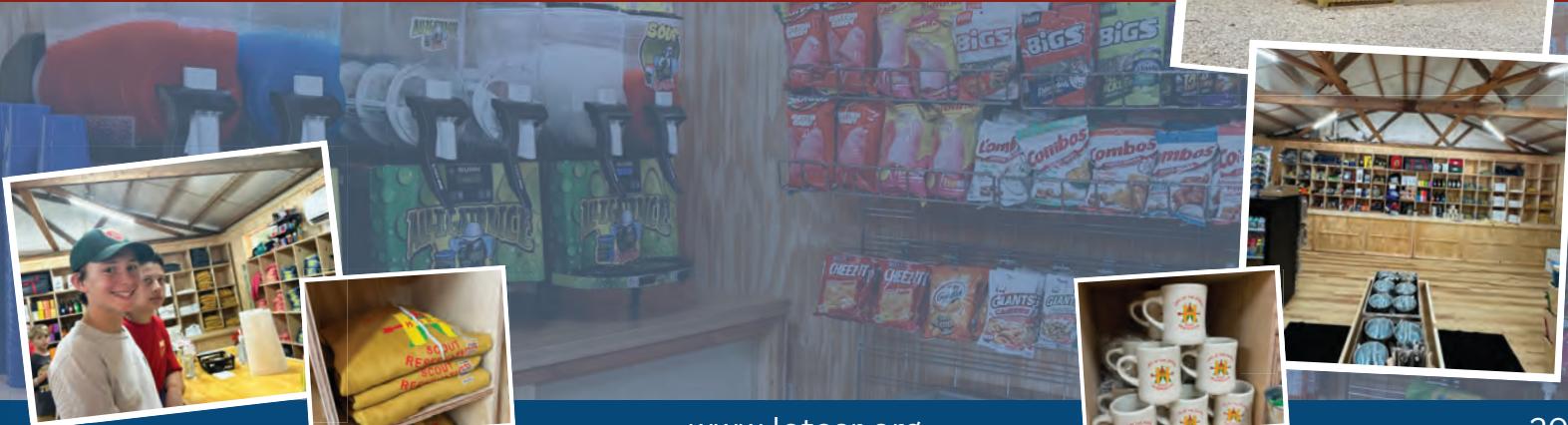
These commissioners will closely partner with the camp staff, performing tasks such as daily inspections of troop campsites and facilitating Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Additionally, they may take on various unit-service and program support responsibilities, such as aiding in leader training, offering instructional support to program staff, or assisting with off-site excursions.



Members of the Volunteer Camp Commissioner Corps can attend camp at no cost. If you're interested, submit a volunteer commissioner corp application during registration.

LEE WHITE TRADING POST

Your go-to stop for essentials and camp souvenirs



SUMMER CAMP STAFF



APPLY
NOW!



Are you tired of doing the same old routine? Being a part of the Camp Staff isn't just another summer job. We work with Scouts of all ages to not just teach outdoor skills and merit badges, but to change lives. Plus, you get to make lifelong friends, spend the summer in the great outdoors, have an experience that will set you apart from others in future jobs, and have a ton of FUN! Camp Staff offers positions for everyone such as target & range sports, climbing, lifeguards, blacksmithing, and more.

Staff members must be at least 15 years old by June 1st. Many positions require 18+ or 21+ directors, so you're never too old to be on Camp Staff! Compensation includes housing, meals, salary and training.

Questions? Please contact either the Great Rivers Council 573-449-2561 or Dennis Kerns - dennis.kerns@scouting.org, 660-221-0443.

CONTACT REGISTRATION

Your ultimate guide



CONTACT US!

Need more information? Have questions?
Contact us at the information to the right.
We are happy to answer any questions.

Address: 525 Camp Hohn Drive
Gravois Mills, MO 65037

Phone: 573-374-5761

Website: www.lotosr.org

Camp Director: Dennis Kerns
Email: dennis.kerns@scouting.org

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

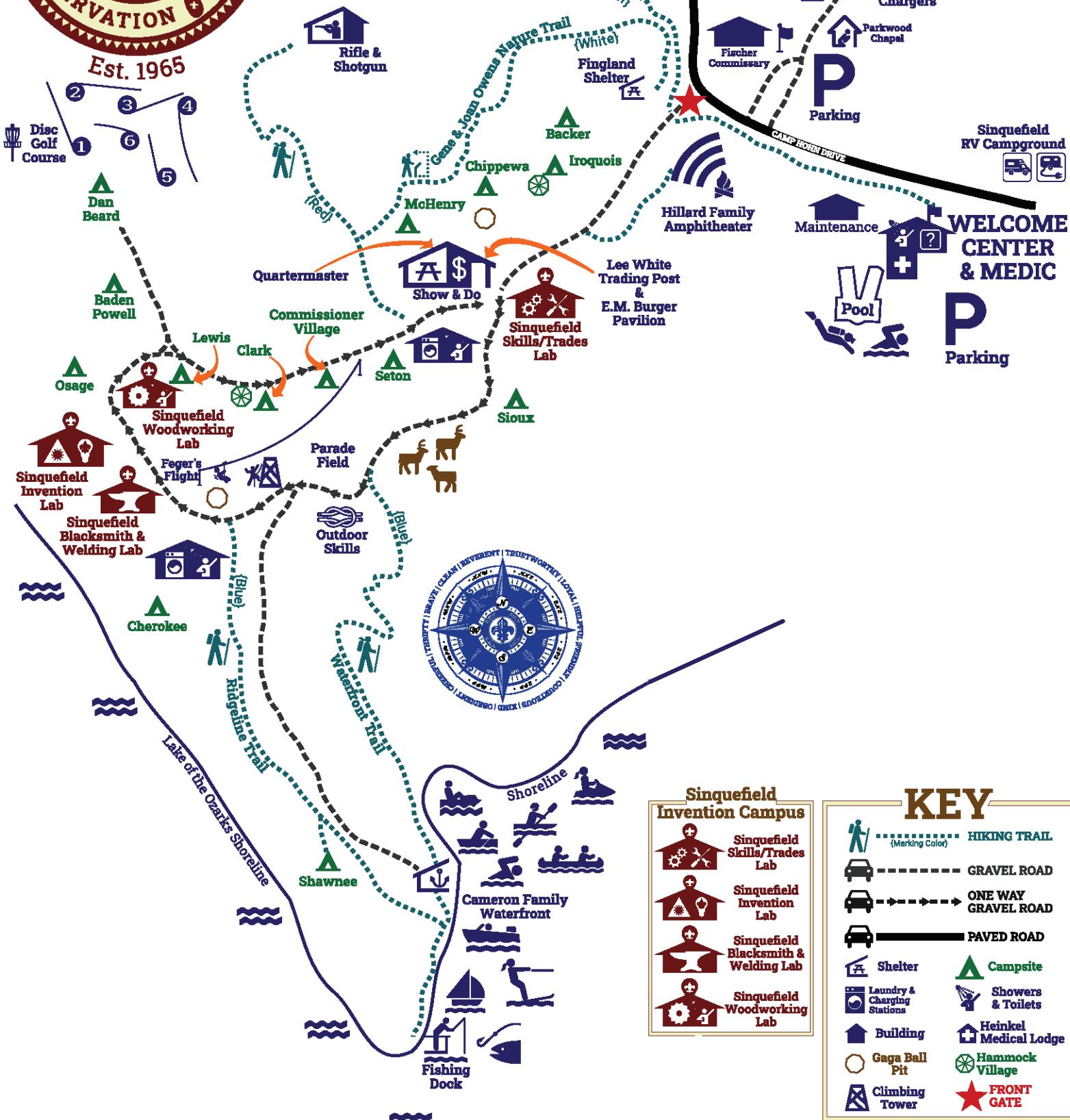
Reserve your spot at camp today! Don't know exact numbers? No problem! All you need is a unit deposit to lock-in your spot for Summer Camp. Visit www.lotosr.org to learn more!



VIRTUAL CAMP TOUR

Take a virtual 3D tour of the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation! Experience the camp's beauty and innovation from home as you explore highlights like the skills trades Lab, aquatics, trading post, welcome center, shooting sports, and blacksmithing. Step inside cutting-edge facilities featuring woodworking, 3D printers, and CNC routers. Discover the only Scout camp where ideas go from concept to creation—and start your adventure today!







525 Camp Hohn Drive
Gravois Mills, MO 65037



573-374-5761



www.lotosr.org

