

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PART 1



PALO PINTO, TEXAS, USA



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Hammer Patrol – First Year Advancement Program

Although the Hammer Patrol has been a tradition at Worth Ranch, you have not seen it like this. An immersive program designed to model a Troop in Camp – your Scouts will assign patrols, elect leadership, and do activities as a group. These activities include daily time for Merit Badges, Rank Advancement, Conservation, and Camp Exploration!

Designed to assist your Scout along the trail to First Class, we have plenty of requirements for ranks and your Scouts will complete the Painting and Public Speaking merit badges, along with a partial in Fire Safety. We encourage adult leaders to volunteer to help in this program. Your experience in Scouting and life will help the new Scouts in the Hammer Patrol Program to have a great camp experience and start their adventure in Scouting.

Please contact the Program Director if you are interested in helping. The first-year program will also go on an overnighter on Wednesday night, which is a wonderful way for them to try out their new skills and get away for the night!

Medications - Arrangements must be made with the Hammer Patrol Director for any medication that must be administered by an adult.

What Not to Bring - While it is important that everything on this list is brought, it is equally important that scouts are not burdened with extras that cause distraction and/or burden. For example: electronics or a king-size pillow.

Hammer Patrol Equipment Check List

- Every Day Items
 - Water Bottle
 - Pencil and Notepad
 - Scout Handbook
 - Proper Socks and Shoes
 - Flashlight

- Overnighter Items
 - Small Tarp or backpacking tent
 - Water Bottle
 - Backpack
 - Ground Cloth or Pad
 - Sleeping Bag
 - Proper Socks and Shoes
 - Homemade First Aid Kit



Sledgehammer Program- Older Scout Program

The Sledgehammer Patrol is Worth Ranch's newest program. This program is directed towards Older Scouts who wish to have more adventure with Summer Camp while still being able to camp with their troop. Taking place only in the afternoon merit badge time, this program goes all around camp while also giving Scouts time to take merit badge classes or earn awards in the morning. Throughout the week Scouts will enjoy climbing, the snow sports area, a canoe trip, and day trip to our Council's sister camp Sid Richardson, where Scouts will be able to learn how to sail. Scouts will also do conservation work that can be used in older scout rank advancement.

To be a part of this program you must be 14 years or older. Scouts are recommended to be a Swimmer to be able to participate in all activities that happen within the program. Swimsuits and closed-toed shoes are required to participate in the canoe trip and sailing at Sid.

Advancement Program

Merit Badge Instruction Policy:

Many merit badges cannot be completed in the hours set up for them during camp to ensure a thorough understanding of the material. Worth Ranch Staff are diligent instructors and provide meaningful learning and exploration experience for youth. Leaders and parents will find that there may be a few assignments after the summer experience is over to complete partial merit badge coursework. Also, it is important that the youth, the leaders, and parents understand what the Scout has registered for as there may be pre-requisite work that should be completed. This is quite common. For those programs that are too comprehensive to warrant a completion at all, you will find those programs labeled as "Elements of (name of merit badge.)" The camp advancement program is for the exploration of interests and hobbies and completion of every merit badge is neither inferred nor implied.

Out-of-Camp Merit Badge Work

Longhorn Council will only certify work completed during the Scouts' stay at Worth Ranch. If the Scout has completed a prerequisite for the merit badge prior to arrival, it is the scout's responsibility to provide the completed documents (essays, reports, etc.) or other proof (pictures, etc.) to the merit badge counselor.

Merit Badge Standards

Each Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated in the most current edition of merit badge requirements: no more and no less! If it says to "show," "list," "make," "in the field," etc. that is what is necessary. If you become aware of any standards not being met, please let the Program Director or Camp Director know as soon as possible. Some merit badge requirements must be completed before or after camp with an approved merit badge counselor in the Scout's district.

Online Merit Badge Registration System

Online Merit Badge registration will begin April 29, 2025. Only those fully paid for camp will be able to utilize the Online Merit Badge system. Instructions for using the system will be sent to Scout leaders in March and posted on the council website.

4 Day Merit Badge Schedule

The New Worth Ranch Merit Badge Schedule is designed to fit into 4 days starting with Monday and ending on Thursday of the program week. Most merit badge instruction is during scheduled times; some classes with bigger merit badges will continue class on Friday. Friday will be mostly unscheduled and reserved as a day for Scouts to make up any missed sessions or complete their unfinished requirements. For Friday afternoon, we have given your unit the freedom to sign up to participate in a camp-wide event in the afternoon before the campfire or take Friday to relax and pack up. We will also be offering small merit badges around camp.

Brazos River Canoe Trek

The Brazos River Canoe Trek (BRCT) offers Scouts an immersive five-day backcountry canoeing experience along one of Texas' most historic waterways, with both 50-mile and 70-mile itinerary options available. Beginning just below Possum Kingdom Lake, participants paddle through dramatic canyon scenery, quiet bends, and open stretches of river while building teamwork and outdoor skills. Inspired by the journey described in *Goodbye to a River*, the trek combines adventure, personal growth, and an appreciation for the Brazos River's natural beauty and cultural history.

On both itineraries, Scouts work toward requirements for the Canoeing, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Astronomy Merit Badges. Days are spent practicing paddling techniques, casting from gravel bars, identifying fish species, and learning angling skills, while evenings feature campfires, fresh-caught meals, and stargazing under dark Texas skies. Along the way, participants also explore the region's heritage, discussing Native peoples, early settlers, and the river's role in shaping travel and life across the landscape.

The 50-mile trek concludes with a hike to the top of Kyle Mountain to complete the 50-Miler Award, offering panoramic views of the river traveled, while the 70-mile option emphasizes endurance and self-reliance through extended mileage, backcountry water purification, and a final approach to Highway 281 marking the journey's completion. Regardless of distance, Scouts finish the BRCT with strengthened outdoor skills, merit badge progress, and lasting memories of a challenging and meaningful river expedition. To learn more and to register for the Brazos River Canoe Trek:

<https://scoutingevent.com/662-BRCT2026>