

Rainbow Council Jamboree 2026 Participant Guide

Rainbow Council is excited to announce our plans to attend the 2026 Scouting America Jamboree, at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Glen Jean, WV from July 22, 2026 – July 31, 2026.

Registration for the Rainbow Council contingent to the 2026 Scouting America Jamboree, will open on December 18, 2024.

Rainbow Council is projecting to have a contingent consisting of:

- One, 40 Person Boy's Scouting Troop (36 Youth and 4 Adults)
- One, 20 Person Girl's Scouting Troop (18 Youth, and 2 Adults)
- One, 20 Person Venturing Crew (18 Youth, 2 Adults).

For a Scouting Troop:

Youth must be between the ages of 12 and 17, on July 22, 2026.

Youth can turn 18 between July 23, 2026, and July 31, 2026.

For Venturing Crew:

Youth must be between the ages of 14 and 20, on July 22, 2026.

Youth can turn 21 between July 23, 2026, and July 31, 2026.

Adult volunteers attending with the youth, will be selected by end of January 2025.

The contingent travel dates will be set by June 2025, based on the contingents' choices regarding activities before and/or after the scheduled Jamboree dates. Expectations are that departure could be as early as July 20, 2026, and return as late as August 2, 2026.

Total Estimate Cost for Participants and Adult volunteers is budgeted for \$2700. By August 2025, we will update and finalize when we have confirmed transportation costs. All efforts will be made to keep the cost to attend the Jamboree at \$2700.

Participants are required to be in good registration standing according to policy set forth by National Boy Scouts of America and Rainbow Council. Rainbow Council's rules and guidelines for the 2026 National Jamboree have been setup in accordance with material provided by the 2026 National Jamboree planning committee. Additional rules and guidelines and details may be available and updated at <http://jamboree.scouting.org>

All Participants are to be in accordance with the current BSA Annual Health and Medical Records and Youth Protection Training requirements.

Deposit and Payment Schedule for 2026 Jamboree

1. Deposit

- Youth Participants: \$350 Registration and Deposit
- Adult Volunteers: A deposit of \$350 will be required after the council selects the adult volunteer contingent, which will occur by late January 2025. More details regarding adult volunteer selection are available in the Adult Volunteer section.

A participant's agreement is currently being defined and will be available by February 2025. It will contain full payment details, refund, and replacement policies. All participants that have submitted a deposit prior will be given an opportunity to accept the policy or receive a refund of their deposit and drop from the contingent.

After acceptance the \$350 deposit will become non-refundable.

All further descriptions in this document, referencing non-refundable deposit are in reference to post this agreement acceptance.

2. Importance of Early Registration

Early registration and deposit payments are essential to the financial success of the Rainbow Council contingent. These early deposits will help demonstrate our commitment to National BSA regarding expected attendance. In early February 2025, the Rainbow Council Key 3 and Contingent Lead will review participation levels and make the final decision on the size of the contingent.

If the minimum number of participants is not met, Rainbow Council will reduce the size of the contingent accordingly. In such cases, affected Scouts and adult volunteers will be provided with alternative options, and if necessary, deposits will be refunded. This is the only circumstance under which deposits will be refunded.

3. Registration Deadline

It is critical for anyone interested in attending the 2026 Jamboree with Rainbow Council to complete their registration and submit the deposit by February 28, 2025.

4. Payment Schedule

After the initial \$350 deposit, participants will have the opportunity to make additional payments toward the total balance due. Payments will be scheduled with 7 balance due checkpoints between February 2025 and February 2026. The payment schedule is as follows:

- Monthly Payments Recommended: \$175 per month, between February 2025 and February 2026.
- Final Payment: A final payment of \$75 will be due in March 2026.

Minimal Balance Due at checkpoints:

March 31, 2025:	\$700	Sept 30, 2025:	\$1750	Mar 31, 2026: \$2700
May 31, 2025:	\$1050	Nov 30, 2025:	\$2100	
July 31, 2025:	\$1400	Jan 31, 2026:	\$2450	

If a participant signs up after February 2025, with their \$350 deposit, they will have 30 days to catch up to the minimum balance due.

Budget and What is Provided

Our current budget of \$2700 will afford the participants an amazing experience for the 2026 National Jamboree.

What will be provided:

Participation in the 2026 National Jamboree. Jamboree will be providing a National Jamboree Neckerchief, Day Pack, and participants patch, amongst other TBA items.

Transportation TO and FROM the 2026 Jamboree, including transportation to any pre/post activities decided on by the contingent.

Uniform COMPONENTS: We will NOT be requiring the purchase of a new scout shirt; however, we will be providing Jamboree Troop Patch, Jamboree Council Patch, and Council Jamboree Neckerchief. A discount will be available if any would like to purchase a NEW uniform shirt and additional uniform patches, as an optional add-on.

Gear Duffle Bag: Embroider with Council, Jamboree Troop and Participant name. This gear bag will be used to transport all personal gear to and from the jamboree.

Tent: Councils must provide their own tents for the Jamboree. Council will guarantee that youth participants will have a tent, that will be shared with 1 additional person. Adult volunteers will NOT have to share a tent. Budget covers the cost of the tents, as we seek to secure a donation or fundraising to eliminate the individual cost for tents.

Swag: 3 Activity Shirts that will be colored and themed according to the contingent theme (chosen by the scouts). Options will be available to upgrade to long sleeve and dry-fit material, and extended sizes. A contingent themed hat will also be made available.

Trading Patch Sets: 3 total patch sets will be provided. 1 Contingent Only set, 1 Contingent Trader, and 1 Basic Trader. See Patch Trading for more details.

Shakedown campouts: 2 Shakedown Campouts (see Shakedown campout for more details).

A Pre / Post Event outside of the Jamboree: Over the many Jamborees that Rainbow Council has attended, it has been customary for a side trip to be done in conjunction with the trip to the Jamboree. This trip will be decided upon by the contingent in early 2025. The decision on what to do, or to do nothing, will impact the final cost of the event. Currently the budget contains \$200 towards a pre/post activity.

The budget also includes costs to cover contingent level costs:

- Meeting space rental costs
- Council expenses
- Contingent / Troop Flags

An opportunity to purchase OPTIONAL swag will be made available at several points during the planning and preparation for the 2026 Jamboree:

- Contingent Themed Nalgene type water bottle
- Contingent Themed Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Shirts, Polos and Shirts
- Contingent Themed Towel, Small Bags, Additional Hats
- Contingent Name Tags for gear, uniforms, and other items
- And much, much more.

A full estimate budget and breakdown of costs will be available for review and will be discussed at a scheduled parents meeting in early 2025. We have based our budget on actual costs from the 2023 Jamboree, extensive experience in High Adventure planning and costs, and early estimated quotes for Transportation.

The budget also includes a 2% council administrative cost and 2% contingency fee.

Actual costs, as they are known, will be applied to the budget as we work towards a final cost number. If the estimated total amount due exceed our estimate plan plus contingency we will re-calculate total budget amount prior to March 2026 final payment date.

By October 31, 2026, an account of all costs for the Jamboree will be finalized and published for review. If actual costs vs collected exceeds \$35 dollars per person; refunds to participants will be made. If actual costs vs collected are less than \$35 per person, funds will remain with the council and applied to a future event.

Refund Policy

Final adjustments will be provided in February 2025, Participants agreement document.

The below is subject to change and is being provided to explain the expected refund policy.

Due to the unique nature and extended planning period for this Jamboree, Rainbow Council has established a specific refund policy that may differ from other council-wide policies. This policy is subject to change with advanced notice, and participants are encouraged to review it regularly.

1. Planning and Vendor Commitments

The nearly two-year planning timeline for this event involves advance payments to National BSA and several third-party vendors. These payments may be binding and non-refundable. Rainbow Council is working diligently to make informed decisions to secure the best value and services, balancing both current needs and potential uncertainties.

2. Non-Refundable Amount

At various stages in the planning process, additional funds paid by participants will become non-refundable, beyond the initial deposit. The non-refundable amount is calculated as the deposit plus a percentage of the minimum remaining balance due at the time of cancellation notification.

3. Written Cancellation

To request a refund, cancellations must be submitted in writing. Once received, the refund will be processed according to the terms outlined above. Participants are encouraged to notify the council as soon as possible to understand any financial impacts associated with cancellation.

\$350 Deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE

Time Period of Cancel	Percentage	\$ NON-REFUNDABLE
November 2024 – June 30, 2025:	100%	\$350
July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025:	70%	\$665
Sept 1, 2025 – Oct 31, 2025:	60%	\$910
Nov 1, 2025 – Nov 30, 2025:	60%	\$1050
Dec 1, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025:	50%	\$1225
Jan 1, 2026 – Jan 31, 2026:	50%	\$1400
Feb 1, 2026 – Feb 28, 2026:	25%	\$1925
Mar 1, 2026 – Mar 31, 2026:	25%	\$2038
After April 1, 2026:	0%	\$2700

Replacement Participant Policy

Final policy will be provided in February 2025, Participants agreement document.

The below is subject to change and is being provided to explain the expected replacement participant policy.

In the event a participant can no longer attend the Jamboree, a replacement participant may take their slot, if available.

The Rainbow Council will maintain a waiting list for participants and adult volunteers who commit to attending the Jamboree once our contingent reaches capacity. Those on the waiting list will have priority as replacements.

If a replacement participant is found:

1. **Deposit:** The replacement participant must submit a \$350 deposit within 7 days of notification. If the deposit is not received, the next replacement on the waiting list will be notified.
2. **Payment Rules:** Upon submitting the deposit, the replacement participant will be subject to the same payment rules and deadlines as the original participant, including the requirement to meet minimum payment obligations within 30 days.
3. **Refund to Original Participant:**
 - The original participant will receive a refund only after the replacement participant has made their minimum payment.
 - The refund may be adjusted for any customized items (e.g., embroidered items, specific shirt sizes) and any late/rush fees incurred for placing orders for the replacement participant.
 - If any Shakedown campouts have occurred, the cost of attending the campout will be deducted from the refund.

If no replacement can be found:

- Refunds will be processed according to the Refund Policy.

Optional Items:

- Refunds will not be issued for optional items (such as additional shirts, patch sets, water bottles, etc.) if the order has already been submitted to the vendor and cannot be changed.

Shakedown Campouts

Shakedown Campouts are a critical part of our contingent's preparation for the Jamboree. The budget covers two Shakedown Campouts prior to the 2026 Jamboree.

Campout Dates & Locations:

- Dates and locations will be announced at least 6 months in advance.
- The first campout is targeted for Late Summer or Fall 2025, and the second campout will take place in Spring 2026.

Campout Duration:

Each campout will be at least one night but may extend up to two nights. Final details will be provided once dates are confirmed.

Scheduling Flexibility:

While we will aim to select dates with minimal conflicts, it is not possible to find a date that works perfectly for everyone.

Refund Policy for Campouts:

Costs for the Shakedown Campouts are non-refundable if a participant is unable to attend the scheduled weekend.

Contingent Theme / Patch and Swag Trading

For the 2023 Jamboree, the youth designed and came up with Rainbow Council's contingent theme: "Scouting Things". A series of patch sets and swag were designed and brought to the Jamboree to identify our contingent and to participate in the excitement of item trading.

Patch and Swag trading is one of the most exciting and participated activities at the National Jamboree. Trading is an optional event; however, it is highly encouraged to be prepared to participate.

The contingent theme will be designed and iterated on by the youth participants. Rainbow Council's Key 3 will have final approval of the theme and all patch designs.

Contingent Activity Shirts and Neckerchief will be customized to match the contingent theme. Opportunities will be made available to purchase additional shirts, neckerchiefs, and a list of Optional swag items for both personal and trading opportunities.

As with anything, there is a risk with purchase items just for trade. We will have a sense of how well the youth designed theme will react as we participate in pre-Jamboree pre-sales and trading activities. With that risk parents and scouts need to evaluate the cost to purchase items to trade or bring to the Jamboree.

Include in the registration fee:

- 3 Activity Shirts
- 1 Neckerchief
- 3 Patch Sets

Rainbow Council is expecting to have 4 different variations of patch sets (based on 2023 success): FUNDRAISER, COUNCIL EXCLUSIVE, CONTINGENT TRADER, BASIC TRADER. These sets will be identical, except for the border and limits on production.

FUNDRAISER SET:

- Sold online and available to anyone to purchase
- Price is at an elevated price, 2023 price was \$100
- Communicated as a limited-edition FUNDRAISING set
- Production limited and communicated. 2023 was 50 sets

COUNCIL EXCLUSIVE:

- 1 Set Included in Rainbow Council Contingent Fee, no option to purchase more.
- Available to NJT Volunteers from Rainbow Council, Limit of 1
- Price is set near actual cost: 2023 price was \$30
- Communicated as a Keep Sake, not intended for trading (but not forbidden)

- Production limited to amount needed, rounded up to production increment.

CONTINGENT TRADER

- Only sold to Rainbow Council Contingent and NJT Volunteers
- Price is set near actual cost: 2023 price was \$30
- Communicated as an available trader with Rainbow Council contingent members.
- Production will not be limited, ordered to pre-order amount rounded up to production increments

BASIC TRADER

- Sold online and available to anyone to purchase
- Price for contingent will be near actual cost: 2023 price was \$30
- Price for online sales will be \$10-15 over actual cost: 2023 price was \$50
- Communicated as the public available set
- Production will not be limited, ordered to pre-order amount rounded up to production increments

An additional patch will be available for Order of the Arrow members. A Waupecan 197 lodge flap will be designed to combine the themes of Waupecan lodge and the Contingent Theme. The flap will be made available ONLY to lodge members in good standing, at cost (approx. \$5-10 each).

Two variations of the flap will be made available with different borders. One border will be limited to 1 per eligible person, the other will not be limited and ordered based on pre-order demand.

A "dangle" patch will optionally be designed for the contingent, or the individual units within the contingent. The desire and choice to create this "dangle" patch will be made by the scouts. Typical cost for a dangle patch is between \$5 and \$10.

Note: A dedicated meeting will be held for the contingent to learn about Patch/Swag Trading at the Jamboree. We will cover topics regarding safety, value, and avoiding theft.

Adult Opportunities

Adults have multiple opportunities to participate in the planning and delivering this amazing event for the youth of our council.

There are three categories of Adult opportunities:

Contingent Adult Participant

These adults will be part of the contingent and the individual units. They will serve the roles of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster in troops, and Crew Advisor and Assistant Crew Advisor in the Crew.

With our current plan we need 8 Adults to be part of the contingent. All interested Adults will be submitting their interest via an online form (see Council website for link). Interviews and Evaluation will be conducted in Early 2025, by persons appointed by the Rainbow Council Key 3. Rainbow Council's Key 3 will make the final decisions on Adult Contingent participants and roles.

Selection of the Adult participants and their positions is expected to be announced by early February 2025.

These adult participants are subject to the same fee and refund schedule defined earlier in this guide.

These selected adults will then function alongside youth selected leadership to function as a BSA Unit. Prepare, Train, Guide and help with any situations that arise.

Contingent Support Volunteer

These adults can serve in a formal role or in a general support fashion, like that of a unit committee. These positions do NOT require any payment or deposit but will have the ability to buy specific branded swag at the same price as the contingent.

The contingent lead (as designated by the Scout Executive of Rainbow Council) will serve as the equivalent of the Committee Chair. The contingent lead is responsible for assigning the below positions, with guidance from the council Key 3.

Identified sub-committees and positions are needed:

- Treasurer: This person will work with Rainbow Council finance team members to track all money in and out. Responsible for reminding participants of balances due. Also, they will be responsible for assisting

other contingent adults to document purchase and appropriate reimbursement submissions to council.

- Transportation: This person will work to find and confirm a travel vendor. Coordinate payment to vendor for deposit and final payments. Also to coordinate pickup in Illinois, travel plan to and from the Jamboree, and return trip coordination and confirmation.
- Swag: This person will work with one or more vendors to price, obtain, and coordinate included and optional swag.
- Patch: Sub-Committee: A lead and additional volunteers focused 100% on patches. Coordinate with youth on designing both the contingent patch design and order of the arrow design, as well as any dangle patches. Will work with council selected patch vendor to finalize designs. Conduct a pre-order sale to contingent and the internet (orders via council website). Fulfillment of pre-sale orders (mailing and local delivery).
- Medical: This person will be responsible for following up with all participants to ensure all medical forms are up to date and submitted on time, and proper copies are made available to Scoutmasters.
- Fundraising / Donations: Sub-Committee: Identify opportunities for contingent and individual fundraising. Organize and run those fundraisers and coordinate with Treasurer on results.

Other one-off opportunities will be available for Adult/Parent assistance as the planning timeline continues.

National Jamboree Team

This is the National level volunteer opportunity to assist with the Jamboree. These volunteers are not directly part of the Rainbow Council contingent. They will volunteer and pay National BSA directly for their registration at the Jamboree. The cost, payment schedule, and other details can be found at <http://jamboree.scouting.org>.

It is estimated that over 5,000 Adult volunteers are needed on the NJT. If you are not selected to be one of the council contingent adults, please consider volunteering 1 or 2 weeks of time at the National Jamboree.

Rainbow Council will provide adults registered in Rainbow Council who serve on the NJT in any capacity an opportunity to purchase the exclusive Rainbow Council swag and patch sets at the same cost as other contingent members.