



## 2026 OVERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT CONTINUOUS CAMPFIRE- CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

February 5 - 8, 2026

### HONORING 250 YEARS OF OUR NATION!

- Abingdon Muster Grounds
- February 5 - 8, 2026
- Opening Ceremony  
Opening Ceremony is at 7:00 PM Thursday
- Scout Sunday interfaith Worship service at 9:30 AM



#### DROP OFF CENTER

The Scout Oath includes a promise to help other people at all times. Scouts live that promise every day, and we are proud to work with our neighbors to reduce hunger in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

#### FLAG RETIREMENTS

The Scout Oath includes a promise to do duty to Country. Respect for our nation's symbols are an integral part of being a reverent, responsible Scout; thus we have specific rules for the appropriate retirement of the United States flag.

#### MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITIES

The Scout Oath includes a being mentally awake. That means learning new things, keep your surroundings in mind and to be an active and engaged citizen, it's vital that you help those in need and help to shape a better future. New this year, we are excited to offer several Eagle and history appropriate merit badges throughout the event.

#### SCOUT SUNDAY

The Scout Oath includes a promise to do duty to God. A Scout is reverent. A Scout is faithful in their religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. This year the Continuous Campfire will conclude with a Youth Led interfaith worship service.

Continuous Campfire Informational Bulletin  
Overmountain District  
Campfire No. 50 (2026)

Continuous Campfire is open to all Overmountain District Packs, Troops, and Crews. This is a four day long event that includes, both an opening and closing ceremony. This year will include Merit Badge, historic preservation, and camping opportunities. All scouts and leaders are invited to attend.

Continuous Campfire celebrates Scouting's anniversary. This year, 2026, is our 116<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Opening Ceremony is at sunset, 7:00 PM Thursday, February 5, 2026. Campfire will last until noon on February 8, 2026 with an interfaith worship service at 9:30 AM.

Continuous Campfire is held at the Abingdon Muster Grounds, in Abingdon Virginia, especially in honor of our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Abingdon Muster Grounds is a part of the Overmountain Victory Trail and an important part of our nation's history.

#### Unit Requirements

Units that are participating in Continuous Campfire must provide:

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1. Honor Guard Consisting of a Patrol Leader and two Flag bearers.
2. Firewood- Logs only 8" in diameter x 36" long MAX. Larger pieces should be split. (No wood with nails. Firewood should be local.)
3. Standard size American and troop flags. (Standard staff 8' length)
4. Adult unit coordinator to act as focal point for related activities.
5. Bring a roll of toilet paper and extra trash bags.
6. Flags:
  - A. Only cotton flags should be burned. Synthetic materials and cloths should be treated as toxic materials or toxic waste and NOT to be burned. The procedure for synthetic materials to retire these flags is to cut the flag in quarters, the field of stars remains in one piece. Cut along the stitch lines for the stripes, and then place in a bag. These will be disposed of on a later date by Crew 1780.
  - B. Since it is disrespectful to the American Flag to allow any part of the flag to touch earth, there are three methods of burning the flag:
    - a. Using a metal flag burning grate.
    - b. Using a burn barrel (provided on site)
    - c. Placing the flag on top of the fire, ensuring that NO PART OF THE FLAG TOUCHES EARTH ONLY THE FLAMING FIRE.

7. Wood:

A. Wood should be VINE FREE, METAL FREE, 8 inches in diameter or less and no longer than 36 inches in length. Wood greater than 8 inches in diameter or longer than 36 inches, should be split or cut to meet these requirements. There will be a proper ax yard on-site

B. Any use of splitting or cutting materials, such as a mechanical splitter, maul or sledgehammer, wedges, chainsaw, etc., SHALL BE DONE ONLY BY THE ADULT LEADERS IN A DESIGNATED SAFE AREA LIKE AN AX YARD.

C. Building lumber may be burnt ONLY IF IT IS NOT TREATED LUMBER. Treated lumber, when burnt, gives off toxic fumes such as arsenic and other toxins. Adult Leaders shall, when in doubt, DO NOT BURN.

8. The Continuous Campfire is an outdoor event and Units are responsible for ensuring that each Scout and Adult Leader is prepared for cold, wet weather.

Patches: Overmountain Continuous Campfire patches are \$6.00. Attendance Schedule will be available at campfire. Please fill one out with the number of patches you need for your unit.

Registration: Please register online and pick a time slot. Troop/Crew slots are 12 hours (6pm to 6am • 6am to 6pm • 6pm to 6am • 6am to 6pm etc...). Weekday slots can be adjusted as required. Packs can choose 1-hour slots and are welcome!

If you have difficulty with this process or would like to register verbally, please contact Joe Branham at [jbranham@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranham@hotmail.com) or 276-525-5451 or Beth Stockner by text at 276-608-8224.

Campfire Vigil Duty Form will be available at Campfire. Please fill one out so we know how many for each unit is in attendance for each time slot for award and patch purposes.

**New Activities: Members of the Sons of the Revolution, Daughters of the Revolution, and Crew 1780, as well as registered MBC will be on-site throughout the event to work on Merit Badges, educational opportunities and other activities. A full list of opportunities will be provided to unit leaders prior to the event. All scouts are welcomed to sign up for these events even if it is not part of their campfire shift.**

At other times Units must plan their own activities for the shifts that they have signed up for. Consider some of these activities during your unit's shift

1. Hold unit meetings
2. Prepare meals
3. Provide Coffee or Hot Chocolate for Visitors
4. Demonstrate scouting skills to spectators (knots, lashing, first aid)
5. Anything else you can think of within scouting standards

Polar Bear awards will be awarded to the troop or troops that attend on the day and night of the lowest recorded temperature if they stay for their entire 12 hour shifts.

Abingdon Muster Grounds is providing bathrooms. Joe Branham has provided cleaning supplies. Each unit is required to clean the bathrooms at the end of their shift in preparation for the next unit. Units are also asked to properly do a walkthrough and cleanup of the property prior to leaving. A member of the Muster Grounds staff will be on-site to oversee clean up and checkout procedures.

Remember that you represent Scouts while you are out there so, please act accordingly and in a way that reflects well on yourself and all of Scouting. The Scout Oath includes an oath to honor our country. The Abingdon Muster Grounds is an important revolutionary historic site and must be treated as such.

Do not enter any buildings or facilities that have not been clearly designated as available for the use of Scouts, including the Museum, House or any outbuildings. **Registered Adult Scout and Abingdon Muster Grounds Employee, Virginia Stockner will be on site at all times to answer questions about the facilities, talk about the history and to provide 24 hour access to both the male and female restrooms.** (Please note that while an adult, Ms. Stockner is a Venturing Crew Youth member and not able to provide 2 deep leadership for your unit.)

Continuous Campfire will be a drop off point this year for Scouting for Food.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Branham 276-525-5451.

#### Fire Plan

Fire Marshal Tim Estes Sr, has been contacted and is aware of our Continuous Campfire dates.

Fire Marshal Tim Estes Sr must be notified once we have the tent set up for inspection to ensure the tent is properly secured. The tent must be put up at least 10 feet away from the campfire location.

Abingdon Fire Department will also provide a fire extinguisher for Scouts to have on site at the Continuous Campfire.

**Two adult leaders** must be on site when Scouts are present. One adult must always have a working cell phone. In case of emergency the adult with cell phone will dial 911. Only adults are allowed to use fire extinguisher.

The Fire Marshal has provided us with his cell phone number if we have any concerns or need help.

Adult Leaders must be aware of current fire conditions, including high wind. Check at the beginning of each shift for any active burn ban. If a burn ban is in place, the Continuous Campfire must be put out unless permission is received from the Fire Marshal for the Continuous Campfire to continue.

Fire Marshal/Chief – Tim Estes Sr.

Phone:276-628-5563

## Scout Safety

- Two registered adult leaders must be present at the Continuous Campfire at all times during the Unit's shift.
- All BSA Youth Protection guidelines must be followed.
- In the event of injury to a Scout, adult leader, or spectator, the injury should be appropriately treated, including by calling 911 if warranted. Then, injuries should be reported to Joe Branham at 276-525-5451 so that BSA incident reporting guidelines can be followed.
- Units must implement the buddy system during their attendance at the Continuous Campfire.

## Fire Safety:

- No fires other than the Continuous Campfire and the cook fire that is provided are permitted.
- A scout or leader must be maintaining the fire at all times and to not leave it unattended. While there will be merit badge opportunities throughout the event, each unit must make sure proper fire safety and procedures are followed.
- No horseplay or roughhousing is permitted within the 15 foot radius of the Continuous Campfire.
- The Continuous Campfire must be located at least 15 feet from tents, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects. Check for low-hanging objects above the Continuous Campfire.
- Wood supplies, matches, lighters and other fire starters must be stored at least 15 feet from the Continuous Campfire.
- Only wood meeting the requirements of this Guide and cotton flags may be placed on the Continuous Campfire. No additives such as chemicals, accelerants, color changers, or products such as "Magical Flames" are permitted.
- At the end of the event, the Continuous Campfire must be properly extinguished. Adult Leaders should test ash for any sign of heat before considering the Continuous Campfire extinguished.
- A shovel/rake and water should be kept nearby the Continuous Campfire.

## Continuous Campfire

Opening Ceremony- Thursday February 5, 2026

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Ceremony Participants should plan to be on site by 6:45 PM sharp.

Flags required at opening ceremony Thursday, 2/5/26

1. Light fire at sunset- 7:00 pm
2. Drummers Commence (When available. Audio recording when not available)
3. Ceremony Participants Proceeds to Positions (Stand at parade rest) Participants
  - A. Flare Bearers
  - B. Main Flag Bearers
  - C. Drummers (When available. Audio recording when not available)
  - D. Bugler (When available. Audio recording when not available)
  - E. Minister
  - F. Speaker
  - G. Troop Flag Bearers
4. Drummers cease when everyone is in position.
5. Invocation- Minister
6. Bugler commences playing, "To the Colors" Scouts come to attention and salute as colors pass by.
7. Troop unit and American flag placed in pipe standards upon completion of "Call to Colors"
8. Add Ashes- Remains of last year's fire.
9. Fire Bearers light fire.
10. Ceremony Conclusion- A few words about Continuous Campfire.