

CHRISTMAS AT GRANDMA'S HOUSE

CAMP SOL MAYER 2026

Winter Camp Leader's Guide





WELCOME TO WINTER CAMP!

We are thrilled to welcome you and your units back to Camp Sol Mayer this December for Winter Camp 2026. There's no place quite like Sol Mayer during the holiday season, especially with this year's theme: Christmas at Grandma's House!

If you've ever spent the holidays at Grandma's house, you know the feeling: warmth, laughter, a little bit of chaos in the best way, and the sense that you're exactly where you belong. That's the spirit we're bringing to camp this year.

Of course, we haven't forgotten what makes winter camp great. We're bringing back all the program highlights you've come to expect, plus some new twists. Whether your Scouts are looking to knock out merit badges, take advantage of open program, or simply enjoy the adventure, there will be something for everyone. Advancement and skill-building are important, but they work best when Scouts are excited about what they're doing. We encourage you to let your Scouts take ownership of their schedule. The more they choose activities that spark their interest, the more they'll get out of camp!

Inside this guide, you'll find everything you need to know about merit badge offerings, program options, and camp logistics. We'll also cover updates at the pre-camp leaders' meetings. If you have questions before then, don't hesitate to reach out, our contact information is on the next page.

Thank you for being part of Winter Camp 2026. We can't wait to welcome you to Grandma's house!

Yours in Scouting,

Kevin Franke
Camp Director

Lorenzo Guerra
Business Manager

GENERAL INFORMATION

Camp Leadership

Camp Director

Kevin Franke

(202) 717-7441

Franke.Scouting@gmail.com

Business Manager

Lorenzo Guerra

(830) 422-1058

Lorenzo.Guerra@scouting.org

Office Hours



December 27th:

8:15 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

December 28th-30th:

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Physical Address



Camp Sol Mayer

299 Camp Sol Mayer Rd. Menard, TX 76859

Emergency Number



325-653-1390

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SCOUT PACKING LIST

Scout Uniform and Clothing

- Official Shirt •
- Official Shorts/Long Pants
- Scout Belt
- Scout Socks (4-5 Pair)
- Scout Hat (If Part of Troop Uniform)
- Camp or Troop T-Shirts
- Raincoat or Poncho
- Winter Coat
- Light Jacket
- Sleepwear
- Underwear (Enough for 4 Nights)
- Closed-Toe Shoes
- Blue Jeans (For Metalwork and Welding)

Necessary Equipment

- Bath Towel and Soap with Container
- Shower Shoes (Closed-Toe)
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Comb or Brush
- Drinking Cup
- Water Bottle
- Sleeping Bag
- Cot or Sleeping Pad
- Tent
- Flashlight (Extra Batteries)
- Religious Materials
- Scout Handbook
- Small Backpack (Book Bag)
- Notebook and Pencil or Pen
- Insect Repellant (Non-Aerosol)

- Hat or Cap
- Sunscreen
- Completed Parts A-C or Annual Health and Medical Record, Including Doctor's Signature
- Individual First Aid Kit

Optional Equipment

- Wristwatch
- Sunglasses
- Camp Chair
- Musical Instrument
- Sewing Kit
- Pocket Knife
- Binoculars
- Work Gloves
- Survival Kit (for Wilderness Survival Merit Badge)
- Fishing Pole and Tackle (License if 17 or Older)
- Spending Money (for Trading Post)
- Ear Plugs
- Camp Box or Locker with Lock
- Cell Phone, Other Electronic Devices

Do Not Bring

- Fireworks
- Firearms
- Valuables
- Alcohol or Drugs
- Sheath Knife
- Pets

UNIT PACKING LIST

Necessary Equipment

- US Flag
- Unit Flag
- Patrol Flag(s)
- Unit Library
- Unit First Aid Kit
- Rake • Shovel
- Broom
- Unit Bulletin Board
- Rope (For Camp Gadgets and Knot Instruction)
- Axe Yard Items (Hand Axe, Bow Saw, Sharpening Stone, Etc.)
- Secure (Lockable) Storage Bin
- Water Containers
- Drinking Cups
- Ice Chest
- Lanterns
- Trash Bags
- Binder with All Unit Medical Forms



Optional Equipment

- Chuck Box
- Dutch Oven(s)
- Charcoal
- Stove
- Supplies for Scoutmaster Cook-Off
- Troop Swag to Trade



PACKING NOTES

Hammocks

We do permit hammocks at camp. Mount them no higher than a scout is tall. Do not mount hammocks on top of each other. Hang them from trees only.



Cots and Tents

Camp Sol Mayer is not able to provide cots or tents, but we encourage you to bring your own.

Personal Possessions

Do not leave personal valuables (watches, wallets, and money) out in the open at camp. Bring nothing to camp that you cannot replace. It is impossible to provide security for these items. We recommend that each unit bring a lockable storage container to secure valuables while not in the campsite. The Texas Southwest Council is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken items.

Note for Troops

Campsites will have multiple units in them. We will do our best to fit units in sites appropriately, but it is a good practice for you to plan on an orderly campsite set-up (Jamboree-esque) to make room for other units.

Bicycles

We welcome anyone who would like to bring their bicycle to camp. Keep in mind that cyclists must follow all BSA policies while riding, which includes wearing a helmet and pads. We only allow bicycles after adults have removed all cars from the campsites. This is for the overall safety of our participants.

Our Technology Policy

Based upon an evident need of personal devices in some classes, the use of cell phones or other electronic devices is permitted at Camp. They must be used for instructional purposes during program. Individual instructors have discretion on technology use during classes.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Welcome to Camp Sol Mayer! Our staff are dedicated to providing the best program possible to supplement the year-round programs of each unit. Camp Sol Mayer has twelve different program areas, filled with a diverse merit badge selection and staffed by fellow Scouts and Scouters who are eager to help our youth on their Trail to Eagle. These program areas are:

- Ag. Mechanics
- Field Sports
- Scout Skills
- Cit/Com
- Handicrafts
- STEM
- Climbing
- Health Sciences
- Trade School
- Range and Target Activities
- Training

Registration

Registration for merit badge classes will go live on October 1, 2026, at 12:00 a.m. Registration will close on December 13th. We cannot facilitate exchanging participants after the last day of registration.

Camp Fees

- In-Council Youth: \$150.00
- Out-of-Council Youth: \$175.00
- In-Council Adult: \$90.00
- Out-of-Council Adult: \$115.00

Note on Merit Badge Fees

The camp will charge all fees for merit badges directly to the unit. Units can pay the fees when the unit registers for classes online or when the unit reconciles their account balance with the Camp Registrar. All your Scouts need to do is show up at their assigned class, and their supplies will be provided. For example, if you sign a Scout up for the Wood Carving merit badge, the camp will automatically charge your unit \$15.00 on the invoice, and the Scout will receive their merit badge kit from the instructor. The Trading Post will have kits available for purchase should a Scout want to do a project for fun, but they are not required to buy a kit from the Trading Post before class. All merit badge and class information is in the “Class Catalog” publication on our Blackpug registration portal.

PROGRAM UPDATES

The following schedule changes have enabled us to continue to operate as a Texas State Youth Camp while we complete some necessary property modifications to comply with the new Texas Department of State Health Services Policies.

Camp Operation Hours

Check-in will begin at 8:15PM on December 27th, followed by a leader's meeting at 9:45PM. Dinner will not be provided and there will be no opening campfire.

Camp will close at 10:00PM on December 30th following the campfire program. Campsite reservation forms will be available for units who wish to stay at camp overnight and depart on the 31st.

Meals

We have heard your feedback and extended mealtimes! The allotted time for both group A and group B will now be 45 minutes. The resulting schedule includes the following key changes:

Siesta | 4:00PM-5:30PM

There will be a 1 hour "Siesta" between Class Session 6 and Dinner A. The trading post, branding, and field games will be available. Additionally, the following events will now be offered during this time:

- Scoutmaster Cookout | 28th
- Scoutmaster Shootout | 29th
- Future Staff Meeting | 30th

Open program will not be offered during the Siesta.

Open Program

Open program will be each night from 7:00PM-10:00PM. It will include the ranges, climbing tower, and forge. We understand this reduces the amount of time open program is available, so we will not be offering branding during open program, and themed evening activities will run for shorter or flexible time frames to allow scouts as much time as possible.

CAMP SCHEDULE

Time	Mon. 12/28	Tue. 12/29	Wed. 12/30
6:30 AM	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille
6:45 AM	Breakfast A	Breakfast A	Breakfast A
7:30 AM	Flags	Flags	Flags
7:45 AM	Breakfast B	Breakfast B	Breakfast B
8:30 AM	Class Session 1	Class Session 1	Class Session 1
9:30 AM	Class Session 2	Class Session 2	Class Session 2
10:30 AM	Class Session 3	Class Session 3	Class Session 3
11:30 AM	Class Session 4	Class Session 4	Class Session 4
12:30 PM	Lunch A	Lunch A Adult Appreciation Lunch	Lunch A
1:15 PM	Lunch B	Lunch B	Lunch B
2:00 PM	Class Session 5	Class Session 5	Class Session 5
3:00 PM	Class Session 6	Class Session 6	Class Session 6
4:00 PM	Siesta	Siesta	Siesta
	Scoutmaster Cookout	Scoutmaster Shootout	Future Staff Meeting
5:45 PM	Dinner A	Dinner A	Dinner A
6:30 PM	Flags	Flags	Flags
6:45 PM	Dinner B	Dinner B	Dinner B
Evening Program	Open Program 7:00- 10:00 PM	Open Program 7:00 - 10:00 PM	Closing Campfire 7:00 PM
	Grandma's Movie Night 8:30 PM	Game Night 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Clean Up & Check Out
		OA Ice Cream Social 9:00 PM	
10:00 PM	Quiet Time	Quiet Time	Camp Closed
11:00 PM	Taps	Taps	

Please note that check in starts at 8:15 PM on the 27th followed by the first Leader's Meeting at 9:45 PM. The complete schedule can be downloaded as a PDF on the [Leader Resources](#) page. The PDF schedule includes the 27th.

WAHINKTO LODGE | OA AT CAMP

Our local Order of the Arrow lodge, Wahinkto, plays an integral role in the preparation and execution of our Winter Camp program. Therefore, multiple programs have been established to promote the Order of the Arrow program during camp. We encourage all Arrowmen to bring their sashes to camp!

Sunday 12/27

During Check-In, units should check with the OA Camp Chief and:

- Pay Wahinkto Lodge Dues
- Provide a list of names for Call-Out

Monday 12/28

- OA Unit Elections are available upon request. At least 50% of the unit must be present at camp for a Unit Election to be held.

Tuesday 12/29

- Wear your sashes!
- OA Ice Cream Social (9:00 - 10:00 p.m.)

Wednesday 12/30

- OA Call-Out at Closing Campfire

Out-of-Council Unit

If your home lodge is not Wahinkto Lodge (Texas Southwest Council), we may still host your call-out. We will need a letter/email from your Lodge Chief or Lodge Adviser permitting us to do so.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Trainings

Leaders may register for these trainings in our Blackpug registration portal:

- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)
- Cub Scout BB and Archery Instructor
- Angler Educator

Programs

All programs are first come first serve and free to participate in:

- Monday, 12/28 @ 4:00PM: Scoutmaster Cookoff
- Tuesday, 12/29 @ 12:30PM: Adult Appreciation Lunch
- Wednesday, 12/29: Scoutmaster Shootout

Scoutmaster Cookoff

Contestants are responsible for bringing their own ingredients and supplies. The Cookoff will be judged by our Camp Commissioner & Registrar on the front porch of the Admin Building. There will be three categories with one winner selected for each: appetizers & sides, entrees, and desserts. During scoring, please make sure to identify which category your dish should be judged in. Dishes will be judged on a scale of 1 to 5 for each of our selected standards. Points will be added for a total score out of 25 as shown in the rubric below:

Criteria	Description	Score (Circle One)
Time	Was it presented on time?	No: 0 Yes: 5
Taste	Is it delicious? Are the flavors well-balanced	1 2 3 4 5
Texture &	Is it cooked properly? Does it have a good	1 2 3 4 5
Presentation	Does it look appetizing? Is it arranged nicely?	1 2 3 4 5
Originality	Is there a creative twist? Does it stand out	1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL SCORE	(Total of the circled numbers)	/25

ARRIVAL

Check-In

Units should arrive between 8:15PM and 9:45PM on the 27th. If the unit has a special need and will not be arriving at camp during these times, notify the Camp Director at least one week in advance so an arrival time can be scheduled. Camp personnel cannot accommodate unscheduled early arrivals due to final preparations.

Upon arrival, a member of the staff will direct you to your campsite. A unit leader will need to take all of the required paperwork to the camp office to check in the unit, complete any outstanding paperwork, get the unit's meal assignment (A or B) and pick up wristbands for each camper. A form to stay overnight at camp from the 29th to the 30th will be available at check-in for units who wish to do so.

The following paperwork is required to check-in:

- Troop roster: A copy of your BSA-generated roster with the names of those youth and adults in attendance highlighted
- 1 copy of a severe weather hazard training certificate (at least one adult must have the training)
- Medical forms - Parts A-C - for each person (in alphabetical order by last name)
- For all adults, a copy of a valid Youth Protection certification. (Training valid for two years)
- For all adults, a completed Adult in-Camp Compliance Form
- All Non-Texas Southwest Council units will need to bring a copy of their local council insurance claim form.



ARRIVAL | PAPERWORK DETAILS

Troop Roster

To better serve your unit, we are asking that you bring a BSA-generated roster that indicates Scouts and leaders who will be camping with us during the week. You must list all adults and youth who will be spending at least one overnight on your BSA-generated roster. You can retrieve this roster from my.scouting.org. Simply log in to your <https://my.scouting.org/> account and find the “Member Manager” tab on the left-hand side. Find the roster information there under “Roster Details”. You can export certain roster information from there including a list of every Scout registered in your unit. From there we would ask that you highlight those in attendance for your winter camp adventure. Your local council service center or your district executive can also help you obtain a BSA-generated roster.

Weather Hazard Training

Available from <https://my.scouting.org/#>, each adult should take this course. We need at least one copy of a leader’s certificate.

Medical Forms

A copy of Parts A-C of the Annual Health and Medical Record is required for all Scouts and adult leaders attending camp. We will return all medical forms to the troop after the camp concludes. Many units put their forms in a loose leaf notebook for ease of handling and return. This is helpful to camp staff as well. Please bring forms in alphabetical order by last name. Find forms at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>.

Reconciling fees

During the check-in process you will either reconcile fees with the Camp Registrar or you will set an appointment with the Camp Director to reconcile your camp fees later. At either time the camp will collect any outstanding fees from the unit.



ARRIVAL

Campsites

Campsite assignments will be given when the troop checks in. Campsite assignments are not provided prior to check-in due to last minute changes. Troops will be sharing campsites, so please be considerate when setting up camp. There will not be a camp tour, as staff will still be setting up camp or assisting with check-in.

Leader Meeting

There will be an adult leader and SPL meeting held after dinner. Check the camp schedule for time.

Wristbands at Camp

During check-in the camp will issue your unit one wristband per registered youth and adult. It is important that every registered person wears the wristband properly to comply with our Youth Protection program. Broken or lost wristbands may be replaced at the camp office. Throughout the duration of camp, new leaders, family members, and program guests may visit camp. All guests must check in at the Camp Office to register and receive a wristband. Staff will ask anyone without a wristband to immediately report to the Camp Director. If you expect guests to arrive outside of normal business hours, please notify camp management so we may arrange for their check-in.



DEPARTURE

Check-out will be immediately following the campfire on the 29th and camp will close at 10:00PM. We have two options for departure:

Option 1

Departure after campfire on the 29th.

Option 2

Departure the morning of the 30th. If units chose this option, please note that the form to camp as a troop will need to be filled out at check-in. Units will still be required to check out prior to camp closing.

Camp Patches and any remaining material will be issued when you check out at the Camp Office. Remember to collect your medical forms. We will destroy any form not collected. To ensure safety, staff will allow only one vehicle per unit into the campsite to pick up gear.



TRADING POST

Camp Sol Mayer is pleased to offer a Trading Post that will have all your camping needs in one location! We offer everything from chips and soda, to candy and hot chocolate, to merit badge kits and supplies. Forgot your compass? We remembered it and brought it for you! T-shirts, hats, gifts, walking sticks, pocket knives... you name it, and it's here at the San Saba Trading Post.

Spending Money

Keep all personal items and spending money in a secure box while at camp. The camp is not responsible for securing or for the loss of personal items. It is your responsibility to keep track of all personal valuables while at camp.

Lost and Found

The lost and found will be located in the Trading Post. Any unidentified items found should be brought to the Trading Post.

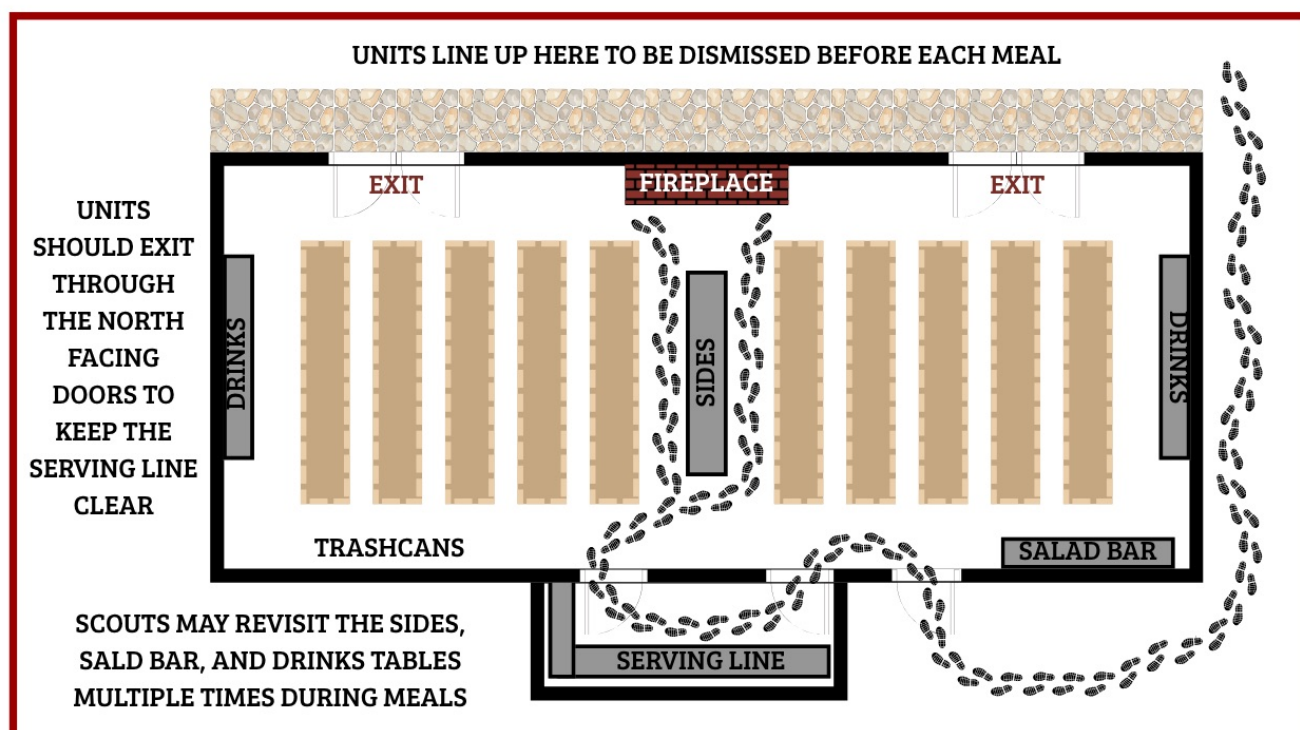
DO NOT BRING VALUABLES TO CAMP. Clearly mark all clothing and equipment with your full name and unit number.



DINING HALL

Dining Hall Etiquette

- Enter only with permission to do so for mealtimes or program.
- Always wear closed-toed shoes.
- Be mindful of mealtimes and eat efficiently to allow others sufficient time to eat.
- Do not leave personal items in the dining hall.
- A Scout is clean: Units should wipe down their table(s) and sweep their area after every meal prior to exiting the dining hall.
- Follow the process outlined below when getting food during mealtimes:



Special Meals/Dietary Restrictions

If you or individuals in your unit have special eating requirements, please enter that information into Blackpug when registering for camp. Camp cooking staff will pull information from the system and we will do our best to accommodate your needs or requirements.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Buddy System

All programs stress the use of the buddy system, whereby campers engage in activities with at least one other person so that they can monitor and help each other. The Guide to Safe Scouting requires using a formalized buddy system in certain adventurous or higher-risk activities.

Rest at Camp

The amount of sleep a Scout gets can make the difference between a great camping experience and a poor one. Each person needs an adequate amount of sleep to function in a cheerful and positive manner. The camp Scoutmaster is responsible for ensuring that each Scout can get at least eight (8) hours of sleep each night. This means each troop should respect the quiet time from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

First Aid

Each unit should take care of its own needs as much as possible. For more serious issues, come to the health lodge. We encourage each unit to bring a first aid kit to take care of the usual minor cuts and injuries Scouts experience. Drink water and sports drinks frequently to prevent dehydration.

Health Lodge

The Health Lodge is staffed by a medical professional and is available for camp emergencies. Leaders must conduct their own first aid in camp, just as if you were on a weekend camping trip. Please do not use the Health Lodge for minor injuries such as scrapes, splinters, or common bug bites. In the event of a medical emergency such as broken bones, sprains, deep cuts, or sickness, please send the affected Scout to the Health Lodge with a buddy and/or leader. Except for emergencies, it is the responsibility of the unit leadership to provide transportation for campers who require the attention of a doctor or the services of a hospital.

**DO NOT LEAVE THE CAMP WITH A MEDICAL EMERGENCY WITHOUT HAVING
SOMEONE CHECK IN WITH THE HEALTH LODGE OR CAMP DIRECTOR**

CAMP REGULATIONS

Firearms, Ammunition, Fireworks, Bows and Arrows

Camp does not allow personal firearms of any type (including rifles, shotguns, handguns, BB/paintball/air soft guns, black powder, cannons, potato/tennis ball bazookas, catapults, blow guns, bows, arrows, slingshots, or water guns), ammunition, laser pointers, and fireworks in camp. The Camp Director reserves the right to confiscate and return upon departure from camp any item that they consider a potential risk to the general health and well-being of the camp. The Camp Director requests that Officers of the Law notify the office in person of any exceptions to this rule.

Transportation

The unit must make arrangements for safe transportation of your Scouts to and from camp. Seat belts are required for all occupants of motor vehicles. The bed of a truck or a trailer is never an appropriate place for Scouts or Scouters to ride.

Camp Curfew

No Scout may be out of their campsite after 10:30 p.m. unless accompanied by an adult, following YPT guidelines, or with authorization from the Program Director or Camp Director to participate in an activity.

Fires, Liquids and Propane Fuels

When you arrive at camp your check-in procedure will include a fire ban status report. Due to the rural nature of our camps, often the local Fire Marshal will mandate a burn ban. The camp management team has assured the local authorities of full cooperation when a burn ban is in effect. Please understand that the local marshal may at times grant special dispensation at their discretion to allow programmatic burns when appropriate. If there is no ban, build fires only in designated areas and under proper supervision. Use liquid or propane fuels only under adult supervision. Do NOT use liquid fuels of any type to start fires. Store liquid fuel in approved containers and, along with propane cylinders, store under lock and key. BSA policy prohibits the use of open flames in tents. This includes mosquito coils, catalytic heaters, gas lanterns, stoves, candles, and smoking material. This also includes cigarette smoking.

CAMP REGULATIONS

Vehicles in Camp

Council policy requires that all leaders and visitors park their vehicles in the camp parking lot while camp is in session. On Friday, designate one vehicle at a time per unit, if you desire, to carry gear to your campsite after you check-in. After unloading, promptly return it to the parking area. Units may leave one unattached equipment trailer at their campsite. Camp does not permit personal vehicles in camp past 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening. The Medic will accommodate persons with physical disabilities on an individual basis. The camp gate will be locked no later than 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening.

Camp Sol Mayer
DOES NOT offer
electric vehicle
charging.

Camp Emergencies

Only the Camp Director can declare an emergency in camp. This could include but is not limited to, thunderstorms, tornados, lost camper, or another camp-wide emergency. To report an emergency, a leader should contact the nearest staff member who will notify the Camp Director.

Emergency Bell

Emergency use: If you hear the camp bell ring continuously, everyone should come to the parade field for further instructions. Camp staff will assist with directions. A drill will be conducted during the first full day of camp.

Emergency Siren

Emergency use: If you hear the siren ring continuously, a shelter-in-place is being ordered. All persons on camp property must immediately go to a camp building to shelter in place. No further movement is permitted until the shelter-in-place has been lifted. Camp staff will assist with directions.

Inclement Weather

Our biggest concern is the safety of our campers and staff. Should severe weather threaten camp, we will take the appropriate steps to ensure everyone's safety.

Closed Toe Shoes

While sandals and flip-flops are certainly comfortable to wear around town, winter camp is not the best place to wear them. There's a lot of walking over rugged and uneven terrain. Our camp has a no open-toe shoes policy.

LEADER RESOURCES

Leader's Meetings

Camp Administrators will host three Leaders' Meetings prior to camp to address any questions or concerns and provide any program and schedule updates. Meetings will be on Zoom on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 3rd @ 7:00 p.m. Central
- Monday, November 16th @ 7:00 p.m. Central
- Wednesday, December 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. Central

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87204768592?pwd=OGdxaTnn1OLrY5vpg0Kv55sdxktLaP.1>

Join Remind

We will be using Remind for communication both before and during camp. Remind can only be used by Adults and Scouts over 13. Our recommendation is that Adults and SPLs join the Remind group.

<https://www.remind.com/join/282k4h>

or

Text the class code
@282k4h to 81010

Downloads & Links

- [WinterCampParticipantSchedule2026.pdf](#)
- [CampSolMayerMap.pdf](#)
- [ClassCatalog2026.pdf](#)
- [WinterCampParticipantRegistrationFormFillable.pdf](#)
- [CampsiteInspectionRubric.pdf](#)
- [WinterCampEmergencyProcedures2026.pdf](#)
- [Camp Sol Mayer Google Maps](#)



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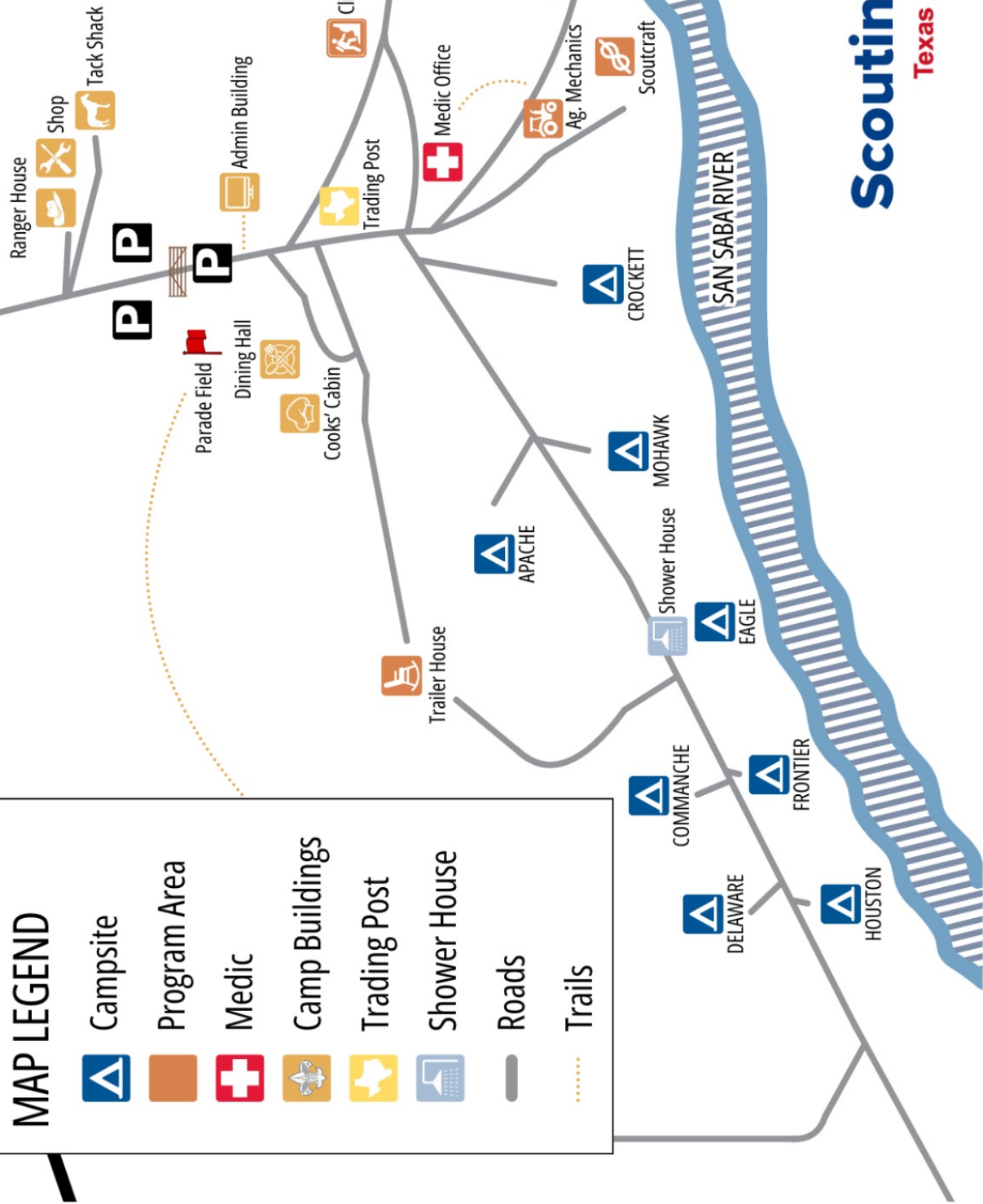
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Entrance to Camp



MAP LEGEND

	Campsite
	Program Area
	Medic
	Camp Buildings
	Trading Post
	Shower House
	Roads
	Trails



SEE YOU AT CAMP!

