



Oct 3rd-5th 2025 Camp Shenandoah

CAMPOREE INFORMATION AND LEADER GUIDE

Summary: The Virginia Headwaters Council presents the Apple Harvest Camporee, held at Camp Shenandoah on Friday-Sunday, October 3-5th, 2025. This event will take place rain or shine and will only be canceled if severe weather is forecast for the area or for health concerns.

The theme for this camporee is **Halloween** with a focus on the
Ghosts of Apple Harvest Past.

**Dress to impress, but it is optional!—your themed costume is your
Class A for this event!**

Get creative, get spooky, get adventurous—but leave the weapons behind.
That means **no projectiles, no toy or real guns, and no blades of any
kind.**

Remember, this is a Scout event, and Camporee staff have the final say. If
it's not Scout-appropriate, it's not staying.

CAMPOREE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025:

- **Friday Night Welcome Campfire**
- **Saturday Morning Monster Dash**
- **Scouter Chili Cookoff**
- **Fresh Apple Cider**
- **Camp-Wide Troop Competition**
- **Troop Spooky Campsite Competition**
- **Patrol Events Competition**
- **Trading Post**
- **Root Beer Witches Brew**
- **Trick or Treating at the Campsites**
- **Haunted House**
- **OA-Hosted Saturday Campfire**
- **Service Project in support of Virginia Department of Forestry**

ELIGIBILITY

This Camporee is open to Scouts and Scouters. All Adults staying overnight must be a registered volunteer and up to date on their Safeguarding Youth Training.

ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS

Arrow of light scouts are welcome to attend Apple Harvest as guests of a troop attending the camporee. The AOL's need to be registered **WITH** the troop for the camporee, not individually. The troop hosting the AOL scouts will be responsible for ensuring appropriate adult supervision and follow all the rules of Safeguarding Youth policies.

VOLUNTEERS

This event is powered by volunteers! Troops need to supply volunteers to help design, construct, and/or run activity and support stations. Older youth may be able to help at many stations in addition to adult helpers. **Please sign-up to run a station before the event via a Google Form that will be sent out 25 September.** Your help ensures we can offer a full and exciting day program at the camporee!

SOCIAL MEDIA/UPDATES

Before the event, updates to this handout will be emailed via the Black Pug registration and posted on our Apple Harvest Facebook page. At the event, a final Activities List and a final Schedule will be supplied at Check-In.

<https://www.facebook.com/VAHCapple>

CAMPOREE LOCATION:
Camp Shenandoah
222 Boy Scout Lane, Swoope, Virginia 24479

REGISTRATION FEE
\$15.00 per Scout, no fee for registered adults

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Completed by Sept 26th
Changes to your registration can be made up to October 2nd

CANCELLATION - BACK-UP DATE
Any decision to move to the back-up date will be sent via email from Black Pug AH registration.

CAMPOREE CHECK-IN AND PARKING PROCESS
Check-in: Friday, 03 October 2025, 4-9pm. As you arrive at camp, a staff member will meet you in front of the admin building with your registration packet and direct you to your campsite.

Parking: Vehicles with unit gear are allowed to drive up to the campsite, but only trailers are allowed to remain at the campsite. Park all cars in the overflow parking across from the Ranger's house. Those with disabilities who require assistance getting to campsites can request a special parking pass at the admin building.

GENERAL CAMPSITE INFORMATION
Troops will be responsible for maintaining a safe campsite. Follow the Guide to Safe Scouting. **Potable water is available on-site.** Any Scout, patrol or troop causing disciplinary problems will be sent home immediately. No animals will be allowed at the camporee.

TRADING POST
The hours that the Camp Trading Post will be open on Saturday will be posted. Candy, chips, and soda will be available, plus other cool items!

SATURDAY CAMPFIRE CELEBRATION!!

The campfire program will be hosted by the OA. It will be filled with skits, stories, and songs. This is a special event you do not want to miss!! Troop skit tryouts will be Saturday afternoon at Handicraft Shelter.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Units are invited to participate in an on-site **Service Project**. More information will be given out at Friday Night Cracker Barrel.

SUNDAY MORNING INTERFAITH WORSHIP

After the flag ceremony on Sunday morning, there will be a non-denominational Vespers Service immediately followed by the Awards Ceremony.

CHECKOUT PROCESS

Troops should practice Leave No Trace Principles! Please pack-out all your gear, trash, pioneering timbers, and left-over firewood/debris. Be sure to properly clean your campfire area. Bring your trash to the dumpster upon leaving camp.

Leave your campsite better than you found it!

THE CAMPOREE COMPETITION

Awards will be presented for

- * Haunted Gingerbread Competition
 - * Scouter Chili Cook off
 - * Best overall Patrol
 - * Troop Competition
- * Spooky Gateway Competition
 - * Most creative Costume
 - * Funniest Costume
- * Best troop coordinated costume

PATROL ACTIVITY STATIONS

Scout Patrols will have the opportunity to participate in **several different stations** at this year's camporee. A Patrol Passport listing every station and a map with their locations will be provided to each patrol. Patrols are responsible for getting a score from each station and turn their passports in at the dining hall porch by 6pm on Saturday evening.

Monster Dash

Saturday Morning

Use your speed and scout skills to save yourself and patrol mates from a hoard of monsters!!! Each participating patrol will earn points toward the overall Apple Harvest patrol competition. If you're too slow or not prepared with scout skill knowledge, the hoard will attack and slash away precious points.

Scouts will need to be prepared to use their scout skills to tie knots, navigate with a compass, identify trees/plants and know some halloween trivia to stay ahead of the hoard. **Each patrol will need to provide their own compass and a 4-6 foot length of rope.**

Adult leaders are not left out! Dress as a monster and help at one of four stations or chase (at a brisk walk) scouts as they make their rounds to each station and complete tasks.

Scouter Chili Cook Off

Scouters who want to compete in the chili cook off will need to **sign up on Friday night at check in or Saturday morning on the front porch of the dining hall.** A team of judges will come to your campsite and judge your chili during the dinner break on **Saturday evening from 6-7pm.**

Rules

*no premade chili from a can (just ew.)

That's it, no other rules.

Troop Competition

Saturday Afternoon

The Great Pumpkin Rescue

Your Great Pumpkin has encountered a terrible halloween tradition and was attacked by multiple knife wounds. Scouts will need to clean and dress the wounds and then carry their Great Pumpkin to safety.

In providing first aid, scouts will need to have the proper items in their first aid kits to clean and dress several wounds of various sizes. Then using a stretcher made of **ONLY** two poles and rope/paracord, they must carry their Great Pumpkin to safety. The pumpkin must be secured in the rope and not touch the poles.

Units will get one opportunity to save their Great Pumpkin in this timed event. Judges will be needed to observe proper first aid treatment of the wounds and timing.

Base time will be the time from the start until all scouts from the unit cross the finish line and present their pumpkin to the doctor for treatment.

10 seconds will be added as follows:

*Not providing proper first aid for each wound (cleaning and fully covering each wound)

*For each time that their pumpkin is dropped

Troops must bring the following items for this competition

Two Poles

Rope/Paracord

Fully Stocked First Aid Kit

THE HAUNTED GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

Use your imagination and design your spookiest gingerbread haunted house. These houses may be constructed in camp or completed offsite and brought with you to the camporee.

Haunted Gingerbread Competition Rules

1. **Entry Limit:** Each troop or unit can submit only **one haunted house**.
2. **Haunted house Requirements:**
 - * All preparation of the Haunted Gingerbread House must be done by Scouts **without** adult assistance.
 - * All parts of the haunted gingerbread house must be edible.
3. **Submission:** You may bring your haunted ginger bread house to the dinning hall at any time through the weekend but it must be in the dining hall no later than **3pm** on Saturday for judging. Make sure to label the haunted gingerbread house with your unit number.
4. **Judging Criteria:** Haunted Gingerbread houses will be judged based on **design, creativity and theme**.
5. **Awards:** The overall winner will be announced at Sunday's awards ceremony.

TROOP SPOOKY GATEWAY COMPETITION

Troops are invited to prepare to construct a Troop Gateway at a spot in their designated campsite. **The Gateway should not be taller than 8 feet and should be anchored.** Judging will be based on creativity, design, and knot tying/lashing technique and theme. Judging will take place **after lunch** on Saturday.

Requirements:

- Each troop should have a detailed written plan (including a sketch) of what they intend to build. They should be prepared to show the plan to the judges
- Troops must bring their own pioneering poles and rope (no nails or screws)
- Must be constructed by Scouts (adults may help, but it must be scout led)
- The Spooky element is up to the scouts creativity. Make sure everything is scout appropriate.

Scoring is as follows: Neatness/correctness of knots	10 pts	Detailed planning	10 pts
Stability of construction	10 pts	Completion of plan within the time	20 pts
Complexity	10 pts	Scout led, obvious leaders (SPL, PL, etc.)	20 pts
Overall impression on Judges.	10 pts	Spooky Factor	10 pts
Total number of points possible: 100			

Sample Schedule for 2025 Apple Harvest Camporee

Detailed schedules will be emailed out to units one week prior to the camporee and hard copies will be given in each check in packet.

Friday

4PM	Gates Open for check in
9PM	Check in closes
9:30PM	Opening Campfire at Main Campfire Ring
10:15PM	Scouter/SPL Cracker Barrel and announcements in Dining Hall

Saturday

7AM	Reveille
8AM	Flag Ceremony/Announcements at Parade Field
8:15AM	Monster Dash at the Front Gate
10AM	Field Events begin near parade field Target sports open at Timber Mountain
11AM	Campfire Skit Auditions at Handicraft
12-1:30pm	Unit Lunches at Campsites/Gateway judging begins at 1pm.
1:45pm	Field Events/Target Sports Resume.
3pm	Haunted Gingerbread houses judging at the dining hall.
4pm	Field Events Close Root Beer Social Begins at Eppard Shelter
4:30pm	Troop Competition on Parade Field
6-8pm	Dinner Break
8pm	Campfire hosted by the OA at main campfire ring
9-10pm	Evening program events
11pm	Quiet hours

Sunday

7am	Reveille
8am	Flag Ceremony/Announcements
8:15am	Interfaith Worship by the lake
8:45am	Awards Ceremony in front of Dining Hall
9:30am	Units inspect/clean up campsites
10am	Units are dismissed.



This year we are doing shirt/hoodie orders differently. The link will take you to the Trading Post, feel free to share the link with families etc to order their Apple Harvest Merch!

Not attending the Camporee this year (BOOOOO!!!) No problem, you can still get your cool Apple Harvest merch! Pick up can be at the council office!

Deadline to order Shirts and Hoodies is **Sept 18th!!**

<https://councilstuff.com/763-appleharvest>

*Make sure to choose either “**pick up at camporee**” or “**pick up at council office**”

Please list what **UNIT you are in the **COMMENTS** section at check out!