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# AOL QUEST

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November 1-3, 2024  
Spanish Trail Scout Reservation

## Leader's Guide



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### What is AOL Quest?

AOL Quest is a Friday-Sunday outdoor camping event for AOL Scouts in a Cub Scout Pack and their parents/guardians designed to prepare for the transition into Scouts BSA. We will be offering Adventure activities for your 5<sup>th</sup> grade Arrow of Light Scouts as well as a variety of other fun and exciting activities. Scouts will practice the patrol method throughout the weekend to develop their outdoor skills, teamwork, and leadership skills. Campsite cooking will help the Scout practice meal planning, cooking as a patrol, and using a duty roster.

AOL Quest will be held at Camp Euchee located on the Spanish Trail Scout Reservation. The address for the camp is 315 Pat Covell Rd, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433. Directions and maps to camp can be found in the Appendix. Scouts and leaders will camp using the patrol method and are responsible for all camping gear. A personal and patrol packing list is located in the Appendix.

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### What it is...

- A fun, exciting, and activity-packed outdoor camping experience
- A chance for the youth to begin taking on leadership responsibilities
- An event specifically designed around the needs, capabilities, and interests of Arrow of Light Scouts
- An opportunity for the youth to practice behaving like a Scouts BSA patrol
- A largely youth-led activity, largely staffed by Scouts in Troops (*Some were Arrow of Light Scouts last year!*)
- A jammed-packed FUN experience!

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### What it is not...

- *Not* a Den Leader-led activity (Den Leaders are coaches and mentors to the youth leaders!)
- *Not* an event for other Scout ranks, it is only for AOLs
- *Not* a classroom experience... the activities are all hands-on and exciting to engage the youth and stimulate them to grow more confident as they prepare to cross over to troops
- *Not* a time for the youth to sit back and let the adults do everything... they are in charge of their patrols under the adult leader's guidance
- *Not* an activity you just show up to... Scouts and leaders must be prepared to get the most out of the event!
- *Not* a Family Camp for 5<sup>th</sup> graders

## Registration Information

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### How to Register

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Scouts and adults can register for AOL Quest 2024 on the Gulf Coast Council website.

### Registration Fees

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- Standard registration – \$35 for AOLs; \$25 for adults (*includes 4 meals- 3 Saturday and Sunday light breakfast*)
- Late fee after 24 October 2024 - \$10

### Registering for Adventures

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An adventure is included in the cost of registration. At registration, each Scout will reserve one Adventure class. Classes are limited in size and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Scouts in a patrol can coordinate their Adventure period or split up and meet new scouts. Further details about the program and coordinating activities are discussed in the Program Section of this guide.

### AOL Quest Program

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AOL Quest is a fun and exciting weekend with the purpose of building confidence in the Cub Scouts as they prepare to cross over into Scout BSA Troops. All elements of the program are designed to support that aim in a way that is tailored for the older Cub Scouts and is only for AOLs. Their quest will be to find a troop that is good for them. Below is a brief discussion of each of the activities and elements of the program.

### The Patrol Method

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A Scout patrol is a small team of normally six to eight members where Scouts learn skills together, share responsibilities, and take on leadership roles. As a member of a patrol, youth are afforded opportunities that are hard to find anywhere else. Unlike a sports team, a Scout patrol carries out a wide range of tasks that require pooling resources and working together to function successfully in all kinds of circumstances. For most young people, being in a Scout patrol will be the first time they have to rely upon themselves and other young people to follow an array of necessary steps to satisfy objectives that require a wide range of life skills.

Like any team, a patrol will function well only as long as all the responsibilities pertaining to the completion of a task are carried out successfully. Because of its size, this gives every member an opportunity to participate, and this results in some positive outcomes. Making a contribution to the patrol's success provides a welcome sense of belonging, of being appreciated, and a feeling of competency resulting in self-esteem.

AOL Quest program is centered around the Patrol Method to help the Arrow of Light Scouts build teamwork, responsibility, and prepare to cross over into a Scouts BSA Troop. Leaders should prepare the Scouts and parents for this experience and the leader's guide includes tips on making it a successful weekend. The more the Den Leader does to prepare the Scouts for the weekend the more they will benefit, enjoy, and grow through the experience. Examples of using the patrol method include how the Scouts prepare, cook / clean up their meals, and showing patrol spirit!

On Friday night, Arrow of Light Scouts will begin working as a patrol. Be sure to have your flag at Saturday's opening ceremony!

## AOL Adventures

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AOL Quest includes adventures. Some are rolled into the activities and unit leaders are responsible for tracking the completions for each Scout.

One, Outdoor Adventurer, has pre-requisites for campout preparation steps which must be completed before arriving at camp.

Scouts will get to choose one for Saturday afternoon. When registering, be sure to select the class you want before they fill up. Each class offered is designed to complete most, if not all, of the requirements.

### Champions for Nature (Choice #1)

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This Adventure is new this year. Learn about food grown in our area, how far food travels to the consumer, and how to conserve food. Determine if you live in a food oasis or desert. Scouts will also do a conservation project to complete this adventure.



### Estimations (Choice #2)

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Figure out how to estimate the height of a tree, distance between two objects, time of day, and measurements for cooking. If time allows, AOLs will learn how to do a pace count.



### Into the Wild (Choice #3)

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This is an opportunity for Scouts to dive deep into nature! They'll learn all about local wildlife, study wild creatures up close, and explore their habitats. Discover your impact on the environment. You never know what might show up on the trail!



### Into the Woods (Choice #4)

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Scouts go into the woods to learn more about the way trees grow and how to identify plants native to the area. Activities include learning about the various parts of trees and taking a short hike to see some interesting features of the Spanish Trail Scout Reservation's natural habitat.



### Knife Safety (All AOLs)

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AOLs will have a knife safety lesson, practice knife skills, demonstrate proper use, and make a useful item.

Scouts will need a pocketknife. Please have an adult hold the pocketknife until lesson. A sharpening stone is helpful.



### Outdoor Adventurer (All AOLs)

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AOLs will need to do some preparatory work to complete this adventure. Requirements #1-4 must be completed before the campout. They should be done in their den meeting, or if attending without your den, you may do these at home. Please review #6 as well. If these steps are done, they will be prepared to complete the other parts of the adventure at camp.



### Personal Fitness (All AOLs)

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Requirement #1 will be done on Friday night. The AOLs will learn about healthy camp meal planning. They will finalize a menu for Saturday lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast.



## Scout Skills

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Learn how the Troops do it! Grouped into patrols, the AOLs will work together as they would on a troop campout. AOLs will start Friday night as they decide on patrol names, make flags, create yells, and plan a menu for the weekend. They will have cooking lessons while preparing their meals in the campsite. Saturday morning, AOLs will visit stations to learn knife skills, orienteering, knots, and hitches using the EDGE method. Saturday afternoon will be time for an adventure of their choice, picked at registration. There will be a campfire Saturday night. Webelos from the other campsites and AOLs will come together for the first part. The AOLs will stay longer than the others to do some activities of their own before heading back to camp for cracker-barrel.

## Keep Camp Clean

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All Scouts, AOLs, adults, and staff members are asked to pick up and properly dispose of trash around camp at all times. Don't allow a single piece of litter to go unnoticed. Scouts leave a place better than we found it. If everyone at camp this weekend picks up every piece they pass, the camp will be immaculate when we leave. All garbage cans must be emptied when you leave your campsite. Take garbage bags to the dumpster before leaving camp. A Scout is clean!

## Campfire and Cracker Barrel

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The AOLs will join the Webelos for a campfire Saturday night. Once the Webelos finish their portion of the campfire, the AOLs will stay for some extra activities. After which, they will go back to the campsite for Dutch Oven desserts as we celebrate a fun and exciting day!

## Vespers – Scout's Own Service

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After breakfast, Sunday morning all Scouts are encouraged to join our non-denominational vespers service. When the service is finished, Scouts will review the weekend providing feedback on the event and learning Thorns and Roses.

## Activities for Adult Leaders

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Saturday afternoon, we will discuss the goals and aims of the weekend. We will also explain the roles of the troop committee.

## How to Prepare for AOL Quest

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### Preparing the Arrow of Light Scouts

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1. Complete the Outdoor Adventurer requirements #1-4 and review #6. The remaining requirements will be done in camp.
2. Discuss the Patrol Method used in Scouts BSA Troops and how it can be used at.
3. Coach the youth about positions such as Senior Patrol Leader and other roles of responsibility (Quartermaster, Asst. Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, etc.). These roles and descriptions are in the Scouting Adventure portion of the handbook. They will follow this leadership method.
4. Explain a duty roster which we will use in camp. Adults can assist in some of the chores, but those that are leadership and learning experiences should be performed by the youth. Assign an adult to coach each of the roles in the roster.

5. Go over the packing list and strongly encourage the youth to pack their own gear for the weekend (packing list in Appendix).
6. Friday night, Scouts will be split into patrols and will come up with a patrol name, cheer, and make a flag for the weekend.
7. Discuss how much fun the weekend will be!

## Preparing the Parents

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AOL Quest is an opportunity to begin working with the parents on the transition from “Cubbing” to “Scouting,” and in our experience, is often more difficult for the parents than for the Scouts. Here are some tips on how to help with this process:

1. Ask the parents to watch the discussion the Den Leader has with the Scouts about the Patrol Method. Afterwards, explain to the parents that the Patrol Method isn’t *a* method in Scouting, it is *the foundation* on which the whole Scouting program is built upon and has a proven track record of building self-responsibility, leadership, and confidence through competence.
2. Discuss with the parents their evolving roles from being a leader and doer to being an encourager and providing resources.
3. Discuss with parents that are attending AOL Quest how they can assist in the handover of responsibility from adult leadership to youth leadership. The Den Leader serves like a Scoutmaster, advising the Scouts through the weekend. It does not all happen in one weekend, but the event is an opportunity to preview what that looks like in a supportive and safe environment.
4. Prepare parents to allow the Scouts to make mistakes. Adults always have a responsibility when safety is on the line, but if things don’t quite work out as planned, that is okay. Instead of intervening, guide them in reflection afterwards about how things can be done differently next time for better results. We call this “Stop, Start, Continue.”
5. Encourage the parents to sit back and enjoy seeing their Scouts grow and develop. It won’t be perfect. It might be downright ugly sometimes. But that is how the youth learn. AOL Quest is a taste of what Scouts BSA will be like.
6. Teach parents to start answering questions their Scouts might have with guiding questions, not simply giving them the answer.
7. Encourage parents to let the Scouts pack their own gear.
8. Discuss that it can be tough, but it is a beautiful thing to watch the Scouts grow to be more responsible!

## Logistics and Misc. Information for the Weekend

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### Check-In

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Check-in starts at 3:00 PM on Friday at Henson Hall at Camp Euchee. AOLs will be camping in the Sioux campsite. If you have any special needs or need to arrive early, please contact the Camp Director in advance. Adventure class adjustments, fees owed, and distribution of patches occurs at Check-in.

Vehicles can be taken to campsites for dropping off gear upon arrival and for loading on departure. You must relocate all vehicles to the main parking lot at all other times. Any special arrangements for transportation must be coordinated with the Camp Director.

## Latrines/Restrooms/showers

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The central showers are closed for remodeling. The Staff Area shower house is off-limits to participant campers. There are male and female bathrooms at both Henson Hall and the Dining Hall. Every campsite has a latrine. Latrine use will be coordinated within each site and adult leaders in those sites are responsible for ensuring that all Youth Protection guidelines are being met at all times.

## Uniforms

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Scouts are expected to be in the appropriate uniform during the weekend. Why do Scouts wear a uniform? For the same reason sports teams do. Uniforms give the team a sense of unity that every member of the team is equal. The Scout uniform does the same thing at STSR. The Field Uniform (also known as Class A) can be worn at any time during the week but is expected to be worn for the flag assembly, breakfast in the dining hall, and at Vespers.

During the day, your patrol may dress down to the Activity Uniform (also known as Class B). This can be your Pack's own distinctive T-shirt, another Scouting shirt, or a blank T-shirt. Please make sure that T-shirts your Scouts wear are Scout-oriented and appropriate for Scout camp. Closed-toed shoes with covered heels must be worn at STSR. You can swap to your shower or water shoes once you get in the shower house. Leaders, setting the example is the most important step you can take towards having a well-uniformed troop.

## Your Campsite

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Your campsite is your home for the weekend at STSR. Remember, be a courteous Scout and know that going through another campsite is not a shortcut! Ask permission before entering anyone else's site. Patrols are encouraged to work with their fellow campers to ensure a tidy, safe, and orderly campsite.

Your campsite is equipped with the following: campfire ring, water hose, water spigot, picnic table, and latrine. You are highly encouraged to bring a fire bucket and they may be available on a case by case basis by talking with the Camp Director.

## Older Siblings Who are Members of a Scout BSA Troop

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While younger siblings are not permitted to go to camp during AOL Quest, responsible older siblings that are members of a Scouts BSA Troop may attend as a staff member for free. If interested in serving on staff, please contact the Program Director. **You must register as staff in advance.** Staff members will be fed all meals cooked in the campsite by the AOLs. Staff members camp in the Staff Area with the other staff members.

## Trading Post

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The trading post is operated by the Spanish Trail Alumni Association and is expected to be open. The Trading Post is where Scouts can purchase supplies, STSR souvenirs, snacks, and other incidentals that may have been forgotten. Leaders are asked to discuss with the Scouts appropriate behaviors around the Trading Post and the responsibilities of handling and maintaining money.

## Weather

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Weather in the first weekend of November in Northwest Florida can vary dramatically, ranging between highs in the 90s and lows below freezing. Historically it is a beautiful season to be camping, but please be prepared! If cold weather is predicted, discuss with the Scouts how to "be prepared" and dress in layers.



Bad weather can happen at any time! If such a situation arises, it is the responsibility of the adult leaders to ensure the safety and welfare of their Scouts. Leaders should ensure they have taken Hazardous Weather Training online prior to arriving at camp. BE PREPARED. All or part of AOL Quest may be canceled or postponed due to severe weather conditions. However, outside of severe weather, Webelos Weekend will continue as scheduled rain or shine!

## Time Change

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This event typically coincides with the annual switch from Daylight Savings to Standard Time. Saturday night, we will all get an extra hour of sleep making that 6:30 AM coffee for adults in the dining hall easier after a very tiring day!

## Lost and Found

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Lost and Found items should be brought to and can be found at Henson Hall.

## Damage to Facilities or Unsafe Conditions

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Report observed damage and unsafe conditions of camp facilities immediately to the nearest staff member and the Camp Director.

## Emergency Procedures

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The emergency signal for camp is the ringing of the camp bell and/or the sounding of the camp sirens. Upon hearing the emergency signal, all campers are to REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE PARADE GROUND IN FRONT OF THE DINING HALL. When all members of your unit are accounted for, an adult leader will report to the Program Director at the dining hall porch.

## Check-Out

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Before leaving your campsite, patrols must perform a thorough search for left items and trash using a police line (aka Foreign, Objects, and Debris 'F.O.D.' walk). A Scout always leaves the campsite cleaner than when they arrive! All trash bags must be placed in the dumpsters located in the main parking lot. If a unit needs to leave camp earlier, coordinate a departure with the Camp Director in advance.

## Health and Safety

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### Health Lodge and Camp Medic

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Camp Euchee will provide a trained medical staff onsite who are available for any first-responder issues and basic first aid. Any medications (insulin, prescription medication, inhalers, etc.) regularly taken by family members or participants MUST be brought to camp, as only basic pain relievers and antibiotic ointments will be on hand at the Health Lodge. Any emergency prescription medications (i.e. EpiPens) need to be brought by the attendee.

Most importantly, if you or any of your family who are attending are sick when it is time to come to camp, please stay home and make sure that that person gets well. Refunds in that case will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director.



## Medical Forms

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Per BSA policy, one of the unit adult leaders should have a current copy of the Annual Health and Medical Record Form A & B for ALL Scouts and adult leaders attending on hand. It is the adult leader's responsibility to maintain their group's medical forms throughout the weekend.

## No Waterfront Activities

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There will be no waterfront activities (swimming, boating, etc.) during AOL Quest. Fishing is permitted from the designated areas and highly encouraged!

## Keeping Hydrated

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The most common health issue on Scouting outings is dehydration. Please make sure your Scouts carry water bottles with them at all times. Always stop and make sure your Scouts are hydrated by drinking plenty of water and watch for signs of dehydration. Ice water in insulated water jugs (Igloos) will be available at most activity areas and maintained throughout the weekend. Water is also available in each campsite and the dining hall.

## Avoiding Sunburn

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Sunburn can happen very rapidly so Scouts should always protect themselves using high SPF sunscreen and by wearing a comfortable, brimmed hat to protect their head and face from direct sunlight. It may seem cool outside, but protection is still needed! Don't forget to reapply!

## Fire, Firepits, and Stoves

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Fires may be built only in fire pits or designated program areas and must be attended at all times. Late fall tends to be very dry, and fires spread quickly. The Fire Marshal position on the duty roster can be used as a tool to encourage the Scouts to take responsibility for managing fires. A minimum of two fire buckets should be filled and placed around each campfire. Please protect our camp for generations to come! When fires are put out, they must be cool to the touch.

Flames must never be lit inside tents and the use of matches and lighters must be used responsibly. Gas stoves and lanterns may only be used by Scouts under the direct supervision of an adult.

## Insurance

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All units outside the Gulf Coast Council are required to provide a copy of their unit's year-round Accident and Sickness Insurance Policy. The copy must include the Insurance Company name, policy number, and the expiration date. All Gulf Coast Council units are covered under the council insurance policy.

## Buddy System

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Camp is more fun when shared with a friend. Scouts must always be with a buddy or adult whenever walking around camp. The buddy system is to be used for all activities in camp. Whenever a youth female and male are together, a third youth member must also be present. Adults are reminded to follow Youth Protection Guidelines at all times.

## Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs

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The Gulf Coast Council will not tolerate the presence of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or persons obviously under the influence of the same, at any of our Council camps. Violators will be asked to leave.

Possession of controlled substances is a violation of state law and may be subject to criminal prosecution. Leaders, please set a good example for Scouts to follow.

### Personal Firearms and Fireworks

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Personal firearms and archery equipment are not allowed at camp, or on camp archery or firing ranges. Only Gulf Coast Council Shooting Sports staff are permitted to handle and manage firearms, equipment, and ranges. Fireworks of any type are not permitted at STSR.

### Vehicles

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Vehicles are not permitted in the campsites except to load and unload; once completed, the vehicles should be relocated to the main parking lot for the duration of the outing. All other uses of vehicles (including low speed vehicles such as Gators, ATVs, etc) are restricted to camp staff and those that have special permission by the Camp Director. Trailers may be parked in campsites or in other areas designated by the Commissioners. Trailers must be disconnected from the tow vehicle and the tow vehicle parked in a designated parking space. Trailer wheels must be chocked and the tongue must be secured on a block or stand such that the trailer is safe, secure and does not block roads or trails. We cannot allow a tow vehicle to stay in a campsite with the trailer. Bicycles are not permitted at STSR.

### Pets and Wildlife

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Pets are to be left at home (Exception - those assisting individuals with special needs). Pets of any type are not permitted by BSA policy. Our camp has plenty of wildlife (rabbits, snakes, squirrels, etc.). Look, but don't touch. Fish caught at camp may be eaten or released back into the water. Snakes of any sort should be avoided at all times. Watch out for danger noodles!

### Wood Tools

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Pocket knives and bow saws are the only wood tools permitted for Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts by the BSA policy as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting. Axes and hatchets are limited to adults and older Scouts who have earned the Totin' Chip in their Troop. Chainsaws are not permissible during AOL Quest except by the Camp Ranger.

## Appendix

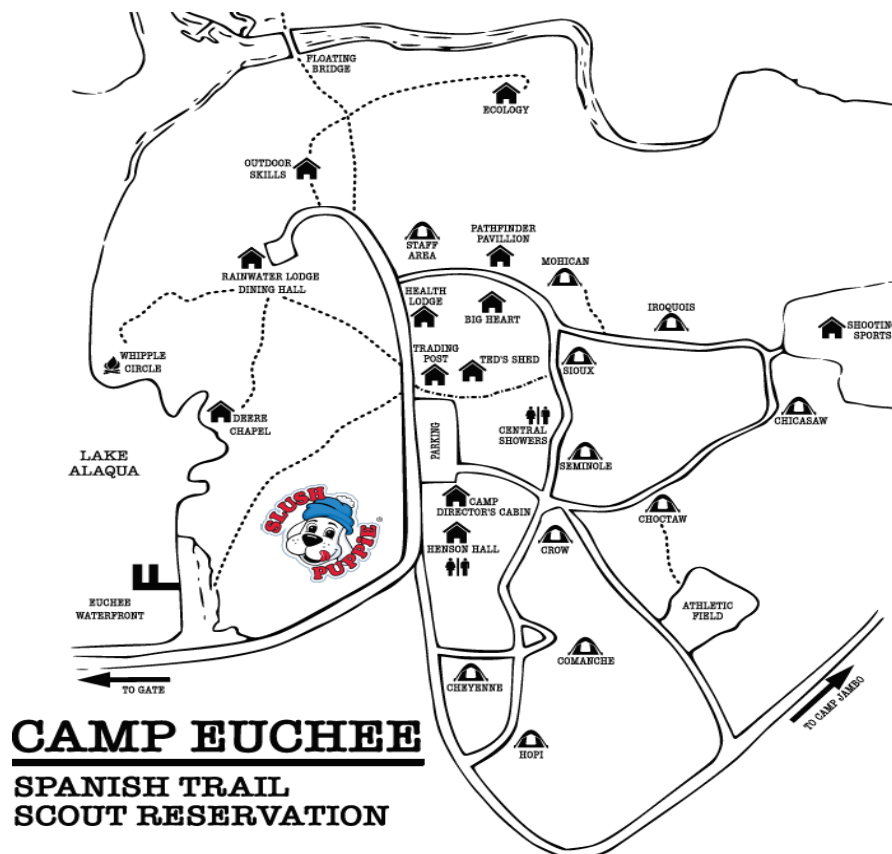
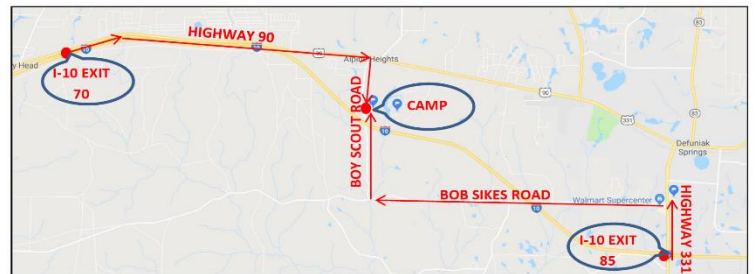
### Area Map and Directions

Spanish Trail Scout Reservation located at 315 Pat Covell Rd, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433, and is about 7 miles west of downtown DeFuniak Springs off of Hwy 90.

Coming from the west, take Exit 70 off I-10, go north and turn right on Hwy 90. Turn right on Boy Scout Road (approx. 9 miles). There is a large road sign that points to Boy Scout Road.

Coming from the east, take Exit 85 off of I-10, turning north towards DeFuniak Springs and turn left onto Bob Sikes Road, just past the Walmart Supercenter. Turn right onto Boy Scout Road.

Once on Boy Scout Road turn east at the stone gate to the Reservation and proceed across the lake to Henson Hall.



## Individual Campout Checklist

AOLs should bring their handbook and a water bottle with them.

Mess kit will be needed. Pocket knife, compass, and chair are recommended.

### Personal Camping Equipment & Gear

- Tent or tarp, poles, and stakes
- Ground cloth or plastic sheet
- Sleeping bag, blanket, pillow, air mattress or pad
- Cup, bowl, plate, knife, fork, spoon
- Back/Day Pack
- Pocketknife and Whittling Chit
- Compass
- Camp chair

### Clothes Bag

- Scout Field Uniform (aka Class A)
- Poncho or Raincoat
- Warm jacket or coat
- Underwear
- Hat or cap
- Pajamas or sweatshirt, sweatpants
- Durable shoes, shoelaces

### Toiletry Kit

- Toothpaste, toothbrush, comb
- Soap and shampoo
- Camp Towel

### First Aid

- First aid kit
- Flashlight, bulb, batteries
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Whistle, Safety Pins
- Daily medications in original bottle

### Extras

- Positive Attitude!
- Camera
- Sunglasses
- Notebook and pencil
- Extra socks, shoes, other extra clothing

## Patrol Campout Checklist

AOLs and their adult leaders could plan to supply these items to assist with camp cooking.

### Camping Equipment & Gear

- Camp Stove
- Canopy
- Lantern
- Water jug
- Pots, pans, utensils
- Aluminum foil
- Three wash pans, dish detergent, sponge, small bleach bottle
- Trash bags
- Fire buckets
- Patrol Flag Making Supplies

### Documentation

- Schedule for weekend
- Clipboard
- Pen and paper