

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

**Scouting America
Transatlantic Council
Charlemagne District**

**Spring Family Cub Scout Camp
21 – 22 March 2026**

BRUGGE HISTORIC TRAIL



Program and Guide

Charlemagne District
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Please review this document carefully as it contains important information.

Camp Overview

Camp Start Time & Date: 09:00, Saturday 21 March 2026

- Early Family Arrival start: 17:00, Friday, 20 March 2026

End time & Date: 12:00, Sunday, 22 March 2026

Location: Hopper Jeugdverblijf Merkenveld

Address: Merkenveldweg 15, 8210 Loppem

Cost:

\$ 23.00	Cost per youth
\$ 28.00	Cost per adult
\$ 11.00	Day Attendees

The Charlemagne District Spring Cub Family Camp will be held at the Hopper Jeugdverblijf Merkenveld campsite in Zedelgem, Belgium on the weekend of the 20 – 22 March 2026. This event is open to all cub scouts and their families (including siblings); however, a parent / guardian must be present at the camp.

Booking

Registration for the events is at the following link:

Registration Deadline: 15 March 2026

Sustainability and Waste Reduction

As leaders in Scouting, it's our responsibility to set an example for environmental stewardship. At this spring's Charlemagne District Cub-o-ree, we will focus on eliminating unnecessary waste, particularly single-use plastic bottles and disposable paper products. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring reusable water bottles, mess kits, and durable gear to reduce our environmental impact. By embracing sustainable practices, we not only protect the outdoors we love, but also teach our Scouts the value of conservation and personal responsibility, core principles of the Scouting movement.

Health Forms

Scouting America Medical Form completed for **EVERY YOUTH AND ADULT** in camp. Scouts, siblings, or adults without medical forms cannot participate in any camp activities. We cannot accept forms from other agencies (Youth Services, Schools, etc.). It must be the Scouting America Medical Form Parts A & B available at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Please bring copies of the completed medical forms to camp. Each Pack is responsible for maintaining a roster and ensuring 100% of participants from their respective Pack have the medical form. Each Pack leadership will keep a copy of those forms on hand at the event.

All Parents and Volunteers must complete Scouting America Safeguarding Youth Training. We are kindly asking for all adults who are attending camp to complete the Scouting America Safeguarding Youth training due to the fact that a parent may be asked to help with two-deep leadership at some point during camp. Safeguarding Youth training can be found at: <https://my.scouting.org/> (Create an account, complete the training and bring a copy of the SYT certificate to camp).

Activities

No formal activities are planned for Friday night, but several small ad hoc activities may be executed.

Saturday will be busy with the Cub Scout's walking the Historical Trail. Starting with an opening ceremony, the Scouts will move together with their Packs and travel by train to Brugge to walk the new Brugge Historical Trail. The evening will conclude with a campfire program with each Pack &/or Dens contributing songs and skits to the program and a Sunday morning Scouts own service.

Parents are expected to participate with the camp. If you are unsure where you can help please contact one of the leaders.

The Hopper Jeugdverblijf Merkenveld campsite is run by the Scouts en Gidsen Vlaanderen with the assistance of volunteers. The campground is fairly basic; each campsite is usually equipped with a water tap for the whole scout group. There are electrical sockets at the campground. The campground also has a toilet and shower facility. Further information is available at <https://www.hopper.be/en/jeugdverblijf/merkenveld>

Directions and Contact Details:

Full directions are available on the Hopper Jeugdverblijf Merkenveld website. <https://www.hopper.be/en/jeugdverblijf/merkenveld>

Contact Numbers:

Camp Director: Joseph Schram (jrschram.tacscouting@gmail.com or +32 0479 17 8539)
Program Director: TBD

Food

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Saturday Lunch will be provided and will consist of sandwiches, chips and drink. All other meals will be at the Pack or Family level. It is important that any food restrictions and allergies are brought to the attention of your Pack leadership ASAP. This will allow for appropriate meal planning at the Pack level.

Planned Itinerary

Friday Evening, 20 March 2026 Clothing: Class B.

17:00 Arrival, registration & assignment of plots
20:00 Evening welcome and briefing of leaders
20:00 Pack Activities
22:00 Lights out. (Quiet)

Saturday, 21 March 2026 – Clothing: Caps & Class A (fluorescent vest recommended)

06:30 Reveille/wake up
08:00 Breakfast (Pack Level)
09:00 Flag ceremony and official opening
09:10 **Depart for Zedelgem Train Station**
09:47 **Depart by train to Brugge**
09:55 **Arrive Brugge Train Station (day attendees meet at the station NLT 10:00)**
10:15 Packs are assigned tour guide and depart on historical trail
12:15 – 13:30 Lunch (Provided at Pack Level).
13:30 – 15:00 Pack adventures in Brugge: (see appendix for adventures)
15:00 Continue on Historical Trail
16:26 **Depart Brugge Train Station**
16:55 **Arrive back at Zedelgem Train Station**
17:30 Arrive back at camp
17:30 - 20:00 Patrol / Dens Time & Dinner
20:00 Campfire: Each Den/Patrol will perform a skit, and/or songs / stories.
21:30 Campfire out.
22:00 Lights out.

Sunday 22 March 2026 – Clothing: Class A Uniforms

06:30 Reveille/wake up
07:30 Breakfast (Pack Level)
09:00 Camp Clean-up camp
09:45 Final campsite inspection.
10:00 Interfaith ceremony and camp closeout (Depart at 10:30am).

Some of the times may change slightly but the overall structure is expected to remain the same.

Other Pack Adventures

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Canal Boat Ride

An outing on the canals of Bruges is a classic way to see the city from a fresh vantage point. The half-hour boat ride glides under historic stone bridges, alongside medieval buildings, and often is joined by swans drifting on the water. Tickets cost €15 for adults and €9 for children aged 4-11; children under 4 travel free.

Chapel of the Holy Blood

The Basilica of the Holy Blood features a Romanesque lower chapel and a Gothic-neo-Gothic upper chapel where a revered relic is kept. Entry to the main basilica is free, though a voluntary donation is welcome. For a respectable experience, dress modestly and avoid flash photography especially during relic-veneration hours.

Chocolate Museum

Step into the world of chocolate at Choco-Story Bruges: four floors of cocoa history and live demonstrations, with samples included.

- Adults: €16 for a full visit in 2026.
- Children aged 3-11: €10 in 2026
- Children under 3: Free

A perfect stop for families and chocolate lovers alike in the historic heart of Bruges.

Historium

The Historium offers an immersive journey into the city's Golden Age via themed rooms, exhibitions and optional virtual reality.

- Adults (Story + Exhibition): €22.
- Children (ages 5-12): €14
- Kids under 5: free.

It's a historically rich experience, ideal for families and visitors wanting more than a standard museum visit.

Belfy:

Climb the 366 stairs and be rewarded with an impressive view of Bruges

- Standard: € 15
- < 17 years: € 13
- < 7 years: free

Waffles and Ice Cream

Throughout the city

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Equipment Checklist

Administrative

- ID Card (if available) Passport BSA Medical forms
Youth protection certificate
(Adults)

Camping Equipment

- Ruck Sack/bag Tent WARM Sleeping bag
Extra blankets Pillow Torch + extra batteries
Sleeping Mat/ Inflatable mattress Groundsheet if needed

Clothing

- Cub Scout Uniform Pajamas Spare Underwear
Shorts Spare trousers Warm Fleece/Sweater
Spare Tops / T shirts Spare Socks Warm Hat
Waterproof/rain pants Waterproof coat/raincoat Gloves

Spare shoes /Boots

Eating & Cooking (Please do not bring disposable cups / plates etc.).

- Mess Kit (Knife, fork, spoon, bowl, plate & cup) Water Bottle
Snacks & Fruit Soft drinks Tea towel (old but clean)
Net bag for dunking and drying mess kit

Toiletries / Consumables

- Toothbrush Toothpaste Towel
Soap Face Cloth Personal first aid kit
Sun Protection Lotion/Cream (min SPF30)

Miscellaneous / Optional:

- Cub Scout Book Outdoor games Compass
Map Camping table and chairs Camera (cheap)
Cheap Telescope / binoculars Camping stove & fuel Pocket knife for Bears and
with Whittling Chip Above
Musical Instruments for campfire

What NOT to Bring

No Electronics (anything that needs to be plugged in at some point), No Bikes, No ATVs,
No Knives with a blade larger than 4 inches, No Firearms nor Fireworks, No Hatchets nor Axes,
No Bows nor Arrows, No Alcohol nor illegal drugs. No chewing tobacco products. Smoking is
allowed only in the designated areas.

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Notes: Remember things go missing or get wet damaged/destroyed at camp, so please do not bring items of significant value and best to have items labeled with the name of the owner.

General Rules & Tips:

Transportation

- The Transatlantic Council, Scouting America, is not responsible for transportation to and from the camp area. Please ensure safe travel for your Cub Scouts and family members.
- Due to limited parking at the campsite – carpooling is recommended.

Arrival Procedure

- Please check in at the registration site FIRST. **Do not check in at the campground office.** We will compile who has arrived and make the appropriate payment arrangements.
- Please park your vehicle with minimal room to the nearest car to maximize the parking area, as we are expecting many cars.
- You must bring a Consent & Medical Form filled out and ready to turn in **plus** a copy of your health insurance.
- All Staff and Leaders must have current Safeguarding Youth training.
- Tent Location - Please try to locate tents together at one end of campsite plot to free up space for games and activities. We are camping as Packs, so you may pitch your tent beside any friends.
- After your tent is pitched and you are settled in, please help others (especially latecomers) to get set up and settled so we can start on time.
- Get ready for some fun.

Departure Procedure

- Please plan to stay until the official Departure Time. Part of camping is cleaning up and packing common items away.
- Have a safe journey home.

Child Safety

- Parents are responsible for their children and guests **at all times** while at camp.
- Tigers or children less than 7 years old must be accompanied by their adult partner at all times.
- **Two Deep Principle:** Adults may not share a tent with children other than their own children. There should always be another adult present or in plain view and able to watch if you are speaking with/helping a child who is not your own.
- **Respect Privacy:** No peeking, respect the privacy of Cubs (and younger siblings) and take care when entering a bathroom. Do not take pictures of people in the bathrooms or in tents, etc.
- **Child Abuse:** Any incident or suspicion of child abuse must be immediately reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Once reported to the Camp Director, he will notify the Scout Executive for appropriate action. All reports must and will be kept confidential.

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

- Adults are expected to support the activities throughout the weekend. Although some networking with other parents is encouraged, try not to spend significant amounts of time sitting, drinking beverages & generally chatting with other parents, especially if those running the activities need help.
- Please make sure your children are with you during the entire Camp Weekend. NO childcare is available during this camp.
- Please remind your scouts not to “play” in the brush. It is a violation of the Outdoor Code and there are ticks and stinging nettles.

Camping Rules

- No Running within the camp area, there are many hazards, including tent guy wires, stumps, fires, tables, tent stakes, etc. There are open areas for play adjacent to the campsites.
- Please stay in the camping area. Please notify the Camping Staff if you must leave before the final departure time.
- We are guests at the camp. Everyone is to treat the facilities like home. Clean up after yourself and flush the toilets. Put trash in the bags or containers provided.
- **Uniforms:** This is an official Cub Scout function, so Cub Scouts and Leaders please wear your uniform, as far as the activities allow, during the weekend. Unless acting in official capacity, military uniforms, parts of military uniforms, or ACU/BDU's are not to be worn by anyone. Closed-toed shoes are to be worn at in and around camp to prevent injury. Be sure family members dress for the weather so check the forecast. Clothing with inappropriate symbols or messages are not permitted.
- Bad language, dirty jokes or poor behavior will not be tolerated.
- **Courtesy to other campers:** 10:00pm Lights Out means quiet time. No loud talking, laughing or disturbances after Lights Out. Other groups may be in the campground. Do not disturb them and stay out of their campsites.

Climate/Insect Safety

- **Ticks.** Lyme Disease is carried by the deer tick, which is smaller than the normal dog tick which most people are familiar with but can also carry the disease. Scouts should thoroughly check themselves daily and report to the Medical Center if they find a tick.
- **Pets:** Pets are prohibited. This is for safety as well as owner liability. Visually impaired persons may bring guide dogs.
- **Cold nights:** Even if it is good weather, it can still get cold at night. Make sure you and your kids have a good sleeping bag, and / or extra blankets (Consider using two sleeping bags, placing one inside the other). Always use a sleeping mat to insulate your sleeping bag from the ground. Make sure your sleeping bag stays dry, wrap it in a thick plastic bag and place it in the bottom of your bag or backpack to help prevent it from getting wet in rain. One cold night may put a Cub off Scouting for life.

Initiations, Hazing, Military Training

- Corporal punishment, hazing and initiation of any sort, and military training and drill are not permitted in the BSA.

Flames, Fires, Stoves and Cooking

- No flames are allowed in the tents.

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

- **Stoves:** Families may bring their own stoves for cooking but please try to have your children join in with the pack meals as much as possible.
- **Kitchen areas:** Cub Scouts and children <14 should not enter the kitchen areas unless supervised. Please try to minimize interference in the kitchen area unless helping.
- **Campfires:** Campfires are only permitted with the permission of the Camp Director and shall be according to the Campsite rules. Only adults may add anything or stoke the campfires. Cub Scouts and children are prohibited from putting anything into a campfire, especially trash and plastic. No playing in or near an open campfire. Liquid fuels as fire starters are not allowed.
- **During meals,** there are many people to feed, so please wait your turn. Be patient and let others go first. Take the first helping and wait until everyone is served and the “seconds” are called before returning for more food.

Weapons, Knives, Fireworks, Firearms and Axes

- Non-folding sheath knives, throwing stars, or martial arts weapons, and fireworks of any kind are not allowed at Camp (this includes phasers and light sabers). Scouts that wish to bring a folding pocket knife may do so at the parent’s discretion provided that they possess a valid Whittling Chip card. Parents MUST establish a whittling safe zone within their camping area if the parents have allowed their Scouts to bring their pocket knives. The safe zone must be marked, within plain view of the campsite, and of sufficient size to allow the boys to establish their blood circles.
- **No toy guns/rifles or swords** will be allowed. These items will be confiscated and returned to the Scout at the end of camp.
- **Sticks:** Scouts and children should not play with sticks. These should remain in the woods and on the ground. Any stick used as tools, such as walking sticks, must be used appropriately. Sharpened sticks may only be used for Marshmallows / ‘Smores and then immediately blunted and discarded.
- The wood chopping area is out of bounds to persons under 18 years unless they have a valid Scout certificate to chop / cut wood.

Health

- **Showers and Hand Washing:** A scout is clean. Personal cleanliness should be maintained. A shower facility is available. Leaders should ensure that Scouts wash their hands before preparing or eating food. Scouts may consider bringing swim trunks to wear in the showers. Showering is very limited.
- **Doctor Prescribed Medicine:** Please keep all prescription medication secure. The Camp is not responsible for ensuring that a camper takes his/her medicine. It is the responsibility of the camper and parents.
- **Accident/Medical Insurance:** All persons should have valid medical insurance.
- **No Alcohol:** Despite the fact that alcohol, in moderation may be permitted by the campsite, Scouting America operates under a no-alcohol policy. You are welcome to bring your own alcohol-free drinks.
- **Smoking** or any other tobacco products are not allowed!

Charlemagne District
Spring Cub-o-ree
20-21 March 2026

Emergency Procedures

- The following procedures have been defined in order to bring order to an otherwise (possibly) chaotic experience. Please keep these written directions handy for the unfortunate possibility that they might need to be used. Follow them carefully. For all emergencies, notify your Pack Leadership.
- Follow the directions of your Pack leadership
- **Unauthorized Person in Camp:** Any unauthorized person or persons will be requested to report to the Camp Director to check in. If said person or person does not do so, or it appears that they are a threat, the Camp Director or other staff in charge must be informed immediately. The Police will be notified by the Camp Director (or person in charge) if needed.
- **Fire:** Report the Fire to the Campground Office. If it is a serious fire (i.e. building) the person in charge will notify the Fire Department in initiate the Buitenzorg emergency evacuation procedure.
- **Severe Storms and Lightning:** Activity areas will be closed immediately and will remain closed until 30 minutes AFTER the last lightning strike.
- **Dangerous Wildlife:** If a Scout should encounter a dangerous animal or one that is acting “unnatural” the Scout should stop and slowly back away from the animal. Report the incident to the nearest staff member. The animal may have rabies.