

Ransburg Scout Reservation 2019 FAQ

PRE-CAMP AND CHECK IN

Who needs an Annual Health and Medical Record?

Everyone who will be staying overnight at camp needs a medical form which includes a physical completed by a doctor or other approved medical professional (Parts A, B, and C). If you have visitors who are coming to assist with Check In or Check Out or visiting on Troop Night, these individuals do not need a physical/medical form.

Should we send in a copy of completed medical forms ahead of our arrival?

Sending a copy of completed medical forms to us at least two weeks before your arrival is incredibly beneficial to you, though not required. Sending the copies early allows our health lodge staff to check them for any errors and let you know what needs to be fixed before you arrive. Please do not fax them to us. Please do not send original medical forms. Health forms should be mailed to the Health Lodge at 7599 Waldrip Creek Road, Bloomington, IN 47401 or emailed to healthlodge@ransburgbsa.org.

What about medication?

All medications for both Scouts and Scouters need to be in the original container, regardless of whether it is over-the-counter or prescription. Your troop will be issued a lockbox to store medication, which an adult will administer to youth. The exception to this is that if a Scout can carry medication with them at school (a rescue inhaler or Epi-Pen for example), they can carry it with them at camp. If any medication needs to be refrigerated, our health lodge staff is able to accommodate that need.

When and where is Check In?

As you drive into camp, a uniformed staff member will greet you, provide you with a parking pass, and direct you towards the first part of Check In. Check In begins at 1:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time on Sunday and runs until 2:30 pm. Plan on having one adult leader come to the STEM Center while the rest of the Scouts and leaders wait nearby. There, the first parts of Check In will occur and your troop will be introduced to your troop guide, a staff member who will take you on a tour of camp and assist you through the check in process. Make sure that you and your troop have your troop guide with you before heading to your campsite.

How can we make Check In go faster?

Sending in copies of your medical forms ahead of time, as well as submitting pre-camp swim checks, will speed up the check-in process. If any youth or adults in your unit need to complete a swim check at camp, make sure swimwear is easily accessible. Everyone in your unit should bring a water bottle to camp and keep it with them at all times, especially on Sunday; proper hydration is essential.

DINING FOR UNITS STAYING IN MAIN CAMP

Which meals are provided by camp? Which meals are not provided by camp?

Your first meal at camp will be Sunday night dinner. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided Monday through Friday, with the exception of Wednesday night, which is Troop Night. On Wednesday night, some troops order pizza through camp, some cook in their campsite with food they provide themselves, and some venture into Bloomington to eat at a restaurant. The Quartermaster has Dutch ovens, water coolers, and other cooking utilities available for you to borrow on a first-come first-served basis. On Saturday morning, breakfast is provided prior to Check Out.

Where and when do we eat?

During Check In, your troop will be assigned to either the "early" or "late" meal schedule. Meals are served family-style at tables of 8 in our dining hall. Your entire troop will sit at the same table(s) for the entire week.

Morning flag ceremonies are held between early and late schedule breakfasts, and evening flag ceremonies are held between early and late schedule dinners. This allows us to gather as a camp and provide information about upcoming activities.

Scouts in my troop have dietary needs such as food allergies, medically-necessary limitations, and faith-based restrictions. Can you accommodate them?

We can accommodate almost any dietary need that we know about ahead of time. However, we need to know at least two weeks before your arrival at camp. Please contact Assistant Camp Director Ryan Kelleher at ryan@ransburgbsa.org with any such accommodations, including the name of the Scout and his parents' contact info.

YOUR CAMPSITE

What are the tents like?

Unless you tell us otherwise, we set up double occupancy, wood floored canvas tents with mats and cots for every member of your unit. If your troop is bringing 12 boys and 4 male adults, Ransburg will provide 8 tents: 6 for boys and 2 for adults. We always follow Youth Protection guidelines in determining the number of tents needed in your site.

How many tents are there in each campsite?

A couple of weeks before your arrival we will ask you to confirm your expected attendance. This allows us to make sure there are the proper number of tents for youth and adults. If adults prefer private accommodations, please plan to bring personal or troop tents (but let us know ahead of time, so we don't take up all of your camping real estate).

So there are tents, what else?

Each campsite includes a permanent shelter, 2 picnic tables, a flagpole and American flag, fire ring(s), solar powered lights, and a latrine with running water, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies.

Can I plug in my cell phone or CPAP machine?

Campsites (with the exceptions of Hilltop and Outpost) are not equipped with electricity. Adults may recharge their devices in the Scoutmaster's Lounge if they would like. If someone in your unit uses a CPAP machine, they should bring a deep cell marine battery to camp, and talk with a commissioner about their needs during Medical Rechecks on Sunday. Your ridge commissioner is more than happy to ensure that the battery is recharged during the day so that it is available for use at night. Please let them know ahead of time if this will be necessary so that they can ensure prompt and reliable service.

PROGRAM AND SCOUTING EVENT

Can I change a merit badge session registration once it is submitted?

You may change merit badge session registrations as many times as you want, up until Friday before you arrive on at camp. Be aware that some merit badges might not be available for you to switch back to after you've made a change; many are in high demand.

Does every Scout need to be signed up for a merit badge every hour?

Absolutely not! We encourage Scouts to build time into their schedule to participate in "free time" activities, which do not require pre-registration. There is open swimming, open boating, mountain biking, open Eagle Quest (our first year Scout program), open climbing, horseback trail rides, open archery, open rifle, and the Firecrafter program, just to name a few! Check out the Activity Schedule that will be available on the Ransburg website for times and places.

The merit badge sessions are scheduled back to back. How will the boys have time to get from one place to the next without a “passing period”?

Sessions are listed as back to back for the sake of scheduling convenience. In reality, each session is dismissed 10 minutes before its scheduled end time. This gives your Scouts plenty of time to transition between activities. I recommend taking a look at a camp map as you are planning schedules, especially for the younger Scouts.

Do I have to register my Scouts for open activities? What are some of those open activities?

No, you don't. For activities such as Intramural Sports, Mountain Biking, Open Climbing, Open Eagle Quest, Open Swim and several others your Scouts can just show up! That's the beauty of the open activities.

Should I bring merit badge blue cards to camp?

One of the best parts of the registration system is that it generates blue cards at the end of the week. Therefore, you do not need to bring any blue cards with you.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

My troop is chartered through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and we do not travel on Sunday. Since we won't be there at Check In, what should we do?

Please let the Camp Commissioner know as soon as possible if you are planning to arrive Saturday afternoon (additional fee) or Monday morning at 6:00 am. You will be guided through medical rechecks and campsite check-in all before breakfast. A later arrival than 6:00 does not allow this to happen smoothly, and jeopardizes your troop's ability to get to breakfast on time.

Some of the people in my troop have special needs. Is camp equipped to make accommodations for them?

Ransburg is experienced in accommodating Scouts with disabilities. Several staff members are certified special education teachers, and camp utilizes their training and knowledge to do our best to provide an exceptional program for everyone that comes to camp. Your ridge commissioner is happy to provide golf cart transportation to campers and leaders with mobility needs. We can make individual arrangements for most Scouts, but advance notification of their needs and an open dialogue beginning as quickly as possible is very helpful.

Are visitors allowed in camp?

Ransburg Scout Reservation welcomes visitors during the week. They must sign in at the camp office upon arrival and sign out when leaving. Individual meals are available for purchase, and visitors will be seated with their troop if possible. Breakfasts must be purchased the day before by 9pm, lunches on the day of by 11:30am, and dinners on the day of by 5:15pm.

Are there adult training opportunities available at Ransburg?

There are a variety of different training opportunities available to adult leaders during your week at camp. Please encourage your leaders who are not fully trained to take advantage of this great opportunity. As an Adult Leader, you can come into camp as a new leader and leave camp fully trained! We have dedicated staff whose focus is solely on leader training.

Is there WiFi available at camp?

Many of the program and public areas of camp have WiFi available. The internet connection is now powered by fiber optics and is much better than the past. To connect to the WiFi, you must have a Facebook login. We require the Facebook login to prevent misuse of the internet while at camp. A user can also purchase a pass to access faster internet speeds. The passes can be purchased at camp through the WiFi login with a credit card.

I have more questions, who do I contact?

You can contact the Camp Commissioner at commissioner@ransburgbsa.org if you have any questions. Please be sure to add your troop number, district, and council name when emailing the Camp Commissioner.