



BRSR
BLUE RIDGE SCOUT
RESERVATION 

LEADER'S GUIDE

2026



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Dear Camp Leaders & Parents,

Welcome to the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation (BRSR) summer camp program of 2026! We are so excited to celebrate a summer of adventure with you and your Scouts in the cool, secluded mountains of Virginia!

In this Leader's Guide, we aim to provide your unit with the tools necessary to be prepared for a fun and successful summer with us. We are happy to welcome Scouts of all backgrounds and ages from all over the country to participate in a wide breadth of Scouting programs and activities. Our camp staff has been busy preparing to bring you the best summer camp program possible and are ready to share their knowledge and skills with your Scouts! Our campsites and facilities can accommodate Scouts of all abilities and skill levels, and we will work diligently with you to make your camp experience the best it can be.

Be sure to stay up to date on any updates made to this guide and our program offerings at BRSR by visiting our camp [webpage](#).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. We will host online informational webinars throughout the spring to help unit leaders further understand what they can expect from a camping experience at BRSR. The webinar schedule is posted on the BRSR webpage and detailed in the schedule below.

We are looking forward to a bright summer filled with fun and Scouting spirit!

Yours in Scouting,

Bethany Brownfield



Reservation Director
Blue Ridge Mountains Council
bethany.brownfield@scouting.org

GUIDE INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the opportunity to read over this informational Leader’s Guide. We know it’s a bit on the long side but a Scout is prepared! We suggest giving it a couple of read-throughs before the summer. Within your unit, please appoint one leader to act as your Camp Coordinator to organize your Scouts’ planned camp experiences and communicate with our staff. Share this guide with your unit leaders and parents to ensure everyone is prepared for your upcoming summer camp experience. We understand that your unit will likely participate in multiple programs, so please make sure the leader in charge of each of those programs knows where to find program-specific information. If you look through this guide and find that there is information missing, please share that with our staff. We are always looking for suggestions to improve for next year.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council appreciates your continued support of the Scouting program and sincerely hopes that this year’s summer camp will be one of your greatest Scouting experiences.

The Blue Ridge Scout Reservation is home to Camp Powhatan and Camp Ottari, with many miles of forested mountain and trails in between. This summer, we are hosting our base camp merit badge and Brownsea Island programs at Camp Powhatan, while Blue Ridge Mountaineer, High Knoll Trail Camp, and Voyageur Trek will be based at Camp Ottari. Our New River Adventure and Scuba programs will be based at Camp Powhatan, but will include many activities at other locations across Virginia and West Virginia.

COVID-19 NOTICE

The Blue Ridge Scout Reservation will be following local, state, and national guidance concerning any unforeseen changes to Covid-19 policy. We will communicate any Covid-19 policy updates clearly and promptly to ensure the safety of all units and Scouts before camp begins. We do not currently expect to require any Covid policies such as face covering and social distancing, but we will continue to monitor the recommendations of health experts.

CONTACT US

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS COUNCIL	(540) 265-0656 Mailing address: PO Box 7606, Roanoke, VA 24019 Office location: 6342 Peters Creek Rd NW, Suite A, Roanoke, VA 24019
CAMP POWHATAN	(540) 980-3787 *phone staffed June 1- July 31 2600 Max Creek Road, Hiwassee, VA 24347
CAMP OTTARI	(540) 980-4762 *phone staffed June 10-July 31 2881 Simpkinstown Road, Hiwassee, VA 24347

CAMP PROGRAM FEES

PARTICIPANT TYPE	REGULAR FEE	EARLY BIRD FEE
Powhatan Base Camp Scout	\$492	\$462
Powhatan Base Camp Adult	\$212	N/A
Brownsea Island Scout	\$514	\$483
Blue Ridge Mountaineer Scout	\$492	\$462
Blue Ridge Mountaineer Adult	\$212	N/A
High Knoll Scout	\$492	\$462
Voyageur Scout	\$492	\$462
Voyageur & High Knoll Adult	\$492	\$462
New River Adventure Scout	\$530 average*	\$500 average*
New River Adventure Participating Adult	\$530 average*	\$500 average*
New River Adventure Supporting Adult	\$212	N/A
Scuba Scout & Adult	\$750	\$720

*New River Adventure participants pay a flat fee of \$270. The rest of their fee depends on their selection of daily activities for the week.

Additional fees apply for some merit badges and specialty programs. Please see the program descriptions below for additional details.

DISCOUNTS & FINANCIAL AID

1. Returning units: 2025 returning units that place their \$200 deposit for BRSR 2026 before September 1, 2025, will be eligible to apply the 2025 camp fees to their 2026 registration. This discount applies to both Scouts and adults and will be automatically applied to each individual's registration.
2. Early Bird: Individual Scouts who complete their online camp registration for any BRSR summer program before April 1, 2026, are eligible for the \$30 Early Bird Discount, which will be automatically applied to each individual's camp registration. This discount is exclusive to the youth Scouts attending BRSR in 2026; the adult leaders attending camp will not receive it.

3. Service projects: Units can receive a \$20 discount for each of their Scouts registered for camp if the unit completes a service project at Blue Ridge Scout Reservation before May 15, 2026. Contact us to schedule your unit's service project. Service projects performed off BRSR camp property or without the pre-approval of the Reservation Program Director will not qualify for the discount.

4. Free leaders: One free adult leader will be awarded for every 10 Scouts registered to attend BRSR in 2026.

5. BRMC camperships: Funds are available to BRMC units with Scouts in need of further financial assistance. The application for assistance can be accessed through attendee registration on Black Pug. Please review the list of required information with the Scout's family before completing the campership application.

6. Out-of-council camperships: Our limited campership funds are available primarily to BRMC units with Scouts in need of further financial assistance. Out-of-council units who have Scouts with financial circumstances that would prevent them from attending BRSR may apply for consideration but must understand that assistance for BRMC units is prioritized. Please review the list of required information with the Scout's family before completing the campership application. You may also find out if your home council has campership program funds that can be applied to your camp visit.

7. Ambassador Program: Troops that refer a new unit (one that hasn't attended our camps in the past three years) will receive \$5 off per Scout for 2026 and recognition as Camp Ambassadors. The new troop will enjoy locked-in rates from 2025 and a special welcome package. Please visit the Camp Ambassador page on our camp website for more details.

2026 SUMMER CAMP DATES

Week	Camp Powhatan	New River Adventure	Blue Ridge Mountaineer	High Knoll Trail Camp	Voyageur Trek	Scuba
1 June 14-20	x	x	x	x	x	x
2 June 21-27	x	x	x	x	x	x
3 June 28-July 4	x	x	x	x	x	x
4 July 5-11	x	x	x	x	x	
5 July 12-18	x	x	x	x	x	

Our staff reserves the right to cancel any of these programs for certain weeks depending on registration and staffing constraints but will communicate early and often with those registered. If you are interested in participating in a program during a week for which it is not listed as available, please contact us to see if we can accommodate your requests.

PREPARING FOR YOUR SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

Hold-A-Place reservations are open through **December 31, 2025**. A nonrefundable \$200 deposit will hold your spots. Normal registrations open **January 1, 2026**, with \$200 deposit required.

The first day to fill reserved slots is **January 1, 2026**. Registration closes two weeks prior to the start of the camp week. **Final payments are due by May 31, 2026**. Fees are based on when payment is applied, not when a check is mailed. Final payment is due 2 weeks prior to the start of camp and registrations are closed. Attendees may be substituted up to the Friday before camp.

REFUND POLICY

The Reservation strives to provide the very best program. We sign contracts with staff and vendors in February, and cancellations after April 1 undermine our ability to provide this quality program. In cases of death of an immediate family member, sickness and injury, or military transfer we will refund all but 25% of fees paid when verified by a physician, military commander, or other such official. Reasons such as vacation schedule, summer school, and last-minute changes of mind are not acceptable reasons for refunds.

Circumstances outside those defined in the Blue Ridge Mountains Council refund policy will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the BRMC Camping Committee, and refunds will be granted at their discretion. All refund decisions are decided upon and remitted from the Council Service Center. To request a refund, fill out the form available on the Blue Ridge Mountains Council [webpage](#).

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council reserves the right to cancel any program listed due to insufficient attendance or other extenuating circumstances. Alternate programs or refunds will be offered.

PLANNING FOR SUMMER CAMP

Please add these dates to your calendar.

October - January

- Elect/appoint a Summer Camp Coordinator to be the point of contact to the Camp Registrar.
- Obtain camp leadership sufficient to meet national Scouting Safeguarding Youth rules.
- Meet with your unit committee to discuss summer camp plans.
- Develop a camp attendance and budget plan to assist scouts with summer camp fees.
- Begin promotion with Arrow of Light dens to ensure transition.
- Share camp promotional materials with youth and adults.
- Registrants can fill their reserved slots starting on **January 1, 2026**, by paying individual attendee fees and inputting attendee personal information.

February

- BRSR Leaders Webinar **February 3, 2026, at 7 PM**. This webinar will focus on program options, merit badge schedules, deadlines, and Black Pug registration. Register for the meeting [here](#).
- Begin fundraising projects within your unit to help Scouts with camp fees.
- Schedule Order of the Arrow elections with your local chapter.

March

- Half of individual registrant fees are due **March 1, 2026**. This does not include merit badge fees. For example, if a Scout is registered for base camp at Powhatan, they will owe \$225 on March 1.
- For Scouts registered for weeks 1 and 2, registration opens for merit badge classes and New River Adventure activities on **March 1, 2026**. This option will only be open to individuals who have at least half of their registration fees paid.
- BRSR Leaders Webinar **March 3, 2026, at 7 PM**. This webinar will focus on camp forms, leadership expectations, adult leader courses, and facilities. Register for the meeting [here](#).
- For Scouts registered for weeks 3, 4, and 5, registration opens for merit badge classes and New River Adventure activities on **March 15, 2026**. This option will only be open to individuals who have at least half of their registration fees paid.
- Begin applying for Camperships for any Scouts in your unit who may need financial assistance to attend summer camp. Apply through attendee registration online.
- Hold a parent's night program.
- Secure transportation to camp.
- Issue each Scout a personal equipment list and appropriate medical form.

April

- Pay each Scout's balance in full and complete their online camp registration by **April 1, 2026**, to receive our special Early Bird discount of \$30 per Scout.
- The last day to cancel attendee slots without fees or penalties is **April 1, 2026**. Empty attendee slots will be eliminated from units' Black Pug registrations. Contact the BRMC Office to drop attendees. Any cancellations after this deadline must be processed through the BRMC refund process.
- BRSR Leaders Webinar **April 7, 2026, at 7 PM**. This webinar will focus on our high adventure and specialty programs, including New River Adventure, Blue Ridge Mountaineer, High Knoll, Voyageur Trek, and Scuba. Register for the meeting [here](#).
- Begin setting a plan for camp with the patrol leader's council.
- The Unit Committee should check with all parents of Scouts not registered for camp, including Arrow of Light dens.

May

- Pre-camp forms are due online on **May 1, 2026**. These forms are all linked in the Attachments section of the Black Pug registration page. They include:
 - Dietary Needs

- Special Accommodations
- Early Arrival or Late Arrival
- Chartered Bus
- Campership applications will no longer be accepted for consideration after **May 1, 2026**. These discounts are not guaranteed upon application. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of this date of their application status.
- BRSR Leaders Webinar **May 5, 2026, at 7 PM**. This webinar will focus on camp forms, check-in and check-out, daily camp schedules, and final payment. Register for the meeting [here](#).
- Out of council units only: secure a copy of the current Accident & Sickness Insurance from your home Council Service Center (request proof of Accident & Sickness from your accounting department).
- All camp fees are due by **May 31, 2026**, including outstanding merit badge fees. A late fee of \$20 will apply to any registrant with unpaid fees after this deadline. Units who arrive to camp with outstanding fees will be expected to pay any outstanding camp fees at check-in, including the late fee.

Two Weeks Prior to Your Camp Visit

- Secure location of parents and emergency numbers while Scouts are in camp.
- Finalize transportation arrangements and plan your arrival at camp. Add an extra ten minutes to your schedule to account for the drive up Seven Bridges Road to Powhatan. (If it doesn't take you at least ten minutes to get up the road, you're going too fast. Beware the camp radar gun.)
- Collect all forms that must be submitted at camp check-in. These forms include:
 - Scouting Annual Health and Medical Record
 - Unit Health Officer Form
 - Prescription Medication Dosing Form
 - Early Release Form
 - My.Scouting roster for your unit to show all youth and adults are registered
 - New River Adventure required forms that may include the [NRA parental waiver](#), [ATV waiver](#), [whitewater rafting waiver](#), and [horseback riding waiver](#), [Virginia Boater Safety Course](#) Card

Day of Departure

- Make sure all Scouts and leaders have their gear, medical forms, medications, supplemental food (if needed), and other required forms. Please separate medical forms by program (Camp Powhatan, New River Adventure, High Knoll, etc.) to expedite check-in.
- If anyone is sick or exhibiting flu-like symptoms, do not bring that individual to camp. Everyone will be screened by our health staff, and knowingly bringing sick individuals could exclude your entire group from camp participation.
- Review all camp policies and unit policies with all individuals attending. Everyone should fully understand the expectations for their behavior and be prepared to act according to the Scout Oath and Law on camp property.

REGISTRATION

All Blue Ridge Scout Reservation registrations must be made using our Black Pug service [here](#). We do not accept paper registrations. If you do not have access to the Internet or run into trouble accessing Black Pug, please call the BRMC Office and ask for assistance.

Additional help using Black Pug services can be found [here](#) or by calling the BRMC Office. Changes to individual registrations can be made up to two weeks before the start of camp, and attendees may be substituted up until the Friday before camp. Remember that your unit should appoint one Summer Camp Coordinator to complete this online registration for your entire unit.

Once your unit has completed account setup within Black Pug, please add profile information for all individuals, including member ID, rank, date of birth, and Safeguarding Youth certification for adults. This information helps our staff ensure that your unit is following Safeguarding Youth rules and that all of your Scouts and adults are able to register for age-appropriate activities. If a registration has “missing information” they will not be able to check out or make changes.

CAMP POLICIES

SCOUTING REGISTRATION

All summer camp programs at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation are nationally accredited by Scouting America. All staff and participants, youth and adults, must be currently registered members of the Scouting America. Additionally, the Reservation must enforce the policy that only registered Scouts attend related functions at camp. **All attending adults must be registered with Scouting America and have current Safeguarding Youth training.** Children and/or siblings of those registered for a specific program, including Cub Scouts, are not to attend unless the program has been specifically designed with adequate facilities to handle them. Leaders will need to bring a printed copy of the unit’s My.Scouting roster to verify that all their participants are members.

SCOUTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Scouting America promotes a culture where each youth, leader, volunteer, and employee feels a sense of belonging and builds communities where every person feels respected and valued. Leading by example and encouraging each other to live by the values expressed by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, we welcome families of all backgrounds to help prepare young people to serve as successful members and leaders of our nation’s increasingly diverse communities.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ADULT LEADERS

In keeping with Scouting policy, at least two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities. A registered female adult leader, 21 years or older, must be present for any activity that includes female youth or adult participants.

Our specialty programs are provisional, meaning that your scouts may be able to participate with limited or no unit adult leadership (staff leadership is provided), but unit adult participation and supervision is encouraged.

All unit leaders should expect to assist our staff in providing a safe and fun experience for the Scouts. Unit leaders are responsible for managing the discipline and behavior of youth and adults in camp. The camp leadership team is available to help with any issues that may occur. A camp chaplain is available upon request for counseling. Unit committees should be sure that the camp leaders are trained, and they understand their responsibilities while in summer camp.

As an adult leader, your role includes:

- Maintaining unit safety and discipline at all times.
- Coordinating all unit and individual activities with your Scouts.
- Maintaining awareness of each Scout's personal goals and objectives at camp.
- Participating in camp activities on a daily basis. This will include program area visits, attendance at leader's meetings, and collection of progress reports of each Scout's activities.
- Being prepared to help others, specifically other camping units and staff personnel as needed.
- Monitoring and evaluating unit and Scout progress in camp and providing counseling, guidance, and encouragement.
- Reviewing the daily schedule of unit activities with fellow leaders before departure for camp, including experienced camp leaders like your Unit Commissioner.
- Completing and compiling camp evaluations at the end of your visit.
- Serving as positive role models for youth. This includes language, attitude, and behavior.
- Reading and understanding the [Scouter Code of Conduct](#) prior to coming to camp.

Further information about Scouting Youth Protection and adult leadership guidelines can be found [here](#). Units should have a copy of the most current version of the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). Leaders should specifically review pages 1-5 of the Guide to Safe Scouting, including the Accommodations section on page 2.

All adult leaders in camp share responsibility to report Youth Protection and child abuse violations. **Any violations of Scouting Youth Protection must be immediately reported to the Camp Director.** Please reference the Scouting Youth Protection [website](#) for further inquiries about Youth Protection policy.

Leader Rotations

We understand that taking an entire week off to come to camp can be difficult for our leaders, and we welcome adults to switch out mid-week. However, it is important that your unit does not exceed the number of adult spots that are paid for. For example, a unit that pays for three adult leaders cannot have more than 3 adults spending the night or eating meals at one time. We do not prorate our fees for nightly stays. New leaders arriving must sign in and obtain their wristband from the Welcome Center when they arrive. The adult that is leaving must also sign out at the Welcome Center. **Any adult staying overnight at camp must be registered with Scouting America and have completed Scouting Safeguarding Youth Training.**

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCOUT CONDUCT

The 12 points of the Scout Law guide our camps. All camper and staff conduct is judged by how it measures up against these guidelines. At camp, we cannot tolerate and will not permit activities that do not meet the criteria of the standards set forth in the Scout Law. We ask for your cooperation and understanding as adults in helping us maintain a high standard of moral and personal behavior.

Uniforms and Appropriate Attire

We ask Scouts to wear a complete Scouting Field Uniform to all retreat ceremonies, dinners, chapel services, and Sunday and Friday night campfires. High Knoll, Blue Ridge Mountaineer, and Voyageur Trek participants do not wear their Scout uniforms during the week.

During camp activities when a field uniform is not required, everyone in camp is expected to wear activity uniforms or other appropriate attire, regardless of age or gender. Appropriate attire is modest, and does not depict or promote political, explicit, or hateful content. Shirts and closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times at camp, with the exception of during waterfront activities and at the shower houses. Hats must be removed in the dining hall. Swimwear should be comfortable, functional, appropriate for aquatic camp activity. Additionally, swimwear must be clean, designed as swimwear, and secure enough to not shift or fall off while participating.

Scout Behavior

The Blue Ridge Scout Reservation is proud to serve individuals from many backgrounds and promote a camp environment of inclusion and respect. We will not tolerate any behavior from youth or adults that is found to discriminate against another camper or group, and such individuals will be removed from camp immediately at their own expense. All youth and adult participants are expected to follow the [Scouter Code of Conduct](#).

It is the primary responsibility of the unit leadership to set expectations for Scout conduct at camp and to carry out consequences for behavior that does not align with the Scout Oath and Law or violates Scouting Youth Protection and Youth-on-Youth Abuse policies. If such behavior is brought to the attention of camp leadership staff, we may remove such individuals from camp and report the behavior to the Scouting [Incident Reporting](#) tool.

Scouts should come to camp with the intent to participate in Scouting activities, work on individual advancement, and have fun. We may remove from camp any youth or adult who is found to be making any inappropriate and unwelcome advances on any other youth or adult of any gender or identity. Such advances can make the camp experience very unpleasant for involved individuals. We strongly recommend that unit leaders agree upon a cell phone and behavior policy with their Scouts that limits their distractions from the Scouting activities provided at camp. There is no cell service in camp and no WiFi services available to Scouts. We expect unit leaders to enforce this policy with their Scouts.

Older scouts sometimes feel that new scouts should be “initiated” into the unit with a physical activity or other embarrassing stunt. Unit leaders should be alert to this possibility and direct Scouts’ efforts into meaningful programs. Any behavior perceived as hazing or initiation is not permitted, is against Scouting’s Youth Protection standards, and may result in removal from camp.

EQUIPMENT DAMAGE

Normal usage and wear will result in some breakage of equipment; however, the cost of malicious damage or breakage will be charged to the unit and must be paid before leaving. The fees may be adjusted at the discretion of the Camp Director according to the severity of the damage.

- Damage to tent canvas: \$20/panel
- Uprights: \$12
- Ridge poles: \$15
- Rips and tears in tents or tarps: \$25/inch
- Fire extinguisher refill: \$50
- Cot replacement: \$120
- Adirondack mattress replacement: \$150
- Tarp replacement: \$400
- Tent replacement: \$700
- Adirondack replacement: \$3,000

Tent and Adirondack Damage

Our canvas wall tents and adirondacks are inspected weekly as part of the checkout process. All damage to tents when you arrive at camp must be reported to your campsite commissioner on the first day. Any new damage to tents caused by your unit will result in a fee. Please do not attempt to repair damaged tents yourself, the commissioner staff must be notified as soon as possible. Bug spray and repellent applied to canvas tents will cause the canvas to lose its water repellency.

RESTRICTIONS

The following are not allowed:

- Fireworks
- Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
- Flames in tents
- Pocket knives over four inches long or sheath knives other than those made in the Blue Ridge Mountaineer program
- Personal firearms
- Bicycles
- Pets, except registered service animals
- Use or possession of tobacco products by anyone under the age of 21 (Virginia state law). All camp buildings are smoke-free environments and smoking on the trail is discouraged.
- Possession or use of a vaporizer by youth
- Due to our invasive insect protocols, firewood may not be brought onto the property

Liquid Fuels

The use of liquid fuel stoves and lanterns in a campsite is permitted under the supervision of an adult leader. Under no circumstances are liquid fuels or lanterns allowed in tents. Bulk containers of fuel and unattached propane tanks must be stored in the fuel bin near the quartermaster. An approved spun aluminum fuel bottle is not considered to be a bulk container.

Contagious Disease

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council takes the safety and welfare of its staff and participants very seriously. As such, all units will be asked during the check-in process if anyone attending has experienced nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever-like symptoms during the week prior to camp starting. Please ask any Scouts or

adults with symptoms like these to stay home so that we may protect the welfare of all those at camp. Our Health Officers may quarantine entire units, as well as campsites, if they suspect a risk of contagion.

VEHICLES, TRAILERS, & PARKING

In accordance with Scouting America policy, riding outside of a vehicle's enclosed passenger compartments is not permitted, meaning no rides on hoods, trunks, fenders, tailgates, or in the beds of trucks. Seat belts must be worn at all times in all vehicles. **The speed limit in camp is 5 mph and 15 mph on the roads leading to camp.**

Due to limited space in campsites, units may take one vehicle at a time to their campsite to unload gear upon arrival to camp, but at all other times, vehicles must be in their designated parking lot. Handicapped exceptions are allowed with a permit from the camp office. Trailer parking at your campsite is allowed, but not guaranteed. Plan accordingly when packing up your gear. Carpooling is encouraged and appreciated.

Golf carts and UTVs are prohibited on camp property except by trained staff members or if there is a medical or physical ability need. Please see our camp leadership staff to receive a vehicle pass if such exceptions apply.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

On your first day in camp, emergency procedures will be explained to troop leaders and scouts. In the event of an emergency, please notify a member of the camp staff immediately. Please do not attempt to deal with the emergency yourself, regardless of the situation. If the situation seems at all dangerous, the priority is to evacuate all Scouts and leaders from the area.

WILDLIFE SAFETY

Our Reservation is blessed with a wide range of biodiversity that includes deer, bats, raccoons, birds, skunks, turkey, snakes, coyotes, sasquatches, amphibians, and bears. It is wise to remember that these animals are the permanent residents of the backcountry while we are the visitors. Treat all animals with respect and observe from a distance. Do not follow, feed, tease, or handle wildlife. If you discover any animal that is behaving strangely, please notify camp staff immediately.

The intentional and unintentional feeding of all non-captive wildlife on reservation property is prohibited. Keep your campsite clean. Reservation staff, participants, and visitors are responsible for the safe storage of all food and trash at all times. Safe storage of food could be a trailer, bear-proof storage container, or 5-gallon buckets with screw-on lids. We do not recommend the use of bear bags in base camp. All trash should be removed from your campsite or secured each time the site is unattended. **Do not eat or drink in tents.**

In observance of their habitat and in an effort to avoid endangering these animals and our customers, we have a strict wildlife management policy. The Ranger reserves the right to fine any violators of our policy. Check with camp staff to determine if bears have been entering camp areas recently. If visits have occurred, then all smellables must also be stored in bear-proof containers. If you cook in your campsite, clean up

immediately after the meal and pour your gray water (strained to remove food particles) into a nearby sink and rinse the sink with clean water. Please do not scatter your gray water near camp or dump it in a latrine.

Before leaving your campsite for the day:

- Have your Scouts police the site to pick up trash and dropped food.
- Make sure all food and smellables are secured appropriately.
- Leave tent flaps open if the weather permits.

Before going to bed at night:

- Make sure all food, trash, and any smellables are stored in a secure location, ideally more than 100 feet from tenting areas.
- If tables are dirty, wipe them down to reduce food smells.
- Make sure your Scouts keep their sleeping bags free of food smells by changing their clothes before going to bed and washing hands and faces.
- Please place all trash by your campsite sign for evening trash pickup. If your unit generates trash after that time, you are responsible for taking it to the secure dumpsters by the dining hall.

HEALTH & SAFETY AT CAMP

SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATIONS

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council will do everything in its power to accommodate participants with special needs, such as a physical handicap that limits mobility or the need for a CPAP machine. We ask that any unit with a participant needing special accommodations while at camp please fill out the [Special Accommodations Form](#) at least two weeks prior to camp attendance. If electricity is needed, please bring a 100' outdoor extension cord in addition to completing the form. Please fill out the form if there is any individual in your unit who will need use of a motorized golf cart for in-camp mobility. Use of a service animal is permitted but pets are not.

Submit any special dietary requests at least two weeks before camp using the [Dietary Needs Form](#). Our dining hall service provides a specialized dietician on site specifically to accommodate participants with these needs. They cannot prepare for your visit if the form is not completed before your arrival. Your unit will meet with dining hall staff during your Sunday tour, during which you can verify with the dietician that any special diets needed for your unit will be prepared. Please note that dislikes and texture aversions are not considered special dietary needs. In cases such as these, additional food is provided on the salad bars during meals and in the Trading Post snack bar. Units may also bring supplemental food as long as it is always stored in bear proof storage.

CAMPER SECURITY

Our camps are extremely concerned about the welfare and safety of Scouts. As such, early release requests, for any reason, will only be allowed if the following steps are completed. This information is taken from the Scouting America National Council's Health and Safety Guide.

1. Verification must be made to assure that the person requesting release is acting as the legal parent or guardian or under the direction of the legal parent or guardian. Verification may be done by the following:
 - a. Approval of the Scoutmaster.
 - b. Presentation of proper identification matched with the name listed as the legal parent or guardian on the Scout's medical form.
 - c. Contact via telephone with the legal parent or guardian. The telephone number used must be supplied by the Scoutmaster or obtained from the medical form.
 - d. Previous arrangements made with the Scoutmaster and Camp Director by the legal parent/guardian.
2. It is understood that any person who requests the early release of a Scout will abide by the policy set forth above and complete the [Early Release Form](#) prior to the release of the Scout.
3. It is understood that a Scout will never be released to another youth under 18 years of age without verified permission from the legal parent or guardian.

For everyone's safety, we require parents, leaders, Scouts, and staff to sign in and out at the Welcome Center when entering and leaving camp during the week. If there are concerns about a Scout's safety, please promptly discuss the situation with our camp leadership staff.

The buddy system must be followed at all times in all locations at Blue Ridge Scout Reservation. No person, Scout or adult, should be alone while walking the trails or in a campsite. Adult leaders are expected to enforce the buddy system with their Scouts.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The camp's Health Lodge is staffed 24 hours each day by qualified medical personnel. For insurance and safety reasons, all accidents and illnesses—no matter how minor—must be reported to and recorded by the Health Lodge. Arrangements have been made with the local rescue squads and hospitals to handle any medical emergencies. National standards require that any person staying overnight have a valid medical form on file with the Health Lodge. Late arrivals should report to the office and then to the Health Lodge.

Every participant must submit a [Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record](#) upon arrival at camp. **A physician's signature is required.** Leaders should provide a copy of the newest version of the medical form to each youth and adult planning to come to camp as soon as possible so that they can get their physicals completed and forms filled out properly. This record is provided as a fillable PDF, and members are encouraged to fill it out on their computer and print the record, rather than filling it out by hand, to improve the readability and accuracy of medical information. Though this document can be saved and emailed, please be cognizant of the private information saved within the record. Please understand that the Scouting Annual

Health and Medical Record is the only medical form recognized by Scouting. Sport, military, or other medical records may not be substituted.

Scouting activities can be physically and mentally demanding. Listed below are some risk factors that can become issues during outdoor adventure. Please exercise caution and restraint.

- Excessive body weight
- Cardiac or cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Diabetes mellitus
- Seizures
- Asthma
- Sleep apnea
- Allergies or anaphylaxis
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Psychological/emotional difficulties

Prescription Medications

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council requires that all prescription and over the counter medications be stored under lock, except when in the controlled presence of health care staff or other adult leaders responsible for the administration and/or dispensing of medications. **Please do not bring over the counter medications** such as Tylenol or cough syrup to camp. The Health Lodge stocks these medications and will dispense based on the patient's signs and symptoms. Emergency medications such as inhalers, epi pens, and nitro should be maintained on the patient's person. Refrigerated medications may be stored at the health lodge or in the campsite if secured under lock and key. All medication should be in a container issued by a pharmacist with the medication name and strength, the dose, and dose frequency clearly marked on the container.

Each unit must make a decision to either maintain control of its medications or turn them over to our Health Officers for administration. If your unit chooses to maintain control of its medications, one adult leader must be designated as the unit health officer and sign the [Unit Health Officer Waiver](#).

All participants taking medications must fill out the [Prescription Medication Dosing Form](#) prior to arrival at camp. We recommend that the unit health officer perform this task so that they are familiar with the medications. Please use one form for each participant and list the medication, dosage, and dosage schedule shown on the prescription.

Each unit should be prepared to show these completed forms at check-in to the camp Health Officer, and then keep them updated throughout your unit's week at camp as medications are used. We will ask that you leave a copy of these completed forms at camp when you depart. We will maintain them in the permanent camp medical files.

CAMP ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Intercamp Transportation

Our staff will provide transportation at 4:00 PM for Scouts needing to travel between Powhatan and Ottari during Sunday check-in, if needed. If you are able to provide transportation between camps, you may do so after you check in. It takes about 30 minutes to travel between Camp Powhatan and Camp Ottari.

Early Arrival

Units traveling long distances who choose to arrive on Saturday night must fill out the [Early Arrival Form](#) and submit it by **May 1, 2026**, so that a staff member can meet your group and show you to your campsite for the evening. Showers are available for your use; however, no program or food is available, and troops should not enter the waterfront. If your group brings food for cooking, ensure you have bear-proof storage containers. Camp opens for check-in on Sunday at 1:00 p.m., with meal service starting at dinner that evening. Our staff can provide directions to local grocery stores, restaurants, and movie theaters.

Late Arrival

Units arriving late must also notify the camp in advance by filling out the [Late Arrival Form](#) by **May 1, 2026**. Please note that late arrivals will result in missed program time. Upon late arrival, your unit may have to wait for staff to become available to assist with check-in. Late units will not be accommodated to the detriment of the camp program.

Charter Buses

Units planning to travel on charter buses must complete the [Charter Bus Form](#) by **May 1, 2026**. Charter buses are too large for our camp roads and bridges, so please inform our staff of your estimated time of arrival and number of participants on the bus. Camp management will arrange for your unit's transportation into camp from the entrance.

End of Week Transportation

There is a Friday afternoon shuttle from Blue Ridge Mountaineer at Camp Ottari to Camp Powhatan. Extra housing with the unit cannot be guaranteed; provisional Scouts may share a campsite for the night. Units with multiple provisional Scouts may be asked to provide an adult leader for supervision Friday night if Scouts cannot be accommodated with their unit's site.

Shuttles will NOT run Saturday morning to pick up High Knoll participants. Scouts will leave their program site at predetermined times early Saturday mornings and meet up with their unit by 9:00 AM at Camp Ottari. Arrangements can be made for earlier departure times with the Camp Director.

NEARBY SERVICES

The towns of Pulaski, Dublin, Radford, and Christiansburg along Interstate 81 are closest to the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation. Pulaski and Dublin are close to Camp Powhatan, while Radford and Christiansburg are close to Camp Ottari. These towns have hotels, religious services, shopping, medical services, and points of cultural interest. Most services are a 30- to 45-minute drive from camp.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Please use discretion in choosing which items to bring to camp, as they may get lost or damaged. We suggest that you leave valuable items at home. Label all personal items with the Scout's name and unit number.

Unit Equipment

- Bear-proof storage for food and smellables
- Troop flag
- American flag
- First aid kits
- Clothing marker pens
- Extra tarps
- Out-of-council insurance information
- Merit badge books
- Rope and twine

Personal Items

- Medical Form parts A, B, & C completed
- Medications
- Sleeping bag with liner or sheet
- Complete Field Uniform
- Activity Uniforms
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Warm jacket and/or sweatshirts
- Hats
- Underwear
- Swimsuit(s)
- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirts
- Plenty of socks
- Tennis shoes
- Hiking boots
- Sandals or shower shoes
- Towels and washcloths
- Toiletries: soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, etc.
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Water bottles
- Spending money: suggested \$100
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Plastic coat hanger for hanging uniform
- Watch
- Handkerchief
- Pocket knife
- Laundry bag
- Hand sanitizer
- Scout Handbook
- Notebook and writing items

Optional Unit Equipment

- Emergency numbers for all parents/guardians
- Cash box
- The Scoutmaster Handbook
- Alarm clock
- Matches
- Knot ropes
- Water coolers
- Lantern
- Sewing kit
- Duct tape (not for use on tents)
- Religious text
- Props for favorite stunts and skits
- Hand tools and gloves for projects

LOST & FOUND PROPERTY

Prior to coming to camp, Scouts should be encouraged to clearly mark all personal items with their name and unit number. We recommend that one adult leader in each troop serve as a banker for the Scouts. This prevents the loss of large amounts of money and allows leaders to help the Scouts pace their spending for the week.

A lost and found box is located in the Trading Post at Camp Powhatan and in the Welcome Center at Camp Ottari. More valuable lost and found items may be stored in the Camp Powhatan Welcome Center in a locked cabinet. All unclaimed items will go to the Blue Ridge Mountains Council office and be held there until September 1, after which they will be donated or disposed of.

SUNDAY CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

If your entire unit is ONLY participating in High Knoll Trail Camp and/or Blue Ridge Mountaineer, you may check in directly at Camp Ottari without stopping at Camp Powhatan. These units can report to the Camp Ottari Welcome Center for medical checks and program-specific check-in instructions.

The Camp Powhatan check-in process is open on Sunday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Units should arrive during the designated time unless an early or late arrival form has been submitted. Please understand that additional participants cannot be added at check-in on Sunday.

Required Forms to Bring

At Camp Powhatan, your unit will be assigned a staff tour guide at the Handicraft shelter when you arrive. You will then send an adult leader with the following information to the check-in area:

- 2 copies of program rosters for all Scouts and adults. **Be sure to bring rosters for all programs** (Brownsea Island, New River Adventure, Blue Ridge Mountaineer, High Knoll Trail Camp, etc.)
- Unit My.Scouting roster to verify that all participants are registered members of Scouting America
- Proof of Accident & Sickness Insurance (out of council units only: request proof of Accident & Sickness from your Council Service Center accounting department)
- Check or cash to pay any outstanding unit balances
- Medical Forms in a separate folder to accompany the rest of the unit on the camp tour
- New River Adventure required forms that may include the [NRA parental waiver](#), [ATV waiver](#), [whitewater rafting waiver](#), and [horseback riding waiver](#), [Virginia Boater Safety Course](#) Card

At check-in, you will receive our camp “Blue Book” containing important forms and schedules for you to reference and use throughout the week. Check-in is also a great opportunity to meet our camp leadership and ask any remaining questions you may have concerning your week at camp.

Camp Tour

If you are based at Camp Powhatan, your camp tour begins when your unit arrives on Sunday. Your unit will first be taken to your campsite where you will be given a short amount of time to unload gear (one car at a time is allowed in the campsite). Then your assigned guide will take your unit to each program area to show the Scouts the layout of the camp and introduce them to our camp environment.

As part of the tour, your unit will visit the Dining Hall to learn about our basic Dining Hall procedures. This is also the best time to meet with the Dining Hall staff about any allergies or dietary needs (forms for which should be filled out at least two weeks prior to arrival).

Your unit will complete health checks during the tour, in which our medical staff will review each participant's Medical Form and ask questions to assess individual health. Units are encouraged to organize their medical forms alphabetically to make this process easier.

For water-related activities designated with the swim classification "swimmer," participants must meet this qualification in Lake Powhatan due to the colder water temperatures that may influence individual swimming abilities. All programs that have water-related activities will have swim checks during the Sunday check-in at base camp.

Check the program-specific sections of this guide for more specific check-in information for [High Knoll Trail Camp](#), [Blue Ridge Mountaineer](#), [Voyageur Trek](#), [New River Adventure](#), and [Scuba](#).

SATURDAY CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

If you are staying at Camp Powhatan, have your Scouts pack up all of their gear on Friday night, except the items they will need Saturday morning. If your unit is leaving before 6:00 AM on Saturday, please discuss a time for your checkout inspection with the office staff in the camp's Welcome Center before noon on Friday. Following the Friday night campfire, each unit should send adult representatives to "Whine and Cheese" at the Dining Hall to pick up your merit badge completion records, medical forms, and participant patches. Area Directors will be in the dining hall to answer any questions and correct any potential errors regarding your Scout's advancement. Upon returning home, leaders may print blue cards from Black Pug.

The check-out process starts at 6:00 AM on Saturday. Checkout commissioners will be available near your campsite location (typically out on the road between sites). Send representatives to the nearest checkout commissioner any time after 6:00 AM for campsite inspection. The campsite should be policed for trash, and the shower/toilet facilities used by your unit should be checked for cleanliness before leaving. Set trash bags by your campsite sign for pickup.

Return all equipment to the Quartermaster. Your Blue Book should be returned to the Welcome Center before you leave to avoid fees. A continental breakfast is served open-style from 7:00 to 8:30 AM in the Dining Hall.

Check the program-specific sections of this guide for more specific check-out information for High Knoll Trail Camp, Blue Ridge Mountaineer, Voyageur Trek, New River Adventure, and Scuba.

UNIT T-SHIRTS

All units are invited to order t-shirts through our online portal (coming in spring 2026!) to show off their Scout spirit and unit pride. Units can choose from a selection of colors and are encouraged to coordinate colors within their unit. Shirts will be distributed when you arrive at camp if the order was placed on time. Shirts will be ready two weeks after order placement.

CAMPSITE ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants in Camp Powhatan, New River Adventure, and Scuba will stay in Camp Powhatan campsites, listed in the table below. Our canvas wall tents can house two individuals at a time, although your unit may need more tents to abide by Scouting Safeguarding Youth policies. Some of our campsites have adirondack shelters, which can hold eight individuals at a time. The adirondacks often work well for units with a greater number of youth or adults. Please note that **Scoutmasters and adult leaders will be expected to share tent space** in most cases to ensure enough space for all campers, while abiding by Scouting policy.

Participants in Blue Ridge Mountaineer, High Knoll, and Voyageur Trek will be provided with campsite accommodations at Camp Ottari and/or at the backcountry outposts. High Knoll participants must bring their own backpacking tents.

If your unit would prefer to request a certain campsite or certain adirondack shelters during your time at camp, you will have the opportunity to make that note during the registration process on Black Pug. We typically do not finalize weekly campsite assignments until the week before summer camp begins. The Blue Ridge Mountains Council will do our best to honor your request but cannot guarantee your site preference.

We also offer primitive campsites that have tent platforms and access to water and restroom facilities, but will not have canvas tents installed. If your unit would like to bring their own personal tents to use at camp, you may request any of these campsites.

If any individual in your unit has any further accommodation requests, these can be made with the [Special Accommodations Form](#). See below for campsites with access to power. If someone in your unit will require access to power, they should bring an extension cord of at least 100 feet.

CAMP POWHATAN CAMPSITES	NUMBER OF TENTS	NUMBER OF ADIRONDACKS	TOTAL CAMPER CAPACITY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Rockridge	56		112	Tent rings of 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 (access to power ONLY in 15)
Tipi	29	5	98	Includes access to power
Cherokee	30	2	76	Includes access to power
Chopto A	18		36	Includes access to power
Chopto B	21		42	
Hilltop	22		44	
Shawnee	15		30	
Chanco	6		12	

Crow's Nest	14		28	
Bluff City	12		24	Includes access to power
Trail's End	26		52	
Little Max A	21		42	
Little Max B	14		28	
Little Max C	7		14	
Big Max	16		32	
Half Max	7		14	Includes access to power
Burma		3	24	Includes access to power
Tawneys		4	32	Includes access to power
Kaymoor	1	2	18	Includes access to power
Narrows		4	32	Includes access to power
Greyhound		5	40	Includes access to power

PARENTS & VISITORS

CAMP MAILING ADDRESSES

[Scout Name, Unit Number]

Camp Powhatan

2600 Max Creek Road, Hiwassee, Virginia 24347

[Scout Name, Unit Number]

Camp Ottari

2881 Simpkinstown Road, Hiwassee, Virginia 24347

Always include a return address on your package. For express mail, please do not check the box for signature, as this will delay delivery by at least one day. In order to save postage and ensure that your Scout receives their letter or package, consider sending the week's mail with unit leaders to ensure timely distribution. Just label Day 1, Day 2, etc.

CELL PHONES & INTERNET

Cell service is limited at both Camp Powhatan and Camp Ottari. WiFi is available for adult leaders at most camps, but the internet can be unpredictable depending on weather or other technical issues. WiFi is strictly NOT to be used by Scouts at camp.

VISITING CAMP

We ask that guests only visit during the following hours:

- Sunday 1:30-5:00 PM
- Friday 5:30 PM (for dinner and campfire)
- Saturday 9:00-11:00 AM

Visitors must immediately check in at the Welcome Center. Visitors are welcome to eat camp meals and can purchase meal wristbands at the Welcome Center. Large groups of 8 or more must call in a reservation to the camp office at least 2 days in advance. Picnic areas are available and their use is encouraged. Please do not bring family pets.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

At the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation, adventure and discovery await every Scout! With seven diverse and thrilling programs designed to ignite the adventurous spirit in Scouts of all ages and ranks, there's something here for everyone. Whether your Scouts are seasoned adventurers or just starting their Scouting journey, they'll find a program that matches their interests and challenges them in new ways.

Each Scout will dive deep into their chosen adventure for the entire week, creating memories and mastering skills they'll carry for a lifetime. Don't worry about choosing just one program for your whole unit - Scouts can pursue unique adventures with the appropriate supervision. We're excited to welcome your unit to a summer full of exploration, growth, and unforgettable experiences!

HIGH KNOLL TRAIL CAMP

Lace up your boots and set off on the High Knoll Trail - Blue Ridge Scout Reservation's premier high adventure backpacking program! Along the way, you'll discover our staffed outpost camps, where modern high adventure meets timeless classics that have been thrilling Scouts since 1975. Whether you're tackling tough trails or enjoying off-the-path fun, every day brings new excitement. But be prepared—these activities are not for the faint of heart! You'll need solid physical fitness to embrace the vigorous challenges ahead. High Knoll will deliver you the best backpacking experience, packed with daily adventures and unforgettable team-building moments.



BEFORE CAMP

In addition to the pre-camp requirements for base camp participants, High Knoll Trail Camp participants must do the following:

- Register for High Knoll Trail Camp on Black Pug after December 31, 2025
- Bring a copy of your CPR/First Aid card and Wilderness First Aid card
- Train and prepare as a crew

PREPARATION & TRAINING

LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Shakedown hikes are trips that are undertaken prior to a long intense trip and are intended to give the participants practice and preparation for the experience that they are about to undertake. They should start off with easier hikes to train those who are not as experienced and should progressively get more difficult and more technical, placing more responsibility on each of the crew members. Preferably, crews should do shakedown hikes in mountainous areas to prepare for the mountains on the reservation, but if there are no mountains around your area then there are other options that you can use, such as walking on sand and up and down steps. The more time spent in preparation for High Knoll, the more confident that the crew will be in having a successful trip and sail through the week with few issues. When going out on shakedown hikes, even if just for a day, have the crews carry what they would normally carry for a trek so that they can get used to the process of working together.

Map and compass skills are critical for spending a week on the trails at High Knoll. You may bring GPS units, but at some points throughout the week you will be hiking in and out of deep valleys where satellites may not be able to reach your device. GPS units run on batteries whereas a compass does not. Make sure that the crew is properly trained in how to navigate and read a map and compass. Each crew will be provided with two maps of the reservation, one with the trails planned out for the week and the other blank to use for navigation. Please make sure that the crew can demonstrate the proper use of these as our staff will ask them to demonstrate this when the crew arrives during our Ranger Shakedown process.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

If your troop is traveling to Camp Powhatan, arrange for your High Knoll crew to be dropped off at Camp Ottari first. Upon arrival, the crew will meet their ranger, plan their itinerary with our map makers, perform medical checks, and verify attendance and fees. Plan on hiking your gear into the camp as vehicles will need to be parked in our High Knoll parking lot. Extra gear, such as extra clean clothes and your Field Uniform, should be stored inside your vehicles due to limited storage available in our buildings. Crews will spend all of their nights (Sunday through Friday) in their own tents, unless they participate in whitewater rafting.

After the Sunday shakedown and informational session conducted by one of the rangers, your crew will be released to hike upon our network of over 100 miles of trails crisscrossing the Scout Reservation. Though some crews shoot for the 50-miler award, typical groups hike around seven miles each day before ending up at one of our backcountry camps.

PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

High Knoll Trail Camp is open to all Scouts who will be **at least 12 years old by September 1, 2026**, but units are encouraged to exercise caution by evaluating Scouts' maturity and physical ability before attending. Every crew must have two leaders or crew advisors at least 21 years old who are registered in Scouting. Any crew with female youth must have **at least one adult female leader. At least one member of each crew,** preferably two or more, must hold a current American Red Cross **Wilderness First Aid certification,** Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) Wilderness First Aid or equivalent, and current ARC or ECSI Adult and Child CPR/AED training or equivalent.

Due to staffing constraints, we do not have the ability to provide leadership for your crew; however, you can register as a partial crew and we will pair you with another partial crew. Many groups find leaders among their troop alumni. Except where health and safety are involved, all crew leadership stems from the elected crew leader. This youth leader's responsibilities should begin now with pre-trip planning.

High Knoll is designed as a low impact camping program. Thus, the ideal crew should have 10 youth and 2 adults. We often accept larger and smaller groups, but please check with the Registrar for confirmation. Individual youth (provisional campers) should submit their registration fee and application by April 1. Our registrar will place provisional campers within a crew.

In order for the week to go smoothly, crew duties need to be assigned in a way that fairly balances responsibilities on the trail. Duties may include: assigning a crew leader, assigning a cooking/cleaning rotation, bear bag hanging/food storage, navigator, etc. Make sure during the shakedown hikes that these roles and duties are being practiced so the crew as a whole can be prepared for a week on the trail.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

In case of flooding, stay on high ground. Greenwood Trail (the fire road) is an especially good place to be. In all emergencies, make every effort to reach an outpost or base camp. If water is so high that hiking is unsafe and you are in low level areas, find a point to stay that is above the levels of nearby creeks and wait for help. For lightning: get off the ridge tops. For fires: move as quickly as possible AWAY from the direction of fire spread. Wildfire spread is generally greatest on steep slopes and/or when pushed by wind so pay attention to the terrain on which you are hiking as well as the environmental conditions each day.

Proper washing and rinsing of dishes will help protect your crew's health and keep you in the fittest shape for the week. Never use cold water; only hot water will prevent dysentery and diarrhea. Time taken to boil water for 8 minutes for rinsing is time well spent. Rinse dishes in boiling water treated with sanitizing tablets that are provided to the crew. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness only use these tablets as directed.

OUTPOST FACILITIES

As you are going by or through our base camps, make sure that you stop by and speak with someone in the main office so that they can point you in the direction of the shower facilities that will best suit the entire crew. Backcountry cleanliness is equally important for your health and others' happiness. A complete bath may not be possible but consider taking a "bucket bath" in a secluded area. Carry water at least 200 feet from springs, lakes, and streams, use biodegradable soap, and please don't place contaminated water back into the water supply as this is the same water that you will be drinking from throughout the week.

Pit latrines are at all staffed outpost camps. If you find it necessary to use a latrine when not at our established areas, use a small "cathole" to get rid of human waste. Make each cathole at least 200 feet from any campsite, trail, or water source, and choose a location that isn't likely to be visited by others. After use, cover the hole completely. Place nothing in a latrine or cathole except human waste and papers necessary for this action.

There is a water source in each outpost. All water outside of the base camps must be treated as there may be microorganisms that can make you sick. There are three acceptable methods of purification: boiling, Polar Pure or Potable Aqua pills (iodine based), and two water pumps/filters (provided by the crew). In most outposts, the creeks are the source of our water used for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. Swimming, bathing or washing of any items in the creeks are not allowed.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

After Sunday registration and your pack shake-down, our staff will prepare dinner for the hikers, and we will practice cleanup techniques as a group. After dinner there will be an opening campfire that will introduce all of the staff to the crew in a way only High Knoll can perform.

Throughout the week, crews will be expected to cook their own breakfast (food provided). We recommend that crews hit the trails each day promptly following breaking camp in the cool of the day. You should be in your program outpost around lunchtime, where you can then enjoy your afternoon program. Each night will bring a campfire and evening snack prepared by the staff. On Friday, crews will hike back into Camp Ottari for the rest of the evening program. You will check in at the Ottari Welcome Center as soon as you arrive back at camp, and can drop your packs at the High Knoll Commissary and, please, take a shower before dinner. Our staff will cook Friday dinner for you and present a closing campfire and award the High Knoll patches. On Saturday, crews will enjoy a light continental breakfast and depart from camp no later than 9:30 AM.

During the five days spent backpacking, a crew will cover from 35 to 50 miles over steep, rocky, mountainous terrain. The trails are a combination of narrow footpaths and abandoned logging roads. Although the trails are blazed with white paint, crews will need to be able to navigate by map and compass. The program is physically demanding, so get into shape. A 50-miler is possible if a crew is very experienced and fit; otherwise, you might spend your entire week hiking and will miss out on the program features. By properly working together, the crew will reach maximum hiking efficiency. This ranges from splitting up who carries what so everyone is carrying the same proportional weight, to splitting up the duties that will need to be taken on throughout the trip. When everyone is working together, the crew should be working as a well oiled machine.

The weather on the trail tends to be warm and humid with daytime temperatures in the high 80s, with nighttime temperatures falling into the 50s. If you wish to use a GPS: the Powhatan parking lot is 36°57'40" N, 80°34'30" W. Ottari Lake is 36°59'30" N, 80°34'30" W. These locations are not pinpoint accurate, but they should easily put you within the boundaries of each of the camps.

RUGGED ITINERARY - 50 MILER AWARD

Though all of the itineraries will have steep trails and challenging days, we can schedule the trek to be easier or more difficult. As our rangers create schedules for the week, we often run into situations where a crew will need to have a longer than normal day's hike. We assign these longer miles to the rugged itinerary crews. If we know that a crew is less experienced, we plan for shorter hikes. Upon their arrival on Sunday, we sit down with the crews and map out the actual trails they will hike. Crews looking for a more physical challenge can then request and receive the more challenging trails. Crews looking for the 50-Miler Award can review their

scheduled itinerary, calculate the miles and then pick days for taking additional short hikes, to add up to 50 miles during the week.

MENU

We issue the trail food to your crew on Sunday afternoon. There will be a mid-week food drop, so you will carry about 2½ days of food with you on the trail. If you require any special dietary needs or have any dietary restrictions, let us know prior to March 1, 2026. We order some specialty food for vegetarians and for those with peanut allergies, but we need early knowledge to have enough on hand. Please send a note to the camp registrar indicating the number of hikers who have dietary needs and are requesting this service. Each program outpost will have an evening campfire program which will feature a snack of some kind, such as apple or peach cobbler, brownies, cake, “sawdust stew,” etc. Your crew should provide its own trail snacks.

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A Scout’s pack should weigh 25% of ideal body weight. Proper fit and placement of backpacks is crucial for an enjoyable experience. This should be done by a licensed outfitter to properly fit packs to the individual's body.

Per crew: two backpacking stoves and fuel, water purification filters/pumps or tablets, spices for cooking, snacks, backpacking tents or tarp (hammocks must be tree-friendly), waterproof matches, bear bag and 75 ft. of 1/8 inch nylon rope, crew first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, biodegradable liquid soap, spare rope/cordage, sewing kit & equipment repair kit, trowel for cat holes

Crew first aid kit: one 2-inch roller bandage, two 3-inch roller bandages, two rolls of 1-inch adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, safety pins, water purification tablets, one box of assorted adhesive bandages, matches, twelve 3 x 3 inch sterile pads, moleskin, antacid tablets, pain reliever (aspirin, etc.), biohazard bag, gatorade, twenty four alcohol swabs, rash/poison ivy remedy, sunscreen, paper and pencil, mouth barrier device, antibiotic ointment, petroleum jelly, two pairs of latex or nitrile gloves, four triangular bandages (40”)

Personal items: sleeping bag in waterproof sack/heavy plastic, sleeping pad (closed cell or waterproof), waterproof ground cloth, waterproof pack cover, small towel and washcloth, roll of toilet paper in Ziploc bag, toothbrush and toothpaste, personal first aid kit, pocketknife, small flashlight with extra battery and bulb, waterproof watch, compass, whistle

Clothing: one pair of shorts, two t-shirts, fleece or wool jacket/vest, belt, pair of long pants (required for horseback riding, mountain boarding, and logging daze), two pairs of underwear, two pairs of boot socks, five pairs of lightweight liner socks, one pair of well broken-in boots with new laces, one pair of light shoes to wear around camp, swimsuit, one pair of water shoes for rafting, hat with brim, rain jacket or poncho, Field uniform (optional for Friday night campfire)

Hiking boots are the most crucial piece of gear that you will need for the week. Proper boot selection and fitting is one of the most important skills that hikers develop as they gain experience.

Eating utensils: plastic bag or large cup, drinking cup, spoon, 1-quart water bottles/hydration system like a platypus, pair of hot tongs, tarp for cooking area

Provided by camp: soap & sanitizing tablets for dishwashing, serving spoon, scrub pad, trail food

Found in staffed outposts: pots for cooking/boiling water, garbage bags, pans for dishwashing, bow saw

Evening temperatures on the Reservation are erratic, dropping as low as 40° on some nights. We recommend that you bring a summer weight bag with a sheet, fleece, or synthetic sleeping bag liner, and a closed foam sleeping pad. If you use an inflatable pad, please bring a repair patch and sealer in your crew's repair kit as holes are always possible.

Your unit should bring at least two backpacking stoves. We recommend that you use either white gas or kerosene stoves to avoid carrying fuel cartridges because the cartridges can't be refilled, and are typically heavier because you have to carry more of them. Backpacking stoves are to be used only under adult supervision, and never in tents. All fuel must be carried in designed fuel bottles, easily distinguishable from water bottles. Practice using your stoves and repairing them before arriving at camp.

There are no structures for your crew to camp in on the trail. You will need to bring your own trail shelters, both tents and a cooking tarp. Scouting National Camp standards specify that all tents used in camp must be marked "No Flames in Tents." Please either stencil this message onto your tents or attach a tag with this message. Hammocks must be supported by wide webbing or padding to prevent damage to our trees.

PROGRAM OUTPOSTS

During your week on High Knoll, your crew will be able to participate in five outpost programs. Please note that if a program area has more demand than we can meet, we will give preference to the first crews who have completed their full fee payments and have made their selections. High Knoll is a small operation, and each outpost is staffed to handle approximately 20 hikers during a program day. We custom-plan each crew's itinerary, and you will hike across the reservation each day to one of your chosen outposts, where we can fit you into that day's schedule. Upon your arrival at camp on Sunday, we'll share your outpost schedule with you and then plot the trails that you will need to follow.

The following are typical outposts offered at High Knoll; however, due to yearly changes in both staff talent and in availability, these outpost programs may change. The program outposts included in your basic camp fee are mountain boarding, Point Camp, White Oak, horseback riding, and Rendezvous.

Mountain Boarding

For those of you who enjoy high adrenaline mixed with some speed, mountain boarding combines the downhill thrill of snowboarding with an all-terrain skateboard. This sport features a strap on skate board with oversize tires that is fun to ride on our backwoods trail. Our experienced staff will train you in the techniques and provide the gear.

Point Camp

Climb up and rappel down our natural rock face overlooking Big Laurel Creek. Our staff teaches the proper techniques and movements needed to climb and rappel. During wet weather, there is also an indoor climbing facility that has an extensive bouldering area and two 30 foot vertical walls that provide all degrees of difficulty.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding groups will leave from Camp Ottari and travel to Winterfrost Farm in Radford, VA with our staff the morning of the trip and will return to camp the afternoon following the trip. Winterfrost Farm provides training and safety briefings and any necessary gear. Participants will be given a group riding lesson, followed by a trail ride to a beautiful lunch stop, and will ride back to the barn in the afternoon. Get your boots or belt branded with the signature HK logo at the evening campfire.

We would greatly appreciate any crews participating in horseback riding to have their own form of transportation, but we can provide it if necessary.

White Oak Camp (Logging Daze)

White Oak Camp features our traditional Logging Daze program: using crosscut saws to cut a section of a tree, split out a shingle with a froe, brand the shingle, and make a spoon with a gouge. If desired, the crew can shoot airsoft guns at interactive targets (not at each other).

Rendezvous

At our 19th century trapper's camp, load and shoot .50 caliber muzzle loading rifles. Throw tomahawks and learn about wilderness living skills such as trapping. This living history program will be a real mountaineer's experience.