



LEADERS' GUIDE

January 2 – 4, 2027



Welcome Letter to Unit Leaders Winter Camp 2027

Dear Unit Leaders,

The staff of Winter Camp 2027 welcomes you to Camp Horne. We look forward to another successful year where your Scouts can continue to grow in their life journey through Scouting.

Winter Camp is a wonderful place to discover new friends, enjoy good food, and build lifelong skills through both Scouting and Venturing program opportunities. This year's Winter Camp will offer some different activities and schedule from previous years! We will offer merit badge programming like that of summer camp, but Winter Camp also stresses fun through the open program activities. These activities allow Scouts to enjoy utilizing some of the skills they have learned already in Scouting.

Please review the Leaders' Guide carefully as it has drastically changed as the **check-in time has been pushed back, the Trailblazer program has been removed for Winter Camp, as well as introducing the Pathfinder program, designed for older Scouts to participate in specific Range and Target Activities only offered to them. There will also be several leader opportunities.** If you have any specific questions or unit requirements, please do not hesitate to let us know. We will do everything within our power to ensure your Scouts have a memorable experience and an enjoyable learning opportunity.

The Black Warrior Council is excited to offer Winter Camp 2027 and we look forward to serving your Scouts!

Yours in Scouting,

James Neary, Sr.
Winter Camp Director

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Event Leadership Contacts/Resources

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Winter Camp Webpage: <https://bwc-bsa.org/winter-camp>

Registration for In-Council Participants

Registration will open **October 1, 2026**, and will close when full or on December 16, 2026.

Youth

All Scouts must be currently registered members of Scouting America.

Adults

All adults must be currently registered members of Scouting America and have current Safeguarding Youth Training.

Black Pug Online Registration System

-> Register your unit to attend

-> Enroll Scouts in merit badge classes

-> Sign up Scouts for afternoon open programming

Leaders may access the Black Pug registration system by following the link below or using the QR Code.

Link to the Black Pug Registration System:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/006-wintercamp>

Winter Camp Fees

Youth - \$125

Adults - \$60 - One adult leader may attend free for every six (6) paid Scouts

How Do We Submit Payment (4 options)?

1. Use the online payment portal located on the Winter Camp webpage
(<http://bwc-bsa.org/winter-camp>)
2. Pay in person at the Scout Service Center
3. Call the Scout Service Center (205-554-1680) and use a credit card.
4. Mail your payment so that it is received no later than December 16th.

Black Warrior Council PO Drawer 3088 Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

*Registration fee includes all program supplies, meals (Saturday lunch through Monday lunch), and a 2027 Winter Camp patch. **All Scouts and adults who register and fees are fully paid no later than Wednesday, December 16th will also receive a 2027 Winter Camp toboggan.**

Youth Staff Opportunities

There are a limited number of youth staff positions needed for Winter Camp. Youth staff guidelines:

- Must be a Life or Eagle Scout
- Be willing to serve as a “jack of all trades” and serve in any capacity needed for the duration of Winter Camp.
- Upon approval of the Camp Director, there may be the opportunity to earn one merit badge.
- Agrees to pay a \$60 fee to cover food and basic needs.
- Housed in staff quarters.

Visit the Winter Camp webpage for complete details and to apply for one of the limited staff positions.

<http://bwc-bsa.org/winter-camp>

Provisional Troop

Winter Camp is designed for and provides the best experience when troops attend, as a unit, under their own leadership. However, we have arrangements for those scouts who would like to attend in the event their troop is not able to do so. Scouts attending camp in a provisional status will be placed together and adult leadership will be provided. Scouts are responsible for participating as a provisional Troop and following provisional leadership. There are Adirondacks available, but the scouts may bring their own tents.

Check-In

The check-in process will take place from 8:00 until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 2nd. Registration and fee payments by all units and Scouts should be made by December 16th, but in any case, before arrival. Units should plan to arrive at camp as a Unit. Scout uniforms are not required to start the day but all will be asked to wear uniforms to the evening meal. Upon arrival, your unit will be greeted and directed to your assigned campsite for set up. In the campsite, a staff member will be present with Winter Camp information, schedules, and will be able to answer any questions. All campers, youth and adults, will be provided with an identification bracelet that should be worn at all times.

Vehicles will be permitted to drive to the campsites to unload gear. Once unloaded, all vehicles will be directed to designated parking areas.

There will be an opening flag ceremony and gathering at 9:30 on the parade field.

Medical Forms and Medication

All participants, youth, and adults, who are participating in Winter Camp, must bring a current copy of their BSA Medical Form parts A & B (part C is not required). This form must be signed by parents and dated within the last year. A copy of the insurance card must be attached to the medical form. All injuries and ailments should be reported to the Camp Health Officer.

Any prescriptions at camp must be reported and locked up. Medications are allowed to be kept and managed by the Scoutmaster in the campsite. If necessary, medications can be locked up and administered by the Health Officer. Emergency medications (epi-pen, inhalers etc.) should be kept with the users at all times and will not be locked up.

Facilities

Camp Horne sites have Adirondacks with areas to accommodate some tents as well. Most campsites have platforms for tents to be set up if you choose to bring your own.

The youth protection rule of separate accommodations will be enforced. All adults are required to enforce this policy. If needed, adults are asked to bring tents to sleep in, even when staying in sites with Adirondacks, to maximize the number of spaces available to the youth.

Accommodations

Q. Why do youth tent separately from parents outside of Cub Scouting?

A. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing are youth-led programs. The Cub Scout program is family oriented.

Accommodations – Excerpt from Guide to Safe Scouting.

Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

Adirondacks/Tenting

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

Buddy System

All troops and scouts are required to always use the Buddy System. When traveling around camp during non-merit badge times each Scout should have a buddy to assist in the event of an emergency.

Visitors

All visitors must stop and check in at the Hulsart to receive a visitors parking pass and badge. Campers will be instructed to report all persons without proper ID to Camp Staff.

Daily Duties

Campsite	Tuscarora	Chickasaw	Cherokee
Friday Task	Flags	Dining Hall	Prayer
Saturday Task	Dining Hall	Prayer	Flags
Sunday Task	Prayer *	Flags	Dining Hall

***On Saturday right after lunch meal, it is requested that all Chaplain Aides or any youth that would like to lead a non-denominational Prayer after Breakfast see the Camp Director.**



Emergency Procedures

There are different types of emergencies that we need to be prepared for and know how to respond.

The following is a list of situations that could happen and how to react in each case. IN THE EVENT OF A CAMP-WIDE EMERGENCY, THE FOLLOWING WARNING SYSTEM WILL BE UTILIZED.

Severe Weather (Scattered Thunderstorm or severe lightning watch/warning)

1. If needed, alarm will be sustained ringing of the dining hall bell.
2. All aquatic areas will be closed, and campers will be moved away from open water.
3. All campers will be instructed to stay away from clearings and solitary trees.
4. Take cover – do not try to get to your campsite and remain with your group.

Severe Weather (Thunderstorms and Tornado watch/warning)

1. Alarm will be sustained ringing of the dining hall bell.
2. When a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Tornado Watch, or Tornado Warning is issued, all campers will be instructed to report to the Dining Hall unless otherwise instructed by camp management. No one should remain in campsites.
3. If weather conditions make it unsafe to move to emergency shelter location, move to lowest, safest area with protection. If you must take this action, notify camp management immediately. This is a last resort.
4. Stay with your group. Unit leaders will be asked to give a full head count accounting for every member of their units.

Severe Weather (Flash Flood watch/warning)

1. If needed, alarm will be sustained ringing of the dining hall bell.
2. All aquatic areas will be closed, and campers will be moved away from open water.
3. Avoid low-lying areas and areas near water.

Fire (Minor)

1. Put out fire with equipment and manpower available on site.
2. Send for staff help if needed.
3. Do not attempt to contact outside emergency services. The Camp Director will contact any needed emergency services.
4. Inform Camp Director and Camp Ranger for further evaluation.

Serious Accident or Illness

1. Start first aid at site – do not try to move a seriously injured person.
2. Send for staff help. Send a runner to health lodge.
3. Do not start rumors; all unneeded people will be kept away from the area of the incident.
4. Inform Camp Director IMMEDIATELY. Do not attempt to contact outside emergency services. The Camp Director will contact any needed emergency services.
5. Complete notes of incident will be recorded.

Major fire, Missing Person, Lost Swimmer

1. Alarm will be sustained ringing of the dining hall bell.
2. All program areas will be closed in an orderly fashion.
3. All campers (youth and adult) and staff must move to Parade Field immediately in an orderly manner and using the buddy system.
4. Campers will line up by unit. Unit leaders will conduct head counts. All campers will wait for instructions from camp management.
5. Unit leaders will report missing campers to the staff.
6. Do not attempt to contact outside emergency services. The Camp Director will contact any needed emergency services.

Inclement Weather

1. Camp administration will monitor severe weather conditions. In situations of low temperatures and wind chill, all leaders will be informed via announcements, leader's meetings, and/or emergency messaging system.
2. Program Director will work with unit leaders and staff to schedule alternate locations for Merit Badges.
3. Hiking and activities that require physical exertion will continue and campers will be reminded to dress in layers.

Intruder

1. Report any unauthorized person to the Camp Director VIA Camp Staff.
 - All visitors must check-in through the Hulsart. Anyone who is not a camper or registered visitor will be considered an intruder.
2. All program areas will be closed and locked down.
3. Depending on the situation, run away, or hide. As a last resort, fight or defend yourself.
4. Do not attempt to contact outside emergency services. The Camp Director will contact all emergency services.

Hazardous Material Exposure

1. Contact Health Officer to follow instructions on appropriate SDA Sheet.
2. If Necessary, Contact Alabama Poison Control Center @ 205-334-6969.

Dangerous Encounters with Wildlife

1. Snakebite: Contact Health Officer immediately.
2. Apply pressure above the affected area.
3. Have the person remain calm.
4. Camp Administration will coordinate transport to Druid City Hospital.

Natural and Manmade Hazards at Camp and Program Sites

1. Use caution around hazard.
2. Report any new hazards to Camp Director or Camp Ranger.

Winter Weather Preparedness

As you know, the weather in West Alabama in January is very unpredictable. It could be 70 degrees, or it could be 20 degrees. Most likely, it will be in the 30's or 40's and wet. The best thing to do is to "Be Prepared." When camping in the winter it is important for the Scouts to be dressed for the weather and to stay dry. They should have layers of insulation under their sleeping bag. Help the Scouts by ensuring that they have what they need, they can use the equipment checklist at the end of the leader's guide to help them pack.

Uniforms

The Scouts BSA field uniform should be worn to the evening flag ceremony and evening meal each day. The rest of the day and night the Scouts may wear whatever they choose if the clothing is in good taste. Weather conditions will be a major factor in how the Scouts dress.

Theme Days

Scouts and Units, this is your chance to be silly and outright wacky by participating in the daily theme. Camp staff will be on the lookout for the most creative, funny, and original looks that fit the day. All theme attire must be in good taste and follow BSA guidelines. Refer to the Winter Camp schedule for the theme of the day. If you have a theme that you would like to see added in the future, please see the Winter Camp Director. It is all about Scout spirit!

- Saturday (Holiday Hat/Socks)
- Sunday (Ugly Christmas Sweater)
- Monday (Hawaiian Shirt)

Meals

All meals will be provided at Camp Horne's dining hall, starting with lunch on Saturday, January 2nd and ending with lunch on Monday, January 4th.

Before each meal every day, a Scout will lead grace. Any Scout who wishes to lead the grace should see the Winter Camp Director. Please note that Scouts are reverent each in their own way. The Scout may say his own grace or can lead The Summit Grace.

The Summit Grace

For this time and this place,
For Your goodness and grace,
For each friend we embrace,
We thank Thee, Oh Lord.
Amen



WINTER CAMP SCHEDULE

2027

TIMES Saturday	SATURDAY, JANUARY 2	TIMES Sun & Mon	SUNDAY, JANUARY 3	MONDAY, JANUARY 4
		7:20	Flag Ceremony	Flag Ceremony
8:00 – 9:00	Winter Camp Check-In	7:30	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:30	Opening Gathering (Parade Field)	8:30 - 10:00	Advancement Session #1	Advancement Session #1
10:15-11:45	Advancement Session #1	10:15 – 11:45	Advancement Session #2	Advancement Session #2
Noon	Lunch	Noon	Lunch	Lunch
1:15 – 2:45	Advancement Session #2	1:15-2:45	Advancement Session #3	Advancement Session #3
3:00 – 4:30	Advancement Session #3	3:00 – 5:00	Open Programming -Camp Horne Pathfinders - Open Rifle Range - Open Shotgun Range	2:45 Return to Campsites Clean-Up & Pack 3:45 All Depart 4:00 Winter Camp Concludes
		5:15	Chapel	
5:50	Flag Ceremony	5:50	Flag Ceremony	
6:00	Dinner	6:00	Dinner	
7:00	Evening Programs - CPR/AED - Games & Fellowship	7:00	Evening Programs - Campfire!	
11:00	Lights Out	11:00	Lights Out	

MERIT BADGES

MERIT BADGE	PREREQUISITES/COMMENTS*
Archery	none
Artificial Intelligence	Parental permission for internet access
Bird Study	none
Citizenship in the Nation	Req. 7
Citizenship in the World	Parental permission for internet access
Climbing	none
Cooking	Req. 4
Dog Care	Req. 4, 5, & 8
Fire Safety	none
First Aid	none
Geocaching	Parental permission to set up geocaching.com account
Law	none
Music	none
Rifle Shooting	none
Wildlife Fire Management	All 9 Adv sessions must be used to complete badge

*** Requirements listed in this area cannot be completed during Winter Camp. Scouts need to complete these requirements before or after Winter Camp to complete the merit badge.**

Open Program Activities

Open Program activities sign-up is available during the Unit's initial registration. Many of these activities have a participant limit so that we can better serve the youth in these areas. Spaces for these activities fill fast so complete your unit registration early. Scouts not making it to their assigned class may not show up for another offer due to class spacing. For questions concerning the open program activities, see Winter Camp Director.

****** *Adult leaders may participate in the open programs also. Please sign up to attend.*

Pathfinder Program for Older Scouts

There will be special activities available for older scouts during the open programming time on Sunday. This is an optional activity and is not required. Details about the program and what will be included will be distributed to all troops before the start of Winter Camp.

NOTE: SPECIAL ACTIVITY WAIVER MUST BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM

Service/Conservation Project

For Scouts needing service or conservation project hours, there will be a planned activity as an option during the open program time on Sunday. All tools and equipment needed will be provided, however Scouts may wish to bring a personal pair of work gloves.

Wildlife Photo Contest – Open to all.

Contest to capture the beauty of the wildlife around Camp Horne. All photos need to be sent to Winter Camp Director by 3:00 pm Sunday. There will be a QR Code posted on the dining hall porch to be able to upload photos for submission. Winner will be announced at campfire.

Polar Plunge – All Polar Plunge participants must wear appropriate swimwear and a properly fitted PFD. Also bring a large drying towel and warm clothing for after the plunge; water shoes are recommended. This year, the Polar Plunge will be conducted at the start of Open Programming on Sunday. Once PFDs are inspected, everyone will form a single-file line to the entry point. Only **one participant will be allowed in the water at a time**. When given the signal, each participant will take **one step** off the boardwalk—***no diving or jumping***—then turn immediately, swim to the ladder, and proceed to the boat shed to remove their PFD and dry off. No one may leave the area until all participants have completed the plunge, and the final head count has been confirmed. The Winter Camp Director and a designated Adult Leader will supervise safety throughout the event.

NOTE: SPECIAL ACTIVITY WAIVER MUST BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM

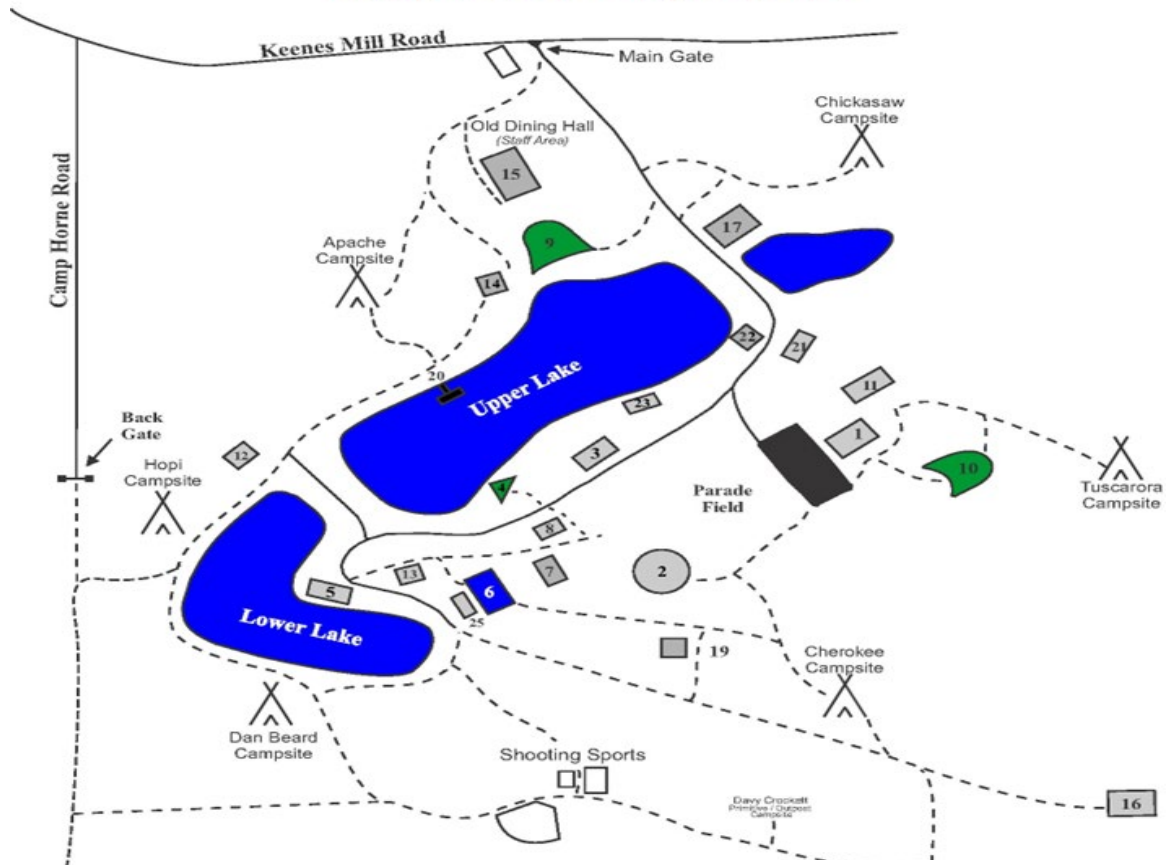
What to Bring

Each scout should bring his or her own personal gear. Each item on the list is important. Please stress the necessity of having the proper gear.

Scout Equipment • BSA uniform shirt • Scout Handbook • Water bottle or canteen • Flashlight with extra batteries • Personal first aid kit Bedding • Sleeping bag and pillow • Old blankets - to put over/under Sleeping bag as an insulation Other Items • Duffel bag or footlocker for personal gear • Lip balm • Personal hygiene items • Washcloth and towel • Notebook, pens, pencils • Camp chair • Spending money • Camera	Clothing The key to cold weather camping is to stay warm and dry. Bring both light and heavyweight clothing to "layer" if the weather is cold. For underwear and socks, bring at least one change per day. Underwear Socks - a pair of lightweight socks next to your feet will pull the moisture away and keep your feet warmer. Socks - heavy (wool is best - they will be warmer, even if wet) T-shirts - Long, thermal underwear - at least one pair – Hooded sweatshirt and sweatpants – (make the best pajamas in cold weather) Long pants - Long sleeve shirt - Warm coat or jacket - suitable for camping environment - Stocking cap and gloves or mittens Winter boots Extra Pair of footwear - sneakers are OK – Rain gear
• Troop Gear • Water cooler • U.S. Flag / Troop Flag • First aid kit • Broom - Ropes – Tarps • Cooking equipment for Holiday Dessert cookoff	What NOT to bring • Space heaters • Firearms • Fireworks • Alcohol • Illegal Substances • Electronics • Valuables • Pets • Large sheath or survival knives • Anything that detracts from scouting

Camp Horne

Black Warrior Council, BSA



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Hulsart Training Center | 13. Blackfoot Cabin |
| 2. Dining Hall | 14. Ecology Cabin |
| 3. Program Storage Building | 15. Old Dining Hall (Staff Area) |
| 4. Livingston Chapel | 16. Climbing Tower |
| 5. Trading Post | 17. Warehouse |
| 6. Pool/Showers | 18. Target & Range Activities |
| 7. Health Lodge | 19. Sue Cabins/Scout Skills |
| 8. Handicrafts | 20. Boating Area |
| 9. Warren G Finney Council Ring | 21. Trailblazer Pavilion/ScoutCraft |
| 10. Sunday Night Campfire Ring | 22. Boat House |
| 11. OA Lodge | 23. Lakeside Pavilion |
| 12. Hopi Cabin | 24. Pool Pavilion |

Campsite departure checklist

Item	SPL Initials	Leader Initials
Campsite entrance clear and free of trash		
Personal belongings and trash removed from Adirondack		
All Mattresses hung on hooks/nail		
Adirondack curtain closed		
All toilets flushed w/lids down		
Trash bag removed and replaced in latrine		
Latrine swept and cleaned of trash and dirt		
Campsite tools: broom(s), rake(s), shovel(s) stored away in the latrine		
Ensure to extinguish all fires by pouring water on them, ensuring they are cold to the touch		
Remove all debris and unburned firewood, ensuring firewood is cold to the touch.		

Verified by Camp Staff Member

Special Activity Winter Camp Waiver

**** This waiver must be completed and signed by the parent/legal guardian of each Scout who plans to participate in the following activities. Leaders should collect these forms and turn them in during check-in.**

Activities: (1) Internet Access; (2) Pathfinder Program for Older Scouts -AND- (3) Polar Plunge

Scout's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Troop _____ Rank _____ Gender __M__F

Age _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

I understand that participation in Scouting activities involves the risk of personal injury, including death, due to the physical, mental, and emotional challenges in the activities offered. Information about those activities may be obtained from the venue, activity coordinators, or local council. I also understand that participation in these activities is entirely voluntary and requires participants to follow instructions and abide by all applicable rules and the standards of conduct.

In case of an emergency involving my child, I understand that efforts will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, permission is hereby given to the medical provider to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose protected health information to the adult in charge and/or any physician or health care provider involved in providing medical care to the participant. Protected Health Information/Confidential Health Information (PHI/CHI) under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. §§160.103, 164.501, etc. seq., as amended from time to time, includes examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities.

With appreciation of the dangers and risks associated with programs and activities including preparations for and transportation to and from the activity, on my own behalf and/or on behalf of my child, I hereby fully and completely release and waive any and all claims for personal injury, death, or loss that may arise against the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with any program or activity.

This waiver also provides parental authorization for a Scout to access the Camp Horne internet service.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian