

Event Guide



October 16-18, 2026

Camp Lowden
4418 S. Scout Road
Oregon IL

ACTIVITIES

We know how to have fun in Scouting and the Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp will be no exception. We love it when Scouts learn new things and stay active! Most of our fun will be hands-on and without electronics.

Here is a sample list of possible activities for the event. Please remember that these are subject to change AT ANY TIME due to weather, staffing, supplies, etc.

TROOP/CREW/SHIP/POST

- Bridge Building Event
- Flint & Steel Fire Starting Relay
- Compass & Map Navigation
- Search & Rescue Incident Command
- Geocaching
- Shelter Building
- AI Space Exploration Rescue
- JOTA-Jamboree
- Range and Target Activities
- Time Traveler's Campfire Program
- Cracker Barrel
- Nighttime Star/Constellation Navigation (Weather Permitting)

CUB SCOUTS

- Natural Fort Building
- Natural Dyes
- Fire Building
- Candlemaking
- Historical Games
- Paracord Activity
- Orienteering Basics
- Lemon Power Circuits
- Games: Bean Bags
- Spider Web Activity
- Bio-Lanterns
- Star Gazing (Weather Permitting)

EVENT CHAIR

Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp 2026 is chaired by:

Sean Cramer and Rory Blanchard, event co-chairs

LOCATION

Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp is at Camp Lowden, 4418 S Scout Road, Oregon IL.

PARTICIPANTS

ELIGIBLE SATURDAY-ONLY PARTICIPANTS: All registered Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, Explorer Posts, and Scouting families may attend. Individuals interested in joining Scouting America are also invited to attend with a unit or their family. They will get:

1. Admission to age-appropriate activities from 9am to 5pm on October 17, 2026.

ELIGIBLE OVERNIGHT PARTICIPANTS: To be eligible to camp overnight, everyone must register and attend as a unit. No individual registration or families will be accepted and only Scouting America registered scouts can camp overnight with their units. Unregistered siblings cannot attend overnight! See below about Cub Scout guidelines.

Eligible overnight participants must have at least two (2) registered adult leaders on-site and supervising the unit at all times. (Units should have 1 adult for every 10 scouts with a minimum of 2; a unit with 34 scouts should have 4 leaders.)

Units include:

- Scouts BSA Troops which can include Arrow of Light Scouts (5th Grade Cub Scouts) with a parent
- Venturing Crews
- Explorer Posts
- Sea Scout Ships
- Cub Scout Packs (Cub Scouts must be camping with a parent or guardian)
- Per Scouting America guidelines, all adults staying overnight with a Troop, Crew, Post or Ship must be registered as leaders with the unit. For Cub Scouts, parents/guardians camping with their Scouts in the Pack, are not required to be registered. Each Cub Scout Pack, though, must have the minimum of 2 registered leaders.

Youth are expected to remain either at the campsite or activity areas and use the buddy system.

Overnight participants will receive:

1. A Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp 2026 patch
2. Admission to all activities and events including:
 - a. Admission to age-appropriate activities on October 17, 2026
 - b. Saturday Night Activities
 - c. Sunday Morning Worship Services

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please be aware this is tentative and is subject to change at any time due to staffing, weather, and/or supply availability. We appreciate your understanding!

FRIDAY:

6pm-8pm	Registration	Main Lodge
9:30pm	Leader Meeting (one adult and one youth from each unit)	Dining Hall

SATURDAY:

7:30-8:30am	Registration for Saturday Only	Main Lodge
8am	Scouts BSA Range Safety Briefing	Dining Hall
8:45am	Gather for Opening Flags	Gilwell Field
9am	Opening Flags Program Areas Open after Opening Flags	Gilwell Field
11:30am-1pm	Siesta / Lunch (Stations will be closed during this time)	
1:15pm-4:30pm	Program Areas Open	
5pm	Closing Flags & Announcements	Gilwell Field
6-7pm	Saturday ONLY Checkout/Site Inspections	Main Lodge
8pm	Campfire Program <i>(skits/songs must be pre-approved by staff)</i> Cracker Barrel and Astronomy Experience following Campfire Program	Firebowl Dining Hall

SUNDAY:

8am	Scout's Own Service	Chapel
8:30am-11am	Checkout/Site Inspections <i>Please plan to exit camp by noon at the latest</i>	Main Lodge

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration:

All participants should register prior to the event. Registration is to be completed online at <https://tinyurl.com/bac-fall-camp-2026>. When entering information for registration, it is recommended that you create a username and password if you don't already have one. This will allow you to update your registration information, if needed.

Fees increase starting September 14, 2026 and online registration deadline is October 7, 2026.

Saturday-only Registration Fees:

- Registrations will be charged: \$25.00 per each youth or adult participant.
- Walk-ins will be accepted for day-of registration (no camping) for \$35.00.

Overnight Registration Fees:

- Registrations on or before September 13, 2026 will be charged \$25.00 for each overnight youth participant and \$15.00 for each overnight adult participant.
- There is a camping fee of \$25.00 per unit.
- Registrations on September 14, 2026 or later will be charged \$35.00 for each overnight youth participant and \$25.00 for each overnight adult participant, and must be made online before October 7, 2026.
- ***Please remember: Scouts BSA troops should also register and pay for Arrow of Light Scouts and their adults that will be camping with them.***

Payment of Fees:

- 1) Online payments: A convenience fee of 3% will be added to your total if making payment online.
- 2) In person payment: Payment may be made at the Blackhawk Area Council Service Center (see address below) after completing online registration.
- 3) Telephone payment: Payment can be made via credit card by calling the council office after completing online registration. (815-397-0210)

Mailed payments: Payment may be mailed to the council office (see address below) after completing online registration. They must be postmarked no later than September 13, 2026. Make all checks payable to "Blackhawk Area Council" and mail to the following address:

**Blackhawk Area Council
BAC Fall Camp 2026
2820 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61107**

*Payments before September 13, 2026 may be made on-line, in person, via telephone, or via mail.
On September 14, 2026 and after, only online, in person, and telephone payments accepted—NO MAIL IN.*

CHECK-IN

Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp 2026 is at Camp Lowden, 4418 S Scout Road, Oregon IL.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

1. One-way traffic may be marked and observed on some roads throughout the weekend.
2. The speed limit will be 10 MPH (*unless lower speed is posted*).
3. All vehicles must be parked in designated areas.
4. No vehicles may be driven in the camping area on Saturday, except during early checkout (*Must Alert Staff Ahead of Time*)
5. Participants will walk to all activities.

SATURDAY-ONLY:

1. Participant check-in will start at 7:30am at the Main Lodge.
2. Scouts BSA Range Safety Briefing will be held in the Dining Hall at 8am. All Scouts BSA youth who wish to shoot rifles or archery are required to attend.
3. Please provide payment of any fees owed and bring your Annual Health & Medical Record.
4. Please fill out the Roster below.
5. Please wear your issued wristband(s) as soon as you receive it.

OVERNIGHT:

1. Check-in is 6pm to 8pm at the CAMP REGISTRATION in the Main Lodge - on Friday as you enter and again at 7:30am on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Any final fees must be paid at this time. Camp information packets and wristbands will be provided at registration.
2. ONE ADULT & YOUTH LEADER PER UNIT will check in at registration with the unit's roster of attending participants, emergency contact information for at least two on-site adult leaders, and completed Annual Health & Medical Record for everyone attending (unit to keep on-site).
3. Units will be directed to their assigned campsite after registration.
4. All Unit members should be given and wear their wristband as soon as they receive them.
5. ONLY the vehicle that is transporting the unit's trailer will be permitted to drive to the site. That vehicle should be moved from the campsite to the designated parking area immediately after equipment is unloaded. The trailer will be expected to remain at the campsite until checkout. All other vehicles will park only in designated parking areas. No vehicles are allowed to be parked at campsites. Camp staff will escort you to camp.

ALL PARTICIPANTS

Scouts are courteous! This is a big event, so we ask everyone to be as patient and courteous as possible. We will do our best to keep everything flowing, but we will need your help in keeping a cheerful attitude.

SCOUTS BSA RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING

All Scouts BSA youth who wish to shoot rifles or archery are required to attend an 8am Saturday briefing in the Dining Hall. Any Scouts BSA youth that wish to participate in the rifle and/or archery program must sign up for a shooting slot.

FRIDAY LEADER MEETING

A leaders' meeting for one adult and one youth leader from each unit will be held at 9:30pm on Friday in the Dining Hall. You will want to take notes.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM RULES:

If your unit would like to perform a song and/or skit at the campfire program on Saturday evening, please follow all rules using the link provided. Your song and/or skit must be approved by Staff. There will be a sign up document for you to complete by lunchtime (or before) to be able to have a song and/or skit approved, and if necessary, make any changes required. You CANNOT change your song and/or skit after having it approved by staff. More information shared at Friday Night Leader meeting.

[NCS-Ceremonies-and-Campfire-Guidance-1.pdf](#)

CRACKER BARREL: Units joining us for cracker barrel should bring something to share.

PARKING: Space is limited and carpooling is highly recommended.

CAMP FIRES: Fires are allowed in an above ground fire pit and the fire pits that are at the campsite.

Units are expected to take the usual and customary fire prevention precautions and alert staff if an uncontrolled fire is spotted.

LOST AND FOUND: Lost and found service will be provided at Main Lodge.

FIRST AID: Trained medical staff will be onsite at all times to provide first aid and support in case of emergencies or injuries. You can find the Health Officer at the Health Lodge, which is located just to the left of the visitor latrines. Please alert any event staff for additional assistance or directions.

UNIFORMING: The Scout Field Uniform (Blue, Khaki or Green shirt) or Scout activity shirts are also encouraged, especially for Saturday due to the nature of some events. Scout Field Uniform should be worn at Opening and Closing Flags, and Scout's own service.

BEHAVIOR: The responsibility for proper conduct and appearance belongs to all participants. Conduct and appearance enroute to, from, and while at the fall camp will be observed by many. The Scout Codes (Scout Law and Oath) are the standard of behavior for all participants.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: The possession and/or use of any controlled substances, except those prescribed by a medical professional (and used privately please), are prohibited. Any alcohol, except rubbing alcohol, is also prohibited.

HEAVY VEHICLES will use the hard-surfaced roads only. (1/2-ton trucks, buses, etc.)

PERSONAL MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION: The use of all-terrain vehicles, cycles, mopeds, scooters etc. is prohibited except for official event staff vehicles.

Since a Scout is Clean, let's keep the grounds litter-free and pick up after yourself!

OVERNIGHT ONLY

As stated before, check-in is 6pm to 8pm on Friday and Saturday starting at 7:30am. It is near the parking lot, at the CAMP REGISTRATION in the Main Lodge. Vehicles will not be allowed to drive to the campsites until Sunday and please don't block any roads or another unit's campsite when driving in camp. Sunset is expected about 6:12pm on Friday.

CAMPSITES

- The 2026 Fall Camp is a Blackhawk Area Council event. Sites will be assigned by staff. There is no pre-selection or reserving of campsites but we will group the same unit types together. (Such as Crews with other Crews).
- All Scout units must provide their own tents, tables, seating, rain flies, food and cooking equipment.
- Personal camping trailers and recreational vehicles will not be allowed at campsites.

SANITATION AND UTILITIES

- WATER: Units should bring water and water jugs for their own convenience. Arrangements are being made for water availability near all sub-camps.
- BATHROOMS: Portable restrooms, latrines and flushable toilets will be available.
- TRASH: Units are urged to provide a trash container for general use near their unit site entry area. A trash disposal dumpster will be available. Please place trash in plastic bags before adding to the dumpster. Units are asked to bring a 5-gallon bucket to transport gray water that requires disposal. Again, please keep the grounds clean and pick up after yourself. A Scout is Clean!
- ELECTRICITY: Units will NOT have access to electricity.

MEALS AND COOKING

1. No open ground fires (only use preestablished camp fire rings). Above ground fire pits, grills, or other safe containers that will not leave a mark on the grass may also be used.
2. Meals are up to the participants and/or units to provide. No food is included in your registration price. There will be a small cracker barrel at the dining hall after the Camp Fire Program on Saturday Night.
3. Menus should be kept simple to allow for maximum participation in encampment activities.
4. A leaders' meeting for one adult and one youth leader from each unit will be held at 9:30pm Friday in the Dining Hall.

CHECKOUT

Checkout will be available on Saturday night between 6pm and 7pm or after religious services on Sunday, around 8:30am until 11am. Plan to exit camp no later than Noon. Please notify staff during registration if you will be leaving on Saturday night.

One vehicle may be moved from the designated parking area to the campsite when the unit and the site have been inspected and approved for departure. One-way traffic procedures will continue to be observed where applicable.

Staff will inspect sites and units will be approved for departure when:

- All unit and individual equipment is packed and ready for loading.
- The campsite is clean and returned to its original condition as much as possible.
- Trash has been taken to the dumpsters.

REMINDER: ONE vehicle is allowed to remove the unit trailer ONLY.

Unit site inspections will only take place Saturday BETWEEN 6-7pm and Sunday AFTER religious services (around 8:30am). Plan to exit camp no later than 11:00am. Once your site has been approved by inspection, you will receive a card to present to the Admin team at Main Lodge to complete the checkout process.

Thank you for joining us at the

2026 BlackhawkArea Council Fall Camp!

Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp 2026 Unit Roster

Please fill out this roster for ALL participants (Youth and Adult)
at the Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp 2026.
Please print clearly and make sure to bring a copy to Check-In.

Unit Information	Unit Type:	☐ Pack ☐ Troop ☐ Crew ☐ Ship	Unit Number:	
	District:	☐ Sycamore ☐ Wanchanagi ☐ White Eagle ☐ Pioneer	City, State:	
Unit Emergency Contact (Onsite)	Name:		Phone Number:	(____) ____-____
	Name:		Phone Number:	(____) ____-____
Participation Information	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
	Youth Name:		Youth Name:	
Adult Information	Adult Name:		Adult Name:	
	Adult Name:		Adult Name:	
	Adult Name:		Adult Name:	
~Registration Staff Use~				
Health Forms	Holding:	☐ Unit ☐ Admin	Campsite Assignment:	
Check Out	Day:	☐ Sunday ☐ Saturday	Camping Overnight:	☐ Yes ☐ No
Staff Review	Approved ____	Staff Name:		

*If you need additional space for names, please print and fill out another copy.

VEHICLE TAG

Please complete this form (using large print to ensure it can be read from outside of the vehicle) before arriving at camp. Display this form in your windshield on the driver's side.

Blackhawk Area Council Fall Camp: Historic Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary

Print Driver's Last Name: _____

Driver's Phone Number: _____

Unit Type and Number _____

We will contact you if we need your vehicle moved or if there is another problem with your vehicle (such as a flat tire).

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