

Great Smoky Mountain Council  
Camp Cryptid Summer Family Camp

# Participant Handbook



## Contact Information

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## INTRODUCTION:

Thank you, Scouting Family, for joining us for a weekend of adventure! Camp Cryptid Summer Family Camp 2023 is a fun weekend dedicated to those mysterious creatures that many have claimed to have seen in the wild, but which we don't have photographic evidence of - Bigfoot, the Yeti, the Loch Ness Monster, and more! Enjoy a holiday-themed atmosphere in the Buck Toms dining hall where the Yeti is bringing winter festivities to July, swim in Watts Bar Lake and see if you find evidence of Nessie, and build your tracking skills as we look for evidence of Bigfoot in the surrounding woods.

Camp is staffed by a mix of Cub Scout Leaders, Troop leaders, and parent volunteers. Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to participate along with siblings at activity stations.

All adult volunteers attending must have [Youth Protection Training](#) and [Hazardous Weather Training](#).

Registered Scouts and their siblings are allowed to attend this camp. Camp is an exciting outdoor experience. [REGISTER HERE](#) for more information.

Cubs will be divided into campsites organized by their Packs first, and by their Districts second. In some cases, participants may find themselves placed with another district other than their own due to Adirondack requests, but they will ALWAYS be placed with their Pack so long as it is correctly indicated in the registration.

## Summer Family Camp Activities, Adventures, and Schedule

### Activities

**Yeti Snow Cream** Ice? In July? Of course we are going to learn how to make everyone's favorite frozen treat to enjoy while at camp.

**Trail Tracking** Bring your buddy to learn important trail safety, read trail signs, and hunt for signs of wildlife. Who knows - might you even find evidence of Bigfoot himself?

**Swimming** Watts Bar Lake's beginning swim area will turn into Scotland's Loch Ness for the day as campers learn about water safety, proper life jacket use, and the basics of helping others in the water. Legend has it that Nessie has helped swimmers in need, and now you can, too.

**Gaga Ball** Everyone's favorite ball game is back! Rep your favorite cryptid and let's see if you have the agility to not be caught out!

**Catapults** Investigation deep in Camp Buck Tom's woods has turned up a mysterious catapult! Could Big Foot have made it? How would he have used it? You will have the chance to explore how a catapult works and make your own in this STEM-based project.

**BBs** Certified Range Masters will teach your Scout about bb gun safety while having a ton of fun! The importance of protective gear, proper loading and aim, and target practice is included in this session. Scouts will receive their target at the end of the session.

**Archery** You Scout can be like Robin Hood or Merida as they learn how properly hold and release a bow and arrow. Safety is emphasized, and Scouts will also learn how to properly retrieve arrows.

### Camp Cryptid Program Achievements

While Spring Family Camp is largely about the fun of attending camp, certain adventure requirements can also be achieved. A list can be found below.

Lions	Tigers	Wolves	Bears	Webelos/AoL
Shooting sports	Shooting sports	Shooting sports	Shooting sports	Shooting sports
Mountain Lion (loop)	My Tiger Jungle 1 and 3	Call of the Wild 1d, 3a-c, 6	Bear Necessities 1 (2, 3, 4 can be done at camp if you set up your own tent)	Aquanaut (loop)
Rumble in the Jungle 1	Tigers in the Wild (loop)	Howling at the Moon 2, 3, 4	Salmon Run (loop)	Outdoor Adventurer (Op. A, 1, 2, 3)
Gizmos and Gadgets (loop)	Floats and Boats (loop)	Spirit of the water 3,4,5	Roaring Laughter (4, 6)	

### Camp Cryptid Schedule

#### Friday of Camp

6:00 pm: Registration Begins

11:00 pm: Lights out

### General Information

#### Registration

All persons (Scouts and family members) attending camp can register either online or onsite. The registration fee is \$20 per person. Additional attendees are \$20 each. Special bracelet IDs will also be provided to all camp participants to distinguish attendees at registration.

**Registration closes on FRIDAY, June 30, 2023.** Online registration allows either parents to register individual or multiple Scouts or leaders to register multiple Scouts, [REGISTER HERE](#).

If you or a Scout or adult you are registering has special needs, please check off the appropriate special needs boxes when registering, then print and fill out the special needs/medications form provided online and in Appendix D, and present it at check-in. Please do not mail the special needs/medications forms (or BSA health forms) with your registration/payment. These are to be presented at check-in on the day camp starts. Additionally, please contact the Camp Director (865-585-2709) prior to camp, to ensure we can accommodate you.

### **REFUND POLICY**

Refunds for medical reasons may be given (doctor's letter required). All refund requests must be made in writing to [natasha.leahey@scouting.org](mailto:natasha.leahey@scouting.org) at least 10 business days in advance of camp. No refunds will be given after the event.

### **CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES**

Check-in will begin at 6 pm on July 7, 2023. Check-in will be at the marked registration table behind the new dining hall next to the Camp Buck Toms parking lot. Parents should not arrive early unless they have been told to do so. Volunteers will greet campers and direct them to the camp bus, on which camping gear and campers will be taken to their designated campsite.

Scouts can arrive in their Scout uniform, a Scout activity shirt, and/or typical play clothes. To distinguish and keep track of campers, special bracelets will be distributed to each camper at check-in. Campers may arrive individually or in groups (Dens/Packs). All Scouts must have an adult with them at check-in, such as a parent or registered leader. Scouts will not be allowed to check in alone. Once the family has received their bracelets, they may board the camp bus to go to their campsite.

Check-in will be at the back porch of the Camp Buck Toms dining hall, and tables will be set up to accept appropriate forms and fees, and to answer questions. Staff at the registration tent will check registrations and take BSA medical forms and special needs/medications forms (if applicable) for all people attending (Scouts and family members). If a leader is bringing their Pack's medical forms, it is expected that the leader will have made the director aware of this before camp starts, so that the director can alert the check-in staff. Medication in Ziploc bags (labeled with name and dosing schedule) should also be turned in at this time as well. All campers will receive a wristband that shows they are supposed to be at camp and a schedule that clearly marks the day camp activity areas.

Check-out will be at the back porch of the Camp Buck Toms dining hall. Families may pick up medical forms, and patches, turn in evaluation forms and sign out from camp.

### **CAMP BUCK TOMS**

Camp Buck Toms is located at **373 Camp Buck Toms Road, Rockwood, TN 37854**. Located on the shores of a private cove on Watts Bar Lake in Roane County, Camp Buck Toms is the pride of the Great Smoky Mountain Council. Unlimited opportunities for adventure and growth await among our scenic hills dotted with Indian mounds and rich in wildlife. Sixteen campsites – each with a mix of four- and eight-

person Adirondacks and an 18' x 20' shelter with electricity – accommodate more than 600 Scouts. Our modern, spacious dining hall with a full commercial kitchen feed campers quickly and comfortably.

We will have clear signage to direct visitors to and around the camp. Campers will always stay in designated areas.

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

We will gladly help and make reasonable accommodations for any special needs, but first, we have to know what is needed. Contact the Camp Director right away to ensure we can accommodate you. Check off the appropriate special needs boxes when registering on the online form, then fill out the special needs/medications form provided online and present it at check-in. Please be aware that although we will make reasonable accommodations where possible to meet special needs, staff and volunteers may not be experts in special needs; thus, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all needs. The Great Smoky Mountain Council reserves the right to deny admission to camp or dismiss from the camp anyone whose medical condition, mental condition, behavior, personal conduct, or influence on other camp participants is deemed detrimental to the camp community. Visit [www.easttncscouts.org](http://www.easttncscouts.org) for more information.

### **MOBILITY NEEDS**

Arrangements should be made to bring a rough-terrain wheelchair or disability-specific Electric Powered Assisted Mobility Device (EPAMD) to camp if you need it. Even with such a device, some areas may still be inaccessible. Electric hook-ups are available. Paved (concrete or asphalt) walkways are present.

### **SENSORY NEEDS**

Sensory bags, equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will be available to all campers at the First Aid Office for those who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. These campers are also welcome to visit the Camp Buck Toms museum, which is a dedicated quiet area for those who may need a quieter and more secure environment.

### **DIETARY NEEDS**

If you have special dietary needs (food allergies or food intolerances), this can be noted on the registration form. If you have special concerns, please contact the Camp Director as soon as possible before arriving at camp. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate your needs. Additionally, fill out the applicable sections of the special needs/medications form provided.

### **OTHER NEEDS**

If you have any other special needs (excluding medication), contact the Camp Director as soon as possible prior to camp. Additionally, fill out the applicable sections of the special needs/medications form provided and bring it with you to camp.

### **MEDICATION POLICY**

All prescription medications (for adults and Scouts) should be kept in their original container(s) and placed in a heavy-duty Ziploc bag, one per individual, along with any dosing cups (for liquid). The bag should be clearly labeled with the person's name and dosing information/schedule. Medications should

be turned in at check-in to our medical officer. They will be stored and administered at the First Aid area, located in the gathering hall, under the lock. Personal inhalers and EpiPens are acceptable to be carried by campers on the camp property; however, their presence must be made known to the Health Officer to ensure safety. All medication (prescription and over-the-counter) that campers should take on a regular basis (or for emergencies, like nitroglycerin) must be documented on the special needs/medications form provided and, in the camp, specific appendices. To ensure all campers receive their medications at the right time and so that the Health Officer is aware of any emergency medications for some people, copies of the form will be given to the Health Officer.

### **TRADING POST**

The Camp Cryptid Summer Family Camp offers a Trading Post. Various snacks and drinks, novelties, shirts, hats, and patches will be available. Most Scouts will spend on average \$10-20 at the Trading Post. Larger items, such as shirts and hats, can cost more, between \$20 and \$30.

## **Camp Policies and Procedures**

### **CPAP MACHINES**

CPAP machines should be able to operate on a rechargeable energy source (e.g., battery pack). You must bring your own energy source or contact the Camp Director prior to arrival at camp.

### **ELECTRICAL USE**

No electrical cords are allowed to be run across the camp. Cases, where electricity is needed for health reasons, must be cleared with the Camp Director before the camp.

### **VEHICLES**

Parking is provided in a clearly marked area at Camp Buck Toms. Please observe Camp Buck Tom's speed limits. Vehicles are not allowed at campsites unless it is a designated staff emergency vehicles. Golf carts are not permitted unless it is a designated staff emergency vehicle.

### **VISITORS**

Families that wish to participate in the camp will need to complete appropriate BSA registration and forms. Anyone on the camp property must register at the registration tent immediately upon arrival unless they have already checked into camp. All visitors will be asked to show identification, particularly those wishing to pick up Scouts. Authorized visitors will be marked by the official camp bracelet, and volunteers should look for this bracelet when interacting with unknown adults. Unauthorized visitors to the field should be directed away from the day camp field.

### **CELL SERVICE**

Cell reception at Camp Buck Toms can be spotty, so please be prepared. Camp staff will have radios in addition to their cell phones. If you need the director, they will be always on the property, and they can be reached at 865-585-2709.

## **MEDIA PRESENCE**

Should a member of the media wish to speak to you, please direct them to the Camp Director, who will then place them in touch with the Council Executive.

## **BATHROOM RULES**

Bathrooms are available at all campsites at Camp Buck Toms, and these will be clearly marked. When Scouts are using the facilities, only Scouts may be in the facility; and vice versa.

Should a Scout need to use the facilities during the program, two-deep leadership is used if a Scout is not with a family member. Escorts should call out prior to entering a side of the bathhouse to see who is in there. For example, adults call out, "Are there any Scouts in here?" and Scouts call out, "Are there any adults in here?" If children need adult assistance for the bathroom (or shower), only a parent or legal guardian may be present with that child in the bathhouse. Please use the side for the gender of the parent/guardian. In case of an accident or medical emergency, a non-parent/guardian may enter the side of the bathhouse of the youth, regardless of gender. Two-deep leadership is strongly recommended in this case.

## **Camp Rules**

**THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

### **BUDDY SYSTEM**

All youth must have a buddy and travel across camp paired with their buddy. Youth should not move about the camp alone at any time. The safety of our children is paramount. As part of camp orientation, the buddy system will be reviewed with the campers.

- Buddies must stay together at each activity, at meals, and even at the restrooms.
- Two buddies or an adult family member must accompany a camper sent from a program area to the First Aid Office or Registration Table. Additionally, BSA Youth Protection policies are to be always followed: two-deep leadership (two registered leaders, or one registered leader and one adult) and no one-on-one contact with youth who are not your own children at all times.

**FOOD IN CAMP** Breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, plus a grab-and-go breakfast on Sunday morning, will be provided to all campers. However, some adults and Scouts may wish to bring snacks/drinks or purchase them from the Trading Post. Store all food and sugary drinks in hard-sided containers, preferably ones that latch. Avoid leaving food debris around, as they attract insects and opportunistic furry creatures.

### **SHOOTING SPORTS**

All youth and adults are to always follow the instructions of the Range Officers. No exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the activity. Please do not bring your personal shooting sports items, the camp will provide them.

## **SWIMMING AREA**

All youth and adults are to always follow the instructions of the swimming instructors. No exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the activity. Swimming is only available during your scheduled program time – no swimming will be permitted at any other time as this is a water area and lifeguards will not be on duty.

## **MEALTIME**

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday will be served in the Camp Buck Toms Dining Hall. Please keep the following in mind:

- Lines will form for the dinner line. If you have an allergy that you have previously let the Director know about, please inform the staff on your arrival so that any special needs can be met.
- Scouts should be courteous to their neighbors while in line or while sitting and eating.
- When Scouts are done, they are expected to take their trays, cups, and eating utensils to the area indicated for disposal, then clean up around the area where they ate. This is a good opportunity to remind Scouts that a Scout is helpful, and a Scout is clean.

## **MENU**

Saturday Breakfast: Mountain Man Casserole, gravy, apples, grits, milk, oj, and coffee

Saturday Lunch: Corn dogs, battered seasoned fries, cookies, bug juice, tea, water, coffee

Saturday Dinner: The Yeti's holiday dinner, featuring turkey, dressing with sage sausage, gravy, sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, broccoli with cheese, salad bar, chocolate cake with peppermint icing, bug juice, tea, water, and coffee.

Sunday Breakfast: Grab-n-go pastries and fruit, oj, milk, and coffee

## **CAMP-WIDE CAMPFIRE**

A camp-wide campfire will take place on Saturday night at 8:00 pm. Here, campsites will be recognized for their successes during camp and perform skits.

## **PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS**

No physical or verbal bullying. Throwing objects is prohibited except as part of planned activity.

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- No smoking in camp (this includes electronic cigarettes).
- No alcoholic beverages permitted.
- Fixed blade/sheath knives are prohibited for everyone. Scouts are not allowed to bring or possess knives at camp, even if they have their Wood Chip Badge.
- No firearms, BB guns, or archery equipment are allowed on camp property other than that provided by the camp at the shooting ranges.
- No pets are allowed at camp.

## **HYDRATION AND HEAT STRESS**

During any outdoor camp, adequate hydration is necessary. Water will be available at all campsites and at activity stations. Please keep an eye on the camps, and ensure they know to drink water throughout the day, and particularly encourage this during our break times. If a camper shows signs of dehydration, they will be taken to the First Aid Office for evaluation. Parents will be called only if dehydration is severe. Typically, after rest and hydration, the camper will feel well enough to resume activities. Heat stress is also a risk in summer. Adequate hydration and recognizing the early symptoms are important. If a camper experiences dizziness, headache, fainting, or other signs of heat stress, he/she should tell the camp guide or other adult. The camper will then be taken to the First Aid Office for evaluation. If the heat stress is severe, the parents will be called. If the symptoms abate shortly after being in the air-conditioned visitor center and drinking cool water, the camper will return to activities.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Emergency procedures are in place at Camp Buck Toms to ensure everyone stays safe and healthy. Please review the procedures presented below prior to arriving at camp.

**SEVERE WEATHER** The camp director's cell phone number (865-585-2709). The Camp Director will monitor the forecast and radar on a regular basis throughout the duration of camp. In the event of severe weather, we have procedures in place to ensure the safety of campers. We will immediately send out a text letting all volunteers and parents know what is going on and when the danger has passed. Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook) may also be employed. If severe weather occurs, the Camp Director will alert camp staff via radio and text to put severe weather protocols into place. Campers should take the following steps as directed by staff:

1. Groups will move in an orderly fashion to the nearest shelter.
2. In case of a tornado, campers will move to the nearest approved shelter and shelter in place.
3. Await further instructions (e.g., all clear alert by text) from the Camp Director before proceeding to the next camp activities.

## **FIRE**

If a fire occurs in an area, take the following steps:

1. Everyone moves in an orderly manner out of the affected area.
2. Follow all instructions. Ensure that everyone stays put and out of the way of firefighters.

## **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

Camp Buck Toms has a certified Health Officer located in the First Aid Office who is typically a doctor, registered nurse, or EMT.

1. All emergencies should be reported to a staff member immediately.
2. All campers will be cleared away from the injured/ill person and continue camp activities.
3. The injured/ill person will not be moved, the injured/ill person will be made as comfortable as possible while waiting for the Health Officer and/or Camp Director.
4. First aid will be administered if needed.
5. The Health Officer or Camp Director will inform the camper's parents (if a youth) of the accident or illness.
6. If the Health Officer or Camp Director determines that emergency personnel or equipment is required, provide a clear path to the injured/ill person for emergency personnel.

# CAMP BUCK TOMS MAP

