

Great Smoky Mountain Council
Cub Growl Family Camp

Participant Handbook



Contact Information

Camp Director

Staff Advisor

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INTRODUCTION: Thank you, Scouting Family, for joining us for an adventure! Cub Growl 2025 is an overnight camp to introduce your Scout to camping in the great outdoors with fellow Scouts.

A mix of Cub Scout Leaders, Troop leaders, and parent volunteers staff the camp.

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

Registered Scouts and their siblings are allowed to participate in this camp. Camp is an exciting outdoor experience.

Cubs will be divided into campsites organized by their Packs first, and by their Districts second. In some cases, participants may be placed with another district other than their own due to Adirondack requests; however, they will always be placed with their Pack, provided it is correctly indicated in the registration.

We will have a pre-camp Zoom meeting on September 15th and September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. I will send a link to the Zoom meeting a few days prior.

Cub Growl Camp Activities, Schedule, and Adventures

Scouts will practice the buddy system, discuss the six essentials, and participate in activities such as fishing, Archery, BB, and building boats for the rain gutter regatta.

Session 1 Schedule

Friday, 6:00 pm: Check-In

8:00- Campfire Program

11:00 pm: Lights Out

Saturday 7:00 am: Flags, Breakfast

Saturday 8:30 am-11:30 am: Program

11:45 am-12:30 pm: Check Out

Session 2 Schedule

Saturday, 1:30 pm: Check-In

3:00 pm- 6:00 pm: Program

6:15 pm: Closing Flags, Dinner

8:00 pm Campfire Program

11:00 pm: Lights Out

Cub Growl Program Achievements

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

Lions: Mountain Lion, Go Fishing, Let's Camp, Race Time

Tigers: Tigers in the Wild, Fish On, Floats & Boats, Let's Camp, Race Time, BBs

Wolves: Paws on the Path, Safety in Numbers, A Wolf Goes Fishing, Let's Camp, Race Time, BBs

Bears: Bear Habitat, A Bear Goes Fishing, Let's Camp, Race Time, BBs

Webelos: Catch the Big One, Let's Camp, Race Time, BBs

AOL: Outdoor Adventure, Fishing, Race Time, BBs

General Information

Registration: All persons (Scouts and family members) attending camp can register online. The registration fee is \$25 per person. Special bracelet IDs will also be provided to all camp participants to distinguish attendees at registration. **NOTE: only parents or legal guardians can camp with Scouts. If you are not a parent or legal guardian, you must be a registered member of Scouting America to attend camp** (see application [here](#)). Also please note that siblings are welcome, but Camp Buck Toms doesn't have changing tables or a playground for the younger ages. All participants on camp property must turn in their [annual health and medical form](#) during check-in.

Registration closes on FRIDAY, September 22, 2025. 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 (865-454-7058) 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 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 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2025, for Session 1, and at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2025, for Session 2. Check-in will take place at the designated registration table, located near the dining hall, adjacent 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 they will transport camping gear and campers 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 and abide by Safe Scouting Rules.

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 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 Health Lodge. 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 appendix. 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 Cub Growl 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

Anyone on the camp property must register at the registration tent immediately upon arrival, unless they have already checked in to 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 will be directed away from the camp.

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 always be on the property, and they can be reached at 865-454-7058.

MEDIA PRESENCE

If a member of the media wishes to speak with you, please direct them to the Camp Director, who will then put 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 one side of the facilities, only Scouts may be on that side of 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 SCOUTING 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.
- Scouting America Safeguarding Youth policies are to be always followed: two-deep leadership (two registered leaders) and no one-on-one contact with youth who are not your own children at all times.

FOOD IN CAMP

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 it attracts insects and opportunistic furry creatures.

SHOOTING SPORTS: All youth and adults are required to follow the instructions of the Range Officers at all times. 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 – No swimming will be permitted during this event; the swimming area is closed, and lifeguards will not be on duty.

MEALTIME

Breakfast (Session 1) and dinner (Session 2) on Saturday will be served in the Camp Buck Toms Dining Hall. Please keep the following in mind:

- Lines will form, please be patient. If you have an allergy that you have previously notified the director about, please let them know by completing the form at <https://247scouting.com/forms/557-25GrowlAllergies>. Please inform the staff of 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.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS: No physical or verbal bullying. Throwing objects is prohibited except as part of a 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 Whittling Chip.
- 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, they 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 Health Lodge 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 director's cell phone number (865-748-6431). The Directors 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 Health Lodge, 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.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Tent
- Sleeping bag or blanket
 - Sleeping pad
- Pillow & Pillow cover
- Mosquito netting (optional)
 - Scout uniform
 - Clothes
 - Rain-gear
- Closed-toed shoes
 - Shower shoes
 - Toiletries
- Water bottle
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Battery-operated fan (optional)

CAMP BUCK TOMS MAP

