The Ultimate Guide ScoutFest 2025



October 24 - 26, 2025
Information for Leaders,
Parents, and Scouts





Welcome to ScoutFest 2025!

We are excited that you and your Scouts will be joining thousands of other Scouts, leaders, parents, and family members to make ScoutFest 2025 a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You and your Scouts' involvement will help make this a fantastic event. We are excited to host this triennial event and provide a safe and exciting event to launch Scouting forward in 2025 and beyond. Get ready to have fun and to **Rev It Up**!

ScoutFest not only offers your unit and family the opportunity to showcase Scouting to our community, but the planning and teamwork that go into participating provide your Scouts with many program and learning opportunities. ScoutFest is the largest single event in the Great Smoky Mountain Council, and this guide provides details on how easily you and your Scouts can get involved. Thanks for being an integral part of ScoutFest.

We can't say "Thank You" enough to our partners at the Monroe County Airport and Mayor Mitch Ingram for hosting us! We look forward to seeing you October 24 - 26, 2025, at the Monroe County Airport.

John Worden ScoutFest 2025 Chair



CONTENTS

Quic	ck Facts	4-5
Cont	tact Information	6
Gen	eral Event Information	7
•	Schedule	8
•	Traffic and Parking	8
•	Bathroom Facilities and Water	9
•	Meals	9
•	Health and Safety	9
•	Accessibility and Special Needs	10
•	Rules and Restrictions	11
Site	Мар	12
Regi	istration	13
•	Procedures	13
•	Important Facts	14
•	Refund Policy	14
Scot	utFest Schedule and Events	15
•	Scouting Activities	16
•	Religious Services	17
Arriv	/al / Departure Process	18
•	Overnight Campers	18
•	Arrival and Check-In	18
•	Departure	20
•	Day Campers	20
Ove	rnight Camping Information and Rules	21
•	Campsite Size	21
•	Food	21
•	Water	22
•	Bathroom Facilities	22
•	Suggested Packing Lists	22
	Packing List for Individuals/Families	22
	Packing List for Units	23
•	Campsite Rules and Restrictions	23
•	Vendors	24
•	ScoutFest Trading Post	24
•	Gear and Other Stuff	24
•	Map to Event	25



QUICK FACTS

- ScoutFest is for all Scouts no matter their age: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers. It replaces our Fall District Camporees and Cub Scout Fall Family Camps.
- ScoutFest will be held October 24 26, 2025, <u>Rain or Shine</u>, at the Monroe County Airport located at 350 Airport Road in Madisonville, Tennessee.
- ScoutFest registration is online at <u>www.eastTNscouts.org/sf</u>. Registration by unit is strongly encouraged, but individuals may register if their unit isn't attending. Registration is through our reservation system, Black Pug.
- Cost for ScoutFest is \$27 per person (Early Bird) until October 3rd, \$37 (Regular) ~ October 4th 17th, and \$47 (Event or Walk-On) ~ October 18th 25th (children 4yrs old and younger are free).
- All ScoutFest participants will receive this year's event patch.
- ScoutFest t-shirts and other memorabilia are available for pre-order. To ensure availability, we recommend ordering your merchandise by Sunday, October 5th, at 10 pm. We will have only a limited number of ScoutFest T-shirts at the on-site trading post. If you order your T-shirts by October 5th, we will have your shirts available for the event.
- There will be two pre-ScoutFest Leaders meetings on Wednesday, October 15th. They will be online (or virtual) only. The Cub Scout-focused meeting will take place at 6:30 pm. The meeting for troops, crews & ships will be at 7:30 pm. Links will be published one week out.
- This year, early check-in will be available at the Scout Service Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of ScoutFest week. This will help eliminate lines on Friday night.
- Activities will be open Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm. Vendors may be open earlier or later. We'll wrap up Saturday with a big arena show that night.
- Some activities will be age or rank-restricted as required by the Guide to Safe Scouting and Age-Appropriate Guidelines. Volunteers will be able to assist you with appropriate events based on the color of your wristband.
- Bring camp chairs or picnic blankets to make you comfortable eating at the event, around camp, and at the big arena show.
- ScoutFest is a primitive camp. No power is available for charging electronic or medical devices, and no generators are allowed in the campsites. Please bring sufficient backup battery power for your devices.
- No fires (or hot coals) are permitted on the ground. All fires and charcoal must be in an elevated, portable fire pit or grill. Do not dump hot charcoal out on the ground. Do not place charcoal on the ground if you are using a box oven.
- While Cub Scouts may camp with their families, other Scouts (Troop, Crew, or Ship) are expected to camp as a unit. Arrow of Light Scouts who wish to camp with a Scouts BSA Troop must be on the registration for that Troop.
- Be prepared for potentially poor cell reception at the event. Early indications show that the airport will be good for cell phone coverage but BE PREPARED!
- Personal bicycles, e-bikes, and scooters are not allowed.



QUICK FACTS continued

- We encourage you, as available, to monitor social media during the event for potential giveaways, prizes, and program updates. You can also post and tag #EastTNScouts and #ScoutFest2025 for chances to win prizes from the trading post.
- Watch *The Bear Facts*, email blasts, text blasts, and GSMC social media channels for any updates. We will also continue to update the ScoutFest page of the GSMC website (www.eastTNscouts.org/sf).



CONTACT INFORMATION

Event Contacts

Sco	utFest Chair	John Worden		jworden@wrbfinancial.com
Executive Vice Chair		Ted Shelton		tshelto4@utk.edu
	Administration	Jim McCauley		mccauley06@comcast.net
Vice	Logistics	Matt Miller		mmiller@messer.com
Chairs	Operations	Bill Ellis		bill.ellis55@gmail.com
	Program	Barron Kennedy, IV		barronkennedy@fcbtn.com
Vendors		Jamie Cunningham		jjcunnham@gmail.com
Lead Staff Advisor		April McMillan	865-454-7058	April.McMillan@scouting.org
Scout Service Center		Natasha Leahey	865-588-6514	Natasha.Leahey@scouting.org

Camp Contacts

Cub Scouts Camp Chief	Bruce Van Cleve		brucelucyvancleve@charter.net
Scouts BSA Camp Chief	Greg Barnett		gregbarnett917@outlook.com
Venturing and Sea Scout Camp Chief	James Lane		james@jackyjonessweetwater.com
ScoutFest Staff Camp Chief	Ron Pearman		rwpearman@charter.net
Medical	Dr. David Stockton		mdstockton@icloud.com
Registration	Jill Grooms		mjgrooms@comcast.net
Staff Registration	Doug Ferguson		hdfergusonjr@msn.com
On-site Comms	Brent Norvell		brent@norvell.tech
Trading Post	David Nine		davidnlaura@gmail.com
Arena Shows	Les Beaver		lpbeaver4@gmail.com
OA Service Corps	Drew Dirmeyer (Adviser to the youth chair)		drdirmeyer@gmail.com
Religious Services	Savannah McMillan		savidawntn@gmail.com

Most of the individuals listed above are volunteers. They will be on-site, ready to assist units, leaders, and families with the best possible experience. Please do not hesitate to contact them in advance with any questions.



GENERAL EVENTINFORMATION

ScoutFest will be held October 24 - 26, 2025, <u>Rain or Shine</u>, at the Monroe County Airport in Madisonville. This property offers large, flat areas for camping and programs, as well as space for parking. A map and directions to the venue are provided in this guide. A site map is also provided.

ScoutFest is open to all registered Scouting America Scouts. We strongly encourage all to pre-register for ScoutFest, so we know how many activity materials we'll need (we don't want to run out). More information can be found in the *Registration* section (pg 13).

Scouts and Cub families can camp on Friday and/or Saturday nights, or just come up for the fun on Saturday. We have an extensive list of activities planned as described in the *ScoutFest Schedule and Events* section (pg 15). All attendees, both overnight and day campers, **must have a wristband on.** You will get wristbands when your unit checks in. Check-in information can be found in the *Arrival/Departure Process* section (pg 18).

If you are a day camper and plan to visit friends in the camping area, please be mindful of the campsite rules posted in the *Overnight Camping Information and Rules* section (pg 21). No vehicle traffic is allowed in the camping areas after checking in.

There is no power, and cell reception may be spotty, so please plan accordingly. Bring portable chargers and/or extra batteries for cell phones and other electronic equipment. Units and/or families may wish to bring hand-held radios for communication. While there is no public water, the Tennessee National Guard helps us with water buffaloes for the weekend.

No meals are included in the ScoutFest fees. However, we will have food vendors for your dining pleasure. We'll also have gear vendors and the ScoutFest Trading Post for your needs. More information can be found in the *Vendors* section (pg 23).

ScoutFest t-shirts and other merchandise will be available for pre-order on the council website - easttnscouts.org/sfswag. We will have a limited amount of ScoutFest merchandise at the ScoutFest Trading Post for sale at the event. So we highly encourage pre-ordering!

All ScoutFest staff members will be easily identified by a Staff lanyard, wristband, and vest and/or t-shirt. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact a staff member. If they don't know the answer, they can radio the question to Camp HQ for a proper response.

We always need volunteers to make this huge event a success. Please contact the appropriate person listed in the contacts list for the area in which you wish to volunteer. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.



Schedule

Our goal for ScoutFest is to have so much to do that you cannot do it all! The general ScoutFest schedule is presented below, and a detailed list of activities may be found in the *ScoutFest Schedule* and *Events* section (pg 15) later in this guide.

Friday, October 24		
10 am	Staff Check-In Opens	
4 pm	ScoutFest Site Opens for Units & Campers	
4:30 pm	Offsite Check-In Opens – see pages 11 & 18	
7:30 pm	Movie by the Trading Post	
10 pm	Check-in closed	
11 pm	Lights Out/Quiet time	
	Saturday, October 25	
7:30 am	Onsite Check-In Opens	
8 am - 7 pm	Trading Post Open	
9 am	Activities Open	
12 - 1 pm	Lunch – most activities will pause.	
5 pm	Activities Close	
5 pm	Catholic Religious Observance	
7:30 pm	Jewish Religious Observance	
8 pm	Arena Show – Don't Miss It!	
9:30 pm	Stargazing	
11 pm	Lights Out/Quiet time	
Sunday, October 26		
9 am	Religious Observances – Protestant & Scout's Own	
10 am	Leave for home	

Please note that the schedule may change between now and the date of the event. Watch *The Bear Facts*, email blasts, text blasts, and GSMC social media channels for any updates. We will provide a final schedule in your check-in packet.

Traffic and Parking

To facilitate safe vehicle movement, we will have separate parking areas for overnight campers who are staying the weekend and those who are staying for one night or just the day. ScoutFest staff will be present along the driving routes to direct you to where you need to go. **To help provide sufficient parking for everyone, we encourage all Scouts and families to carpool**. More on parking may be found in the *Arrival/Departure Process* section (pg 18).

Units that park a trailer in their campsite must leave the trailer connected to the tow vehicle, and it will be parked in the campsite for the duration of ScoutFest. Any vehicles that are parked in the camping area must stay parked in that area for the duration of ScoutFest. If you want your vehicle to be able to move during the weekend, it must be in a parking lot.

Although ScoutFest is mostly a fenced and gated site, we cannot guarantee that everyone at the event will follow the Scout Law. Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. ScoutFest, GSMC, and the Monroe County Airport are not responsible for lost or stolen items.



Bathroom Facilities and Water

Porta-potties and water points will be provided at multiple places throughout the camping and activity areas. Everyone should be considerate in their use. A few rules and recommendations are presented below:

- Help us keep them and the areas around them clean.
- Show respect for those who may be using them next (don't leave puddles).
- Do not dent, deface, or otherwise damage them.
- Do not play in or around port-a-potties; do not play around water points.
- Please let a camp staffer know if a porta-potty needs supplies.
- Units that rent their own porta-potties will have them in their campsites. Those are for their Scouts, families, and leaders. They are not for the general public.

We will have several handicap accessible porta-potties throughout the event.

Please bring water with you (in jugs and/or coolers) to help ensure that the water points don't run dry.

Porta-potties will also be available as an add-on to rent for your unit's campsite. The rental process will be a part of the online registration. Port-a-potties will be \$80 per toilet. This offer will close at 5 pm on 10/17.

Meals

Meals are not provided at ScoutFest. Your units should coordinate meals, or you may purchase food from the food vendors we will have in a food court area open on Friday evening, and Saturday lunch and dinner. Be sure to bring chairs or a picnic blanket on which to eat, as we will not have benches or picnic tables.

Campers may provide and cook their own food in their campsites, subject to certain rules, as detailed in the *Overnight Camping Information and Rules* section (pg 21). Day campers may provide their own food but will not have a place to cook; no cooking is allowed in the parking areas.

We request that everyone be considerate about food:

- Store your food in a hard-sided sealable container. Few people want ants, bees, or other opportunistic insects hanging around them or their food.
- Throw away uneaten food in the appropriate receptacles or plan to pack it out.
- Avoid leaving traces of food on the ground.

Health and Safety

We want everyone to stay safe and healthy at ScoutFest. By practicing common sense and following the Scout Law in your actions, we can help prevent most accidents and illnesses. If you are feeling ill, please stay home.

The main medical point will be on the east side of the program area, closest to the main airport office and staffed by medical personnel. A smaller first-aid station will be present on the west side of the camping area. We also plan to have a self-help first aid tent for minor injuries.



<u>Medications</u>: Please bring your medications with you. You do not need to check them in. However, all leaders should be aware of the medicines required by the Scouts in their care as necessary.

<u>Medical Emergencies</u>: If a medical emergency (e.g., accident, cardiac arrest, anaphylaxis) occurs, call 911 and then notify the main medical point. If professional medical help is needed, contact the main medical point or the nearest first-aid station. Staff members can also call for emergency services to come to you.

<u>Biohazards</u>: Treat all vomit and blood as biohazards. Call the medical staff for appropriate cleanup methods for people and objects if needed.

<u>Weather</u>: Camp HQ will be monitoring the weather during the event. In the event of severe weather, report to your campsite to get further instructions from the Camp Chiefs or other volunteer staff.

Missing Person: A "missing" person may actually be misplaced. If you discover that a camper is missing, notify Camp HQ or your camp chief.

<u>Fire</u>: If a fire occurs, notify Camp HQ immediately. Everyone should move in an orderly manner out of the affected area and follow all instructions. Everyone should stay out of the way of firefighters.

Accessibility and Special Needs

Because of the large number of people that will be at ScoutFest, we cannot accommodate all special needs. However, we will do our best, so please ask.

ScoutFest will be spread over a large area of primarily fields with topography that ranges from flat pavement to flat-to-gently rolling grass; thus, a lot of movement over varied terrain will be involved. We do not have a way to move individuals with physical disabilities around the event on demand. Please bring your own rough-terrain wheelchair or disability-specific electric powered assisted mobility device (EPAMD), such as a power chair or mobility scooter, or other rough-terrain mobility aid if you need it to get around. Even with mobility aids, some areas may still be inaccessible. No power is available for charging EPAMDs, and generators are not permitted in the campsites. We will have some disability accessible porta-potties.

If you require a CPAP or other powered medical device, please bring a portable power supply. No power is available at ScoutFest, and generators are not allowed in the campsites. If you have severe allergies, a seizure disorder, or any other disabilities or special needs, please note that on your registration/health form so that the medical staff can be prepared to support your needs.

The Great Smoky Mountain Council is committed to providing Scouts of all abilities with access to ScoutFest. A "Calming Corner" tent is available to any Scout who needs a quiet space to take a break. Scouts will find mats, fidget gadgets, and other items to help with processing sights and sounds. Caregivers can also access information about the resources that Scouts BSA provides to assist those with visible and invisible disabilities.



Rules and Restrictions

The additional rules and restrictions presented below are included in this guide to prevent any misunderstandings at ScoutFest:

- The runway is absolutely prohibited at ALL TIMES.
- All Scouts (and siblings) should use the buddy system. This is a big place, and we don't want anyone to get lost.
- Safeguarding Youth policies are to be followed at all times: two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact with youth. Tenting between parents and children is only allowed in Cub Scouts, not in Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scouts. Cub Scouts may sleep in a tent with their parent(s), but no other adult.
- No smoking, vaping, or e-cigarettes at ScoutFest.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
- Knives are allowed only for adults and properly trained Scouts. Fixed-blade and sheath knives are prohibited for everyone.
- Personal bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, etc., are not allowed at ScoutFest due to the large number of people who will be attending.
- During shooting sports (RATA), all youth and adults are to follow the instructions of the Range Safety Officers at all times. No exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the activity.
- No firearms, BB guns, or archery equipment are allowed on camp property other than those at the shooting/archery (RATA) ranges.
- EARLY CHECK-IN: This year, early check-in will be available at the Scout Service Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of ScoutFest week. If your unit does not check in during this early option, Friday night check-in will be off-site at Sweetwater Primary School (500 Highway 322 East, Sweetwater, TN). Check-in on Saturday will be at the airport.
- The unit is responsible for bringing completed Scouting America health forms (copies only: Parts A and B, not originals) for every participant. Unit leaders will be responsible for keeping the health forms for attendees.
- You must check out before you leave with the Camp Chief or Commissioner (regardless of whether you leave early or at the end of the event) that way, we don't have a missing person or misplaced person situation to address.
- Quiet Time will be observed beginning at 11 pm each day. Please extinguish all lanterns/lights and keep noise to a minimum, respecting those fellow campers around you.
- Use the walkways provided and do not cut through campsites or activity areas.
- Keep your trash picked up and bagged. If someone else leaves trash, pick it up and throw it away.
- No animals are allowed at ScoutFest except for verifiable service animals for those needing one.







REGISTRATION

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Procedures

Advanced registration is required for all those camping at ScoutFest and strongly encouraged for day campers. ScoutFest will be a huge event that requires a significant amount of planning and logistics to ensure its success. Please register as soon as possible.

Registration Type	Dates	All Attendees
Early Bird	Now through October 3	\$27
Regular	October 4-18	\$37
Event or Walk-On	October 19-25	\$47

The Regular & Event registration fee increases will be waived for those new Scouts and adults who join Scouting through sign-ups after October 3rd.

Registration for ScoutFest is available on the ScoutFest page of the GSMC website - https://www.easttnscouts.org/sf. We strongly encourage you to register with your unit, but if your unit is not attending, you may register as an individual/family. If you are having issues registering online, please visit or call the Scout Service Center (865-588-6514).

All individuals attending ScoutFest (including children 4 years old and younger) must have a completed Scouting America Health Form Parts A and B. The completed form (**copies only** - do not bring originals) must be brought with you when you check in. Some units may opt to have one person bring everyone's health forms; if so, please make sure that the health forms arrive with the first person arriving from your unit (if not arriving together). You can print health forms here (https://www.easttnscouts.org/volunteers/resources/ - General, Health Forms). Blank forms will be available at Registration. We will not be keeping health forms, only checking that they are being kept for those on-site by unit leadership.

We ask that all staff turn in their Health Form parts A & B (with a copy of the front and back of their insurance card) by the last full staff meeting.

In assigning campsite sizes for registered units, we will assume two people per tent per unit for older Scouts, and one tent per family per unit for Cub Scouts. We will include a space for your unit and its tow vehicle. If your unit does not have a trailer, you will be able to park two cars in that space as storage (like a trailer). Trailers, tow vehicles, and vehicles that are parked in or near the campsites MUST stay parked in that area for the duration of ScoutFest. If you want your vehicle to be able to move during the weekend, it must be in a parking lot. If your unit believes it needs something different, please contact the Scout Service Center no later than October 16 at 5 pm Eastern. More information on campsite sizes is in the *Overnight Camp Information and Rules* section (pg 21).

We understand that for some units, such as Cub Scouts, recruiting/registering of new Scouts may not be complete by the time registration closes. This will not be a problem for those who are day camping; they can register as walk-ons the day of the event. If you have newly registered Scouts who wish to camp, we will work with you to ensure that they can. The Regular & Event registration fee increases will be waived for those new Scouts and adults who join Scouting through sign-ups after October 3rd.



K Important Facts

- ▲ The cost for all attendees 4 years of age and above is \$27 through October 3, 2025.
- ▲ October 4-18 the cost for all attendees 5 years of age and above is \$37.
- ▲ Registration closes at midnight Friday, October 17, 2025.
- ▲ The Event or Walk-On fee is \$47 for all attendees 5 years of age and above.
- ▲ Campers are encouraged to carpool and arrive as a group with their unit.
- ▲ ScoutFest is a rain or shine event.
- ▲ Unit porta-potties are available to rent for weekend for \$80 per porta-potty. Closed as of 10/17/2025.
- ▲ Preordering for guaranteed ScoutFest T-shirts ends on October 5. Orders will continued to be taken through October 17.

Refund Policy

ScoutFest is a RAIN OR SHINE EVENT. No refunds will be given due to inclement weather.

The Great Smoky Mountain Council will process refunds for fees paid for the activities under the following conditions, specifically for ScoutFest:

- A 100% refund will be given for requests made by Sept. 30th.
- A 100% refund will be given for youth not attending for medical reasons or a death of a family member (Doctor's letter required).
- No refunds will be given after the event except for medical reasons or death in the family (Doctor's letter required).

Due to the size of ScoutFest, the council's general *Events and Activities Refund Policy* does not apply.

Requests must be made in writing and submitted to the Council Service Center via mail or email. Requests must provide the Scout's name, unit number, activity for which a refund is being requested, and a doctor's letter if stated above.

All refund requests must be made in writing to Natasha.Leahey@scouting.org.



SCOUTFEST SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

ScoutFest is a rain or shine event. We are working hard to bring you a wide variety of activities, booths, presentations, and vendors. Our goal is to have so many activities that you simply cannot do them all.

NOTE: ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The information presented within this section is preliminary and may change. Watch *The Bear Facts*, email blasts, text blasts, and GSMC social media channels for any updates. We will also continue to update the ScoutFest page of the GSMC website (www.eastTNscouts.org/sf).

Schedule and Events

The general schedule is presented below. We will provide a final copy at check-in. The link will be emailed to the primary registration contact and accessible on the ScoutFest page of the GSMC website once the schedule has been finalized.

Friday, October 24		
10 am	Staff Check-In Opens	
4 pm	ScoutFest Site Opens for Units & Campers	
4:30 pm	Offsite Check-In Opens – see pages 11 & 18	
7:30 pm	Movie by the Trading Post	
10 pm	Check-in closed	
11 pm	Lights Out/Quiet time	
	Saturday, October 25	
7:30 am	Onsite Check-In Opens	
8 am - 7 pm	Trading Post Open	
9 am	Activities Open	
12 - 1 pm	Lunch – most activities will pause.	
5 pm	Activities Close	
5 pm	Catholic Religious Observance	
7:30 pm	Jewish Religious Observance	
8 pm	Arena Show – Don't Miss It!	
11 pm	Lights Out/Quiet time	
Sunday, October 26		
9 am	Religious Observances – Protestant & Scout's Own	
10 am	Leave for home	

A movie will be shown on Friday evening. The movie will be G or PG rated.

Events will take place throughout the day on Saturday. Most activities, demonstrations, and booths will be grouped into zones. A preliminary list is provided below. Please note that some activities are limited to specific age groups or ranks, and some activities are for all age groups. The activity list (and staff) has not been finalized. All events are subject to change. If you would like to volunteer to help at an activity, or if you have an activity or demonstration you would like to organize, please contact the Program staff advisor, Patrick Finn (Patrick.Finn@scouting.org).



ScoutFest 2025 Activities

Scouting Programs for all Ages				
Airplanes	Archery	Range & Target Activities		
Rock Climbing Wall	Inflatables	Military Reenactors		
The American Eagle Foundation	Paracord Bracelets	Religious Emblems		
US Army Blackhawk Helicopter	Flag Retirements	Scouting History Display		
Gaga Ball	Sea Scout Booth	Mental Health Awareness		
Blacksmithing Demonstrations	Scouting America's Conservation Awards Program	Winding Waters Adventures		
	Cub Scout Programs			
Popsicle Stick Race Cars	Glider Planes	Car Models		
Clothespin Airplanes	Balloon Rockets	License Plates		
BB Guns	Archery	Slingshots		
Wooden Boats	Rocket Launches	Glowing Firefly		
Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Exploring Activities / Competitions				
Rifle Shooting	Black Powder Rifles	Archery		
Shotgun Shooting	Cross-Cut Saws	Zipline		
Tomahawks	Hoist the Scuttlebutt	First Responders		
High Adventure Opportunities	Help Someone Else	Disabilities Awareness Challenge		
STEM Zone (For all Ages)				
Power Your Own Nuclear Power Plant	Pellissippi State Welding	American Museum of Science and Energy		
American Nuclear Society	UT Archaeology	Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville		
FBI Evidence Response Team	Smoky Mountain ARC	HAMM		
Robotics	Diesel Engines	and more		

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- Cub Scout programs are designed for elementary school (grades K through 5)
- Scouts BSA programs are designed for middle and high school (grades 6 through 12)
- Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers programs are designed for ages 14 20



Throughout the weekend, programs will be identified by their wristbands and signs.

Cub Scouts: Blue
Scouts BSA Male: Green
Scouts BSA Female: Yellow
Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers: Red

STEM Zone

Baden-Powell probably never envisioned STEM activities as part of the Scouting movement, but as we move forward and technology abounds, it only makes sense for Scouting to not just keep up with the times but be a leader of the future. Something for everyone: robotics, welding, nuclear science, talk to people far away with ham radio operators, learn about conservation, and more.

Arena Show

Saturday night, as the sun sets and stars fill the sky, join us at the ScoutFest stage for the closing show. The details of the show are top secret, but it is sure to delight and entertain Scouts, Scouters, and family members of all ages. Our plans are to end with a bang and a professional fireworks show!

Religious Services

Religious services will be available on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The services to be held, times, and locations will be provided via *The Bear Facts*, email blasts, text blasts, and on the GSMC social media once they have been finalized and available in the final schedule in your checkin packet.

The current schedule is:

Catholic services with Bishop Beckman: Saturday at 5 pm

Jewish services: Saturday at 7:30 pm

Protestant services: Sunday at 9 am

Non-denominational Scouts' own services: Sunday at 9 am

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE PROCESS

All campers are encouraged to arrive as a group with their unit. To this end, carpooling is strongly encouraged, which has the added benefit of reducing the number of vehicles requiring parking spaces.

Overnight Campers

Arrival and Check-In

<u>EARLY CHECK-IN:</u> This year, early check-in will be available at the Scout Service Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of ScoutFest week. More information will be shared about this in V2 of this guide.

If your unit does not check in during this early option, Friday night check-in will be off-site at Sweetwater Primary School (500 Highway 322 East, Sweetwater, TN). Check-in on Saturday will be at the airport.

<u>Friday</u> - the Monroe County Airport will open to Scouts and their units at 4 pm. Friday night check-in for units that do not check in during the early option will open at 4:30 pm. All Friday night check-in closes at 10:00 pm. We strongly suggest that all campers arrive on Friday evening, especially if you are bringing your unit's trailer. Gates close at 10:30 pm on Friday. If you cannot check in before 10:00 pm, please wait until Saturday morning, when the gates open at 7:30 am.

No matter when you arrive at the ScoutFest gates, the staff will greet you at the gate and direct you. Please drive slowly; remember, we will have Scouts, families, and staff walking in the area.

Saturday check-in is from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

Campers who arrive Friday should follow the following instructions (subject to change):

- ▲ The staff at the gates will check you or your unit in while you are still in your vehicle, then direct you to your campsite.
- ▲ You will be allowed to park in the designated parking area for your campsite, unload, and set up camp. We will have staff in the field to assist those who need assistance.
- ▲ Only vehicles that arrive on Friday and that will be in camp (not moving) for the duration of ScoutFest will be allowed to park in or near the campsite area. If you think you might be leaving before Sunday morning, then you will need to drop off your gear and park in the day camper parking location.

Campers who arrive on Saturday should follow the below instructions (subject to change):

- ▲ The staff will direct you to the proper parking location, depending on whether you are a day visitor or camping on Saturday.
- ▲ Once you have arrived in camp, please have a leader take the following to the **Registration** tent:
 - Any outstanding fees owed,
 - Health Forms Parts A and B (copies only and proof only, to be kept by unit leadership)
- ▲ The Registration staff will provide you with the following:
 - o Information packet (one packet per unit), and
 - Campsite assignment and directions on getting there.
 - Return to the parking area to retrieve and transport gear on foot to their campsite.



 Or transport gear from parking area to the appropriate Subcamp Post to receive campsite assignment, then transport gear to their campsite.

We advise those not carrying gear in backpacks to bring a collapsible wagon or wheeled footlockers to make gear transport easier. Be sure to have your name on your gear and any gear transport.

It is imperative that you camp ONLY in your assigned site. This is for security and safety reasons and so you can be found by your unit and by ScoutFest staff if needed. Please respect all boundaries, maintain walkways, and show respect for other campers. Cars parked in camping areas may not be moved until Sunday.





PRELIMINARY CHECK-IN ROUTES

Camping areas:

Camping areas will be zoned by program and be identified by the following codes:

Packs – C	Use Gate 3
Troops – T	Use Gate 2
Crews – Z	Use Gate 1
Ships – Z	Use Gate 1
Posts – Z	Use Gate 1
Staff – X	Use Gate 1

Departure

We strongly recommend departing on Sunday morning. If you must depart before Sunday morning, let Subcamp staff know so this can be communicated to the check-out staff.

If you are towing your unit's trailer, please see the next set of instructions.

- ▲ Check out with the Subcamp Staff.
- ▲ Take your gear to your vehicle and load up.
- ▲ Proceed to the exit route.
- ▲ If your car or unit trailer is in the camping area, please wait until there is a sufficient path cleared in the camping area for safe departure. This is only allowed on Sunday.
- ▲ Drive carefully out of the site and have a safe trip home.

When leaving, please be sure to practice Leave No Trace Principles and leave your site better than when you arrived.

Day Campers

Saturday check-in is from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

When you arrive at ScoutFest, the staff will greet you at the gates, direct you to parking and the Event Check-In area, and provide you with any pertinent information.

Day Campers should follow the following instructions (subject to change):

- From the Event Check-In area, proceed to the Registration tent. Those who pre-registered will
 check in and pay any outstanding fees; walk-on day campers will register and pay the fees. All
 campers will show a copy of their health form and will be given a map, patch (if not with unit
 package), and other information.
- After checking in, day campers should proceed to the pavement, where the majority of activities
 will be held. Be sure not to leave any valuables in your vehicle and remember where you parked.
 Onsite volunteer staff will direct you and help you navigate to the program areas.

When you are ready to leave ScoutFest, proceed to the parking area and follow directions from the camp staff to safely depart. A quick check for trash in the vicinity of your vehicle would be greatly appreciated. Remember that people may be all over the grounds, so drive cautiously.



OVERNIGHT CAMPING INFORMATION AND RULES

While the ideal campout has plenty of room to spread out and a roaring campfire to sit around, ScoutFest is challenged to provide an enjoyable and safe event for a large number of Scouts and families. This section provides information on what to expect when camping at ScoutFest.

Campsite Size

Your campsite size will be based on the number of registrants from your unit at the time early bird registration ends (October 3). We will assume two people per tent per unit for older Scouts, and one tent per family per unit for Cub Scouts. If you require something different, please note it in your registration or contact Registration before regular registration ends. Campsite sizes will be based on a 10x10-foot space for each tent including stakes and lines, space for walkways, and space for three 10x10-foot dining flies. We will include space for your unit and its tow vehicle. If your unit does not have a trailer, you will be able to park two cars in that space as storage (like a trailer). Trailers, tow vehicles, and vehicles that are parked in or near the campsites MUST stay parked in that area for the duration of ScoutFest. If you want your vehicle to be able to move during the weekend, it must be in a parking lot.

Do not leave an excessive amount of space between tents (lines can overlap). However, do leave walkways in your campsite to prevent trip hazards from lines and tent stakes. Be sure to stake down dining fly but keep any lines staked close to the poles.

Please respect all boundaries and keep your unit within its campsite boundaries, maintaining walkways and showing respect for other campers.

Food

No meals will be provided by ScoutFest. While we will have food vendors available, we cannot guarantee who will be there.

All units and families may bring their own food and cook in their campsites, with some restrictions:

- Store your food in a hard-sided sealable container. While the large numbers of people are likely
 to keep the larger critters at bay, a curious field mouse might still do damage to your food
 overnight, not to mention critters of the insect variety.
- All fires and charcoal must be in an <u>elevated</u>, portable fire pit or grill. Do not dump hot coals or ash out on the ground. Do not place charcoal on the ground if you are using a box oven.
- All stoves must be placed on a fireproof surface.
- Avoid leaving traces of food on the ground (eat neatly).

While most units comprised of older Scouts (Scouts, Venturers, etc.) should be used to cooking in camp and have the proper cooking gear, many of the Cub Scout units and/or families may be less prepared for in-camp cooking. Some suggestions for in-camp meals are provided below.

- ▲ For those without cooking gear, some suggested foods include cold cuts/sandwiches, fruit, cheese, crackers, jerky, or anything else that does not require heating.
- ▲ Bringing a small grill greatly extends what you can eat in camp, from burgers and dogs to steak, chicken, and chops. You can also use the coals to heat water or other items if you have an appropriate pot (i.e., oven safe).



▲ Bringing a camp stove can help bring a home-cooked meal to camp. Some easy camp foods include premade or pre-packaged pastas, stir fry, fajitas, chili, stew/soup, and more. Or you may want to go all out. Just be sure to keep your cooking area clean.

Water

Water will be available at water points throughout the camping area. However, with thousands of people at ScoutFest, you will need to bring water with you to ensure an adequate water supply for all attendees. Campers should be considerate when using water:

- ▲ Do not use water from the water points for dishwashing.
- ▲ Dispense water from your water jug away from tents.
- ▲ Avoid making muddy areas from water drips. Use a bucket to catch drips. Scatter excess water carefully or use a bucket to dump the water away from the camping area.
- ▲ In campsites with younger children, keep the water jug supervised to avoid wasting water and creating a muddy mess.

Bathroom Facilities

No permanent bathroom facilities are available at ScoutFest. Port-a-potties will be provided at multiple places throughout the camping and activity areas. Campers should be considerate in their use:

- ▲ Help us keep them clean (wipe up any messes on seats).
- ▲ Show respect for those who may be using the porta-potty next.
- ▲ Do not dent, deface, or otherwise damage them.
- ▲ Do not play in or around porta-potties.
- ▲ Please let a camp staffer know if a porta-potty needs supplies.
- ▲ Additional Porta-potties will be available for unit rental during the registration process @ \$80 per unit.

 Do NOT use port-a-potties labeled for a unit unless you are part of that unit!

Suggested Packing Lists

Certain items are suggested for bringing to ScoutFest. Remember, you will have limited space in your campsite, and you will have to carry all your gear to and from the camping area. If you can't fit all of your gear in a backpack or unit's trailer, we recommend using a collapsible wagon or wheeled footlocker.

Packing List for Individuals/Families

- ▲ Tent
- ▲ Sleeping bag/blankets and sleeping pad
- ▲ Activity uniform
- ▲ Field uniforms (i.e., Class A)
- ▲ Water bottle(s)
- ▲ Flashlight and/or lantern
- ▲ Spending money
- ▲ Rain gear (jacket/poncho, pants)
- ▲ Hat
- ▲ Boots or tennis shoes

- ▲ Change of clothes
- ▲ Warm clothing
- ▲ Personal medications
- ▲ Toothbrush/paste, toiletries
- ▲ Sunscreen, bug spray
- ▲ Folding camp chair or picnic blanket
- ▲ Water jug/Nalgene
- ▲ Food (properly stored)
- ▲ Cooking gear/grill
- ▲ Bible or Prayer Book



Packing List for Units

- ▲ Unit trailer (if applicable), Unit Flag
- ▲ Unit food
- ▲ Cooking gear/grill
- ▲ Dining fly (no bigger than 10 x 30 feet)
- ▲ Portable fire pit
- ▲ Water cooler(s) full of water

Campsite Rules and Restrictions

- ▲ NO vehicle traffic is allowed in the camping area after checking in. All vehicles must stay parked where they are in the camping area.
- ▲ The runway is OFF LIMITS.
- ▲ No fires are allowed on the ground. All fires must be in an elevated, portable fire pit. All stoves must be placed on a fireproof surface. ScoutFest may ban campfires if conditions warrant.
- ▲ No one is permitted to sleep in a tent with a person of the opposite sex or an adult other than their own spouse, parent, or legal guardian. Parents and children sleeping in the same tent is only allowed in Cub Scouts.
- ▲ Keep your trash picked up and bagged (especially if it is windy).
- ▲ Quiet Time will be observed beginning at 11 pm each day. Please extinguish all lanterns/lights and keep noise to a minimum, respecting those fellow campers around you.
- ▲ Use the walkways provided and do not cut through campsites.
- ▲ Camp only in your assigned area. Keep people and equipment (including tent lines and stakes) within the set boundaries.
- ▲ Use porta-potties (not anywhere outside).
- ▲ Do not dump gray water in the campsites.
- ▲ If you wish to raise your unit flag in your campsite, it must be free-standing. No digging or planting of poles is allowed, and the rigging must be contained within your campsite boundary.



VENDORS

Be sure to bring some spending money to spend on food and vendors, including the ScoutFest Trading Post.

Much of the information in this section is preliminary and subject to change. We will update the list of vendors in subsequent versions of this guide, on *The Bear Facts*, email blasts, text blasts, and GSMC social media channels for any updates. We will also continue to update the ScoutFest page of the GSMC website (www.eastTNscouts.org/sf).

ScoutFest Trading Post

The ScoutFest Trading Post will offer souvenirs and memorabilia, in addition to other items you might need at camp.

We will have a limited number of ScoutFest T-shirts at the ScoutFest Trading Post, so make sure to pre-order yours.

Gear and Other Stuff

The vendor committee is working very hard to have as many vendors as possible from a wide range of categories, including food concessions, educational, program, and retail. Some of the exhibits/ vendors may include:

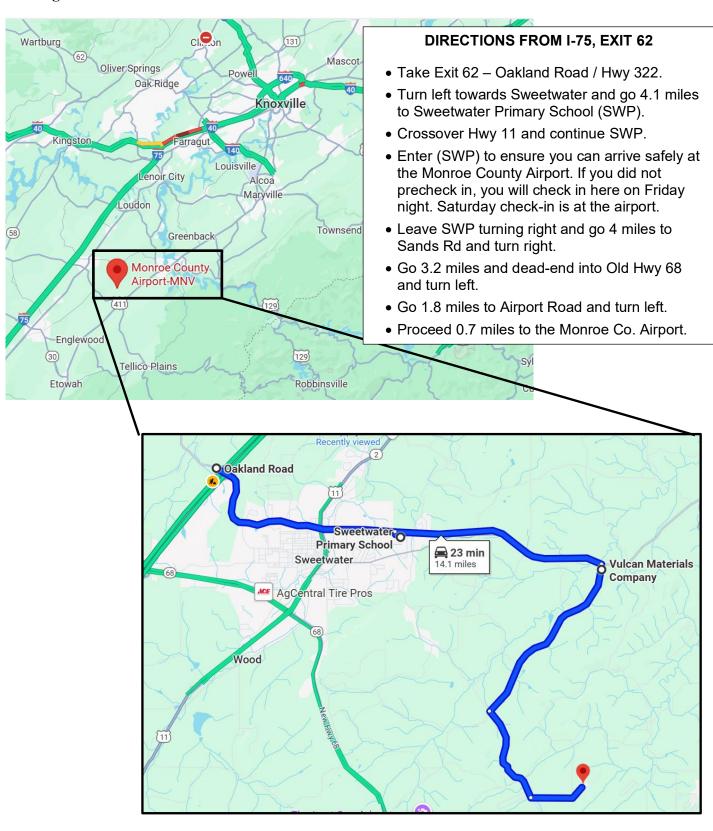
- ▲ GSMC Scout Shop
- ▲ Several Food Trucks
- ▲ Snack Booths
- ▲ FBI
- ▲ Zip Lining
- ▲ Pellissippi State Welding
- ▲ ...and much more!

Please plan to bring money to support the food and retail vendors. If you think your business would be interested in being a vendor for ScoutFest, please contact Jamie Cunningham (See Contact Info section (pg 6)).

Food Vendors

We will have food trucks and vendors for your dining pleasure during the day on Saturday, arranged conveniently in the vendor areas. A couple will even be there on Friday night. There will be no picnic tables, so be prepared with your camp chair/stool or a picnic blanket.

Coming from I-75





ScoutFest 2025 October 24 - 26, 2025