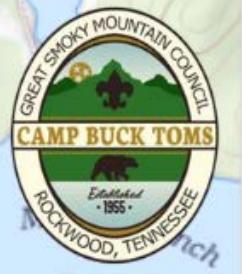


# Navigate the Adventure

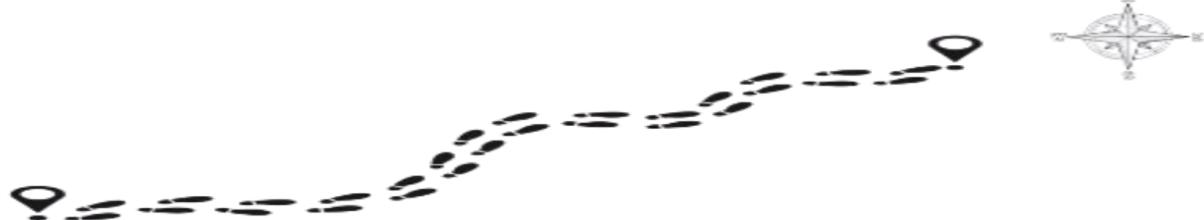


**GSMC Spring Family Camp**  
**Camp Buck Toms**  
**April 10-12, 2026**  
**April 17-19, 2026**



**35.7784° N, -84.6786° W**

# Program Guide



**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

We are proud to deliver an innovative Spring Family Camp experience focused on the fun, fellowship, and family atmosphere that has made Scouting the successful program it has been for 110 years. This high-quality program is designed to help strengthen the year-round Pack program. Scouts will spend their weekends doing fun-filled, adventurous, and family-oriented activities!

Spring Family Camps are an excellent opportunity for our Scouts to develop. They will test their Scouting skills, work on exciting STEM experiments, play exciting games, make crafts, do skits, sing songs, hang out with friends, and build lasting memories with their families!

The Great Smoky Mountain Council and its Cub Scout Program staff have built a solid reputation for providing an exciting experience that every Scout will remember. They will never forget the fun and experience they gained at Camp Buck Toms.

If you or your Scout have special needs (accessibility, equipment, food allergies/intolerance's, severe allergies, etc.), please let us know before camp begins so we can make the appropriate accommodation at the campsites, dining hall, and health lodge.

Please feel free to contact your cub camp director with any questions.

On behalf of the Great Smoky Mountain Council and the 2026 Council Cub Program Staff, we are excited to see you in the Spring!

Yours in Scouting,

Cub Camp Director

Missy Campbell

865.748.6431

[Campbell12180@gmail.com](mailto:Campbell12180@gmail.com)

Council Staff Advisor

Anthony Ingram

865.455.5268

[Anthony.Ingram@scouting.org](mailto:Anthony.Ingram@scouting.org)

Registration Assistance

Natasha Leahey

865.566.0645

[Natasha.Leahay@scouting.org](mailto:Natasha.Leahay@scouting.org)

“Navigate the Adventure” invites Cub Scouts and their families to explore various parts of Scouting. Every activity represents a different “point on the compass,” symbolizing a key value: Adventure (North), Friendship (East), Skill (South), and Service (West).

## **REGISTRATION**

All camp participants can register online. Registrations can be made by individual families or Packs may be registered as a Unit by one of the Key Three Leaders (Cubmaster, Charter Organization Representative, or Committee Chair)

### **The first Family Camp weekend runs April 10-12:**

Early registration is \$30 per person and closes at 11:59pm on March 29

Regular registration is \$40 per person and shuts off at 11:59pm on April 8

### **The second Family Camp weekend runs April 17-19:**

Early registration runs \$30 per person and closes at 11:59pm on March 29

Regular registration is \$40 per person and shuts off at 11:59pm on April 15

- Each weekend is a separate Camp.
- Once a family is registered, they should not expect to be able to switch weekends.
- Walk-ons are not allowed at either session because the Council will have already placed orders for food and supplies.
- ID bracelets will be provided to all camp participants at check-in and should be worn at all times.
- If you, a Scout, or an adult you are registering has special needs, please contact the Cub Camp Director before camp to ensure we can accommodate you.

## **REFUND POLICY**

Refund requests made 30 Days prior to the event are eligible for a full refund. Requests between 2 weeks and 30 days is 50% refund. Request within 2 weeks of the event is at the discretion of the event coordinator or staff advisor. Refunds are usually only granted in cases of emergency or medical reasons (doctor’s letter required). All refund requests must be made by a unit leader via email to [natasha.leahey@Scouting.org](mailto:natasha.leahey@Scouting.org). No refunds will be given after the event.

## **CHECK-IN PROCEDURES**

Check-in for both Session 1 and Session 2 will begin at 6 pm on Friday. Check-in will be at the marked registration tables in the Dining Hall next to the main Camp Buck Toms parking lot.

**Please note:** no one is allowed to proceed onto Camp property until AFTER they have properly checked in. This is a safety procedure to ensure that we always know who is on the property.

Parents/Guardians/Packs should not arrive early unless they have been told to do so. Volunteers will greet campers and direct them to the camp bus, which will transport their camping gear and them to their designated campsite. You can also bring a portable wagon to transport your equipment to your campsite.

**Please note:** ONLY the parent or legal guardian of a Scout is allowed to stay with them overnight on property. Other relatives are only allowed to camp on property if they have completed an Adult Application, paid the registration fee (currently \$67 per adult) and have successfully completed and received verification of the Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT). This process can take from 7-10 days from start to finish so please plan accordingly.

**Please note:** Pack trailers may be driven to the assigned campsite for the Unit but must remain in place for the remainder of the weekend and cannot be moved until after Camp adjourns on Sunday morning (no vehicles can be driven through Camp unless pre-approved by Camp Staff). Only the trailers can remain at your campsite, no vehicles can stay at campsite.

Scouts can arrive in their Scout uniform, a Scout activity shirt, and/or typical play clothes. To identify and track campers, unique bracelets will be distributed at check-in. Campers may arrive individually or in groups (Dens/Packs), but we recommend that all participants on your registration plan arrive at camp together. (especially if their Pack Leader will bring all of the Medical Forms) All Scouts must have an adult with them at check-in, such as a parent/guardian 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 or hike their equipment to their campsite.

**All campers attending must BRING A PHYSICAL COPY of their completed parts A and B of the BSA medical form.** If a leader is bringing their Pack's medical forms, they are expected to arrive before their campers start arriving so the administration team can mark that off on the check-in paperwork.



## **CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES**

The procedures for campers (Scouts and adults) for check-out consist of the following steps.

1. Pack up your gear
2. Walk through your campsite, picking up all your trash.
3. Put all trash in trash bags and place the bags at the end of your campsite, next to the main camp road.
4. You can either walk up your gear or wait for the camp staff to bring the bus to pick you and your gear up and bring you back up to the parking lot.
5. Check out on the dining hall porch. You may pick up your medical forms, and patches, complete and turn in evaluation forms, and sign out of camp.
6. **Please Note:** A proper check-out is extremely important so Camp Staff can be confident that everyone has safely departed and no one is left on the property.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **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 (three sided shelters with bunk shelves built-in on the three sides) and an 18' x 20' shelter with electricity – can accommodate more than 600 Scouts. Our modern, spacious dining hall with a full commercial kitchen feeds 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 special needs, but first, we must know what is needed. Please include this information in your online registration and contact the Camp Director immediately 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 section. Please be aware that although we will make reasonable accommodations where possible to meet needs, staff and volunteers are not experts in special needs; thus, we cannot guarantee that we will 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.easttnScouts.org](http://www.easttnScouts.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, and 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, a dedicated quiet area for those needing a more peaceful and secure environment.

## **DIETARY NEEDS**

If you have special dietary needs (food allergies or intolerances), you should note this on the registration form. If you have 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 before 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 contain the person's name and dosing information/schedule.

Medications should be turned in to our medical officer at check-in. (This is to ensure that medications are never left unattended in campsites so that no one has unauthorized access to them) They will be stored and administered at the First Aid area, next to the museum. 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 regularly (or for emergencies, like nitroglycerin) must be documented on the participant's medical form.

## **TRADING POST**

The camp offers a Trading Post. Snacks, drinks, novelties, shirts, hats, and various patches will be available. Most Scouts will spend an average of \$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**

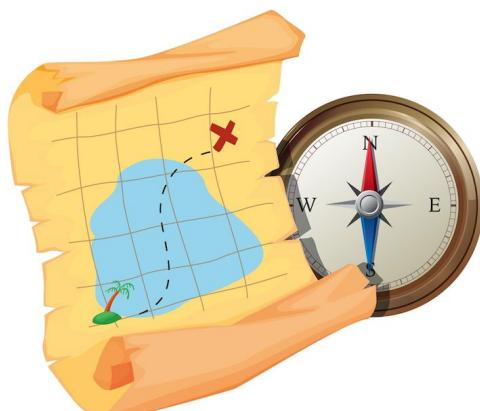
CPAP machines should be able to operate on a rechargeable energy source (e.g., battery pack). You must bring your energy source or contact the Cub Camp Director before camp.

### **ELECTRICAL USE**

No electrical cords are allowed to be run across the campsite.

### **VEHICLES**

Parking is provided at the Dining Hall lot. Once entering Camp Buck Toms property, the speed limit is 10 mph. Personal Vehicles are not allowed past the parking lot. The only exceptions are the Camp Buck Toms rangers and emergency vehicles. Golf carts are not permitted unless they are designated staff emergency vehicles.



## **VISITORS**

Upon arrival, anyone on the camp property must immediately check in at the Administration building. All visitors will be asked to show identification, particularly those wishing to pick up Scouts. The official camp bracelet will mark authorized visitors, and volunteers should look for this bracelet when interacting with unknown adults. Unauthorized visitors are not allowed onto the camp property. Camp Buck Toms is private property, and the staff must control access to the camp to protect the Scouts.

## **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 using the contact information section at the beginning of this guide.

## **MEDIA PRESENCE**

Should a media member wish to speak to you, please direct them to the Camp Director, who will contact the Council Executive.

**Please Note:** THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL AND SCOUTING AMERICA ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE LOST AN ITEM, YOU MAY CHECK AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO SEE IF ANYONE HAS TURNED IT IN.

ANY ITEM FOUND AT CAMP AND TURNED IN TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BUT NOT CLAIMED BEFORE CAMP ENDS, ARE TAKEN TO THE COUNCIL OFFICE (1333 OLD WEISGARBER ROAD, 37909) AND HELD FOR NO MORE THAN 2 (TWO) WEEKS. AFTER THAT TIME, THEY ARE DISPOSED OF OR REPURPOSED.

## **CAMPSITE INFORMATION**

Camp Buck Toms has 16 campsites, with campsite #3 offering disabled accessibility. Each campsite has a fire pit, flagpole, message board, covered pavilion with picnic tables and lights, two 4-person Adirondacks (3-sided bunk shelters), and two or more 8-person Adirondacks. Photos can be found at Campsites - Great Smoky Mountain Council

The following rules are mandatory for using the Adirondacks, in keeping with BSA youth protection policies, courteous use, and best camping practices.

1. No one is permitted to sleep in the Adirondacks with a person of the opposite sex or an adult other than his or her spouse, parent, or guardian. Adult males, adult females, and youth males and females must bunk in separate Adirondacks.  
Different families cannot “mix together” in the same Adirondack.

2. To keep out the weather, the front entrance may be covered with a tarp (there is a metal rod for this). The camp does not provide tarps, which must be brought; an 8 x 10 works great. Tarps then need to be attached to the metal rod via zip ties or other removable devices such as ropes, paracords, etc.
3. No hammocks or tents are allowed inside or attached to the Adirondacks.
4. No hanging from the bars or rafters inside the Adirondacks.
5. No eating or drinking sugary drinks in the Adirondacks, as food debris attracts insects and small furry creatures.
6. No loose food items in the Adirondacks. Store food in hard-sided containers, preferably ones that latch.

## **BATHHOUSE RULES**

Modern bathhouses are available and shared between two campsites, except Campsites #3, 14, 15, and 16. Each side has two toilet stalls, one shower, and a sink in the middle. A water faucet with potable water is located outside of the bathhouse.

In keeping with BSA youth protection policies, the following rules are **mandatory** for using the bathhouses:

1. Only one of the following groups may occupy a single side of the bathhouse at a time: adult males, adult females, youth males, and youth females. There is a wooden sign in the entryway to the stalls. Please slide it over to the appropriate group (male/female, youth/adult).
2. If the sign was not used properly, call out before entering a side of the bathhouse to see who is in there. Adults should call out, "Are there any Scouts in here?" and Scouts should call out, "Are there any adults in here?"
3. 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.
4. In case of an accident or medical emergency, a non-parent/guardian may enter the side of the youth's bathhouse, regardless of gender. **Two-deep leadership is strongly recommended in this case.**

## **BUDDY SYSTEM**

All youth must have a buddy and travel across camp together. Youth should not move about the camp alone at any time. The safety of our children is paramount.

- 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, Scouting America Youth Protection policies must always be 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 children at all times.

## FOOD IN CAMP

All campers will be provided with breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, plus a grab-and-go breakfast on Sunday morning. However, some adults and Scouts may wish to bring snacks 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.

## RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES (previously called Shooting Sports)

**Please do not bring your personal shooting sports items;** the camp will provide them. All youth and adults must always follow the Range Officers' instructions. There are no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the activity.

## SWIMMING AREA

The Swimming and Aquatics areas are off-limits for Spring Family Camp.

## DINING HALL

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 each meal. If you have an allergy that you previously told the Director about, please let the staff know when you arrive so that any special needs can be met.
- Scouts should be courteous to their neighbors in line, sitting, and eating.
- When Scouts are finished, they are expected to take their trays, cups, and eating utensils to the designated disposal area.
- Campers are expected to clean up their area, wipe down the table, and clean up any spills. Buckets with soap, water, and a rag will be provided. This is a good opportunity to remind Scouts that the Scout Law encourages them to be HELPFUL and CLEAN.
- The drink machines are turned on ONLY at designated mealtimes and not available throughout the day. There are numerous water fountains in the Dining Halls and water outlets located across Camp that may be used to refill water bottles.

## **PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS**

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

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- No smoking in camp (this includes electronic cigarettes).
- No tobacco products of any kind should be used on Camp property.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted.
- Fixed-blade/sheath knives are prohibited for everyone. Scouts cannot bring or possess knives at camp, regardless of training.
- 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. The only exception to this are certified Service Animals as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act.
- No open-toe shoes are allowed at camp; the only exception is in the shower house.

## **HYDRATION AND HEAT STRESS**

During any outdoor camp, adequate hydration is necessary. Water will be available at all campsites and activity stations. Please keep an eye on the campers 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 Spring and Summer. Adequate hydration and recognizing the early symptoms are essential. 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 guidelines presented below before arriving at camp.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

The Camp Director will regularly monitor the forecast and radar throughout camp. In the event of severe weather, we have procedures in place to ensure the safety of campers. We will immediately send a text letting all volunteers and parents know what is happening and when the danger has passed. Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook) may also be employed. The Camp Director will alert camp staff via radio and text to implement severe weather protocols if severe weather occurs. 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 alerts) from the Camp Director before proceeding to the following 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.
3. Under NO circumstances should Scouts be allowed to attempt to "fight a fire."

## **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

Camp Buck Toms has a certified Health Officer 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; they 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 Cub Camp Director will inform the camper's parents (if the camper is a youth) of the accident or illness.
6. If the Health Officer or Cub Camp Director determines that emergency personnel or equipment are required, provide a clear path for emergency personnel to the injured/ill person.
7. Medical situations that may not be deemed to be an "emergency" (i.e.: bug bites, tick bites, bug stings, minor cuts/scraped, etc.) should still be reported to the Health Officer right away so that the camper may be evaluated and the incident recorded.

## ACTIVITIES

*Every great Scout story begins with a compass.*

“Navigate the Adventure” invites Cub Scouts and their families to explore various aspects of Scouting. Every activity represents a different “point on the compass,” symbolizing a key value—Adventure (North), Friendship (East), Skill (South), and Service (West).

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Each family receives a **Camp Adventure Map**, and as they complete each station, they will color a **Compass Point** on their map.

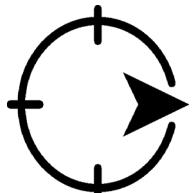
### North Point – Adventure Trail

- Build a compass
- Create your own map of Camp Buck Toms
- Families use a compass and a map to find “Scout Code” markers leading to fleur-de-lis. Families follow map clues to find hidden treasures or codes around camp.



### East Point – Friendship Flag

- Collaborative flag-making station
- Learn about the importance of the United States Flag, how to fold and retire it



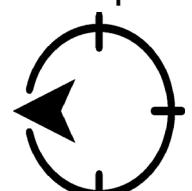
### South Point – Skills at Work

- Team building activity with knot tying & shelter building
- outdoor cooking
- BB (Slingshot for Lion Scouts)



### West Point – Service

- Simple conservation project, trail clean-up, or camp clean-up.



### Evening Program – Star Seekers- Friday night

- Guided night hike or stargazing program with campfire storytelling.
- Discussion: “How can you use your inner compass to stay on the Scouting path?”

## Cub Spring Program Achievements

Cub Family Camp is about having a fun outdoor experience with your family and Pack. Though some program achievements might be covered, the camp staff does not sign off on any advancements.

### Lion Adventures- (Kindergarteners)

- Mountain Lion- Outdoors
- Build it up, Knock it Down. Let's Camp
- Go Fish—Bring your fishing pole, tackle, and bait, and go fishing during your downtime.
- Archery
- Slingshot



### Tiger Adventures- (First Graders)

- Tigers in the Wild- Outdoors
- Let's Camp
- Fish On—Bring your fishing pole, tackle, and bait, and do some fishing during your downtime.
- Sky is the Limit 1 & 2 & 3
- Archery
- Slingshot



### Wolf Adventures- (Second Graders)

- Paws on the Path
- A Wolf Goes Fishing: Bring your fishing pole, tackle, and bait and go fishing during your downtime.
- Let's Camp
- Air of the Wolf
- Finding your Way
- Archery
- Slingshot



## **Bear Adventures- (Third Graders)**

- Bear Habitat- Outdoors
- A Bear Goes Fishing: Bring your fishing pole, tackle, bait, and go fishing during your downtime.
- Let's Camp
- Archery
- Slingshot



## **Webelos Adventures- (Fourth Graders)**

- Webelos Walkabout- Outdoors
- Catch the Big One-Bring your fishing pole, tackle, and bait, and do some fishing during your downtime.
- Let's Camp
- Math on the Trail
- Tech on the Trail
- Archery
- Slingshot



## **Arrow of Light Adventures- (Fifth Graders)**

- Outdoor Adventures- Outdoors
- Fishing-Bring your fishing pole, tackle, and bait and do some fishing during your downtime.
- Into the Woods
- Archery
- Slingshot



## **Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

## **Scout Law**

### **A Scout is:**

TRUSTWORTHY. Tell the truth and keep promises. People can depend on you.

LOYAL. Show that you care about your family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and country.

HELPFUL. Volunteer to help others without expecting a reward.

FRIENDLY. Be a friend to everyone, even people who are very different from you.

COURTEOUS. Be polite to everyone and always use good manners.

KIND. Treat others as you want to be treated. Never harm or kill any living thing without good reason.

OBEDIENT. Follow the rules of your family, school, and pack. Obey the laws of your community and country.

CHEERFUL. Look for the bright side of life. Cheerfully do tasks that come your way. Try to help others be happy.

THRIFTY. Work to pay your own way. Try not to be wasteful. Use time, food, supplies, and natural resources wisely.

BRAVE. Face difficult situations even when you feel afraid. Do what you think is right despite what others might be doing or saying.

CLEAN. Keep your body and mind fit. Help keep your home and community clean.

REVERENT. Be reverent toward God. Be faithful in your religious duties. Respect the beliefs of others.

### **Scout Motto**

**BE PREPARED**

### **Scout Slogan**

**DO A GOOD TURN DAILY**

# CAMP SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY

6:00 PM	Check In & Set up in Your Assigned Campsite
7:00 PM	Free Time
11:00 PM	Quiet Time & Lights Out

## SATURDAY

8:00 AM	Opening Flags & Breakfast
9:00 - 12:20 PM	Morning Program
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Free Time
2:00 - 5:20 PM	Afternoon Program
5:30 PM	Closing Flags & Dinner
7:30 PM	Campfire Program
11:00 PM	Quiet Time & Lights Out

## SUNDAY

8:00 AM	Chapel
8:30 - 10:30 AM	Pack Up, Clean Up Your Campsite, and Grab & Go Breakfast
By 11:00 AM	Check out and Depart Camp

## Camp Buck Toms Dining Hall



<https://easttnscouts.org/about/camps/buck-toms/>

# Map of Camp Buck Toms



The Great Smoky Mountain Council started its journey in 1915, only five years after the beginning of the Boy Scouts. Camp Buck Toms was not the first and only camp of the Great Smoky Council. Several camps have served the Council over the years, including Camp Helpful, opened in 1915 in what is now the Smoky Mountain National Park; the Scout Ranch, opened in 1919 in Powell, Tennessee; and Camp Pellissippi, opened in 1936 on Norris Lake.

Camp Buck Toms began in 1952, when William Perry "Buck" Toms bought a hilly 700+ acre plot of land on Watts Bar Lake and donated it to the Boy Scouts on the condition that a summer camp be built on the property. Three years later, in 1955, the first Boy Scouts began classes at Camp Buck Toms.

When Camp Buck Toms opened, the first group of 155 Scouts and leaders arrived by boat. There were no roads leading to the camp. The Scouts lived, ate, worked, and attended classes together for a week without any modern conveniences like electricity or running water.

The Great Smoky Mountain Council provided Camp Buck Toms and Camp Pellissippi for Scouts to attend each year until the 1970s. In 1977, the dining hall at Camp Pellissippi burned down. Since then, Camp Buck Toms has served as the only summer camp of the Great Smoky Mountain Council.