GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL
SCOUTING AMERICA

Camp Buck Toms



CAMP BUCK TOMS
373 Camp Buck Toms Rd.
Rockwood, TN 37854

Winter Camp Leader's Guide 2026

(Version 2) 10.14.26

We are excited that you are interested in attending Winter Camp at Camp Buck Toms, December 28 - 31, 2026!

Our goal is to provide a fun Scouting opportunity for Scouts to have an adventure and work on merit badges. This is a unique camping opportunity, as it will likely be the first time some of your Scouts have experienced camping in a cold weather environment. This event occurs between Christmas and New Year's Day and is a great way to end a year of Scouting for your Scouts and your unit.

Winter Camp has been known to have very frigid temperatures, but East Tennessee weather is unpredictable. Preparing for winter camp means being prepared for cold, warm, wet, dry, and any weather you can imagine.

The program is geared toward earning merit badges and functions like a merit badge weekend with a cold-weather camping component. Scouts work on a single merit badge at a time. The merit badge offerings are included in this guide, and more information on prerequisites and additional fees will be released soon.

The Great Smoky Mountain Council has offered Winter Camp for nearly twenty years. Both our merit badge counselors and our support staff are dedicated volunteers who take time away from their families to make this unique Scouting opportunity available to your unit.

Please use this guide to help you decide whether to attend Winter Camp. This Guide is a helpful resource for Leaders and Scouts to prepare for Winter Camp. Once committed, it is an excellent resource for planning your unit's success at Camp.

On behalf of the Great Smoky Mountain Council and the Winter Camp staff, we look forward to seeing you in December. Please reach out if you have any questions that need to be addressed in this guide.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Reano
Camp Director

Nathan Cunningham
Staff Advisor

Alyssa Ross
Program Director

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Camp Contact Information

GSMC Event & Program Specialist - Registration Assistance & Questions
Natasha Leahey - Natasha.Leahey@scouting.org, (865) 566-0645

Winter Camp Staff Advisor - Event-Specific Inquiries
Nathan Cunningham- Nathan.Cunningham@scouting.org, (865) 588-6514

Winter Camp Director - Program-Specific Inquiries
Mike Reano - Michaelreano@msn.com, (865) 321-0447

Winter Camp Program Director
Alyssa Ross - Twirlgirl78@comcast.net, (865) 340-9449

Camp Buck Toms - Administration Office (Only available during the event)
(865) 354-4740

Camp Buck Toms Ranger - (During event facilities assistance)
Billy Rood - Billy.Rood@scouting.org, (765) 470-2246

Key Dates

Registration Begins	**June 4, 2026**
Merit Badges Available	**September 17, 2026**
Merit Badge Schedule Available	**October 1, 2026**
Merit Badge Registration Begins	**October 15, 2026**
Final Day for Early Bird Registration	**November 19, 2026**
Pre-Camp Meeting	**December 1, 2026**
Final Day to Register	**December 22, 2026**
Winter Camp	**December 28-31, 2026**

Fees & Financial Policies

Checks can be mailed to:
Great Smoky Mountain Council
1333 Old Weisgarber Road
Knoxville, TN 37909

Youth Full Week	$165 - Early Fee
Youth Full Week	$195 - Regular Fee
Adult Full Week	$95
Youth Day	$65 per day
Adult Day	$25 per day

CREDIT CARD FEES

There is a 3% credit card fee for transfactions. We accept Cash/Checks at the council office with no additional fees. Here are some instructions to ensure that proper credit is made to your Black Pug Account.

- Please make your check payable to GSMC
- In the memo section of your check, provide this information:
  - What is your unit #
  - What is your District

REFUNDS

All special circumstances refund request must be submitted to the Council office by November 24, 2026. Refund request must be made at the unit level (Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, Treasurer, etc.) Individual requests will not be considered at the Council level. All request should be submitted to Natasha Leahey at Natasha.Leahey@scouting.org

After November 24th, and in the case of special circumstances such as the death of an immediate family member, sickness or injury, or a military transfer, we will refund up to 50%. No refunds will be granted after December 10th.

100% Refund	Ends November 24, 2026
50% Refund	November 25-December 10
No Refund	December 11

Winter Camp Daily Schedule

Monday, December 28, 2026

Check-in	8:30 - 10:00 am
Camp setup, tours, and familiarization	10:00 - 11:00 am
Opening Flags / Lunch	11:00 - Noon
Merit Badge Session	Noon - 5:30 pm
Evening Flags / Dinner	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Opening Celebration	7:00 - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, December 29, 2026 & Wednesday, December 30, 2026

Morning Warrior Hike	6:30 - 7:30 am
Morning Flags / Breakfast	8:00 - 9:00 am
AM Merit Badge Session	9:00 - Noon
Lunch	Noon - 1:00 pm
Wednesday will be the Adult Leader's Luncheon	
PM Merit Badge Session	1:15- 4:00 pm
Open Program	4:30 - 5:30 pm
Evening Flags / Dinner	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Evening Program	7:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Morning Warrior Hike	6:30 - 7:30 am
Morning Flags / Breakfast	8:00 - 9:00 am
AM Merit Badge Session	9:00 - Noon
Lunch	Noon - 1:00 pm
PM Merit Badge Session	1:15 - 4:00 pm
Checkout	4:00-5:00pm

Daily Scoutmaster/Leader mtg before lunch. Daily SPL mtg 7am

Registration Options

Full-Session Campers

This is for youth campers staying on camp and participating in a merit badge course all four days.

Day Campers

For Scouts or units not able to attend the whole week.
-Includes lunch only-
These campers are not allowed to camp overnight.

Adult Leaders

This is for adults registering to attend all four days of camp.

Unit Leadership Requirements

All units are required to have a minimum of two registered adult leaders who are 21 years of age or older, and they must attend the entire camp.

The Great Smoky Mountain Council is dedicated to ensuring youth safeguarding and safe Scouting, in line with the requirements set by the National Council of Scouting America. Consequently, any changes mandated by either the National or local council aimed at enhancing and supporting these principles will be promptly implemented within our camp environment. We encourage you and your Scouts to stay informed about the latest and most effective practices regarding youth protection and safe Scouting as they become available.

- Scouts and leaders must be registered with Scouting America prior to attending camp.
- Parents who plan to stay overnight are also required to be registered with Scouting America and must complete Safeguarding Youth Training before their arrival at camp.
- The unit is responsible for ensuring compliance with these policies.
- Any youth outside of the campsite should follow the buddy system at all times.

Reservation Procedure

REGISTER HERE - https://easttnscouts.org/wintercamp/



Winter Camp registration is facilitated through the Black Pug event registration system. Registration will commence on June 4th. Ensure that all your Scouts' and leaders' names are already entered into the system before the merit badge registration begins. It is recommended that one representative from each unit manage the entire registration process for their unit.



Merit badge registration will commence on October 15th. To secure your Scouts' top-choice merit badges, be ready to register for courses as soon as you can. Remember to log back into your Black Pug account to select your desired merit badges. Each time you modify your registration, it is essential to complete the checkout process to ensure that all your updated selections are saved.

Camperships - Financial assistance may be available for Scouts with financial hardships.

Use this form, linked below or on the QR code, to apply for a campership by December 4, 2026.

https://247scouting.com/forms/557-26cshiprequestwintercamp

For questions regarding registration, please reach out to:
Natasha Leahey | Natasha.Leahey@scouting.org | 865-566-0645

Merit Badge Registration

Merit badge offerings will be available online at www.EastTNscouts.org/wintercamp on September 17, 2026.

- Some merit badges may incur additional fees for program materials. Details regarding these fees can be found on the BlackPug registration site.

Winter Camp presents a unique opportunity to explore merit badge options that are not typically available during summer camp. We also emphasize the importance of utilizing adult instructors who have real-world experience for the merit badge classes.

- American Heritage
- Animal Science
- Archery
- Art
- Automotive Maintenance
- Aviation
- Camping
- Chemistry
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication and Public Speaking
- Cooking
- Emergency Preparedness
- First Aid
- Golf (Disc golf version)
- Health Care Professions
- Inventing
- Law
- Metalwork
- Music
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Pioneering
- Pottery
- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Signs, Signals, and Codes
- Sustainability
- Welding



Merit Badge Schedule

Winter Camp presents a unique opportunity to explore merit badge options that are not typically available during summer camp. We also emphasize the importance of utilizing adult instructors who have real-world experience for the merit badge classes. Below is the schedule of merit badges.

Merit Badge	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Class Cap	Fee
American Heritage		X	X		20	
Animal Science		X			12	
Archery		X	X		8	$10
Art	X				15	
Automotive Maintenance	X	X			10	
Aviation		X	X		20	
Camping	X	X	X	X	10	
Chemistry	X	X	X	X	12	$10
Citizenship in the Community		X			20	
Citizenship in the Nation	X	X	X		20	
Citizenship in the World	X	X	X	X	20	
Communication & Public Speaking	X		X		20	
Conservation Project (5.5 hours of the Life Scout requirement)	X			X	16	
Cooking (2-day badge)		X	X		12	$20
Emergency Preparedness	X	X	X	X	20	
First Aid	X		X		15	$5
Golf		X	X	X	12	
Health Care Professions	X	X		X	20	
Inventing	X	X	X	X	8	
Law					20	
Metalwork	X	X	X		15	$40

Merit Badge Schedule

Merit Badge List Continued

Merit Badge	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Class Cap	Fee
Music	X	X	X	X	15	
Personal Fitness	X	X	X	X	20	
Personal Management					20	
Pioneering		X	X		15	
Pottery	X				20	$10
Rifle Shooting		X	X		8	$15
Search and Rescue		X			20	
Shotgun Shooting		X	X		8	$15
Signs, Signals, and Codes	X			X	15	
Sustainability	X		X	X	20	
Welding			X	X	12	$40

Adult Training	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Class Cap	Fee
Wilderness First Aid					12	$65
Chainsaw (Both days required 2 day course) 21 years or older		X	X		12	$5
CPR/AED				X	25	$25

Additional Course Offerings

Chainsaw Safety Certification- Adults who are signed up to participate are asked to bring their personal gear, including a chainsaw, face shield, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, chaps, boots, etc. This course has an additional fee and requires 2 days and pre-registration online. 21 years old or older.

Conservation Service Project- Need conservation service hours for advancement or an award? Want to help give back to camp? Pre-register for participation in the Conservation project is available online and being offered Monday and Thursday during merit badge sessions. Additional opportunities will be available during free time. It is limited to 16 participants per day and is open to Scouts and Leaders.

CPR Training - A CPR/AED/First Aid course certification. Course has an additional fee.

7 Mounds Trail - The trail is for those who want to learn more about the Native American peoples who inhabited the area that makes up the Camp Buck Toms and East Tennessee.

More info: www.easttnscouts.org/about/camps/buck-toms/seven-mounds-trail/

Pre-Camp Meeting

Join us in-person or online on Tuesday December 1st at 6:30 PM!

In-Person:

Great Smoky Mountain Service Center
1333 Old Weisgarber Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37909

Zoom Link:

https://easttnscouts-org.zoom.us/j/82955413711?pwd=I2Yauhx30HT2wI8IbvCLznPyxL7XaG.1&from=addon

Camp Events and Activities

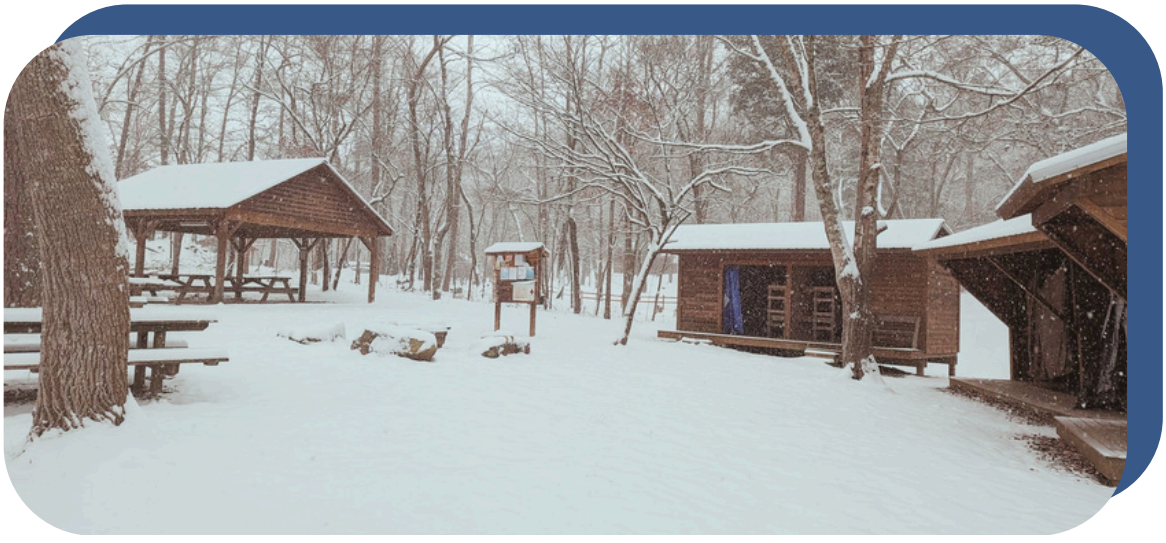
CAMPFIRE - Scouts will have a chance to see the fantastic view from our campfire circle overlooking Watt's Bar Lake. Troops and staff members can perform skits and songs, so come prepared.

WARRIOR HIKE - Everyone is invited to join us on our morning Warrior Hikes! The hike will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings beginning at 6:30 a.m. in front of the STEM lodge. A participant must attend all three hikes to earn the Warrior Hike Award. The hikes will take one hour or less to complete. Participants will sign up in the admin office or at the first hike.

FLAG CEREMONIES - Camp will assemble for flag ceremonies in the dining hall daily at breakfast and dinner. Everyone is requested to wear their full field uniform for evening flags and dinner. Units are asked to volunteer to assist with flag ceremonies and lead grace before meals. Sign-up sheets will be located in the program binder at the camp office.

SENIOR PATROL LEADER (SPL) - SPL meetings will be held each morning immediately before breakfast, 7:00 am, in the STEM building.

SCOUTMASTER MEETINGS - Scoutmaster meetings will be held each day at the beginning of lunch.



General Information

EARLY ARRIVAL

Winter Camp begins on the morning of December 28, 2026 with the first meal served being lunch. Troops have the option to arrive on December 27 for a night of troop camping. Any troop arriving early will need to provide their own leadership, food, etc. since camp will not be in session. Troops should contact the Natasha Leahey or Camp Ranger Billy Rood to confirm arrangements.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

The camp staff will be prepared to check in troops at 8:30 am on Monday, December 28th.

Arriving units will send a representative to the Dining Hall to begin check-in. The camp administration will collect medical forms and rosters.

Instructions for dropping your unit trailer off at the campsite will be given (no vehicles in the campsite area).

- All vehicles will be parked in the main parking lot by the Dining Hall.
- Vehicles are only allowed in camp if they are being escorted by a camp vehicle and are delivering a trailer.
- After delivering a trailer, vehicles must be disconnected from the trailer and parked in the parking lot.
- Disconnected trailers must be chocked and blocked to prevent rolling and tipping.

MEALS

All meals will be provided, starting with lunch on the 28th through lunch on the 31st. The kitchen will have hot chocolate and supplies for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available all day.

General Information

WINTER CAMP TRADING POST

The trading post will be open to buy snacks, camp supplies, and Camp Buck Toms items. The hours of operation will be posted.

Pre Order Merchandise is available online.
All items must be ordered by December 2, 2026. Final design of the logo will be slightly altered due to licensing and is pictured below.









DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

If there are any dietary needs, please note them during the registration process for each attendee. Our lead cook for the week will reach out with questions or concerns.

All dietary restrictions must be known by the end of the Pre-Camp meeting on Tuesday, December 1st. This ensures adequate time to prepare menus and meet food order deadlines. If food allergies are severe, Scouts and leaders can bring their own food and store it safely in the Dining Hall at their discretion. Please plan to meet the Dining Hall staff when you arrive at camp to review your dietary need form and learn the procedure to procure your special needs food.

LEADER LUNCHEON

We want to thank our leaders for being at Winter Camp by providing a special leaders' lunch on Wednesday, December 30th. All leaders are invited to attend and will be held in the activity center.

BIKES IN CAMP

No bikes should be brought to or ridden at camp. This includes electric-powered bikes.

VISITORS

All visitors must check in and out at the camp admin building. They will be given visitor identification. Visitors to camp are welcome to eat with us for a $10 and can be paid at the administration building. No visitors are allowed to stay overnight.

DAY CAMPERS

Support staff will be available in the parking lot to direct Scouts to check in at the dining hall. Once checked in, Scouts will be sent to their class for the day. Before camp, parents will be sent an official Day Camper Pick-Up Pass that can be displayed in the car with the Scout's name on it. When classes are done, parents will pick their Scouts in the parking lot outside of the dining hall.

VEHICLE POLICY

While driving in camp, please observe the posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour. Each unit is responsible for the safe transportation of its members to and from camp. Whether covered or uncovered transportation, anyone in the bed of a pickup truck or trailer is against Scouting America policies and will not be tolerated.

Vehicles are allowed past the dining hall parking lot if accompanied by a camp vehicle with pre-approval.

HEALTH FORMS

Youth and adults must have a current copy of their health form. Please keep the original health form for unit records. DO NOT GIVE THE CAMP ANY ORIGINAL MEDICAL FORMS, AS ANY FORMS LEFT AT CAMP WILL BE DESTROYED.

All participants, regardless of the length of their attendance at camp, must have a copy of their Scouting America medical form parts A and B. The parents must sign this form, which must be dated within the last year. A copy of the participant's insurance card, front & back, must be included with this form.

Scouts or adults who do not have their medical forms or a copy of their insurance card cannot attend Winter Camp.

MEDICATIONS

Any prescription medications on the camp property must be reported and locked up. The Scoutmaster should administer medications in camp. In some cases, the Camp Health Officer can administer medications. Emergency medications (EpiPen, immediate allergy relief, inhalers, etc.) should always be kept on the user and will not be locked up.

UNIFORMS

The official field uniform should be worn to the evening flag ceremony and dinner each day. The remainder of the time, Scouts may wear Scout appropriate clothing. “Skin-tight” clothing is not permitted unless it is appropriately covered. Weather conditions will be a significant factor in how the Scouts dress.

HAMMOCK POLICY

Due to safety concerns and damage to the Adirondacks, the use of hammocks inside the Adirondacks is strictly prohibited. It is the policy of the Great Smoky Mountain Council that, for our participants’ safety, hammocks will be hung at a height no more than the waist of the user at the center point while empty.

- For your safety and to extend the life of your hammock, carefully read the manufacturer’s guidelines and be sure to hang your hammock in a secure location and attach it only to a stable tree outside of main paths and walkways in the campsite area
- Select trees with “tough” bark, such as oak, hickory, or pine, and not trees with “thin” bark, such as maple or dogwood.
- Securing the hammock must be temporary. No nails, eye bolts, screws, etc., may be put into trees at any time.
- 1 ½” - 2” tension straps are approved, while rope is not acceptable
- Secure hammocks to trees 8” in diameter or larger.
- Stacying hammocks is not allowed.
- The most dangerous time when using a hammock is while getting in or out of the hammock. It is the time of greatest instability. Please use great care.

Hammocks should not be attached to any camp structure. The Camp Ranger or Staff has the authority to have a hammock moved or taken down because of the location, support, or height at which it is hanging.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

No electrical cords are allowed to be run from building to building. This is dangerous and is against Scouting America policy and County Building Codes. Cases where electricity is needed for health reasons must be cleared with the Camp Director before arrival at camp. We recommend that tablets, electronic games, and other electronics be brought to camp only if they are being used in merit badge programs.

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

Firearms, ammunition, and bows are not allowed in camp; only those supplied by the camp will be used. Sheath knives are not allowed at camp. Pets and personal ATVs, including side by sides, 4-wheelers, etc, are also not allowed. Any equipment mistakenly brought to camp must be delivered to the Camp Director or secured by the unit leader in a vehicle when the unit checks in. It will be returned when the unit checks out at the end of the week.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, and fireworks are not allowed on camp property.

CAMP EMERGENCIES

If an emergency occurs, listen for the Camp Emergency Siren. A loud, continuous siren blast will signal an emergency (whether a practice drill or an actual occurrence). An emergency vehicle driving through camp will also use its siren to signal an emergency.

The staff and campers will treat every sound of the camp emergency siren as an actual situation until the “all clear” signal is given. The designated shelters are the Dining Hall and the STEM lodge.

At the ALL-CLEAR, the camp emergency siren and the truck siren will cease; the camp emergency system will announce that we are ALL-CLEAR. The chart below describes several possible conditions at the camp and the appropriate action needed.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

LOST CAMPER - All campers report to the dinning hall.

MODERATE TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORM - Evacuate to the nearest designated shelter.

STRUCTURE FIRE - Evacuate the building and stand back at least 100 yards. Do not attempt to fight the fire.

FOREST FIRE - Evacuate to the dinning hall.

EARTHQUAKE - All campers report to the parade field.

What to Bring to Camp!

CLOTHING ITEMS

- Scout Field Uniform
- Changes of underwear
- T-shirts or other shirts
- Multiple pairs of socks
- Long pants
- Long shirt or jacket
- Closed toed shoes
- Shower Shoes
- Hiking Boots or heavy shoes
- Poncho or raincoat
- Hat for sun and rain

FOR ADVANCEMENT

- Scout Handbook
- Small pocketknife
- Day pack
- Fishing tackle
- Pencil or Pens
- Notebook or writing paper
- Merit badge books
- Any prerequisite MB Materials

UNIT EQUIPMENT

- Dining fly, if desired
- Troop cooking equipment, if desired
- ABC Fire Extinguisher
- Unit flags
- First Aid kits
- Lanterns
- Rope
- Large tarps (privacy curtains) for Adirondacks, 8ft high by 10ft wide
- Silverware
- Broom

HEALTH, SAFETY & COMFORT

- Sunglasses
- Regular glasses (if needed)
- Bath towels
- Washcloths
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Other toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Personal First Aid kit
- Foot Powder
- Comb or hairbrush
- Mirror
- Sunscreen
- Dirty Clothes bag
- Water bottle
- Coat hangers

SLEEPING / BUNKS

- 2 blankets or a sleeping bag
- Pillow
- 2 Pillow covers
- Foam pad or bunk cushion

OTHER

- Footlocker (best way to pack)
- Magazines and books
- Paper, envelopes & postcards
- Camera, Memory & Charger
- Watch (not expensive)
- Wallet for pocket money & I.D
- Flashlight or headlamp
- 2 or 3 sets of new batteries
- Extra bulb for flashlight
- Needle and thread
- Safety pins
- Alarm Clock
- Religious Material
- Spending money
- Fishing licenses for adults

WINTER CAMP ATTENDANCE ROSTER

UNIT:	CAMP SITE:	COUNCIL:	DISTRICT:

	ADULT OR YOUTH	PARTICIPANT NAME	DOB	MEDICAL FORM
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

WINTER CAMP

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Camp Buck Toms Map

