

Camp Ross 2023

Leader's Guide



A note from your Camp Director:



Hello Future Camp Ross Campers!

We are very excited to see you at Camp Ross this upcoming summer, and look forward to being part of the amazing week that each scout attending Ross will receive.

Please reference this guide and its checklist to best prepare your Pack for their stay at Camp Ross. While this guide serves as a first point of contact for Packs, it may not answer every question you might have. For questions not answered in this guide, the Goshen Leaders Guide, or Camp Ross Schedule please feel free to reach out to us and our staff will be ready to answer!

We look forward to seeing you soon,

And always remember. ROSS IS BOSS!

Richard Holtslander

Camp Director, Camp Ross

“To Give Scouts a Great Week and Introduction To Scouting.” -Travis M. Andrus

Richard.Holtslander@Gotogoshen.org

Instagram: [camross_gsr](https://www.instagram.com/camross_gsr)

Facebook: [CampRoss1967](https://www.facebook.com/CampRoss1967)



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1. Introduction

We hope you find the information in this guide helpful in planning an outstanding summer camp experience. As an Adult Leader or Parent, you can make your job a lot easier if you start to prepare for camp in a systematic manner now that you have this Leaders' Guide. This Leaders Guide will serve as your key to becoming familiar with the camp program and the mechanics of bringing a Pack to Goshen. Please share this guide with all assistants and parents so that they are familiar with the guide as well.

Camp Ross is seated at the "Mouth" of Lake Merriweather, and has a generally flat topography with a gradual slope from the Administrative hub down to the Waterfront. Camp Ross operates eight campsites each with smaller sub-campsite areas to be shared between Packs; Campsite placement is made based on a mix of Pack size, medical need, and overall weekly attendance.

Prior to your arrival at Camp Ross the staff spends many hours preparing programs, learning how to operate as a team, and setting up camp. If there are any programs that your Pack would like to see make a return to camp, or new programs you would like us to try please let us know and we will be happy to work towards these requests!

2. Registration/Pre-Camp

2.1 Communications with Camp Ross

If you need to contact us the best method is via email! Please feel free to send correspondence to camp.ross@gotogoshen.org. Questions relating to our program, scouts, or staff will be addressed by our Program Director. Questions regarding Registration, Logistics, Food, Health, or anything in between will be addressed by our Camp Director.

2.2 General Registration Reminders

- Please refer to the [Goshen Leader's Guide](#) for more specific registration information
- **Consider bringing a Den Chief!** Den chiefs are helpful not only for the pack but it gives older scouts the opportunity to experience Camp Ross and gain leadership skills
- **Check out our Leader Volunteer Positions guide!** Leaders can volunteer to assist the staff on a day to day basis or for the whole week to earn a Camp Staff Volunteer Shirt!
- **Open Registration begins on Sep 1, 2022 weeks fill up quickly at Camp Ross so register early!**
 - **Be sure to include in each participant registration: Medical Needs/Concerns, Dietary Restrictions, and Allergies**

2.3 Swim Checks

At the request of our Aquatics Director Camp Ross does not allow for pre-camp swim checks. All swim checks for scouts will be completed as part of our Monday Program rotation, as time permits leaders may also participate in Swim Checks on Monday but are not required to.

2.4 Text Reminder System

Camp Ross utilizes "Remind 101" in order to communicate emergent details of Camp with Parents and leaders. Instructions on downloading the app and how to join the group for your week at Camp will be sent ~1 month prior to your arrival at Camp Ross. As a note: Verizon is the only internet provider with reliable signal at Goshen Scout Reservation, please ask the staff for day to day updates and check the daily reminders bulletin at the Admin Porch.

3. Arrival

3.1 Sunday Schedule

- Arrive after 1:30pm no later than 4:30pm
- Be greeted by Site Guide (your Pack's Camp Ross liaison)
 - Medical Check-ins
 - For Check in please have Goshen BSA medical forms readily available, all participants intending to stay for greater than 72 hours or participate in our Aquatics programs must have page C of the form complete. Anyone staying less than 72 hours or not participating in Aquatics may elect to only provide pages A, B and the NCAC Health Advisory
 - Camp Ross Tour
 - Move Into Campsite
- 5:50pm: Line up outside Dining Hall for Grace and Meal dismissal
- 7:00pm: Leader's Meeting, Please send at least one leader to the Administrative porch
- 8:15pm: Evening flags and Opening Campfire!

3.2 What to Bring to Camp Ross

- Packing For Scouts (**Bold=Must Bring**)
- **Scouts should pack gear in a duffle bag or backpack rather than a Trunk or footlocker**
- 5 sets of T-shirts, Shorts, underwear, and socks**
- Body Soap & Shampoo**
- Flashlight**
- Rain Gear**
- Sleeping bag (or 3 blankets)**
- Sturdy hiking shoes & sneakers**
- Sunscreen**
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste**
- Water Bottle**
- Gloves (for Camp Service Project)**
- Bath towel & Washcloth (2)
- Beach towel
- Camp Chair
- Complete Uniform (remove pins)
- Comb/Brush
- Day pack
- Extra underwear & socks
- Insect repellent
- Long pants
- Small pillow (if desired)
- Spending money
- Sweater/Jacket
- Swim trunks
- Water shoes for Aqua/Showers (flip flops/sandals)

- Packing For Leaders (**Bold=Must Bring**)
 - **Leaders only may pack gear in a trunk/footlocker this is especially true of items used for the whole Pack rather than a single individual**
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Items listed for Scouts <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Knife, Cutting board, Metal Tongs <input type="checkbox"/> Goshen Scouts BSA Medical Form for all Participants (Scouts & Leaders) <input type="checkbox"/> Lighter/Matches <input type="checkbox"/> Printed Directions to Camp Ross <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Battery for CPAP Machines (to be charged in the Dining Hall or Administrative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Games/Playing Cards <input type="checkbox"/> Pan/Pot <input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Lantern <input type="checkbox"/> Light Snacks (Granola, Trail mix, Graham Crackers, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Battery <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife <input type="checkbox"/> Rope |
|--|---|

3.3 Foil Dinner Night

Tuesday evening campers take dinner to the campsite! Have a leader drop by the Dining hall any time after 4:30pm to pick up your food. All food is safe to eat from the Dining hall and only needs to be warmed by a campfire to improve its tastiness! Please also consider using charcoal, there will be some supply available at our Camp Trading post.

Foil Dinner Meal Includes:

Turkey Sausage, Bell Peppers, Onions, Potatoes, Jello/Pudding, Salt & Pepper, Tin Foil, and Plastic Flatware

3.4 Trading Post

Stop by the Trading Post at Camp Ross for Snacks, Slushies, Camp Souvenirs, Tee Shirts, Knife Kits and much more. If there are any items you would like to see in our Trading Post this summer please contact camp.ross@gotogoshen.org and we'll try to meet your request!

3.5 Directions, Parking, and Pack gear

- Directions To Camp Ross:
 - From 81 South : <https://goo.gl/maps/S7bSq3faK33Rad1T7>
 - From 64 West: <https://goo.gl/maps/nTebcuWFdK2QskYe9>
 - From 81 North: <https://goo.gl/maps/GaYXcDgA6kxGuV7F6>
- **Please utilize these directions to help your last mile travel plans to Camp Ross as cellular service through the mountains is sparse for all carriers**
- Upon arrival to Camp Ross please drive up the driveway to be greeted by our parking director
- For campers staying in sites 4,6,9,10, or 11 may have Gear used by the whole pack delivered by the camp staff to the campsite latrine (Toilet). **Soft gear or personal gear, ie. duffle bags, sleeping bags, pillows, clothes, etc. must be carried to the campsite**

3.6 Midweek Arrivals/Departures

For any parents or scouts arriving or departing from Camp midway through the week you must first sign in/out in our first aid office located at the Administrative Building. For Sign in please have Goshen BSA medical forms readily available, all participants intending to stay for greater than 72 hours or participate in our Aquatics programs must have page C of the form complete. Anyone staying less than 72 hours or not participating in Aquatics may elect to only provide pages A, B and the NCAC Health Advisory

3.7 Departures

Camp Ross operates what we like to call an “open” checkout process on Saturday morning. Program concludes on Friday evening after our closing campfire, we encourage all participants to take pictures with staff prior to Saturday morning as the staff may be around but will be working to ensure the next week of campers have the same Rossome experience.

Saturday Morning please be sure to:

- Conduct a final sweep of the campsite for personal items
- Stop by the dining hall anytime after 6:30am for a light breakfast, with coffee available for leaders
- Pick up your Pack’s Medical Health Records (will be available at breakfast area)
- Check the lost and found box (will be moved to breakfast area)
- Depart from Camp Ross no later than 9:30am
- For Packs in Sites 4,6,9,10, or 11 heavy gear can be transported to the parking lot on Friday afternoon, please stage gear for pickup at the campsite latrine (Toilet)

4. Program

*For finer program detail please reference our Ross Programs Guide

4.1 Meals

Camp Ross operates “Family Style” meals where food is prepared by our kitchen staff and distributed out to tables prior to the meal start time by the staff and the waiter den.

- **All Dietary restrictions should be listed as part of the registration process for each scout and leader attending camp**
 - Campers with dietary restrictions may pick up their food from the kitchen as the meal starts
 - Campers with dietary restrictions may store additional food in the kitchen at request of the kitchen staff
- Fruit and light snacks will be available throughout the day in the space between the Dining Hall and Kitchen
- Waiter Dens: Packs may elect on Sunday after the 7pm leader’s meeting to assist the staff set up for a meal, signing up for waiter Den helps to earn the Diamond W Award!

4.2 Awards

The Diamond W Award: Can be earned by the Pack over the course of the Week at Camp Ross. Earning the award shows your Pack’s spirit for the Camp Ross Program and earns your pack the right to display our “Camp Diamond W” Ribbon on your Pack/Den Flag. In addition award patches are available at the Trading post. To earn the Award packs must:

- Have an average weekly campsite inspection score of 23 or higher scoring is based on
 - Campsite cleanliness (5 points), Tent neatness (5 points), Latrine (Toilet) cleanliness (5 points), Campfire safety (5 points), and General Campsite Safety (10 points)
- Learn the Outdoor code at Nature
- Hike to Viewing Rock or the Swimming hole
- [Complete a Camp service project](#), either at Camp Ross or a project listed on the website with approval from the Camp Director

4.3 Aquatics

Head on down to our Waterfront and have a blast in lake Merriweather. Swim checks and Boating are held on Monday and Tuesday, and Packs can sign up for additional Boating, Swimming, Aquanaut, or our Water Trampoline for Wednesday-Friday!

4.4 Archery

Spend some time feeling like Robin Hood showing off your skill as an Archer. Monday and Tuesday offer basic instruction, and Wednesday-Friday Scouts can shoot long distances, bring their own targets, earn the Archery Award, and on Friday compete for the Coveted Golden Arrow!

4.5 BB's

Hone your Marksman skills at our BB's Range, learning the discipline necessary to safely use an air powered BB Rifle! Make sure to check out our Shooting award sessions, bring your own target, or compete for the Golden BB Friday!

4.6 Handicraft

Make something to take home from Camp Ross, from Paracord projects, Gimp lanyards, pocket knife sheaths, tie dye and more! Get creative and make memories that you can share with your family when you get home from Camp.

4.7 Nature

Spend some time with Turtles and Frogs and Snakes oh my! Check out our Nature program to learn about Leave no Trace, the Animals and Plants of Goshen, the Solar system, or earn Into the Woods, Into the Wild, and Earth Rocks adventure pins!

4.8 Scoutcraft

Jump back in time to the roots of scouting and learn knot tying, fire building, campfire cooking and how to work as a team to overcome obstacles. Learn about the skills that form the foundation of camping and know you'll be able to go out and camp anywhere!

5. Safety

5.1 Emergency Situations

Hazardous Weather

- Under light to moderate rain scouts should don raincoats and continue to participate in program
- Under heavy rain events Scouts should shelter in place and follow staff instruction for safety
- Only in emergency situations such as High Wind events or long lasting and extreme rain should Packs travel to the Dining Hall following direction from Staff

Lost Scout or Leader

- Check the surrounding campsite or program area for the missing individual
- Make a report to the Administrative staff with:
 - A Name and Description of the Person
 - Where they were last seen and seen wearing
 - Their favorite program area
 - Any other information that may help find the scout
- After Report a normal day will continue for one hour as the admin staff search camp for the scout
- After one hour if the Participant is not found, all Packs will be instructed to gather at the dining hall for a head count and emergency services will be contacted if necessary.

Wildfire

- All uncontrolled fires, fires that exit the campsite fire pit, should be reported to the the Camp Admin staff
- If there is a Forest Fire even at or near to Goshen Scout Reservation all Staff and Campers will follow guidance of State Foresters to maintain Personal Safety

Intruder

- All adults permitted to be at Camp Ross must wear a wristband provided by the Camp to validate their attendance
- If it is noticed that a leader is not wearing a wrist band, they will be asked to prove their attendance at First Aid
- If an adult is determined to be an intruder on property, they will be asked to leave Goshen Scout Reservation property

Lost Swimmer Search

- If a Participant of the Aquatics programs is missing from the area during a buddy check or at the end of the program block a Lost Swimmer Search will be conducted
 - All Participants will be instructed to remain where they are until the missing Swimmer is found
 - All Staff will quickly and safely make their way to the Aquatics area to begin searching the water
 - Admin Staff will conduct searches of other program areas and the lost swimmer's campsite
- At the conclusion of the search adjustments to program scheduling will be made by the Camp Admin staff

5.2 Buddy System

All participants at Camp Ross should adhere to the buddy system at all times at Camp. The buddy system helps to ensure that scouts and leaders are staying safe in camp and that all scouts are accounted for at all times. Buddy pairs should be single gender, unless in groups of 3 or more scouts.

5.3 First Aid

The Camp Ross First Aid office is open 24/7 during daytime hours the office is manned by the staff first aider, in the evening the first aid office is manned by a member of the staff who can offer assistance. All injuries at Camp Ross must be reported to the First Aider, no matter the severity.

5.4 Wildlife

Goshen Scout Reservation is home to scouts only for a short six weeks of the year. During the summer and all other times of year Goshen is home to many wildlife including Raccoons, Rabbits, Squirrels, Deer, Bear, and more. If it is noticed that wildlife are overly comfortable around participants it must be reported to the Camp Administrative Staff. **The storage of food in the campsite overnight is prohibited, all food and trash must be locked in a vehicle in the camp parking lot or deposited in the dumpster prior to bedding down for the night.** Please follow these instructions as closely as possible to avoid uncomfortable interaction with our Goshen Wildlife.