

CAMP BOWMAN

# LEADER'S GUIDE

Summer 2026



**Scouting**  **America**<sup>™</sup>

National Capital Area Council

[www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org)

## **A Note from your Camp Director**

Hello future Camp Bowman Campers, Leaders, and Parents!

Welcome to Beautiful Camp Bowman at the Goshen Scout Reservation! We are thrilled to welcome you and your unit to Camp Bowman for an incredible week of Scouting adventures.

To help you prepare for camp and make the most of your time with us, we have put together this guide, packed with essential information about Bowman and our programs. You'll also find helpful printouts for your arrival and your stay to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience.

If you have any questions about this guide or your upcoming week at Bowman, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org](mailto:camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org). Whether you're a returning unit or joining us for the first time, we encourage you to review this guide carefully, as it includes important updates about schedules, policies, and procedures for the 2026 camping season.

This guide is supplemental to the "Goshen Scout Reservation Leader Guide," which contains detailed information about registration, standards of conduct, camp services, merit badge sign-ups and prerequisites, and more. You can find it on the Goshen Scout Reservation Forms and Downloads webpage at [gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads](http://gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads).

We deeply appreciate your dedication to Scouting and your support of our camp program. Your leadership is key to providing Scouts with unforgettable experiences that inspire growth and adventure. Thank you for taking the time to review this guide, and we look forward to welcoming you and your Scouts to an extraordinary summer at Camp Bowman!

See you soon!

Yours in Scouting,

*The Camp Bowman Administrative Team*

[camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org](mailto:camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org)

[www.gotogoshen.org/bowman](http://www.gotogoshen.org/bowman)

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Cell Phones

Verizon is the only cell service carrier that has reliable cell service at the Goshen Scout Reservation. Other carriers have little or no coverage in the area. We recommend that youth participants leave cell phones at home.

#### Office Phone Number:

Posted on [www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org) in June

#### Mailing Address

Participant Name, Pack Number  
Camp Bowman, Goshen Scout Reservation  
340 Millard Burke Memorial Hwy  
Goshen, VA 24439

#### Email Address

[camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org](mailto:camp.bowman@gotogoshen.org)

#### Facebook

Goshen Scout Reservation  
Camp Bowman

#### Instagram

@camp\_bowman

# PRE-CAMP PLANNING

## Your Campsite

All campsites at Camp Bowman come equipped with canvas tents on wooden platforms, two cots per tent, picnic tables, a shade fly for each patrol site, and a two stall latrine with a wash stand (and potable water). Campsite preference may be requested as a part of your Unit's registration, and are assigned upon your arrival at camp. We will do our best to meet your campsite request, but must consider the needs of all Units attending Camp Bowman at that time. Depending on the size of your Troop, you may share a campsite with another unit, however, you will have your own "subsite" within the Campsite just for your Troop.

Adults may be required to share tents with other adults of the same gender. (If leaders are not comfortable sharing a tent with another leader, they may provide their own tent and set it up within the site. Goshen Scout Reservation does not possess the resources to allow each leader to have their own tent).

## Spring Parent Meetings - Be Prepared!

We highly recommend hosting a pre-camp meeting with the parents of Scouts who will be attending Camp Bowman with your Unit. This will allow you to review the camp program, camp medical and physical requirements, transportation arrangements, uniform requirements, and packing list.

## Directions to Camp Bowman

Goshen Scout Reservation  
340 Millard Burke Memorial Highway  
Goshen, Virginia 24439

We suggest that Units utilizing GPS services on their way to Goshen use the address above. Google Maps is reported to be the most accurate; we have worked with this service to ensure that the directions are accurate and highlight the best route. Other GPS services will also work with the address above.

The address listed above will bring you to the main entrance of the Goshen Scout Reservation. To reach the entrance for Camp Bowman, turn onto the "Beltway" through the main camp entrance. Continue along the "beltway," passing the signs for Camp Olmsted and Camp Post. After driving across the Lake Merriweather Dam, the Camp Bowman entrance will be on your left, indicated by the "Camp Bowman" sign. A copy of the overall Goshen Scout Reservation map is available at [www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads/](http://www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads/).

## Goshen Scout Reservation Bus Service

Interested in taking a bus to camp? The Goshen Scout Reservation offers a shuttle bus service to and from the Fairfax Government Center (Fairfax, VA) and Largo Plaza (Largo, MD). Units with at least 45 participants are also eligible for a bus to be sent to a location of their choice. Learn more about the Goshen Bus Service at <https://www.gotogoshen.org/information/transportation/>.

## Packing List

Please see the GSR Scouts BSA packing list, available at [www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads/](http://www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads/). We recommend that campers DO NOT bring electronics, including handheld games, cell phones, music players, and so on. There is a high chance of these items getting lost, broken, rained on, etc. while out in the woods. Plus, you'll be having too much fun to want them!

## Pre-Camp Check-In Form

**Two weeks before camp:** You will receive a copy of our check-in form via email. This is due, at the latest, one week prior to your arrival at camp. The information in the check-in form is essential for us to provide all units with a smooth and enjoyable stay at Camp Bowman. Your attention to this deadline is greatly appreciated.

On the “Check-In Form” page, please provide:

- **Updated unit contact information** - Sometimes the unit leader in charge at camp is different from the leader that registered for camp, so please let us know the unit’s best contact details.
- **Patrols**
  - Number of patrols coming to camp
  - Names of each patrol
  - Number of Scouts in each patrol
  - Number of adults attending camp
  - Number of people eating in each patrol (if adults will eat with Scouts)
- **Food and allergy concerns** - This is vital for our food service staff to know in advance of your arrival. Changes to meals can take time to process as orders are prepared well in advance. Please advise if anyone with dietary restrictions will bring their own food.
- **Campsite preference** - Please include this information even if you entered it in your online registration. Although we will do our best to accommodate your preferences, placement at a specific campsite is not guaranteed.
- **Leader volunteers** - If your unit has leaders attending with relevant experience or expertise that are interested in assisting with certain programs, chaperoning activities, or assisting in projects and improvements, please let us know on your unit’s check-in form so we can prepare.
- **Service projects** - Please indicate if you are interested in completing a service project and what support and/or materials we can provide. A list of needed projects can be found at [gotogoshen.org/camp-bowman](http://gotogoshen.org/camp-bowman).

On the “Unit Roster” page, please list all Scouts and leaders who will be attending camp, and the day they will arrive and depart.

**One week before camp:** We will contact you to confirm the above information, check in with your unit, and answer any questions. We will review your check-in form to confirm all information is up to date.

**11:00am on your arrival day:** Call or text camp leadership at the camp phone provided by email to confirm your arrival time.

**Upon arrival:** Your site guides will meet you in the parking lot and direct you to your site, where you will have a short time to unpack. Your site guide will then ask you to change into swim clothes and take you to med checks, swim checks, and a camp tour.

## ARRIVAL DAY & GENERAL INFORMATION

### Camp Check-In

When your Unit arrives at Camp Bowman, you will be created by members of our Camp Staff and directed to the camp parking lot. At this time, you will be introduced to your Site Guide (your Unit's assigned camp staff member for the week), and guided to your campsite to get settled in. At this time, we request that Units change into their swimsuits to prepare for Swim Checks at the Aquatics Area, as well as prepare for your Unit's Medical Check-In.

Please ensure that your Unit's Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Forms are prepared for review. All participants staying for more than 72 hours and/or are participating in Aquatics activities must have Part C of the medical form completed (including a physician's signature). Following Medical Checks, your Unit will be guided to the Camp Bowman Aquatics Area for swim checks. If your Unit completed pre-camp swim checks, please inform the staff at the Med Check area so they can inform the Aquatics Team. Throughout the day, you will also be given a Camp Tour by your Site Guide to become familiar with Camp Bowman.

### Sunday Schedule

Time	Event	Location	Notes
11:00am	Confirm arrival time	In transit	Call or text camp leadership at the camp phone provided by email to confirm arrival time
1:00pm	Arrival at Camp Bowman	Parking lot	Site guides will greet you and take you to your sites
1:00-5:30pm	Med checks, swim checks, and camp tour	Handicraft, Aquatics, Quartermaster	Test stoves by 5:00pm Sunday so Monday breakfast is not delayed
6:00pm	Dinner	Parade Field	Buffet style, food will be prepared and served by camp staff
7:00pm	Mile Swim Training	Aquatics	Bring your field uniform and a change of clothes to go directly to flags
	Bowman Brigade Meet-Up	Bowman Brigade Area	Merit badges will be selected on arrival
7:15pm	Leader's Meeting	Handicraft	Send at least one adult leader from your unit
8:30pm	Flag Ceremony	Parade Field	Field uniform. Flag lowering, rules of camp, announcements
After Flags	Opening Campfire	Campfire Hill	Staff will lead all units directly from flags
10:30pm	Reservation Quiet Hours	In sites	Lights out and quiet for all Scouts

## **Parking**

Parking is available in the Camp Bowman Parking Lot, and limited parking is available in the campsites for vehicles and trailers. We encourage your Unit to coordinate carpooling and group arrival to reduce vehicle footprint and allow your Unit to arrive at Camp Bowman as close to the same time as possible. Vehicles can access sites to drop off and pick up, with trailers remaining in the site, and then should be left in the parking lot unless otherwise approved by the Camp Director.

## **Trailers**

We welcome units to bring trailers to camp if they wish to do so. Trailers are permitted inside the campsites to allow units to easily access their gear or any other items they brought to camp. All sorts and sizes of trailers can fit inside of our campsites. Should you need assistance on where to park or how to angle your trailer inside your campsite, please ask your site guide(s) for advice from camp administration. Trailers are permitted in the sites throughout the week. All other vehicles, including the vehicle towing the trailer, should be parked in the camp parking lot once arrival is complete.

## **Early Departure & Late Arrivals**

All youth and adults leaving Camp Bowman must sign out at the Camp Bowman Administration Office, and check in upon return. Youth are not permitted to leave Camp Bowman without direct adult or staff member supervision. A participant (youth and adult), may not depart Camp without first informing a member of the Administrative staff. Any participant arriving after the first day of the camp session (Sunday) must check in at the Camp Bowman Administration building for formal check in (including medical check).

## **Saturday Departure Procedures**

Units must plan to leave by 8:00 am on Saturday morning. Prior to leaving your campsite on Saturday morning, we encourage you to:

- Conduct a final sweep of the campsite (including inside tents) for all personal and Unit items
- Stop by the Dining Hall beginning at 6:30 am for a continental breakfast, including coffee for our adult leaders
- Pick up your Unit's Medical Forms from the Admin Building
- Check the lost and found for personal belongings

Once your Pack is ready to depart, please send one adult leader to the Camp Bowman Administration Building to check out and pick up your Unit's Medical Forms.

# CAMP BOWMAN AMENITIES

## Trading Post

The Trading Post is Camp Bowman's camp store! We carry camping and outdoor gear, supplies for merit badges, snacks and refreshments, and apparel and souvenirs to remind you of your experience at Camp Bowman by and have a look around! Times of operation will be posted on the door of the trading post. We carry...

### Apparel

Camp Shirts (*New Designs!*)  
Sweatshirts  
Raingear  
Hats  
Socks  
Patches

### Food

Snacks  
Ice Cream  
Trail Mix  
Popcorn  
Bottle Water  
Sodas  
Juice  
Slushies

### Camp Supplies

Handicraft Kits  
Sunscreen  
Toiletries  
Personal Hygiene Products  
Flashlights  
Batteries  
Rope  
Pocket Knives\*

And more!

\*Pocket knives will only be sold to youth with an adult present, along with proof of their Totin Chip completion and permission from their Unit Leader.

## Leaders' Lounge

The Camp Administration Building contains the Leader's Lounge, which is open from 9:00 am - 10:00 pm, and closed during meal times for Camp Staff use. The Leaders' Lounge is equipped with restrooms, tables for working, and wireless internet.

## Internet Access for Leaders

We recognize that many adult leaders will need access to the internet for work while at camp. Wi-Fi via Verizon Hotspots will be provided at the Administration building; but due to the remote nature of the camp and the need of many staff and leaders, we ask that you use the internet respectfully and only as needed. The Wi-Fi password will be posted in the Leaders' Lounge.

## Shower House and Bathrooms

The showerhouse is open from 7:00am-10:00pm, except between 1:00pm and 2:00pm for daily cleaning, and between 8:00pm and 8:45pm for our evening flags ceremony. Youth campers must go to the showerhouse in a group accompanied by adult leaders and must comply with Youth Protection Guidelines. Phones and cameras of any kind are strictly prohibited at the showerhouse.

## Quartermaster (Q.M.)

The quartermaster distributes all supplies and tools for the camp and is located between the trading post and the commissary. The quartermaster is equipped to assist your unit with projects you wish to complete while at camp, in addition to stocking basic supplies. We ask that you return tools as soon as you are done with them to allow others to use them as needed.

What the Q.M. has for your unit:

- Janitorial Supplies: Toilet paper, trash bags, soap/sanitizer, various cleaning supplies
- Cooking Equipment: Dutch ovens, cast iron pans
- Tools: Shovels, pick axes, mattocks, half axes, logging axes, splitting axes, hatches, digging bars, post hole diggers, weed whips, leaf rakes, level head rakes, brooms, saws, bow saws, loppers, shears, and more.

The following equipment is provided to every patrol within your troop:

- Chuck Box (for cooking equipment storage)
- Cook Set: Spoon/ladle, meat fork, tongs, large frying pan, medium frying pan, hot pot tongs, large pot, medium pot, small pot, 3 metal plates, measuring cup, cutting board, spatula, large knife, paring knife, utensil cover
- Camp Stove with propane tank and hose adapter
- Pack basket (to transport food and goods from the commissary to your campsite)
- 3 wash bins
- Dish Soap
- Latrine cleaning buckets and scrub brush

Signing out equipment from the Q.M. is easy! Just put the following information on our Q.M. log:

- Unit #
- Piece(s) of equipment
- Time/day signing equipment out
- Time/day estimated to bring equipment back
- Signature from the Quartermaster, a Commissioner, or the Facilities Director

Quartermaster hours will be posted on the door. If you need something outside of open hours, or the quartermaster staff is temporarily out working on a project, stop by the Administration building and we will be happy to help! Please treat all of Camp Bowman's equipment with respect by bringing items back in similar condition to which you received them.

# FOOD SERVICE

## Food Service

Camp Bowman is proud to be one of few Scouts BSA camps in the world to offer a meal program exclusively based on patrol cooking, meaning that Scouts cook and clean all their own meals as patrols. For the most recent patrol cooking menu, please visit [gotogoshen.org/information/food-menus](http://gotogoshen.org/information/food-menus).

In patrol cooking, units cook their meals using ingredients and equipment provided by the Reservation. A list of the cooking equipment provided to you at Camp Bowman is listed in the above “quartermaster” section. Ingredients for each meal are picked up at the commissary during the hours specified below. The ingredients are then taken back to the campsite and prepared by campers (all meat is pre-cooked to meet safety standards) according to cooking instructions or to the preference of the patrol members. Dirty dishes should be cleaned using the three-pot method. All trash/waste needs to be thrown into the camp dumpster behind the commissary after EACH meal.

Proper food handling is important for keeping participants healthy at camp. We recommend correct procedures for the washing and rinsing of cooking materials. Clean up soon after prepping and cooking food. Throw away all trash in the camp dumpster after all meals.

**Do not store food in the chuck box.** The chuck box is not mouse-proof. If any type of food is stored, it will attract mice and other animals. If your unit has brought food, please store it properly in the provided bear box or in your vehicles.

## Food Pick Up Times

Breakfast: 7:00am

Lunch: 12:00pm

Dinner: 5:00pm

Two Scouts from each patrol should be designated to pick up the food for each meal and will need to have their unit number and patrol name for food pick-up.

## Food Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

***Food allergies and dietary restrictions must be indicated as part of your unit registration.*** Please indicate dietary needs under each participant’s information on the online registration system. The Goshen Scout Reservation Food Service and Camp Staff will do our best to accommodate all food allergies and dietary restrictions but cannot be held accountable for the management of these allergies. Notice of severe dietary restrictions should be shared with your Camp’s Administrative Team at least 3 weeks prior to your Scout’s arrival at camp.

# PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

## Program Schedule Overview

Camp Bowman's merit badge program begins Monday morning and lasts until Friday at lunch. Most merit badge classes meet once a day during a 50-minute block. Multiple sections of merit badges in high demand may be offered; there is no difference in the activities completed.

- **Morning blocks (9:00-9:50am, 10:00-10:50am, 11:00-11:50am)**
  - Monday-Friday (5 sessions total); more intensive merit badges
- **Afternoon blocks (2:00-2:50pm, 3:00-4:50pm)**
  - Monday-Thursday (4 sessions total); one merit badge session and one longer block for merit badge and non-merit badge sessions.

Visit [gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/camp-bowman/#downloads](http://gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/camp-bowman/#downloads) for a complete program schedule.

## Program Areas

**Aquatics:** Camp Bowman's waterfront area is home to beautiful views and fun aquatics activities! Our Aquatics program provides opportunities for open and instructional swim, open boating, the Mile Swim, and a variety of water based merit badges and activities.

**Culture Craft:** Culture Craft is centered around Eagle-required merit badges, such as Citizenship in the National and Communication. Join fellow Scouts in interesting conversation and learn skills to become future community leaders.

**Handicraft:** An area for all creatives, new or experienced, Handicraft allows Scouts to explore a number of art forms and to express themselves through different mediums.

**Nature:** For our future scientists, outdoor stewards, and nature lovers, the Camp Bowman Nature area explores our natural world through merit badge programs and open program opportunities.

**Range & Target Activities:** At Range & Target Activities, Scouts will develop their skills in archery, rifle, and shotgun. Merit Badge programs, open shoot, and Unit activities available!

**Scoutcraft:** Coming to camp to hone your survival skills and knowledge of the great outdoors? Scoutcraft is the place for you! At Scoutcraft, campers will gain confidence, growing their outdoor survival skills through instruction, practice, and fun.

**Bowman Brigade - First Year Camper Program:** Bowman Brigade is our first-year camper program. It provides a more accessible introduction to Scout camp, and helps younger Scouts earn a few merit badges while also practicing the basics of the patrol cooking method and participating in various open programs. Bowman Brigade has two primary sections: merit badge classes in the mornings and Path to First Class in the afternoons. More information about the Bowman Brigade program and a full schedule can be found at [gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/camp-bowman/#downloads](http://gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/camp-bowman/#downloads). **Bowman Brigade is strongly recommended for Scouts new to the Scouting program**, as it helps younger campers connect with others outside of their unit and encourages them to experience the many different parts of camp.

**Older Scout Programs:** Goshen Scout Reservation offers numerous program opportunities to older scouts. All Scouts BSA campers at any of the Goshen camps can participate in the Climbing merit badge, COPE program, and ATV program at Camp Post as well as the *NEW* - Osprey program designed for Scouts age 14 and up. More information on these programs can be found in the Goshen Scout Reservation Program Guide.

## **Non-Merit Badge Programs**

Program areas will offer a different guided activity each day during the 7:00pm evening program block. These activities will focus on fun and skill-building rather than specific merit badge or rank requirements. Some will satisfy specific requirements for merit badges -- we will be happy to verify partial completion of those merit badges. Due to staffing and safety requirements, neither Aquatics nor Shooting Sports will offer a guided activity, but both will offer open program during this time. Some activities will change from week to week based on staffing and enrollment, so a final schedule will be provided to you upon your arrival at camp.

## **Open Program**

Open programs are typically offered during the afternoon extended block (3:00-4:50pm), and the evening block (7:00-7:50pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday). These allow campers to drop in to program areas and participate in a less structured environment. Some open programs at the Aquatics and RATA areas are also offered at other times, as noted below.

## **Goshen Scout Reservation Program and Prerequisite Guides**

Some merit badges have requirements which cannot (or should not) be completed at camp. These requirements may be completed before or after camp. In order to complete these badges at camp, the scout must show evidence of completion of the prerequisites. The Goshen Scout Reservation "Scouts BSA Program Guide and Prerequisites" provides descriptions for each merit badge class and prerequisite requirements. Please see your individual camp's program schedules for merit badge offerings. The Prerequisite Guide and Program Schedule can be found on the individual camp webpages and at [gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads](http://gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads).

## **Service Projects**

During your week at Goshen, there will be plenty of opportunities to perform a service project in camp! These projects range from small projects such as refurbishing a sign to large projects such as rebuilding a bridge or painting a building. Available service projects are posted on each camp's webpage prior to the start of camp and can be coordinated with the Camp Director. Although some service project supplies will be provided (such as tools), units may be encouraged to donate materials.

## **Religious Services and Chaplaincy Program**

Each Goshen Scout Reservation Camp offers a once a week Interfaith service hosted by our Reservation Chaplain. These services are Scout led and we encourage all to participate. Our Reservation Chaplain is currently partnering with NCAC's various religious committees and chartered organizations to offer Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish services. Our Chaplain and Health Lodge Team are also available at all hours to provide counseling services for you and your Scouts.

## **Adult Leader Training Opportunities**

In collaboration with the NCAC Training Committee and volunteers, the Goshen Scout Reservation offers a series of Adult Leader trainings including IOLS, Scoutmaster Specific Trainings, and American Red Cross CPR & AED. A training schedule will be made available closer to the beginning of the summer season. Please note that training opportunities each week may vary and are based on volunteer trainer availability. Once finalized, specific training opportunities will be posted on [www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org), and registration managed through your unit's Blackpug registration.

# AWARDS

## **GSR Camp Adventure Award**

Each unit in camp has the opportunity to bring home the “Camp Adventure Award.” The Camp Adventure Award reflects a unit’s commitment to participating in camp programs and opportunities and involvement as a member of the camp community. A unique ribbon will be presented to these units who have gone the extra mile to participate in the overall camp program. Learn more about how to earn the Camp Adventure Award at [gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads](http://gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads).

## **Adult Leader Challenge**

The Goshen Scout Reservation “Adult Leader Challenge” is designed for leaders to experience the programs that the Goshen Scout Reservation has to offer by taking part in activities and trainings during their week at Camp, as well as Badge recognizes the tremendous contribution adult leaders make in the Scouting Program. Completions of this award will be accepted on a Scout’s Honor Basis. Unit leaders should return a copy of this form to the Camp Administration Office by Friday at noon. Learn more about how to earn the Adult Leader Challenge at [www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads](http://www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads).

## **Mile Swim Award**

Introduced in 1961, the Mile Swim Award encourages swimming skills and recognizes Scouts who swim one mile or more. Camps Olmsted, Bowman, and Marriott host a Mile Swim Event each week to support Scouts searching to complete this advanced swimming challenge. Pre-registration required during Merit Badge signups.

## **Duty to God Award**

The Goshen Scout Reservation Duty to God Award, created by Rev. Msgr. John Brady in 2007, offers daily meditations centered on the Scout Oath and Law. Scouts must participate in daily meditations, attend a religious service at camp, and lead grace before one meal to earn this award.

# SAFETY AT CAMP BOWMAN

## Site Guides

One or more staff members will be assigned to be your Site Guide for the week. Their duties include being a liaison between the unit and the camp staff in addition to assisting and guiding your unit throughout the week. If you have any questions or needs while at camp, your Site Guide(s) are there to be a resource for your unit. If you have issues reaching your Site Guide while at camp, please let the Camp Administration team know.

## Buddy System

All participants at Camp Bowman 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.

## First Aid

The Camp Bowman 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 Bowman must be reported to the First Aider, no matter the severity. More information for first aid procedures, including the Goshen Scout Reservation Health Lodge for more serious injuries, can be found in the Goshen Scout Reservation Leader Guide.

## Participants with Special Needs

We will make any necessary accommodations to provide a welcoming and positive program for all participants. Please contact us at least 1-2 weeks in advance of your arrival so we can work with you to develop a plan to provide the best possible programming.

## 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. The full GSR Wildlife Policy is available for review in the Goshen Scout Reservation Leader Guide.

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency at camp, your unit needs to be prepared for our emergency procedures. If an emergency alert should occur, you will hear either a **fire bell** or an **air horn**.

## Fire Bell Alert

The fire bell is located next to the administration building and can be heard throughout camp. The fire bell is used for fires, evacuation, and disseminating important emergency information. We hold a fire drill on Monday of each week.

*Response:* Send two leaders to the Parade Field. All other campers and leaders stay in their sites. Scoutmasters take attendance and confirm with camp administration that all campers and leaders are present. Further instructions and information will be provided at the Parade Field.

## Air Horn Alert – Lost Swimmer

The air horn will sound from the waterfront in the event of a potential lost swimmer. Nine loud air horn blasts will signal this emergency: three each to two neighboring camps, and three towards the center of Camp Bowman.

*Response:* Quickly move to the closest program area, staffed facility, or campsite and remain there until the “all clear” is signaled by a single, loud air horn blast. Stay away from all roads and trails to allow camp and emergency vehicles to move quickly.

## Weather Emergencies

In the case of extreme weather, hearing a signal could be difficult. Staff members will inform units directly of potential bad weather. On the side of each latrine is a copy of our Emergency Action Plan for weather emergencies; this will tell you where the emergency shelter is located for your campsite.

*Response:* Go to or stay in your site as directed by camp staff. Secure your gear and await further instructions. We will send out staff members with updates as needed, but if conditions change quickly, use your judgment and proceed to your designated shelter if threatening conditions exist.

## Lost Camper

If you notice that one of your Scouts is unaccounted for, please report to the administration building and inform the camp director or program director of the missing Scout's name and where they were last seen.

*Response:* Staff and unit members will mobilize to locate the lost camper, first by checking near where they were last seen as well as other likely locations. From there we will fan out and check a wider and wider radius until the camper is found.

# CAMPSITE INSPECTION

In keeping with the spirit of encouraging Units to take pride in their campsite and care for their area, our Facilities Team hosts daily campsite inspections to ensure that all camp areas are kept clean and safe. At the end of each day, the Unit with the highest score will be bestowed with the Honor Oar. They will have until the following evening to decorate a portion of their oar in some way. Inspection criteria are listed below.

## Campsite Inspection Criteria

1. Tents
  - a. Ensure flaps are uniform throughout the patrol site, whether open or closed.
    - i. Tents will be inspected regardless of flap position.
  - b. Tents must be neat and orderly. Keep in mind any trash in and around the tent.
  - c. The walkway between the cots must be clear. No trash or food in tents.
2. Safety
  - a. Ax yard must be clearly marked and a safe distance from the patrol site.
  - b. Food should not be left out unsupervised as it attracts unwanted animals.
  - c. Ensure any clothes lines are at a safe height (5 feet) and out of walking paths.
  - d. Propane tank must be turned off.
  - e. Tools must not be lying on the ground.
  - f. Fires require supervision at all times and should be put out after use.
  - g. Unit vehicles except trailers are not permitted to be parked in sites after arrival is complete.
3. Camp Improvements
  - a. Use Scouting skills to create pioneering or other projects that look interesting and have practical applications.
  - b. Start the week out doing smaller projects (clothes lines, axe yards, tool racks, trash bag tripods, etc.) and keep building more and bigger improvements throughout the week (such as flag poles, gates, or even towers). Build safely and do not climb above 5 feet.
  - c. Permanent improvements must be approved in advance by camp administration.
4. Fire Guard
  - a. "Fireguard" sheet must be posted on latrine in plain sight.
  - b. Daily slot is filled out with the name of the designated fire warden.
    - i. Designate a fire warden for each day at the beginning of the week and fill in the fireguard sheet accordingly on the first day.
  - c. The designated fire warden should sign their initials on the "Equipment Check" box on their designated day signifying they are taking responsibility from the previous fireguard.
    - i. Make sure the fire bucket is full of water by the latrine.
    - ii. Fill and overflow the fire bucket daily to prevent mosquito breeding.
5. Latrine
  - a. The latrine should be washed at least daily, with toilet lids left closed.
  - b. No toilet paper or trash should be on the ground in or around the latrine.
  - c. The sink should be clean and personal items should not be left out.
  - d. Disconnect any water hoses from the faucet after use.
6. Overall Appearance/Trash and Tails
  - a. Sites and trails to and from the sites should be clean and tidy with no trash on the ground.
  - b. Remove all trash after every meal and after any evening snacks or desserts. Trash should be taken to the dumpster at least three times a day.
  - c. All smellables must be in the bearbox or removed from the site.