



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL



November 30, 2023

Camp Strake
2020 Camp Strake Road
Coldspring, TX 77331

Dear NCS Participant,

We are excited to welcome you to Camp Strake for National Camping School. Our course is scheduled for May 18-24, 2024.

You could not have picked a better location to attend your National Camping School (NCS) experience. Camp Strake is a brand new camp that just opened in 2021. With the combined force of our exceptional staff and fresh new facilities, we strive to make your stay at Camp Strake a time to remember.

Below we strive to answer any questions you may have before you arrive on site. To learn more about Camp Strake and all our fun and exciting programs, please be sure to check out our website (<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/camp-strake>). If you have any remaining concerns or questions about our facilities or NCS please contact us.

We look forward to showing you what we're all about and welcoming you to National Camp School.

See you soon!

Linda Dieguez
NCS Camp Strake Course Director

Enclosures:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Arrival & Departure Information | ✓ Packing List |
| ✓ Contact Information & Directions | ✓ Map of Site |



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Arrival and Departure Information:

Early Arrival

Sometimes participants may need to arrive on Friday prior to the school. Please note that the Camp Strake dining hall closes at 7:00 p.m. If you plan to arrive after 7:00 p.m., plan to eat before you arrive onsite. When you arrive, at the entrance to Camp Strake is the check-in building. We will greet you here, perform a medical screening, provide directions, and assign campsites. All visitors should be prepared to stop at this building to sign-in to camp. Once signed in, visitors will be directed either to their assigned campsite, or to the dining hall for dinner. All early arrivals will be required to officially check in on Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 am (see next section).

Saturday Check in -

NCS Check in is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18th, 2024, and will take place at the entrance to



Camp Strake in the check-in building. Here we will conduct the medical screening, collect forms, provide directions, and assign campsites. Once signed in, participants will be directed to their assigned campsite. The course begins at Noon. Please plan to arrive no later than 11:00 a.m. on the first day of the school so that you can complete the check in process.

Annual Medical From

An Annual medical examination and health record, completed within the past 12 months, is required, and must be completed prior to your arrival. Please bring the completed form with you. If you do not have this required form with a medical examination, you will not be allowed to attend National Camping School or stay onsite unless you obtain an examination at your own expense prior to beginning class. Cost will likely be a MINIMUM of \$100.

Required Prerequisites

Shooting Sports, COPE, Camp Director and Program Director - Please note that there are pre-requisite trainings which you **MUST** have before you attend your sections of NCS. Ensure you have these trainings and bring support materials with you as proof. Persons who attend without these trainings complete will be sent back to their home councils.

Shooting Sports: NRA Rife and Shotgun Instructor Certification

COPE: COPE Level I Instructor

Resident Camp Director and Program Director: Online NCAP training is available at on the NCS page @ <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>

Departure

Please plan to depart after breakfast on the last day of the school. All participants who are enrolled in a retraining section will be able to depart after Noon on the fourth day.



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Airports

There are two airports in Houston with the largest and closest one being George Bush Intercontinental Airport. There is no shuttle from the airport to the camp so you will be required to rent a vehicle and drive to camp.

Auto

Camp Strake has been designed to minimize driving on the site. Once personal vehicles have been checked in at the camp entrance, drivers will be directed to the appropriate parking area for their campsite. Vehicles will be parked near the assigned campsite and remain there during camp activities. The camp trail system and facility layout provide for foot traffic to all camp activity locations. It is not necessary, nor permissible, to drive personal vehicles around the camp. Adults or scouts with mobility concerns should coordinate with the course director for assistance in meeting transportation needs. Vehicles must always stay on roads. NO EXCEPTIONS! Passengers are not permitted to ride in the bed of trucks or in trailers.

IMPORTANT

When travelling, especially by plane, it is important to update us on any expected delays to your arrival. This impacts our ability to maintain shuttle schedules as well as ensure the safe arrival of all participants. The 24- hour Camp Strake contact line is 936-520-4001.

General Information

Camp & Camp Living

Campsites are nestled in shaded areas throughout the camp. 2-person wall tents are provided for each troop and will be setup prior to your arrival at Camp Strake. The tents are set on wooden pallets to form a floor elevated off the ground. Cots are recommended in the tents, but not provided by the camp. There are limited quantities of cots available upon request, (priority goes to those that are flying in).

Each campsite will have picnic tables and a covered pavilion. Each class section will be assigned to one of the campsites prior to arrival at Camp Strake. Class sections may share a campsite. Generators of any type are not permitted. The pavilions located in each campsite have electricity.

Shower houses are located along the main campsite road and are shared by three or four campsites. Each stall in the shower houses is ADA compliant, and has a toilet, sink, and shower facility. There are no gender specific stalls in these shower houses.

You will spend much of your time outdoors and should be prepared for various types of inclement weather. Camp Strake has Wi-Fi service. You will have connectivity in all locations except climbing and shooting sports. However, your experience will be enhanced if you limit distractions and put away cell phones, etc. during your training and activities.

Uniform

The complete Boy Scouts of America or Venturing field uniform is required at all National Camping Schools. The BSA Field Uniform (scout shorts or long trousers, scout shirts, venturing shirts, scout socks) or the BSA Activity Uniform (scout shorts or pants with scouting golf or t-shirts) will be worn at camp school. A complete Field Uniform is required for evening meals, worship services, campfires, and other formal activities.



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Food and Dining

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided by Camp Strake and included everyday starting with lunch on your arrival day and concluding with breakfast on your departure day. Camp Strake has the capability to meet certain medical or religious dietary needs. If you have a medical or religious dietary needs, you will be emailed a form to fill out in a communication closer to our camp date. Please note that while Camp Strake attempts to provide food that addresses the most common issues (nut allergies, etc.), we cannot address all dietary restrictions. If we are unable to meet your needs, you will need to bring food with you that meets your needs.

Trading Post for NCS items

National Supply will **not** have a trading post at National Camping School this year. However, the Camp Strake trading post will be open during National Camp School for your purchasing pleasure.

Personal Mailing Address

Your Name -- Course Title and Section
2020 Camp Strake Road
Coldspring, TX 78331

Emergency 24-hour Line – 936-520-4001

Driving Directions

Camp Strake is located on 2,816 acres between New Waverly and Coldspring near the community of Evergreen, Tx. Lake Livingston is 10 miles east of the property. The camp is a 1.5-hour drive from downtown Houston. Camp Strake is surrounded on three sides by the Sam Houston National Forest and has the Lone Star Hiking Trail close to one corner of the property.

Course start dates by section:

Camp Director (Full Course) - May 18
Program Director (Full Course) - May 18
Aquatics Director (Full Course) - May 18
Aquatics Director (Recertification Only) - May 18
COPE Director (Full Course) - May 18
COPE Director (Recertification Only) - May 18
Ecology/Conservation (Full Course) - May 18
Outdoor Skills (Full Course) - May 18
Shooting Sports Director (Full Course) - May 18
Shooting Sports Director (Recertification Only) - **May 21**



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Camp Map



CAMP STRAKE

LEGEND



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 01. CAMP ENTRY AND CHECK-IN | 21. ORDER OF THE ARROW CEREMONY SITE |
| 02. RANGER RESIDENCE | 22. BIKE/ATV BARN |
| 03. MAINTENANCE AREA | 23. SHOTGUN RANGE |
| 04. DINING HALL | 24. SHOOTING RANGE |
| 05. ASSEMBLY GROUND | 25. ARCHERY RANGE |
| 06. PROGRAM PAVILION | 26. TOMAHAWK RANGE |
| 07. SCOUT SKILLS AREA | 27. FIELD ARCHERY |
| 08. EVENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | 28. TRAINING CENTER |
| 09. STEM CENTER | 29. CABING AND DORMITORIES |
| 10. SPORTS FIELDS | 30. GILWELL GREEN |
| 11. CAMPSITE SHOWER HOUSES | 31. GILWELL FIELD |
| 12. 100 PERSON CHAPEL | 32. TRAINING CAMPSITES |
| 13. 250 PERSON CHAPEL | 33. 100 PERSON CAMPFIRE CIRCLE |
| 14. 1200 PERSON CAMPFIRE ARENA | 34. BACKPACKING TRAIL-HEAD |
| 15. SWIMMING POOL | 35. MEADOW |
| 16. FISHING AREA | 36. TRAIL ACCESS TO NORTH PARCEL |
| 17. LAKE SWIMMING AREA | 37. PRIMITIVE CAMPING |
| 18. BOAT DOCKS | 38. ACCESS TO LONESTAR HIKING TRAIL |
| 19. ROPES COURSE | 39. STAFF AREA |
| 20. CLIMBING TOWER | 40. WATER TREATMENT PLANT |



Packing List

Sleeping

- ☐ Cot
- ☐ Sleeping bag/bedding
- ☐ Sleeping pad, if desired
- ☐ Sleeping clothes

Clothing

- ☐ Hiking boots or sturdy shoes for lighthiking
- ☐ Camp shoes (close toed)
- ☐ 2 pair heavy hiking socks
- ☐ 5 pair's underwear.
- ☐ 2 pairs Official BSA Scout Pants or Shorts
- ☐ 2 pairs Official BSA Scout Socks
- ☐ 1 Official BSA Field Uniform
- ☐ 2 BSA Activity Shirts
- ☐ 1 sweater or jacket (wool or fleece)
- ☐ 1 rain jacket
- ☐ 1 pair of rain pants

Eating and Personal

- ☐ Water bottles
- ☐ Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- ☐ Bandana or neckerchief
- ☐ Chap Stick
- ☐ Bath towel
- ☐ Washcloth
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Toothbrush / toothpaste
- ☐ Required medications (sealed in waterproof bags)
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Personal first aid kit
- ☐ Camp chair

Optional

- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Money for trading post
- ☐ Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- ☐ Hiking or trekking poles