



Date: January 1, 2025
To: National Camping School Participant
From: Bud Harrelson, NCS Course Director (bud.harrelson@scouting.org)
Bud Harrelson, NCS Local Council Liaison (bud.harrelson@scouting.org)
Subject: Welcome to National Camping School at Cherokee Scout Reservation

Congratulations, your National Camping School application has been received! On behalf of the faculty, we look forward to serving you at Cherokee Scout Reservation. The following information will help you prepare for NCS, please read carefully.

Critical information about your National Camping School participation

LOCATION:

Cherokee Scout Reservation
3296 Boy Scout Camp Road
Yanceyville, NC 27379

COURSE DATES:

May 17-23, 2025

PRE-EVENT MEDICAL SCREENING:

On the day you are scheduled to arrive at Cherokee Scout Reservation for National Camping School, you should complete the [pre-event medical screening form](#). If you can pass the pre-event medical screening form you are healthy enough to attend camp. If you cannot pass the pre-event medical screening form, please stay home and get healthy. We use the pre-event medical screening form to reduce the spread of communicable disease within camp. Bring your completed copy of the pre-event medical screening form with you to check-in.

CHECK-IN:

When you arrive at Cherokee Scout Reservation, please proceed to the main parking lot. Once parked, proceed to the headquarters building (can be found on the attached camp map) for check-in. All participants should plan to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (EST Time) on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Driving directions are listed below and a camp map is attached to this letter. Any registration-related questions may be directed to the Scouting America National Office (ncs@scouting.org).

EARLY ARRIVALS*:

If you need to arrive on Friday, May 16th due to travel arrangements, please select "Early Arrival" in the online registration system. The early arrival fee of \$55* includes dinner on Friday and breakfast





on Saturday. Early arrival check-in will be at the headquarters building. *Note: For those who are not registered as early arrivals, your first meal will be lunch on Saturday, May 17th, 2025.*

TRANSPORTATION (Additional Fee):

The two most convenient airports for attending Cherokee Scout Reservation NCS are Raleigh-Durham International (RDU) and Piedmont Triad International (GSO). For an additional fee, the host council will provide two airport pick-up shuttle options at either airport:

1. Friday, May 16th at 5:00 PM for early arrivals
2. Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 AM for all others

The return shuttle will arrive at GSO or RDU by 12:00 pm on Friday, May 23rd. The fee for roundtrip shuttle service is \$100.00 and is payable to the Old North State Council. If you plan to use this service, you will need to reserve and pay for your seat by contacting the Local Council Host Liaison, Bud Harrelson (bud.harrelson@scouting.org). PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle reservations must be submitted by May 8th, 2025.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Entering the camp address into your personal GPS will provide good driving directions to Cherokee Scout Reservation (3296 Boy Scout Camp Road, Yanceyville, NC).

ANNUAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RECORD:

Your camp health screening will take place at check-in. Please make sure Part C of your Annual Health & Medical Record has been signed by a Medical Doctor, Physician's Assistant (master's degree) or a Licensed Nurse Practitioner within 12 months of the last day of this NCS session. Those without a current Annual Health & Medical Record will be required to obtain one at their own expense before being allowed to remain in camp. The Annual Health and Medical Form can be found at: [Annual Health & Medical Record](#)

DIETARY NEEDS:

If you have special dietary requirements, please let us know in advance either through the registration process or by emailing bud.harrelson@scouting.org. Cherokee Scout Reservation's isolated location limits the availability of many specialized food items, and these items may need to be brought from home. Meals are varied, and there is always a salad/fruit bar and cereal with milk. We have a dedicated area in the kitchen for special food if you feel comfortable providing your own meals. A refrigerator and microwave are available in the dining hall. Refrigeration is available in the Health Lodge for medications.

PREREQUISITES:

Please note that there are pre-requisite training courses which you MUST have before you attend NCS. Please ensure you bring support materials (certificates) with you as proof. Those participants who arrive without their prerequisites completed may not be certified.



- **Range Activities Director:** NRA Basic (Rifle & Shotgun), NRA Instructor (Rifle & Shotgun), online portion of the USA Archery Level 1 course
- **Aquatics Director:** Current Lifeguard certification (Red Cross Lifeguard, YMCA Lifeguard, Starfish Aquatics Institute Starguard, Ellis & Associates International Lifeguard Training Program, or equivalent) Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training and proven swimming skills.
- **COPE Director:** COPE Level I Instructor
- **Climbing Director:** Climbing Level I Instructor
- **Long-term Camp Director and Long-term Camp Program Director:** NCAP Assessor training (found on the BSA Learn Center on my.scouting.org), [Unlawful Harassment Prevention](#) training.
- **CCPT:** Current NCS COPE Director or NCS Climbing Director certification, have a Portfolio demonstrating 50 hours of face-to-face COPE or Climbing instruction with participants as a NCS Director or Level I or II instructor within the last 3 years. No more than 5 hours can be spent on administrative activities.
- **ALL:** BSA Youth Protection Training

WEATHER:

Some of the scheduled programming will take place outdoors. Daytime temperatures in May can be 80's. Evening temperatures will be in the mid-50's. Please bring suitable clothing and bedding for the range in temperatures. You will need rain gear and a hat.

ACCOMODATIONS:

Housing will be adirondacks (image at the end of this letter), a four-sided cabin with open front. Adirondacks include bunkbeds with foam mattresses. A canvas curtain is used to close the front opening and provide privacy. These Adirondacks can sleep 4 people however, we should have enough Adirondacks that you will only have to share with one other person.

Bedding/linens will not be provided. If you need access to electricity for a CPAP machine, please bring a 100' extension cord.

Shower houses are available with flush toilets and hot showers.





DAY ONE CAMP-WIDE SCHEDULE (Saturday, May 17th):

7:15 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Staff Preparation in Section Areas
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Check-in, Registration, Section Interviews and Campsite Check-in
12:00 pm – 1:00pm	Lunch & Mealtime Presentation
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Course Instruction
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Personal Time
5:45 pm - 6:00 pm	Assembly & Retreat
6:00 pm - 6:45 pm	Dinner
6:45 pm – 7:00 pm	Mealtime Presentation
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Course Instruction
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Welcome Campfire
9:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Cracker Barrel
10:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Personal Time/Study Time

DRESS CODE:

National Camping School graduates set the example when it comes to wearing the right uniform at the right time in camp. Scouting America Field Uniform will be required for meals, formations and campfire. Scouting America Activity Uniform will be worn at all other times. Please be sure to bring enough activity uniform polos and T-shirts to get you through the week. You do not need to arrive in Field Uniform, but you will need it for the opening lunch on Saturday, May 17.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR NEEDED BY PARTICIPANTS:

Please see a list of equipment and gear required for your week at National Camping at the following link: [Equipment Needed for NCS.pdf](#). Many sections require that you bring program items or copies of council documents in addition to your personal camping gear.

VISITORS:

Please do not plan to have visitors or additional attendees such as spouses or children. Only participants and faculty are permitted on property while the course is in session.

DEPARTURE:

Departure will be after graduation on Friday, May 23. Participants who are enrolled in recertification sections will be able to depart after lunch on Tuesday, May 20.

TRADING POST

National Supply will not have a trading post on-site at National Camping School. If you are interested in purchasing National Camping School branded items you may view them at: [NCS Trading Post Items](#). All items purchased online will be shipped to your home.





If you have any questions before you arrive, please feel free to reach out to me at bud.harrelson@scouting.org. As a member of your council's long-term camping leadership team, you will be providing Scouts with an experience they will remember for a lifetime. Thank you for making the decision to attend National Camping School. I look forward to seeing you at camp!

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bud Harrelson".

Bud Harrelson
NCS Course Director

** The early arrival fee is handled through the event registration system. Do not pay the early arrival fee to the host camp. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally (discuss with your local council). The fee includes lodging the night prior to the start of the course, dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff is busy with preparations.*

Links:

[Pre-event Medical Screening Form](#)

Annual Health & Medical Record: [AH&MR](#)

Unlawful Harassment Prevention Training: [CLICK HERE for training](#)

Equipment Needs List: [Equipment Needed for NCS.pdf](#)

[Driving Directions & Map to Cherokee Scout Reservation](#)

[Map of Cherokee Scout Reservation](#)



PICTURE OF ADIRONDACK STYLE ACCOMMODATIONS

