



Date: January 1, 2025
To: National Camping School Participant
From: Linda Dieguez, NCS Course Director (linda.dieguez@scouting.org)
Brandon Lewis, NCS Local Council Liaison (brandon.lewis@scouting.org)
Subject: Welcome to National Camping School at Summit Bechtel Reserve

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

Critical information about your National Camping School participation

LOCATION:

Camp Strake
2020 Camp Strake Road
Coldspring, TX 77331

COURSE DATES:

May 17-23, 2025

CHECK-IN:

When you arrive, you will sign into the camp at the check-in building at the front of camp where you will receive your campsite assignments (see attached camp map). All participants should plan to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on Saturday, May 17th, 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 Dining Hall.

Note: For those who are not registered as early arrivals, your first meal will be lunch on Saturday, May 17th.

TRANSPORTATION:

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 camp.** You will be required to rent a vehicle or carpool with another participant. It is important to update us on any expected delays to





your arrival. This impacts on our ability to have appropriate staff members available to assist you upon your arrival. The 24-hour Camp Strake contact line is (936) 522-8873.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Google Maps driving directions to Camp Strake is linked at the end of this letter.

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:

Camp Strake has the capability to meet certain medical or religious dietary needs. If you have medical or religious dietary needs, you will be emailed a form to fill out in an e-mail 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.

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.

- **ALL:** Scouting America Youth Protection Training, Current Scouting America Membership
- **Aquatics Director:** Present evidence of current lifeguard certification (BSA Lifeguard, Red Cross Lifeguard, YMCA Lifeguard, Starfish Aquatics Institute StarGuard, Ellis & Associates International Lifeguard Training Program Lifeguard Certification, or equivalent).
- **Long-term Camp Director and Long-term Camp Program Director:** Online NCAP and Unlawful Harassment Prevention training links are available on the NCS webpage at <https://www.scouting.org/ncs>
- **Range Activities Director:** NRA Rifle Instructor, NRA Shotgun Instructor, USA Archery Level 1 Online Course (practical portion of this course will be completed at NCS)
- **COPE Director:** COPE Level 1 Instructor
- **Climbing Director:** Climbing Level 1 Instructor





WEATHER:

Some of the scheduled programming will take place outdoors. While daytime temperatures in May can be in the mid 70's, it can be chilly at night. Please bring suitable warm clothing, rain gear, and a hat.

ACCOMODATIONS:

2-person wall tents are provided for by the camp and will be setup prior to your arrival. 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.**

For those flying to NCS, a limited quantity of cots are available upon request. 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. If you require a CPAP machine, please bring a 100' extension cord.

DAY ONE CAMP-WIDE SCHEDULE (Saturday, May 17th, 2025):

7:15 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast <i>(for early arrivals and staff only)</i>
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.

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 23rd, 2025. Participants who are enrolled in a recertification section will be able to depart after lunch on Tuesday, May 20th.

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:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>. All items purchased online will be shipped to your home. Camp Strake will also provide time to shop at their local trading post during the week.

If you have any questions before you arrive, please feel free to reach out to me at linda.diequez@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 Strake!

Yours in Scouting,

Linda Diequez

Linda Diequez
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:

[Camp Strake Camp Map](#)

[Link to Camp Strake Google Maps Driving Directions](#)

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

Unlawful Harassment Prevention Training: <https://www.scouting.org/ncs>

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

