



**Date:** January 1st, 2025  
**To:** National Camping School Participant  
**From:** April McMillan, NCS Course Director ([april.mcmillan@scouting.org](mailto:april.mcmillan@scouting.org))  
**Subject:** Welcome to National Camping School at Camp Buck Toms

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

### **Critical information about your National Camping School Participation**

#### **LOCATION:**

Camp Buck Toms  
373 Camp Buck Toms Rd.  
Rockwood, TN 37854

#### **DATES:**

May 10-16, 2025

#### **CHECK-IN:**

When you arrive at Camp Buck Toms, please park in the parking lot adjacent to the Dining Hall for check-in. All participants should plan to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (EST) on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Driving directions are listed below, and a camp map is attached to this letter. Registration questions may be directed to the Scouting America National Office ([ncs@scouting.org](mailto:ncs@scouting.org)).

#### **\* EARLY ARRIVALS:**

If you plan to arrive on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 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 in the camp Administration building.

*Note: For those who are not registered as early arrivals, your first meal will be lunch on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION (Additional Fee):**

Two airports are convenient to Camp Buck Toms: Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) and the Nashville International Airport (BNA). Shuttle service to and from the Knoxville Airport is available for \$110 and from the Nashville Airport for a \$175 fee. Camp Buck Toms will provide two airport shuttle options from Nashville and Knoxville to Camp Buck Toms on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM for early arrivals and at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.





Return shuttles will arrive at Nashville or Knoxville by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 13 (retraining only) and at noon on Friday, May 16 (entire session). If you plan to use this service, you need to reserve your seat ahead of time by contacting the Course Director, April McMillan ([april.mcmillan@scouting.org](mailto:april.mcmillan@scouting.org)).

PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle and Early Arrival Reservations must be submitted by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

It is approximately a 2.5-hour trip by car to Camp Buck Toms from Nashville International Airport and a 1.25-hour trip by car to Camp Buck Toms from the Knoxville Airport. From Nashville, take I-40 east to exit 329 toward US-70 E Crab Orchard Rd. Follow signs or GPS to 373 Camp Buck Toms Rd. Rockwood, TN 37854. From Knoxville, take I-40 west to exit 347, US-27 toward Rockwood. Follow signs or GPS to 373 Camp Buck Toms Rd. Rockwood, TN 37854.

#### **ANNUAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RECORD:**

Your camp health screening will take place at check-in. Please ensure 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 Buck Toms will do its best to accommodate your dietary needs and allergies. To do so, please e-mail April McMillan ([april.mcmillan@scouting.org](mailto:april.mcmillan@scouting.org)) at least 14 days before NCS. In some cases, Camp Buck Toms may need help accommodating your dietary needs and may ask you to bring your own food.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Please note that there are pre-requisite training courses that 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.

- **Aquatics Director:** Current Lifeguard certification (BSA Lifeguard, 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.
- **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:** Level 1 COPE Instructor
- **Climbing Director:** Level 1 Climbing Instructor
- **ALL:** Scouting America Youth Protection Training

## **WEATHER:**

Some of the scheduled programming will take place outdoors. While daytime temperatures in May can be in the mid to high 60s, it may get chilly at night. Please bring suitable warm clothing, rain gear, and a hat.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Housing will be provided in Adirondack-style three-walled bunkhouses with bed platforms. Please bring your inflatable mattress, sleeping bag, pillow, towel, and bedding as desired. There are free laundry facilities available onsite.

## **DAY ONE CAMP-WIDE SCHEDULE (Saturday, May 10):**

7:15 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Staff Preparation in Section Areas
9:00 am - 11:30 am	Check-in, Registration, Section Interviews and Campsite Check-in
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch & Mealtime Presentation - Purposes of NCS
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 proper uniform at the right time in camp. Scouting America Field Uniform will be required for meals, formations, and campfire program. Scouting America Activity Uniform will be worn at all other times. Please 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 camp property while the course is in session.

**DEPARTURE:**

Departure will be after graduation on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Participants who are enrolled in any retraining sections will be able to depart after lunch on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**NATIONAL CAMPING SCHOOL TRADING POST:**

While BSA National Supply will not have a trading post at National Camping School, you can purchase lots of cool NCS items and have them sent directly to your home on the following website: [NCS Trading Post](#). The Camp Buck Toms Trading post will be available throughout the week.

If you have any questions before you arrive, please feel free to reach out to me at [april.mcmillan@scouting.org](mailto:april.mcmillan@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 Buck Toms!

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April McMillan".

April McMillan  
NCS Course Director

*\* The early arrival fee is handled through the event registration system. 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.*

**Attachments:**

Camp Buck Toms Map

**Links:**

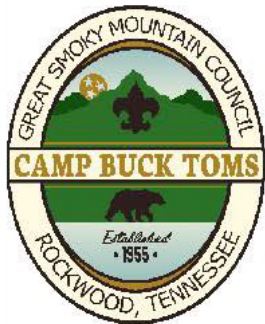
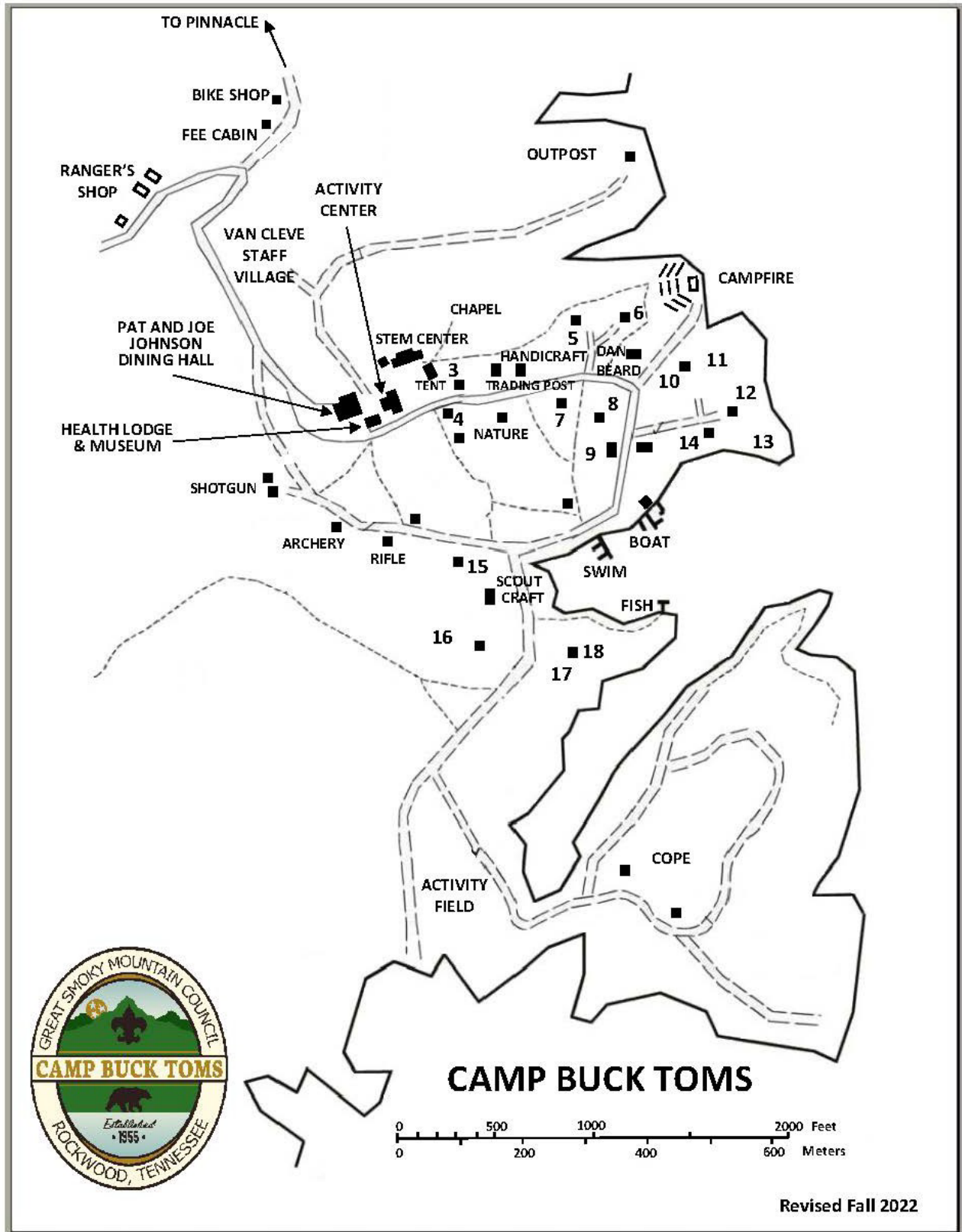
Annual Health & Medical Record: [AH&MR](#)

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

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



# CAMP BUCK TOMS



Revised Fall 2022