

# 2026 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

## **Course Site:**

Camp Shands  
1453 Baden Powell Road  
Hawthorne, FL 32640

**Course Director:** Inga Glaspey

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**Phone:** (352) 222-7106

**Host Liaison:** Eli Rivera

**E-mail:** [eli.rivera@scouting.org](mailto:eli.rivera@scouting.org)

**Phone:** (904) 589-5754

**Dates:** April 18-19, 2026

**Theme:** Dinos!

## **Course times:**

The adventure begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18th and ends approx. 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th.

## **Weather:**

Expect daytime temperatures in the mid-70s to low 80s, with cooler mornings and evenings in the 60s. April may also bring occasional rain, so we recommend packing a rain jacket or poncho. Dress in layers so you can stay comfortable throughout the day, and bring sunscreen and a hat for sun protection.

## **Gate / Access Information:**

Camp Shands has a gated entrance. Specific gate instructions and access codes will be provided to all participants prior to arrival. Please do not attempt to enter the camp without this information, as access is restricted to registered participants only.

## **Early arrivals:**

For an additional fee of \$55.00\*, you may arrive the night before, please make it after 7:00 p.m. and before 10:00 p.m. *This fee covers lodging Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday. This fee does NOT cover a meal on Friday night. FYI: No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff are busy with preparations.*

## **Before You Arrive at NCS:**

- Take the online NCS course Foundations of Cub Scout Day Camp (CS-62) and the in-person Council led NCS course (CS-63). Don't forget to complete the other pre-requisites: Safeguarding Youth Training and Cub Scout Leader Position Specifics training.
- Please utilize the [Scouting America pre-event medical screening form](#) and elect to stay home if you are ill, or you have been in close contact with someone who is ill.

## **What to Bring to Camp:**

- Proof of Scouting America registration & prerequisite online training courses (Safeguarding Youth Training, Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training, Foundations of Cub Day Camp Online Training, and In-Council Day Camp Training).
- Your completed [Scouting America health form](#) (parts A and B).
- Samples of your council's day camp promotional materials, staff manuals, or other camp literature, registration forms, schedules, etc., for display or giveaway. Make copies for at least 20 participants (no copying services are available at camp).
- Interesting crafts or activity ideas to share.
- Your camp T-shirt—there will be an opportunity for everyone to wear theirs.
- Notepad and pencil or pen. A participant binder and learning materials will be provided.

- NCS Online Trading Post: You can preview and purchase specialty National Camp School items (shirts, sweatshirts, and more!) to be sent directly to your home via [Scouting America Outfitters](#).

### **Personal Gear:**

- Uniforms: Official complete Scouting uniform. The Field uniform (official Scout uniform) will be worn Saturday and Sunday mornings. At other times, you may wear any Day Camp T-shirt, sweatshirt, or Scout activity uniform.
- Bedding & Sleep Gear: Sleeping bag or other appropriate linens/blankets for use on a cot, pillow, and warm sleepwear (long johns, sweats, or lightweight fleece) for cooler evenings.
- Toiletries: Towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, and any other personal items.
- Clothing & Accessories: Coat or jacket, gloves, hat, suitable socks, and closed-toe shoes only. Umbrella or rain gear is recommended for occasional showers.
- Other Essentials: Reusable water bottle, flashlight or headlamp.
- Optional Items: Camera to capture displays and activities (please respect other participants' privacy).
- Electronics: Cell phone coverage is decent at most spots of camp.

### **What to Expect and What Is Expected:**

- Arrive energized and ready to participate. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last from early morning to late at night.
- Be prepared for camping style - you will be provided with a platform tent with a cot. Please bring your own bedding.
- **You must arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. on the first day and attend all sessions through the last day to be certified.**
- To focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc. There are no accommodations for anyone but registered participants.
- Please understand that if you receive the names and contact information for other participants or for staff, you may not contact them for commercial purposes unless you receive their expressed permission to do so.

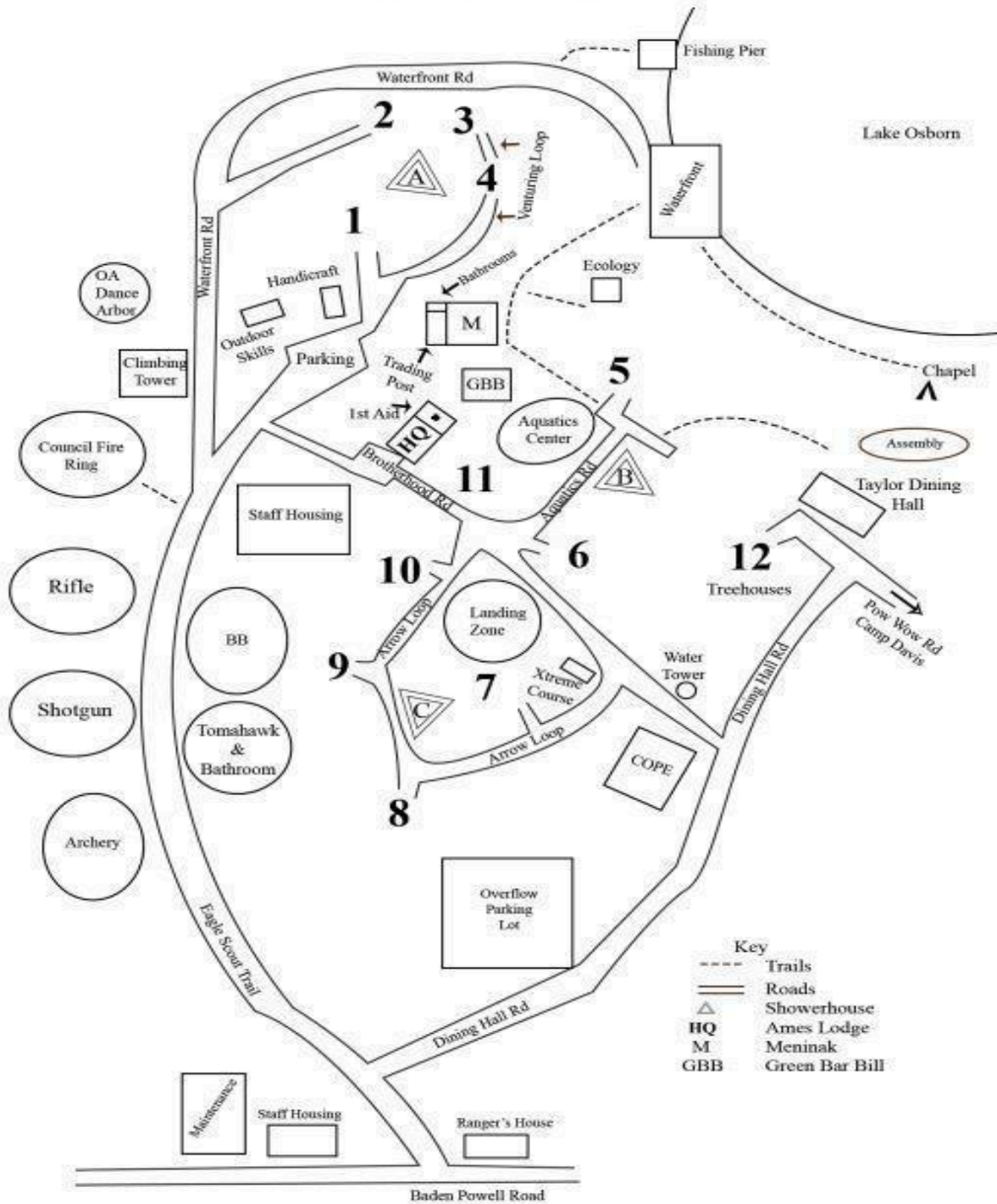
As a member of your council's day camp leadership team, you will be providing Scouts with an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you for making the decision to attend National Camping School.

Yours in Scouting,

Inga Glaspey  
NCS Course Director

*\*The early arrival fee is handled through your local council. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally.*

# Camp Shands



# DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

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

1453 Baden Powell Road  
Hawthorne, FL 32640

## **From South Jacksonville:**

- BLANDING BLVD (FL-21)  
South
- Continue to MEROSE on  
FL-21
- LEFT onto BADEN POWELL  
ROAD
- Arrive at camp for your  
Scouting Adventure!

## **From North Jacksonville:**

- I-10 WEST to LAKE CITY
- Take EXIT #343 onto US-301  
towards STARKE
- LEFT onto FL-26
- RIGHT onto FL-21
- LEFT onto BADEN POWELL  
ROAD
- Arrive at camp for your  
Scouting Adventure!

## **From Gainesville:**

- EAST UNIVERSITY  
AVENUE
- SLIGHT RIGHT onto FL-20  
(SE HAWTHORNE ROAD)
- LEFT onto FL-21
- RIGHT onto BADEN  
POWELL ROAD
- Arrive at camp for your  
Scouting Adventure!