

2026 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

Course site: Camp Loud Thunder
9906-175th Street West
Illinois City, IL 61259

Course Director: Jay Oakman
bsafox@yahoo.com
402-490-6148

Host Liaison: Ray Brauer
Ray.Brauer@scouting.org
507-514-3922

Dates: March 7-8, 2026

Theme: DINOS!

Course times: The action begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7 and ends approx. 2:00pm on Sunday, March 8.

Weather: It will be cold and it may snow. Bring suitable footwear, coat, gloves, & warm sleepwear. Be prepared for outdoor activities during the day. You will be sleeping in heated cabins at night.

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 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: Youth Protection 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 Council-led Camp School Training).
- ❖ Your completed [Scouting America health form](#) (parts A and B).
- ❖ Samples of your council's day camp/resident 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:

- ❖ ***Official complete Scouting uniform.*** We will wear the Field uniform, the official Scout uniform, on Saturday morning and Sunday morning. You may wear any Day Camp T-shirt/Sweatshirt or Scout activity uniform, at other times.
- ❖ Pillow, Bed Linens, Toiletries, towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, etc.
- ❖ Warm sleepwear, perhaps "long johns" or sweats.
- ❖ Coat, jacket, suitable footwear/socks, gloves, hat, umbrella
- ❖ Camera (take photos of the displays and show others back home what can be done!)
- ❖ Cell phone coverage at this site is spotty (camp phones restricted to emergencies)

What to Expect and What Is Expected:

- ❖ Arrive rested. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last early morning to late at night.
- ❖ Be prepared for Dorm style - indoor housing with mattresses. 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 in order to be certified****
- ❖ In order to focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc. Note also, there are no accommodations for anyone but you.
- ❖ 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 the rest of their lives. Thank you for making the decision to attend National Camping School.

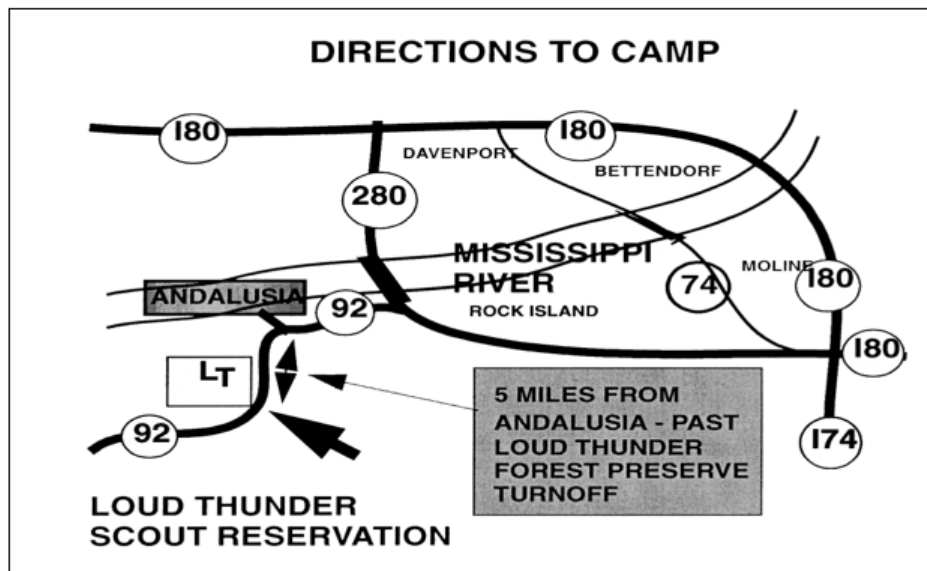
Yours in Scouting,

Jay Oakman

NCS Course Director

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

LOUD THUNDER SCOUT RESERVATION **West of Andalusia, Illinois**



From the North or East: Pass through Andalusia, stay on Highway 92 with the Andalusia Slough on your right. Past the campsites along the Slough and the last boat ramp, the road will curve to the left (south) and climb a hill. At the top of the hill IGNORE signs to the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve and follow the sign south to Loud Thunder Scout Camp, going down the steep hill. Towards the bottom, IGNORE the entrance on the right and CONTINUE to the bottom of the hill and start up the other side. About a third of the way up, there will be a sign to the Scouts BSA Camp on your right, and you will turn RIGHT onto a gravel road going up the hill. Follow that road and park in the large gravel parking lot. Registration will be at the Administration Building immediately opposite the parking lot. See you there!

From the West or South: You'll either be on Highway 92 from Illinois City or join it about a mile South of the camp. From that junction, stay on Highway 92 North. You'll continue north about a mile to a significant downward slope. About halfway down the slope you'll find the camp's entrance on your left. You will turn LEFT onto a gravel road going up the hill. Follow that road and park in the large gravel parking lot. Registration will be at the Administration Building immediately opposite the parking lot. See you there!