

# The Beautiful and Always Sunny Comer Scout Reservation

## 2024 Adult Leader Guide

### Greater Alabama Council:

516 Liberty Parkway. Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone: 205-970-0251

### Camp Comer Scout Reservation

16490 Co Rd 89. Mentone, AL 35984

Camp Director: [Duane.Southers@scouting.org](mailto:Duane.Southers@scouting.org)

Director of Camping: [Erick.Simmons@scouting.org](mailto:Erick.Simmons@scouting.org)

Director of Support Services: [Chris.Laycock@scouting.org](mailto:Chris.Laycock@scouting.org)



## Dear Summer Camp Leader,

On behalf of The Greater Alabama Council, it is our honor to welcome you in joining us for an amazing week at the beautiful and always sunny Comer Scout Reservation!

We are confident that you will be impressed with our friendly staff, amazing facilities, and outstanding program.

Founded in 1965, Comer has been the Summer Camp destination of choice for ten's of thousands of Scouts. This leaders guide is a resource to help you, as the leader, plan and prepare for your Troop's upcoming camp adventure. This guide works hand-in-hand with our program guide. The program guide is designed for Senior Patrol Leaders, Scouts, and parents, to help them plan and prepare for camp.

We know that you have a lot of choices for Summer Camp and we appreciate you deciding to spend your week with us. We are excited! And we hope that you are too! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Yours in Scouting,

J.T. Dabbs III  
Scout Executive  
Greater Alabama Council, BSA

## Camp Overview

Sitting high-atop Lookout Mountain in Northeast Alabama, Camp Comer offers a unique and exciting Summer Camp Experience. With cooler summer temperatures, dark evening skies, and permanent year-round campsites, Comer is a wonderful Summer Camp or weekend trip destination.

- 50+ Merit Badges
- Top-notch Eagle Bound program (Trail to 1<sup>st</sup> Class)
- Sci-Tech Programs
- Amazing Hiking
- Waterslide
- 50" Climbing Tower
- Whitewater Rafting
- 88-acre Lake
- Air-conditioned Scoutmaster's Lounge with Fiber Internet
- Great showers with on-demand hot water
- 16 campsites that are all a close walk to everything



## Camp Comer's Value

A week of Summer Camp at Comer provides amazing value. Scouts can participate in nearly all activities without any added fees.

Rifle Merit Badge	\$0
Shotgun Merit Badge	\$0
Open Shooting	\$0
Archery Merit Badge Kit	\$0
Handicraft Merit Badge Kits	\$0
Aquatics	\$0
Climbing	\$0
Eagle Bound	\$0
Sci-Tech Programs	\$0
Humanities	\$0
Ecology	\$0
Outdoor Skills	\$0

### Additional Program Fees:

High Adventure (Age 14+)	\$100
Whitewater Trip (Age 12+)	\$70



### PROVISIONAL CAMPERS

Don't miss out on camp! Individual Scouts can attend camp as part of our Provisional Camp Troop during Week 5 (June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>). Cost is \$350 for both In-Council and Out of Council youth. Register at [www.1bsa.org](http://www.1bsa.org)

## 2024 SESSION DATES

Week 1: June 2 <sup>nd</sup> - June 8 <sup>th</sup>
Week 2: June 9 <sup>th</sup> - June 15 <sup>th</sup>
Week 3: June 16 <sup>th</sup> - June 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Week 4: June 23 <sup>rd</sup> - June 29 <sup>th</sup>
Week 5: June 30 <sup>th</sup> - July 6 <sup>th</sup>
Week 6: July 7 <sup>th</sup> - July 13 <sup>th</sup>

## CAMP FEES

Camp Comer uses a simple all-inclusive fee schedule. All weeks offer the same classes and activities and the same high-quality service and support. Weeks 1 - 4 are typically have higher attendance.

IN-COUNCIL YOUTH	\$325
OUT-OF COUNCIL YOUTH	\$350
ADULTS	First 2 Adults Free Additional \$75 each
GUEST MEALS	\$5 a meal or \$10 a day (Paid at Trading Post)

### ADULT LEADERS

Consistent leadership throughout the full week of camp is strongly recommended. When it is necessary, adult leaders may rotate in/out and share a single leader fee in order to provide leadership to the youth in camp. Using the official BSA roster from [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org), please notify the camp office during check-in on what days each leader will be in camp.

### CAMPERSHIPS

A limited number of camperships are available for Scouts from the Greater Alabama Council who want to attend camp but cannot afford to go. These are for individual youth and not for the troop as a whole. Troops should plan to aid their Scouts as much as possible prior to asking for assistance. Applications for camperships are available at [www.1bsa.org](http://www.1bsa.org). Requests must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### REFUNDS

Planning and purchasing for camp happens long before camp begins and is based on pre-registration. If the unit or a Scout cannot attend camp, please review the Council's refund policy and submit a refund request through our online portal, both found at [www.1bsa.org](http://www.1bsa.org)

## 1 CAMP RESERVATION

Reserve your week at camp by submitting the registration form with a non-refundable deposit of \$100 and your campsite preference. *(Campsite preferences are not a guarantee of site assignment. Final assignments are made the week prior to arrival and are based on camp attendance and unit size).*

The [camp reservation](#) form is found at [www.1bsa.org](http://www.1bsa.org) and can be submitted online.

## 2 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

### Troop Deposit - \$100

Due when submitting your reservation.

### First Payment - \$100 on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

\$100 per Scout, based on estimated attendance.

### Second Payment - \$100 on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

\$100 per Scout, based on estimated attendance.

### Final Payment - Two Weeks Prior to Arrival

Two weeks prior to your Sunday arrival date, the balance of all fees is due. Your payment can be cash, check or credit card. Payments can be made online in TENTAROO, in person or mailed in with a copy of your invoice.

## 3 ROSTERS & MERIT BADGES

A Troop Leader will submit the roster, merit badges, high adventure, eagle bound, and online payments through a service called TENTAROO. This is done at a unit level and Scouts do NOT enter their selections individually. First time users will need to create an account.

<https://gac.tentaroo.com>

**March 1st** is Merit Badge selection become available in TENTAROO. See Program Guidebook for information and support.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** If a Scout or adult needs some extra help to enjoy the camp experience, please let us know! This includes anyone with **special dietary, health, mobility, or CPAP battery needs**. Special needs requests are submitted as part of filling out the roster in TENTAROO. Please make sure you are aware of these needs prior to adding a person to the roster. If you have questions or need something added please email [anglea.champion@scouting.org](mailto:anglea.champion@scouting.org)

## PRE-ARRIVAL CHECK LIST

Submit the following via TENTAROO:

- ▶ Make Payments
- ▶ Register each person attending camp
- ▶ Special Needs & Dietary Restrictions
- ▶ Merit Badge Class Registration
- ▶ High Adventure Registration

## ARRIVAL CHECK LIST

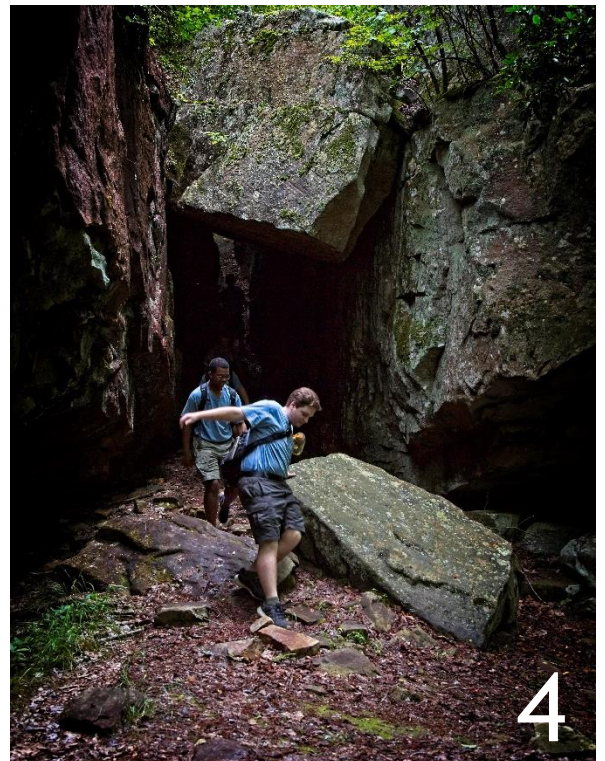
Check in begins at **1:00pm**. Early arrivals must pre-coordinate with the Camp Director.

- ▶ If arriving by BUS, do not take CR 604.
- ▶ Park at the main parking lot and our staff will be there to guide you through the check-in process.

### Paperwork

Please have 1 adult ready with:

- ▶ Official BSA Roster, exported from [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org).
  - Mark all youth and adults that will be attending camp.
  - For adults, mark the days they will arrive and depart from camp.
- ▶ Health and Medical Records for all campers (parts A, B, &C)
- ▶ Proof of Insurance (Out-of-Council units)
- ▶ Optional: Pre-Camp Swim Check Form



## CAMPSITES

Camp Comer has 16 permanent year-round campsites. All campsites have 9x9 canvas wall tents with 2-beds, mattresses, and small canopy porches. A few campsites also have 4-bed Adirondacks. Each site has a pavilion, running water, trashcans, and a bulletin board. There is no electricity in the campsite. Most sites are designed for units to share.

The size and number of troops attending in any given week has a significant bearing on campsite assignments. Campsite preferences are not a guarantee of site assignment and final assignments are made the week prior to arrival. These assignments are based on an assumed two person per tent rule and **cots and mats are provided**. In general, leaders should plan to share tents, adjusting for male/female accommodations. Scouts and leaders are welcome to bring their own tents or hammocks.

We understand and plan for normal wear and tear of tents, floorboards, and other equipment, but Troops will be responsible for any damage caused by carelessness or malicious intent. *(Tent rips, \$10 per inch. Writing on tent canvas \$20 each panel. Tent Replacement \$420. Ridge Poles \$25. Uprights: \$13. New Board Replacements minimum \$7.50. Etc.)*

### Campsites & Capacities

Beaver 60	Black Bear 50
Bobcat 54	Buffalo 44
Fox 34	Grizzly Bear 36
Hawk 38	Mountain Lion 44
Owl 32	Panther 52
Raccoon 62	Wolf 50
Wolverine 52	Bald Eagle 24
Falcon 24	

## SHOWERS

Camp Comer has 2 large, centrally located shower facilities with on-demand hot water and flushing toilets. There are youth and adult facilities. Adult ARE allowed to enter and monitor the handwashing area of the youth facility. The youth area has large garage doors that are typically open.

## SCOUTMASTER'S LOUNGE

Located next to the Dining Hall, the lounge is available for adult leader 18 and older. It is air-conditioned with tables, couches, high-speed fiber internet, and fresh coffee each morning. It is an excellent location to catch up on work or take an afternoon nap.



# HEALTH & SAFETY

Camp Comer employs a qualified Health Officer and medical equipment to handle all minor injuries. Serious injuries or severe illness will be referred to EMS. The camp has made prior arrangements for handling emergencies. Unit Leaders are encouraged to provide first aid for minor cuts, blisters, and scrapes using a unit first aid kit.

## TRIPS TO THE HOSPITAL OR DOCTOR

Unit leadership provides transportation for non-life-threatening emergencies. The Camp Health Officer must clear all cases requiring outside medical care and will provide the person's BSA health form with insurance information before leaving camp. Parents and emergency contacts will be notified by the Camp Director immediately of any serious illness or injury. One adult leader from the unit, and an additional adult, will accompany the unit member(s) requiring services.

## MEDICATIONS

All youth medications must be registered with the Camp Health Officer and then dispensed to the campers by the medical staff or an authorized unit leader. All medications checked-in must be in the original containers and marked with the Scout's name, troop number, and original medication information. Do not cover the information and instructions on the medications. Dosages and schedules must be the same as on the package; changes must be in writing. Medication in pillboxes and non-original containers will not be accepted. Please send only enough medication to be administered during the week at camp. The Camp Health Officer will work with the Scoutmaster to ensure that Scouts are taking their medication. It is the primary responsibility of the Scout and their Scoutmaster to know when they should be taking their medication.

## Inhaler, EpiPen, or Similar Medical Device

If the BSA health form indicates that an individual **MUST** have these items, then the Health Officer will confirm that they are in possession by the individual. If **NOT** in possession, then they must be obtained, or the participant will be required to leave camp.

## COMMON HEALTH ISSUES

Please prepare Scouts to counter common health issues:

- Insect Bites, including ticks. Please report imbedded ticks to the health officer.
- Dehydration & Heat Exhaustion. Carry a water bottle and drink plenty of water while at camp.
- Hazardous plants such as poison ivy, oak, sumac, and nettles.
- Practice high standards of personal hygiene including washing hands regularly and covering mouth and nose when sneezing.



## VEHICLES & PARKING

Each unit is responsible for the safe transportation of Scouts and adult leaders to and from camp. On arrival and departure, Troops may pull vehicles closer to their campsite for loading and unloading, but **all vehicles must be parked in a designated camp parking area by 7pm Sunday night**. Vehicles should not be driven into camp during the week, and roads through campsites and program areas are restricted to authorized camp vehicles only.

### TRAILERS

Troop trailers may be left in the campsite or in other areas designated by the Ranger but must not block any roads or trails. Trailers must be disconnected from the tow vehicle and the wheels must be chocked and the tongue must be secured on a block or stand to ensure the trailer is safe and secure. Drydock Campers and motor homes are allowed in the camp parking lot.

### ATVs, UTVs, & GOLF CARTS

Private motorized vehicles are expressly prohibited. Those with special mobility needs may request advanced permission directly from the Camp Director. Additional certifications, waivers, and Council-level approval will be required.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Camp Comer has written plans for emergency response such as severe weather, fire, or a lost Scout, etc. Details will be shared at check-in. Adult leaders should always carry a unit roster and vehicle keys on them while in camp in case of an emergency or evacuation. Upon hearing an emergency signal (siren over the PA) all individuals will **report to the parade grounds** as quickly as possible. Camp leadership will be present to provide further information. An emergency drill will take place within the first 24 hours of your arrival at camp.

### Lost or Missing Scout

If a Scout is believed to be missing, unit leaders should first confirm that the Scout is not in the campsite, program areas, or other common gathering places about camp. If still not found, notify Camp Staff Leadership.

### Buddy System

The buddy system of having two or more campers together is used during camp and is important. Please ensure your Scouts use this system and that everyone has a buddy.

## ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & DRUGS

Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances are **absolutely prohibited**. Possession or use will be reported to local law enforcement.

BSA Camps are smoke-free. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, or systems which simulate tobacco smoking. Camp Comer's designated smoking area is located behind the dining hall.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Pets (except for service animals)
- Fireworks and pyrotechnic devices
- Personal Firearms, Air-Pistols, Bows, Ammunition, Slingshots
- Bikes / Unicycles

### RESTRICTED AREAS

Scouts and leaders are restricted from the staff area and the campsites of other Troops are off limits. No refunds for removal from camp for disciplinary reasons.

### NO FLAMES IN TENTS.

Lighting in tents must be battery operated. Only adults, or older Scouts under supervision may use liquid fuels in camp.

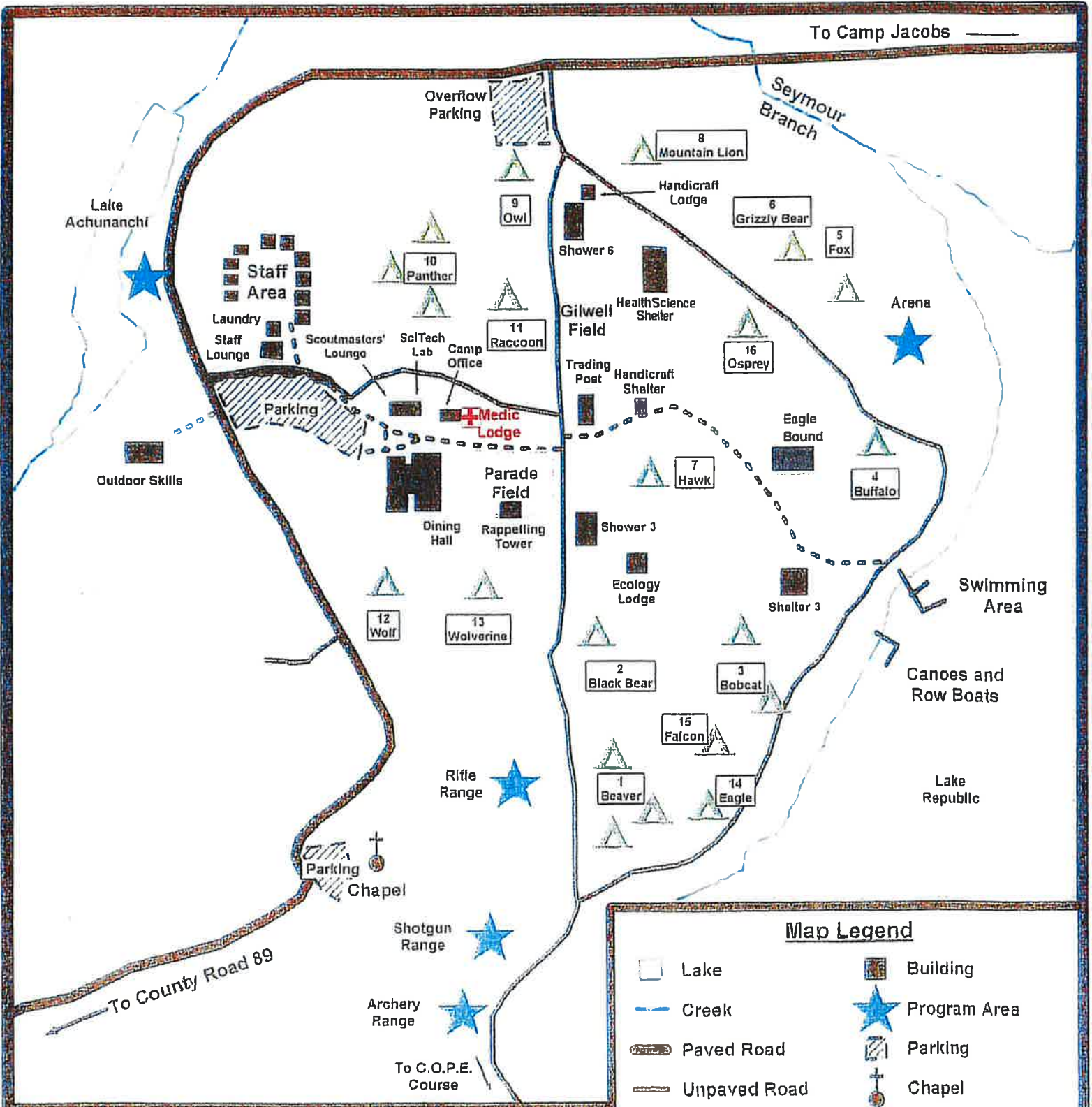
### ADDITIONAL POLICIES

- Do not throw rocks.
- Shoes must be worn and must be closed toed. (*sandals are allowed at the showers*)
- No clothing with inappropriate graphics.
- Items which are in violation of BSA policy.
- See Guide to Safe Scouting for all policies.



# Comer Scout Reservation

Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America



To Camp Jacobs ———

Lake Achunanchi

Overflow Parking

Seymour Branch

8 Mountain Lion

Handicraft Lodge

6 Grizzly Bear

5 Fox

Staff Area

10 Panther

Shower 6

Health Science Shelter

Arena

Laundry

Scoutmasters' Lounge

SciTech Lab

Camp Office

11 Raccoon

Gilwell Field

Trading Post

Handicraft Shelter

16 Osprey

Staff Lounge

Parking

Medic Lodge

Parade Field

Shower 3

7 Hawk

Eagle Bound

4 Buffalo

Outdoor Skills

Dining Hall

Rappelling Tower

Ecology Lodge

Shelter 3

Swimming Area

12 Wolf

13 Wolverine

2 Black Bear

3 Bobcat

Canoes and Row Boats

Rifle Range

15 Falcon

1 Beaver

14 Eagle

Lake Republic

Parking

Chapel

Shotgun Range

Archery Range

To C.O.P.E. Course

To County Road 89

### Map Legend

- Lake
- Creek
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Major Trail
- Camp Site
- Building
- Program Area
- Parking
- Chapel
- Medic

Scale:

