

WINTER CAMP



2026 INFORMATION GUIDE

A COLD WEATHER ADVENTURE IN
THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS

Dear Winter Camp Leader,

The Information Guide provides you with the information you need to plan the best possible winter camp experience for your troop.

This camp provides you with a great opportunity for cold weather camping atop Lookout Mountain. A camping ad-venture nestled between the holidays is the perfect chance to make your school break a memorable one. With opportunities for advancement, merit badges, program activities, nightly themed dinners, campfires, and much more, the 2026 Winter Camp has something for everyone!

Please take time to review this guide and pass along the information to your Scouts and Scouters. We have no doubt that this awesome event will be something that you will want to be part of.

If you would like more information or would like to serve on staff for Winter Camp please feel free to contact Tyler Powell, Camp Director at tyler.powell@scouting.org.

Get the hot cocoa ready, dust off your mummy bag, and dig out your scarf and gloves because winter is coming and we want you to spend it with us.



2026 WINTER CAMP GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: December 27-31, 2026

Location: Comer Scout Reservation
16490 County Road 89
Mentone, AL 35984

Camp Registration

Participant Type	Fee
Youth Participant	\$275.00
First 2 Adult Leaders with Unit	Free
Additional Adult Leaders	\$75.00
Staff	Free

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://gae.tentaroo.com>

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

Key Dates

Now	Set up Winter Camp Promotion Meeting with your unit.
Now-October 31	Register online at 1bsa.org/winter-camp
November 1	Merit Badge Registration Opens
December 15	All Merit Badge Registration Finalized
December 27	Arrive at camp!!
December 31	Check-out and Advancement Pick-up

PRE-ARRIVAL CHECK LIST

Submit the following via TENTAROO:

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

ARRIVAL CHECK LIST

Check in begins at 10:00 AM. Early arrivals must pre-coordinate with the Camp Director.

When you are driving to Camp Comer, your GPS or navigation system will automatically plot the fastest route for you. Please do not follow the GPS or navigation system's default instructions. Your GPS or navigation system will try to route you along DeKalb County Road #604. County Road #604 is a dangerous, single-lane road with multiple hair-pin switch-backs. We strongly advise and encourage you to take Alabama Road #35 to County Road #89 (DeSoto Parkway NE) which is the route through DeSoto State Park.

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.
- 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)
- Optional: Pre-Camp Swim Check Form

Check-In

- Check-in is December 27, 10:00AM-12:00 PM
- Your unit or individuals will be greeted by one of our Camp Hosts at the entrance to the parking lot of Camp Comer. The commissioner corps will direct you to check in at the Scoutmaster Lounge. Each unit or individual will be asked to review their unit roster and program schedule and submit individual health forms.
- Following verification of assigned campsites, the unit or provisional campers should be directed to the campsite and settle in.



DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE UPDATED

GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

(Use the QR Code below)



Make SAFE-ty a Priority!



Scouts and their parents expect all Boy Scouts of America activities to be conducted safely. To ensure the safety of participants, the Boy Scouts of America expects leaders to use the four points of **SAFE** when delivering the Scouting program.

SUPERVISION

Youth are supervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.

- Accepting responsibility for the well-being and safety of youth under their care.
- Ensuring that adults are adequately trained, experienced, and skilled to lead the activity, including the ability to prevent and respond to likely problems and potential emergencies.
- Knowing and delivering the program of the Boy Scouts of America with integrity.
- Using qualified instructors, guides, or safety personnel as needed to provide additional guidance.
- Maintaining engagement with participants during activities to ensure compliance with established rules and procedures.

ASSESSMENT

Activities are assessed for risks during planning. Leaders have reviewed applicable program guidance or standards and have verified the activity is not prohibited. Risk avoidance or mitigation is incorporated into the activity.

- Predetermining what guidance and standards are typically applied to the activity, including those specific to the Boy Scouts of America program.
- Planning for safe travel to and from the activity site.
- Validating the activity is age-appropriate for the Boy Scouts of America program level.
- Determining whether the unit has sufficient training, resources, and experience to meet the identified standards and, if not, modifying the activity accordingly.
- Developing contingency plans for changes in weather and environment and arranging for communication with participants, parents, and emergency services.

FITNESS AND SKILL

Participants' Annual Health and Medical Records are reviewed, and leaders have confirmed that prerequisite fitness and skill levels exist for participants to take part safely.

- Confirming the activity is right for the age, maturity, and physical abilities of participants.
- Considering as risk factors temporary or chronic health conditions of participants.
- Validating minimum skill requirements identified during planning and ensuring participants stay within the limits of their abilities.
- Providing training to participants with limited skills and assessing their skills before they attempt more advanced skills.

EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Safe and appropriately sized equipment, courses, camps, campsites, trails, or playing fields are used properly. Leaders periodically check gear use and the environment for changing conditions that could affect safety.

- Confirming participants' clothing is appropriate for expected temperatures, sun exposure, weather events, and terrain.
- Providing equipment that is appropriately sized for participants, is in good repair, and is used properly.
- Ensuring personal and group safety equipment is available, properly fitted, and used consistently and in accordance with training.
- Reviewing the activity area for suitability during planning and immediately before use, and monitoring the area during the activity through supervision.
- Adjusting the activity for changing conditions or ending it if safety cannot be maintained.

CAMPSITES

Camp Comer has 14 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 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. 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 56	Buffalo 50
Fox 46	Grizzly Bear 36
Hawk 42	Mountain Lion 46
Owl 44	Panther 54
Raccoon 70	Wolf 50
Wolverine 62	Osprey 32

SHOWERS

Camp Comer has 2 large, centrally located shower facilities with on-demand hot water and flushing toilets. There are youth and adult facilities. Adults 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 leaders 18 and older. It has tables, couches, high-speed fiber inter-net. 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 immediately by the Camp Director 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 the night of December 27th. 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 or Camp Director 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.

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 (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 in the provided smoking shed.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

Pets (except for registered 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.



BEAR SAFETY

The opportunity to observe wild animals in their natural habitat is one of the greatest thrills in a Scout's camping experience. It is not uncommon for campers at Camp Comer to wake up to deer or wild turkeys. Camp Comer is also home to a small population of black bears. While black bears are naturally shy and typically avoid human contact, they are opportunistic feeders and extremely curious. Here are some ways to help your troop be "Bear Aware:"

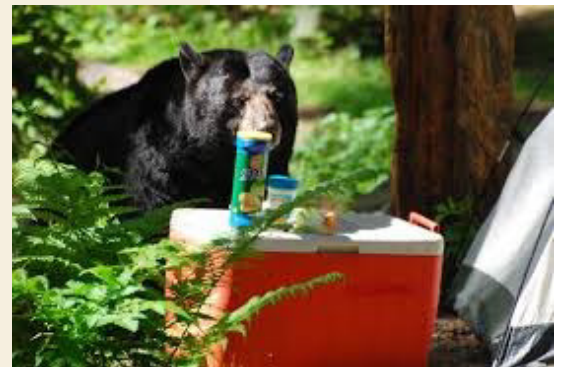
Reduce odors that attract bears

- Store ALL food and wildlife attractants in your troop trailer or vehicle.
- NEVER take food into your tent, not even a snack.
- Keep your fire pit clean and free of food residue.
- Place all trash in the camp provided containers.

What Attracts Bears?

Anything that has an odor or could be considered food may attract wildlife to your site.

- Coolers-full/empty
- Food and Condiments
- Garbage/Wrappings/Plastic Bags
- Dishes/Pots
- Bottles/Cans: full/empty
- Tablecloths
- Toiletries & Insect Spray
- Camp Stove & Barbecues
- ANY items associated with food preparation or clean up (soap, dish cloths, towels, & clothing worn while cooking).

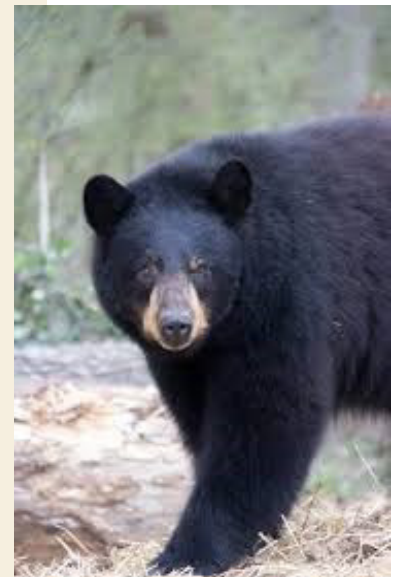


Bear Encounters

It's normal to be frightened when you encounter a bear. The reality is that most encounters with bears rarely lead to aggressive behavior and attacks are even rarer. Remember, most bears prefer to avoid contact with humans, and any bear you do see is probably just as frightened as you are!

Just remember, in the more than 50 years of camping at Comer, we have never had a camper injured by a bear. If you encounter a bear remain as composed as possible and follow these simple guidelines:

- Safety must always be the primary concern. Do not endanger yourself or others for the protection of personal property or equipment.
- Gather all those in the campsite at the spot opposite where the bear is located. Leave the bear with an exit route.
- Stay together. As the old saying goes, "there is strength in numbers".
- Maintain a distance of at least 40 feet from the bear.
- Post pairs of adults or older Scouts at the path entrances to your campsite to warn those about to enter the camp that there is a bear present.
- Make noise. Plenty of it. Bang pots and pans together if available (do not endanger your safety by trying to gather such items if located too close to the bear). Yell and scream. Wave your arms in the air.
- It is important to keep in mind that studies have shown that it is much easier to scare off a bear before it has found food. Once it has found food, it is much less likely to be scared until it has finished its meal.
- Never throw things at the bear. This can only make the bear angry.
- Never "charge" at the bear or run at it to scare it off.
- **Report the bear in your campsite to a staff member immediately.**



WINTER CAMP SCHEDULE

Time	Saturday 12/27	Sunday 12/28	Monday 12/29	Tuesday 12/30	Monday 12/31
6:00 AM		Sunrise Scout's Own	Morning Run		
6:30 AM		Reveille			
7:30 AM		Morning Assembly			
8:00 AM		Breakfast			
9:00 AM		MB Session 1	MB Session 1	MB Session 1	MB Session 1
10:00 AM	Check-In	MB Session 2	MB Session 2	MB Session 2	MB Session 2
11:00 AM		MB Session 3	MB Session 3	MB Session 3	MB Session 3
12:30 PM	Lunch				
1:15 PM	Sr. Patrol Leader Meeting @ Bull Ring (In front of SM Lounge)				Pick Up Advancement
1:45 PM	MB Session 4	MB Session 4	MB Session 4	MB Session 4	Depart
2:45 PM	MB Session 5	MB Session 5	MB Session 5	MB Session 5	Happy New Year!!! Drive Home Safe
3:45 PM	Open Program Activities			Polar Bear Plunge 4:15	
6:15 PM	Evening Assembly				
6:30 PM	Dinner				
7:20 PM	Leader's Meeting (Bull Ring)	Evening Activities	Evening Activities		
8:15 PM	Opening Campfire (Flatt Rock Arena)			Closing Campfire (Flatt Rock Arena)	
10:00 PM	Quiet Time				

OPEN PROGRAM TIME ACTIVITIES

Date	Activity	Location
Sun. 12/28	Free Shoot Archery Free Shoot Rifle Free Shoot Shotgun Moon Rock Hike Fishing Climbing (Weather Permitting) Handicraft	Archery Range Rifle Range Shotgun Range Meet @ Flag Pole Lake Republic Climbing Tower Handicraft Pavillion
Mon. 12/29	Free Shoot Archery Free Shoot Rifle Free Shoot Shotgun Scavenger Hunt Fishing Leikimot	Archery Range Rifle Range Shotgun Range Meet @ Bull Ring Lake Republic Gilwell Field
Sat. 12/30	Free Shoot Archery Free Shoot Rifle Free Shoot Shotgun Fishing Branding	Archery Range Rifle Range Shotgun Range Lake Republic Trading Post

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Date	Activity	Location
Sun. 12/28	Caving Overnight Adventure Thunderbird Trail Night Hike Movie	Camp Office Flag Pole Parade Field
Mon. 12/29	Caving Thunderbird Trail Night Hike Theme Night	Camp Office Flag Pole Parade Field



PACKING LIST

Unit-What to Bring

Below is a list of general equipment often needed at a longterm camp. Some troops may wish to bring other items to enrich their experience or to cook special meals or desserts.

- ☐ Paperwork-Final Attendance Roster
- ☐ Paperwork-Health and Medical Records (Parts A,B, & C)
- ☐ Paperwork-Youth Protection verification
- ☐ Paperwork-Insurance (Out-of-council units only) **11**
- ☐ Troop First Aid Kit
- ☐ Blank Duty Roster
- ☐ Lock Box
- ☐ Flags-Patrol, US. State etc.
- ☐ Propane Lanterns and Stoves
- ☐ Solid fire starter & matches
- ☐ Dutch ovens, charcoal
- ☐ Cooking Utensils
- ☐ Water cooler
- ☐ Rope, twine, or nylon cord
- ☐ Axe, hatchet, saw, hammer
- ☐ Repair kit, tools, & duct tape
- ☐ Dining fly or canopy (if you want extra)
- ☐ Tarps
- ☐ Gateway building material

Scout-What to Bring

Below is a list to serve as a guide. Use your own discretion and refer to your Scout Handbook.

Very Important

- ☐ Signed Health and Medical Record (required)
- ☐ Trading Post Money

Personal Gear

- ☐ The Scout Basic Essential (see Scout Handbook)
- ☐ Backpack, duffle-bag, or storage bin
- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Complete Field Uniform
- ☐ T-shirts (several)
- ☐ Sweater/Jacket
- ☐ Long pants and long sleeve shirts
- ☐ Swim suit (Polar Bear Plunge)
- ☐ Underwear/Long Johns
- ☐ Extra Shoes/Hiking Boots
- ☐ Socks and extra socks
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Sleeping Gear
- ☐ Sleeping Pad (if you want extra)
- ☐ 3 season sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Toothbrush/Toothpaste/Floss
- ☐ Soap/Shampoo/Towels)/Washcloth
- ☐ Deodorant/Comb/Brush
- ☐ Personal Items
- ☐ Day Pack
- ☐ Water Bottle/Canteen
- ☐ Camp Chair
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Scout Handbook/Merit Badge Books
- ☐ Pocketknife/Notebook/Pen/Pencil
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Totin' Chip/Firem'n Chit
- ☐ Clock/Alarm Clock
- ☐ Medications



2026 WINTER CAMP PROGRAM

Trailblazer Program

The Trailblazer program is the first-year camper program of the Greater Alabama Council. The program is aimed at helping new Scouts begin their advancement trail in Scouting. This program is recommended for Scouts who are at the rank of Scout or Tenderfoot. Scouts enrolled in Eagle Bound should be sure to bring:

- ☐ Comfortable Shoes for hiking
- ☐ An easy to carry water bottle
- ☐ A day pack

High Adventure (Ages 14 and up)

Designed with the adventurous older Scout in mind, Comer High Adventure lets participants experience true adventure. Campers will spend each day in a different area trying out some of the coolest things Comer has to offer. Activities may include caving, overnight on the DeSoto Scout Trail, and much more.

Youth attending should bring:

- Tent
- Backpack
- Sleeping bag
- The 10 Scouting essentials

Leikmót

In Norse cultures, the leikmót was a festival held for sports and competition. Come wearing your best Viking costume to enjoy music, festivities, and Food!

Scouts and adults are encouraged to wear creative costumes based on the winter camp theme and think of a variety of personalities, and situations to inspire creative costumes and reenactments. However, please leave your weapons in the long ship! This is a gathering of friends.

Metal Forge

Winter Camp boasts a Forge Program that is above all. Scouts and adults can have the opportunity to take a railroad spike and turn it into a knife. Winter Camp has six anvils, two forges, and six metal grinders to accommodate maximum participation.

Coffee with the Director

Every morning at 9:00 AM come enjoy coffee with the Winter Camp Director. Adult Leaders can meet with the Camp Director to hear announcements, review of the schedule, and ask questions about the day's activities.

2026 Winter Camp Tundra Challenge Award (Participation Award)

For those that complete the requirements for the 2026 Winter Camp Tundra Challenge a special award will be presented. The requirements for the award can be found in the appendix section of this guide.

Merit Badge Program

The following pages include the Merit Badge schedule for Winter Camp as well as a planning worksheet to help Scouts and their parents get the most out of their week. You should register for courses as soon as possible. Most class sizes are limited and they are filled on a first come, first serve basis. High demand merit badges may be offered more than once. Merit Badge registration will be through Tentaroo.

Scouts should read the merit badge booklet before coming to camp. If each Scout will prepare themselves, they can spend more camp time participating in programs and less time studying outside of class.

2025 Winter Camp Merit Badge Schedule

December 27

Outdoor Skills	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Orienteering	Orienteering	Astronomy	Cooking	Cooking
	Pioneering	Pioneering	Cooking	Signs, Signals, and Codes	Signs, Signals, Codes and
Health Sciences	Session 1 Emergency	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Emergency/Preparedness	Traffic Safety/Safety	Emergency Preparedness	Emergency Preparedness	
	First Aid	First Aid	Traffic Safety/Safety		First Aid
Arts & Humanities	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Chess	Citizenship in the World	Citizenship in the World	Theater	Movie Making
	American Cultures/Heritage	American Cultures/Heritage	Theater	Communication	Communication
Shooting Sports	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Archery	Archery	Archery	Archery	Archery
	Rifle	Rifle	Rifle	Rifle	Rifle
Handicraft	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Woodworking/Fingerpr	Art	Art	Animation	Animation
	inting/TextilesPainting	Fingerprinting/Textiles	Leatherwork	Leatherwork	Woodworking
Trade Skills	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Metalwork	Metalwork	Metalwork	Metalwork	Welding
	Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture	Plumbing	Plumbing	Farm Mechanics
Sci-Tech	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
	Electricity	Electricity	Engineering	Electronics	Electronics
	Game Design	Cybersecurity	Exploration	Space Exploration	Genealogy
	Radio	Exploration	Radio	Cybersecurity	Game Design

2026 WINTER CAMP TUNDRA

CHALLENGE AWARD

Event	Total Points	SM/Staff Verification
Attend Opening Campfire	5	
Participate in one of the following: 5K Run Sunrise Service Polar Bear Plunge	10	
Attend 3 Free Time activities during the week	15	
Attend 3 Night Time activities during the week	15	
Attend the Closing Campfire	5	
Youth-Complete 1 merit badge	10	
Troop performs a skit at campfire	5	
Troop leads a flag ceremony or grace at meal	5	
Total Score		

Scouts Name:

Troop Number



Comer Scout Reservation

Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America

