



# Camp Ottari

Leaders' Guide - Blue Ridge Scout Reservation

Base Camp



## Your First Day At Camp

### Early Arrivals

Units planning to arrive on Saturday should submit an Early Arrival Form found in the camp Administrative Guide. No programming or food is available, and troops should not enter the Waterfront. Please plan accordingly. Meal service in the Dining Hall begins Sunday evening with dinner. When you arrive on Saturday, report to the Welcome Center to find your campsite assignment and other information.

### Sunday Check-In

The official check-in process begins on Sunday at 1PM and runs until 3PM. Units should arrive between those times. Please understand that additional participants cannot be added at check-in on Sunday. The Camp Registrar, prior to your arrival, must approve all additions.

You will be given a staff tour guide at the parking lot when you arrive. You will then send an adult leader with the following information to complete paperwork:

- 2 copies of rosters for all Scouts and Adults. Be sure to bring rosters for all programs (BSI, Claytor, etc)
- Proof of Accident and Sickness Insurance (for out of council units)
- Check to pay any outstanding balance

Medical Forms should go in a separate folder/binder as they will go with the rest of the unit on the camp tour.

At check-in, you will receive:

- A wristband for each Scout and Leader attending with your unit (these serve as a meal ticket and identifier).
- Information on Brownsea Island and your unit's scheduling issues, if there are any.
- Our camp "Blue Book" which contains important forms and schedules for you to reference and use throughout the week.

## Camp Tour

During the camp tour, your troop guide will point out all camp landmarks and program areas. Your troop guide will provide your unit with a fireguard chart, a camp map, camp emergency procedures and a job description for the troop health officer. The most important stops are:

- **Medical Recheck** designed to make sure that there have been no significant changes in the participant's health since his or her last physical exam. Remember to bring your medical forms and Prescription Medication Dosing Form to this station.
- **Visit the Dining Hall** to receive your unit's table assignment for your mealtime and learn about some basic Dining Hall procedures. This is also a time to inform the Dining Hall staff about any allergies or special needs. Scouts may also choose to bring food in order to supplement the existing menu.
- The **Quartermaster** will issue any gear that your group might need throughout the week for cleaning or camp projects. The Quartermaster also controls access to the flammable fuels where your group must store propane and flammable fuels.



All camps and programs offered at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation have been nationally accredited through the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program.

- **Swim Checks** at the waterfront, where the Aquatics Director will explain rules and procedures surrounding the use of the camp's swimming and boating areas. All participants wishing to swim during the week should take their swim test at this time.
- **Shooting Sports**, where your unit will learn basic safety rules and find out about open shoots.

## Shuttles to Other Camps

On Sunday, there will be two shuttles from Ottari to the Claytor Lake Aquatics Base and Camp Powhatan for Scouts participating in programs based at those camps. The shuttles will leave from the upper flag poles at 3PM and 4PM, respectively. Units are welcome to transport their Scouts to these programs personally. The shuttle service is for those units who are unable to provide personal transportation. Those going on the shuttle should bring their gear, medical form, and medications with them. They will have their medical check and swim test (if necessary) at the program they are attending, NOT at Camp Ottari.

## Special Dietary Needs

On Sunday, any Scouts or adults with special dietary needs should visit with the Dining Hall to discuss accommodations that the camp can make for their diet. The unit is responsible for the management of participant allergies. If a Scout or adult in your unit has an intolerance or allergy that requires special food items, please provide those items to our kitchen staff on Sunday. Parents may call ahead one week prior to their child's arrival to discuss any concerns.

## Your Week at Camp

### Leaders' Meetings

A Camp Leaders' Meeting will be held at the Welcome Center. This is a very important meeting where you will be introduced to the Area Directors, be given important information, and have an opportunity to address any concerns.

### Opening Campfire

The purpose of the opening campfire is to introduce the Ottari Camp staff and to set a mood for the week. Units should assemble in Class A uniform by the Scoutcraft Shelter by 8:30pm.

### Mealtimes

All meals will be served cafeteria style in our dining hall. Units participating in the Base Camp program should assemble at the flags near the Camp Office in full Class A uniform by 5:50 p.m. After Troop Reports and Grace, your unit will be directed into the dining hall. Table waiters should report to the dining hall 10 minutes early.

Morning		Afternoon	
7:00AM	Bird Study & Fishing Merit Badge	2:00-5:00PM	Merit Badge Classes
7:45AM	Flags and Breakfast	5:30PM	First Dinner
Following B-fast	Leaders' Meeting	6:15PM	Flags/Second Dinner
9:00AM-Noon	Merit Badge Classes	7:30PM	Evening Programs Begin
9:15AM	Brownsea Island meets in the BSI Troop area	8:00PM	Trash Run
Noon-12:45PM	Lunch - open, clean up after yourself	11:00PM	All Quiet in Camp

## Merit Badge Program

When signing your Scouts up for merit badges, please refer to the Ottari camp map and take note that there is a sizable hill between the upper camp program areas of Nature and Handicraft and the lower camp program areas of Shooting Sports, Scoutcraft, and Aquatics. Please schedule so that your scouts will have time to travel between classes. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about our merit badge program:

### How do Scouts sign up for badges?

Units will sign their Scouts up for badges using our online system at [brmcregistration.com](http://brmcregistration.com). Once the unit is paid in full, a password will be sent to the unit contact to access this system. Registration opens according to the chart below and will close a week before your arrival at camp.

Fully Paid By	Dates Attending Camp	Merit Badge Registration Opens
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Any week	April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Any week	April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
On or after April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Any week	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 once payment is received and processed

### Do Scouts have to take both hours of a two-hour class consecutively?

Yes. Scouts must take both hours of a two-hour class sequentially and may not divide up those hours. Two-hour classes include Environmental Science, Horsemanship, Rifle Shooting, among others.

### Are there classes that are not merit badges?

Yes. Beginner Swimming, BSA Lifeguard, and Mile Swim are all skill certifications and not merit badges. Open Swim, offered from 3-5pm each day, is also not a badge or certification.

### Do Brownsea Island Scouts earn any merit badges?

Yes and no. Brownsea Island is an all-day, all-week program focused on imparting Scouting's essential skills and methods onto your newest Scouts and getting them requirements for the ranks of Scout through First Class. Because of the program's focus, Scouts in Brownsea Island do not have time to earn merit badges through regular classes, however, requirements for the First Aid merit badge are part of the program. There will also be an option for the Swimming merit badge during the week.

BSI Scouts will have an opportunity to take morning or evening badges such as Fishing or Bird Study.

### How do I make changes to my Scouts' schedules?

Changes can be made online up to one week before you arrive at camp, and with the Program Director at camp.

### What are the merit badge prerequisites and fees?

Please read through the merit badge descriptions at the end of this guide. If a Scout wishes to complete the merit badge at camp, then he or she must provide evidence of completing the listed prerequisites. There are no additional costs to take merit badges at Camp Ottari. Scouts will receive all necessary materials (such as basket kits) on the first day of class.

## End of the Week Checkout

### Friday Night Following Campfire

- Have Scouts pack all their gear except what they'll need for Saturday morning.
- Pack all of your unit's gear.
- An awards packet will be available on Friday night. Brownsea Island Scouts and Adult Leaders will have a separate form showing the work they completed during the week. Leaders can print blue cards from C.A.M.P. on line after they return home.

### Saturday Checkout

- A continental breakfast is served in the open style from 7:00-8:15AM.
- You will need to obtain sanitizer spray for your cots from the checkout commissioners posted nearest to your campsite.
- The site should be policed for trash, and the shower facilities used by your unit should be checked for cleanliness before leaving.
- Set trash bags by your campsite sign for pickup.
- Return all equipment to the Quartermaster. Your Blue Book should be returned to the Welcome Center before you leave to avoid fees.
- Check your advancement packet for medical forms, patches, and advancement completion at the Welcome Center. You can pick up your packet from 7:30–9:00am in the Welcome Center from the Camp Director.

## Return Shuttle to Powhatan

Scouts participating in programs at other camps will be returned, upon request, on Saturday morning only by our staff shuttle service. Your unit should submit a shuttle request form, found in your Blue Book, as early in the week as possible to the Welcome Center requesting the return of your Scouts and what time you would like them back at Powhatan (must be turned in by dinner on Thursday to allow shuttles to be coordinated). Units must provide transportation if your Scouts from other programs need to be returned to camp on Friday. Please bring extra tents as we are unable provide extra housing for non-Powhatan Scouts.

## Important Information

### Switching Leaders and Visitors in Camp

We understand that taking an entire week off to come to camp can be difficult for our Leaders and we welcome adults to switch out mid-week. However, it is important that your unit does not exceed the number of adult spots that it paid for. For example, a unit that pays for 3 adult leaders cannot have more than 3 adults spending the night or eating meals at one time. A new leader coming in must sign in and obtain a colored wristband from the Welcome Center when he or she arrives. The adult that is leaving must also sign out at the Welcome Center.

All visitors coming in for the day must sign in at the Welcome Center and receive a visitor's wristband. If they plan to eat meals in the Dining Hall, they should pay for them there and receive a special wristband that will serve as their meal ticket. Visitors cannot spend the night at camp without paying the entire adult registration fee for a week at camp. We do not prorate our fees for nightly stays. No pets are allowed.

### Wildlife and Bears

The Blue Ridge Scout Reservation is a habitat for an abundance of wildlife ranging from raccoons to bears. In observance of their habitat and in an effort to avoid endangering these animals and our customers, the BRSR has a strict wildlife management policy. The Ranger reserves the right to fine any violators of our policy which is described in the Reservation Guide.

## **Tent Damage**

Our canvas wall tents and Adirondacks are inspected weekly as part of the checkout process for any damage. All damage to tents when you arrive at camp must be reported to your campsite commissioner on the first day. Any new damage to tents caused by your unit will result in a charge of \$25 per inch of damage. Please do not attempt to repair damaged tents yourself. The commissioner staff must be notified as soon as possible. Duct Tape should never be used to patch tents.

## **Contagious Disease**

The Blue Ridge Mountains Council takes the safety and welfare of its staff and participants very seriously. As such, all units will be stopped at our camp entrance and asked if anyone has experienced nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever-like symptoms during the week prior to camp starting. Please ask any Scouts or adults with symptoms like these to stay home so that we may protect the welfare of all those at camp. The Health Officers may quarantine entire units, as well as campsites, if they suspect a risk of contagion.

## **Advancement**

Summer camp has traditionally been viewed as a convenient place where Scouts can earn several merit badges in a short amount of time. At the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation, however, we offer much more than merit badges. During their week at camp, Scouts will grow mentally, physically, and spiritually as they interact with their peers in a safe and positive environment that revolves around recreational swimming, hiking, shooting, campfires, sports, and games. Though advancement is still integral to our summer camp experience, we encourage and offer opportunities for much more than organized lessons. We encourage all our units to take advantage of these opportunities.

## **Merit Badges**

All badges will be taught based on the requirements found in the most recent edition of the BSA's requirement book. Please check to make sure your merit badge books contain the same requirements. Campers seeking to take a merit badge must pre-register online through C.A.M.P. Online.

It is the responsibility of each Scout to choose and prepare for each merit badge that he or she wishes to take in advance of their week at camp. Prerequisites exist for many of the badges and are outlined in this guide. To prevent partials, please make sure your Scouts come to camp with these prerequisites completed and appropriate proof of completion (i.e. examples of their work or a note from their Scoutmaster).

To ensure quality and safe instruction, class sizes are limited according to the number of instructors, equipment, and other factors.

## **Difficulty Scale**

**Advanced Badge:** badges in this category are the most difficult to complete at summer camp due to the course content, number of prerequisites, and expected ability level of the Scouts. Advanced badges are highly recommended for your oldest Scouts who are First Class and above.

**Moderate Badge:** badges in this category can be easily earned at camp by experienced Scouts but have a few prerequisites to complete at home.

**Basic Badge:** badges in this category have few, if any, prerequisites. These courses are excellent for Scouts of all ages and ability levels.

**A complete list of Merit Badges offered at camp in 2020 will be released in February**