



Camp Powhatan

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 4PM. 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 the Handicraft Shelter:

- 2 copies of rosters for all Scouts and Adults. Be sure to bring rosters for all programs (BSI, NRA, 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 and will not go to Handicraft.

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 New River Adventure and/or Brownsea Island if you have participants in these programs.
- Our camp "Blue Book" which contains important forms and schedules for you to reference and use throughout the week.
- Information about our leader training for the week.

Camp Tour

The Camp Tour begins when your unit arrives on Sunday. Your unit will be taken to your campsite for the week and you will be given a short amount of time to unload gear (one car at a time is allowed in camp so please consolidate gear into the fewest vehicles possible). Then your assigned guide will take your unit to each program area to show the Scouts the layout of the camp.

As part of the tour, your unit will do the following mandatory things:

- 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.
- Health Checks at the OA Shelter where staff will review each participant's physical and ask about any changes that could affect their ability to participate in the week's activities. Units are encouraged to organize their medical forms alphabetically to make this process easier. A complete BSA Health and Safety Form is required for all participants on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation.



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** will be completed after the health checks. Each Scout and adult will receive a buddy tag at health checks and the unit will be led to the waterfront to complete their BSA swim test. Participants must take the swim test in our lake due to the lake's colder temperatures.

- Those in New River Adventure, Canoe the New, and Brownsea Island take the swim test on Sunday.
- Base Camp Scouts NOT taking a Waterfront merit badge will also take their swim test on Sunday.
- Base Camp Scouts taking a Waterfront merit badge will take their swim test on Monday during that merit badge's class period.
- Scouts attending Claytor Lake or programs at Ottari (Mountain Man, High Knoll, or NYLT) will complete their medical checks and swim tests at those camps.

Shuttles to Other Camps

On Sunday, there will be two shuttles from Powhatan to the Claytor Lake Aquatics Base and Camp Ottari for Scouts participating in programs based at those camps. The shuttles will leave from the Handicraft Shelter at 2PM 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 Powhatan.

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 son or daughter's arrival to discuss any concerns.

Your Week at Camp

Leaders' Meetings

There will be an opening leaders meeting on Sunday after second dinner (around 7:15PM) in the OA Shelter. Following that, there will be daily leaders meetings at 8:30AM in the OA Shelter. These meetings are an important source of information and a time to ask questions of our senior staff members. Please send at least one representative from your unit to each meeting. Senior Patrol Leaders are welcome to attend.

Opening Campfire

There will be an opening campfire on Sunday evening to get everyone started for the week. Units should line up on the Parade Field at 8:30PM on Sunday.

Mealtimes

Powhatan has two mealtimes and a consolidated, open-style lunch for the entire camp. Flags are in between breakfasts and dinners and are a time where important program announcements are made. Units are asked to wear Class A to dinner. Class B is recommended for breakfast and lunch since many activities are going on directly following these meals.

Morning		Afternoon	
7:00AM	First Breakfast	2:00-5:00PM	Merit Badge Classes
7:45AM	Flags/Second Breakfast	5:30PM	First Dinner
8:30AM	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 Chapel	8:00PM	Trash Run
11:45AM-12:45PM	Lunch - open, clean up after yourself	11:00PM	All Quiet in Camp

Merit Badge Program

Powhatan provides over numerous classes each week as part of its base camp program. From Basketry and Nature to Archaeology, Game Design, and a multitude of Eagle Required badges, the Powhatan program provides a diversity of choices for your Scouts. 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. 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 th , 2020	Any week	April 4 th , 2020
April 15 th , 2020	Any week	April 25 th , 2020
On or after April 16, 2020	Any week	May 1, 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, and Personal Fitness, 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 4-5 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 Fingerprinting 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 after the Sunday night campfire.

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 Powhatan. 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.
- Send adult representatives to the Dining Hall to pick up your Merit Badge completion records, medical forms, and participant patches. Area Directors will be in the dining hall to answer any questions and correct any potential errors regarding your Scout's advancement. Upon returning home, Leaders may print blue cards from C.A.M.P. Online.
- If leaving before 6AM on Saturday, set a time for your checkout inspection with the office staff in the camp's

Welcome Center by noon on Friday.

Saturday Checkout

- Checkout starts at 6AM. Checkout commissioners will be available near your campsite location (typically out on the road between sites). Send representatives to the nearest checkout commissioner to your campsite any time after 6AM Saturday for checkout and inspection.
- A continental breakfast is served in the open style from 7:00-8:30AM.
- 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.

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