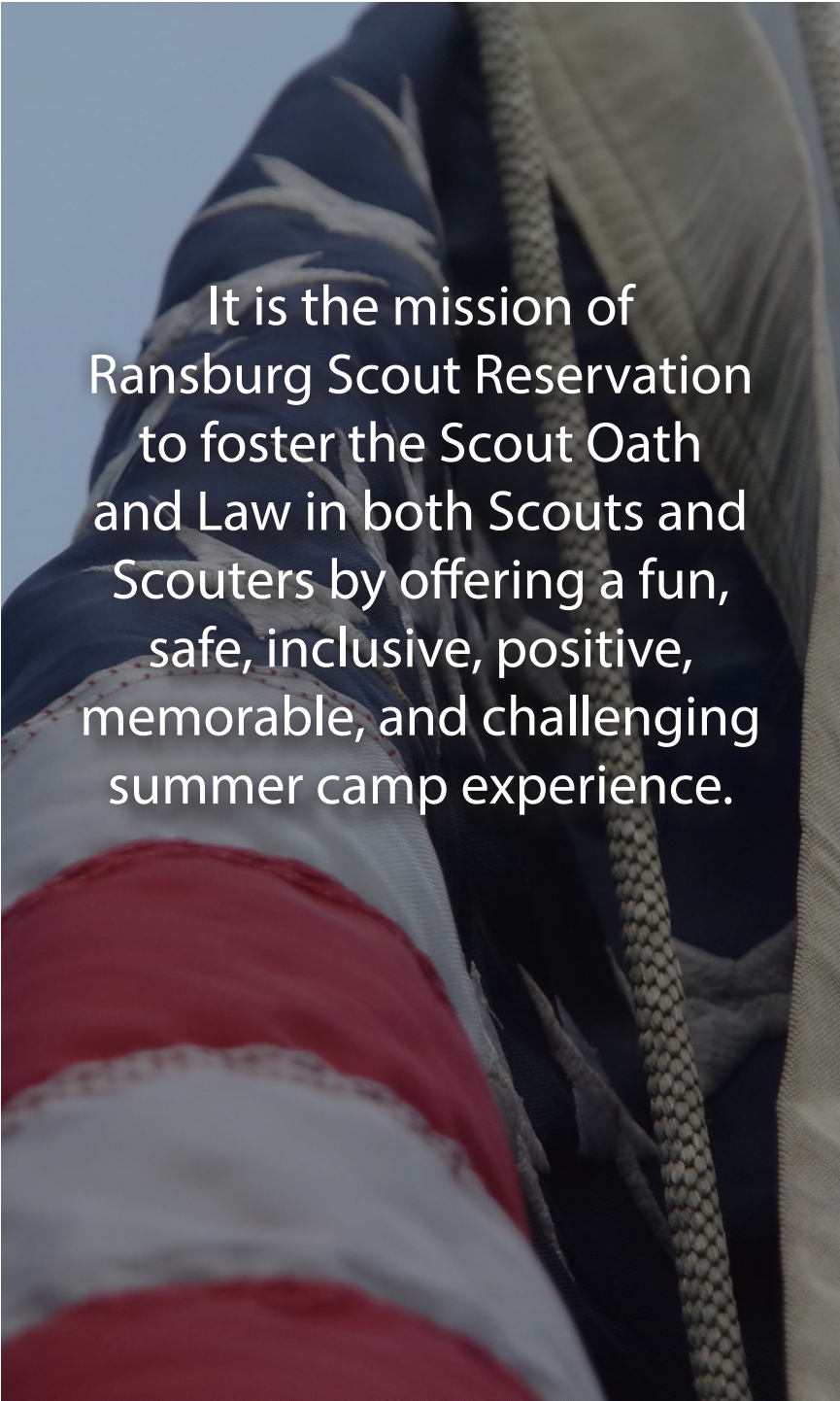




# 2018 CAMPING GUIDE

A close-up, low-angle shot of an American flag, showing the stars and stripes. A thick, light-colored rope is draped over the flag, adding texture and depth to the image. The background is a clear blue sky.

It is the mission of  
Ransburg Scout Reservation  
to foster the Scout Oath  
and Law in both Scouts and  
Scouters by offering a fun,  
safe, inclusive, positive,  
memorable, and challenging  
summer camp experience.



# Welcome

Nestled in Hoosier National Forest, Ransburg Scout Reservation is located on the beautiful Monroe Reservoir near Bloomington, Indiana. We continue to be the premier Scout camp in the midwest because of our diverse programs, state of the art facilities, excellent camp staff, and our commitment to outstanding service to Scouts and leaders.

We know that there are many great camps to choose from and are very happy that Ransburg Scout Reservation is your choice. We hope to serve you to the best of our ability and want your camp experience to be outstanding for both you and your Scouts. If you

have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us and we will respond as best we can.

Thank you in advance for placing your trust in Ransburg Scout Reservation. We are eager to serve and hope this guide will assist you in making your plans.



*Jeff Cox*  
Jeff Cox

Reservation Director



# CONTENTS

## Welcome

**2** From the Camp Director

**4** Contents

**6** Ransburg History



## Planning

**8** Contact Us

**10** Camp Dates

**12** Fees

**14** Directions

**16** Health Form Information

**18** Campsites

**20** Week Check In/Out

**24** Health Lodge

**25** Trading Post

**26** Meals & Dining Hall

**28** Adult Leaders

**30** Tips to Consider

# Program

- 32** Merit Badges
- 42** Aquatics
- 36** ATV Adventure
- 50** Communications
- 62** Eagle Quest
- 40** Firecrafter
- 58** Handicraft
- 38** High Adventure
- 54** Nature Center
- 66** OA Area
- 60** Ranch
- 34** RansburgX
- 56** Scoutcraft
- 46** Shooting Sports
- 56** Sports
- 48** STEM



## Other

- 66** Camp Policies
- 69** Emergency Procedures

“We are not a club or  
Sunday school class,  
but a school of the  
woods.”

Baden Powell

# RANSBURG SCOUT RESERVATION



Prior to 1966 the Central Indiana Council was interested in buying property on the soon to be flooded area of Monroe Reservoir. The council was able to locate acreage near the Harden Ridge boat ramp and beach across the lake from the now Four Winds Marina. With land identified, they needed the funding to buy the property. Frank Chase, the Scout Executive, went to Harper Ransburg to help fund the purchase of the property. He asked Mr. Ransburg and he quickly agreed. In addition other members of the Council purchased land

[Return to Contents](#)



on and near the future lake.

The Army Corps of Engineers found that they needed property near the dam for a boat ramp and so they approached the council with an offer to trade the land the Council owned near the dam for another property north on the lake. That traded property is now what we know of as Ransburg Scout Reservation.

In the Summer of 1966 Camp Ransburg opened as a Scout Summer camp. The inside page of the program for the opening says:

**“Toward the  
molding of men...”**

and it is as true today as it was almost 50 years go. As

deeply rooted in the heart of each staff member as it was in the men who helped bring the camp to life.

Ransburg Scout Reservation was constructed to serve the scouts of the then Central Indiana Council (now Crossroads of America Council), but today scouts from all over the world attend one of our nine weeks of summer camp.

Reservations for Crossroads of America Council troops begin the first business day of May the year prior to camp. Other councils can begin making reservations June 2 of the year prior to the summer they plan to attend.

# CONTACT US

There are multiple ways to contact Ransburg Scout Reservation including: Email, Phone, FAX, U.S. Mail, Facebook, Twitter.

## Email

Our general email address is:

[support@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:support@ransburgbsa.org)

However, you can also email each of the leadership team and most program areas using the addresses listed.

## Sending Mail

Parents are encouraged to send a letter or a package to their son

or daughter at Ransburg Scout Reservation. Allow a minimum of 3 days delivery time. Items arriving after Scout's departure will be returned to sender when possible. To ensure delivery, have the campsite and troop number listed and addressed in the following manner:

(Scout's Name)

(campsite)

(Troop number)

Ransburg Scout Reservation

7599 E. Waldrip Creek Rd.

Bloomington, IN 47401

## Leadership

Jeffrey Cox

Reservation Director

[jeff@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:jeff@ransburgbsa.org)

Chris Myers

Assistant Reservation Director

[chris@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:chris@ransburgbsa.org)

Zach White

Assistant Reservation Director

[zwhite@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:zwhite@ransburgbsa.org)

Liz van Hoose

Program Director

[liz@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:liz@ransburgbsa.org)

Matthew Payne

Assistant Program Director

[mpayne@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:mpayne@ransburgbsa.org)

Matthew Long

Camp Commissioner

[matthewlong@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:matthewlong@ransburgbsa.org)

Sarah Covey

Camp Business Manager

[sarah@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:sarah@ransburgbsa.org)

Keith Korn

Camp Ranger



Phone (812) 837 9423

Fax (812) 837 9397



Share your images on social media!

## Like and Follow RansburgBSA



[/RansburgBSA](https://www.facebook.com/RansburgBSA)



[RansburgBSA](https://www.instagram.com/RansburgBSA)



[@RansburgBSA](https://twitter.com/RansburgBSA)



[RansburgBSA](https://www.youtube.com/RansburgBSA)

## Program Areas

Aquatics

[aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org)

Order of the Arrow

[oa@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:oa@ransburgbsa.org)

Eagle Quest

[eaglequest@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:eaglequest@ransburgbsa.org)

Ranch

[ranch@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:ranch@ransburgbsa.org)

Firecrafter

[firecrafter@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:firecrafter@ransburgbsa.org)

Scoutcraft

[scoutcraft@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:scoutcraft@ransburgbsa.org)

Handicraft

[handicraft@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:handicraft@ransburgbsa.org)

Shooting Sports

[shootingsports@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:shootingsports@ransburgbsa.org)

High Adventure

[highadventure@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:highadventure@ransburgbsa.org)

Sports

[sports@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:sports@ransburgbsa.org)

Nature

[nature@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:nature@ransburgbsa.org)

STEM

[stem@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:stem@ransburgbsa.org)

# CAMP DATES

Having a successful week at Ransburg starts well before coming to camp. We strongly encourage contacting camp about dietary restrictions and sending copies of your health forms for pre-review, pre-camp swim checks, or special needs and requests. Please finalize all communication with camp at least two weeks prior to your arrival. These actions will ensure that we are well prepared for your stay. The safety of everyone is important, pay particular attention to any allergies and alert us well within two weeks of arrival.

Beyond this camping guide you should be sure to regularly check both the [Crossroads of America](#) and [Ransburg Reservation websites](#).

## Before Camp

Contact us about dietary restrictions.

Send us your health forms

Send us your pre-camp swim checks

Camp Sessions			
Session 1	June 3	-	June 9
Session 2	June 12	-	June 16
Session 3	June 19	-	June 23
Session 4	June 24	-	June 30
Session 5	July 1	-	July 7
Session 6	July 8	-	July 14
Session 7	July 15	-	July 21
Session 8	July 22	-	July 28
Session 9	July 29	-	Aug 4

## Camp Promotion

You should hold a camp promotion for your troop sometime between December and February. Your promotion plan should include a parent meeting, video presentations, date and fee schedule, and collecting of camper deposits.

The Ransburg Reservation portal is a good resource for your promotion. It not only contains the information in this guide, but information specifically tailored for scouts, leaders and parents. It is advisable to point scouts and parents to their respective sections of the portal.

“A scout is never taken by surprise: he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens.”

Baden Powell  
[Return to Contents](#)

Scouts work on the ranks of Firecrafter



# CAMP FEES



We believe that every boy should experience the magic of a Boy Scout summer camp and so we keep the cost of attending as low as possible. Countless volunteer hours, financial gifts and a strong commitment to the vision and mission of the Boy Scouts of America all contribute to keeping our fees very reasonable when compared to what is offered. If you want to know more about how you can help, whether it be through our service corps or a gift please inquire at the camp or council office.

## Camperships

A strong work ethic and self-reliance is a lesson that Scouting has been teaching for many years. However, if a Scout is unable to be part of a Scouting event due to lack of funds, he may never learn this lesson. The workshop program begins this lesson by allowing Scouts to identify a “good turn” work project for which he could be awarded up to 50% of his camp fee. Applications are due by March 4th, with projects completed prior to camp. Workshops are available for Crossroads of America Council Scouts attending Ransburg Scout Reservation. Other councils have similar programs for their Scout families.



## Refunds

Camp fees are generally not refundable other than in the case of hardships or an emergency. In order to be considered for reimbursement, a refund must be requested by the unit leadership during camp. A portion of the fee is non-refundable but is transferable to a new Scout reservation. All refunds will be reviewed following camp and reimbursement should be completed by September 30th.





A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.



Baden Powell

# CAMP FEES

2018 Fees			
	Early Bird	Regular	Late
Site Fee	\$50 (paid once per troop)		
In-Council Scouts	\$290	\$310	\$330
Out of Council Scouts	\$315	\$335	\$355
Leaders	\$135		

## Deadlines:

\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit Per Scout Due February 15th, 2018

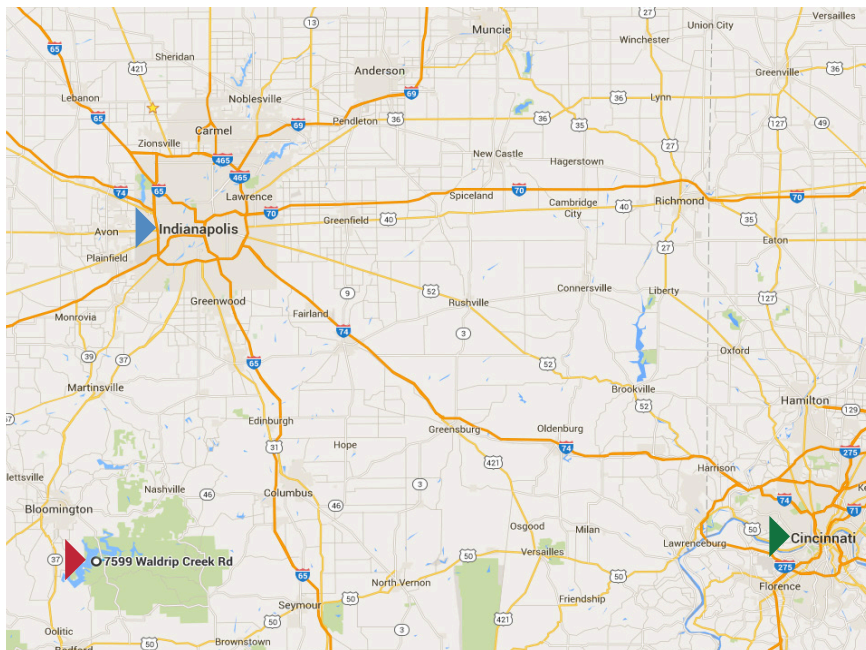
Balance Due for Early Fee by April 15th, 2018

Balance Due for Regular Fee by May 15, 2018

Balance For Late Fee Beginning May 16th, 2018



[Return to Contents](#)



# GETTING TO CAMP

## From Indianapolis

Take State Road 37 south to Bloomington. Turn left (east) on State Road 46 East (the by-pass around Bloomington). Follow State Road 46 East as it turns left (east) at the College Mall. Turn right (south) on State Road 446 East (approx. two miles from the College Mall) and follow it about 10 miles (one mile past the Lake Monroe causeway). On the top of the hill is Ransburg Scout Reservation's entrance on the right (west). Follow the gravel road to the main parking lot.

## From Cincinnati

Take Interstate 275 West to US 50 (Lawrenceburg Exit). Go west on US 50 to State Road 446. Turn right and go west on State Road 446 for about 17 miles (before the Lake Monroe causeway). On the top of the hill is Ransburg Scout Reservation's entrance on the left (east). Follow the gravel road to the main parking lot.

[Click for directions from your current location!](#)



◀ Lots of interesting sights!

Scouts  
learn about  
nature ▶



Creating in Handicraft



“ A boy can see the smoke rising from Sioux villages under the shadow of the Albert memorial. ”

Baden Powell

[Return to Contents](#)

# ANNUAL HEALTH FORMS

An Annual Health and Medical Record with a doctor's signature and date within the past year is required for EVERYONE regardless of how long you will be in camp. Even if they are going to be in camp one night you still need a doctor's exam and it must be signed by a parent or guardian and physician within 12 months of the time they are in camp.

ONLY the Boy Scouts of America Annual Health and Medical Record form will be allowed as per national requirements and standards. School physical forms, sports physical forms, or high adventure base medical record forms (i.e. Northern Tier or Seabase) will not be accepted. They will also NOT be accepted if they are stapled to the BSA form. The information and doctor's signature must be on the Annual Health and Medical Record.

The Crossroads of America Council has made modifications



to the Talent Release section of the Medical Record. A tradition throughout the council and at Ransburg Scout Reservation is to make multimedia part of the week-long summer camp experience. As a result, numerous pictures are taken throughout the week at summer camp, and a slideshow is presented at the closing campfire. This is an exciting closing to the week at Ransburg, and is an integral part to the experience. Therefore, Ransburg Scout Reservation requires inclusion of this talent release. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of Ransburg Scout Reservation's Leadership Team.

Download the most current  
Crossroads of America Health  
Form [Here](#).  
["2014 Printing"](#)

It is highly recommended that you send in the Annual Health and Medical Records from your troop to camp prior to your camping week. The Health Lodge staff will review this forms for completion to ensure that no holdups will be found during the scout's medical recheck. Please include the following information:

**Troop Number and council/district**  
**Week you will be attending**  
**Roster of the included forms**

Please send them all sent at once or in large groups, and not individually. Please use the US Postal Service sent to the camp address. Please do not fax them in bulk or individually to camp.





“

A boy on joining wants to  
begin Scouting right away.

”

Baden Powell

As the adult leader, it is required that you check and review, before coming to camp (with enough time for corrections), the Annual Health and Medical Record forms checking for the following errors and omissions:

- Missing date under the doctor's signature in Part C
- Missing doctor's signature in Part C
- Missing parent/guardian signature in Part B
- Physical dated within the past year (Mandatory)
- Missing Health History (Part A)
- Missing immunization record and dates in part A
- Missing Health Insurance card copy and information



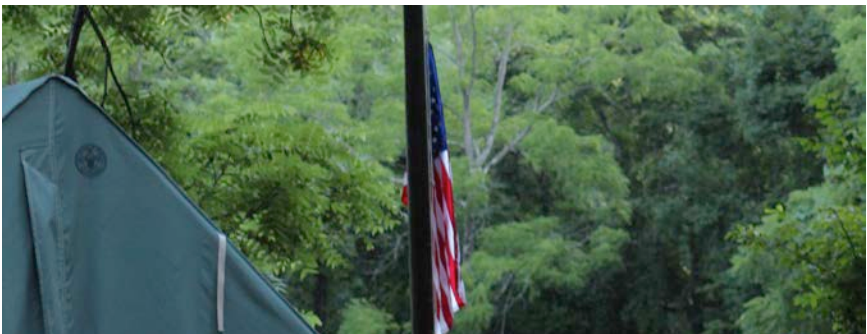
[Return to Contents](#)

# CAMPSITES

Ransburg Scout Reservation provides quality equipment and a prepared campsite for each troop in camp. It is important to complete the equipment request and return it to Ransburg Scout Reservation two weeks in advance of your stay in camp. This will allow us to prepare your campsite prior to your arrival. Each campsite is fully equipped with the following items:

- Wall tents on platforms
- Cot for each participant
- 2" mattress for each cot
- Permanent shelter with picnic table
- Latrine with running water, toilet paper and cleaning supplies
- Solar lights in the shelter and latrine
- Flag pole with American Flag
- Broom and hose at the latrine

Additional equipment available to be checked out from the Quartermaster (e.g. Dutch Oven, Cook kit)





“ The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy. ”  
Baden Powell





# CHECK-IN

When arriving at Ransburg Scout Reservation, please be sure that the Scoutmaster reports to the check-in table located at the STEM Center. The SPL should stay with the staff guide and lead the troop through the camp check-in process which will include unloading of gear, medical checks, a tour of camp, and a swimming ability check. The check-in process has been developed to reduce the amount of time each troop spends

at each stop, as there are many things to accomplish on this day. Your guide will be the key staff member responsible for keeping your troop on this schedule. National BSA has established an aquatics guideline. Troops with qualified lifeguards may take their swim check on their own prior to camp and communicate it to our staff. This can save time at check-in. Our aquatics staff may re-test swimming abilities at their discretion.







Scouts travel to different areas in some Nature Center merit badges

## Check-In Schedule

Time	Activity
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Check-In at the STEM Center
4:30 pm	Leadership meeting at the Inlow Aquatics Center. Be sure to have at least one adult leader and the SPL in attendance
5:45 pm	Early Dinner
6:20 pm	Flag Lowering
6:30 pm	Late Dinner
7:15 pm	Merit Badge Schedule Changes
7:45 pm	All-faith Chapel Service
8:15 pm	Gather at flagpoles for Campfire

Scouts plan and cook meals in Cooking Merit Badge





Scouts waterski on Lake Monroe in the Watersports Merit Badge

# CHECK-OUT

A continental breakfast will be served Saturday in the dining hall. Remember that another troop will be using the campsite after you have left, so please be courteous to your fellow Scouts and leave the campsite in good condition. There is no provision for 2nd week campers to stay over on weekends; so if a Scout is staying for a second week of camp, please make sure the scout is picked up on Saturday and returned on Sunday.

Check-Out Schedule	
Time	Activity
7:30 am	Pickup final merit badge information. Each troop should review all advancement records prior to departure. Discrepancies are best corrected now while you are still in camp with the Program Director.
7:15 am or 8:00 am	Enjoy a continental breakfast in the dining hall.
7:50 am	Flag Raising
8:45 - 9:00 am	Your staff guide will meet you at your campsite to complete a campsite check-out.
after campsite checkout	Check-out at the health lodge. Pick-up medical forms and turn in medication box, lock, key, and log.
after health lodge checkout	Check out at the camp office. Pay for any damaged camp equipment and turn in any remaining evaluations.

# HEALTH LODGE

The staff at Ransburg takes the safety of its campers very seriously. Our Health Lodge is located in main camp, just a few steps away from the Camp Office. We are committed to providing friendly, helpful service to Scouts and Scouters with all kinds of health and safety needs. Whether it's cleaning a cut or scrape, lifting a camper's spirits after a rough day, or tending to more serious injuries, our fully-trained medical staff take great strides to make Scouts feel comfortable with any health needs they may have, all the while taking care to keep all personal medical information private and confidential. To facilitate this care, a staff member is available in the Health Lodge 24 hours a day. A friendly Health Lodge Officer is just a door-knock away.



▲ The Health Lodge is located near the office

“

Be Prepared... the meaning of the motto is that a scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise. ”

Baden Powell

[Review Emergency Procedures on P. 69](#)

In addition to learning, scouts also have fun



[Return to Contents](#)



# TRADING POST



There are many awesome items for Scouts and Scouters to purchase, including Ransburg memorabilia, at the Trading Post.

The Ransburg Scout Reservation trading post provides a full selection of souvenirs, Scouting items and snacks for sale during your stay. The following is a list of some of our available items: Ransburg Scout Reservation mugs, neckerchiefs, walking stick medallions, T-shirts, Scout knives, flashlights, Scout items, craft kits, merit badge pamphlets, songbooks, handbooks, Scout socks, belts, council strips, snacks and drinks.

It is suggested that Scouts use a gift card available at the Indianapolis Scout Shop or at the Trading Post instead of carrying cash. This keeps the Scout from losing his money, and can serve as a method of teaching thriftiness.

We accept Cash, Mastercard/Visa and Crossroads of America Council gift cards.

The Trading Post carries many of the Merit Badge Books offered in camp



# RANSBURG DINING

Some troops prepare  
their own meal  
Wednesday night.

Ransburg Scout Reservation has employed a professional food service management company to provide quality food for Scouts and leaders.

A licensed dietician has reviewed the menus for balanced nutrition.

In the event that you wish to invite guests to dine with your troop at camp, meal tickets can be purchased at the camp office. Please purchase these tickets two days prior to the arrival of your guests. Meals cost \$9.50

## Special Dietary Needs

We want your stay at camp to be enjoyable. If Scouts and leaders need special meal substitutes because of dietary restrictions, please notify the camp office in writing (through mail, email, or fax) at least two weeks prior to your troops arrival. You can also email our dining hall operations directly at [zwhite@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:zwhite@ransburgbsa.org)



## Wednesday Night Meal

Meals will not be served on Wednesday nights. It is important each troop make plans for an alternate source of food on the Wednesday night meal. Some troops over the years have chosen to order pizza from town and others have chosen to cook in their campsite. Special arrangements will be made to have pizzas delivered to camp for those troops wishing to order pizza. A special pizza order form will be available on Sunday. Troops should plan on a nominal fee for this pizza meal. Special arrangements can also be made to support those who wish to cook in their campsite. If you are planning to cook in your campsite on Wednesday night and need help getting the food you need, inquire in the camp office as to how we can help.



◀ Cooking merit badge

“

A scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances. ”

Baden Powell



▲  
Scouts watch the sunset from  
Fossil Beach

# ADULT LEADERS

“Can we not interpret our adult wisdom into the language of boyhood?”  
Baden Powell

Ransburg Reservation offers many opportunities and activities for adults. We understand the sacrifice every adult makes to be at camp with their Scouts and we do what we can to help make their stay enjoyable and productive as possible.

## [Scout Leader Services](#)

Ransburg Scout Reservation offers leaders opportunities to learn and have fun while at summer camp. We will always have fresh coffee, Scouting-related information and comfortable chairs in the air-conditioned Scout leaders' lounge, which is located in the Inlow Aquatics Center.

## [Leader Meetings](#)

There will be an important troop leader meeting on Sunday at 4:30 pm. Scout leader Mug Club meetings are held weekday mornings. Each troop should have a leader present to receive all necessary information for the day's program. SPL meetings are held daily.



[Return to Contents](#)





Adult leaders have a tremendous impact on their scout's experiences at camp

### Leader Activities & Training

During your week at camp, qualified trainers will offer adult training in: Youth Protection, CPR, Climb On Safely Trek Safely, Religious Emblem, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Merit Badge Counselor Training, Homesickness Training, Outdoor Leader Skills, Scoutmaster Specific, Troop Committee Challenge, This is Scouting, Paddle Craft Safety, Swimming and Water Rescue and Leave No Trace.

Scoutmasters need to enter into boys' ambitions. ”

Baden Powell

Leaders can also take a pontoon boat ride around the lake during one of our scheduled boat rides.

The Scout leader bake-off is a popular tradition where Scout leaders compete with their best Dutch oven cooking. Equipment is available for check-out through the Quartermaster.

### The Leader's Role

A teacher, a listener, a motivator, a disciplinarian, these are just a few roles of a Scout leader. In camp, this is only amplified. Thus, it is required that every troop have at least two adult leaders (at least one must be 21 years of age) in camp at all times. Though a leader's role in camp is probably the most challenging, it is also the most rewarding. The staff at Ransburg Scout Reservation understands the challenge and the reward, so we are always willing to help when needed.

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Ransburg Scout Reservation has been providing a summer home to Scouts for over half a century, and we have learned a few things that might help you with your stay in camp...

- Uniforms are encouraged for chapel service, campfires, evening flag ceremonies and evening meals.
- Merit badges are not the only things going on at Ransburg. We encourage troops to try new adventures and activities and allow time to participate in open-program!
- Be prepared for camp. Check equipment needs before coming.
- Take time to enjoy the beauty of the Hoosier National Forest, Lake Monroe, and Ransburg Scout Reservation.
- Show troop spirit! The troop that comes to camp with ideas and spirit challenges the rest of camp to come alive.
- If you have a special `need or want to do something spectacular, tell us about it and we will give it our best shot.
- It is unfortunate when someone loses something of value. Please have a plan for storing valuables.





Be prepared and plan ahead to have the best experiences while at camp!

Consider packing the following:

- Complete Boy Scout uniform (worn at dinner)
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt
- Swimming trunks
- Comfortable hiking boots, athletic shoes
- Boating merit badges require a pair of shoes that can get wet
- Horsemanship Merit Badge and trail rides require shoes with a heel.
- Long pants are also required to ride horses at the Ranch.
- Poncho or raincoat
- Toiletry kit (toothbrush, towel, soap, comb, etc.)
- Notebook, pencil, pen and Scout Handbook
- Sun block
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Watch, first aid kit, camera, sewing kit, religious materials
- Folding pocketknife (locking blades are encouraged)
- Medical Form and prescription medication in its original container.
- \$55 or more for spending money and merit badge projects.

It is recommended that portable radios, electronic games and other valuables be left at home. Theft is extremely rare, but it can happen even at a Boy Scout camp.



The most important object in Boy Scout training is to educate, not instruct.



Baden Powell

“The Scoutmaster must be alert to check badge hunting as compared to badge earning.”  
Baden Powell





# MERIT BADGES

Merit badges are important at Ransburg Scout Reservation, but keep in mind there are many other activities in camp that are beneficial for Scouts. Sometimes, just “hanging out” in the campsite or around camp is just fine for a Scout. We have qualified staff that holds to the requirements of merit badges as listed. Some of our prerequisites are written work or item that can be completed at home prior to camp. Ten minutes of travel time is built into all merit badge sessions. A merit badge that is from 9:00 am-10:00 am is actually only 50 minutes long. Even with 10 minutes of travel time, getting from one merit badge in Aquatics to another in the STEM Center can be difficult.

Ransburg Scout Reservation utilizes an online system to schedule and document the advancement of each scout while at camp. Merit badges are chosen through the Scouting Event Reservation Portal. The portal is configured with the current year’s merit badges in early April. Please schedule all of your Scouts using this system.

This guide does not contain any information regarding merit badge schedules. Please check the activity schedule on the Ransburg website for a full schedule of what will be offered this summer:

<http://www.ransburgbsa.org/activity-schedule>





“The spirit is  
there in every  
boy; it has to  
be discovered  
and brought  
to light.”  
Baden Powell



# RANSBURGX

At Ransburg, we know that as boys grow and change, so do their interests. That is why we are continuing a new and exciting program for older Scouts called RansburgX. The RansburgX program is designed to expose Scouts to a higher level of camping adventure—with everything from ATVs, mountain boarding, climbing, caving, and more.

Boys interested in participating in RansburgX must be sixteen (16) years old or older. With a variety of programming options in camp, and an array of great adventure locations within a day's drive outside of camp, we expect the RansburgX program to continue to change and grow, bringing new activities for older boys looking for something new to try each and every year.



This program is a week long program scattered throughout mornings and afternoons. It is intended for those boys who have completed most activities offered at camp, but still want to attend for the week. RansburgX gives you the ability to return and support your troop, while still participating in a fun and exciting activity.





A boy is naturally full of humor.



Baden Powell





# ATV ADVENTURE

This year we are continuing our new and exciting program for older Scouts involving ATVs. The Ransburg ATV program is designed to expose Scouts to the ASI ATV training.

Space is limited; boys interested in participating must be sixteen (16) years old, or older, and must dedicate every morning during the week to the program (9:00 am-12:00 pm, M-F). All safety equipment is provided.

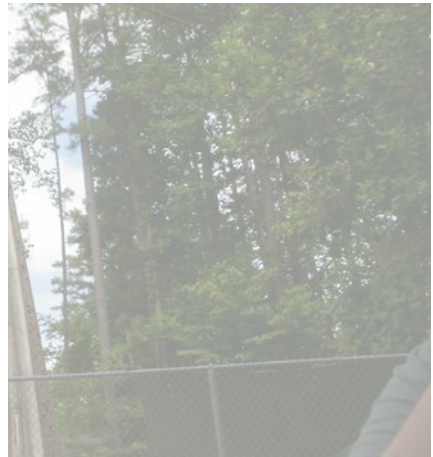
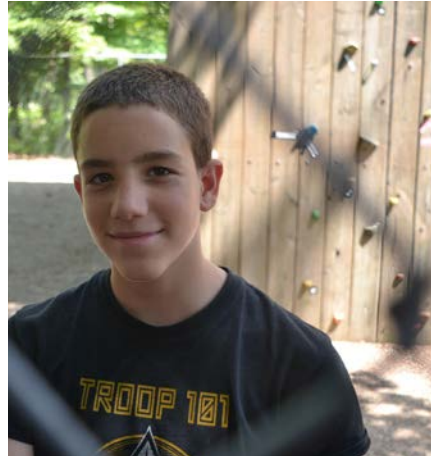


“Scoutmasters need to enter into boys’ ambitions.”

Baden Powell

[Return to Contents](#)

“A life without  
adventure  
would be  
deadly dull.”  
Baden Powell



# HIGH ADVENTURE

The high adventure area is one of the most popular areas in camp. We offer project C.O.P.E., high course, low courses, and a climbing wall.



Project C.O.P.E consists of team-building activities and a challenging ropes course. Its events are meant to inspire an individual to realize their potential. C.O.P.E's activities are carefully designed and constructed to offer its participants a challenging and exciting arena in which to challenge themselves. Climbing, swinging, balancing and experiencing the zip line are just a few of the activities that Scouts will encounter.

The Climbing Tower is individually challenging for all Scouts. Group size is limited. Boy Scouts of America Standards are followed for participant safety. These standards require Scouts must be 13 by January 1 of the current camping season to participate in the climbing program.

Scouts must be 13 years of age by January 1 of the year they are in camp to participate in C.O.P.E and will be required to wear long pants when participating in High Course events on Thursday and Friday.





### Camper

Camper is the first year program. All first year Scouts and Scouts new to Ransburg are encouraged to become Campers. The requirements cover camp citizenship, the Scout Oath and Law, the origins of Scouting, map and compass, hiking, and one hour of camp service.

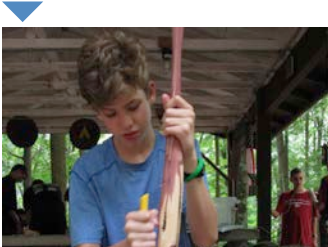
### Woodsmen

Woodsmen is the second year program. Those who completed Camper should be encouraged to become a Woodsmen. The Woodsmen rank covers camp skills (fire building, knot tying, knife and ax), nature, first aid, leadership, and two hours of service.

### Firecrafter

Firecrafter is the third year program for First Class Scouts and above. While some exceptional Firecrafters have attained it in their first or second year in camp, it is usually the third year before a Scout has the physical or emotional maturity to candidate for Firecrafter. The standards for the Firecrafter rank are high and include all areas of Scouting skills. The three most difficult requirements are planning and leading a campfire, building a fire by friction set, and the “unknown test” of the Firecrafter Ritual, which takes place after camp is over.

Scouts build a fire using a fire-by-friction set of their own creation as part of the requirements for the firecrafter rank



### Minisino

Minisino is a Miami Indian word meaning “tried and proven”. A youth is eligible to be tapped out for Minisino the 2nd summer following his becoming a Firecrafter. After a Firecrafter is tapped out he must successfully complete a two-week candidacy at one of the council camps.

[Return to Contents](#)



# FIRECRAFTER

Firecrafter is a camp rank system that recognizes and develops a Scout's camping skills. In Firecrafter, Scouts join a camping service organization that started in 1920 at Camp Chank-Tun-Un-Gi (now Belzer Scout Camp). This popular program is unique to the Crossroads of America Council, but open to all Scouts. The desire to be a Firecrafter is often the push a Scout needs to return to summer camp for another year or to give him the added confidence to strive for Eagle and other advancements.

The camp ranks can only be earned at camp. They serve to complement your Scout's advancement work. Most of the camp rank requirements are taken directly from Boy Scout rank advancements. Scouts may try for more than one rank during the week, but this is not encouraged.



“Loyalty is a feature in a boy's character that inspires boundless hope.”

Baden Powell

[Return to Contents](#)



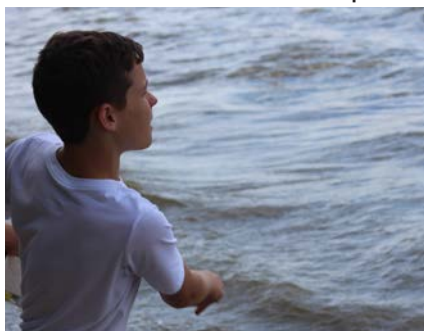
# AQUATICS

The Aquatics Area is one of the most popular areas in camp and features many activities other than the merit badge program.

Shoes that can get wet are required for scouts wishing to use any boating equipment, this includes the merit badges.

Scouts taking an Aquatics MB are encouraged to complete CPR and First Aid before coming to camp. It will not be part of the MB instruction, and is a prerequisite.

Check the RSR portal for a printable form you can use to track these prior to arriving at camp prerequisites.



“Boys can see adventure in a dirty old duck puddle and if the Scoutmaster is a boys’ man he can see it, too.”

Baden Powell



### Pre-Camp Swim Checks

If a unit chooses, it may conduct swim checks prior to coming to summer camp by following the procedures developed by the council aquatics committee. Ideally, this would be done as part of a year-round aquatics program.

1. Personnel -- The most important criteria is to have a certified adult conducting the tests. Certification would include Aquatics Instructor BSA, Lifeguard BSA, or Red Cross WSI. Those who administer individual tests to Scouts should be 1) adults with strong aquatics skills or 2) older Scouts with Lifesaving MB, Red Cross Lifeguard or BSA Lifeguard training and/or certification.

2. Safe Swim Defense -- A qualified person should review the Safe Swim Defense plan (and possibly the Safety Afloat plan as well) for the entire unit. All points of the Safe Swim Defense should be adhered to during the test, as during all swimming activities. One note here is that each Scout should have his camp medical turned in before taking the test.

3. Ability Classification -- Each classification should be administered individually with one guard following and watching a single swimmer for the duration of his test. If you do this at a pool, you could have one guard combination on each side of the pool and run Scouts through in a relatively short time.

4. Beginners Classification -- Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 25 feet, turn sharply and return to the starting point. (Emphasize the feet-first jump and the ability to turn without holding on to something).

5. Swimmers Classification -- Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 75 yards in a strong manner using any combination of accepted (crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen) strokes on your front or side. Continue swimming an additional 25 yards using a resting backstroke (elementary, not racing). At the end of the 100 yards, float on your back as motionless as possible.

6. Records -- Careful records should be kept that include Scout's name, medical check, swimming classification, date, and who supervised the testing procedure (include certification). Copies of these records should be provided to the Aquatics Director upon arrival in camp. To ensure these records are as expected, please email them to [aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org) at least two weeks prior to your arrival.



“ Vigorous Scout games are the best form of physical education because most of them bring in moral education. ”

Baden Powell





“When a boy finds  
someone who takes  
an interest in him, he  
responds and follows.”  
Baden Powell



[Return to Contents](#)

# SHOOTING SPORTS

Safety is the first consideration at Ransburg Scout Reservation ranges. When visiting a range, listen carefully to all instructions from the Range Safety Officers. The Range Safety Officers are certified in the use of all firearms at our ranges.



We use .22 caliber, single-shot, bolt-action rifles and 12-gauge shotguns. There is a \$20 charge for shotgun merit badge and a \$12 range fee for rifle shooting merit badge. Optional, yet highly recommended, shooting practice is offered daily at 2:00 pm for merit badge participants. Experience indicates that Scouts wanting to earn these merit badges should plan on attending these sessions.







Mad Science in the STEM Center





# STEM

“A fisherman does not bait his hook with food he likes. He uses food the fish likes. So with boys.”  
Baden Powell

The Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) center encourages scouts to further their interests in STEM. The area offers activities ranging from environmental science to robotics. It continues to be one of our most popular areas and a focus of current camp growth.

Astronomy night hikes are weather dependent.

Space exploration has a project fee. Please see the Activity Schedule, available at [www.ransburgbsa.org](http://www.ransburgbsa.org) for fees.



[Return to Contents](#)



“If you make listening and observation your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk.”

Baden Powell

# COMMUNICATIONS

The objective of the Communications area is to teach scouts the exciting ways to use and interact with technology, not only in the camp setting, but also at home.

Activities in this area spend a lot of time moving about camp. Participants will meet in the campfire ring on the first day, at which time a schedule will be devised for the rest of the week.



Scouts will have an opportunity to use a number of state of the art technologies such as iPads, video cameras, and media editing applications. Content created by participants will be showcased at the final campfire and in the following year version of this camping guide.







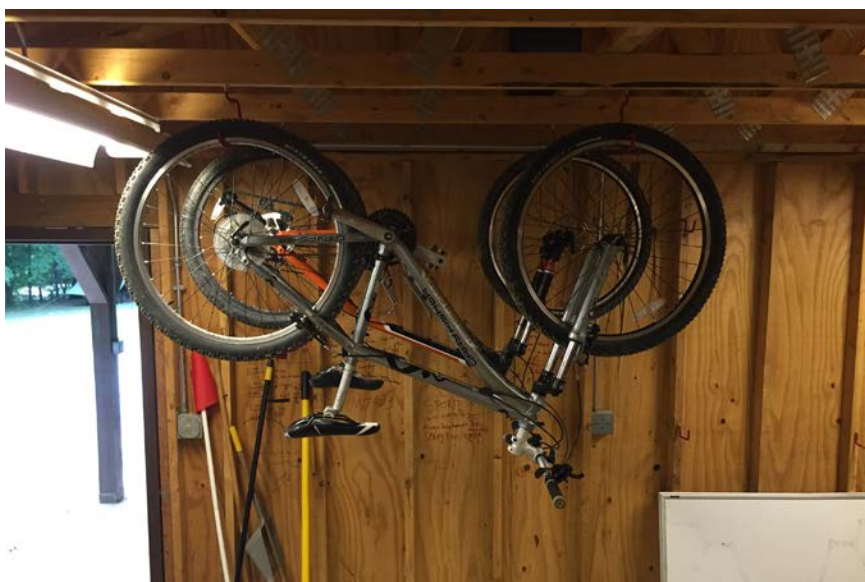
“It should be the thing never to mention unfairness of judging when defeated in a contest.”  
Baden Powell





# SPORTS

The sports area is located between the rifle range and the archery range, just look for the sports shelter and basketball court! Scouts are encouraged to enjoy the expanded merit badges and intramural sports at this area. Set up team competitions and have some great fun.



We offer activities on a troop, campsite, or ridge basis. Intramural sports can include softball, volleyball, basketball, or soccer.

Scouts can organize their own teams prior to camp or put one together with their new friends at Ransburg Scout Reservation.



“Where is there a  
boy to whom the  
call of the wild and  
the open road does  
not appeal?”

Baden Powell



# NATURE

The newly renovated Nature Center provides many opportunities for scouts to engage in their natural surrounding while finding a love of the outdoors.



The Nature Center is a place where scouts can learn about thier place in the environment and the environment's place in their lives. Our hands-on approach allows scouts to earn nature related merit badges while experiencing nature--not sitting in a classroom. Scouts explore and learn about the diverse environment at Ransburg and beyond.



There is a wealth of information available outside of merit badge sessions. In their free time, Scouts are able to visit the Nature Center to see and interact with animals found right here at Ransburg. The staff are always ready to share additional knoweledge and provide insightful and applicable facts to the Scouts and to inquisitive leaders!

The Nature Center displays a fascinating information along the walls allowing scouts to explore and learn on their own. Many posters and informational books and resources are also available for the scouts. All merit badges require a notebook and pen in order to be successful.







# SCOUTCRAFT

Outdoor skills are a key component to a well-rounded scout. Located at the top of Ridge 3 (across from the Chapel and behind the Dining Hall), the Scoutcraft Area is a great place for scouts of all ages to learn and strengthen skills like knot-tying, pioneering, camping, wilderness survival, and outdoor cooking. Scoutcraft offers many popular merit badges like First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Camping, and Cooking. Many first year scouts take merit badges in this area.



Like most areas in camp, Scoutcraft offers loosely-scheduled opportunities for adult leaders to help during merit badges. Many adult leaders enjoy helping scouts learn cooking and camping skills.

“To get a hold on boys you must be their friend.”

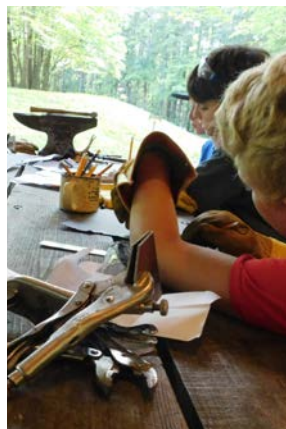
Baden Powell



# HANDICRAFT

The handicraft badges are a good start for many first year Scouts. The pride and satisfaction of making something with your own hands is a good lesson for a young Scout to learn. New Scouts always find success in this area; encourage them to pick at least one activity from this area.

Open Handicraft provides scouts an opportunity to make their own project or finish up partial merit



badges, without taking the entire session over again. Adults are also welcome to participate and assist during open handicraft.

Many of the activities in the Handicraft Area require the purchase of materials, be sure that those Scouts signing up for activities in the Handicraft Area bring extra money. Check the activity schedule for prices.

“In Scouting, a boy is encouraged to educate himself instead of being instructed.”

Baden Powell



[Return to Contents](#)



“A boy is not a sitting-down animal.”  
Baden Powell



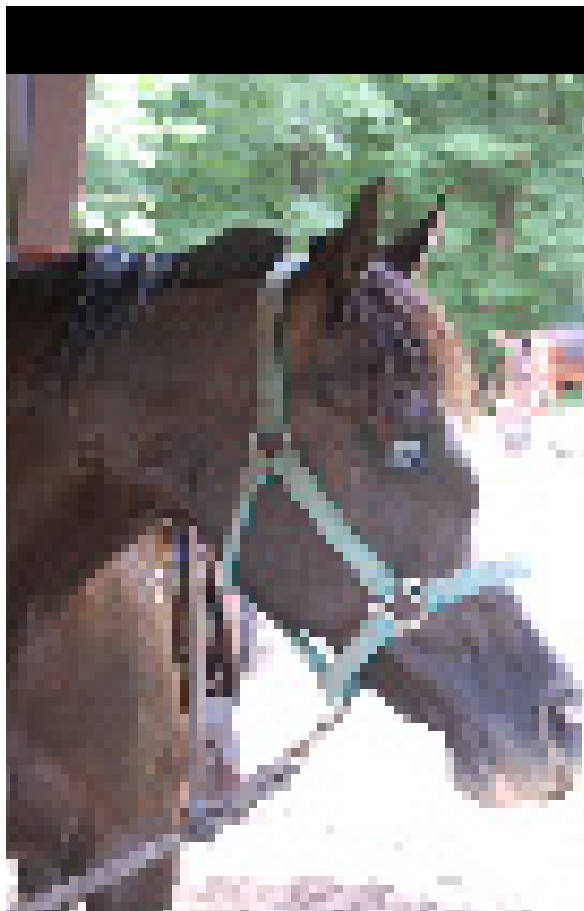
[Return to Contents](#)



# RANCH

The Ransburg Wrangler Program, trail rides, riding instruction, Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Horsemanship merit badge are among the activities offered at the Ransburg Ranch.

There is no age restriction on the trail rides. Trail rides are available with the purchase of a \$10 ticket from the trading post. Rides are scheduled for 3:00 and 4:00 pm



Shoes or boots with 3/4" heels and long pants (jeans) must be worn while riding, come prepared! We have an assortment of boots and pants, but cannot guarantee all sizes.



“The Scout Oath and Law are  
our binding disciplinary force.”  
Baden Powell



[Return to Contents](#)

# EAGLE QUEST

Eagle Quest is the place to be for brand new Scouts and first year campers. It provides many activities for new campers and Scouts to work on the Scout ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.



The Eagle Quest Area is located on the middle of Ridge Three. Please check the Eagle Quest Area for the schedule of the different requirements that will be completed daily and see what you need for your rank advancement. Scouts will only complete a select number of rank requirements. The area will be open in the afternoons for unscheduled advancement opportunities.

Scout leaders are always welcome to observe the area and assist the staff. Eagle Quest will provide a meaningful learning experience for the Scouts that seek advancement throughout the week.



[Return to Contents](#)





“ We must change boys from  
a ‘what can I get’ to a  
‘what can I give’ attitude. ”  
Baden Powell





# ORDER OF THE ARROW

Ransburg Scout Reservation has a program area dedicated to the Order of the Arrow. The area staff are responsible for all O.A. ceremonies, elections and promotions. If your troop or individual Scouts are members of a dance or ceremonial team, they are invited to talk to the O.A. Area Director about joining in the ceremonies while they are in camp. In addition the area offers a number of O.A. related merit badges and youth training opportunities.



Tuesday dinner is O.A. Sash Night and then after the Tuesday camp-wide event, the Order of the Arrow will conduct a "call-out" ceremony for the entire camp. All newly elected O.A. candidates will be called-out, and candidates who have recently been called-out may be recognized at the ceremony.

Troops from councils outside of the Crossroads of America Council must have a letter from their lodge stating the names of Scouts and Scouters from their troop who have been elected into the Order of the Arrow.

Unit elections must be held prior to summer camp.

[Return to Contents](#)

# POLICIES

At Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Scout Oath and Law are our guiding principles. We expect each leader to provide the guidance within the troop to follow these principles, the policies of Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Crossroads of America Council and the Boy Scouts of America.

## Camper Release Policy

Campers will only be released early from camp to custodial parents. Release to others must be communicated in writing in advance, with troop leaders' knowledge. Parents must indicate in writing who the Scout will be leaving with and the time and day of departure. For the scout's safety, scoutmasters must escort the scout to the camp office and sign the scout over to the approved persons.

## Damaged Equipment

Scouts are expected to take care of all equipment they use. Sometimes, however, equipment is damaged and it needs to

be replaced or repaired. If equipment is misused by the troop, the cost of any damaged equipment will be settled before the troop leaves camp on Saturday. Damages to equipment should be reported to the Quartermaster or your Ridge Commissioner.

## Camp Visitors

Parents and families are always welcome at Ransburg Scout Reservation. Wednesday evenings and the Friday night campfire are two excellent times for visitors.

Visitors who desire to eat a meal can purchase a meal ticket at the camp office. All Visitor meals cost \$9.50.

Our dining hall has limited space and it is difficult to sit visitors with their troop. If an open seat exists (for example a partial adult is no longer in camp) visitors will be able to sit with their troop. In most cases, however, visitors, or a member of their troop, will need to sit at the visitors table. The dining hall steward can help visitors locate their table upon arrival.

## Dining Hall

All Scouts are required to be at all meals, unless the troop is cooking in the campsite for the week. For no reason should a Scout be denied or allowed to skip a meal. Food should not be taken out of the dining hall.

## Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in camp, except in the designated area. The goal of this policy is to keep smoking away from Scouts. All buildings are smoke free environments; smoking outside the entrance or exit of any building is not permitted. In addition, all campsites should be on a smoke-free basis. The designated smoking area is in the camp parking lot. This includes electronic nicotine delivery systems.

## Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted in Scout camp. Possession or use of them on camp property will be cause for removal from camp.

## Vehicles

Vehicles are not permitted in campsites. Vehicles should be parked only in the main parking lot. One vehicle is allowed to make a single trip to the campsite for

troop and personal gear at check-in and check-out. Only camp service vehicles are allowed on camp roads during the week. Please note that no individual should be transported in the back of any pick-up truck or trailer.

Individuals with disabilities desiring to bring a golf cart type vehicle to camp must apply for a permit through the Camp Commissioner two weeks prior to arriving at camp. Once in camp, please complete an authorization form at. You will also need liability insurance, a fire extinguisher, and a first aid kit.

## Boats

There is no access to Lake Monroe for personal boats at camp. If you have your own boat and would like to take your troop on an activity in it, you must check your troop out of camp and put in at a local boat ramp. No personal boats are allowed to moor on any Ransburg docks.

## Personal Items

The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items. If such an unfortunate event occurs, it is

recommended that a police report be filed for insurance purposes.

## Fuel

All fuels must be kept locked. The camp quartermaster can assist with this service. Remember that any type of open flame is not permitted in any tent.

## Youth Protection

We adhere to all youth protection provisions of the Boy Scouts of America. Two-deep leadership is required at all times. Please remember that leaders and Scouts cannot sleep in the same quarters and that mixed genders are not allowed to tent together. Exceptions are a parent/son or married couple.

Adults attending Boy Scout Resident Camp or Scouting Activities Effective for the 2018 BSA summer camp season, any adult accompanying a Boy Scout troop to a residence camp or other Scouting activity lasting 72 hours or more must be registered as a leader,

including completion of a criminal background check and youth protection training, even if they are the parent of a youth on the trip.

Please Note: Although youth protection training is strongly encouraged for adults attending any overnight activity, at this time, the requirement applies only to individual adults staying three or more nights at a resident camp.

Hazing is strictly prohibited. There are many instances where "hazing" has led to serious consequences, both to the physical well-being and emotional stability of Scouts. Even a "mild" incident can convince a Scout never to return. Be aware that new campers are particularly susceptible to hazing. Knowledge of any abuse should be reported to the Reservation Director immediately.

## Personal Tents

Personal tents must meet the Boy Scout standard of 30 square feet of sleeping space per Scout.

## Firewood

Due to the outbreak of harmful tree pests and diseases, no outside firewood can be brought into camp.

## Pets

Please do not bring pets to camp.

## Medication

All prescription medications must be stored at the Health Lodge or in the campsite in the camp issued lock box in its original container. The Scout or leader may keep inhalers, EpiPens pens, and heart medications on their person at the discretion of the Health Officer. Upon leaving camp, it is the responsibility of the unit leader to pick up unused medications that were brought to camp.

## Medical Insurance

Each scout and adult leader should bring a copy of his or her medical insurance card and prescription card. Upon Sunday check-in, this information will be collected with the appropriate physical form.

## Accident & Illness Insurance

All registered Scouts and leaders are covered by an accident and illness insurance policy while participating in or traveling to and from any Scout sponsored activity, including summer camp. Scouts and leaders must be registered members of the BSA to be covered by the insurance. This is a secondary insurance policy administered by Health Special Risk Insurance (HSR). A claim must be filed with HSR within 90 days of the accident or illness. All medical expenses must be filed with the injured person's primary insurance before they can be considered by HSR. This policy generally covers the usual and customary expenses up to \$15,000 per accident; \$7,500 illness; \$5,000 for dental treatment; and \$6,000 for ambulance service among other benefits. Any expenses beyond these limits are the responsibility of the parent/guardian or leader. Forms and complete details of this policy can be found at [www.crossroadsbsa.org](http://www.crossroadsbsa.org)

[Return to Contents](#)

Initial questions concerning filing a claim may be directed to the Crossroads of America Council Office Manager.

Questions concerning insurance coverage at camp should be directed to:

Office Manager  
Boy Scouts of America  
7125 Fall Creek Road  
North  
Indianapolis, IN 46256  
(317) 813-7125  
(877) 925-1900  
(317) 813-7126 Fax

Out of Council Troops  
For out of council troops attending our camp, you will need to show proof of insurance when arriving on Sunday. If you do not have insurance coverage, you are welcome to purchase a special policy during your week of camp for only \$8 per Scout/leader. Please see the Business Manager when you check in.



# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The camp has established procedures to be followed in the event of most emergencies. Emergency procedures are posted throughout the camp and will be reviewed with everyone upon arrival Sunday. Persons in orange vests are to be recognized as authority figures.

**Fire:** An intermittent siren means assemble at the main camp flag pole by troop. Report any missing persons to the camp director. Follow other directions.



**Severe Weather:** A continuous siren indicates that you should head to the nearest emergency post and take cover immediately. It is important to remember to avoid open fields, hilltops, and the bottoms of ravines, which may flood, during severe weather. When the danger has passed, an intermittent siren will follow to signal "all clear". Once you hear the intermittent siren, assemble at the flag poles with your troop.

**Medical or Accidents:** Give minimal first aid and report to the health lodge or camp office. If bodily fluid spills are present, keep individuals away from the area and report to the Health Officer, who will clean the area.

**Fatality:** Report to the Reservation Director in the camp office.

**Youth Protection:** Notify Reservation Director . Remove victim from the situation, and do not talk to anyone regarding the situation.

**Lost Scout:** Notify Reservation Director, and report all information about the lost Scout. Assist in the search as directed. Follow directions.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER FOR  
RANSBURG SCOUT RESERVATION:  
1-812-837-9423

Make new friends



Experience nature

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

We hope this Ransburg Camping Guide has given you a taste for what's ahead for your Troop or Crew as you choose Ransburg as your summer camp destination—and we sincerely hope you do. Our staff works year-round to ensure that the tradition of excellence campers have come to expect from one of the best camps in the Midwest carries on. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our leadership team (see "Contact Us") at anytime throughout the year with any questions or concerns you may have. We're just an email or phone call away.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Ransburg. We hope you'll join us this summer for a week you won't soon forget. We can't wait to meet you.

The most current information about Ransburg Scout Reservation can be found by visiting our online community:

<http://www.ransburgbsa.org/>

Learn new skills and advance towards Eagle



For over 50 years Ransburg Scout Reservation has participated in the BSA National Camp Accreditation process. We consistently achieve the highest level of accreditation and continued to do so today.





Ransburg Scout Reservation  
7599 E. Waldrip Creek Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
[www.ransburgbsa.org](http://www.ransburgbsa.org)