

## 2023 Winter Camp Guide



*Boys' Life*, September, 1956, page 46

### Belk Scout Camp

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, December 15-16-17, 2023

Please read this Guide before registering.

**Location:** Belk Scout Camp, 9408 Belt Rd, Midland, NC 28107

Map to Belk Scout Camp: <https://goo.gl/maps/rs3oGfaQxav>

Map of Belk Scout Camp:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rqkf-y9WwloBu4Wj\\_55GTEAXCEjduSi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rqkf-y9WwloBu4Wj_55GTEAXCEjduSi/view?usp=sharing)

Mecklenburg County Council will hold its 8th annual Winter Camp, modeled on summer camp with 19 merit badge classes offered. Adult volunteers, all registered with BSA as merit badge counselors, will serve as instructors and merit badge counselors.

Scouts may register as **Day Campers** for merit badge classes on Saturday, December 16. Day Campers must bring their own food and water bottles. Day Campers must provide their own transportation to arrive at their merit badge class location by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning and to depart when their merit badge class ends.

**Troops** who wish to camp and to prepare their own meals in their campsites may register Scouts and adults as **Overnight Campers** from Friday, December 16 through Sunday, December 17 at noon. All troops registering as Overnight Campers must have 2-deep adult leadership camping with the troop on-site throughout the event. Adult leaders must be registered with BSA and must be current with BSA Youth Protection. **Winter Camp will not offer any meals** for this event. Troops must provide their own food and prepare their own meals in their campsites.

**Registration fees:**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Scout Day Camper fee       | \$12 |
| Scout Overnight Camper fee | \$20 |
| Adult Day Camper fee       | \$ 6 |
| Adult Overnight Camper fee | \$12 |

Add-on fee for registration on or after December 1 for adults and Scouts \$10

On-line registration transaction fee for one or more participants \$ 1

Fees for all Scout and adult participants cover administrative and printing costs, cleanup and camp supplies, and merit badge supplies.

**Registration opens:** When this announcement is posted.

**Registration closes:** When the class is full or on Friday, December 8.

There will be no wait lists.

**Minimum class size:** 6

**Maximum class sizes:** 8 to 16, depending on merit badge, space, and assistance available to counselors

**How to register:** Links to information and to on-line registration and payment will be posted at <http://www.mccscouting.org/winter-camp>

Please enter the following information:

Scout first name

Scout last name

Scout email address

Parent first name

Parent last name

Parent email address

Parent phone number

Troop number

Council

**Age and rank guidelines:** None. Scouts BSA members from any troop in any council are welcome to register and participate. There are no rank requirements to participate.

**Parents:** Parents are welcome to attend all sessions.

**Clothing**

Scouts are expected to wear their field uniforms ("Class A" uniforms) to foster discipline and Scout spirit. Neckerchiefs, slides, merit badge sashes, and medals are not expected or required.

Scouts must Be Prepared with layers of clothing, including rain gear.

Almost all merit badges will be conducted outside, either under shelters or on the Dining Hall porch. Scouts should Be Prepared for several hours of exposure to cold.

If a Scout wears short pants and/or no coat or if a Scout becomes cold and begins to shiver, the Scout must go home. Winter Camp does not have the capacity to provide coats or blankets in heated spaces to Scouts who become cold.

### **Health forms:**

All participants and staff must check-in on arrival to present health forms listed below:

1. BSA Health and Medical Record forms Part A and B1 and B2 with no Part C. No provider examination or provider signature is required.

These forms are available at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

2. Copy of their health insurance card (front and back)

3. BSA Immunization Exemption Request form, if applicable

This form is available at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-451.pdf>

The Winter Camp Health Officer will return these forms to all participants and to staff at the end of the event to use for future events.

### **Infection Prevention Guidelines**

All participants should follow the **Infection Prevention Guidelines** included in the appendix to this Guide.

### **World Friendship Fund**

BSA launched the World Friendship Fund during the closing days of World War II to rebuild Scouting in nations wrecked by the war.

<https://www.scouting.org/international/resources/22-329/>

United States Fund for International Scouting (USFIS)

<https://www.scouting.org/international/resources/22-332/>

administers the fund, with

consideration several times each year of grant requests from National Scout Organizations (NSO) recognized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WSOM).

We ask that all Scouts and leaders and parents who attend Winter Camp consider bringing a dollar or two in cash to donate to the World Friendship Fund on Saturday or on Sunday. We will make requests at that time. Your donations are voluntary.

### **Food**

**We request that all Scouts and staff avoid bringing nut-containing foods because of the risk of inadvertent exposure of other participants who may be allergic to these products.**

Scouts should pack their own snacks and eat them during breaks directed by the Merit Badge Counselors. Eating or drinking during the class sessions is not appropriate.

Please carry food and a refillable water bottle in a small day pack to allow hands-free walking.

### **Clean-up after meals**

Troops cooking meals in their campsites should use the **3-pot method**, for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing dishes, utensils, and cookware.

To help Scouts remember what the process is, please remember

“3-pot hot-hot-not”

or

“scrape-your-own-plate, mean-and-clean, 3-pot, hot-hot-not, soap-nope-reach-for-the-bleach, dry-where? here-in-the-air”

Please read about the **3-pot method** in the document **Washing Dishes in Camp** included in the appendix to this Guide.

### **Cell phones**

To keep the outing in Scouting, we ask that Scouts leave all electronic devices, including cell phones, at home. If a Scout chooses to use an electronic device during class for non-Scout activities, the Scout will be expected to loan the cell phone to a Scout leader for safe keeping, to be returned when class ends.

### **Check-in at the Dining Hall on Friday night**

#### **Overnight Campers and staff arriving on Friday evening of December 15**

can check-in first at Camp Ranger’s Office at the Compound near the Health Lodge, then proceed to the Dining Hall to turn in Health Forms. The optimal time for Dining Hall check-in is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. so that Scouts can set up camp and return to the Dining Hall for camp activities and Cracker Barrel (desserts).

### **Check-in at the Dining Hall on Saturday morning.**

**Day Campers and staff arriving on Saturday morning of December 16** should check-in at the Dining Hall between 7:30 to 8:15 a.m.

### **What to bring to Winter Camp**

**Scouts should bring** health forms, clothing layers, personal first aid kit, water bottle, pen, paper, blue cards, merit badge homework, EpiPens, asthma inhalers, and other medications in a sturdy day pack, not in a paper or plastic bag.

Scouts must bring their EpiPens and asthma inhalers and have them ready for use. Scouts should pack a personal first aid kit such as one required for Tenderfoot rank.

### **Camping**

Scouts may register as individuals as **Day Campers** to come to Belk Scout Camp on Saturday, December 16 to participate in merit badge classes. They will leave for home when their merit badge classes have ended.

Troops may register as **Overnight Campers** if they wish to camp overnight on Friday and/or Saturday night. **Overnight Campers** must provide their own food and prepare their own meals in their campsites.

## **Overnight Campers**

Scouts may camp overnight at Belk Scout Camp only

1. if their home troop is camping overnight and only if their home troop has 2-deep adult leadership camping overnight in the campsite with the home troop, and
2. if all adult leaders camping overnight are registered with BSA. Parents who are not registered with BSA are not permitted to camp overnight.

Troops with 2-deep adult leadership in their campsites may pitch their own tents or hang their own hammocks in Cub World or Scout World sites to qualify for camping nights for early rank advancement. Scouts and leaders must follow BSA Youth protection guidelines.

### **Reserving campsites**

Troops camping on Friday and/or Saturday night must reserve their own campsites by following these steps:

Go to <https://www.belkscoutcamp.org/>

Click on Camp Calendar and Reservations

Advance the calendar to December

For each of the dates of December 15 and 16 and 17, reserve your campsite.

### **Parking**

No parking is permitted in the camping areas. Overnight parking in lots near the Dining Hall and near the Leadership Development Center (LDC) and near the Health Lodge is available.

### **Knives**

Mecklenburg County Council and BSA have no policy to encourage or to discourage Scouts from bringing a pocketknife or sheath knife when they camp. Scouts who bring or use any type of knife at Camp must follow principles for using knives safely according to their Whittling Chip and Totin' Chip training.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gen-faq/>

### **Vaping**

One of the three duties to self in the Scout Oath is "to keep myself physically strong, ..." Because tobacco and inappropriate use of drugs are harmful, all Scout properties and events are tobacco-free and drug-free. The same applies to vaping.

Please avoid vaping situations by Scouts or adults at all Scout camps and events.

Please read about the BSA policy on vaping:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/11/03/e-cigarettes-now-included-bsa-tobacco-policy/>

If a Scout brings or uses a vaping device, we will ask the Scout to call for transportation back home.

If an adult uses nicotine products in any form, please consider not attending Scouting events.

## Winter Camp 2023 Schedule

| Friday, December 15   |    |  |
|-----------------------|----|--|
| 5:00                  | pm | Scout check-in opens at Dining Hall.   |
| 5:12                  | pm | Sunset <a href="https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/">https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/</a>       |
| 7:00 to 9:00          | pm | Leatherwork Merit Badge and crafts activities in the Dining Hall will be open to all Scouts. |
| 8:30                  | pm | Cracker Barrel desserts served at Dining Hall  |
| 9:00                  | pm | Senior Patrol Leaders and adults meet at Dining Hall.  |
| 9:45                  | pm | Scouts to tents  |
| 10:00                 | pm | Taps, lights out   |
|                       |    |  |
| Saturday, December 16 |    |  |
| 6:30                  | am | Reveille   |
| 7:00                  | am | Grace and breakfast in campsites   |
| 7:25                  | am | Sunrise  |
| 7:30                  | am | Staff, Scout, and adult check-in opens at Dining Hall  |
| 8:00                  | am | Assembly at Dining Hall Flags for Overnight Campers  |
| 8:30                  | am | Merit badge classes begin  |
| Noon                  |    | Merit badge classes end. Scouts adjourn to campsites for lunch.                              |
| Noon                  |    | Presentation on World Friendship Fund  |
| 1:00                  | pm | Merit badge classes begin  |
| 4:30                  | pm | Merit badge classes end  |
| 4:30                  | pm | Health form pickup at Dining Hall for departing Day Camper Scouts                            |
| 5:00                  | pm | Flag retirement ceremony at Lakeside Amphitheater  |
|                       |    |  |
| 5:13                  | pm | Sunset   |
| 5:30                  | pm | Scouts return to campsites to prepare supper.  |
| 6:15                  | pm | Grace and supper served in campsites.  |
| 7:00                  | pm | Campfire at Dining Hall  |
| 7:30                  | pm | Movie  |
| 8:30                  | pm | Cracker Barrel desserts served at Dining Hall  |
| 9:45                  | pm | Scouts to tents  |
| 10:00                 | pm | Taps, lights out   |
|                       |    |  |
|                       |    |  |
| Sunday, December 17   |    |  |
| 6:30                  | am | Reveille   |
| 7:00                  | am | Grace and breakfast and cleanup in campsites   |
| 7:26                  | am | Sunrise  |

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| 8:30  | am | Worship service on Dining Hall Porch                         |
| 8:40  | am | Presentation on World Friendship Fund                        |
| 8:45  | am | Reflection: Start, Stop, Continue or Thorns and Roses        |
| 9:00  | am | Scout Master's Benediction                                   |
| 9:00  | am | Collections and Family Life Merit Badge Classes begin.       |
| 9:10  | am | Climbing MB for any needed belays, climbs, or rappels        |
| 9:15  | am | Clean up campsites, restrooms, Dining Hall, kitchen          |
| 10:00 | am | Collections and Family Life Merit Badge Classes end.         |
| 10:00 | am | Campsite inspections, check out                              |
|       |    | Surplus food, if any, leaves the kitchen for donation sites. |
| Noon  |    | Camp is dismissed and cleared.                               |



Winter Camp 2023  
Merit Badge Classes and Locations  
at Belk Scout Camp, including  
Aviation Merit Badge at Goose Creek Airport

|                              |                    |            |                                     |                               |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Friday evening course        |                    | Class size |                                     |                               |
| Leatherwork                  | 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm | Open       | Dining Hall                         | Sheila Vazquez                |
|                              |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| Saturday all-day courses     |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| Archery                      | 8:30 am to 4:00 pm | 8          | Archery Range                       | Eric Belongia, Matthew Bonner |
| Aviation                     | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm | 12         | Goose Creek Airport                 | Tim Beavers                   |
| Climbing                     | 8:30 am to 4:00 pm | 8          | Climbing Tower                      | Sasha Timkovich               |
| Communication                | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm | 12         | Leadership Development Center (LDC) | Brady Drummond-Ryan           |
| Environmental Science        | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm | 12         | Berry Shelter                       | Mike Hillesheim               |
| First Aid                    | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm | 12         | Dining Hall                         | Dr. Chris Corso               |
|                              |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| Saturday morning courses     |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| Citizenship in Society       | 8:30 am to noon    | 12         | Fishing Shelter                     | Walter Knox                   |
| Citizenship in the Community | 8:30 am to noon    | 12         | Dining Hall                         | Sam Hodges                    |
| Citizenship in the World     | 8:30 am to noon    | 12         | Dining Hall                         | Amanada Bergen, Chris Bergen  |
| Personal Management          | 8:30 am to noon    | 12         | Catawba Shelter                     | Rob Watson                    |
| Safety + Traffic Safety      | 8:30 am to noon    | 16         | Chapman Shelter                     | Sean Kelly                    |
|                              |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| Saturday afternoon courses   |                    |            |                                     |                               |
| American Business            | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm | 12         | Dining Hall                         | Sam Hodges                    |
| American Heritage            | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm | 12         | Fishing Shelter                     | Walter Knox                   |
| Crime Prevention             | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm | 12         | Dining Hall                         | Rob Newman                    |
| Personal Fitness             | 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm | 12         | Catawba Shelter                     | Rob Watson                    |

|                         |                        |      |                 |                     |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Safety + Traffic Safety | 1:00 pm to<br>4:00 pm  | 12   | Chapman Shelter | Sean Kelly          |
| Scouting Heritage       | 1:00 pm to<br>4:00 pm  | 16   | Dining Hall     | Courtenay Miller    |
|                         |                        |      |                 |                     |
| Sunday morning course   |                        |      |                 |                     |
| Collections             | 9:00 am to<br>10:30 am | open | Dining Hall     | Stuart Tucker       |
| Family Life             | 9:00 am to<br>10:30 am | open | Dining Hall     | Brady Drummond-Ryan |

## Merit Badge Notes

### Aviation Merit Badge on Saturday, December 16 at Goose Creek Airport

Aviation Merit Badge is our only offsite merit badge this year.

Goose Creek Airport is located at 2020 Lawyers Rd, Indian Trail, NC 28079.

Here is a link to a Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/5GNo63tn9gCsSfoR7>

All Aviation Merit Badge Scouts should arrive at Goose Creek Airport by 8:30 a.m.

All Scouts must bring their own food for lunches and snacks and water, blue cards, pen and paper, and written homework assignments.

If Day Camper Scouts participate in Aviation Merit Badge on Saturday morning of December 16, they should NOT come to Belk Scout Camp to check-in before going to Goose Creek Airport that morning. They should go directly from home to Goose Creek Airport to attend the Aviation Merit Badge class.

Day Camper Scouts should have BSA Health and Medical Record forms Parts A, B1, and B2 with them and show them to the counselor but should keep these forms themselves and return home with them.

Day Camper Scouts must plan to depart from Goose Creek Airport about 3:00 p.m. to return home.

Overnight Camper Scouts sleeping overnight at Belk Scout Camp must provide their own transportation to and from Goose Creek Airport, whether traveling to and from home or to and from Belk Scout Camp. Scouts may choose to report directly from the Goose Creek Airport to Belk Scout Camp after the course to camp overnight on Saturday.

### Blue cards

Before registering for any merit badges, Scouts and parents should read the [Blue Card Guide](#) included in the appendix to this Guide.

Each Scout should present to each merit badge counselor a separate new blue card signed by their Scoutmaster indicating permission to participate in that course. We

encourage all Scouts to review their participation and advancement plans with their Scoutmasters before registering for merit badge classes.

If a Scout does not have a blue card for each of their merit badge courses at Winter Camp, Winter Camp will provide them with merit badge cards.

Scouts should fill out the requirement grid portion of the card and all of the identifying information lines on their blue cards in ink before handing the cards to their Merit Badge Counselors. The Merit Badge Counselor must initial the grid section of the card for each completed requirement. When the Scout has completed all requirements, the Merit Badge Counselor must sign and date the card in 2 places. Each Scout is responsible for obtaining these initials and signatures. Scouts must turn their blue cards to their Scoutmasters so that merit badges can be registered and awarded.

### **Planning for merit badge classes**

For all merit badges, Scouts are expected to read the merit badge requirements and the BSA merit badge book before arriving at Winter Camp. Scouts should please review requirements for merit badges that they are interested in earning before registering.

Most of these merit badges require significant homework before Winter Camp to assure blue card completions at Winter Camp. Pre-class homework assignments are listed in the Merit Badge Guides with links shown in the Merit Badge pages that start on page 14 of this document. Please do not procrastinate.

### **Partial or Full Completion**

Full completion of many of these merit badges is possible IF Scouts complete the above preparations before class. If a Scout does not finish all requirements, the Scout must work with their counselor to list and initial requirements completed on their blue card for later completion with that counselor or with a registered counselor from their troop. Scouts should follow the buddy system with 2-deep adult leadership for all merit badge sessions.

### **Homework for All Merit Badges before class:**

1. Scouts should read the [Merit Badge Homework Guide](#) included in the appendix to this Guide.

2. Scouts must read the BSA merit badge book (pamphlet) **before** class. A Scout might borrow a copy from their troop library or from another Scout. The latest print editions are stocked and are for sale at the Mecklenburg County Council Scout Shop at 1410 East 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28204 704 333 5471

[www.mccscouting.org](http://www.mccscouting.org)

Scouts may order printed or digital copies from [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org).

3. Scouts should read the Merit Badge Guides related to their merit badge choices.

The Merit Badge Guides are home-grown and contain current requirements, resources to answers, and merit badge homework assignments that they must complete before their classes.

The Merit Badge Guides may be accessed from the Mecklenburg County Council registration page for Winter Camp.