

Potawatomi Area Council

RIVER RATS

Spring Family Camp



Weekend #1 - April 24 - 26, 2026

Weekend #2 - May 1 - 3, 2026

Weekend #3 - May 8 - 10, 2026

Weekend #4 - May 15 - 17, 2026

LEADER'S GUIDE

PROGRAMPAC@SCOUTING.ORG

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Information for Packs and Participants

Mission and Philosophy

RIVER RATS Spring Family Camp are multiple camping weekends planned by the CLL Program Committee/RR Committee with the purpose providing **camping opportunities to Cub Scout families, providing Cub Scout based events** for our youth to develop great fellowship with members of their pack and most importantly to have **FUN!** Each year, several packs volunteer to help in planning and implementing Scout based activities.

A series of different events are planned to improve on Scout skills, teamwork and FUN! These events have ranged from Shooting Sports to Crafts to Field Games to Air/Water Rockets to STEM Projects. The Saturday night activities end with a camp-wide campfire program which the Packs get to participate in, flag retirement ceremony and nomination into the River Rat's League of Magnificent Rodents to close out the weekend's festivities.

Registration, Fees and Refunds

1. Registration is coordinated by PACK at the **"RR Sign-up Night"** in-person at the Council Service Center on January 6, 2026 at 6:30PM.
 - a. All PACK registrations require a \$20 downpayment per person attending at sign-up. **The downpayment is non-refundable**, but is transferable to another Scout, if you have a Scout unable to attend.
2. **Individual Family Registrations** are accepted online through a **"RR Provisional Pack"**.
 - a. All INDIVIDUAL registration will be completed electronically via the Blackpug website and are paid in full as to the date they are registered. **All Fees are non-refundable**, but are transferable to a new registration, if you have a participant unable to attend - within 2 weeks of event as onsite paperwork needs time to organize and print for at camp.
3. **REGISTRATION** - fees include an event patch, event t-shirt and 6 meals
 - a. Friday Snack, Saturday meals (3), Saturday Snack & Sunday breakfast.

REGISTRATION	EARLY BIRD * Before 3/03/26	REGULAR Between 3/03/26 - 3/19/26	LATE After 3/19/26
YOUTH & ADULTS	\$65	\$75	\$85
* <i>Eligibility for discount based on all participant information (name, shirt size, dietary, ect) must be entered into BlackPug before final payment can be applied for Early Bird Discount</i>			

Sign-up Night Priority (loyalty program)

1. RETURNING 2025 PACKS: Packs that attended in 2025 will be able to reserve the same weekend as the previous year with a possible adjusted number of attendees in 2026. If space allows, you may be able to move to another weekend.
 - o Once each weekend is full, it will be closed to additional participants based on capacity.
2. NEW 2026 PACKS: After all “Returning Packs”, available space will be open to NEW Packs.
 - o New Packs once registered/paid will receive the same weekend the following year (2027).
3. ROSTERS: To reserve camping spots, only completed roster through Blackpug will be accepted.
4. SHIRT SIZES: Due by **March 19, 2026**, otherwise:
 - o Youth will receive an ADULT SMALL,
 - o Adults will receive an ADULT XL

Medical Forms

1. **BSA Part A and B Medical Forms are required** for all Participants and Adults. Please be sure all parents are included in addition to any registered adult staying overnight.
2. Packs are required to show “BSA AB Health Forms” for EACH person attending (youth/adult). Forms will be spot checked by the Medical Officer as health forms will NOT be collected from the troops.

Prior to Arrival

1. All participants and their families should self-monitor any symptoms in the days leading up to camp.
2. Additional information on **RIVER RATS** can be found **HERE**.
 - o What should I bring? Check out the **Family Camp Checklist**
 - o Questions not covered - **ProgramPAC@Scouting.org**
3. All participants (youth & adult) must complete the
 - i. **BSA Annual Health and Medical Record form A&B**

On Arrival / Check-in

1. Staff will be on site Friday night by 6:00 pm for check-in (**Health Officer is onsite**).
2. All participants should arrive at Camp Long Lake between 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Friday.
 - a. **NO SATURDAY CHECK-INS ALLOWED due to limited staff availability**
3. Check-in will occur at the Center For Scouting (#1 on map) to check and turn in BSA Medical form A&B and receive **RIVER RATS SCHEDULE & SITE MAP** for the weekend.
4. Packs will be assigned to campsites based on their registration numbers, and may need to share a site with another pack/family.

5. **Only vehicles with trailers are allowed to go beyond the parking lot.**
 - a. **Please obey camp rules and do not drive into the campsites without permission.** Speed limit in camp is 10 mph or less.
 - b. Packs with trailers should be prepared to unhook their tow vehicles and park them in the lot if weather or volume of traffic dictates.
 - c. **Individual vehicles or vehicles without a trailer are NOT permitted beyond the parking lot for the safety of all participants during the weekend (liability).**
6. **CABIN SPACE** is available for rent before arrival as most cabins are used for program areas or staff housing (**Email ProgramPAC@Scouting.org for availability**)
7. All LEADERS and STAFF are required to attend the welcome/orientation meeting on Friday night at 8:15 pm in the Dining Hall.
 - a. Due to the limited staff and to ensure the program staff have enough time to present/oversee activities in the time allotted, **we are unable to check-in Scouts on Saturday morning.**

Facilities and Meals

1. 4 meals will be provided at the **Pabst Dining Hall (#2)** for:
 - a. Friday Cracker Barrel (snack)
 - b. Saturday Morning Breakfast
 - c. Saturday Noon Lunch
 - d. Saturday Evening Dinner
 - e. Saturday Cracker Barrel (snack)
 - f. Sunday Morning Breakfast
2. Specialty Meals, Allergy, and Religious Restrictions may not be accommodated.
 - a. It is recommended each scout or pack handles these needs on their own with supplemental food needs.
 - b. Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches **will** be available upon request.
 - c. **Pack Leadership should communicate food allergies at least 2 weeks prior to arriving at camp by completing/updating the DIETARY portion of their Scouts registration in BlackPug.**
 - i. ***Food is ordered and minimal alternatives are kept on hand, so our staff will do the best to accommodate.***
3. Serving will be done in a safe and careful manner with protective equipment.
 - a. All serving areas, tables, and chairs will be sanitized before and after meals with approved sanitizer (bleach solution; 1/3c bleach: 1 gal. water or Mix Mate Germicidal Cleaner).
 - b. All staff serving will be wearing gloves and hair restraints.

- c. Participants will be allowed into the serving area to receive their food from the staff while practicing social distancing.
 - i. Hands must be washed, or use of hand sanitizer, BEFORE and AFTER each meal.
- d. Water bottle filling stations have been installed inside the Pabst Dining Hall.

Leadership and Coverage

1. To meet BSA Youth Protection guidelines:
 - a. Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders.
 - b. All adults must review the [“How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide”](#) that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook.
 - c. In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward.
2. All scouts must wear the **RIVER RATS** shirt provided or Cub Scout uniform.
3. In the event you have scouts who do not want to participate in the provided activities, your ***Pack must provide two-deep leadership for these scouts in camp or your campsite.***
4. **COLOR ACTIVITY GROUPS**
 - a. Packs typically do not travel in the same color group as groups are separated **by age/rank/Den** (IE: Tigers move with Tigers, Wolf with Wolf, etc) **within 2 years.**
 - b. There are seven color groups that all youth are divided into so that groups are equally spread out to ensure everyone is able to participate in the time allotted and activities are completed.
 - c. Adults & siblings move with their youth in the color groups
 - i. Group sizes are based on the number of youth in camp each week
 - d. Activity programs run from 8:30AM - 4:30PM with pockets of free/down time and meal times (see sample schedule)

Weather Policy

1. Severe Weather
 - a. Camp Long Lake is a Scouting America accredited scout camp. In meeting these standards, policies and procedures are in place for inclement weather. Multiple facilities around the camp property are available in the case of severe weather:
 - b. During severe weather our staff monitors the National Weather Services recommendations.

PROGRAM EVENTS

1. **Multiple Activity sessions (Saturday) :**
 - a. Seven different activity areas provided, ranging from Crafts to Field Games to Shooting Sports
 - i. **Tentative**
 1. Archery
 2. BB Gun
 3. STEM project
 4. Field Game
 5. Scout Skill
 6. Craft Project
 7. Scout Skill/Craft
2. **Pack Cheers/Yells:**
 - a. Each pack should prepare a cheer for Saturday lunch/Dinner & Sunday Breakfast
 - b. **EXAMPLE YELLS** (click here)
3. **Saturday Campwide Campfire:**
 - a. All packs are encouraged to participate with a song or skit (advancement)
 - i. Pack performs 1 song or 1 skit
 - ii. Flag retirement ceremony
 - b. **LEAGUE OF MAGNIFICENT RODENTS**
 - i. **CRITERIA**
 1. "A Scout who lives up to the Scout Oath & Scout Law in their daily lives
 - ii. **NOMINATIONS**
 1. 1 nomination = 4-11 Scouts attending
 2. 2 nomination = 12-19 Scouts attending
 3. 3 nomination = 20-27 Scouts attending
 4. 4 nomination = 28-35 Scouts attending
4. **Trading Post :**
 - a. Opens at varying times throughout the weekend providing beverages, snacks and CLL apparel (based on staffing)

Check – Out Process

1. Packs are free to check out Sunday Morning after closing flags between 9:00 am to 9:30 am
 - a. If you are up early, please respect your neighbors and keep the noise at a reasonable level until 7:30 am.
 - b. Our staff will be available to check out each troop from the Dining Hall
2. Please take your garbage with you, or drop it off by the dining hall dumpsters on your way out. Please do not leave any garbage at your campsite.
3. **Please obey camp rules and do not drive vehicles into the campsites.**
 - a. The speed limit in camp is 10 mph or less.
4. River Rat patches will be provided for all registered attendees.

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

“Is a parent required to attend River Rats Spring Family Camp with their Scout?”

- Yes, family camps require that legal guardians attend any overnight event with their youth.
- No one-on-one contact between Adults & Scouts that are not their own.
 - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a>

“What activities can my Scout expect to participate in?”

- Activities are planned by attending packs, so activities can differ from week to week.
- Range and Target Sports (BB Gun & Archery) are provided each weekend based on properly trained staff to run a range.
- Typical activities: Fire building, air rockets, field games, cooking, GPS navigation, nature hike, etc.

“Are all packs required to staff an activity?”

- Packs volunteer to provide activities at the signup night (4 months prior)

“What meals are provided during the weekend?”

- FRI - Snack, SAT - breakfast, lunch, dinner, SUN - breakfast

“Can an aunt/uncle or grandparent accompany the scout if the parents are unable to attend?”

- **Youth may only attend with their legal guardians.** If a grandparent or aunt/uncle is the Scout's legal guardian, they would be covered under this policy. If they are not the legal guardian, they would need to be registered, complete Safeguarding Youth and have had a current background check on file with Scouting America.

Are non-scout child attendees limited to siblings, or can cousins or friends attend?

- For family camp purposes, **siblings are defined as youth who share common parents.** Cousins or friends do not meet this definition and are not permitted to attend under the sibling policy.

SAMPLE Schedule

- RIVER RATS SCHEDULE -**FRIDAY**

6:00 - 8:15 PM	Check-in (Center For Scouting)
8:30 - 8:55 PM	Adult Leader Meeting (Dining Hall)
9:00 - 10:00 PM	Cracker Barrel (snack)
10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	Quiet Hours

SATURDAY

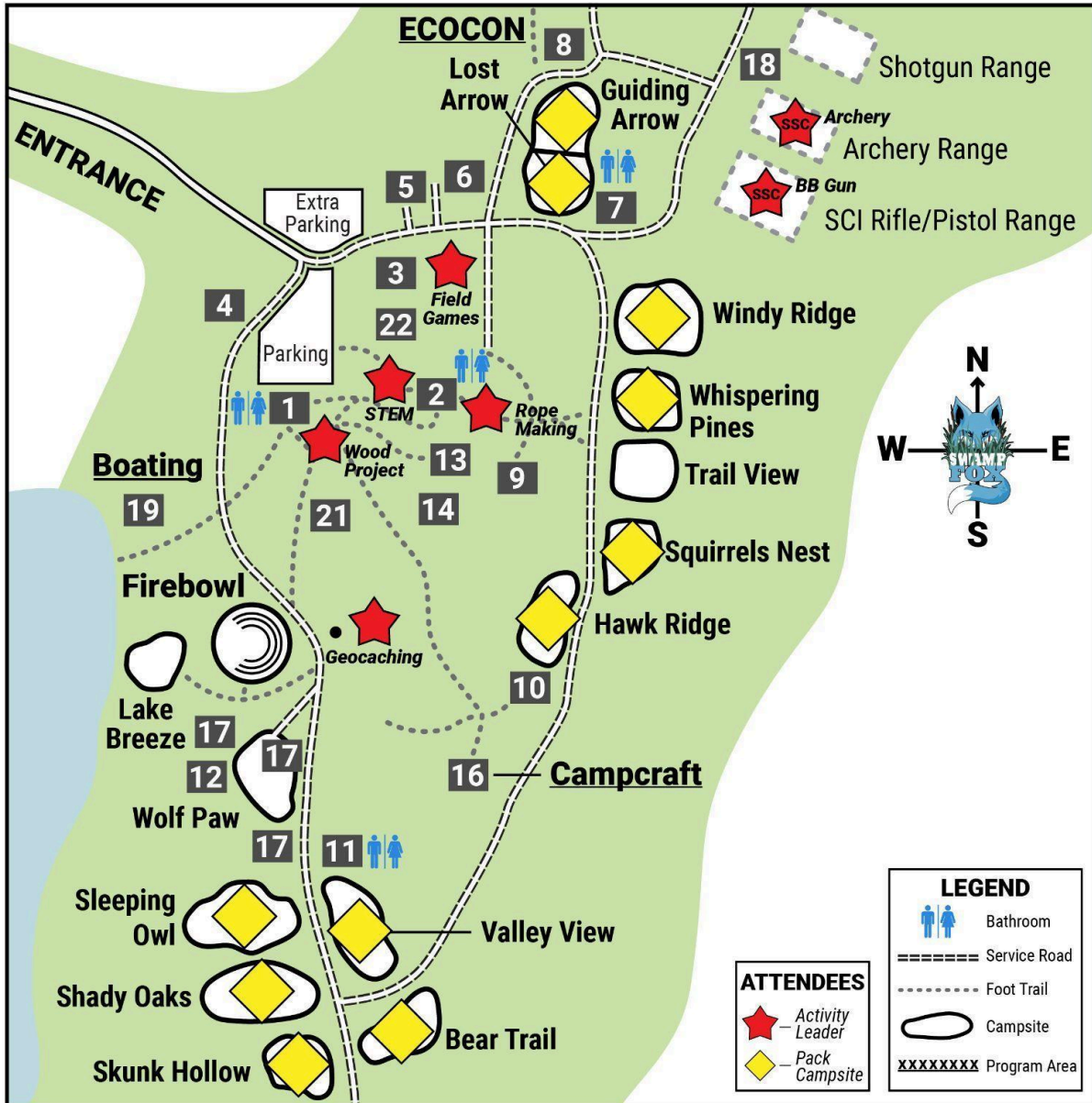
7:25 - 7:40 AM	Opening Flags (Dining Hall)
7:40 - 8:25 AM	Breakfast (<u>provided</u>)
8:30 - 12:05 AM	ACTIVITY SESSIONS (55 min)
12:05 - 1:50 PM	Lunch / FREE TIME (<u>provided</u>)
1:55 - 4:30PM	ACTIVITY SESSIONS (55 min)
4:30 - 5:55 PM	Free Time
5:55 - 6:05 PM	Evening Flags (Dining Hall)
6:05 - 7:00 PM	Dinner (<u>provided</u>)
7:30 - 8:30 PM	Campfire (PACKS) Program
8:30 - 10:00 PM	FREE TIME / Cracker Barrel
10:00 - DAWN	Quiet Hours

SUNDAY

7:25 - 7:40 AM	Morning Flags (Dining Hall)
7:40 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast (<u>provided</u>)
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Check-Out (Dining Hall)

SAMPLE Map (final version provided at check-in)

SWAMP FOX CAMP LONG LAKE MAP



BUILDINGS/AREAS

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Boes Reception Center
• Office and Trading Post | 7 North Shower Facility | 13 Stuart Flanner Climbing Wall | 19 Boating |
| 2 Pabst Dining Hall | 8 O.A. Nature Cabin (ECOCON) | 14 Steffen Bouldering Wall | 20 Aqualand |
| 3 Urban Family Health Lodge | 9 Valley of the Lord Chapel | 15 Dalum/Klonecki Dual Zip Line
• Weldall Landing Zone | 21 Project First Class |
| 4 Ranger Residence | 10 Rotary Lodge | 16 Campcraft | 22 Trail to Eagle |
| 5 Maintenance Buildings | 11 South Shower Facility | 17 Staff Complex | 23 Polaris ATV/Mt. Bike |
| 6 Ziesemer Campmaster Cabin | 12 Kiwanis Cabin | 18 Shooting Range | 24 Fishing Pier |