

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA COUNCIL CAMP V-BAR



THANKSGIVING CAMP 2026 LEADERS GUIDE

Salmen Scout Reservation
Perkinston, MS



Online Registration
bsa-selacouncil.org/ThanksgivingCamp


**Scouting
America**
Southeast Louisiana Council

4200 South I-10 Service Road West
Metairie, Louisiana 70001
Telephone: (504) 889-0388

 **NATIONALLY
ACCREDITED**
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CAMP

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

- Lord Baden-Powell



SALMEN SCOUT RESERVATION

27585 V-Bar Road, Perkinston, MS 39573
Camp Phone: (288) 255-7336



SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA COUNCIL

Office: (504) 889-0388
E-Mail: juan.prado@scouting.org

Online Registration

bsa-selacouncil.org/ThanksgivingCamp

LETTER FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR

Dear Scoutmasters,

Welcome to Camp V-Bar for Thanksgiving Camp 2026!

My name is Louie Messina, and I'm incredibly excited and honored to serve as your Camp Director this week. I have been a member of Camp V-Bar's staff since 2013, and have worn many hats along the way. In this new role, I hope to bring the same spirit of enthusiasm, service, and fellowship, that I grew up with as a young staff member at Camp V-Bar. I'm proud to call this place my home, and I've grown to love everyone who comes through our gates, as a member of the V-Bar family. I hope you'll feel the same while you're here.

Whether you're a seasoned V-Bar Veteran, or new to the family, I'm glad you're here! As Scoutmasters, you are delivering on the promise of Scouting by creating meaningful experiences and opportunities for so many young people. Thank you for your time and dedication to this program, and thank you for believing in the Scouting Mission.

Our role as a camp staff, is to help you deliver on that promise. We are committed to maintaining the V-Bar standard of safe, quality, and fun programs—in an environment where Scouts can challenge themselves, build confidence, learn new skills with their peers, and have a great time doing it! Everything we do, from quality Merit Badge instruction to singing silly songs in the Dining Hall, is all in the service of ensuring you and your Troop have a successful week at Camp.

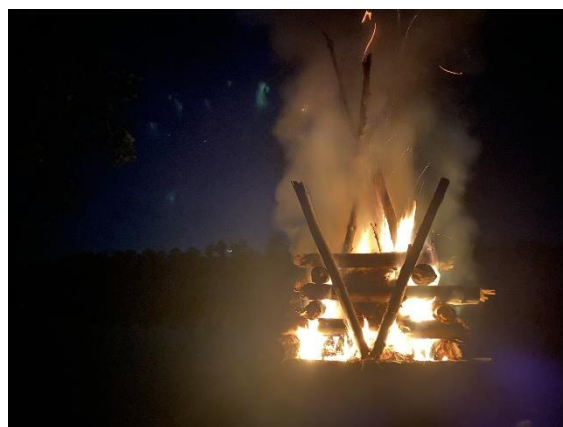
If there's anything you need before, during, or after your stay, please don't hesitate to ask. If you have any suggestions or ideas for Camp V-Bar, we'd love to hear them. Every year, your input helps us continue to improve our programs, facilities, and the beautiful 1600 acre patch of southern Mississippi pines that we call home.

Thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and your continued trust in Camp V-Bar. We look forward to seeing you soon and sharing a fantastic Thanksgiving Camp together.

Yours in Scouting



Louie Messina
Camp Director
Camp V-Bar, SSR



GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION, DATES, AND FEES

GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION	CAMP LOCATION: Salmen Scout Reservation, Camp V-Bar, is located in southern Mississippi approximately 1½ hours outside New Orleans, Louisiana. Driving directions found at: http://www.bsa-selacouncil.org/document/general-information-for-camp-guidebook/150802 <table> <tr> <td>Salmen Scout Reservation, Camp V-Bar 27585 V-Bar Road Perkinston, MS 39573</td><td>Southeast Louisiana Council, Scouting America 4200 South I-10 Service Road West Metairie, LA 70001</td></tr> <tr> <td>Camp Office: (228) 255-7336 Ranger Office: (228) 255-1336</td><td>Council Offices: (504) 889-0388 Council Fax: (504) 889-1162 Toll Free (800) 394-9410</td></tr> </table>	Salmen Scout Reservation, Camp V-Bar 27585 V-Bar Road Perkinston, MS 39573	Southeast Louisiana Council, Scouting America 4200 South I-10 Service Road West Metairie, LA 70001	Camp Office: (228) 255-7336 Ranger Office: (228) 255-1336	Council Offices: (504) 889-0388 Council Fax: (504) 889-1162 Toll Free (800) 394-9410
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Camp Office: (228) 255-7336 Ranger Office: (228) 255-1336	Council Offices: (504) 889-0388 Council Fax: (504) 889-1162 Toll Free (800) 394-9410				
DATES	Week 1: Friday – Monday, November 20-23, 2026 Check-In: Friday, 1:00pm Check-out: Monday AM				
CAMP FEES	<table> <tr> <td> Scout Fees \$130 / Early – by 10/1/26 \$155 / Regular – Late fee applied after 10/1/26 </td><td> Adult Fees \$80 / Leader </td></tr> </table> Registration Closes November 15, 2026 All fees must be Paid in Full by close of Registration	Scout Fees \$130 / Early – by 10/1/26 \$155 / Regular – Late fee applied after 10/1/26	Adult Fees \$80 / Leader		
Scout Fees \$130 / Early – by 10/1/26 \$155 / Regular – Late fee applied after 10/1/26	Adult Fees \$80 / Leader				

ALL merit badge reports are final as of departure from camp. It is the responsibility of UNIT LEADERS to CONFIRM accuracy of reports PRIOR to departure. Any questions regarding merit badge completion must be resolved prior to the unit's departure. In accordance with the Scouting America advancement policy, any incomplete merit badges may be completed with a duly registered merit badge counselor with the approval of the unit leader at any time prior to the Scout turning 18 years old.

New Scouts and Arrow of Light Patrol Crossovers do not incur Late Fees.

FEES: May be transferred from one Scout to another with written permission from the Scoutmaster.

REFUNDS: Please refer to the council website for the council's policy concerning refunds and refund requests:

<http://www.bsa-selacouncil.org/camping-outdoor-program/council-refund-policy/62964>

"The real way to happiness is to give it to others."

-Lord Baden-Powell

Daily Schedule and Activity Schedule

Time	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
5:30 am				
6:00 am		Reveille	Reveille	Reveille
7:00 am		Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30 am		MB Session 1	MB Session 3	Troops Depart
12:00 pm		Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Troop Check-In			
1:30 pm		MB Session 2	MB Session 4	
5:00 pm		Free Time	Free Time	
5:45 pm	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	
6:00 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:30 pm		Turkey Hunt		
8:02 pm	Opening Campfire (followed by Leaders' Meeting)	Cobbler Cook-Off OA Ice Cream Social	Closing Campfire	
10:30 pm	Taps	Taps	Taps	

All Merit Badges will be taught in single sessions in the morning or afternoon. Each session will last 3 hours, 8:30-11:30 AM, and 1:30-4:30 PM. Free time has been built into the schedule for Scouts to work with their instructors to finish requirements not completed during class.

	Saturday	Sunday
Morning Session	COPE (both days) Animation Electricity Geocaching Radio Traffic Safety Programming	Artificial Intelligence Chemistry Crime Prevention & Fingerprinting Railroading Engineering Robotics
Afternoon Session	Dentistry Digital Technology Fire Safety Nuclear Science Surveying Space Exploration	Cyber Security Drafting Electronics Textile Inventing Weather

PROGRAM DETAILS

The following Merit Badges can be fully completed start-to-finish, during a single three hour session with a qualified Camp V-Bar instructor:

Animation 	Explores the history and science of bringing images to life, covering principles like squash-and-stretch, frame rates, and storyboarding.
Chemistry 	Examines chemical reactions, atomic structures, states of matter, and laboratory safety through hands-on experiments.
Digital Technology 	Covers digital hardware, binary data compression, software security, local networking, and the societal impacts of technology.
Drafting 	Introduces technical drawing standards, orthographic 3-view projections, isometric views, dimensioning, and CAD software.
Electricity 	Teaches basic electrical theory, Ohm's Law, schematic diagrams, circuit wiring, and home electrical safety.
Electronics 	Focuses on active electronic components, soldering, microcontrollers, signal processing, and schematic troubleshooting.
Fingerprinting 	Covers the history of forensic identification, friction ridge patterns (loops, whorls, arches), and latent print recovery techniques.

PROGRAM DETAILS (CONT'D)

The following Merit Badges can be fully completed start-to-finish, during a single three hour session with a qualified Camp V-Bar instructor:

Nuclear Science 	Explores atomic structure, isotopes, radiation types, radioactive decay, nuclear reactors, and particle physics.
Radio 	Focuses on electromagnetic spectrum theory, wave modulation (AM/FM), signal propagation, FCC regulations, and amateur radio operations.
Railroading 	Covers train operation mechanics, freight systems, Amtrak timetable reading, crossing safety (Operation Lifesaver), and model railroading.
Surveying 	Teaches geometry and trigonometry applications in land measurement, reading deeds, mapping boundaries, and using transit equipment.
Textile 	Explores fiber types (natural vs. synthetic), fabric construction, yarn processing, industrial uses, and textile manufacturing careers.
Traffic Safety 	Covers driver safety, minimizing cabin distractions, seat belt mechanics, vehicle safety systems, and highway design.

PROGRAM DETAILS (CONT'D)

The following Merit Badges can be completed at camp **ONLY IF** Scouts complete certain prerequisite requirements before arriving at camp. Prerequisites (not covered during class) are listed below.

	Description	Prerequisites
Artificial Intelligence 	Covers machine learning concepts, neural networks, natural language processing, algorithmic bias, and AI ethics.	Req 4 & 5: Research ethical AI usage scenarios and test/document results from 2 different AI generative tools prior to class.
Crime Prevention 	Examines the role of law enforcement, youth protection, drug abuse prevention, and proactive home/community crime mitigation.	Req 2: Keep a 5-day community crime journal from news sources. Req 4a & 4b: Conduct a neighborhood inspection walk and complete a home security survey using the merit badge checklist.
Cyber Security 	Focuses on digital privacy, encryption methods, network defense, phishing prevention, and cyber law.	Req 2 & 5: Complete a personal digital footprint audit and draft a home network security plan prior to class.
Dentistry 	Teaches oral anatomy, dental hygiene, cavity development, radiograph (X-ray) analysis, and dental career fields.	Req 3: Visit a dentist for an examination and plaque-control demonstration prior to class (bring a signed note/proof).
Engineering 	Explores the engineering design process, structural forces, energy transfer, materials science, and professional ethics.	Req 1: Select and disassemble/inspect a home appliance/item to see how it works. Req 2: Research a major engineering achievement that impacted society.
Fire Safety 	Covers the fire tetrahedron, burn prevention, fire extinguisher usage, wildfire safety, and home evacuation planning.	Req 6: Conduct a home safety survey, draw a home fire-escape plan, create a fire drill schedule, and conduct a family fire drill at home.

PROGRAM DETAILS (CONT'D)

The following Merit Badges can be completed at camp **ONLY IF** Scouts complete certain prerequisite requirements before arriving at camp. Prerequisites (not covered during class) are listed below.

	Description	Prerequisites
Geocaching 	Teaches GPS navigation, latitude/longitude mapping, cache etiquette, Leave No Trace, and outdoor treasure hunting.	Req 8: Hide a public geocache OR visit 3 locations in a Cache-to-Eagle series/log travel bugs prior to class.
Inventing 	Covers creative problem solving, intellectual property (patents, copyrights), R&D, and prototyping new products.	Req 8: Develop an idea for an original invention/improvement and build a working model, mock-up, or detailed prototype drawing beforehand.
Programming 	Introduces control structures, data types, algorithm development, debugging, and software development practices.	Req 5: Write, debug, and modify programs in three different programming languages ahead of class.
Robotics 	Covers robot kinematics, sensors, actuators, autonomous programming, control loops, and robotics competitions.	Req 4: Design, build, and program a robot to perform a specific task beforehand (if not using pre-assembled kits on-site)
Space Exploration 	Explores rocketry principles (Newton's Laws), satellite orbits, unmanned space probes, and human spaceflight history.	Req 3: Build a single-stage model rocket kit prior to class (ready for engine installation and launch on-site).
Weather 	Teaches atmospheric science, pressure systems, cloud formation, extreme weather hazards, and meteorological forecasting.	Req 9 & 11: Keep a daily weather log for 5 consecutive days and track local weather forecasts against actual conditions prior to class

SUGGESTED PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Scouts BSA Handbook
 Signed Annual Health and Medical Form (A, B & C)
 Scout uniform (shirt, shorts, socks, belt)
 Bible or prayer book
 Camera
 Comb, brush, and mirror
 Completed merit badge pre-requisites
 Daypack
 Dirty clothes bag
 Feminine hygiene products
 Fishing rod and tackle
 Flashlight and extra batteries
 Hat for sun protection
 Insect repellent
 Money for Trading Post (\$50 recommended, no large bills please)
 Mosquito netting
 Notebook, pen, and pencils
 Pajamas or sleeping clothes
 Long pants (for Horsemanship)
 Personal first aid kit
 Pillow
 Pocket knife and "Totin' Chit"
 Poncho or rain jacket
 Raingear or weather-appropriate outerwear
 Shoes (closed toe) or hiking boots
 Shorts
 Sleeping bag, liner or blanket and sheets
 Soap and shampoo/conditioner
 Socks (7 or 8 pairs)
 Sunglasses
 Sunscreen
 Toothbrush and toothpaste
 Towels and washcloths
 T-shirts (5 or 6/no tank tops)
 Underwear
 Watch
 Water bottle
 Work gloves

SUMMER CAMP

Swimsuit
 Water shoes (aqua socks, etc.)
 Water survival clothing (for Scouts taking the Lifesaving merit badge)

THANKSGIVING AND WINTER CAMP

Cold-weather hat
 Long pants
 Long-sleeved shirt

SURVIVAL KIT (for Scouts taking Wilderness Survival merit badge)

Compass
 Ground cloth
 Sewing kit
 Signal mirror
 Space blanket
 Waterproof matches
 Water purification tablets
 Whistle

DO NOT BRING

Personal electronic items such as radios, Bluetooth speaker, TVs, electronic games, fireworks, sheath or hunting knives, pets, personal firearms & ammunition, jewelry or other expensive items, personal bows and arrows, laser pointers



SUGGESTED TROOP EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Patrol flags
Lanterns (propane is best)
Matches / lighters / fire starters
Dining fly(s), poles, & stakes
Rope (1/4" manila)
Tents (if you have them), poles & stakes
Hammers & other hand tools
5-gallon water jugs
Ice chests
Trash bags
Lockable storage container
Troop first aid kit
Compass
Shovels, rakes, hoes, bow saws
Rolls of surveyor's marking tape
Camp chairs
Dutch oven and other cooking and cleanup gear (gear as needed for cobbler and chili cook-off)
Camp stove, pots, and pans (gear as needed for patrol cooking on Wednesday)

CAMPSITE ENTRANCE/GATEWAY MATERIALS

Troop sign (should include troop number)
Troop flag
U.S. Flag
Twine & poles for lashing

BULLETIN BOARD

Bulletin board provided
Camp roster
Troop duty roster
Scout schedules
Emergency procedures
Push pins, etc. for bulletin board
Fireguard chart

PAPERWORK

Troop advancement records
Troop Leader Guidebook
Paper copies of Scouting America medical forms



CAMP V-BAR INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Refer to the [Camp V-Bar General Information and Policies](#) for:

- Driving Directions
- Camp Map
- Camp Amenities
- Policies



Earn the Conservation Good Turn Award

Since 1910, conservation has been an integral part of the program of Scouting America. Scouting America has been a positive force in conservation and environmental efforts. Scouts have rendered distinguished public service by helping to conserve wildlife, energy, forests, soil, and water. Past generations of Scouts have been widely recognized for undertaking conservation Good Turn action projects in their local communities.

Scouts of today have grown up hearing words such as ecosystem, biodiversity, and climate change. They recognize the need for, and the benefits of, conserving natural resources. Scouts understand that we all must work together for the betterment of the land, forests, wildlife, air, and water.

Much has been accomplished in recent years by individual Scouts and through unit conservation Good Turns. Much more needs to be done both in our communities and at Camp V-Bar.

To Earn the Conservation Good Turn Award

The Conservation Good Turn Award is an opportunity for Scout troops to carry out a Conservation Good Turn while at Camp V-Bar.

- The Scouting unit leader contacts Juan Prado (juan.prado@scouting.org) before camp or the Camp Director or Program Director while at camp and offers to carry out a Conservation Good Turn project.
- A worthwhile and needed project will be identified that the unit can accomplish.
- Working together, the unit and the Southeast Louisiana Council representative plan the details and establish the date, time, and location for carrying out the project.
- The Scout earns the Conservation Good Turn Award by participating in the planned conservation project to the satisfaction of the unit leader.
- The unit leader completes the application by clicking [here](#) (or obtaining one at camp) and then submits it to the Camp Director or Program Director for the unit to be recognized.
- Individual patches for recognition of youth and adults participating in the project may be purchased by the unit at the Southeast Louisiana Council Scout shop.



WE WANT YOUR SCOUTS ON THE CAMP V-BAR STAFF!

Dear Scoutmasters,

The Camp V-Bar staff is committed to providing quality merit badge instruction and exciting evening programs to give your Scouts an experience that will last a lifetime.

Working at Salmen Scout Reservation has been one of the most fulfilling and exciting experiences in their lives for many of the staff members. Camp V-Bar staff members learn the value of teamwork and dedication while honing their Scouting skills, leadership, and teamwork skills, and making lifetime friends. These skills will benefit your Scouts for the rest of their lives. If your Scouts join Camp V-Bar's staff, they will become role models for hundreds of youths and make a valuable impression on the lives of others.

If you have Scouts in your troop who you believe to be the best of the best, encourage them to join one of the greatest camp staffs in the country. We have a passion for Camp V-Bar, and we want to see it grow and become even greater as the years progress. To accomplish this goal, we need new staff members with innovative ideas willing to work hard to continue the tradition of making Camp V-Bar a great camp. We want your best Scouts. Have them sign up today!

First, the Scout MUST submit a resume to the Camp Staff Advisor, Juan Prado via e-mail to juan.prado@scouting.org. If interested Scouts do not have a resume, a sample resume may be downloaded [here](#).

Yours in Scouting,

Your Camp V-Bar Staff

