

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA COUNCIL CAMP V-BAR



WINTER CAMP 2026 LEADERS GUIDE

Salmen Scout Reservation
Perkinston, MS



Online Registration

bsa-selacouncil.org/WinterCamp



Southeast Louisiana Council

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



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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/WinterCamp

LETTER FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR

Dear Scoutmasters,

Welcome back to Camp V-Bar!

On behalf of our entire camp staff, I want to say how excited we are to have you and your Scouts returning for another Winter Camp full of adventure, learning, and fellowship. Camp V-Bar has always been a place where memories are made, skills are sharpened, and traditions continue – and we're honored to carry that forward with you this holiday season.

My name is Isaac Western, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as your Camp Director. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and to work alongside dedicated leaders like you who make the Scouting experience meaningful for so many young people. I'm committed to ensuring that Camp V-Bar remains a safe, well-run, and enjoyable environment where Scouts can challenge themselves, grow in confidence, and have a great time doing it.

Our staff has been working hard to prepare the camp, programs, and facilities so that your time with us is smooth, engaging, and rewarding. We look forward to supporting you however we can – whether that's helping your troop navigate the schedule, coordinating activities, or simply making sure you feel at home while you're here.

If there's anything you need before or during your stay, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our team. We're here to help make this a successful and memorable camp experience for you and your Scouts.

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 Winter Camp together.

Yours in Scouting,

Isaac Western

Camp Director, Camp V Bar



GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION, DATES, AND FEES

Order ALL merit badge class supplies online: When you register, you will pay a program fee for supplies you would have purchased in the Trading Post. Once you have registered and paid the program fee, your Scout will receive the supplies during class. Additional supplies will be available on a limited basis in the Trading Post at camp.

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	
	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

DATES	Sunday – Thursday, December 27-31, 2026				
	Check-In: Sunday, 1:00pm				
	Check-out: Thursday AM				

CAMP FEES	Scout Fees	Adult Fees
	\$185 / Early – Deposit by November 30, 2025	\$75 / Leader
	\$225 / Regular – Paid in Full by December 15, 2025	
	Registration Closes December 15, 2026	
	Deposit of \$50 per registrant (Youth & Adult) due at time of registration	
	All fees must be Paid in Full by close of Registration	

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FEES					
Collections	\$15	Wood Carving	\$15	Welding	\$10
Archery	\$5	Rifle	\$15	Shotgun	\$25
Horsemanship	\$60	Pathfinder	\$5		

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

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00 am		Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille
7:00 am		Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30 am		MB Session 1	MB Session 1	MB Session 1	Troops Depart
10:15 am		MB Session 2	MB Session 2	MB Session 2	
12:00 pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Troop Check-In 1-4 PM				
1:30 pm		MB Session 3	MB Session 3	MB Session 3	
3:15 pm		MB Session 4	MB Session 4	MB Session 4	
4:45 pm		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
5:45 pm	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	
6:00 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:30 pm		Hot Chocolate Bash	Night of Rock!		
8:02 pm	Opening Campfire (followed by SPL/Leaders' Meeting)	Cobbler Cook- Off	Chili Cook-Off OA Ice Cream Social	Closing Campfire	
10:30 pm	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	

Activity Schedule (subject to modification)

IMPORTANT! Please have your Scouts review the program details on the following pages! The information contains specific information that the Scouts need to know such as pre-requisites or required clothing or gear. For example, Horsemanship and Welding merit badges require Scouts have appropriate clothing (not shorts and Crocs). Also, the information may change over time as different Merit Badge Counselors provide input, so be sure to review them every camp.

Activity Schedule						
	8:30-10:00	10:15-11:45	Lunch	1:30-3:00	3:15-4:45	4:45-5:45
COPE/ Climbing	COPE (Both Morning Sessions)			Climbing (Both Afternoon Sessions)		Free Time
Scoutcraft	Cooking	Search and Rescue		Scouting Heritage	Wilderness Survival	
Healthcraft	Safety	Public Health		Cycling	Golf	
	Personal Fitness	First Aid		Personal Fitness	First Aid	
Tradecraft	American Labor	Welding		Composite Materials	Welding	
	Auto Maintenance	Farm Mechanics		Plumbing	Home Repair	
Sci-Craft	Environmental Science	Energy		Environmental Science	Radio	
	Astronomy	Genealogy		Astronomy	Wildland Fire Mgmt.	
Handicraft	Wood Carving	Photography		Pulp and Paper	Movie Making	
Gamecraft	Chess	Game Design		Signs, Signals, Codes	Collections	
Citizencraft	Cit. Community	Cit. Nation		Cit. Community	Cit. Nation	
	Cit. World	Personal Management		Cit World	Personal Management	
	Communications	Law		Communications	Journalism	
RATA	Rifle	Rifle		Rifle	Rifle	
	Shotgun	Shotgun		Shotgun	Shotgun	
	Archery	Archery		Archery	Archery	
Da Ponies				Horsemanship (Both Afternoon Sessions)		
Pathfinder	Pathfinder (All Day)			Pathfinder (All Day)		

V-BAR MOUNTAIN SCOUTS

Camp V-Bar is incredibly excited for the return and re-branding of the legendary Mountain Man program! Intended for older Scouts, but open to anyone looking for a true adventure in the V-Bar wilderness this Winter Camp!

Instead of signing up for Merit Badges, Scouts can explore parts of camp that are rarely seen, test out their wilderness survival skills, learn to cook in the backcountry, and much more! Mountain Scouts will also get to experience camp V-Bar's high COPE course, and will join the Horsemanship Merit Badge for a trail ride one afternoon during the week.

There is no additional cost for this program, but be sure to pack all of the personal gear you would need for an overnight hiking trip!

MERIT BADGE DETAILS

American Labor 	By exploring the history of labor unions, worker rights, and economic production, Scouts gain a deep understanding of the American workforce.
Automotive Maintenance 	Scouts dive under the hood to handle basic vehicle upkeep, including checking fluids, changing tires, and diagnosing engine systems.
Archery 	Focus and form are required as Scouts study bow mechanics, safety protocols, and shoot high-scoring rounds on target ranges.
Astronomy 	Peering into the night sky, Scouts learn to identify constellations, track planetary movements, and understand the mechanics of the universe. Requirement 4 cannot be completed at camp.
Chess 	Strategic thinking is put to the test as Scouts analyze classic openings, master endgame tactics, and compete in a full chess tournament.
Citizenship in the Community 	Connecting with local government, Scouts attend public meetings and log volunteer hours to become active neighborhood leaders. Requirements 3 and 7 cannot be completed at camp.
Citizenship in the Nation 	Exploring the foundational documents of the United States, Scouts study national monuments, federal branches, and civil liberties. Requirements 5 and 7 cannot be completed at camp.
Citizenship in the World 	By examining international organizations, global trade, and foreign policy, Scouts learn their role as global citizens.
Climbing 	Conquering high walls and natural rock faces, Scouts master knots, belaying, rappelling, and active climbing safety.

Collections 	Curating a personal passion, Scouts organize, categorize, and value a collection of items like stamps, coins, or memorabilia.
Communication 	Delivering speeches, writing reports, and leading group discussions helps Scouts find their voice and express complex ideas clearly. Requirements 5 cannot be completed at camp.
Composite Materials 	Creating durable structures from fiberglass or resin, Scouts analyze how modern materials are engineered and manufactured.
Cooking 	Scouts master nutrition and food safety principles, then apply them by planning, budgeting, and preparing diverse meals for home, camp, and trail environments. Requirements 4, 5, and 6 cannot be completed at camp.
Cycling 	Enduring miles of road or mountain terrain, Scouts learn bicycle maintenance, traffic laws, and prepare for a rigorous trail ride. Requirements 6 cannot be completed at camp.
Energy 	By auditing their home power consumption and exploring renewable resources, Scouts investigate how energy is produced, harnessed, and conserved. Requirements 4 cannot be completed at camp.
Environmental Science 	Conducting field experiments and studying ecosystems helps Scouts analyze human impact on the planet and explore conservation solutions.
Farm Mechanics 	Keeping an agricultural operation running smoothly, Scouts learn to service, repair, and safely operate heavy farm machinery.
First Aid 	Immediate, life-saving action is the core of this badge, which requires Scouts to demonstrate proper emergency care for injuries, illnesses, and shock.
Game Design 	From concept to reality, Scouts design, play, test, and refine their very own original board games or digital games.

Genealogy 	Researching family trees, interviewing relatives, and analyzing historical documents allows Scouts to piece together their ancestral heritage.
Golf 	Swinging (or tossing) for a low score, Scouts practice driving, chipping, putting, and learn the strict etiquette and rules of the course.
Home Repairs 	Becoming self-sufficient around the house, Scouts learn to patch drywall, fix electrical fixtures, and perform routine carpentry repairs.
Horsemanship 	Caring for a live animal, Scouts learn horse anatomy, grooming techniques, and how to safely ride and control a horse.
Journalism 	Investigating local stories, Scouts conduct interviews, write objective news articles, and study the ethics of a free press.
Law 	Scouts explore the legal system by examining civil and criminal law, legal histories, and participating in a mock trial.
Movie Making 	From storyboard to final cut, Scouts write, direct, shoot, and edit their own short cinematic films.
Personal Fitness 	To complete this badge, Scouts must pass physical benchmarks, track their nutrition, and stick to a rigorous 12-week exercise program. Requirement 7 cannot be completed at camp.
Personal Management 	Financial literacy is forged through managing a budget, tracking expenses for 13 weeks, and investing in project planning. Requirement 2 cannot be completed at camp.
Plumbing 	Fixing household water systems requires Scouts to clear clogged pipes, solder joints, and understand residential water flows.

Photography 	Capturing visual stories requires Scouts to master camera controls, lighting, composition, and digital editing software.
Public Health 	Investigating how diseases spread, analyzing community sanitation, and creating disease-prevention plans teaches Scouts how to protect large populations.
Pulp and Paper 	Manufacturing a piece of paper from scratch helps Scouts understand the chemistry, processing, and environmental impacts of the paper industry.
Radio 	Communicating across distances, Scouts learn electromagnetic theory, study FCC regulations, and make actual contact over amateur radio airwaves.
Rifle Shooting 	Precision and discipline are key as Scouts learn firearm safety rules and practice hitting targets from multiple shooting positions.
Safety 	By identifying household hazards, creating emergency plans, and studying public safety careers, Scouts learn how to proactively prevent accidents.
Scouting Heritage 	Tracing the roots of their movement, Scouts research Lord Baden-Powell, historical milestones, and the evolution of Scouting traditions.
Search and Rescue 	Through studying navigation, wilderness hazards, and the Incident Command System, Scouts prepare for and execute a realistic mock rescue mission.
Shotgun Shooting 	Breaking moving clay targets out of the air requires Scouts to master range safety, proper stance, and leading a target.
Signs, Signals, and Codes 	Deciphering the world around them, Scouts master Morse code, semaphore, braille, and cryptographic cipher systems.

Welding 	Scouts must master critical safety protocols, including wearing protective gear and setting up ventilated workspaces, before learning to safely operate welding equipment to fuse metals.
Wilderness Survival 	Relying on minimal gear, Scouts learn to improvise shelters, forage for water, and spend a night out in the elements safely.
Wildland Fire Management 	Scouts study the physics of forest fires, learn containment strategies, and explore the dangerous work of wildland firefighters.
Wood Carving 	Transforming a simple block of wood into a finished piece of art, Scouts master knife safety and intricate detailing techniques.

PATHFINDER PROGRAM DETAILS

Did you just recently cross over into a Scout Troop? Are you new to Scouting? Is this your first time at Camp V-Bar? Want to learn the most essential Scouting skills before diving deep into Merit Badges? These are all great reasons to participate in our Pathfinder (First-Year-Scout) Program!

As a Pathfinder Scout at Camp V-Bar, you'll have the opportunity to complete the majority of Rank Requirements through the 1st Class rank. You'll learn all about the Patrol Method, the Ideals of Scouting, and will gain the knowledge needed to begin your trail to Eagle. As a bonus, You'll also be able to earn the Fingerprinting Merit Badge!

There is a \$5 fee per Scout which covers an orienteering compass (which Scouts will get to keep), as well as rope to practice knot tying and lashings.

The Pathfinder Program is all about learning and challenging yourself, having lots of fun, and making memories that will last a lifetime. Think of Pathfinder as an introduction to long-term camping for Scouts. You'll get to experience a little bit of all of the best that Camp V-Bar has to offer!

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

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, cell phones, 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 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.



STAFF CAMP V-BAR

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 louie.messina@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

