

Blue Ridge Mountains Council

Reservation Policies and Procedures

The primary purpose of the Blue Ridge Mountains Scout Reservation is to provide an outdoor retreat where units can play the game of Scouting in a safe and affordable environment. All visitors are requested to adhere to the tenets of the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code. The official camping policies of the Boy Scouts of America are found in the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Health and Safety Manual. Specific rules for the Blue Ridge Mountains Scout Reservation are attached to this guide. If questions regarding policy arise, please ask one of the Camp Rangers or Scouting Professionals for clarification.

Before Arriving at Camp

1. Make sure you have completed a facility use form detailing your numbers and program areas to be used. Make sure those responsible for running programs such as swimming, boating, or shooting sports attach a copy of their certifications to the facility use form. Except for special events, campsites may not be reserved, they are first come, first serve!
2. All units must have two deep leadership (one 21+ and one 18+); coed groups must have male and female leadership (both over 21). Leaders are responsible for their unit members at all times.
3. Before leaving home, discuss Reservation rules and prohibited items.
4. Make sure at least one of your leaders is trained in First Aid/CPR and has an appropriate medical kit for your group. The trip leader should have medical history, emergency contact information, and a permission to seek emergency treatment form for all participants.
5. If there are problems or changes in your plan, please contact the service center immediately. If these changes occur after business hours, please contact one of our Camp Rangers.
 - a. Charlie Stultz, Reservation 540-230-0449 (cell)
 - b. Chuck Holscher, Camp Ottari 540-980-4762 (camp) 540-230-6038 (cell)
 - c. Harrison Hankins, Camp Powhatan & Claytor 540-980-3787 (Powhatan) 540-633-1238 (Claytor) or 540-230-8530 (cell)

Check-in Procedures

1. All visitors should participate in an orientation with a campmaster or ranger before setting up camp. At this time, you will be provided with a copy of the checkout sheet. Please note any preexisting problems now.
2. Adults and youth should be made aware of camp policies and procedures. This publication will be emailed with each facility use form.
3. If camp facilities are to be used, be sure to complete a walk through with the campmaster or ranger.
4. Camp Maps are available if your group is unfamiliar with the area.

General Camp Rules

1. Vehicles

- a. The campwide speed limit is 5 mph unless posted otherwise
- b. Gear should be packed into camping sites from the parking lot. Unusually heavy unit equipment may be transported to the campsite, unloaded, and the vehicle **immediately** returned to the parking area. (This is a National Camping Standard!)
- c. Riding in the back of a truck or in any vehicle without a seatbelt is prohibited.
- d. Travel trailers, tent trailers, and motor homes are not a part of scout camping and are strongly discouraged.
- e. ATVs and motorcycles are not allowed on the property.
- f. Use of camp owned vehicles are at the discretion of the Camp Ranger.

2. Camp Facilities and Equipment

- a. The use of any building or structure must be approved in advance by the Council Service Center through the use of a facility form.
- b. Alcohol and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited on BSA property. Smoking is not allowed inside camp buildings and it is not permitted around youth.
- c. No repairs or “improvements” should be made to any facility without permission.
- d. Buildings should be left in better condition than they were found. Please make sure your youth do not nail items to the walls or leave graffiti.
- e. Usage of camp equipment and facilities may be requested through the Camp Registrar by permit. All requests will be evaluated on an individual basis.

3. Campsites

- a. The campsite and its facilities and grounds may not be altered in any way. Please do not dig holes, build new trails, drive nails into trees or perform service projects without first checking with the Ranger or Council Program Director.
- b. Latrine washbasins should not be used to wash dishes or clean fish. Under no circumstance should any human made trash or natural debris (sticks and rocks) be placed in the latrine pits!
- c. Campfires should be built only in designated areas and must be supervised at all times. Only dead wood may be used as a fuel source. Do not move the campfire rings! There is a state wide burning ban from February 15 through April 30th. Please do not bring your own firewood to the property—this is how insect infestations are spread.
- d. The use of lanterns and camp stoves should only occur under the supervision of an adult. Please do not hang lanterns from trees.
- e. 20-pound propane cylinders should be turned off at the valve and kept inside plastic milk crates for stability. All tanks not in use shall be checked in the central fuel storage area.
- f. No flames are allowed in tents! This includes heaters.
- g. Please take your garbage home when you leave, we do not have regular trash pickup in the off season.
- h. All food and smellables should be secured when not being prepared or eaten. **No food in tents!** (For more information ask for our literature on bears and wildlife)
- i. Be conservation minded. Protect wildlife and vegetation so that future visitors may have the same quality experience that you had.
- j. Please do not move tent floorboards.

4. The Following are not Allowed

- a. Fireworks
- b. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs

- c. Smoking is, at best, a poor example for Scouts. Use or possession of tobacco products by anyone under the age of 18 is illegal in Virginia. Leaders, we ask that you refrain from smoking in front of the Scouts.
- d. With the exception of working dogs, no pets are allowed on the Reservation.
- e. Knives must fold and are not to exceed four inches in length
- f. No personal firearms except those brought for shooting sports merit badges. These arms must be secured in the range house during your stay.
- g. Flames in tents.
- h. Initiations or hazing
- i. We recommend that all electrical devices such as radios or video games be left at home or secured in a vehicle.

Check-out Procedures

- a. The campsite is clean with no paper, trash, or human-made mess.
- b. Latrines and shower houses are clean.
- c. All fires are COLD out and the pit is free of trash.
- d. All unused firewood has been stacked neatly.
- e. No alterations such as holes or new fire rings have been made to the campsite and groundcover has been replaced.
- f. No standing trees have been cut or damaged.
- g. All camp equipment has been returned clean and in good condition.
- h. Any damage has been reported and will be paid for by the person responsible.
- i. The campmaster or ranger has cleared you to leave.

Special Areas in the Off-Season

1. Aquatics Area

- a. Usage of the waterfront area is allowed only during daylight hours
- b. Unit swims must be conducted in the swimming area under the leadership of a 21-year old registered adult currently certified in Safe Swim Defense. The “Qualified Supervisor” must designate (2) lifeguards, equipped with reach poles and ring buoys, to supervise all water activities. A minimum ratio of one lifeguard per ten swimmers must be maintained.
- c. Boating events may be conducted only under the supervision of a 21 year old, registered adult currently certified in Safety Afloat. The minimum ratio is one lifeguard for every 10 watercraft in the water with a minimum of two lifeguards at all times.
- d. All swimmers/boaters must be physically fit and receive an orientation on waterfront safety prior to participation. The buddy system must be used in all aquatics activities.
- e. Youth members are allowed to fish only under adult supervision. Please see the Hunting and Fishing Section for specific rules.

2. Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery Ranges

- a. All firearms and ammunition must be checked with the ranger or campmaster upon arrival and stored under lock and key by an adult 21 year of age or older.
- b. Only 22-caliber rim fire, bolt action, single shot rifles may be used by scouts. In accordance with National Policy, Venture Scouts and Explorers may use pistols.

- c. A 21 year old or older Range Officer certified by the National Rifle Association, the U.S. military, or the BSA National Camp School must be present for the range to open. A copy of this certification must be submitted with the facility use form.
- d. Unit leadership will assist the Range Officer in maintaining proper safety procedures and conduct while the range is in operation.
- e. Muzzleloaders must use percussion ignition. The camp muzzleloaders are stored off property and must be requested in advance.
- f. Archery instructors must be at least 18 years old and possess either a National Camp School Shooting Sports Director Certification, National Archery Association Instructor Certification, or a Training Course Pocket Certificate (No. 33767) issued by one of the previously mentioned Instructors. A copy of this certification should be submitted with the facility use form.

3. Climbing and COPE Events

- a. All climbing and COPE events must be scheduled six weeks in advance through the Council Office. (Reservation forms and costs are available per request)
- b. Only individuals meeting both the Council COPE and Climbing Committee's requirements and National Standards may operate these facilities.
- c. With the exception of helmets and harnesses that must be approved by a COPE or Climbing Director, only council equipment may be used on the property.
- d. Non-Scouting groups must complete a waiver and show proof of liability insurance. A copy of this document must be submitted with the facility use form.

4. The Backcountry

- a. Before heading into the backcountry, please submit a copy of your itinerary with the campmaster or ranger on duty.
- b. Units should be knowledgeable of the seven principles of Leave No Trace and plan to adhere to those principles while on the trail.
- c. Please be particularly careful with your food storage at night and make sure your youth put all smellables into properly hung bear bags. (For more information, please ask for our literature regarding bears)
- d. To minimize fire hazard, we ask that you please not smoke while on the trail in the backcountry. Once in camp, we ask that you avoid building campfires and instead use camp stoves for cooking. If a fire must be built in an emergency, please make sure the fire is **always** attended and COLD out before you leave. Unless you are using a designated fire ring, please scatter your ashes and remove all evidence of the fire.

5. Fishing

- a. Youth are allowed to fish only under adult supervision.
- b. Powhatan Lake
 - Anyone fishing in Powhatan Lake must pay a \$5 fee or be in possession of a Reservation Fishing Permit.
 - Only 5 fish may be caught
 - Trout fewer than 10 inches must be released; culling Trout is not allowed.
- c. Ottari Lake
 - Youth may fish Ottari Lake for free; however, adults must purchase a Reservation Fishing Permit.

- Please return all sunfish caught to the lake; sunfish are extremely important for the continued survival of our bass population.
 - All bass less than 12 inches in length must be released.
- d. Creeks and Streams
 - All individuals must comply with the state fish and game laws when fishing in any stream.
 - e. Blackout dates for fishing are listed on the Council Calendar and special rules may be introduced at any time to improve lake ecology.

6. Hunting

- a. Those wishing to hunt on the Reservation must be in possession of a Boy Scout Hunting Permit (available by contacting the Council Office).
- b. Permits will be issued to those under 18 if a 21 year old or older adult accompanies them.
- c. No camping or hunting is allowed within 500 yards of any permanent building. (If you decide to camp, you must first notify the Ranger.)
- d. With the exception of the regular gun season for deer, hunting is not permitted on Fridays after 12 noon, Saturdays, and holidays.
- e. Firearms should be unloaded when driving across the property or when walking through no fire zones. Hunting from vehicles is not allowed.
- f. The council reserves the right to close the property to hunting at any time.

7. Mountain Bikes

- a. Those wishing to mountain bike on the property should indicate so on their facility use form.
- b. Helmets, specifically designed for biking, must be worn at all times.
- c. Adult supervision is required on trips leaving the base camp area
- d. Bikes are not allowed during the summer camp season.

***Use of property or equipment not covered in these Policies and Procedures will need special approval by the Council.**

Violation of Reservation Rules and Policy

The Camp Ranger, Campmaster, and Scouting Professionals have the responsibility and authority to expel any person or persons misusing camp property or violating camp policies. Furthermore, failure of groups to comply with the above regulations may result in suspension of unit camping privileges. The Council Camping Committee may review suspension of privileges and damages and judge accordingly.

These camping policies are subject to change without notice. Any person or unit may make suggestions, improvements, or request changes to the Council Camp Policies and Procedures submitting them to the Council Program Director.

Blue Ridge Mountains Council, Attn: Greg Harmon, P.O. Box 7606, Roanoke, VA 24019-0606