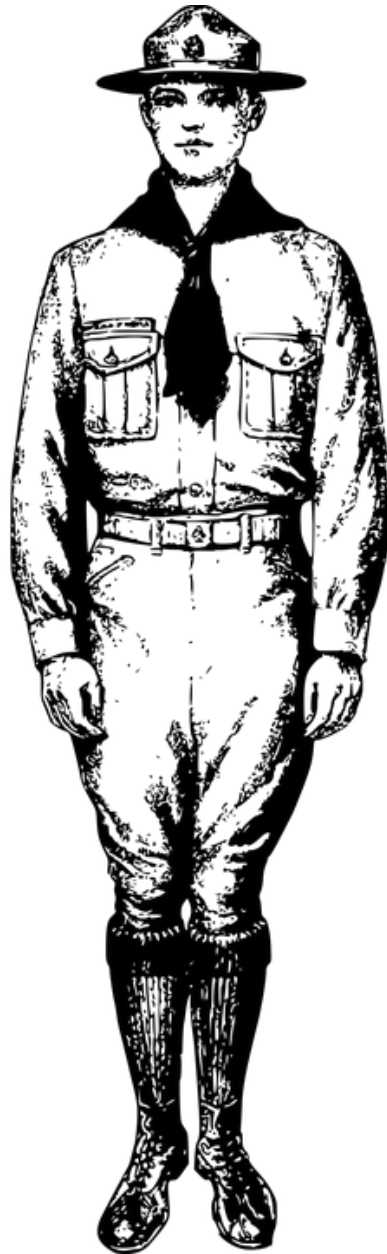


Brownsea Island Leader's Guide



“Tell someone, and they will forget. Show someone, and they will remember.
Involve someone, and they will understand.” author unknown

A note from the Camp Director

The Brownsea Island program has had a lengthy and important impact on the Blue Ridge Mountains Scout Reservation. For over 20 years the program has offered an opportunity to accelerate rank progress for young Scouts in their first year of Scouting. It is an invaluable program to many troops, offering access to skills and requirements that may be difficult for the Scouts to achieve through regular Scout meetings and outings. The bonds the Scouts form during their BSI week can help encourage new Scouts to continue on their path to Eagle. BSI is a great introduction to Scouting and all of its facets.

The Brownsea Island program was updated in 2022 to bring it closer to the National Camping School model. Lesson plans were rewritten to be more inclusive of different learning styles, all gender specific language was removed, skits, songs, games, and ceremonies were updated to reflect more Gen-Z appropriate themes, and a new leader's guide was created.

The biggest change we want all troop leaders considering this program for their Scouts to know is this: Brownsea Island is not meant for all "first-year campers." It is meant for NEW Scouts. By new Scouts, we mean those who just bridged in February after their Blue and Gold banquet or joined at the end of the school year. If a Scout has already been attending troop meetings and outings for a full school year, then they do not need BSI. If they are a brand new Scout, but a developmentally normal 14 year old, they do not need BSI. Scouts who already have experience with the patrol method, regardless of whether or not they have been to camp before, do not need BSI. If they are already at the Tenderfoot rank and halfway through Second Class, they do not need BSI. If your Scouts already know how to use a compass, knife, build a fire, and tie a bowline, then they do not need BSI.

BSI will work best and give the biggest "bang for the buck" for brand new Scouts who need to work through Tenderfoot and Second Class. Again, if your Scouts are close to Second Class already, take a look at the requirements they need and what we will cover. If they already have the majority of our week's requirements, arrange a merit badge schedule for them that will give them the opportunity to earn a merit badge as well as check off a rank requirement. They

will be happier and have a lot more fun. Kids who are bored become kids who cause disruptions. Scouts who do not have fun at camp are Scouts that don't stay in Scouting for long. There are merits to both BSI and merit badge programs and I implore you to speak with the Scouts themselves to see what their thoughts are, not to just sign them up for BSI because it's their first year at camp.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope the changes that have been made will continue to grow this program and have a positive impact on the BRSR by giving Scouts every reason to be active in their troops and return to camp the following year.

Mandy Foster
Director, Camp Powhatan 2023
Director, Brownsea Island 2021-2022

Proposed Daily Schedule

Sunday	
7:30-8:00	Meet and greet with patrol (start at the chapel)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	
9:00-9:20	Opening in program area
9:20-9:50	Patrol time
9:50-11:50	Module rotations
12:00-1:55	Lunch and siesta
2:00-4:15	Module rotations
4:15-4:30	Closing in program area
4:30-4:45	Service patrol cleanup
Wednesday	
9:00-9:20	Opening in program area
9:20-9:50	Patrol time
9:50-11:50	Module rotations
12:00-1:30	Lunch and siesta
1:45-5:00	5 mile hike
Friday	
9:00-9:20	Opening in program area
9:20-9:50	Patrol time
9:50-11:50	Module rotations
12:00-1:55	Lunch and siesta
2:00-3:00	Free swim
3:00-3:55	Change for graduation
4:00-4:45	Closing ceremony in chapel

Aims of the BSI Program

- To prepare new Scouts to be an active participant in the activities of their troop
- To supplement, not replace, the troop's advancement program
- To give Scouts the opportunity to practice Scout skills that require practice and repeat action such as knots, tool usage, orienteering, and first aid
- To give Scouts a sense of accomplishment
- To have fun in a learn-by-doing environment

What the BSI Program Offers

- An introduction to the patrol method through model troop meetings for daily activities
- The opportunity to work on First Aid Merit Badge
- Games and activities to keep the Scouts engaged
- Rank requirements that are difficult for the home troop to accomplish such as the 1 mile orienteering course, 5 mile hike, and swim tests

What the BSI Program Does NOT Offer

- Swimming Merit Badge
- An overnight "camp under the stars" trip during the week
- Cooking requirements
- "Book learning" requirements that the home troop can easily cover during weekly meetings
- Scoutmaster conferences
- Tailor fitting requirements to your Scout's needs

Expectations of the Home Troop

- Each participating troop will provide at least one adult who will either assist in skills instruction or help chaperone the patrol for the week. This does not have to be the same person every day.
- Troops with 1-3 participants will be grouped with other troops. Responsibility to arrange an adult to be with the patrol every day will fall upon those troop leaders. They will have a chance to confer on Sunday evening at the meet and greet on the parade field.
- Test the Scouts on their lessons and sign off their requirements in their handbooks
- Support the Scouts by being cheerful and helpful

Expectations of the BSI Troop Guides

- Sign off the daily lessons in the Scouts' program passports and promptly award their beads as tokens of achievement
- Listen to and engage all Scouts who are in the patrol
- Provide hands on lessons to reinforce the more difficult requirements
- Be a model Scout to which the Scouts can look up

Rank Requirements Possibly Addressed

- Scout 4a, 4b, 5
- Tenderfoot 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b
- Second Class 2b, 2c, 2f, 2g, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 8a
- First Class 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 6a, 7a, 7b, 7c
- First Aid Merit Badge (Prerequisite: requirement 5a, 5b, 7b)
- Other rank requirements may be covered especially if there is inclement weather

If you have any questions or concerns about what will be covered this coming summer, please direct them to the Reservation Program Director or Camp Director. Thank you for your interest in the Brownsea Island Program!