Winter Camp 35

Camp Strake
Tsuru Scout Camp
Scouters,

Welcome to another year of winter camp at Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC)!! This year, we will have a few new changes to bring to you. The most important change is that after a six-year break winter camp is returning to Camp Strake! I would like to thank everyone involved in helping to make this year’s winter camp a success. With their help, I am sure that we will again deliver an amazing program to your Scouts this year.

This year’s theme is Sci-Fi. We hope that you will bring out your favorite Klingon, Imperial Stormtrooper or Goa'uld Trooper to participate in the many fun activities throughout the week, culminating with theme night on the 29th. I hope your troops will participate in all the fun activities throughout the week, especially dressing Sci-Fi for theme night.

Every morning, we will hold a Scoutmaster (SM) and senior patrol (SPL) leader meeting immediately after the flag ceremony. Please be prompt in attending these meetings, as we will be distributing valuable information about the day during that meeting.

This year Scouts will have the opportunity to attend five classes during the day, some classes will be double sessions, and we are bringing back a few of the night classes like we offered last year. My team and I think this will enable your Scouts to get the best program available.

This week of camp will be a great time for you to spend with your Scouts and enjoy all that Camp Strake has to offer. I cannot wait to see what you all have planned to make this a memorable week for all of our Scouts. If you need anything, please feel free to e-mail, call or visit me in the office during camp.

Yours in Scouting,

Russell

Russell Carman
Winter Camp Director
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Camp Strake is located on 2,816 acres between New Waverly and Coldspring near the community of Evergreen, TX. Lake Livingston is 10 miles east of the property. The camp is a 1.5-hour drive from downtown Houston. Camp Strake is surrounded on three sides by the Sam Houston National Forest and has the Lone Star Hiking Trail close to one corner of the property.

Camp Strake is first-class and state-of-the-art for Scouts and their leaders with two distinct sections:

- The Tsuru Scout Camp was developed for weekend and resident camp operations for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing
- The future Integrity Institute will be the home for advanced training programs for adult leaders and youth members of Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing.
Winter Camp 35 Leaders guide

Mission Statement

Winter camp is a Scouts BSA resident camp run by volunteers designed to:

- **Strengthen troops through the patrol method** – Many activities and competitions are designed to encourage troops to work through the patrol method to participate in various activities throughout camp and to reinforce through week-long exercise the principles of the patrol method taught at weekly troop meetings throughout the year.

- **Provide opportunity for individual advancement** – Camp offers an extensive number of merit badges taught by Scouters with “real world experience.” It provides a fun venue for Scouts to receive an in-depth look at subject matters, which could lead them to a better appreciation for the subject and possibly influence their future education and career decisions. In addition, through instruction in traditional Scoutcraft, newer Scouts are prepared through the rank emphasis program to return to their troop and excel in meeting and exceeding the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

- Scouts and Scouters alike are expected to strive to achieve the above aims while living the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

Contact Information

Please use the link below to find information about Camp Strake and to find appropriate contact information about council programs at Camp Strake.

https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/camp-strake

There is no public phone available for Scouts to call out, but if a parent needs to contact a Scout, they may call the camp office and a message will be given to the Scout at the next meal.

Emergencies

The camp has emergency phone numbers posted near all camp office telephones, and FM radio communication throughout the camp. In an emergency, the camp director or designee will initiate emergency procedures, depending upon the situation. During emergencies, adult leaders should supervise their own unit’s response appropriately.

Emergency Signals

There are two types of emergency alarms. The first is a solid tone for general emergencies. When you hear the camp alarm (siren), you must IMMEDIATELY assemble with your troop at your campsite, take a head count, have your senior patrol leader report your attendance to the staff member in charge and await further instructions. If, for whatever reason, the campsites are
unsafe, the staff will direct people to the grand pavilion as a secondary assembly area. Stay at the assembly area until the all clear is given.

The second type of alarm will be a pulsing siren. This signifies a weather emergency. This part of Texas is prone to afternoon thunderstorms, with potential for the formation of tornados. Whenever a serious storm approaches, everyone in camp should move into the nearest designated shelter. All permanent structures at Camp Strake are suitable shelters during an emergency.

Emergency Evacuation
In the event of a fire or other hazardous condition that requires evacuation of the camp, instructions will be provided by the camp staff at the Grand Pavilion on procedures to follow to exit camp as quickly as possible, while maintaining accountability of staff and campers.

Drills
In accordance with National Boy Scouts of America (BSA) camp policy, an emergency drill will be conducted each week of camp. Every person must report to their campsite when the alarm is sounded, drill or no drill!

Staffing
One of the many unique aspects of our winter camp is the fact that our entire staff is composed of volunteers. We do not hire Scouts or adults to teach merit badges or run our kitchen. We rely upon volunteers to take time away from work and their families in order to provide an outstanding program for the hundreds of Scouts in camp each year.

In order to be able to provide adequate staff for our camp, we require all troops attending winter camp to have at least one person from that troop on our staff for every six Scouts registered for camp, or any portion thereof.

For example, if a troop is bringing just four Scouts to camp, they need one person from the troop to serve on staff for winter camp. If a troop is bringing eight Scouts to camp, two people must serve on staff.

For troops bringing up to 12 Scouts, this shouldn’t pose a major issue, as each troop should be bringing at least two adults to camp to meet two-deep leadership requirements.

Rest assured that any adult leader who agrees to staff at winter camp will not have their ability to supervise and advise their troop adversely affected. The greatest need for most staffers is during times when most Scouts are busy at merit badge classes or enjoying activity period.

Prospective staff members must be at least 15 years of age (certain staff positions may have more stringent age requirements). Interested persons may apply for staff.

Applications are subject to approval by the camp director and the professional advisor. Applications must be submitted on or before November 15th.
All facilities at Camp Strake are modern and ADA compliant. Many of these facilities, including the dining hall, are climate controlled.

**Check-in Building**
At the entrance to Camp Strake is the check-in building. This facility is used to greet visitors to the camp, provide directions, and issue parking permits. All visitors should be prepared to stop at this building to sign-in to camp. Once signed in, visitors will be directed either to their assigned campsite, or to the main camp office to receive additional information or pay any needed fees. During periods when heightened medical screening is required (e.g. COVID-19), visitors and campers will be directed from the Check-in building to the staff lounge parking lot, where pre-event screening will be set up and conducted. Campers will then proceed to the administration/headquarters building or their campsites.

**Camp Headquarters**
The camp has a fully operational camp office to help you with any needs you may have during your stay at Tsuru Scout Camp. The headquarters houses lost and found, mail, camp director’s office, camp commissioner’s office, quartermaster, trading post, business manager’s office, and health lodge. Office hours will be posted at the office.
**Dining Hall**
The dining hall can seat 460 people comfortably. During winter camp, meals will be served in one sitting. Lunch meals will be delivered to campsites. Each unit must complete the Special Unit Request portion of the unit registration **before December 10**, to help meet any special food requirements your unit may have. The parade field used for morning and evening flag ceremonies is located just to the west of the dining hall.

**Grand Pavilion**
The Grand Pavilion can seat 600 people comfortably. By utilizing the grand pavilion for meals, we will be able to have one meal time for all of camp and allowing more time for merit badges and program activities. The parade field used for morning and evening flag ceremonies is located just to the north of the Grand Pavilion.

**STEM Building**
Located within the program area just south of the administration building is the STEM building. This facility will be the home for numerous merit badges and the Nova awards. It will be outfitted with equipment and materials to support a robust STEM and conservation program in a controlled environment.

**Shooting Sports**
The shooting sports area contains a rifle range (16 firing positions with a maximum range of 100 yards), a shotgun range, an archery range, a sporting arrows range, and a 3-D archery range.

**Climbing Tower**
Integral to the climbing program is the 32-foot-tall climbing tower and training pavilion. Located at the west end of the lake, it provides a great vantage point overlooking the entire camp. Here, beginner and experienced climbers get a chance to test and improve their skills.

**Program Field**
Located inside the horseshoe formed by the ring of campsites is the large program field. Here, there is space for a wide range of merit badge classes or other program activities.

**Trading Post**
Camp Strake has a well-stocked trading post located in the camp headquarters building. It is stocked with merit badge pamphlets, T-shirts, Scouting literature, handicraft supplies, camp patches, mugs, and equipment in addition to drinks and candy. The trading post accepts cash, checks and credit cards (Master Card, Visa, American Express and Discover) for your convenience.
Campsites
Campsites are nestled in shaded areas throughout the camp. Each campsite will have picnic tables and a covered pavilion. Each troop will be assigned to one of the campsites prior to arrival at Camp Strake.

All campsites will be single gender units. Brother and sister units will not be allowed to share a campsite, please make sure that your unit has the appropriate two-deep leadership prior to coming to camp.

The camp commissioner will make these assignments based on a troop’s size and the size of the campsite, resulting in the possibility of troops sharing a campsite with another troop. Requests for specific campsites can be made in advance, but there are no guarantees that the request can be accommodated. Generators of any type are not permitted. The pavilions located in each campsite have electricity. Shower houses are located along the main campsite road and are shared by three or four campsites. Each stall in the shower houses is ADA compliant and has a toilet, sink, and shower facility. There are no gender specific stalls in these shower houses.
The cost for each Scout to attend winter camp is $300. Each troop must pay a $300 deposit upon registration. In addition, to secure spots for individual Scouts, the troop must pay a deposit of $125 per Scout by October 31st. Troops registering after this deadline need to pay the deposit for each Scout at the time of registration. This deposit may be transferred to another Scout in the same troop, but is not refundable.

**Important Dates**

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*Important BSA policy changes: Effective 05/2018 ALL adults attending camp must be registered members of BSA. Two registered adult leaders over 21 years of age are required for all Scouting activities. Each troop is allowed to register up to two adult leaders at no cost. All additional leaders are $150 per adult. Those adults serving on staff will not be charged a fee. The two free adults, as described above, are in addition to those adults serving on Staff.

**Units must provide one staff member for every six Scouts attending winter camp.**

*The state of Texas requires that the council conduct a criminal background check and sex offender database check on every adult who will be at camp. All adults attending winter camp must submit an Adult in Camp Compliance form on or before December 1, 2020, to allow sufficient time for the background checks to be completed. Adults who do not submit to the background check will NOT be permitted in camp.*

**Individual Scout Registration**

Scouts may attend winter camp even if their troop isn't attending. Scouts have two options:

1. Scouts attending without a parent/guarding must find another Troop with which to attend winter camp. The winter camp staff can help Scouts find a Troop. The unit hosting the Lone Scout will add the Scout to their winter camp registration. The parent/guardian then pays the registration fee to their winter camp troop.

2. Scouts attending with a parent/guardian should register as a unit. On the online registration form, answer “yes” to the question, “Do you need to be put in a campsite with another troop to meet leadership requirements?”

For further assistance with Individual Scout Registration, please contact the winter camp registrar.
Deadline for Outstanding Balances
All outstanding fees must be paid on or before December 1st. Any troops not paying the full balance by that date risk having their registration canceled and all deposits being forfeited.

Camperships
A limited number of camperships are available each year for Scouts who have severe financial hardships. Troops should encourage Scouts to earn their own way through unit fundraisers. For more information about camperships:

Applications are due by October 15.

Refund Policy
The council refund policy can be found at: https://www.shac.org/refund
UNIT LEADER MEETING

December 2, 2020  7:30-9:00 pm

All troops should send at least one leader, preferably the acting winter camp Scoutmaster, to the informational meeting. Critical information about camp will be provided and questions answered. The meeting will be held at the Cockrell Scout Center, which is located at 2225 North Loop West, Houston, Texas 77008.

EARLY CHECK-IN

Troops may check in several weeks before camp begins. By checking in early, a troop will be provided with a pass. At camp the troop will present the pass at the security checkpoint when they first arriving in camp. Troops that have checked in early will then be allowed to proceed immediately to their campsite after the mandatory day of medical screening at the front gate area. If they have changes to their check-in information, they will be allowed access to an express check-in line available only to those who have checked in early. This line will be intended only to update an existing early check in with minor changes to the troop’s roster.

Early check-in will be offered at the following times:
- Wednesday, December 2, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cockrell Scout Center
- Tuesday, December 8, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cockrell Scout Center
- Wednesday December 9, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cockrell Scout Center
- Saturday, December 12, 2020, from 12:00noon to 3:00pm at Camp Strake

In order to be eligible to participate in early check-in, each troop must have the following:

- **BSA Annual Health and Medical Record** (including Parts A, B & C) for each person attending camp (youth and adult)- must be signed by a parent (or participant if 18 or older) and a physician, dated after December 1, 2019
- **Youth Protection Training Certificate** completed since December 31, 2018 for every adult attending camp.
- **BSA Hazardous Weather Training Certificate** completed since December 31, 2018 for every adult attending camp.
- **Adult in Camp Compliance Form** submitted no later than December 1, 2020 for every adult coming to camp.
Participant Packing List

- BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (part A, B, C) signed by a parent and a physician on or after 12/1/2019.
- Field uniform (Scout uniform) and belt
- Completed merit badge prerequisites
- Clothing appropriate for weather
- Long sleeve shirt (2 to 4)
- Socks (7 or 8 pair)
- Pants (4 to 5 pair)
- T-shirts (no tank tops) (7 or 8)
- Shoes (closed toe) or hiking boots
- Cap or hat
- Underwear
- Pajamas or sleeping clothes
- Sleeping bag (1 or 2), blankets, sheet
- Pillow
- Cot or pad
- Personal first aid kit
- Rain gear (pants and jacket)
- Winter coat
- Towels and washcloth
- Soap and shampoo
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb, brush, mirror
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- Sunscreen
- *Boy Scout Handbook*
- Water bottle (or canteen) and cup
- Spiral notebooks
- Pen or pencils
- Letter writing material
- Backpack
- Work gloves
- Dirty clothes bag
- Watch
- Portable chair or camp stool
- Pocket knife and Totin’ Chip

Do NOT Bring:

- Valuables
- Electronics (e.g., iPod, iPad)*
- Fireworks
- Sheath or hunting knives
- Pets
- Hammocks
- Personal firearms and ammunition
- Jewelry
- Personal bows and arrows
- Fuel burning hand warmers

*Electricity is very limited.

Optional

- Thermal underwear (pants and shirt, not cotton)
- Spending money for trading post
- Nontoxic, noncombustible, environmentally friendly hand warmers
- Mosquito netting
- Camera

Mark all items with name and troop number.
Recommended Troop Equipment

Troop packing list

- Troop sign (should include troop number)
- Troop flag
- US flag
- Rope and poles for lashing
- Lanterns
- Stove
- Matches/lighters
- Dining fly(s)
- Rope
- Tents, poles & stakes
- Five-gallon water buckets (with lids)
- Ice chests
- Trash bags
- Lockable storage container
- Troop first aid kit
- Compass
- Service project gear: shovels, rakes, hoes, bow saws, loppers, hammers
- Camp chairs
- Pots—coffee/water
- Firewood (if no burn ban)
- Bulletin board:
  - Camp roster
  - Troop duty roster
  - Scout schedules
  - Push pins
- Paperwork:
  - Troop advancement records
  - Troop merit badge library
  - Troop’s camping attendance
  - Winter Camp Leaders Guide

Winter Camp Tips

Participants are expected to come to camp prepared for variable weather. Although temperatures average between 40 to 60 degrees during winter camp, temperatures have been known to dip as low as 19 degrees and rise as high as 80 degrees.

Dressing for the cold. When dressing for cold weather, focus on a layering system including the three W’s: wicking, warmth and wind. Your base layer should be wicking (like an athletic shirt), an insulating layer should be warming (like fleece or wool) and an exterior layer should block the wind. Use clothing you have, focusing on the right combination of fabrics.

Wicking layer or base. Also commonly known as long underwear, the base layer is worn closest to your skin. Its main job is to wick away sweat and moisture, so your skin stays dry. Wear it relatively tightly to the skin and use only wool or synthetic base layers. Never use cotton, because it will not keep you warm once it is wet, whether from sweat or precipitation. These base layers come in various weights, from heavy for frigid conditions to lightweight for warmer temps and activities that cause a lot of sweating, such as strenuous hiking and cross-country skiing. It is a good idea to have one extra pair of base layers to change into every night at camp.

Warmth layer or insulation. The insulation layer is worn atop the base layer and is designed to provide the majority of your insulation. It should be made of fleece, wool, down or
synthetic insulation and can be a pullover, zip-up jacket or vest, depending on how much insulation you need.

**Windproofing layer or shell.** The outermost layer, the shell jacket and pants, protect you from wind and wet conditions. There are two types of shells: the hard shell is a lightweight layer that’s windproof and waterproof, capable of handling heavy rain and very wet conditions; a soft shell is made of a more flexible, soft-faced material that’s windproof yet highly breathable, and water-resistant enough to protect you against everything, except a heavy downpour.

**Mittens.** Mittens are warmer than gloves. If insulated mittens get wet, they stay that way. Wool mitts worn inside leather or nylon shells are removable for faster drying. Wool gloves are needed for dexterity when cooking.

**Sleeping.** Be sure to change into dry clothes for sleeping — moisture retained in field clothes will cause chilling. For overnight warmth, wear wool, polypropylene or polyester (never cotton!) long johns, socks and a balaclava to bed. Place a scarf across your neck to seal drafts.

**Sleeping bags.** Two sleeping bags — one placed inside the other — should provide enough warmth down to about zero degrees. If you don’t have a closed-cell foam pad to use as a sleeping mat, try half-inch-thick foam carpet padding.

**Ground cloth.** In warmer months, a plastic ground cloth should be used inside your tent to stay dry. However, in winter, use the ground cloth beneath your tent to keep it from freezing to the ground.

**Toes cold? Put on a hat.** Your body loses up to half of its total heat in 40-degree temperatures through an uncovered head. When it’s below freezing and your head is uncovered, you could be radiating more than three-fourths of your overall body heat from your head.

**Baggy clothes** are back in style, at least in the freezing-cold wilderness. Your body heats itself most efficiently when it’s enveloped in a layer of warm air. If your clothes are too tight, you’re strangling the heat right out of your body. Dressing in loose layers helps aid this convection layer of air. Tight clothes or too-tight boots can also restrict blood-flow.

**Stay hydrated.** In winter, you may not be aware of how much you’re sweating. A gulp of ice-cold water is hardly appetizing, but it is important to keep drinking. Hot drinks and soup are a great way to replenish liquids, electrolytes, and heat. Keep extra tea bags or hot chocolate on hand, as well as bouillon cubes, and hand out hot drinks liberally, especially at the end of the day when energy is low.
Camp Arrival and Check-in

Troops will NOT be allowed to enter Camp Strake before 1:30 pm on December 26th.

There are two methods through which check-in by a troop may be accomplished: early check-in at the Cockrell Scout Center, or on-site check-in at Camp Strake.

**Check-In and Arrival**
Troops arriving before 1:30 PM are asked to line up on the right side of the road entering camp. An excessive number of vehicles and trailers causes a line of vehicles to overflow onto FM 945. This presents a safety hazard.

Upon arriving in camp, all persons are required to take a mandatory daily medical check by our staff, once the vehicle is cleared the Scouts will be allowed into camp. Troops need to park in the parking lot closest to their campsite, and the Scoutmaster should proceed to the camp administration building. There will be a line for troops that have not participated in early check-in. Members of our staff will examine your troop’s paperwork and ensure that everything is complete.

**Campsite Assignments**
Campsite assignments will be posted in December.

**In-Camp Troop Leaders’ Meeting**
At 7:15 pm on the first evening of camp, a mandatory meeting of all Scoutmasters and senior patrol leaders from each troop will be held in the dining hall.
BSA National Vehicle Insurance Requirements
Each troop is responsible for safe transportation to and from camp and meeting the BSA national insurance requirements, as laid out in the current version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Use of Vehicles / Trailers In Camp
Upon arrival at Camp Strake, drivers of vehicles will be provided parking passes. Drivers are required to write their name and cell phone number on the parking pass and keep it visible on their dashboard at all times the vehicle is on Camp Strake property. The name and phone number on the parking pass will allow our security staff to contact you in the event the vehicle needs to be moved, or if any other issues with the vehicle arise.

Vehicles without proper parking permits found on Camp Strake property may be towed at owner’s expense.

Under no circumstances should a vehicle or trailer enter the campsite at any time. Entry of vehicles into the campsite could leave unsightly ruts in the campsite and could possibly damage plumbing located close to the surface. Parking areas are provided at designated locations for leaders who drive vehicles. Only camp vehicles are permitted beyond the parking lot or on camp service roads. Vehicle permits will be distributed at check-in, along with maps designating parking locations for various vehicles.

Camp Strake is a walking camp. Vehicles should not be moved from these parking areas during camp, unless the driver is leaving camp or has specific permission to move the vehicle (e.g., staff members given permits to use vehicles to transport equipment each day). This is a necessary measure, due to the heavy use of roads by pedestrians, including hundreds of Scouts moving back and forth to merit badges and other activities. Troop trailers are to be parked in the available parking areas in front of each campsite. Absolutely no personally owned vehicles will be allowed to drive through the middle of camp.

The speed limit in camp is 20 mph on blacktop roads (unless otherwise posted) and 5 mph on gravel or dirt roads.

Drivers who continue to violate rules regarding the operation of vehicles in camp will be asked to leave camp immediately.

Adults Leaving and Returning
Scouters may leave camp and return as needed, but we do ask all Scouters to make efforts to keep trips in and out of camp to a minimum. Due to the large number of campers, excessive vehicular traffic presents a possible danger to pedestrians using the roads to move between merit badge classes or going to the dining hall. Adults must check in and out with the winter camp office, so that we are aware of who is on property at all times. In the event of an emergency, we must be able to account for all campers.
**Youth Protection**
As a residential camp accredited by the Boy Scouts of America, we closely follow all youth protection policies set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, the State of Texas has enacted statutes and regulations concerning youth protection, which also apply to our camp. No exceptions to these policies may be made.

**Two-Deep Leadership**
It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that trips and outings may never be led by only one adult. At least two adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years or older, are required for trips or outings. It is the responsibility of the chartered organization of any Scout troop to inform the committee and leadership of the unit that sufficient adult leaders are provided on all trips and outings.

We recognize that winter camp presents many troops with unique challenges concerning this requirement. Adult leaders may rotate in and out as needed so long as there are two adult leaders from each Troop on property at all times.

When such rotations occur, adults **must check in and out** of the winter camp office, so that our staff is made aware of the identity and contact information for all adult leaders for each troop in camp.

**Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act**
In order to protect the health and safety of youth attending residential camps in the State of Texas, the Texas legislature has enacted the Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act. While many portions of this statute concern the facilities and staffing of a youth residential camp, portions of this law affect troops directly.

All adults coming to camp, whether working on staff or not, must complete the Adult in Camp Compliance form **no later than December 1, 2020**. Completing this form allows council office staff to complete a criminal background check on each adult in camp (regardless of time spent in camp).

**Youth Protection Training (YPT)**
Every adult in camp must have taken YPT training online after December 31, 2019 and have a copy of their YPT certificate (or a picture on their phone) at all times during camp.

Each unit must provide a hard copy of each adult’s certificate to the council office on or before December 15th. Individuals who have not completed Youth Protection Training will not be allowed at camp.
Health, Medical and Safety Issues

Medical Pre-screening
All visitors and campers coming into Camp Strake will be pre-screened for any illness that might pose a communicable disease threat. Upon arrival at the camp check-in building, visitors and campers will be directed to the staff lounge parking lot where the pre-event screening will be accomplished by camp staff. The procedure is outlined in the Camp Strake Health Policy and Procedure Manual, and requires the use of the Pre-Event Screening Form included in this guide as Appendix 4. This form should be completed by a parent or guardian before the camper travels to camp and will be turned in to camp staff during the initial screening.

Hospital Treatment
Should any participant at Camp Strake require medical treatment beyond the first aid capabilities provided by camp staff at the health lodge, they will be evacuated to the nearest medical treatment facility. The nearest hospital is Conroe Regional Medical Center, 504 Medical Center Blvd, Conroe, TX.

All registered members of Sam Houston Area Council troops are covered by Health Special Risk (HSR) unit insurance. Should a Scout or Scouter need professional medical assistance (meaning greater care that the camp can offer), the family’s primary health insurance must be used. In the event a family does not have health coverage, the council’s HSR policy will become the primary policy and cover 100% of eligible cost up to a $15K maximum per incident. Families will be contacted by Wayne McLeland to discuss how to coordinate benefits with the council’s secondary coverage after camp is concluded. “out of council” troops must provide proof of accident and sickness insurance upon arrival at camp.

Health Lodge
The health lodge at camp is available 24 hours a day and is prepared to handle minor injuries and illnesses. Any emergency that cannot be treated at the health lodge will be referred to a local hospital or doctor’s clinic. The unit leader or assistant will transport the patient to the outside medical facility. In the event of a MEDICAL EMERGENCY report to the health lodge at the camp headquarters building. The waiting area for the health lodge is on the porch area just outside the building near the entrance to the health lodge. A screening will be conducted on the porch before any person is brought into the Lodge for treatment.

- If the medics are not in the office, there is a whiteboard near the door that will advise you of how to reach them.
- Every Scout and adult who attends camp MUST have an annual health history form completed within the last 12 months prior to attending camp. A copy of your health form will be turned in during check-in at camp.
- There is NO provision for the administration of a physical examination to be done at camp. If a Scout does NOT have a current health and medical record on file, they will either have to secure one from an area doctor at their expense or they will have to return home at their expense.
- The camp reserves the right to refuse admittance to a Scout who, in the opinion of the
Camp Health Officer and the Camp Director, has any physical or medical problem which could present a hazard to themselves or other Scouts. Scouts may be sent home at their expense.

**Medications**
The camp medical officer will review the health form provided by the Scout for instructions regarding medications that may be administered to the Scout. If no “over the counter” (OTC) medications are listed on the medical form, then it will be necessary for the medical personnel to attempt to contact the parent or guardian for permission to administer such medications (Tylenol, Pepto-Bismol, Advil, etc.). If they are unable to reach a parent/guardian, then the Scout will need further medical evaluation by the designated camp physician or hospital facility.

**NOTE TO UNIT LEADERS:** Additional instruction in helping Scouts complete their medical forms should include any non-prescription medication that will be permitted on an as needed basis.

**The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual’s parent or guardian. Unit leaders should ensure that prescription medications for their Scouts are properly stored and administered.**

**Dietary or special medical needs**
Participants who have special dietary or medical needs must have their leader complete the ‘Special Dietary Considerations’ information located in the ‘Group Form’ section of their online winter camp registration before December 1, 2020. Be aware that we are unable to completely change the menu or purchase specialty items. Depending on the need, it may be necessary for Scouts with special dietary requirements to bring food items to supplement items available at camp. We should be able to accommodate most needs; however, it is helpful for the staff to be aware prior to camp, so we can be prepared. Common requests include: vegetarian diets, religious diets, use of dining hall freezers for special food, allergies to peanuts, etc. Special medical needs also need to be communicated using this form. Common requests include: needing refrigeration for medication, electricity for CPAP machines, etc. Again, the camp is able to meet needs and accommodate requests in most cases. However, participants may need to bring specialty items to help make some requests possible. We will provide microwaves to heat food, but actual cooking must be done in the campsite.

**Council Insurance**
The Sam Houston Area Council Accident and Sickness Insurance plan covers your registered Scouts and adult leaders while at camp. (Please register parents staying with your troop as a member of your troop committee). This coverage does not cover units from out of council. Out-of-council units should bring a claim form from their council.

If the insured requires medical or surgical treatment, the individual’s health insurance is primary. After benefits are paid by the primary coverage. The councils medical and sickness insurance will pay 100% of eligible covered expenses listed in the policy, up to a maximum of $15,000 per covered accident and up to $7,500 per covered sickness. For detailed information on coverage please contact wayne.mcleland@scouting.org.
**Buddy System**
All Scouts should adhere to the buddy system throughout camp. No Scout should ever be found wandering through camp alone. We recognize that this can be difficult if the Scout has not scheduled classes with fellow members of their troop. We encourage troops to attempt to pair Scouts in classes as much as possible. If this is not feasible, the Scout should walk with other Scouts in the class to the location of the merit badge class. Due to the number of Scouts and the short amount of time between classes, this should be a relatively simple exercise.

**Youth Leaving and Returning**
We highly encourage parents to allow youth to remain on camp property the entire time camp is in session. This reduces unnecessary traffic in and out of camp and allows youth to have the complete residential camp experience with their troop.

Prior to final checkout, youth will only be allowed to check out from camp with an adult authorized on Part B of the Scout’s [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](https://www.scouting.org). Please ensure that parents in your troop have included all authorized adults on this form. Without this authorization on the form, only an adult from the Scout’s troop registered for camp or the parent signing the form will be allowed to remove the child from camp prior to final checkout.

No one, including a Scout leader or parent, will be allowed to leave camp with a person under the age of 18 without having checked out at the winter camp office and receiving a ticket, which will be taken by security just before you reach the exit of the camp.

During checkout the last day of camp, adult leaders will receive exit tickets for all youth in their troop from their camp commissioner once they have successfully checked out.

**Nonparticipants in Camp**
For liability reasons winter camp does not allow for unregistered youth, younger siblings or friends, that are not registered as a member of the Boy Scout of America in a troop, crew or ship to participate in camp. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Personal Possessions**
Camp is an outdoor experience. A Scout misses a full outdoor experience by electronic devices. Personal items such as radios, stereos, TV’s, CD players, MP3 players, electronic games, phones, etc. should not be brought to camp. In all cases, personal valuables (watches, wallets, money) should not be in the open at camp. It is virtually impossible to provide security for these items. It is recommended that each unit bring a lockable storage container to secure valuables, while an adult is not in the campsite. All items must be permanently marked with the Scout’s name and troop number. No adult or Scout should ever leave any electronic device unattended while charging anywhere at camp.
Lost and Found
If any lost items are found, they should be turned in at the winter camp commissioner’s office as soon as is reasonably possible. Likewise, if anyone from your troop has lost an item while at winter camp, check with the winter camp commissioner’s office to determine if it has been returned there. Lost items will be kept in the winter camp commissioner’s office through the end of winter camp. After winter camp, the camp director will dispose of the items left at camp (e.g., donated to a non-profit organization, returned to the council office, thrown in the trash). Neither the council, nor its staff, shall be held responsible for any lost items.

Do not bring valuables to camp. To assist in returning items to their rightful owner, please ensure that all items brought to camp have the owner’s name and troop number marked on them.

Smoking and Vaping Policy
Per BSA national policy, smoking or vaping by youth at any Scouting event shall not be tolerated. If a youth is caught smoking or vaping at winter camp, the youth’s parents or guardians will be contacted by phone and shall be required to pick the youth up from Camp Strake immediately.

Smoking and vaping by adults is not permitted in any tent, pavilion or building. Smoking is also not permitted in the dining hall at any time.

While we highly discourage smoking or vaping while in camp, adults who choose to do so must not smoke or vape within sight of any youth. Moreover, in the event of a burn ban, smoking and vaping may be prohibited on Camp Strake property entirely. Please check with the winter camp office to determine whether such a burn ban is in place.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs or Stimulants
The consumption, possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs or controlled substances while participating in the program at Camp Strake is not permitted. We will enforce all local, state, and federal laws when a violation involving the above substances is reported. Violators will be asked to leave the camp immediately.

Rifles, Ammunition, Bows and Arrows
Personal firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, and fireworks are not allowed in camp.

Fires, Liquid Fuels and Propane
Fires are to be built only in the designated areas and under proper supervision. Liquid fuels are not permitted. Propane is to be used only under adult supervision. Empty cylinders and cans must be given to the camp quartermaster for disposal. National policy prohibits the use of open flames in tents. This includes mosquito coils, catalytic heaters, gas lanterns, stoves, candles, and smoking material. ALL TENTS AND FLYS MUST BE MARKED “NO FLAMES IN TENTS”
Trading Post
The trading post will be located in the same building as the winter camp offices. Just look for the signs above the door!

The trading post will be stocked with an assortment of collectible items and camp essentials, including snacks and drinks.

Internet Access
Internet and Wi-Fi are available at camp for staff members and as it is needed for merit badges. Due to the large number of Scouts at winter camp it is recommended that you provide your own hot spot, if you need high speed internet for personal business.

Meals
All menus have been reviewed by a certified dietician and are designed to provide active and healthy youth with the nutrition and calorie intake needed for low-temperature camping.

The first meal served will be dinner on December 26th, so troops should make plans to eat lunch before arriving at Camp Strake that afternoon. A “grab and go” breakfast is served the morning of December 31st, as troops prepare to check out and depart.

Each unit is expected to participate in the food service for a minimum of one meal while at camp.

Breakfast and Dinner
Breakfast and dinner are served in the Memorial Pavilion near the dining hall. Scouts will eat in either the dining hall or Grand Pavilion depending where the unit is assigned. During dinner, a salad bar and soup of the day will be offered. Campers are expected to wear their Scouts BSA field uniform (Scout uniform) to dinner.

Lunch
Lunch will be delivered to the campsites between 12:00 and 12:35. Troops should only take from their own bags in their campsite. During the lunch period, there is ample time for rest and relaxation, as there are no activities taking place. Scouts are encouraged to take this time to fellowship with members of their troop and other troops in their campsite, get some rest, and perhaps work on some of their merit badge requirements.

Special Dietary Needs
In the event anyone in your troop has special dietary needs, please ensure this information is included in the troop’s online registration. All information for special diets must be provided before December 1, 2020. Tickets for special meals will be given to unit leaders at check-in and the scouts will turn these tickets in at mealtime when they pick up their food.

No additional special meal tickets will be available once camp has begun.
## Winter Camp Week at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06:30</td>
<td>Breakfast Check-in &amp; Camp Set Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:00</td>
<td>SM / SPL Meeting (In Dining Hall) OA Meeting (In Grand Pavilion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:15</td>
<td>OA Brotherhood Walk Will Be @ 7:30 PM On December 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:30</td>
<td>Troop Check-in &amp; Camp Set Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:30-10:00</td>
<td>WINTER CAMP STAFF REPORTS AT 8:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-11:30</td>
<td>ACTIVITY / ADVANCEMENT PERIOD 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>LUNCH AND REST</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40-1:15</td>
<td>ACTIVITY / ADVANCEMENT PERIOD 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15-2:30</td>
<td>ACTIVITY / ADVANCEMENT PERIOD 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:30</td>
<td>ACTIVITY / ADVANCEMENT PERIOD 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>ACTIVITY / ADVANCEMENT PERIOD 5</td>
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<td>4:30-5:30</td>
<td>DINNER</td>
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<td>5:30</td>
<td>SERVIE TROOPS REPORT</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>MORNING ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>6:30</td>
<td>BREAKFAST - SM / SPL MEETING</td>
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<td>7:30</td>
<td>SERVICE TROOPS REPORT ORDER</td>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td>EVENING ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>CAMPFIRE</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>QUITE TIME</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>TAPS</td>
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**Updated 09/27/2020**
Merit Badges
The highlight of any camp is the program offered at that camp. In addition to numerous merit badge classes offered at winter camp, we have an energetic program staff that is dedicated to planning great activities all week long.

Dozens of different merit badges will be offered, including many of the Eagle Scout required merit badges.

Class periods will be scheduled for Scouts to earn merit badges and/or work on skills toward the trail to First Class rank. Some classes are recommended for older, more mature Scouts, such as Climbing and Shotgun Shooting. Some classes have extremely limited space due to facilities or equipment (e.g., Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Archery). Please do not sign up a Scout for a merit badge that they have already started with another counselor or that they have already earned.

In many cases, the merit badges cannot be completed during camp (ex. Personal Management requires the Scout to develop and maintain a budget for three months). Scouts will receive “partial” credit for any merit badge showing the requirements they completed. Troops should plan their program to help their Scouts complete the merit badges after camp.

Please keep in mind that, on occasion, we may need to cancel merit badge classes based on low enrollment. Scouts should be flexible in their goals for earning merit badges while at winter camp. While it is rare that we must cancel a class, it has happened.

Once a merit badge class is full, Scouts will not be allowed to register for the class.

A list of prerequisites will be available online.

At the end of camp all of the completed requirements will be posted directly into Scoutbook.

Merit Badge Add/Drop
The Scoutmaster or designee should advise Scouts before selecting merit badges. Class sizes are limited. Merit badges can be added or dropped online until December 14, 2020. After the merit badge registration system closes, changes can only be made at the winter camp office at Camp Strake on December 26th before 5:00 pm. The following rules will apply:

- Only one form may be turned in per unit.
- The form must be signed by the acting Scoutmaster for the troop.
- The form must be filled out completely.
- Schedules will not be reprinted for troops making changes in camp.
- No changes will be accepted after 5:00 pm on December 26th.

Our merit badge instructors will be advised not to allow any Scouts to take their class unless they are listed on the roster.
Rank Emphasis
For Scouts working on requirements toward Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class ranks, classes designed to teach Scouts the skills necessary to complete these requirements are available. The counselors will not sign off on the requirements, as that is left to the troop Scoutmaster and/or those the Scoutmaster has designated as adult leaders permitted to sign off on rank advancement requirements. Instead, the classes are there to merely teach basic Scoutcraft skills needed to advance in these initial ranks.

Classes are scheduled in such a manner that Scouts working toward Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class will also have an opportunity to take at least one or two merit badges.

During the Week
At the beginning of day 3, you will be given a report for your Scouts that shows their daily attendance and progress on their merit badge completion. Any incorrect information should be discussed directly with their merit badge counselor.

We ask that you attempt to resolve any issues or discrepancies with your merit badge report before leaving camp. Counselors are available to help you throughout the week.
## Merit Badges Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merit Badge</th>
<th>Class 1</th>
<th>Class 2</th>
<th>Class 3</th>
<th>Class 4</th>
<th>Class 5</th>
<th>Prereqs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Badge</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Prereqs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended for scouts 13/14 years or older</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Climbing</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>🏋️ Personal Management</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shotgun Shooting</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welding/Metalwork</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>None</td>
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</table>

*Climbing is physically demanding. We recommend Scouts be 14 years old. Scouts will be required to lift and hold their own body weight. Scouts will be evaluated to determine if they can complete the requirements.

*Shooting a shotgun is physically demanding. We recommend Scouts be at least 13 years old. Scouts will be evaluated to determine if they can properly hold a shotgun.

*Public Health will deal with more mature topics in a Co-ed environment. We recommend that Scouts be 14 years old and of a mature mind set for this class.

If they are not capable, they will not be allowed to take these merit badges.
Activity Program

Everyday there will be a separate meeting for your unit’s Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader (Check your camp schedule). These meetings are important to get updates to the daily schedule and to discuss any opportunities for improvement to the camp or our program.

Opening Campfire
We don’t normally have an opening campfire at winter camp. This year is a little different with the opening of Camp Strake, so this year we will have a fun and exciting opening campfire for all Scouts to enjoy.

Scouts Own Service
A Scout is Reverent. The Scouts Own Service will be held on December 28th in the dining hall before movie night. We will celebrate the blessings given to us by God through a selection of songs, discussion, and a little bit of fun.

Storm Trooper Training (Shooting Sports Competition)
A shooting sports competition is tentatively scheduled for day 2 and 3 of camp. Information will be provided at camp as to the rules for participation. Awards for winning units will be presented at the closing campfire.

Battle Simulations (Game Night)
Game Night is on December 27th, and it isn’t just about being entertained by our program staff and your fellow Scouts – it’s also a competition to show which troop has the best skills at games!

Strake Theater 2020 (Movie Night)
On the evening of December 28th, make your way to the dining hall for some entertainment, and watch a movie on the big screen! Snacks will be provided.

Away Mission (Theme Night)
On the evening of December 29th, everyone will gather for a theme night party. This is always the most popular event at winter camp, as it involves a number of competitions and activities. Just follow the music from our very powerful sound system to the festivities!

Our theme this year is Sci-Fi think of a variety of personalities and situations, to inspire creative costumes and reenactments.

Competition awards for first, second and third place will be announced at closing campfire:

- **Costume Competition** – Scouts wishing to participate should come prepared with a Scouting, and weather, appropriate costume based on the theme for this year. We’ll allow your imagination to determine how best to fit your costume to this year’s theme. Please be aware that this is an individual competition. While troops are welcome to coordinate their costumes, such coordination shall not be taken into account in judging the costumes.
for prizes. Please: no real weapons; plastic toy weapons are fine, as long as they have the orange safety tip.

- **Patrol/troop design competition** – Come prepared to design a troop or patrol (flag) (this is left to the discretion of the troop’s senior patrol leader, based on the number of Scouts from your Troop attending Winter Camp) based on this year’s theme.

- **Patrol/troop pioneering competition** – Each year we ask troops or patrols (again, up to SPL, depending on number of Scouts from your troop in attendance) to build an object at camp based on the theme.

- **Scoutmaster cookoff** – This is a competition for the adult leaders in camp. The acting Scoutmaster, with the assistance of any willing adults from their troop, may choose to test their outdoor culinary skills to produce the best dish. Dishes will be judged starting at 8:30 pm sharp at theme night, so come prepared to serve your dish to our panel of judges at that time. The identity of the judges will be kept secret until the judging begins. Dishes will be judged based on the following criteria: taste, aroma, appearance, creativity, and relation to theme.

**Landing Procedures (Closing Campfire)**

What better way to cap off a week of winter camp than to come together around a campfire for an evening of songs, skits, awards and presentations.
In addition to the awards that a troop may earn at theme night or the individual advancement that scout may earn at camp, there are various opportunities for a troop or individual to earn additional recognition at winter camp.

**Iceberg Award**
An annual tradition, the Iceberg Award can be earned by troops at winter camp by participating in all of the activities in camp; service projects, acting as the color guard or leading the camp in prayer at camp assemblies, and performing duties as assigned by their camp commissioner, theme activities, skit night, etc. A troop receiving the Iceberg Award has exemplified Scout Spirit and contributed to making winter camp a better place for everyone.

Additional information about earning the Iceberg Award can be obtained by contacting your camp commissioner.

**Patch Segments**
For over 20 years, winter camp has had the unique patch segments. This year we are changing the segments into something that will add to your patch’s uniqueness. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to earn the various patches to augment the event patch.

- Iceberg – all members of a troop earning the Iceberg Award will receive this segment
- Service – all members of a troop earning the Service Award will receive this segment
- Theme – any Scout actively participating in theme night will earn this segment

**Winter Camper Award**
Although not part of the winter camp program, it is possible to earn the Sam Houston Area Council Winter Camper Patch while at winter camp. If the weather cooperates registered Scouts and leaders qualify when they have met the following criteria of:

Camping three days and two nights at a Scouting activity with temperatures of 42.5 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Official temperatures will be provided in the unit checkout packet to let you know if the members of your troop qualify for the Winter Camper Patch. troops may purchase patches for $3 each from the Cockrell Scout Center front desk (not the Scout Shop).
The Order of the Arrow is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, developing leaders, and providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich, support and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

At winter camp, Arrowmen who are members of Colonneh Lodge, and who have served their troops for at least six months since their Ordeal ceremony, will have the opportunity to seal their membership in the Order of the Arrow by completing a Brotherhood ceremony. The Brotherhood ceremony will take place on the evening of December 28th. Announcements will be made in camp concerning the time and location of the Brotherhood walk and talk, as well as the time for the Brotherhood ceremony that evening.

Any interested Arrowmen should sign up for the Brotherhood ceremony at the winter camp office. Arrowmen seeking Brotherhood membership should also ensure that their dues are current with Colonneh Lodge, as that is a requirement of achieving Brotherhood membership.

As a celebration of the importance of Order of the Arrow to our Scout camps, and to celebrate those Arrowmen who are furthering their commitment to their troops through sealing their Brotherhood membership in the Order of the Arrow. All Arrowmen are encouraged to wear their OA sash with their uniform to evening assembly and at dinner on December 28th. Any Arrowmen who are Brotherhood or Vigil members are also welcome and encouraged to attend the Brotherhood ceremony that evening.

All Order of the Arrow members are invited to a Cracker Barrel both the night of December 26th and the night of December 28th. The Cracker Barrel on December 26th will take place immediately after the SM/SPL meeting, and the Cracker Barrel on December 28th will take place immediately following the Brotherhood Ceremony. Come on out and support your fellow Arrowmen!
Because of the large number of troops and the compressed time frame in which check-out occurs, please read this section carefully to ensure a smooth check-out process. Your cooperation will ensure that we are able to help you get on the road back home as quickly as possible.

Checkout on Evening of December 30\textsuperscript{th}

A number of troops traditionally choose to leave Camp Strake on the evening of December 30\textsuperscript{th}. While we encourage all troops to remain for the entire event, we understand that some troops wish to leave the evening before winter camp ends, there is no discount for departing camp before December 31\textsuperscript{st}.

As soon as your troop has determined that it wishes to check out early, please notify the camp commissioner’s office immediately. This will assist the camp commissioners in coordinating timely checkouts that evening.

- The first step for a troop packing up to leave on December 30\textsuperscript{th} is to have their camp completely broken down, packed in the troop trailer or otherwise moved to the front of the campsites.
- The troop should also carefully police their campsites to ensure that it is left in better condition than it was found. If any tables or other items were moved by the troop, they should be returned to their original location.
- The troop should send someone, with a buddy, to the camp commissioner’s office to notify them that they are ready for a camp inspection. Also, ensure you pick up your checkout packet at the winter camp office at this point, if you have not yet done so. \textit{Please be patient awaiting inspection of your campsite, as our camp commissioners are in high demand by troops attempting to check out of camp at this point.}
- Once a camp commissioner has inspected the campsites and determined that it is in good condition, he or she will provide you with passes which will allow you to take your vehicles out of their parking areas and drive them carefully to the front of your campsites. You will also be provided tickets for each youth in your troop which will authorize you to remove the youth from camp. You will also need the pass and tickets to exit the camp that evening. Do not attempt to drive your vehicle to your campsites prior to receiving the pass and tickets from the camp commissioner.
- Please be mindful of the fact that camp vehicles and other troops attempting to pack are trying to get past you on the road. Ensure your vehicle is pulled as far off the road as is possible, without pulling into your campsites.
- Again, please do not drive into the campsites or move your trailer into the campsites – you must remain on the paved road or in a parking space.
- Once the vehicles are loaded, the troop must return the vehicles to a valid parking area or immediately leave camp.
- Only retrieve medical forms from the health lodge once you are ready to depart camp. If you remain in camp, we will not have medical forms for you or your Scouts.
Under no circumstances will a troop be allowed to check out on December 30th unless they have been cleared by a camp commissioner to load their vehicles by 5:00 pm, on December 30th. All vehicles must either be back in the parking lots or out of camp by 5:30 pm, in order to ensure that roads are cleared before pedestrian traffic picks up at dinner time.

Troops who have packed and returned their vehicles to a designated parking area may remain in camp through the conclusion of the closing campfire. The Troop, at that time, should pick up their health forms from the medical lodge then immediately and safely leave camp.

**Check-out on December 31st**
Since most pedestrian traffic will have greatly diminished by the last day of camp, check-out procedures are simplified from the early check-out procedure.

- Breakdown camp, pack the troop trailer, and move items to be loaded in vehicles to the front of the campsite.
- The troop should carefully police their campsite to ensure that it is left in better condition than it was found. If any tables or other items were moved by the troop, they should be returned to their original location.
- The troop should send someone, with a buddy, to the camp commissioner’s office to notify them that they are ready for a camp inspection. Also, ensure you pick up your checkout packet at the winter camp office at this point, if you have not yet done so. *Please be patient awaiting inspection of your campsite, as our camp commissioners are in high demand by troops attempting to check out of camp at this point.*
- Once a camp commissioner has inspected the campsite and determined that it is in good condition, he or she will provide you a pass allowing your troop to exit camp, as well as tickets for the youth in your troop to allow you to remove them from camp property. You may now retrieve your vehicles and load remaining items.
- Please be mindful of the fact that camp vehicles and other troops attempting to pack are trying to get past you on the road. Ensure your vehicle is pulled as far off the road as is possible, without pulling into your campsite.
- Again, please do not drive into the campsite or move your trailer into the campsite – you must remain on the road or in a parking space.
- If you so choose, you may now pick up medical forms for your troop from the health lodge. Any forms left behind will be destroyed.
- Once medical forms have been collected, please depart camp immediately. Drive safe!
Parents of campers should contact their troop leaders with questions about winter camp. Many of the adult leaders attending winter camp are quite experienced and can answer questions.

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**Winter Camp Program Director**  
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