

# **HAWK MOUNTAIN SCOUT RESERVATION**

## **YEAR-ROUND RENTAL CAMP GUIDE**

**2024-2025**



Thank you for choosing to come to Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

We are proud of our facility, and we hope you enjoy yourself on your visit.

Leadership in the outdoors, is one of the things that separates us from other youth serving organizations. We appreciate you taking the time and effort to bring your Scouts here.

This guide is meant to help you with the policies and procedures of camp, information and emergency procedures you will need to make your trip successful.

Please make sure that you are following the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, and the *S.A.F.E Checklist*. Both, of these documents will help you in planning your trip keeping safety first.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Director at:  
Camp phone: 570.754.7552, Office: 610.926.3406

Updated: 10/2024



## Essential Youth Protection Guidelines

- Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation and the Hawk Mountain Scout Council adhere to all Youth Protection guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America.
- The responsibility for caring for your campers at camp is a 24-hour-a-day duty.
- All adults must be current members with all their background checks and Youth Protection Training.
- All adults must follow all the *Guidelines to Safe Scouting*.

## Good Stewardship

- Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation is a year-round camping facility maintained by the Hawk Mountain Scout Council.
- The Camp Ranger, Council Camping Committee, Council Properties and Maintenance Committee, volunteer Camp Masters and the Council Program Director work hard to maintain and improve our facilities.
- The continued improvement of our facilities is dependent on the care given to our facilities.
- We must be good stewards of our facility, equipment and environment so that they may remain for others to enjoy in future years.

## Environmental Statement

- The Boy Scouts of America fosters environmental respect and "Leave No Trace". All Scouts and Leaders are charged to protect and nurture our environment, especially when at camp.
- Help us keep your camp clean by:
  - Recycling – Reduce the use of all paper, Styrofoam, and plastic. Reuse containers and recycle. Dispose of your trash appropriately and take home your recycling.
  - Low Impact Camping – Be gentle to your campsite and surrounding area. Always stay on established paths. Don't cut, remove, trample or damage any plants or trees. Never build any new fire rings anywhere.
  - Follow the Outdoor Code always.
    - As an American, I will do my best to:
      - Be clean in my outdoor manners
      - Be careful with fire
      - Be considerate in the outdoors
      - Be conservation minded

## Reservations

- Cabins – all cabins have bunk beds with mattresses, woodstove or fireplace, propane stove and refrigerator. Some also have Central Heat, toilet and showers. This is refunded if you check out with the Camp Master and no damage is found to the building.
  - DuPortail sleeps 14 people
  - Lake Lodge sleeps 14 people
  - Randy Rowe sleeps 28 people
  - Hoffman sleeps 28 people
  - Hafer sleeps 40 people
  - Fox Lodge sleeps 12 people and has central heat, shower and toilets
  - Akela sleeps 24 people and has central heat, toilets,
  - Activity Room 1 or 2 sleeps 20 people and has central heat, toilets and showers, cost
- Other Buildings that are not listed that can be rented. Please contact the Program Director for rental information.
  - Willits Dining Hall:
    - Seating for 380
    - Commercial Kitchen – must have someone with a current Serv-Safe certification and experience working in a commercial kitchen.
    - This building is not available to rent for sleeping accommodations.
  - Miller Conference Center
    - Seating for 300
    - Commercial Kitchen – must have someone with a current Serv-Safe certification and experience working in a commercial kitchen.
    - This building is not available to rent for sleeping accommodations.
- Directions – We are located at 402 Blue Mountain Rd, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
  - From the South, Interstate 78 take Rt 183 North over the mountain and turn left onto Blue Mountain Road and follow the signs to camp.
  - From the North, Interstate 81 take Rt 61 to Pottsville, then Rt 183 South to Blue Mountain Rd and follow the signs to camp.

## Qualifications and Availability

- Camp facilities are reserved for use by organized scouting units on a “first come, first served” basis
- Outside groups – contact the Council Program Director.

## Trading Post

- Is available per your request.

## Leadership

- At least one adult leader (defined as 21 years of age or older) must be provided for every 10 campers (defined as younger than 21 years of age). At least one adult leader must be present with the group at all times while in camp.

## Arrival

- When arriving at camp please park your vehicles in the main parking lot. Please check in at the Welcome Center to get parking passes for your vehicles that will not be in the main parking lot.
- Check in should be made in arrangement ahead of time with the Council Program Director.
- You must turn in your rosters at the Welcome Center at check in.
- The drivers of vehicles in camp will need to submit copies of their drivers license, registration and insurance at this time. You will be given tags for those vehicles.
- At the Welcome Center you will get a binder. In this binder you will get:
  - Rules and Regulations when hiking the Appalachian Trail
  - Maps of camp both hiking and locations of water, wood, dumpsters etc...
  - Check out procedures and form
  - Vehicle policy
  - Incident form
  - S.A.F.E checkpoints
  - This Guide
- Arrange in advance with the Council Program Director check out times and procedures.

**Vehicles, etc:**

- The safety of our campers, adults is of the utmost importance to us. We have implemented safe vehicle use guidelines for camp. The purpose of this policy is to protect the safety of our youth and adults who visit our camp.
- Your group will be allowed to keep one vehicle each building/site. This vehicle will be allowed to drive in camp to get wood, etc...
- No vehicles will be allowed to drive in camp that do not have a driver's tag.
- You may send vehicles to drop off equipment at the site/building but they must return their vehicles to the main parking lot.
- All drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts. Individuals are not permitted to ride in an open truck, trailers, etc...
- Camp speed is 10 miles per hour.
- All vehicles must stay on gravel roads and driveways. No vehicles are allowed on grass fields.
- HMSR Disability Parking Passes will be issued to those with a state-issued Disability Parking Pass or if a walking restriction is listed on the Annual Health and Medical form.

**Facilities**

- The established sleeping capacity of buildings is not to be exceeded.
- All buildings, furnishings and equipment will be left in as good or better condition than when you arrived.
- Bunks, furniture, tables etc... are to be returned to their original locations if moved.
- No alterations are allowed, to any buildings or grounds.
- Donations of equipment or furniture should be approved prior.

**Trash**

- All trash should be taken to the dumpsters that are highlighted on the map you will receive at check-in.
- All recycling (except cardboard) should be taken home with you.

**Water**

- Water is available at all sites fall, spring and summer. In the winter some sites/cabins do not have water. When you check in the Council Program Director will tell you where the closest water location is to your reservation.

**Fires**

- Absolutely no new fire rings may be built anywhere. Fines will be assessed for clean up and removal of new fire areas.
- Fires may be built in established rings only at reasonable heights/sizes.
- Posted fire safety rules should be followed.

**Fuels**

- The use of liquid or chemical fuels must follow BSA Safety guidelines outlined in *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Equipment and fuel should be handled by adults. Bulk fuel should be stored in locked vehicles and kept in original containers.

**Firewood**

- Cut and split firewood for building fireplaces is located up by the Camp Ranger facility. The location will be on your map.
- You may gather deadfall firewood around your site.
- Firewood may not be brought into camp from anywhere outside camp.

**Trees and Plants**

- No standing timber, plants or small trees (dead or alive) may be disturbed.
- There is a fine of \$100 or \$10 per inch in diameter, whichever is greater, for every tree damaged or removed without permission.

## Hunting and Fishing

- Fishing is permitted on BSA property at the fishing docks only.
- All PA state fishing laws are applicable.
- Hunting or disturbing wildlife in any way is prohibited. All camp facilities close during major hunting seasons.

## Personal Equipment

- Firearms, bows and ammunition are not allowed without prior permission from the Council Program Director. All weapons must be checked in at the Welcome Center on arrival.
- Adults with carry permits may not carry their weapon in camp. Your weapon should stay at home, be checked in at the Welcome Center or stay locked in your car. (unless you are a current law enforcement officer)
- Personal motor-boats are not allowed. Personal craft canoes, kayaks etc... are only allowed with prior permission.
- Space heaters are prohibited.
- No fireworks.
- Chainsaws are not allowed in camp.
- No ATV's, snowmobiles, motorbikes, golf carts etc... are allowed without prior permission.
- Personal small knives and multi-tools are allowed. Large sheath knives, butterfly knives and K-bars are not allowed.

## Taps

- Campers may not leave their campsite without a unit leader after 10pm.
- Lights-out and quiet is at 11pm. Please be respectful of others.

**Restricted\* or Caution\*\* Areas** (restricted\* are places you are not allowed to be, caution\*\* areas only there if participating in some program related activity)

- All Shooting Sports Ranges \*\*
- Boating Docks \*\*
- Cope Course\*\*
- Climbing Tower\*\*
- Cub Confidence Course\*\*
- Family Cabins\*
- Ranger Maintenance Garage and Surrounding Area\*
- Any Construction Area\*

## Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

- These items are strictly prohibited. Violators will be asked to leave and/or prosecuted.

## Smoking

- As models for our youth, and per the Guide to Safe Scouting. "All Scouting functions meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants." Smoking is not permitted in front of campers. HMSR has designated smoking areas. All cigarettes and tobacco must be disposed of properly. The same policy applies to electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and vaping as well. Please see the Camp Master for the designated locations.

## Bullying and Hazing

- Initiations, hazing or bullying of any type is in violation of the BSA Youth Protection policies and is cause for removal of adults or youth from camp.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN CAMP**

The best defense against any emergency is preparedness. Being prepared, understanding the policies and practices governing the actions of adults and campers is the adult leader's responsibility in camp. The safety and well-being of each and every camper is our primary concern, and therefore, these procedures are not optional. Your help and cooperation in these situations, is required to ensure a positive outcome.

At no time should any adult or camper contact or allow themselves to be interviewed by the media. In emergency situations, the Scout Executive is the only designated spokesperson. This policy keeps unfounded rumors to a minimum and eliminates unnecessary worry for parents and the public.

If the camp is sounding a general alarm you will hear a siren. The designated meeting point is the Welcome Center. Make sure you orient yourself to where it is in comparison to where you are staying.

In an emergency, if it is a matter of life and death please make sure your campers and adults are safe, and then dial 911.

- Your location is Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, 402 Blue Mountain Road, Schuylkill Haven PA 17971
- Your camp site is? Make sure you know where you are staying.

After any incident or near miss an incident report must be filed. You will find a form in your Camp Guide.

### **General Emergencies**

- **Child Abuse**
  - Any incident or suspicion of abuse must be reported immediately to the Council Program Director on site. If not available, call the Camp Ranger directly. Reports will be kept confidential. As a mandated reporter you will also have to file a report with Child Line at 800-932-0313. They are open 24 hours 7 days a week.
- **Fatalities and Death**
  - In the unlikely event that a fatality occurs in camp, the Council Program Director must be notified immediately. If not available, call the Camp Ranger.
  - She is trained to help in situations like this in accordance with BSA and Local policies.
  - The Scout Executive will work with you on notification of parents, etc...
- **Lost Person**
  - Report any person whom you suspect to be missing to the Council Program Director and if not available the Camp Ranger. Do not delay in reporting a missing or lost person.
  - Remove your campers and adults to one location.
  - With the Council Program Director and the Camp Ranger we will work with you and follow the HMSR Lost Person Protocol.

### **Natural Disasters**

- **Fire**
  - Remove your campers and adults away from danger.
  - Dial 911
  - Call the Camp Program Director and if not available the Camp Ranger.
  - At no time should you risk your life or injury to fight a fire.
- **Flood**
  - Move to high ground.
  - Call the Camp Program Director and if not available the Camp Ranger.



## Weather-Related and Environmental Emergencies

- **Weather Related Emergencies**

- During lightning storms, seek shelter inside a building or in your pavilion.
- You can call the Council Program Director and if not available the Camp Ranger if you need to move to another space.
- Keep away from water, metal objects, isolated trees or trees that are much taller than adjacent trees.
- If under tarps or tents, stay away from metal poles.

- **Communicable Diseases**

- Please use the CDC communicable disease protocols, as well as your organization protocols.
- If a camper or adult has a fever and is going home, you must notify the Council Program Director if not available the Camp Ranger.
- You will be advised on the next steps.
- An incident form will need to be filled out.

- **Medical Emergency**

- If your medical problem is an emergency dial 911.
- Call the Camp Program Director and if not available the Camp Ranger.
- Make sure your campers and other adults are away from the incident.
- An incident form will need to be filled out.

- **Contact with Wildlife**

- Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation is home for many animals. Some are very commonly seen: deer, rabbits, squirrels, groundhogs, skunks, raccoons, turtles, snakes and frogs. Wild turkey, pheasant, geese, owls, hawks and several types of owls and birds can be seen or heard here at camp.
- Please keep in mind that these animals make their residence here on a year-round basis.
- If you encounter any while on a hike or in your campsite, do not disturb, injure or attempt to chase it away.
- Do not disturb or destroy any dens or nests.
- Wild animals are very unpredictable when they feel threatened.
- Any camper or adult who intentionally injures, harasses, or kills any of the wildlife in camp will be held legally and financially responsible. Please report any cases to the Camp Ranger.
- At times there have been sightings of bobcats, coyote, fox and bears in and around camp. Most likely these animals will stay away due to the amount of activity in camp.
- Typically, we have the most trouble with the raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks and mice. They love to break into food storage areas and have even been known to chew through an entire cooler chest to get at food.
- Keep your food in airtight containers, away from tents and sleeping areas or you may have an unwanted visitor rummaging his way into a backpack, footlocker or sleeping bag.
- Leftover food should NEVER be thrown into the woods.
- Strange Behavior – If you come in contact with an animal that is behaving strangely, (staggering, lying still-not trying to flee, seems sickly, foaming at the mouth etc...) or if the animal is nocturnal and is being seen during the day. IMMEDIATELY report it to the Camp Ranger. DO NOT ATTEMPT to pick up or touch the animal.
- Bites & Scratches – If you are bitten or scratched by any wildlife please seek first aid. Never pick up or touch an animal that is injured or dead. You put yourself at great risk if you do. Contact the Camp Ranger with the details.
- Ticks – Insect and tick repellent (with high content of DEET) is highly recommended, however they are not totally foolproof. Wearing long pants, long sleeved shirts and hats while in tick infested areas cuts down on the risk of bites. Educate your campers about ticks and have them check themselves on a regular basis while at camp. If a tick is found, you should remove it and keep it in a plastic bag. Make sure the parent gets it in case a rash forms where you were bit.
- Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus – The best defense against contracting this disease is to take proper precautions when in areas that may have a large population of mosquitoes. Wearing a good

insect repellent (with high content of DEET) and loose-fitting clothing that provides maximum coverage over exposed is a good start.

- Bats – Many people fear bats and associate them with spreading of diseases. While there are some health risks, they are also an important part of our ecosystem, and thrive in and around camp. Keep your eyes open. Special care should be taken to avoid coming in contact with them. Anyone coming into contact with a bat – whether bitten or by touch must fill out an incident report and report it to the parents. You should never intentionally touch or handle a bat living or dead.