

2025 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

Course Site:

Latimer Scout Reservation
334 Plantation Road
Spencer, TN 38585

Course Director: Linda Goff

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Host Liaison: Ron Turpin

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Dates: March 1-2, 2025

Theme: Invention Convention

Course times: Camp School will be conducted in LaRoche Dining Hall

The adventure begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 1st and ends at approx. 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 2nd.

Weather:

Temperatures will be high in the upper 50's to low 60's with lows in the 40s. Be prepared for cool mornings and warm afternoons, as well as some outdoor activities.

Early arrivals: Check in @ LaRoche Dining Hall

For an additional fee of \$55.00*, you may arrive the night before, please make it after 4:00 p.m. and before 10:00 p.m. *This fee covers lodging on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday. This fee does NOT cover a meal on Friday night. FYI: No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff are busy with preparations.*

Before You Arrive at NCS:

- Take the online NCS course Foundations of Cub Scout Day Camp (CS-62) and the in-person Council led NCS course (CS-63). Don't forget to complete the other pre-requisites: Youth Protection Training and Cub Scout Leader Position Specifics training.
- Please utilize the [Scouting America pre-event medical screening form](#) and elect to stay home if you are ill, or you have been in close contact with someone who is ill.

What to Bring to Camp:

- Proof of Scouting America registration & prerequisite online training courses (Youth Protection Training, Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training, Foundations of Cub Day Camp Online Training, and In-Council Day Camp Training).
- Your completed [Scouting America health form](#) (parts A and B).
- Samples of your council's day camp promotional materials, staff manuals, or other camp literature, registration forms, schedules, etc., for display or giveaway. Make copies for at least 20 participants (no copying services are available at camp).
- Interesting crafts or activity ideas to share.
- Your camp T-shirt—there will be an opportunity for everyone to wear theirs.
- Notepad and pencil or pen. A participant binder and learning materials will be provided.
- NCS Online Trading Post: You can preview and purchase specialty National Camp School items (shirts, sweatshirts, and more!) to be sent directly to your home via [Scouting America National Supply](#).

Personal Gear:

- Official complete Scouting uniform. We will wear the Field uniform, the official Scout uniform, on Saturday morning and Sunday morning. You may wear any Day Camp T-shirt/Sweatshirt or Scout activity uniform, at other times.
- Pillow, Bed Linens, Toiletries, towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, etc.
- Warm sleepwear, or sweats. However, lodging is climate controlled.
- Coat, jacket, suitable footwear/socks, gloves, hat, umbrella
- Camera (Take photos of the displays and show others back home what can be done!)
- Cell phone coverage at this site is spotty. (camp phones restricted to emergencies)

What to Expect and What Is Expected:

- Arrive rested. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last from early morning to late at night.
- Be prepared for Dorm style - indoor housing with mattresses. Please bring your own bedding. Twin size beds.
- **You must arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. on the first day and attend all sessions through the last day to be certified.**
- To focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc. There are no accommodations for anyone but registered participants.
- Please understand that if you receive the names and contact information for other participants or for staff, you may not contact them for commercial purposes unless you receive their expressed permission to do so.

As a member of your council's day camp leadership team, you will be providing Scouts with an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you for making the decision to attend the National Camping School.

Yours in Scouting,

Linda Goff

NCS Course Director

**The early arrival fee is handled through your local council. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally.*

Directions to Latimer Reservation

Located on the Cumberland Plateau at:

334 Plantation Road

Spencer, TN 37138 (Van Buren

County) N 35° 47.554 / W 85° 17.016

423-881-5513

www.latimerbsa.org

- From the north, take I-24 E to Nashville to I-40 E to Exit 288, turn south onto Highway 111. Follow Highway 111 for 28.3 miles (Spencer), turn left onto spur for .1 mile, turn right onto Highway 30, follow Highway 30 East for 7.8 miles, turn left onto Highway 285 East, follow Highway 285 East for 7.1 miles, turn left onto Van Winkle Road (Lonewood Church on your left), follow Van Winkle Road for .8 mile, turn left onto Wilson Road for .4 mile, turn right onto Lewis Road for .6 mile to entrance.
- From the east or west, take Interstate 40 East or Interstate 40 West to Exit 288 (Cookeville/Sparta), turn south onto Highway 111. Follow Highway 111 for 28.3 miles (Spencer), turn left onto spur for .1 mile, turn right onto Highway 30, follow Highway 30 East for 7.8 miles, turn left onto Highway 285 East, follow Highway 285 East for 7.1 miles, turn left onto Van Winkle Road (Lonewood Church on your left), follow Van Winkle Road for .8 mile, turn left onto Wilson Road for .4 mile, turn right onto Lewis Road for .6 mile to entrance.
- From the south (Chattanooga), follow Highway 27 N to Highway 111 N to Highway 30 E. follow Highway 30 East for 7.8 miles, turn left onto Highway 285 East, follow Highway 285 East for 7.1 miles, turn left onto Van Winkle Road (Lonewood Church on your left), follow Van Winkle Road for .8 mile, turn left onto Wilson Road for .4 mile, turn right onto Lewis Road for .6 mile to entrance.
- From the east (Option B), take I-40 W to exit 322. Take Highway 101 (Peavine Road). Follow signs to Highway 70/101 (Lantana Road). Travel from I-40 approximately 24 miles to Highway 285 W. turn right for 4.9 miles onto Van Winkle Road (at the Lonewood Baptist Church of Christ on your right forward), follow Van Winkle Road for .8 mile, turn left onto Wilson Road for .4 mile, turn right onto Lewis Road for .6 mile to entrance.





GUIDE & MAP



Welcome to Latimer Scout Reservation

Take a moment to review our Guide & Map and familiarize yourself with the reservation. **Your adventure awaits you.**

History

Latimer Scout Reservation is owned and operated by the Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America. Prior to the development of the reservation, the property was known as Lonewood Plantation, a premier hunting reserve owned by Georgia businessman, Gary Curtin.

The Council was looking for a new property to develop a high adventure facility for the youth of Tennessee and the southeast. Word came that the Lonewood Plantation was for sale and in the summer of 2007, the land was purchased.

After sharing the vision for the property with Bill and Carol Latimer, local supporters of the Boy Scouts, the Latimer's made a generous donation to begin development under the direction of Ron Turpin, the reservations first director. In recognition of their contributions, the executive board passed a resolution naming the property Latimer Scout Reservation.

Cumberland Plateau

Nestled in the heart of the Mid-Cumberland wilderness area, Latimer encompasses over 1550 acres atop the Cumberland Plateau, one of the most bio-diverse regions in the United States.

The property is bordered on the east by Bee Creek and on the north by neighboring Bridgestone/

Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA located in Scott Gulf; a magnificent canyon that cuts over 18 miles into the western escarpment of the plateau.

Which is it, Scott or Scott's? Well that may depend on who you ask. Many locals add the (s) to the feature name but historical maps, as far back as 1892, refer to them as The Gulf or Scott Gulf and Scott Pinnacle.

The geological history of the plateau dates as far back as the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian ages. It was around this time that the plateau began to take form and slowly rose some 2000 feet above sea level. Over millions of years the karst aquifers beneath the plateau surface, along with rivers and tributaries carved their way through the land creating the deep canyons, caves systems and waterfalls you see today.

Plants & Wildlife

Poplar, oak, hickory, pine and hemlock dominate Latimer's forest along with a wide variety of wild flowers and mountain laurel.

Throughout the reservation you will find white-tail deer, bear, coyote, bobcat, wild hog, raccoons, squirrels, bullfrogs and even snakes. Canadian Geese, wild turkey, hawks and woodland birds can be spotted throughout the year. The lake is home to a variety of fish including blue gill, shellcracker, bass and a few grass carp.

Safety

When venturing into the wilderness you may encounter dangers ranging from high cliffs to poisonous plants. Familiarize yourself with the area first, always travel with a buddy and let someone know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

- While driving on the reservation please obey the posted speed limits and yield to pedestrians.
- Some trails and overlooks are near high cliffs. Practice good judgment and stay away from the edge.
- Check the weather forecast to ensure you have the appropriate gear and clothing.
- Some trails follow short sections of roads so be aware of motor vehicles.

Recreational Highlights

Latimer offers many activities including hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, climbing, rappelling, shooting, archery, camping, backpacking as well as off property excursions such as white water rafting. Some highlights on the reservation are listed below.

- Lake Joe Long is a 21 acre man-made lake offering recreational activities with kayaks, sailboats and paddle boards. Anglers will enjoy fishing the fully stocked lake.
- Horse Pen Point provides access to the Albert Menefee Rappelling and Climbing site as well as picturesque views of Bee Creek and Scott Pinnacle.
- Dark Hollow Mines features a beautiful wet weather waterfall and several coal mines that operated until the early 1940s where coal was mined by workers on their knees and hauled out of the gorge by mule train.
- Scott Pinnacle features an overlook that offers an incredible panoramic view of Scott Gulf and the convergence of Bee Creek with the Caney Fork River.

▼ DETAIL MAP



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MIDDLE TENNESSEE COUNCIL

Latimer Scout Reservation
334 Plantation Road Spencer, TN 38585
615-383-9724 or 423-881-5513
latimerbsa.org



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DARK HOLLOW MINES TRAIL

(4.3 mi/6.9km) Moderate
Located near the intersection of Angel Bridge and Ross Cardwell Trail, the trail begins by following a northern portion of Ross Cardwell Trail. After a few creek crossings, the trail turns west and makes a gentle climb over Pinnacle Road and merges with Ross Cardwell Trail again for a short distance before descending steeply into the gorge. This section of the trail follows an old road bed from the early 1900s once used to haul coal out of the gorge by mule train. The trail ends at the mines where a beautiful wet weather waterfall can be seen.
 Do not attempt to enter the mines or drink water coming out of them.

HORSE PEN POINT TRAIL

(0.8 mi/1.3km) Easy
This trail starts just behind the dining hall and provides access to its namesake and the Albert Menefee Climbing and Rappelling site. This is a short hike that offers spectacular views of the gorge and Bee Creek.
 Use caution near the high cliffs.

LAKE TRAIL
 (2.7 mi/4.3 km) Easy
Patrons hiking this trail will enjoy a peaceful trek along the shoreline of Lake Joe Long and access to Trinity Chapel. This heavily wooded trail offers a great opportunity for wildlife viewing.

ROSS CARDWELL TRAIL

(9.1 mi/14.7 km) Strenuous
As the longest trail on the reservation, this multipurpose trail offers mountain bikers a real challenge. There are several hazards riders will encounter such as rocks, steep downhill descents and creek crossings, so be sure you have the proper safety equipment before setting out on this ride. This loop trail starts near the Bouchard Program Storage Building and sets out in a southerly direction. Winding its way through the woods, the trail climbs up to the 1800s Cabin and crosses over Plantation Road. From here the trail begins the climb over Round Mountain before making its way around the southern part

of the reservation. Turning north, the trail follows a section of the western property boundary where riders will encounter several of the marked hazards. The trail crosses Dark Hollow Mines Trail and the spur trail to Rappelling #2 site before turning north easterly through several open fields and onto Scott Pinnacle. At the pinnacle there is a short spur trail that leads to the overlook. Turning due south, the trail makes its way along the bluff line winding in and out of the heavily wooded area before emerging at Angel Bridge. The remaining portion of the trail follows Plantation Road back to the point of beginning.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS ▲

▼ TRAIL MAP

