

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA COUNCIL
CAMP V-BAR



THANKSGIVING CAMP
2025
LEADERS GUIDE

Salmen Scout Reservation
Perkinston, MS



Summer Camp Wk 1

Online Registration

bsa-selacouncil.org/ThanksgivingCamp
bsa-selacouncil.org/SummerCampWk2



Southeast Louisiana Council

4200 South I-10 Service Road West
Metairie, Louisiana 70001
Telephone: (504) 889-0388

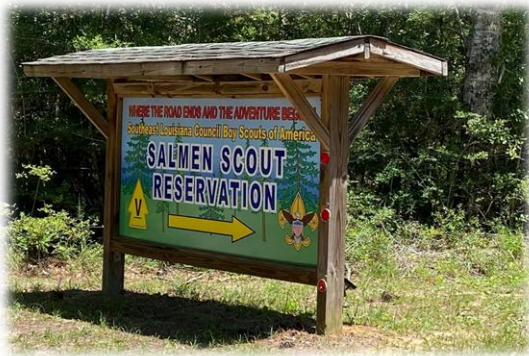


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"A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room."

- Lord Baden-Powell



SALMEN SCOUT RESERVATION

27585 V-Bar Road, Perkinston, MS 39573
Camp Phone: (288) 255-7336



SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA COUNCIL

Office: (504) 889-0388
E-Mail: juan.prado@scouting.org

Online Registration

bsa-selacouncil.org/ThanksgivingCamp

LETTER FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR

Dear Scoutmasters,

Welcome to Camp V-Bar Thanksgiving Camp for 2025! For 2025, we are excited to be offering a new program for older Scouts as well as new merit badges. The Camp V-Bar Challenge, a new program, will offer First Class Scouts at least 13 years old and able to pass the swim test with a new opportunity to challenge themselves. Instead of a traditional merit badge program, Scouts will participate in new adventures each day including climbing and rappelling, overnight canoeing in the DeSoto National Forest, a Gulf Coast fishing trip and the Horsemanship Merit Badge. New badges to be offered as part of the traditional program include Horsemanship and Forestry. Hopefully, your Scouts and you will find these new programs and opportunities to be as exciting as the staff and I find them!

The camp also continues to offer quality instruction for merit badges in over five program areas. For new Scouts, the Pathfinder program offers the opportunity to complete requirements to reach the First Class rank. And the camp schedule continues to include various activities in the afternoons and evenings to make Camp V-Bar one of the most fun camps in the country!

The Council also has been engaging in other initiatives to improve both the program and physical facilities at Camp V-Bar. For fish and wildlife management, Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries representatives have visited camp to collaborate in efforts to enhance both the wildlife environment and fishing from the lake. The waterfront facilities have been repaired and improved, and the Dining Hall continues to undergo needed repairs and upgrades. Several other efforts also have been undertaken for potential upgrades to existing facilities and the addition of new, exciting features to camp. You can join in these efforts by reading information later in this guide about earning the Conservation Good Turn Award!

Feel free to contact Juan Prado, the Camp Staff Advisor, or me if you have any questions about the Camp V-Bar Challenge program, merit badges, or anything else to do with camp.

See you in 2025 at Camp V-Bar!

Maria Foret, Camp Director



GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION, DATES, AND FEES

Order ALL merit badge class supplies online: When you register, you will pay a program fee for supplies you would have purchased in the Trading Post. Once you have registered and paid the program fee, your Scout will receive the supplies during class. Additional supplies will be available on a limited basis in the Trading Post at camp.

GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION	CAMP LOCATION: Salmen Scout Reservation, Camp V-Bar, is located in southern Mississippi approximately 1½ hours outside New Orleans, Louisiana. Driving directions found at: http://www.bsa-selacouncil.org/document/general-information-for-camp-guidebook/150802	
	Salmen Scout Reservation, Camp V-Bar 27585 V-Bar Road Perkinston, MS 39573	Southeast Louisiana Council, Scouting America 4200 South I-10 Service Road West Metairie, LA 70001
	Camp Office: (228) 255-7336 Ranger Office: (228) 255-1336	Council Offices: (504) 889-0388 Council Fax: (504) 889-1162 Toll Free (800) 394-9410

DATES	Week 1: Friday – Monday, November 21-24, 2025
	Check-In: Friday, 1:00pm
	Check-out: Monday AM

CAMP FEES	Scout Fees	Adult Fees
	\$120 / Early – Deposit by October 1, 2025	\$70 / Leader
	\$145 / Regular – Paid in Full by November 15, 2025	
	Registration Closes November 15, 2025 Deposit of \$50 per registrant (Youth & Adult) due at time of registration All fees must be Paid in Full by close of Registration	

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FEES					
Collections	\$15				

ALL merit badge reports are final as of departure from camp. It is the responsibility of UNIT LEADERS to CONFIRM accuracy of reports PRIOR to departure. Any questions regarding merit badge completion must be resolved prior to the unit's departure. In accordance with the Scouting America advancement policy, any incomplete merit badges may be completed with a duly registered merit badge counselor with the approval of the unit leader at any time prior to the Scout turning 18 years old.

New Scouts and Arrow of Light Patrol Crossovers do not incur Late Fees.

FEES: May be transferred from one Scout to another with written permission from the Scoutmaster.
REFUNDS: Please refer to the council website for the council's policy concerning refunds and refund requests:
<http://www.bsa-selacouncil.org/camping-outdoor-program/council-refund-policy/62964>

“The real way to happiness is to give it to others.”
-Lord Baden-Powell

Daily Schedule

Time	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
5:30 am				
6:00 am		Reveille	Reveille	Reveille
7:00 am		Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30 am		MB Session 1	MB Session 3	Troops Depart
12:00 pm		Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Troop Check-In			
1:30 pm		MB Session 2	MB Session 4	
5:00 pm		Overnight Adv Mile Swim	Overnight Adv Mile Swim	
5:45 pm	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	
6:00 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:30 pm				
8:02 pm	Opening Campfire (followed by Leaders' Meeting)		Closing Campfire	
10:30 pm	Taps	Taps	Taps	











Activity Schedule (subject to modification)

IMPORTANT! Please have your Scouts review the activity cards on the following pages! The information contains specific information that the Scouts need to know such as pre-requisites or required clothing or gear. For example, Horsemanship and Welding merit badges require Scouts have appropriate clothing (not shorts and Crocs). Also, the information may change over time as different Merit Badge Counselors provide input, so be sure to review them every camp.

Session	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Climbing (both days)	
	American Business	Animation
	Art	Collections
	First Aid	Dentistry
	Nature	Fingerprinting / Crime Prevention
	Pottery	Landscape Architecture
	Surveying	Pulp and Paper
	Traffic Safety	Theater
Afternoon	Electricity	American Heritage
	Fire Safety	Communication
	Health Care Professions	Geocaching
	Law	Music
	Stamp Collecting	Oceanography
	Weather	Textile

PROGRAM DETAILS

LEGEND FOR PROGRAM AREA CODES

 <i>Any</i>	Recommended for any Scout		Recommended for older Scouts / Venturers
 <i>1</i>	One Session Program		Cannot be completed at camp
 <i>2</i>	Two Session / Half Day Program		Additional Fee for Supplies
	Full Day Program	 <i>Pre</i>	Prerequisites required
	Eagle required Merit Badge		Adult Training

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



American Business

Any *1*

Earning the American Business merit badge can help Scouts learn practical business matters that will be useful throughout life. Learning how businesses function will help you understand society and uncover a number of career options.



American Heritage

Any *1*

Every Scout swears to an oath that includes duty to his country. A better understanding of American heritage, the ways in which the past has led to our present nation, is key to truly knowing what it means to be an American.



Animation

Any *1*

Computer or traditional animation tasks that will test a Scout's creativity, artistic skills, and storytelling abilities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Art



This merit badge concentrates on two-dimensional art, specifically drawing and painting in various media, including an introduction to design applications in the fields of graphic arts and industrial design.



Climbing



Basic climbing methods and rappelling techniques are taught at the Climbing Tower. Scouts will have the opportunity to rappel from the gravel pits on the back side of camp during this program.



Collections



Collecting can be an educational and financially rewarding pastime: a collector must educate himself about a specific subject, be able to tell which items are worth preserving, how to catalog and organize his collection, and how to evaluate the value of items.

Program Fee includes a starter Collection.



Communication



"Communication focuses on how people use messages to generate meanings within and across various contexts, cultures, channels, and media. The field of communication promotes the effective and ethical practice of human communication." - US Department of Education

Note: Requirement 5 cannot be completed at camp.



Crime Prevention



Preventing crime, which can be as simple as reducing the opportunities for crime to occur, is far less costly than apprehending and bringing legal action against those who break the law and it helps save people from the anguish of being victims.



Dentistry



Teeth do a lot more than just peek out from under that winning smile. They have all sorts of duties, and having healthy teeth will help a person to eat, speak, and look great.

Note: Requirement 3 cannot be completed at camp.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Electricity

Any 1

The Merit Badge is one of the original merit badges from 1911. Scouts can learn all about circuits and energy while earning the merit badge.



Fingerprinting

Any 1

In earning the Fingerprinting merit badge, Scouts will learn about and use an important technique that is used by law enforcement officers, along with other materials like matching dental records and DNA sampling, to help identify amnesia victims, missing persons, abducted children, and others.



Fire Safety

Any 1

The ability to use fire safely is essential to human survival. By earning this merit badge, Scouts will learn to use fire safely and responsibly, how to prevent home fires, and how to handle fire safely, as well as burn prevention, and camping safety.



First Aid

Any 1

First aid – caring for the injured or ill until they can receive professional medical care – is an important skill for every Scout. With knowledge of first aid, Scouts can provide immediate care and help to someone who is hurt or who becomes ill. First aid can help prevent infection, blood loss or save a limb or a life.

Bring: Materials to make a First Aid Kit.



Geocaching

Any 1

The word geocache is a combination of "geo," which means "earth," and "cache," which means "a hiding place." Geocaching describes a hiding place on planet Earth - a hiding place you can find using a GPS unit. A GPS (Global Positioning System) unit is an electronic tool that shows you where to go based on information it gets from satellites in space.



Health Care Professions

Any 1

Explore the different types of the healthcare fields and professions with the Health Care Professions Merit Badge. Scouts will learn how professionals in different health care fields work together to keep people healthy. The Health Care Professions Merit Badge generates excitement for a possible career in the healthcare industry.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Landscape Architecture

Any 1

Landscape architects design and plan the various outdoor spaces in modern communities - neighborhood parks, soccer fields, school grounds, places of worship, office parks, shopping malls, cemeteries, and lakes - creating outdoor places that people will care about and want to visit.



Law

Any 1

Earning this merit badge enables a Scout to learn about the history and kinds of laws, the purpose and methods of law enforcement, consumer protection agencies, emerging law, and careers in the legal profession.



Music

Any 1

The history of music is rich and exciting. Through the ages, new music has been created by people who learned from tradition, then explored and innovated. All the great music has not yet been written. Today, the possibilities for creating new music are limitless.



Nature

Any 1

There is a very close connection between the soil, the plants, and all animal life, including people. Understanding this connection, and the impact we have upon it, is important to preserving the wilderness, as well as to our own well-being as members of the web of nature.



Oceanography

Any 1

The oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet and are the dominant feature of Earth. Wherever you live, the oceans influence the weather, the soil, the air, and the geography of your community. To study the oceans is to study Earth itself.

Oceanography is one of the elective merit badges for the William T. Hornaday awards for Boy Scouts.



Pottery

Any 1

The Pottery merit badge provides an introduction to pottery making, enabling Scouts to gain skill and understanding from actually creating pottery. Completing the requirements will include hands-on production of a work of art, from start to finish.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Pulp and Paper

Any 1

Here's an astonishing number to digest. Each person in the United States uses about 700 pounds of paper each year. Paper is everywhere in our lives. Every year in the United States, more than 2 billion individual books, 24 billion newspapers, and 350 million magazines are published on paper.



Stamp Collecting

Any 1

The world's most popular hobby, stamp collecting is enjoyed by millions throughout the world. Through this hobby, you can experience history: postage stamps are like tiny windows that introduce the people of the world to the country's leaders, customs, history, products, and environment.



Surveying

Any 1

While earning this merit badge, Scouts will discover how land is measured and how it is described so that others can know where boundary lines are. They will have a chance to use some fine measuring instruments, apply advanced mathematics, operate computing equipment, and create a survey map.



Textile

Any 1

People use countless fibers and fabrics in their everyday lives: clothes, carpets, curtains, towels, sheets, upholstered furniture. Add to that list boat sails, book bindings, bandages, flags, sleeping bags, mailbags, airbags, seat belts, backpacks, parachutes, umbrellas, basketball nets, and more.



Theater

Any 1

While earning the Theater merit badge, Scouts will learn to appreciate live performances as members of the audience as well as go behind the footlights to see the view from the other side. Much more goes on in theater than ever meets the audience's eye.



Traffic Safety

Any 1

Staying safe in traffic wherever you live is getting more difficult all the time, as more and more people take to the road. Earning the Traffic Safety merit badge and will give Scouts some crucial tools to stay safer, when driving a car on a highway, riding a bike across town, or jogging across a busy street.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Weather

Any 1

Meteorology is the study of Earth's atmosphere and its weather and the ways in which temperature, wind, and moisture act together in the environment. In addition to learning how everyday weather is predicted, Scouts can learn about extreme weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes, and how to stay safe.

SUGGESTED PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Scouts BSA Handbook
Signed Annual Health and Medical Form (A, B & C)
Scout uniform (shirt, shorts, socks, belt)
Bible or prayer book
Camera
Comb, brush, and mirror
Completed merit badge pre-requisites
Daypack
Dirty clothes bag
Feminine hygiene products
Fishing rod and tackle
Flashlight and extra batteries
Hat for sun protection
Insect repellent
Money for Trading Post (\$50 recommended, no large bills please)
Mosquito netting
Notebook, pen and pencils
Pajamas or sleeping clothes
Long pants (for Horsemanship)
Personal first aid kit
Pillow
Pocket knife and "Totin' Chit"
Poncho or rain jacket
Raingear or weather-appropriate outerwear
Shoes (closed toe) or hiking boots
Shorts
Sleeping bag, liner or blanket and sheets
Soap and shampoo/conditioner
Socks (7 or 8 pair)
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Toothbrush and toothpaste
Towels and washcloth
T-shirts (5 or 6/no tank tops)
Underwear
Watch
Water bottle
Work gloves

SUMMER CAMP

Swimsuit
Water shoes (aqua socks, etc.)
Water survival clothing (for Scouts taking the Lifesaving merit badge)

THANKSGIVING AND WINTER CAMP

Cold-weather hat
Long pants
Long-sleeved shirt

SURVIVAL KIT (for Scouts taking Wilderness Survival merit badge)

Compass
Ground cloth
Sewing kit
Signal mirror
Space blanket
Waterproof matches
Water purification tablets
Whistle

DO NOT BRING

Personal electronic items such as radios, Bluetooth speaker, TVs, electronic games, cell phones, fireworks, sheath or hunting knives, pets, personal firearms & ammunition, jewelry or other expensive items, personal bows and arrows, laser pointers



SUGGESTED TROOP EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Patrol flags
Lanterns (propane is best)
Matches / lighters / fire starters
Dining fly(s), poles, & stakes
Rope (1/4" manila)
Tents (if you have them), poles & stakes
Hammers & other hand tools
5-gallon water jugs
Ice chests
Trash bags
Lockable storage container
Troop first aid kit
Compass
Shovels, rakes, hoes, bow saws
Rolls of surveyor's marking tape
Camp chairs
Dutch oven and other cooking and cleanup gear (gear as needed for cobbler and chili cook-off)
Camp stove, pots and pans (gear as needed for patrol cooking on Wednesday)

CAMPSITE ENTRANCE/GATEWAY MATERIALS

Troop sign (should include troop number)
Troop flag
U.S. Flag
Twine & poles for lashing

BULLETIN BOARD

Bulletin board provided
Camp roster
Troop duty roster
Scout schedules
Emergency procedures
Push pins, etc. for bulletin board
Fireguard chart

PAPERWORK

Troop advancement records
Troop Leader Guidebook
Paper Scouting America medical forms



CAMP V-BAR INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Refer to the [Camp V-Bar General Information and Policies](#) for:

- Driving Directions
- Camp Map
- Camp Amenities
- Policies



Earn the Conservation Good Turn Award

Since 1910, conservation has been an integral part of the program of Scouting America. Scouting America has been a positive force in conservation and environmental efforts. Scouts have rendered distinguished public service by helping to conserve wildlife, energy, forests, soil, and water. Past generations of Scouts have been widely recognized for undertaking conservation Good Turn action projects in their local communities.

Scouts of today have grown up hearing words such as ecosystem, biodiversity, and climate change. They recognize the need for, and the benefits of, conserving natural resources. Scouts understand that we all must work together for the betterment of the land, forests, wildlife, air, and water.

Much has been accomplished in recent years by individual Scouts and through unit conservation Good Turns. Much more needs to be done both in our communities and at Camp V-Bar.

To Earn The Conservation Good Turn Award

The Conservation Good Turn Award is an opportunity for Scout troops to carry out a Conservation Good Turn while at Camp V-Bar.

- The Scouting unit leader contacts Juan Prado (juan.prado@scouting.org) before camp or the Camp Director or Program Director while at camp and offers to carry out a Conservation Good Turn project.
- A worthwhile and needed project will be identified that the unit can accomplish.
- Working together, the unit and the Southeast Louisiana Council representative plan the details and establish the date, time, and location for carrying out the project.
- The Scout earns the Conservation Good Turn Award by participating in the planned conservation project to the satisfaction of the unit leader.
- The unit leader completes the application by clicking [here](#) (or obtaining one at camp) and then submits it to the Camp Director or Program Director for the unit to be recognized.
- Individual patches for recognition of youth and adults participating in the project may be purchased by the unit at the Southeast Louisiana Council Scout shop.



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STAFF CAMP V-BAR

WE WANT YOUR SCOUTS ON THE CAMP V-BAR STAFF!

Dear Scoutmasters,

The Camp V-Bar staff is committed to providing quality merit badge instruction and exciting evening programs to give your Scouts an experience that will last a lifetime.

Working at Salmen Scout Reservation has been one of the most fulfilling and exciting experiences in their lives for many of the staff members. Camp V-Bar staff members learn the value of teamwork and dedication while honing their Scouting skills, leadership and teamwork skills, and making lifetime friends. These skills will benefit your Scouts for the rest of their lives. If your Scouts join Camp V-Bar's staff, they will become role models for hundreds of youths and make a valuable impression on the lives of others.

If you have Scouts in your troop who you believe to be the best of the best, encourage them to join one of the greatest camp staffs in the country. We have a passion for Camp V-Bar, and we want to see it grow and become even greater as the years progress. To accomplish this goal, we need new staff members with innovative ideas willing to work hard to continue the tradition of making Camp V-Bar a great camp. We want your best Scouts. Have them sign up today!

First, the Scout **MUST** submit a resume to the Camp Staff Advisor, Juan Prado via e-mail to juan.prado@scouting.org. If interested Scouts do not have a resume, a sample resume may be downloaded [here](#).

Yours in Scouting,

Your Camp V-Bar Staff

