

Camp Thunderbird

Leader Guide for Trailblazers

2026 Trailblazer Camp

May 2–3, 2026

Saturday Evening Departure Option Available



Scouting America Mission Statement

The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Camp Thunderbird is owned and operated by Pacific Harbors Council, Scouting America for the primary purpose of serving the youth and leaders within its chartered area. The camp is nationally accredited on an annual basis through National Camp Accreditation Standards and operated within the rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth by the Washington State Department of Health.

Trailblazers Camp Purpose

To provide a pre-summer camp exposure that helps new Scouts complete core advancement requirements and better prepare them for a weeklong summer camp experience with their troop.

Code of Conduct

Camp Thunderbird uses the ideals of the Scout Law as the code of conduct. Leaders and parents are responsible for their Scouts' behavior. Adults are held to the same standard and are always asked to set the right example.

Prior to Camp

Registration

It's important to register early and get your reservation confirmed. Online registration will give you an option to pay online or at the council office. Visit:

<https://scoutingevent.com/612-2026SpringTrailblazers>

Scouting America Membership

All youth and adults **must** be registered with Scouting America before attending any overnight camp. New adult participants should submit their **adult application, Criminal Background Check (CBC) authorization, and payment** at least **three weeks before camp**. An adult is only considered fully registered once their entire application and CBC process are complete.

Refund / Transfer Policy

All cancellations and/or refund requests must be submitted in writing to: **Creighton Scout Service Center, 4802 South 19th St, Tacoma, WA 98405**, or emailed to phc@scouting.org.

- Refunds are based on the date the written request is received.
- Requests received at least two weeks prior will receive a full refund (less any deposit).
- Requests received from 5 to 9 business days will receive a 50% refund.
- No refunds are available 4 or fewer business days prior to the event.
- If an adult or youth must leave camp for disciplinary reasons, no refund is given.
- For a family emergency, sickness, or changes in military duty, the council may consider a refund. Requests must be submitted within 7 days after the event.
- Refunds will be made to the original form of payment.

The Council is the final authority for all refund decisions.

Review the Guide to Safe Scouting

An important part of your preparation is consulting the Guide to Safe Scouting available at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>. This is the source for all Scouting America policies regarding adult leadership, youth protection,

transportation, and appropriate activities that apply traveling to and from, and while attending camp.

Annual Health and Medical Record

All participants (youth and adult) must bring a fully completed Parts A and B of the Annual Health and Medical Record available at

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-016_fillable.pdf. Other physical or medical forms are not acceptable. If parents will be away while the Scout is at camp, be sure the person who can make decisions for the child is listed.

Please include a copy of both sides of your insurance card. Make sure the printing is legible and the copy is readable. If you have military insurance, a copy of ONLY the front of the ID card is needed.

Medications

Allergies and medications must be listed. If there are none, then state none. Be sure to list all medications that the Scout or adult will take while at camp.

Medicine that is to be given in partial doses should be prepared before camp.

Inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors used for emergency conditions may be carried by the camper. Adults may be responsible for dispensing medications to themselves or to the youth they are responsible for; otherwise all medications must be turned in to the Health Officer where they will be kept in a locked container and distributed by the Health Officer. Any injections that need to be given at camp — if other than by the Scout or adult themselves — must be administered by the Health Officer with written permission from the parent/guardian. Refrigeration is available in the Health Lodge if needed.

Special Needs and Dietary Restrictions

It is important to communicate any special needs or dietary restrictions to the camp Staff Advisor at least **4 days prior to arriving** so there is time to make reasonable accommodations. Please send the Staff Advisor

(Tricia.Salazar@scouting.org) the information that you feel is important.

In accordance with Scouting America policy, any participant (Scout or adult) who does not have a fully complete health form will not be allowed to remain at camp or participate in any events. The form includes an authorization for emergency treatment and must be signed by the parent or guardian.

Youth Protection

Adult Supervision

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement.

One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.

- In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.
- Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.
- Communication by way of social media (Facebook, Snapchat, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.

Adult Responsibilities

All adults in camp are expected to provide proactive and engaged supervision of youth.

- Leaders must ensure that all participating in Scouting activities abide by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Adult leaders and youth members share the responsibility for the safety of all participants in the program, including adherence to Youth Protection and health and safety policies.
- Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring behavior and intervening when necessary.
- Discipline must be constructive and reflect Scouting's values.
- Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are also prohibited.
- Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the Scouting program and may result in revocation of membership.

Accommodations

Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- Youth and adults tent separately (including families).
- Spouses may share tents.
- Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted.
- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.
- Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

What to Expect at Camp – The Program

Arrival and Check-In

Scouts must not be dropped off at camp without a unit leader or a designated adult who will remain at camp with them. Units will check in as a group once all Scouts and adults have arrived.

Participant check-in is **Saturday morning, May 2, from 8:00–9:00 AM**. There will be no breakfast or flag ceremony for participants Saturday morning — please ensure Scouts eat before arriving.

Please leave all belongings in your vehicle. The only items needed for check-in are medical forms and any necessary medications. Each person will meet with the health officer when submitting their health form.

NEW FOR 2026: Check-in begins Saturday morning. There is no Friday evening check-in for participants. Staff arrive Friday, May 1.

Saturday Evening Departure Option

Scouts are welcome to depart at the conclusion of Saturday evening activities (after the Friendship Fire at 9:45 PM). Scouts choosing this option must check out with camp leadership before leaving camp. Scouts who stay will continue with Sunday programming.

Vehicles

Upon arrival at Camp Thunderbird, please park in the main parking lot and back into your parking space as required by camp safety regulations. Vehicles are not permitted beyond the parking lot near the camp office, except for authorized service vehicles. Special exceptions will be reviewed by the Staff Advisor. Overflow parking is available across the street in the Camp Akela parking area.

Uniform and Clothing

The Scout uniform is typically worn at all flag ceremonies. Scouts respond best to a good example and leaders are encouraged to set a good example by wearing a full uniform. During the rest of camp, a Scout t-shirt is acceptable.

Scouts and leaders with inappropriate clothing will be asked to change (e.g., shorts that are too short, shirts promoting alcohol). All campers are to wear closed footwear at all times — bare feet are not allowed in camp except when at the waterfront. You are highly encouraged to bring water shoes to change into while swimming or boating.

Clothing at the waterfront is especially important as this is an area where wardrobe malfunctions can be most common. Swimwear should prioritize fit and function over fashion.

Trading Post

The Camp Thunderbird Trading Post is a camp favorite. Hours of operation will be posted throughout camp and outside the door. The Trading Post is your one-stop shop for snacks, souvenirs, patches, and any toiletries forgotten at home. The Trading Post accepts cash, checks, and Visa/MC.

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change based on actual registrations.

Friday, May 1, 2026 – Staff Only

TIME	ACTIVITY
5:00–7:00 PM	Staff Arrival & Check-In
7:00–9:00 PM	Area Setup and Program Preparation
9:00 PM	All-Staff Meeting
10:00 PM	Staff Lights Out

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Each program area will have multiple instructors. Scouts identify which requirements they need and work directly with an instructor on those specific requirements.

Merit Badges are secondary to Trail to First Class requirements. Class size and Scout participation will dictate the actual requirements covered. Not all requirements may be completed in the time allotted.

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00–9:00 AM	Participant Check-In
9:00–10:00 AM	Schedule Creation — Scouts select their sessions with staff guidance
10:15–11:15 AM	Requirement Time 1
11:30 AM–12:30 PM	Requirement Time 2
12:40–2:00 PM	Lunch
2:05–3:05 PM	Requirement Time 3
3:20–4:20 PM	Requirement Time 4
4:35–5:35 PM	Requirement Time 5
5:45–7:15 PM	Dinner
7:45–8:45 PM	Requirement Time 6 (make-up / overflow)

8:45–9:45 PM	Free Time
9:45 PM	Friendship Fire
11:00 PM	Lights Out / Quiet Hours

Saturday Departure Option: Scouts may depart after the Friendship Fire. Scouts choosing this option MUST check out with camp leadership prior to leaving.

Sunday, May 3, 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00–8:45 AM	Breakfast
9:00–9:30 AM	Scouts Own (Optional, non-denominational service at the chapel)
9:30–10:30 AM	Campsite Pack-Up
10:45 AM	Closing Ceremony
11:00 AM	Camp Dismissed

Advancements

The advancements listed below will be covered in sessions. Scouts will work with staff during the Schedule Creation period (9:00–10:00 AM Saturday) to identify which sessions best match their advancement needs.

Program Area	Session Times	Requirements Covered
Scoutcraft (Knots & Ropes)	Req Times 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Scout 4a (square knot, two half-hitches, taut-line hitch), Scout 4b (rope care/fuse ends), Tenderfoot 3a–3c (practical use of knots), 2nd Class 3a (map & compass), 1st Class 3a–3c (lashings)
Sharps (Knife/Ax Safety)	Req Times 2, 3, 5, 6	Scout 5 (pocketknife safety), 2nd Class 2b (use knife to make tinder for fire)
Fire Building & Safety	Req Times 3, 4, 6	2nd Class 2c (build, tend, and safely extinguish a fire)
First Aid	Req Times 1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Tenderfoot 4a (first aid for cuts, burns, insect bites/ticks, snakebite, nosebleed, frostbite, choking), 4c (injury prevention), 4d (first aid kit); 2nd Class 6a–6c (advanced first aid, hurry cases); 1st Class 7a–7c (first class first aid)
Nature (Plants/Animals/LNT)	Req Times 1, 2, 3, 5, 6	Tenderfoot 4b (hazardous plants); 2nd Class 4 (identify 10 wild animals); Tenderfoot 1c & 2nd Class 1b (Outdoor Code & Leave No Trace)
Aquatics	See staff for scheduling	2nd Class 5a–5d (Safe Swim, swim test, water rescue); 1st Class 6a–6e (swim test, Safe Trip Afloat, boat basics, line rescue)
Merit Badges (secondary)	Available during Req Times 1–5	Chess, Fingerprinting, Wood Carving, Leatherwork — partial completion; note merit badges are secondary to Trail to First Class requirements

Trail to First Class requirements are always the priority. Scouts should only attend merit badge sessions after their rank requirement needs are addressed.

Sunday Programming

Scouts Own

Recognizing that reverence is an integral part of the character-building process of Scouting America, an optional, non-denominational “Scouts’ Own” service will be held at the beautiful camp chapel on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. All Scouts and adults are welcome.

Check-Out Procedures

Packing up in your campsite is best left to the scheduled Campsite Pack-Up time on Sunday morning (9:30–10:30 AM). You may begin packing before this time but don’t let it make you late to other events. When fully packed, take equipment to your vehicle. Your campsite will be inspected by a staff member.

Your Scouts should check that all personal items are packed. Please leave the campsite as clean as — or cleaner than — you found it, following Leave No Trace principles.

Leaving Camp

For your protection, all campers — youth and adult — **MUST check out with the camp office when leaving camp** and check in when returning.

- If leaving camp early, stop at the camp office to check out and collect your camper’s documents. We want to ensure everyone leaves with their medical forms and any awards.
- Visitors picking up a youth must present ID at the camp office, which will be checked against that Scout’s Health Form. If a youth will be picked up by a visitor, make sure their information is listed on the Health Form under “authorized to take youth to and from events.”

General Camp Information

Visitors are welcome on the property. Please keep your stay to a reasonable time and follow these rules:

- A parking lot is located at the entrance to camp. Only camp vehicles are permitted beyond the lot.
- Visitors are to check in at the camp office (Dale O. Johnson Building) when they arrive and check out when they leave.
- Scouting America resident camp security policy requires all adults to wear a wristband while at camp. Wristbands can be picked up at check-in at the administration office.
- If a visitor wishes to stay for a meal, please check with the Event Director.
- There are no provisions or facilities to allow parents to camp in the parking lot or stay overnight.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Illicit drugs and alcohol are forbidden at Camp Thunderbird, including use of marijuana. Tobacco use, including smokeless tobacco and vaping products, must be out of sight of Scouts, buildings, and camp activities. Tobacco use is only allowed in the designated smoking area behind the dining hall. Any litter from tobacco products is the responsibility of the user. Violation of this policy can result in immediate removal for cause.

Firearms, Bows, and Fireworks

Per National Scouting America regulations, personal firearms and archery equipment will not be permitted at any camp sessions. Fireworks will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, the Staff Advisor shall be notified immediately. If the emergency is of a medical nature, contact the health officer, or call 911 for life-threatening situations.

Other Program Requirements

Safety is paramount. A few additional requirements to ensure a successful event:

- The buddy system must be used at all times.
- The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.

- All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- Scouting America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program.
- Hazing and initiations are prohibited and have no part during any Scouting activity.
- All forms of bullying and harassment, including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying, are prohibited.
- Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.
- Sexual activity is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required for all activities.

Reporting Requirements

Adult leaders and youth members have a responsibility to recognize, respond to, and report Youth Protection violations and abuse.

Youth Protection Policy Violations

- Serious Youth Protection policy violations or behaviors that put a youth's safety at risk must be reported to the Scout Executive.
- Online reporting is also available at Incident Reporting on the Scouting America website.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

- All people participating in Scouting programs are mandated reporters of child abuse.
- Reports must be made to local law enforcement and child protective services. State law may require additional reporting.
- This reporting duty cannot be delegated to any other person.
- Reporting to the Scout Executive or Scouts First Helpline ensures that follow-up can occur for the safety of our youth.

Scouts First Helpline

As part of its "Scouts First" approach to youth protection and safety, Scouting America has established a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk: **1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871)**

If immediate assistance is needed in the handling of a sexual abuse allegation, contact Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1).

Questions or concerns? Contact Staff Advisor: Tricia Salazar Email: tricia.salazar@scouting.org | Mobile: 360-325-7807

Suggested Packing List

Annual Health & Medical Form (Parts A & B)	Scout Handbook & writing materials
Medications in original container	Blue Cards (for merit badge sessions)
Tent, sleeping bag, and pillow	Pocket knife (with Totin' Chip)
Scout uniform	10 Essentials
Comfortable closed-toe shoes (no flip flops)	Flashlight
Water bottle	Bug repellent
Swimsuit and water shoes	Feminine hygiene items (if needed)
Towel	Watch and sunglasses
Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, etc.)	Cash for the Trading Post
Sun protection (sunblock, hat)	Insurance card copy (included in health form)
Rain gear	
Sleepwear	
Underwear and socks	
Pants/shorts and t-shirts	