2020 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

Course site: **Camp Loud Thunder**
9906-175th Street West
Illinois City, IL 61259
(563) 357-8887

Course Director: Jay Oakman
bsafox@yahoo.com

Staff Advisor: Eric Smith
Eric.smith@scouting.org

Dates: March 7-8th 2020

Theme: Down on the Farm

Course times: The action begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7th and ends approx. 2:00pm on Sunday, March 8th.

Weather: It will be cold and it may snow. Bring suitable footwear, coat, gloves, & warm sleepwear. Be prepared for outdoor activities during the day. You will be sleeping in heated cabins at night.

Early arrivals: For an additional fee of $55.00*, you may arrive the night before, please make it after 7:00 p.m. and before 10:00 p.m. **This fee covers lodging Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday. This fee does NOT cover a meal Friday night or transportation to and from the airport is needed. FYI... No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff are busy with preparations.**

Before You Arrive at NCS:
- Fill out the NCS Personal Resource Questionnaire [HERE](#) and bring to camp school.
- Take the online NCS course and the in-person Council led NCS course. Don’t forget the other required pre-requisites: [Youth Protection Training](#) and [Cub Scout Leader Position Specific training](#).

What to Take to Camp:
- Proof of BSA registration & prerequisite online training courses (Youth Protection Training, Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training, Camp School Online Training, and Council-lead Camp School Training).
- Your completed BSA 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 40 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 BSA National Supply.

Personal Gear:
- **Official complete BSA uniform.** We will wear the Field uniform, the official Scout uniform, during the weekend. However, you will have the opportunity to wear your favorite camp shirt or sweatshirt on Saturday afternoon.
- Pillow, Bed Linens, Toiletries, towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, etc. Warm sleepwear, perhaps “long johns” or sweats.
- Coat, jacket, suitable footwear/socks, gloves, hat, umbrella
- Camera (Shoot the displays and show others back home what can be done!)

What to Expect and What Is Expected:
- Arrive rested. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last early morning to late at night.
- Be prepared for Dorm style - indoor housing with mattresses. Please bring your own bedding.
- **You must arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. on the first day, and attend all sessions through the last day in order to be certified**
- In order to focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc.
  Note also, there are no accommodations for anyone but you.
- 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.

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

**Note Regarding Absences for Religious Reasons**
Occasionally participants ask to be excused from parts of NCS for religious reasons. It is expected that before requesting, you first seek permission from your pastor or bishop to attend the entire school, and then seek substitutes to fulfill teaching responsibilities, etc. NCS is a once-in-five year occurrence; more critical than most other Scouting activities. Requests must be written to the associate regional director, and outline what was done in an attempt to experience the entire course. Even then, excuses can only be granted if a camp school staff member is willing to review with you, all sessions missed.
**LOUD THUNDER SCOUT RESERVATION**  
West of Andalusia, Illinois

---

**ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS**

**From the North or East:** Pass through Andalusia, stay on Highway 92 with the Andalusia Slough on your right. Past the campsites along the Slough and the last boat ramp, the road will curve to the left (south) and climb a hill. At the top of the hill IGNORE signs to the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve and follow the sign south to Loud Thunder Scout Camp, going down the steep hill. Towards the bottom, IGNORE the entrance on the right and CONTINUE to the bottom of the hill and start up the other side. About a third of the way up, there will be a sign to the Scouts BSA Camp on your right, and you will turn RIGHT onto a gravel road going up the hill. Follow that road and park in the large gravel parking lot. Registration will be at the Administration Building immediately opposite the parking lot. See you there!

**From the West or South:** You’ll either be on Highway 92 from Illinois City, or join it about a mile South of the camp. From that junction, stay on Highway 92 North. You’ll continue north about a mile to a significant downward slope. About halfway down the slope you’ll find the camp’s entrance on your left. You will turn LEFT onto a gravel road going up the hill. Follow that road and park in the large gravel parking lot. Registration will be at the Administration Building immediately opposite the parking lot. See you there!