

2026 ACAHELA LEADER'S GUIDE



2026 Under The Sea!!

Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, BSA
570-207-1227 bill.zinky@scouting.org

Mission and Goals

Scouting America Mission Statement

It is the mission of Scouting America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting: A Program for Everyone

The summer programs offered by The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council at Camp Acahela are open to all registered Cub Scouts.

Rules for acceptance and participation are the same for everyone, without regard to race, color, age, disability, religion, or national origin.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council participates in the special government milk program. The council assures the Department of Agriculture that all campers are served milk regardless of race, color, religion, age, disability, or national origin. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD) USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Camp Administration Summary

Camp Acahela is owned and operated by The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, Boy Scouts of America.

It is administered by a full time Council Camp Director and Ranger trained and certified by The National Camping School of the Boy Scouts of America. The camp is supervised by the Council Executive Board through the Council Camping Committee.

The camp is inspected by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection and is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Each year, Camp Acahela is inspected by the Council Camping Committee and a Regional Camp Visitation Team. It is consistently rated as a Nationally Accredited Camp. Copies of reports are available from The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Service Center.

Council and Camp Addresses

Before Camp Opens

Northeastern PA Council Scout Service Center
72 Montage Mountain Road
Moosic, PA 18507
Telephone: 570-207-1227
Fax: 570-207-1232
Bill.zinky@scouting.org
www.acahela.org

During Camp Season:

June 25 through July 25, 2026
Camp Acahela
359 Acahela Road
Blakeslee, PA 18610
Telephone: 570-646-2223
Bill.zinky@scouting.org
www.acahela.org



Welcome to Camp Acahela 2026 "Under the Sea"



Dear Camp Leader,

Welcome to Acahela Cub Scout Resident Camp's 2026 season - "Under the Sea"! If you are one of the thousands of leaders who have shared the Acahela experience before, welcome back! If this summer will be your very first, then allow us to extend our warmest welcome and wish you all the best as you begin a truly great adventure.

We continue to offer not only the week-long session, but also Adventure Camp, the three-day session. This session will run from Sunday to Tuesday evening. The Pack Reservation Form has a spot to mark if the Pack is attending the three-day session or the week-long, or a combination of both.

Since the close of camp last season, your Council Camping Committee and many other groups and committees have worked hard to maintain and build Camp Acahela into the place where "the books of Scouting come alive."

This 2026 Camp Leader's Guide is a key resource for you. Please read the entire guide and share it with your other camp leaders, parents, and Scouts. Additional information and any changes will be coming your way in the future. Please make note of our camp's policies and procedures. All of these derive from the Scout Oath and Scout Law, our cardinal principles, and they help us ensure that camp operates safely, efficiently, and enjoyably for everyone during their week at Camp Acahela.

Part of our Food program is to be prepared for special dietary needs at camp, whether from food allergies, religious reasons, etc. We need your help to be successful in this effort. Please communicate the need for families to submit our Special Dietary Needs form to us at least two weeks prior to your arrival at camp.

My greatest admiration goes out to each of you as Camp Leaders for the dedication and commitment to our youth. Your week of vacation at Camp Acahela will most surely reap bountiful rewards.

If you have any questions concerning Camp Acahela summer camp, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help! You can always call the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Scout Service and Training Center at 570-207-1227 and speak with Bill or the other council staff. Thank you for your dedication to Scouting, and we look forward to seeing you at Acahela sometime soon.

Yours in Camping Excellence,

Bill

Bill Zinky
Camp Director
bill.zinky@scouting.org

Nick

Nick Hannon
Program Director
njhannon2@gmail.com

Table of Contents

Mission and Goals

3 General Information

- SA Mission Statement
- Scouting: A Program for Everyone
- Camp Administration Summary
- Council and Camp Directory

Welcome to Camp Acahela

4 Camp Administration's Letter

SECTION 1: Pre-Camp Information

6 Unit Camping Opportunities

- The Three types of Cub Scout Camping
- 2026 Camp Sessions
- Reservation Policy

7 2026 Camp Fees

- Fees & Payments
- Payment Incentives - Paid in full May 15
- 2026 Camping Fee Schedule
- Leaders & Den Chief Fees

8 Refunds, Camperships & Staff Opportunities

- Refund Policy
- Camperships
- Camp Acahela Camp Staff
- Camp Staff Positions

9-10 Be Prepared for Your Acahela Camp Experience

- Required Medical Forms
- Accommodating Special Needs
- Food Service
- Your Pack Annual Preparation Plan
- Cub Scout Uniform Requirements
- Equipment Checklists
- Trading Post
- Contacting a Scout or Leader at Camp
- Phones & Internet

11-12 Leadership and Conduct

- A Word about You and the Camp Staff
- Pack Leadership
- The Adult & Den Chief Role at Camp
- The Cubmaster at Summer Camp
- The Den Chief at Summer Camp

SECTION 2: Rules, Regulations and Procedures

13 Camp Policies

14-16 Youth Protection at Camp

- PA Child Protective Services Act #15
- Youth Protection Guidelines
- Intrusion of Unauthorized Persons
- Verification of No-shows
- Release of Minors
- All Individuals Are Identified

17-18 Additional Cub Camp Rules

- Bedtime
- Homesickness

19 Emergency Procedures

20 Wildlife & Food in Camp

- Bears & Animal Safety

21 Check in - Check out; Plaques

22-23 Camp Facilities

- Outdoor Code & Environmental Statement
- Health Lodge, Dining Hall, Showers

SECTION 3: Program Opportunities

24 Pack Service & Advancement

- Camp Leader Orientation & Meetings
- Advancement Policy

25 Daily Schedules and Meals

- Family Nights & Visitor Meals

26-28 Program Areas

29 Special Programs

- Flag Ceremonies & Campfires
- Friday Programming
 - Webelos & Arrow of Light
 - Campwide Activities

30 Open Programming

- Aquatics & BBs
- Free Time

31 2026 Theme

32 Camp Contact Information

At the time of this printing, some program information is tentative since specialized programs will depend on the availability of skilled staff and outside presenters.

Unit Camping Opportunities

Camp Acahela lies at the confluence of the Lehigh River and the Tobyhanna Creek on 250 acres of Pocono woodlands near Blakeslee, Pennsylvania at the borders of Carbon, Monroe, and Luzerne Counties. In the Native American language of the Lenape, "Acahela" translates as "Joining of the Waters." It is yours to explore and enjoy!

The Three Types of Cub Scout Camping...

Traditional Week-long Resident Camping

Campers stay for 6 days/5 nights and are housed in two-person canvas tents on wooden platforms, with a cot furnished for each camper and leader. All meals are prepared by the food service staff and are served in the camp dining hall. Latrines and hot shower facilities are available for campers and leaders.

Three-Day Adventure Camp

A great start for first time overnights! Adventure camp is a 3-day/2-night session of resident camping that runs from registration on Sunday until the campers leave on Tuesday evening after the program. If a scout decides that he would like to stay for the rest of the week, we would love to have them. Those arrangements can be made very easily at the Camp Office by registering and paying the additional fee difference by Tuesday evening at camp.

Provisional Camping

For Scouts who cannot attend with their Pack, campers are encouraged to decide to stay with another unit and be listed on their roster. No additional fee is required. Or the camp leadership can also plan for hosting provisional campers for an additional fee of \$15. **There must be an adult partner attending with the Cub Scout.** Applications for provisional camping are available.

2026 Camp Sessions

Camp Acahela will offer three one-week sessions of Cub Scout Resident Camp and three 3-day sessions of Adventure Camp in 2024.

Session 1 Resident: July 5 to July 10

Adventure: July 5 to July 7

Session 2 Resident: July 12 to July 17

Adventure: July 12 to July 14

Session 3 Resident: July 19 to July 24

Adventure: July 19 to July 21

All sessions begin between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm on Sunday. Packs may arrive anytime between 1 and 3 PM, at their choosing, to begin the check-in process. **Packs should not arrive before 1:00 pm on Sunday.** The week-long sessions end about 4 pm the following Friday. Adventure camp sessions end on Tuesday evening at about 8:30 pm.

Reservation Policy

To maximize usage of all sites and to accommodate the growing numbers of Packs and campers each week, Packs will be allowed to indicate three choices of campsite in order of preference on the reservation form. **However, site assignments will be made based on attendance and campsite capacity at the discretion of the Camp Director. Official placements are made based on June 1 reservation attendance numbers.**

Flexibility

We are always happy to work with Units in whatever way we can to accommodate your needs. Please reach out to us with any special requests or concerns. Your camp experience at Acahela is important to everyone!

2026 Fees & Payments

Camping Fees

The regular, non-discounted youth camper fees, per session, are \$505 & \$310. However, early payment incentives and other modifications are shown on the fee schedule below. Each camper and adult leader will receive a 2026 Camp Patch.

Payments

When possible, all fees and transactions should be made through our Service Center or online prior to attending camp. However, balances or fees that are due within 7 days prior to your arrival should be brought to camp and settled at the Camp Office during Sunday check in. Checks should be made payable to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council. Credit cards are accepted at the Service Center but will incur a 3% additional surcharge. **Packs should collect fees from Scouts in advance and then make a group payment.** Packs must always include a roster with any payment.

Discount Incentive - Paid in full by May 15, 2026

Each Scout whose camp fee is paid in full by May 15th will receive a discount, reducing the total cost to \$480/\$290 per camper.

2026 Camping Fee Schedule

The first \$50.00 of the camper fee is a nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit.
A nonrefundable \$100 site deposit is required with each unit's reservation.

	<u>Early Payment</u>	<u>Regular</u>
Week-Long Camper	\$480.00	\$505.00
Adventure Camper	\$290.00	\$310.00
Provisional (6day/3day) (Must have adult partner)	\$495/\$305	\$520/\$330
Additional Leaders (6day/3day)	\$165/\$105	\$185/\$125
Den Chiefs (6day/3day)	\$165/\$105	\$185/\$125
4th day added to Adventure Camp	\$95 per scout	\$40 per adult or Den Chief

Leaders & Fees

One adult leader is free for each unit, with additional free adult leaders for every 7 Scouts after 7 following the schedule listed below. Fees for additional leaders are \$165 each for the Week-Long session or \$105 each for the Adventure Camp session, if paid by May 15th.

<u>Number of Scouts</u>	<u>Free Leaders Allowed</u>
4-7	1
8-20	2
21-27	3
28-34	4
35+	5

Den Chiefs & Fees

Den Chiefs are limited to 1 for every 6 Cub Scouts. Den Chiefs are not factored in as adult leaders into the schedule above. Fees for Den Chiefs are \$165 each for the Week-Long session or \$105 each for the Adventure Camp session, if paid by May 15th.

Camp Reservation Deposits

The Unit's \$100 site deposit may be rolled over for a 2027 site reservation, credited toward any camp fees, expended in the camp Trading Post, or refunded to the Unit. However, **this deposit is not refundable if the Pack does not attend camp.**

Refunds, Camperships & Staff Opportunities

Refund Policies

The first \$50 of each camper fee is not refundable and not transferable. This deposit is completely **forfeited** if the Scout does not attend. Other fees paid prior to camp are **generally** transferable to other new or add-on Scouts, **but not refundable**. Once the camp week has begun, fees are **not** refundable.

In cases involving extreme circumstances (medical issue, death in the immediate family, summer school) or other reasons that do not involve choice, requests for a refund must be made in writing (standard mail or email) accompanied by appropriate documentation, by September 1 to the Service Center, for review by the Council Camping Committee. Any/all refunds may not be processed until after Sept. 1. This policy generally applies to Leader fees also. Any credit card processing fees are not refundable.

Camperships

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council believes that all Scouts should be able to attend summer resident camp, regardless of their financial situation. Campership funds are available from the Council to assist local Scouts/families who may have difficulty affording the full camp fee. Applications are available at the Scout Service Center or may be downloaded from the Council website at <https://www.acahela.org/>

Deadline for Campership Applications is April 15th. Any Scout applying for campership assistance automatically receives a time extension for the discounted camp rate. The new due date for the discounted fee will be communicated in writing directly to the Scout's parent and leader.

Camp Acahela Camp Staff

We depend on a highly skilled and dedicated group of Scouts and Scouters to operate Camp Acahela each summer. Serving on camp staff is truly the summer of a lifetime. It's a unique chance to learn to teach, be a leader, work on a team ... and to touch the lives of the Scouts who will pass through the camp's gate this year.

We hope that you will encourage Scouts to apply for staff positions, so that we can truly offer a "dream team" to all of the units who attend Camp Acahela. Den Chiefs are great staff candidates!

Contact the Scout Service Center at 570-207-1227 or via email at bill.zinky@scouting.org for more information and an application. Additional applications may also be taken throughout the camp season.

Camp Staff Positions

Counselor-In-Training Program (Age 14 or 15)

It's the best deal around! Four weeks of hands-on training on being a summer camp staffer. CIT's also grow, develop, and hone their leadership and teaching skills.

Instructors or Support Staff (Age 15 or 16 and up)

Assist in individual program areas, lead special programs, work in the kitchen, camp office, trading post.

Senior Staff (Age 18 and up)

Lead an area in outdoors skills, aquatics, games, STEM or shooting sports; or serve as health officer, cook, or assistant cook.



Be Prepared for Acahela

Required Medical Forms

All campers and adult leaders must have a **BSA universal Annual Health & Medical Record (#680-001 -2019 printing)** which is an annual health history, signed by the Scout and a parent/guardian, and supported by a medical evaluation completed by a licensed physician, within 12 months prior to attending camp. Parts A, B and C of the form must be completed **in full**, and a copy of the individual's insurance card (front and back) should also be attached with any other pertinent medical information. Only the current version of the BSA medical form will be accepted.

The forms will be kept on file at the Health Office and returned to the Unit at the end of the week. Any adult leaders who are staying overnight must also present a completed medical form upon arrival. Unit leaders are encouraged to collect all medical forms before camp and check them for completeness. Campers and adults who arrive at camp without a properly completed medical form will be sent home after 24 hours. **This policy is strictly enforced.**

Parents of Scouts who are required to take medication while at camp should package medication in original bottles and package the medication/bottles in individual bags clearly marked with the Scout's name and Pack number. Leaders should consult with parents beforehand on medication needs and have them **complete the "medications" section** of the medical form, being sure to list the specific times and doses. Attach additional instructions if needed. All medication will be collected at the medical check on Sunday and kept and distributed as required by the Health Officer throughout the week.

Accommodating Special Needs

The staff of Camp Acahela is committed to fully including all Scouts in all aspects of the summer camp program. Often, meeting the needs of all campers requires minor adaptations of our facilities, staffing, and instructional plans. Special menus, one-on-one instruction, accessible campsites, individual counseling, and other provisions can be made for Scouts or leaders because of physical disabilities, learning disabilities, diagnosed psychological or social difficulties, severe medical conditions, particular dietary requirements, religious practices, or other special needs. **Unit leaders or parents should contact the camp director well in advance** to outline the specific needs of Scouts or leaders in their packs to allow the time required to make any adaptations. **(Email us a "special needs" form.)**

Food Service

Camp Acahela employs qualified food service personnel to provide high-quality food for all campers and leaders. Three meals per day are served in the central dining hall, beginning with Sunday dinner, and ending with a Friday lunch. A licensed dietitian has reviewed the menus for balanced nutrition. **If Scouts or leaders have special dietary needs, please contact the camp office or scout council office at least two weeks prior to your Pack's arrival with a completed Special Needs Form (Email us a Dietary needs form).** In many cases, bringing specialty supplemental food items with you to camp is encouraged and facilitated. We want your stay at camp to be enjoyable.

Your Pack Annual Preparation Plan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective to be met!</u>
July- April	Reserve a date (and indicate campsite preferences) with Service Center
January	Begin planning for & promoting summer camp.
April	Attend pre-camp leaders' orientation.
April-May	Hold a Camp Promotion for your pack: Parents' Meeting - include slide presentation, date and fee schedule. Work with your pack to plan program, costumes, and campsite theming. Distribute medical and Special Needs forms for completion.
April 14	Campership Applications due to Service Center
May 15	Payments-in-full due to receive the discount.
Two weeks prior to arrival at camp	Finalize all paperwork, medicals, family dinners, etc. A final pack roster is due and sent to camp at this time. Send in Special Needs forms.

Be Prepared for Acahela

Cub Scout Uniforms at Camp

The Official Cub Scout uniform, defined as Class “A,” or field uniform, consists of the official shirt, belt, shorts, and socks.

This uniform is worn each day for evening retreat and dinner, as well as for chapel. It is also appropriate for opening and closing campfires. The Class “B” uniform, or activity uniform, consists of Cub Scout shorts and a Scout T-shirt with belt and socks and is appropriate at all other times. The content of all clothing and hats should be consistent with the principles of the Scouting America.

Trading Post

A full-service trading post is operated at camp. It is stocked with Camp Acahela custom items, including patches and t-shirts; Official Boy Scouts of America gear; handicraft kits; and an assortment of soda, ice cream and snacks. Regular business hours are posted at the Trading Post. Generally, the Trading Post is open immediately following meals and at other “non-program” times.

Contacting Scouts and Leaders by US Mail

Parents may wish to send mail or packages to their Scout at Camp Acahela. Please realize that sometimes letters may cause homesickness. Mail should be addressed in the following manner:

Camp Acahela
Scout's Name, Pack #
359 Acahela Road
Blakeslee, PA 18610

An outgoing mailbox is provided in camp for use by Scouts and leaders. Stamps are available at the Trading Post.

Phones, Internet & Communications:

The Camp Business Phone: 570-646-2223

Please use the camp telephone number for business and emergency calls only. The office staff will take a message and deliver it to the camper or leader at the next meal. **Individuals will be summoned to the phone only in cases of emergency.**

Cell Phones:

Packs are encouraged to set their own policies regarding use of cell phones by Scouts. Phone access often leads to homesickness and other problems. Availability of accessible power outlets to charge phones in camp is provided in the Dining Hall. Cell coverage at camp varies by provider but is good overall.

Email & Internet:

Acahela can be emailed at bill.zinky@scouting.org. A Wi-Fi internet connection is available at the Administration Building for adult leaders with wireless-capable devices. Leaders should see the Camp Director for additional computer or internet access.

Cub Scout Equipment Checklist

Personal Equipment

- ☐ Cub Scout uniform
- ☐ 6/3 sets t-shirts and shorts
- ☐ Underwear & socks for at least 6/3 days
- ☐ Scout T-shirts
- ☐ Jacket, sweater, sweatshirt
- ☐ Cap
- ☐ Swimming trunks, beach towel
- ☐ Hiking boots, athletic shoes, and old shoes for tubing, shower shoes
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Sleeping bag or blankets, pillow
- ☐ Toilet kit (toothbrush, towels, soap, etc.)
- ☐ Notebook, pencil, pen
- ☐ Scout Handbook
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb
- ☐ Day Pack (esp. Webelos 1-day hikers)
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Spending money
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Fishing Pole and tackle
- ☐ Religious materials
- ☐ Insect repellent (no aerosol), sunscreen
- ☐ Prescription medication
- ☐ **Completed BSA Medical Form**

Pack and Den Equipment

- ☐ American & Pack flags
- ☐ Lantern & extra fuel, mantles
- ☐ Water Jugs
- ☐ Tarps
- ☐ Costumes, decorations, etc.
- ☐ **Tents for AOL overnighter**
- ☐ Bow Saw, pocketknife
- ☐ Extra rope / twine
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Antibacterial soap (pump bottles)
- ☐ This Leader's Guide & Cub leader book
- ☐ Alarm Clocks/watches
- ☐ Thumbtacks
- ☐ Song and skit books

Things to leave home.

Kerosene or gasoline, fireworks & explosives, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, firearms and ammunition, hunting/sheath knives, candles, pets, obscene or otherwise inappropriate materials, bicycles, radios, computer games, aerosol cans and glass containers. (See page 12 for additional information.)

Leadership and Conduct

A Word About You and the Camp Staff

The camp staff is here to assist you, the pack leaders, in making possible a truly great camping experience for your pack. We have employed the highly skilled, well-rounded staff of Scouters. Their reason for being in camp is to serve you and your pack. They are not strangers to this game of Scouting. They love and believe in this great game, just as you do. Like you, they are making personal sacrifices to be part of it. They are human too! They will make mistakes and errors in judgment, as do we all, but they will be honest mistakes. With your help, they will avoid these same mistakes again. Together, you and they can make possible a finer camp experience for your Scouts. Each of you shares this responsibility. ***But please remember one thing as you go into this big adventure of camp: the staff will help, assist, and accommodate you in every way they can, but they will not take over your Pack.*** You are the leader; you are the person your scouts know and respect. You give them understanding and leadership, maintain discipline, and you give them the adult direction and counsel needed in camp.

Pack Leadership

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. See [FAQ](#) for list of approved adult registration fee required positions.

Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception: Cub Scout's parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders. All adults must review the "[How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide](#)" that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook. In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.

If Packs are going to use "rotating" leaders (i.e. if the same 2 adults will not be present all week) a leadership roster indicating anticipated arrival and departure times must be filed with the Camp Office at registration. At no time may a Pack be left without two-deep leadership in place. Additionally, all adult leaders staying overnight must have a current, completed BSA medical form and Safeguarding Youth Training on file with the camp and must check in at the Camp Office upon arrival.

The Adult Leader and Den Chief at Cub Resident Camp

Camp Acahela exists to deliver the Scouting program outdoors to the Cub Scout. Scouting is at its heart a "game with a purpose," a game which scouts play under the leadership of their peers, with the guidance of adults. Camp Acahela always allows leaders and Den Chiefs the courtesy of occasionally participating in its programs. However, because of growing attendance, our resources are often used to the limits by campers, making certain programs generally unavailable to adults/Den Chiefs. While games and fishing should never be a problem, for other specialized, heavily used or staff-intensive programs such as shooting sports, river tubing, etc. campers will always have priority.

Leadership and Conduct

The Cubmaster (Camp Leader) at Summer Camp

As Camp Leader, you have a key role in your Pack while at camp. Camp Acahela has a staff that is eager to assist you execute your program and tend to your unit's needs. Below are some of your duties before and during summer camp.

Before Camp

- ☐ Read the Camp Leader Guide and share it with your other adult leaders and den chiefs.
- ☐ Meet with your Pack to familiarize them with the camp, its offerings, and policies.
- ☐ Keep track of each Scout's payment for camp and turn in completed roster with payment to Scout Service Center.
- ☐ Fill in all paperwork and turn in completed rosters to Service Center when final payment is made (at least two weeks prior to camp)
- ☐ Make sure each Scout's medical form is current, properly filled out, and handed in to you.
- ☐ Make sure ALL adults who will be attending camp have current Safeguarding Youth Training with proof handed in to you.
- ☐ Review check-in and check-out procedures with your Cub Scouts and parents. Arrange for an arrival time on Sunday and a meeting time for Friday afternoon's program.
- ☐ Collect orders and payment for Tuesday Dinner.
- ☐ Determine tent mates in advance.
- ☐ Plan campsite decorations and costumes based on the theme.

During Camp

- ☐ Check in at the appropriate time, following the directions of your Pack host. At check-in, have all medical forms, additional camp fee payments, and orders for parents' night dinners.
- ☐ Attend the Sunday Leaders' Meeting and brief Cub Scouts and leaders about camp policies and procedures.
- ☐ Assure that your Pack complies with the guidelines in this manual and all supplementary information.
- ☐ Keep track of each Cub Scout's advancement progress, accompany them to all sessions and activities. Never leave the scouts unattended.
- ☐ Attend leader's meetings daily after lunch.
- ☐ Close your camp experience by checking out with your Pack host and the camp office.
- ☐ Complete an adult leader evaluation form and return it to the camp office before departure.
- ☐ Arrange for all Cub Scouts to have appropriate transportation home.

The Den Chief at Cub Scout Camp

The Den Chief is a Scout who works with a den or a pack and assists the leaders with the Cub Scouts. Their primary role is as a youth leader and not as a camper.

Before Camp

- ☐ Read the Camp Leader's Guide. It is also the Den Chief's manual for camp.
- ☐ Meet with the Pack Leaders in the spring to help plan decorations and skits for the theme.

During Camp

- ☐ Be responsible for the pack bulletin board: fireguard chart, waiter schedule, pack duty roster.
- ☐ Be a good role model for the Cub Scouts.
- ☐ Be sure that Cub Scouts in your pack observe Taps and are respectful of other units.
- ☐ Help to keep track of each Cub Scout's advancement progress.
- ☐ Accompany Cub Scouts to all sessions and activities. Never leave the Scouts unattended
- ☐ Maintain the health and cleanliness of your pack campsite. Conduct an inspection before your Pack Commissioner visits each day.
- ☐ Help to complete an evaluation form and return it to the camp office before departure.

Camp Policies

At Camp Acahela, the Scout Oath and Law are our guiding principles. We expect each leader to provide guidance within the Pack to follow these principles, as well as the policies of Camp Acahela, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council and Scouting America.

- ❑ **Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs:** Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted in Scout Camp. Possession or use on camp property will be cause for removal.
- ❑ **Smoking:** Smoking is prohibited except in areas expressly designated by the Camp Director. The goal of this policy is to keep smoking away from youth.
- ❑ **Hazing & Bullying:** Initiations or hazing of any type is in violation of the Safeguarding Youth policy and is cause for removal of Scouts and/or leaders from camp.
- ❑ **Vehicles:** Vehicles are not permitted in campsites. All vehicles must be parked in designated areas.
- ❑ **Leaving & Arriving:** All campers and leaders must stop by the Camp Office to sign-out or sign-in and complete necessary documentation (see "Release of Minors"). Unit leaders must arrange two-deep coverage with the Camp Director before leaving.
- ❑ **Firearms & Ammunition:** Camp Acahela provides all BB guns, bows, arrows and BBs at the shooting ranges. Personal Guns or ammunition of any kind are prohibited.
- ❑ **Knives:** Cub Scouts may carry knives with parent permission. Sheath knives and other large knives are not to be carried by campers or leaders.
- ❑ **Fireworks:** Possession or use of fireworks in camp is prohibited and is cause for removal.
- ❑ **Fuels:** Flammable liquids are generally prohibited from use in camp. This includes fire starting liquids and gels.
- ❑ **Campfires:** Fires may not be constructed more than 3ft high. No new fire rings may be built anywhere. Chainsaws may not be used without permission from the Ranger.
- ❑ **Camp Property:** Individuals and units will be charged for repair or replacement of camp property damaged because of misuse or neglect.
- ❑ **Cutting Trees:** No living or dead trees, including saplings, are to be cut without specific permission of the Camp Director or Ranger. A \$15 per inch diameter, or \$100 penalty, whichever is greater, will be enforced.
- ❑ **Personal Items:** All personal gear should be clearly labeled or marked with a waterproof marker. The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items. We recommend that electronic equipment and other valuables be left at home.
- ❑ **No diapers or pampers** should be put in campsite garbage. They need to be thrown into the dumpster.
- ❑ **Pets:** Dogs and other personal pets are not allowed at camp.
- ❑ **Taps:** Campers may not leave their campsite without a unit leader after 10 pm. Lights-out and quiet is at 11 pm. Please be respectful of other units.
- ❑ **Drones:** Know and follow all information at knowbeforeyoufly.org. Additionally, they are not to be used over active program areas like shooting ranges, COPE, etc. as they are distracting to participants. Contact the Camp Director in advance for further directions.
- ❑ **Restricted Areas:** The shooting ranges, obstacle course, climbing wall, pool area, kayaks, rafts, river and cliffs are off-limits except during program times when supervised by the staff. Campers and leaders also should not enter or pass through campsites other than their own without permission.
- ❑ **First Aid:** All illnesses and injuries must be reported to the Health Officer for treatment and recording. All medication must be checked-in at the Health Office for locked storage and distribution.
- ❑ **Firewood:** may be gathered or purchased from the Camp for a nominal fee. Firewood may not be brought into Camp (a requirement of the camp conservation & invasive species plan).

Youth Protection at Camp

Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Act #15

All agencies and institutions who deal with youth in Pennsylvania are required to comply with the requirements of Act #15. This is a legal requirement of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is separate from, and in addition to, all Scouting America policies.

Please Note:

- **Units from Pennsylvania:** The unit is responsible for ensuring that all adults who plan to stay at camp for 24 hours or more must have completed the three required clearances for volunteers.
- **Units from outside of Pennsylvania:** Adults are NOT required to get these clearances for their summer camp stay with us. However, non-Pennsylvania units should ensure they are compliant, overall, with PA Act #15.

For more details on these requirements and how to obtain the clearances, go to the "Keep Kids Safe" website (keepkidssafe.pa.gov/).

Essential Youth Protection Guidelines

Camp Acahela and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council adhere to all youth protection guidelines of Scouting America. **Please see the policy on page 11 regarding Safeguarding Youth Training and adults at camp.**

At summer camp, the responsibility of caring for Cub Scouts becomes a 24-hour-a-day duty. Cubmasters should review youth protection policies with all adults who will be serving as leaders in camp.

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been abused. Ensure the child is in a safe environment. For any Safeguarding Youth Issues contact the Scouts First Helpline: 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871). In addition, notify the Camp Director and/or Scout Executive immediately.

The following barriers to abuse within Scouting are used at camp to ensure the safety of our youth campers. We expect adult leaders to always follow these guidelines:

- **Two deep leadership always required:** See explanation of pack leadership requirements for camp on page 11. Youth should always use the buddy system.
- **No one-on-one contact:** Personal conferences must take place in plain view of others.
- **Respect of privacy:** Separate shower facilities are provided for youth (under 18), adults (18 and older), as well as males and females. Adults may intrude on privacy only for emergency health and safety concerns. The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.
- **Separate accommodations:** Youth may not share a tent with an adult unless the adult is a parent. Male and female leaders may not share a tent unless they are married. Scouts may not share tents with Scouts of the opposite gender or with other Scouts who have more than a 2-year difference in age.
- **Inappropriate public displays of affection and any sexual activity are prohibited.**
- **No secret organizations or activities:** All aspects of the Scouting programs are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **Appropriate attire:** Proper clothing is always required. **Swimwear at camp should be modest. For males, swim trunks or board shorts are appropriate. Tight-fitting swim briefs or drag shorts are not allowed. For females, bikinis are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate.**
- **Constructive discipline:** Discipline should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- **Hazing & bullying prohibited:** Physical hazing, bullying and initiations of any type are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
- **Den Chief training and supervision:** Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders to ensure that Scouting America policies are followed.

Youth Protection at Camp

The following youth protection policies are National Camp Accreditation standards. Please review them carefully. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Intrusion of Unauthorized Persons

☐ Periodic review of security concerns of the site: **Leaders should “stop in” at their campsites throughout the day, noting anything out of the ordinary.**

Procedures

1. All visitors must report to the Camp Office to sign-in and sign-out. This log will be monitored by the Camp Director.
2. If an unauthorized person is suspected, notify the nearest program area. All program areas are equipped with nearby radio or telephone communication to the camp office. The Area Director will contact the Camp Office and stand-by to give or receive further instructions.
3. The Camp Office will notify the Camp Director who will proceed with the Program Director, Business Manager, or another adult to question the destination of the individual in question.
4. If the person in question flees or contact with the individual is made, “Report of Possible Intrusion” should be reported to the Camp Director as soon as possible.
5. Camp program should continue unless the situation warrants a camp-wide emergency assembly, which would be signaled by the siren. All Leaders and Scouts report to the field in front of the dining hall; Pack leaders complete a roster check and report to the Program Director. Staff members assemble at the Camp Office; Area Directors account for their staff and await further instructions from the Camp Director. All remain until an “All Clear” signal is given.
6. An assessment is made of the severity of the problem and the need to call the state or local police. The Scout Executive is notified of the situation.
7. Leaders should train their Scouts in the above procedures. The most important procedure is that **Scouts do not approach the person in question**; rather, they are to find an adult immediately.
8. The Buddy System is always enforced.

Verification of No-Shows

If a Scout listed on a Pack roster fails to show up at camp, the camp leadership must verify the reason for the absence. Pack leaders must also report for verification any additional names of Scouts not listed on a roster who were supposed to be attending. The camp office will telephone each Scout’s home to ensure that the parents or guardian know that their son or daughter is not at camp.



Youth Protection at Camp

Release of Minors

To a Parent or Legal Guardian

If a parent/legal guardian needs to pick up their child during his/her week at camp, they and the Scout must go in person to sign-out at the Camp Office using the camp Sign-in/Sign-out sheet and by completing the form *“Verification of Camper Leaving Camp Acahela: Release to Legal Parent or Guardian.”* The Camp administration has the right to ask for documentation to prove the identity of the person picking up the minor.

To Persons other than the Legal Parent or Guardian

1. If a person other than a legal parent or guardian arrives to pick up a camper, verification and identification of this individual is required.
2. For any minor to leave camp with a person other than a legal parent or guardian, an authorization form must be completed in advance and be on file in the Camp Office. The form *“Authorization to Release Minors to Persons Other than the Legal Parent or Guardian”* must be completed by the parent, unit leader, and filed with the Camp Director on arrival at check-in. Only persons listed on this form may take a minor out of camp.
3. The authorized adult and camper must come together in person to the Camp Office. There the adult will then sign-out the camper using the camp Sign-in/Sign-out sheet and by completing the form *“Verification of Camper Leaving Camp Acahela: Release to Persons other than the Legal Parent or Guardian”* with the clerk or Camp Director.
4. The Camp administration has the right to ask for documentation to prove the identity of the person picking up the minor.
5. Verification forms will be kept in the Camp Office. Leaders will be instructed on this procedure to ensure the safety of our youth.
6. A separate verification form must be filed each time a Scout leaves camp.

“Authorization to Release Minors to Persons Other than the Legal Parent or Guardian” is available as a separate form. Please distribute copies as necessary and hand in completed forms at check-in. If you have any questions about these policies, please contact the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Service and Training Center, 570-207-1227.

All Individuals Are Identified

All **campers, leaders, staff, and visitors** are always identified while in camp by a distinctive badge or wristband. This identification is presented at the time of check-in at the Camp Office and must be always on and visible throughout the duration of the camp stay. Anyone in camp who is not identified should be reported immediately to the Camp leadership. This process is explained to all leaders and campers upon arrival.

Please help us to keep everyone at Camp Acahela safe by wearing your identification!



Additional Cub Camp Rules

- **EVERYONE MUST HAVE A BUDDY WHEREVER THEY GO IN CAMP.**
- **Everyone must wear shoes - no flip flops or sandals.**
Cub Scouts and leaders must always wear sturdy SHOES with socks while around camp, except when swimming. Shower clogs, water socks or sandals are not acceptable, as they are not substantial protection for the feet. If you feel you must wear these kinds of shoes in the swimming or shower areas, please wear your shoes to the area and change them when you arrive.
- **No running in camp (except in play areas.)**
- **Areas off limits to Cub Scouts:**
 - ✓ Waterfront/pool/fishing pond/river areas, unless scheduled
 - ✓ The kitchen and back hallway of the dining hall
 - ✓ All program areas when staff is not present
 - ✓ Behind the Trading Post counter
 - ✓ Staff Areas
 - ✓ Other Packs' Campsites
 - ✓ Other people's tents
 - ✓ Cliffs and cliff trails
- **Medication**
Cub Scouts must give all their medication to leaders. Leaders should then give any medication to the Health Officer at the time of the medical check on arrival day. The medications are then secured in the Health Lodge for the duration of the camp session. Cub Scouts should report to the Health Lodge as needed for their medication. All medications will be returned to the Pack leader with medical forms at the end of the week.
- **All Cub Scouts must receive permission before they leave the den area or program area.**
- **No food in tents or stored in the campsites. (see page 20 "Wildlife and Food in Camp")**
- **Don't damage equipment or camp property.**
- **When the Cub Scout Sign is "up," please be quiet.**
- **Cub Scouts and adult leaders are not permitted to ride in the back of trucks or on trailers.**



Additional Cub Camp Rules

Going to Bed

The tone you set the first night will last the week. We highly recommend LOW KEY. The following procedures will help you throughout the week.

- Pay particular attention to them the first night Cub Scouts arrive in camp.
- After the campfire, Cub Scouts should wash and brush their teeth.
- The noise level should not get out of hand; however, there is no reason for the Cub Scouts to be silent. They should sit at their picnic tables or around the campfire in the campsite and talk about their day and reflect on their experiences.
- If inclined, this is a wonderful time for the den leader to read or tell stories to the Cub Scouts. The stories should not be scary or have anything in them to excite or upset the Cub Scouts.
- After that quiet time in the campsite, Cub Scouts should go quietly to their tents and get ready for bed. Leaders are responsible for waking the Cub Scouts in the morning. Reveille (rising time) is at 7:00 AM. Cub Scouts need to be at the flagpole in front of the Dining Hall at 7:45 AM.

Homesickness

A recent edition of the “American Camping Association” magazine reported that, “Homesickness is a very real and natural emotion that can occur when anyone leaves familiar surroundings.” For first time campers especially, being away from home may be a totally new experience: No mom or dad to turn to, no refrigerator handy for midnight raids, no family pet to hug and romp with. Allen Sherman may have poked fun at the classic camp letters years ago in his song, “Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah,” yet the importance of correspondence between home and camp cannot be overemphasized.

Some thoughtful parents have made a practice of sending postcards to their children at camp so there will be a personalized touch of home when they arrive. We highly urge parents not to mention in their letters how much they miss their children or that the dog or cat misses them. Instead, they say parents should assure them that they know they’re having a good time and express enthusiasm for the camp’s activities.

Being careful about Cub Scouts’ phone calls home will make a big difference when it comes to homesickness. Please remember that our camp staff is also ready to help with “serious” cases.



Emergency Procedures

General Procedures for Packs

In case of any emergency in camp, a siren will sound. All campers (youth and adults), as quickly and safely as possible, report to the PARADE FIELD IN FRONT OF THE DINING HALL. Pack leaders will conduct a roster check (not a head count) as Scouts and leaders assemble. A report of your Pack's status should be made to the staff member in charge shortly after the roster check. A staff roster check will be accomplished at the Camp Office. Camp leaders and Scouts will then be instructed for the situation. All remain until an all-clear signal is given.

❑ **LOST SWIMMER / RAFTER** - The Waterfront Director runs lost bather search as outlined in aquatic protocols with camp staff until lost person is found.

❑ **FIRE** - Staff members assume responsibilities as a firefighting team under instruction from the Camp Ranger. The Camp Director determines if additional help is needed to combat the fire. Firefighting teams will consist of staff members only. Each team is pre-designated by the Camp Director or Camp Ranger.

❑ **LOST PERSON** - Report any person whom you suspect to be missing to the camp office. Do not delay in reporting a missing or lost person. Send one leader to the site to stay there should the Scout return. The Camp Director and Health Officer will institute established search procedures using camp staff.

❑ **LIGHTNING, FLOOD, WIND & OTHER SEVERE WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES** - Packs will be instructed as necessary depending on conditions, however, the Dining Hall is available at any time as a shelter should the Pack leadership decide that such shelter is necessary. During lightning storms, seek shelter inside a building or in a dense forest located in a depression. 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. Leaders are also highly encouraged to complete the BSA 'Hazardous Weather Training' online at www.scouting.org.

❑ **SERIOUS MEDICAL EMERGENCY / INJURY** - The Health Officer should be notified immediately. The Health Officer or Camp Director will contact a doctor and alert a hospital and arrange transportation if necessary. The Health Officer or Camp Director will notify the parents in a proper manner. All health-related matters will be recorded in the Camp First Aid Log. REMEMBER TO REPORT ALL THE INJURIES TO THE HEALTH LODGE.

❑ **HIGH TEMPERATURE AND/OR HUMIDITY** - In the event of extreme high temperatures and humidity, the Camp Health Officer will consult with the Camp Director and Program Director to determine if strenuous activities such as hiking, sports, etc. will be stopped. Frequent consumption of water must be encouraged by the camp leadership and Pack leaders during these times.

❑ **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL** - In the situation where a hazardous material, such as gasoline, kerosene, toxic paints, used medical supplies, etc., has been caused to be spilled, notify the camp Health Officer or Camp Director immediately. The Camp Director or Ranger will notify local Haz-Mat emergency unit, should the situation warrant, immediately. Do not try to remove the spilled material unless so directed by Camp Director or Ranger.

❑ **ACTIVE SHOOTER** - If confronted with violence, use the Department of Homeland Security recommended protocol: *run, hide, fight*. -Run if you can; Hide if you can't; Fight only if you must. Help others and follow the directions of leaders.

Wildlife & Food in Camp

General Safety Around Animals at Camp

Camp Acahela offers a wide range of exciting adventures including the opportunity to observe many types of birds, fish, and wildlife. Undoubtedly the opportunity to observe a raccoon, turkey, deer, eagle, or a black bear will provide lifetime memories.

Seeing animals in their natural habitat is always a pleasure, but it is wise to remember that they are the permanent residents of the camp while you are just a visitor. Treat them with respect, give them enough space so they will not feel threatened by your presence, and they will seldom present a threat to your safety. When an animal feels frightened, threatened, or trapped, it may fight for its life by attacking, scratching, or biting. In the event you are injured, seek treatment quickly. A doctor must determine whether rabies treatments will be necessary.

Young wildlife sometimes strays from their parents and appear to be lost or abandoned. In most cases, however, the parents know where the youngster is. Taking in an apparently lost or abandoned animal usually does more harm than good. Wild animals are best left in the wild. If the animal is obviously sick or injured, notify the Camp Director or Ranger.

Special Note on Bears

Avoidance of bears, and most wildlife, can be summed up in one word – FOOD. If an animal doesn't find food, it will move on. Most conflicts between people and wildlife, especially bears, are linked to careless handling of food or garbage. Learn to live responsibly with wildlife.

Keeping food, snacks, sweets, beverages and other attractive smellable like trash, food containers and cooking waste in or near campsites is **strictly prohibited**. Be sure all trash and food wastes are taken regularly to the camp dumpsters. Supplies of snacks and food that are brought to camp for the course of the week should be stored in a locked vehicle in the camp parking lot and brought into campsites in small quantities that are consumed. Leftovers should be re-stored or discarded. Leaders should make special efforts to educate Scouts about these policies and guidelines.

Checking footlockers and other gear regularly is encouraged by leaders.

General Guidelines for Animal Safety

- ☐ Keep a clean campsite
- ☐ Keep food and smellable out of your tent
- ☐ At night lock food and smellable in vehicles
- ☐ Never approach or follow wild animals
- ☐ Do not feed wild animals
- ☐ Don't mistake a passive animal as a sign of safety
- ☐ Never tease or attempt to pick up wildlife
- ☐ Leave young animals alone, a protective mother is usually nearby
- ☐ Notify Camp Ranger or Camp Director of sighting
- ☐ Avoid aggressive behavior such as:
 - Direct eye contact, even though a camera
 - Walking directly toward an animal
 - Following an animal that has chosen to leave
 - Circling or standing around an animal



Check-in and Check-out; Plaques & Banners

Sunday Check-In

The designated arrival time for units is between 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday. Your Pack will be notified of your designated arrival time.

Please instruct parents to arrive at your scheduled check-in time. Scouts will not be admitted into camp until their unit leadership has arrived and the entire Pack officially checks in.

Please instruct all Scouts to arrive at one time, as a group. Packs will be checked-in as a single unit, not by individual campers. **Please do not arrive at the camp for any reason prior to 1:00 pm on Sunday.**

To save time at check-in, please arrive in clothing with swimsuits underneath.

All vehicles should park in the parking lot. Please do not walk or drive into the camp until you are met by your staff host. While you are waiting, you should;

- ☐ Consolidate Pack and personal equipment. One vehicle at a time will be permitted to drive into camp to unload gear. All vehicles must be out of the campsites by 4:00 PM.
- ☐ Collect money for Family night dinners
- ☐ Collect "Release of Minors Authorization" forms
- ☐ Promptly at your check-in time, a staff host will be in the parking lot to meet you and guide the Pack through the check-in process. An adult leader will be asked to register at the Camp Office. The leader should bring all Family dinner reservations and any remaining camper fees to the office at this time. **Please collect money from your parents in advance.**
- ☐ The rest of the Pack will go to the campsite to unload and prepare for the camp tour activities.
- ☐ There will be medical rechecks, followed by swim checks and a Dining Hall orientation. Scouts and leaders should bring any prescription medication to the medical recheck.

Tuesday Departure

- ☐ Your staff host will inspect your campsite sometime after lunch on Tuesday. Unit leaders must meet with the Camp Director or Business Manager to settle any fees and make next year's reservations.
- ☐ You may pick up medical forms and medications at the Health Office.
- ☐ Turn in Leader's camp evaluations to the Camp Office before departing.
- ☐ "A Scout is Courteous and Reverent". We encourage all Packs to participate in the Tuesday Evening Chapel Service before leaving camp. If you must leave early, please be aware that the chapel service is in process from 7:00 until about 7:30 pm. The camp road below the parking lot will be closed during this time to all vehicles.

Friday Departure

- ☐ Your staff host will inspect your campsite sometime after lunch on Friday. Unit leaders must meet with the Camp Director or Business Manager to settle any fees and make next-year's reservations.
- ☐ All tent flaps should be down and closed.
- ☐ You may pick up medical forms and medications at the Health Office.
- ☐ Turn in Leader's camp evaluations to the Camp Office before departing.

Dining Hall Banners & Plaques

Camp Acahela has a tradition of hanging plaques in the Dining Hall which commemorate the Pack's camp experience. Please abide by the following guidelines if you wish to participate in this tradition: Plaques/banners may not be made of fabric, should not exceed more than 2 sq. ft. of surface area and should be of reasonable quality and durability. The design should reflect Scouting's values and best traditions. Plaques may be formally presented to the Camp at the end of your stay and will be mounted in the Dining Hall by the Ranger later.

Camp Facilities

Good Stewardship

Camp Acahela is a year-round camping facility maintained by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, Scouting America. The Camp Ranger, council properties committee and volunteers work to maintain and improve the facilities. The continued existence and improvement of the Cub Scout summer camp program is dependent on the care of our camp facilities. Scouts and Leaders must be respectful of the facilities of Camp Acahela so that they may remain for others to enjoy them in future years.

Campsite Equipment

Each site is equipped with canvas tents, platforms and canvas cots based on the recommended capacity for your site. In addition, sites contain a picnic table, pavilion or dining fly, bulletin board, and a flagpole. Near each latrine will be a rake, broom, hose, toilet brush, toilet paper and a supply of disinfectant. Additional supplies are available from the Quartermaster at the Dining Hall. Unit leaders are responsible for proper use and care of all equipment in your site. Your site will be inspected at the beginning and end of the week. Units will be charged for repair or replacement of property and equipment damaged due to misuse. Please inform the camp office of accidental damage as soon as it occurs.

Tent Care

To maintain the quality and durability of our tents, please follow the guidelines below:

- Loosen tent ropes when it rains. Canvas shrinks when drying and will tear if the ropes are too tight
- Do not put clothes hangers over ridge poles; it causes tears and leaks. Hang a clothesline or improvise a method that will not damage tents
- Do not put nails in tent poles or platforms
- Aerosol sprays damage waterproofing and are not permitted in camp
- No flames of any kind are allowed in tents. Battery-powered flashlights and lamps should be used
- Tent platforms may not be moved

Environmental Statement

Scouting America cares about our environment. All Scouts and leaders are charged to protect and nurture our environment, especially when at camp. Help us keep your camp clean by:

1. **Recycling:** Reduce the use of all paper, Styrofoam, and plastic.
Recycle aluminum, metal & plastic bottles.
Do not bring glass containers to camp.
2. **Low Impact Camping:**
Be kind to your campsite. Dispose of trash properly. Stay on established paths. Never build any new fire rings anywhere.
3. **Outdoor Code:**
Respect the wildlife of Camp Acahela.
Always follow the Outdoor Code.

The Outdoor Code

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

Camp Facilities

Camp Site Visitations

Each campsite is visited once each day. A clean campsite is, of course, important to all Cub Scouts. The incentive of a daily inspection should help you motivate your Cub Scouts to keep their site clean.

Health Lodge and Medical Services

The Health Lodge has a qualified Health Officer, who has medical orders from our camp physician for any emergency. Minor injuries are handled by the Health Officer. If the injury is serious, the camper or leader is taken to the emergency room at the local hospital. In case of emergency, an adult from your unit should accompany the person going to the hospital. If necessary, we will have a staff member stay with your Pack until your return. Pennsylvania law requires that all medications be turned into the Health Officer, so that the camp can control and dispense them. **The medication should be in its original container which should indicate the scout's name, Pack number, and dosage instructions.**

Dining Hall Procedures

Meals will be served at 8:00 AM, 12:15 PM, and 6:00 PM. During the camp tour on Sunday, you will be informed of the dining hall procedures. The Dining Hall Steward coordinates all dining hall activities.

Each table must select a waiter for the meal. This can be either a Cub Scout or an adult. The waiter is the one who will get things such as seconds on food and drink, more silverware, and dessert. The waiter will be the one to return things to the kitchen during the clean-up. It is important that the waiter be the only one moving around during the meal. This is to prevent accidents.

When it is time to clear the tables, the waiter will take all the returnable items to the kitchen. Everyone should help to get all garbage and dishes to one end of the table. Remember - only the waiter should be moving. The rest of the Cub Scouts should remain seated. After the meal there will be a song or skit as well as some important announcements. You should encourage your Cub Scouts to participate in the entertainment. (And you should too!)

Please do not leave the scouts unattended at the table and make sure there is at least one adult at each table.

Songs, cheers, and similar boisterous activities will not be allowed until after the meal has been served, and everyone has had an opportunity to eat their meal. The food is served hot and should be eaten hot. We will expect all leaders to help control this.

Shower House

We have two shower houses at camp –the one at the pool and the one down the road and towards Lumberjack Campsite. Each shower has individual lockable rooms suitable for youth, adults, male and female. Leaders and Cub Scouts are not allowed in the Staff Site.

The Lower Shower House does not have bathrooms in the building. There is a latrine across the trail. Leaders should check the condition of the shower house after the group is done and report any maintenance concerns to the camp office.

Please encourage your Cub Scouts to shower. The words shower and Cub Scouts may not go together often without your urging. Part of the daily schedule is showers. Also, once during the week, your den may be asked to sweep and hose down the showers.

To help ensure water conservation and Safeguarding Youth standards, Cub Scouts from your Pack should never shower without adult leadership posted outside, and within hearing distance of the shower house.

YOUTH AND ADULTS NEVER SHOWER TOGETHER

Pack Service & Advancement

The camp staff exists to supplement and support — *but not to replace* — your Pack camping program. We will seek to meet your needs in all areas of programming. A strong working relationship between the staff and the Pack leaders is essential.

Camp Acahela employs a highly qualified staff of instructors to present a well-rounded camp program. The Camp Director oversees overall camp activities and will be happy to discuss any problems you might have. The Program Director is directly responsible for all program activities in camp and will develop a personalized schedule for your Pack.

Camp Leader Orientation

After dinner on Sunday, all Camp Leaders are required to attend an important camp orientation meeting. Information about camp policies and procedures and new program offerings will be presented, and announcements about the Camp schedule will be made. It is also a chance to meet the key camp staff and leaders from other units. Bring a pen and paper to take notes.

Adult Leader Meetings

Camp leaders are invited to meet daily with the Program Director after lunch in the picnic grove or on the dining hall porch. This is an opportunity to get announcements and offer feedback/suggestions about how we can better serve you and your Pack.

Advancement Policy

We remind you that the purpose of Cub Scout Resident Camp is to have **FUN**.

Our philosophy of advancement is that **IF A CUB SCOUT HAS FUN AND IS PROVIDED A FULL PROGRAM, HE WILL ADVANCE**. On the other hand, if a Cub Scout comes to camp and does nothing but work towards advancement, the program is certainly incomplete, and he may not have fun at all. By offering the Cub Scouts a full, varied program, including swimming, boating, hiking, studying nature, and so much more, we provide them with a fun time, a full program, and a multitude of advancement opportunities.

The camp provides leaders with an advancement form that lists advancement opportunities that the Scout may participate in while at camp. These advancement opportunities may include rank requirements for Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light adventures. In all circumstances, Cub Scouts pass requirements on these forms through participation in the normal camp program, the camp's special programming opportunities, or through "in site" activities. Den leaders are responsible for signing off the requirements completed by each individual Scout.

We believe that camp is a blend of advancement opportunities and outdoor scouting activities that are fun and educational even though they may not be directly related to advancement requirements.

Daily Schedule & Meals at Acahela

Day	Time	Program
Sunday	1:00 pm	Unit Arrival and Camp Tours
		Medical Review, Swim Checks
	5:45 pm	Evening Colors
	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Leader's Meeting
	7:45 pm	Opening Campfire
	10:00 pm	Taps
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
Weekdays	6:30 am	Polar Bear Swim (Tuesday & Thursday Only)
	7:50 am	Morning Colors
	8:00 am	Breakfast
	9:00 am	Session I
	10:00 am	Session II
	11:00 am	Session III
	12:15 pm	Lunch
	1:00 pm	Rest
	2:00 pm	Session IV
	3:00 pm	Session V
	4:00pm	Session VI – OPEN PROGRAMMING
	5:00 pm	Free Time
	5:45 pm	Evening Colors
	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Evening Program
	10:00 pm	Taps
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
Friday	1:00 pm	Clean-up campsite and pack
	3:00 pm	Campfire and recognition
	4:00 pm	Camp closing and dismissal

Family Night

Tuesday night is Family Night at camp Acahela. All visitors are welcome to join us for a special dinner beginning at 5:45 with our assembly. Dinner will follow immediately after the assembly. All family and friends are invited to attend, but reservations must be made in advance (at Sunday check-in). **Cost: \$12.00 adults, \$6.00 children under 10.** Unit leaders are asked to advise visitors about camp procedures, especially regarding parking, pets, food & wildlife, and smoking. The camp staff will hand-stamp all Tuesday visitors as they enter the gates, instead of using the wristbands.

Meals for Visitors and Additional Leaders

Meals for visitors and additional leaders throughout the course of the week may be purchased at the Camp Office. Please make reservations at least one day in advance, if possible. The cost is \$36.00 per day or separately: **Breakfast \$10.00, Lunch \$12.00, Dinner \$14.00.** Help us keep our fees low!

Program Areas

Two important aspects of Resident Camp are to have fun and provide new challenges and adventures. The scouts will sleep, eat, and participate in special activities as a Pack, but many of our activities are age specific, giving a dynamic program that interests both younger and experienced Cubs and Webelos. If your group is large, you may be asked to split into smaller groups or dens. This will give the scouts more opportunities to enjoy the program and have maximum staff attention. After the 50-minute session, the den will then travel together to their next area. Due to the program working this way, we will need assistance of all leaders whenever necessary. If this is done, the scouts will have an excellent week at Camp Acahela. Special needs should be brought to the Program and Camp Directors attention to facilitate the best placement for your Scout.

Below is a brief explanation of Acahela's program areas:

Aquatics

POOL

During aquatic sessions, the scouts will have the opportunity to cool off in our pool and practice swimming techniques with our certified staff. Advancement opportunities exist for all scout levels. And then there is the Polar Bear swim on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

TUBING (floating in gently flowing water)

Resident scouts will have the opportunity to float down the Lehigh River on Friday morning.

BOATING

A fleet of "open deck" kayaks that are available. We have some 2-person paddle boats can be used by all scouts (and adults after the scouts get first dibs). The importance of Safety Afloat is introduced during the boating sessions.

Target and Range Activities

BB Gun Range:

During the BB gun sessions, scouts will learn proper safety techniques and precautions when using a BB gun. After the scouts know the techniques, they will have the opportunity to shoot on our BB Gun Range. Recent grants from the NRA have resulted in our using all high-quality, top of the line Daisy and Avanti BB guns. Daisy Red Riders are the basic gun of choice, but a few Daisy Buck guns will be available for smaller scouts. We also have Avanti guns that we will bring out during the second part of the week for those scouts that have exhibited some proficiency. These guns are the highest quality BB guns available in the United States and are used for the national BB gun competition. Their single shot barrel-loading feature requires scouts that are safety conscious and the assistance of an adult leader or staff member at every shooting station. But these guns are unbelievably accurate! The staff also will be providing some fun shooting games, normally on Wednesday.

Air Pellet Rifles:

During the scheduled BB gun sessions on Wednesdays, Webelo/AOL scouts will be able to use high quality Crossman air-pellet rifles, as per the guidelines of Scouting America's Guide to Safe Scouting and NCAP requirements, under the supervision of a Scouting America National Camp School certified Shooting Sports Director.

Program Areas *continued*

Archery Range:

During the archery sessions, the scouts will learn proper safety techniques and precautions when using the bow. After the scouts know the techniques, they will have an opportunity to shoot on our Archery Range. Recent grants from the NRA have resulted in our using all high-quality, top of the line Mini-Genesis compound bows that are appropriately sized for this age level. We also have some smaller recurve bows if there are any smaller scouts.

Sports and Recreation

Sports

Plenty of physical fitness activity will be provided in our organized sports programs. This year we will be prepared to provide at least three or four different sports programs. The Den will choose the program they want to participate in each day. Scouts can work towards our Acahela Sportsman Award.

Gaga Ball

Scouts will play this form of dodge ball in our octagonal gaga ball pit. No teams, no lines – this is a wild wide-open version of the popular dodge ball game. Leaders - Good luck getting them to stop as they love it so much!

Human Foosball:

We imitate this popular table soccer game on our fenced court (the table) as Scouts are the players holding onto plastic tubes strung on rope guidelines, sliding back and forth along the rope to work as a team to score a goal through the fence opening with the soccer ball.

Obstacle Course

All scouts will have the opportunity to visit our obstacle course which includes the Horizontal Climbing Wall, Bucking Bronco, Monkey Bridge, and other activities. The den may also participate in some group development games/activities.

Climbing Wall

Resident campers will climb on our 16-foot-tall climbing wall located inside the Dining Hall. Three climbing lanes of varying difficulties provide plenty of opportunities for the resident campers under the leadership of our certified climbing staff. Note this is a Wednesday program.

Fishing

Scouts will experience the excitement of catching fish from the Camp Acahela Fishing Pond. Instruction and guidance will be provided by an experienced staff member. Poles, reels, line, hooks, sinkers, and bait are available for each camper, but many like to bring their own. There are the yellow perch and bass!

Program Areas continued

STEM / HANDICRAFTS

Since the elimination of handicrafts from the new Cub Scout advancement program in 2017 and the emphasis on STEM programming, the regular handicraft session has been replaced with a STEM program. We continue to expand this new STEM program with age-appropriate robotics, programming, structural, electrical, and mechanical and logic games/projects.

Nature

Cub Scouts will take part in nature activities and games, provided by our experienced Nature Director. See our displays and aquariums in the Twins Nature Building. Our Acahela Naturalist Award is also very popular. The camp's self-guided nature trail was recently refurbished. Check it out!

Scout Skills

Scouts will learn some basic scout and camping skills. Webelos scouts will learn some basic outdoor skills to help prepare them for moving up to Scouts BSA. This program area is staffed by experienced Eagle Scouts.



Special Programs

Flag Ceremonies

Flag Ceremonies are for the entire camp twice a day. The flag raising is at 7:50 AM lowering at 5:45 PM. On that first day, staff members act as color guard. Thereafter, the Cub Scouts take over. Instructions on flag raising, lowering, and folding are available during Scout Skills – just ask our staff for this instruction. Den Leaders should have their Den practice these ceremonies.

Opening Campfire

Sunday night is the opening campfire. It is a show put together by the staff for the enjoyment of the Cub Scouts and leaders. Sit back and enjoy goofy skits, sing songs, shout cheers, and watch the flames. The camp staff does all the work and preparation. All you need to do is enjoy yourself and have fun. Leaders are to control the use of flashlights during the program and may wish to hold them until dismissal. After the campfire, dismissal of the Cub Scouts is by Pack. The cubs need have no fear of being left behind. Your guide will escort you back if needed.

Daily Special Programs

Evening programs are planned for Monday and Wednesday. These activities are usually theme related or just fun for all. Packs can participate in the activities or may opt to stay in their campsites for their own campfire. If a Pack opts out of the evening program, please let the Program Director know in advance.

Tuesday Evening Programs

A Scout is Reverent. On Tuesday evening the entire camp participates in a Scouts Own service in the camp chapel. An ice cream social is held in the parade field following the service. That is followed by a movie or activity followed by a “midnight” swim at the pool!!

Thursday evening Program

Webelos II (AOL Scouts): Out-Post Camping Trip

Webelos II (Arrow of Light Scouts) will pack their backpacks and leave on **Thursday** evening following dinner. They will hike to their “out-post” site along the Lehigh River where they will set up camp. Breakfast will be provided then some morning tubing on the Lehigh River. They will return to the main camp following lunch. **Leaders of Arrow of Light Scouts will need to provide tents for the Scouts.** Some of your Pack's adult leaders may wish to join our staff with the Arrow of Light Scouts on this outpost adventure. Be sure to let us know during the leaders' meetings at camp how many will be attending, so we can plan food supplies accordingly.

Friday Programming...

Webelos I: Day Hike

On Friday, first-year Webelos will embark from the Dining Hall immediately after breakfast, on a “day-long” hike. They should “Be Prepared” with a day pack and full water bottle. They will be using their newly gained knowledge of the outdoors. They will join up with the Arrow of Light Scouts for tubing on the Lehigh River and lunch. They will return to the main camp following lunch in the lower field.

Cub Scout Friday Morning Camp-Wide Activity

The Cub Scouts in camp on Friday morning will have access to a special program. They will join the rest of the campers to tube on the river at the end of the morning and will remain below for lunch along the Lehigh.

Friday Afternoon Campfire

The Friday “closing campfire” has been moved up to 3:00PM so everyone can participate. Packs will provide the songs, skits, and cheers. Scouts and packs will be recognized for special achievements earned during the week. **Parents are encouraged to join us!!**

Open Programming

Daily Open Programming

General

After listening to comments from our Pack leaders, we have created an “Open Programming” period in the schedule in the late afternoon. The staff will present the day’s options for the Open Program period each day at Morning Colors. The Pack leadership will select their choice for each Den and sign-up with the Camp Program Director by lunch. We anticipate offering some type of special Open Programming in each program area, with many relating to this year’s theme, and/or offering an extra period for the Den to return to one of their favorite program areas such as the fishing pond or climbing wall.

Aquatics and BB Gun Areas

One of the main reasons for offering the Open Program period is to ensure that each Den has an opportunity to participate in the two most popular areas in camp, the Aquatics Area and the BB Gun Range, each program day in camp. Both areas have limited space capacity so the following system will be employed:

- If the Den is scheduled for one of these two areas during Sessions 1 through 5, they may NOT participate in the open programming in that area that day (unless capacity exists as determined by the Program Director during the after-lunch leader meeting).
- If the Den is not scheduled for one of these two areas during Sessions 1 through 5, they MAY participate in the open programming in that area that day OR they may choose to go to one of the other areas available that day.

As an example: Den 1 is scheduled for the pool on Monday and Wednesday. Den 1 MAY go to the pool during open programming on Tuesday and Thursday, if they choose, but may NOT on Monday and Wednesday.

Note this word of caution – if everyone decides to go to the Aquatics Area and BB Gun Range every day, half of the scouts in camp will be at each of these areas, creating a long waiting line for the range and possibly the need to assign short swim periods at the pool. We will make every effort to reassign staff to accommodate the demand, but capacity is limited at both of these facilities by BSA National Camp Policies.

Free Time

Some leaders have expressed a desire to have more “free time” in camp. We are pleased to hear that we are offering so much programming that this request has been made, but we reiterate that a Den’s participation in open programming is voluntary. The Pack leadership may desire to not participate on one or more days to use this time for either a rest or for Pack programming in their campsite. We simply request that you inform the Camp Program Director ahead of time so that we may schedule program area staffing appropriately to best meet the needs of the Packs in camp that will be participating in that afternoon’s open programming.



2026 Theme “UNDER THE SEA”

Campsite Decorations

Welcome to the Good Ole wet Days of Camp Acahela. Packs that attend camp are encouraged to decorate their campsite using this theme. Campsite decorations will be judged, and the winner announced at the closing campfire.

Costumes

Campers and leaders are highly encouraged and welcome to bring themed costumes.

Camp Theme

Here are some of the things we are planning to make the Scouts experience FUN by employing the theme of the year:

Decorations – decorations in select locations will depict this year’s theme.

Costuming – watch the staff. At times they will be in theme related costuming.

Sunday campfire – the staff will have at least a few theme-related skits and cheers.

Tuesday evening movie – an appropriate theme-related movie in the Dining Hall

Evening activity – The Wednesday evening program will be theme related.

Open programming – some of the open program offerings will be theme related.

Trading Post – plenty of theme-related merchandise.



**WE HOPE YOU ARE
READY FOR YOUR
ADVENTURES
UNDER THE
SEAS!!!**

WE ARE!!!

Contact Information

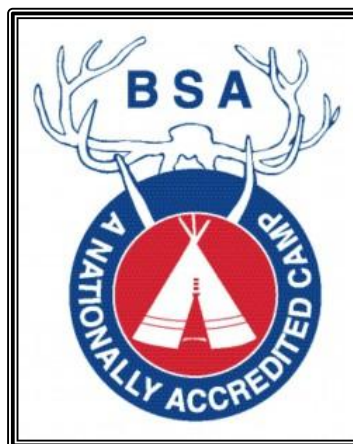


Before Camp Opens

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During Camp Season

June 25 through July 25, 2026
Camp Acahela
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