

NATURAL STATE COUNCIL
Rules and Regulations
for
Weekend Camping Use
By BSA Units
Updated January 16th, 2024

Thank you for choosing a Natural State Council destination for your upcoming trip! The information provided in this document will be useful during your visit to ensure you have the best possible experience at our camp facilities. Please keep in mind that Natural State Council properties operates as a Nationally Accredited BSA Camp and strictly enforces the BSA Guidelines as outlined in the **“Guide to Safe Scouting”** to ensure a safe and enjoyable camping experience for everyone.

Adult Leadership Requirements: Units must maintain appropriate Youth Protection policies during their entire stay on our camp. Each assigned leader is responsible for his or her unit and their actions while visiting camp. **The unit leader or event coordinator must check with the Camp Ranger or Camp Host upon arriving at camp, and the area must be checked out with the Camp Ranger prior to departure.** Units will be held responsible to cover any damage.

Camp Hours: Camp opens at 5pm on Friday and closes at 11 am on Sunday. Should you need an early arrival time or a later check-out time please contact the Council Program Director or Properties Director to make arrangements. We will do our very best to accommodate your needs.

Campsite Assignments and Facilities: Every effort will be given to accommodating your Unit’s request for a campsite; but, many factors may impact the final determination: special needs campers; Unit size; use of facility; and periodically we close a campsite for conservation purposes. If we alter your campsite from your reservation, we will contact you prior to your arrival to camp. BSA Guidelines are followed when utilizing any facilities in the camp to ensure proper supervision and safety precautions are followed. Reservations for use are arranged through the Council Service Center prior to your visit.

Check-in: Check In times are indicated on your trip itinerary. Upon arrival at our facility, please meet with the Camp Ranger, who will meet and greet you on-site. **YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH CAMP RANGER PRIOR TO STARTING YOUR RESERVATION!** There contact information can be found below.

Paperwork Due at Check In:

1. Unit Roster, with appropriate Youth Protection Certifications
2. Training Certifications to utilize facilities which require them (Pool, Canoes, Ranges, etc)
3. Float plan, if applicable
4. Health forms are required for every participant camping with the unit. Please ensure you have them and that they remain with the Unit Leader.
5. Camp fees (which can be paid ahead of time on line). If bringing a check it should be made payable to Natural State Council, BSA.

Check out: Check out is before 11 am on Sunday. A checklist will be provided when you check in. Units are responsible for helping to maintain the facilities at the camp. Remember the adage “leave it better then you found it”. The Camp Host **must** check the campsite and facilities prior to unit departure. (Ask yourself: Would you be OK using the facilities in the condition you leave them?)

CAMP RULES

Accidents: In case of an accident of any type, the Camp Host (or Ranger) must be notified immediately.

Alcohol and Drugs: Alcoholic beverages including “near beer” and any type of recreational drugs, and any other illicit substances are strictly prohibited. Also prohibited is the use of medical marijuana, in any form.

Bathhouses: Please ensure that the bathhouses are kept in a clean condition. All units will be responsible for the cleanliness of the bathhouses, and they will be checked out upon departure.

Boating: When using boats and canoes on our camp properties or as a part of any program associated with BSA, ***life jackets must be worn at all times***. This means both youth and adults. Units must present certification for Safe Swim Defense for swimming, Safety Afloat and CPR or a BSA certified lifeguard to use boats or canoes. Boating and canoeing by Cub Scouts/Webelos Scouts can only be done on Lake Butler (GBSR) or Keenan Lake (RSR) and must have the same certifications listed above. After use, please clean and return equipment to the proper place. Supervision ratio for Cub Scouts is one supervisor to five participants and for all other groups, one supervisor for 10 participants. A minimum of two adults for any group is required for supervision.

Buddy System: Please ensure that the buddy system enforced during your stay in camp.

Campfires: All campfires must be of split wood ONLY; no lumber will be allowed. All fires in camp must be inside designated fire/cooking areas. Fires must be dead before leaving the campsite or going to bed. Certain times during the year the camp is under a “fire watch” due to dryness, lack of rain, etc. No fires will be permitted during this period or when a “fire ban” has been issued. Cooking should be done on small cooking fires, charcoal or stoves.

Conduct: All Scouts and Scouters are expected to abide by the Scout Oath and Law. Rough housing, unruly conduct or bullying are not tolerated.

Firearms: Firearms, fireworks and archery equipment are forbidden at Gus Blass Scout Reservation. Use of the ranges at Camp Rockefeller is by special permit only and must be operated under National Standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Pertinent certifications required are: Cub Scout BB in and Archery Range certification and/or NRA/NAA certified instructor, during council events only. There is a charge for the range and lost or broken arrows. No personal firearms allowed.

Shoes: Shoes must be worn at all times except in the shower, tent or bed. Please, closed toed shoes only - no open-toe shoes, sandals or flip flops.

Kitchen Use: Use of the kitchen requires Serve Safe Manager Certification. Please read the rules posted in the kitchen carefully and follow the cleanliness guidelines.

Knives: Sheath knives, machetes or swords are not allowed on camp property.

Lost and Found: Items found during the weekend will be placed in the Lost and Found bin located at your facility. When the weekend ends, valuable items will be transported to the Natural State Council office for securing and the other items will be left in the bin, which will be periodically emptied. Please contact the Program Director in regards to lost items.

Pets: No pets are allowed in camp, even on a leash. Service animals must be noted and pre-approved through the reservation process.

Smoking: All buildings or facilities under control of the Natural State Council are designated as non-smoking facilities. **Smoking is not allowed in the campsites, included e-cigarettes or vaping products.** The only “smoking area” is in the main parking lots. Please keep smoking out of the view of the youth.

Swimming: Swimming activities must be supervised by a responsible adult, 21 years of age or older. Safe Swim Defense or BSA Lifeguard certification must be presented. See Aquatic BSA rules. Hours for swimming are an hour after sunup to an hour before sunset.

Swimming Attire for all Scouting participants: We recommend that swimwear should be comfortable, functional, and appropriate for the specific aquatic activity. As always, we remind everyone that Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse state, “Appropriate attire is required for all activities”.

Trespassing: Scouts must not walk outside the boundaries of the camp property, as they will be trespassing on our neighbors land. Likewise, if you see someone at camp who looks like they don’t belong, please contact the Camp Ranger immediately.

Trash: Trash should be placed in plastic bags and deposited in the dumpster. If using any buildings, including the dining hall and kitchen, you must also take that garbage to the dumpster. Events larger than 300 people may require an additional dumpster. Please check with the Ranger.

Vehicles: For the safety of all involved, and to meet BSA National Standards, all vehicles must be parked in the parking lot and not driven around camp. The only exceptions are for official camp service vehicles, in accordance with the Natural State Council Camp Vehicle Policy. Also, campers, RVs, pop-up trailers and similar are only permitted in designated locations and pre-approved through the reservation process (not permitted at Camp Orr). Troop trailers may be parked at the campsite for storing equipment. All gear not in trailers should be hand-carried into campsites. Posted speed limit in camp must be obeyed. No riding in the bed of pick-up trucks, trailers, tractors or golfcarts. Privately owned golf carts, utility carts (UTV), all-terrain vehicles (ATV) use is not permitted on Natural State Council Property without prior permission granted by the Council Program Director.

Weather: If severe weather approaches, the Camp Rangers will unlock the buildings for shelter, and campers should seek shelter immediately.

Wildlife: As a wilderness area, our properties are home to an abundance of wildlife, some of which can be dangerous. Please be cautious and do not approach any wildlife. Contact the Camp Hosts or rangers immediately if there is a threatening situation. Be advised that feeding, taunting or touching wildlife is prohibited.

**THESE RULES ARE SET FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR SCOUTS AND ALL OF OUR CAMPERS
THANK YOU, FROM THE NATURAL STATE COUNCIL AND THE CAMP STAFF**

Any violation of rules may result in your removal from camp.

Brandon Birmingham – Camp Ranger, Gus Blass Scout Reservation	Brandon.Birmingham@scouting.org	(501) 680-5499
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Larry Carpenter – Camp Ranger, Rogers Scout Reservation	Larry.Carpenter@scouting.org	(479) 461-6046
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Mike McLoughlin – Director of Programs, Natural State Council	mike.mcloughlin@scouting.org	(501) 336-4780