

CAMP KARAKAWA

DECEMBER 27-30, 2026
JANUARY 2-5, 2027

BSA WINTER CAMP
LEADER'S GUIDE



CAMP DIRECTOR
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Helping Here.

Welcome to the Camp Karankawa Winter Camp Program Guide!

We're excited to share the programs and activities planned for this year's Winter Camp at Camp Karankawa. This guide is a living document that will be updated regularly as we finalize details with our volunteer staff and instructors. Since many of our instructors confirm their availability closer to camp, we'll continue adding new merit badges, activities, and opportunities as they are confirmed.

Thank you for your patience as we keep this guide up to date. We invite you to explore the programs already planned and check back often for the latest updates.

We look forward to an unforgettable Winter Camp experience with you!

– The Camp Karankawa Winter Camp Team



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INTRODUCTION

This Program Guide is designed to help you plan your schedule, prepare for your adventure, and serve as a helpful resource throughout your time at camp.

After reviewing the guide, if you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact the camp leadership team.

Thank you!



GENERAL INFORMATION

VEHICLES IN CAMP

No vehicles are allowed in Campsites or to drive in camp, except to drop-off Troop equipment during set-up, and to pick up equipment at check-out. No riders are allowed in the backs of pickups or trucks. All riders must have a seat belt. If possible, consolidate bulky items into one vehicle to help in transporting them to campsites.

FOOD ALLERGIES & DIETARY NEEDS

If you have any special dietary needs due to food sensitivities or religious restrictions, please let the Camp Director know at least two weeks in advance so that we can make every effort to accommodate you.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items will be kept at Camp Headquarters. Unclaimed items will be donated.

TROOP LEADERSHIP

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth. If the regular troop leadership cannot attend, scouts can find a troop to camp with temporarily.

CAMPSITE CLEANLINESS

The Scout Law is in effect with emphasis on a Scout is CLEAN. Each troop should initiate a campsite cleanliness policy and encourage ALL scouts and adults to help keep Camp Karankawa clean. Units are asked to clean their Bathhouse on their assigned day. During and at the completion of Winter Camp, troops are asked to move campsite trash and trash bags to the dumpsters in the parking lot. Thank you.

Located on the shores of scenic Lake Corpus Christi, near Mathis, this 130-acre Scout camp includes 15 campsites. A new 300 person Air Conditioned Dining Hall, 3 new state-of-the-art restroom/shower buildings, and a beautiful chapel overlooking Lake Corpus Christi.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CAMP KARANKAWA ADDRESS

Camp Karankawa
23564 Park Road 25
Mathis, TX 78368

SOUTH TEXAS COUNCIL OFFICE

Phone: (361) 814-4300 Ext. 117
Fax: (361) 814-5798

CAMP DIRECTOR

JAMES RANGEL: james.rangel@scouting.org
361.816.3843

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

LEAF MANN: leaf.mann.scouting@gmail.com

CAMP RANGER

(361) 816-3891

CAMP KARANKAWA SONG

On the hill above the water
Up above the trees,
Flows the flag of Camp Karankawa
Waving in the breeze.
Camp Karankawa, Camp Karankawa
With your Scouts so true.
Scouts and Scouters all together,
Sing their praise to you.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

DIRECTIONS FROM CORPUS CHRISTI

Travel north on Interstate 37 to Mathis, Texas.

Take exit 34 towards Lake Corpus Christi State Recreation Area.

Turn left at State Highway 359. Travel on State Highway 359 south to Mathis.

Turn right on to park road 25 right before the Nueces River Bridge.

Follow park road 25 until you come to the entrance leading to the Lake Corpus Christi State Park.

Turn left into the entrance to the park.

Proceed towards the park until you reach the fork in the road.

Take the right fork right before entering State Park Headquarters to Camp Karankawa. Travel on road until you reach the camp entrance, turn left into the entrance and follow driveway to camp parking lot.

DIRECTIONS FROM VICTORIA

Take US 59 south to Beeville (55 miles). Take US 181 south to Skidmore (12 miles).

Follow TX 359 southwest into Mathis. Travel on State Highway 359 through Mathis.

Turn right on to park road 25 right before the Nueces River Bridge.

Follow park road 25 until you come to the entrance leading to the Lake Corpus Christi State Park.

Turn left into the entrance to the park. Proceed towards the park until you reach the fork in the road.

Take the right fork right before entering State Park Headquarters to Camp Karankawa.

Travel on road until you reach the camp entrance, turn left into the entrance and follow driveway to camp parking lot.

DIRECTIONS FROM LAREDO

Take US 59 north to Freer. Take State Hwy 44 east to Alice. Take TX 359 north to Mathis.

Cross the Nueces River Bridge and then turn left at Park Road 25. Follow this road until you come to the entrance leading to the Lake Corpus Christi State Park. Turn left into the entrance to the park.

Proceed towards the park until you reach the fork in the road. Take the right fork right before entering State Park Headquarters to Camp Karankawa.

Travel on road until you reach the camp entrance, turn left into the entrance and follow driveway to camp parking lot.



23564 Park Road 25

Entrance

GPS Coord. 28.071658N, 97.883772W

1.5 Miles To 1068



Camp Karankawa

South Texas Council

Boy Scouts of America

southtexasbsa.org

(361) 814-4300

(800) 299-2267



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GENERAL CAMP FACILITIES ALSO INCLUDE:

Extensive Waterfront
Health Lodge
Shower & Bathroom Facilities
Office
Museum
Scoutcraft Area
Gaga Ball Pit
Carter Campfire Circle
Swimming Pool
Training Center
Climbing Wall
Fishing Areas
Trails
Kayaking
Canoeing
Paddle Boarding
Sailing
Snorkeling
Tomahawk Throwing
Leader's Lounge
Staff Housing
Birding Area
Butterfly Garden

CAMP AMENITIES

CAMPSITES

All 15 campsites have a fire ring, picnic area, and nearby bathroom & shower facilities.

CAMP TRADING POST

Open throughout the day, the Trading Post offers a variety of Scout items such as socks, hats, shirts, merit badge books, handicraft provisions, toothpaste, candy, juices, ice cream and a wide assortment of souvenirs. Cash and credit cards accepted.

DINING HALL

All meals are provided by professional cooks and served (cafeteria style) by our youth staff. Well-planned meals provide a balanced diet and seconds are usually available.

RANGES

Shot Gun, Rifle, and Archery facilities have been designed and certified by BSA standards. Recurve bows are used on the Archery range.

MESQUITE LODGE/SCOUTMASTER LOUNGE

Adult Leaders can enjoy our Scoutmaster Lounge which offers air-conditioning, WIFI, and couches. This is a great place to relax or get caught up on any work you may need to take care of.

C.O.P.E. - CHALLENGE OUTDOOR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The C.O.P.E. course is a Scouting program that includes group initiative games, trust events, and challenges that reach from the ground to the sky. Karankawa's C.O.P.E course will let your scouts climb, swing, balance, jump, rappel, problem-solve, and become stronger both as individuals and as a team.



NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS

Camp Karankawa is inspected each year by a Scouting America review team and consistently meets or exceeds all established standards and regulations. The camp is also regularly inspected by the Texas Department of Health to ensure compliance with state requirements. Our on-site Health Lodge is staffed by a qualified medical professional who provides routine care and addresses any health concerns. At all times, Camp Karankawa maintains the highest standards of health and safety to ensure a secure and positive experience for every camper.



WINTER CAMP SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 27-30

Sunday - December 27	
9:00AM - 12:00PM	Troop Check-In AT THE OFFICE
12:00PM	Lunch at the DINING HALL
1:00PM	Flag Raising Ceremony in front of DINING HALL
1:15PM	Parade Begins in front of DINING HALL
2:00-5:00PM	Midway Activities in front of DINING HALL
2:00-5:00PM	Fishing Derby at the LAKE
2:00-5:00PM	Dutch Oven Samples and Cooking Contest in SCOUTCRAFT
5:45PM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
6:00PM	Dinner at the DINING HALL
7:00PM	Campfire at the OA CAMPFIRE RING
11:00PM	Lights Out



*All America 250 Celebration activities and events are included in winter camp fees.

Scan the QR Code for more information and to sign up for a Midway Activity.



Join us for a very special **America 250 Celebration** on the first day of Winter Camp!

Bring a wagon, bicycle, or your walking shoes and decorate in red, white, and blue for our patriotic parade. **Units are encouraged to go all out with their wagon "floats,"** and the best one will win a special prize!

Think you have the best camp recipe? Bring your Dutch oven and secret ingredients and enter the **Chili and Fruit Dessert Cook-Off**. Individuals, patrols, troops, and other groups are all welcome to compete.

Don't forget your fishing gear and try to hook the big one during the **Fishing Derby** at the lake. Units are also encouraged to **bring a table and set up a display for our Midway**, where you can show off a Scouting skill, host a fun activity, demonstrate a merit badge, or share something your unit does especially well.

The day will also include games, contests, a patriotic picnic dinner, **veteran recognition**, a **historical figure costume contest**, and a special red, white, and blue campfire program.

Mark your calendar for December 27 and come ready to celebrate 250 years of America with a full day of Scouting, fellowship, fun, and tradition. This is one Winter Camp event you will not want to miss!

WINTER CAMP SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 27-30

Monday - December 28	
7:20AM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
7:30AM	Breakfast in the DINING HALL
8:30AM-12:00PM	Merit Badge Classes
12:00PM	Lunch at the DINING HALL
1:00PM-5:45PM	Merit Badge Classes
5:45PM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
6:00PM	Dinner in the DINING HALL
7:00PM	Night Activity
Tuesday - December 29	
7:20AM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
7:30AM	Breakfast in the DINING HALL
8:30AM-12:00PM	Merit Badge Classes
12:00PM	Lunch at the DINING HALL
1:00PM-5:45PM	Merit Badge Classes
5:45PM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
6:00PM	Dinner in the DINING HALL
7:00PM	Night Activity
11:00PM	Lights Out
Wednesday - December 30	
7:20AM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
7:30AM	Breakfast in the DINING HALL
8:30AM-11:30AM	Merit Badge Classes
11:30AM	Check-Out and Break-Down

WINTER CAMP SCHEDULE:

JANUARY 2-5

Friday - January 2	
9:00AM - 12:00PM	Troop Check-In AT THE OFFICE
12:00PM	Lunch at the DINING HALL
1:00PM-5:45PM	Opening Day Activities in front of DINING HALL
5:45PM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
6:00PM	Dinner at the DINING HALL
7:00PM	Opening Campfire at the OA CAMPFIRE RING
Monday - December 28	
7:20AM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
7:30AM	Breakfast in the DINING HALL
8:30AM-12:00PM	Merit Badge Classes
12:00PM	Lunch at the DINING HALL
1:00PM-5:45PM	Merit Badge Classes
5:45PM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
6:00PM	Dinner at the DINING HALL
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11:00PM	Lights Out
7:20AM	Flags in front of the DINING HALL
7:30AM	Breakfast in the DINING HALL
8:30AM-11:30AM	Merit Badge Classes
11:30AM	Check-Out and Break-Down

WANT TO TEACH A MERIT BADGE?

We are always looking to improve our program, and the best way to do that is with your help! If you have a hobby or skill that you would like to share with scouts please let us know and we will walk you through the steps to becoming a Merit Badge Counselor!



WEEK 1



SCAN THE QR CODES TO SEE
THE MOST RECENT LIST OF MERIT BADGE CLASSES.

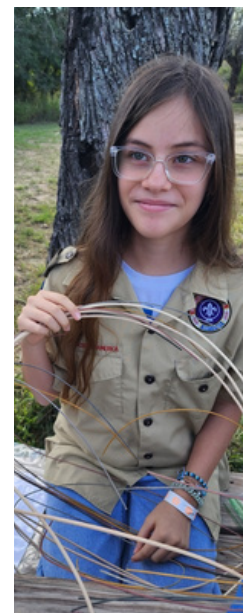


WEEK 2



Leaders receive a \$20 discount for each unique merit badge they teach! Teach 1 merit badge and pay \$80.
Teach 5 different merit badges and camp is FREE!

Leaders should contact leaf.mann.scouting@gmail.com to schedule the merit badges they would like to teach and get the discount code.



TIPS ON REGISTRATION

Following these tips will ensure a great camp experience for everyone!!

When you meet with your Scouts to discuss merit badge options, have each Scout rank their choices from 1–8, with 1 being their highest priority. As you enter their selections into MyCouncil, the system will automatically adjust the available courses and class times. Because of this, the list of available merit badges may become smaller as classes are added.

Merit badge schedules will be finalized two weeks before camp. Once schedules are complete, you will receive an email letting you know they are ready. At that time, you can log in to MyCouncil and print each Scout's finalized schedule.

Important: Do not print schedules before you receive the confirmation email. Schedules printed early will not be final and may not include the correct class times.

MAKE SEVERAL COPIES of the unit's schedule to have with you and to post in the campsite just in case the scout loses theirs.

CHECK AGE REQUIREMENTS of the merit badges requested to ensure the schedule will be correct.

THE SOONER THE BETTER! Most of the merit badge classes are limited in the number of participants and fill up fast.

Please make sure your scout's schedule is what they want. Last-minute class changes will make the check in process slower and classes are not guaranteed to be available if you wait until arriving at camp to make schedule adjustments.

Don't forget to bring extra spending money for the Karankawa Trading Post!



CAMP REGISTRATION AND FEES

WHERE AND WHEN

South Texas Council's Winter Camp 2026 will be held at Camp Karankawa in Mathis, Texas.



WEEK 1: DECEMBER 27-30, 2026

Arrival Time: Scout troops may begin setting up camp starting at 8:00 AM on Sunday, December 27th after they check in at the camp office.

Departure Time: Camp officially ends at 1:00pm Tuesday December 30th.



WEEK 2: JANUARY 2-5, 2027

Arrival Time: Scout troops may begin setting up camp starting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 2nd after they check in at the camp office.

Departure Time: Camp officially ends at 1:00pm Monday, January 5th.

Troops are required to register as a unit so that the unit can track the leadership requirements and ensure proper supervision is provided.



THANKS TO A GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP FROM H-E-B IN-COUNCIL SCOUTS CAN GET A \$100 SCHOLARSHIP TO WINTER CAMP!

Helping Here.

Every Scout from an in-council troop whose adult leaders (except the charter organization representative) are fully trained qualify for a \$100 H-E-B Winter Camp Scholarship.

Winter Camp is only \$200 per Scout - with the scholarship, Scouts attend for just \$100!

THE SCOUTMASTER (or designee) FROM UNITS WITH 100% TRAINED LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING THE C.O.R.) CAN ATTEND WINTER CAMP FOR FREE!

Out-of-Council Troops can get a \$25 discount for each scout if all of their leaders are fully trained.
Contact james.rangel@scouting.org for more information.

FOR LEADERS: PLANNING YOUR TROOP'S WINTER CAMP EXPERIENCE

Preparing for camp is an easy process, but it does require planning ahead. As a unit leader, you are the most important link in this process. The following pages are designed to help guide you and your Troop Committee for a memorable time at Camp Karankawa.

- Are your fees up-to-date? Have you told the Council Office the number of Scouts attending camp? Units that cannot fill the minimum site capacity may need to share the site or be moved to another site that will accommodate the number of campers the troop is bringing to camp.
- If you have not already done so, conduct a Camp Promotion Parents' night sometime between now and when you go to camp. Present camp plans and share with Scouts and parents information about Camp Karankawa, program highlights, adult leadership, fee payment information, etc. Individual Health and Medical Record Forms are available at the Council Service Center for distribution. Annual Scouting America Health and Medical Record form (Pages A B & C are required (these **must** be signed by a physician within the last year). Ask parents to keep a copy for future use.
- Pay any outstanding balance of camp fees at the Council Service Center prior to your arrival at camp and finalize the troop roster at that time.
- Arrange for transportation to and from camp.
- Obtain the home telephone number and address, and an "in an emergency" contact phone number for each Scout.
- Share with parents, the Scouts and Leaders the fee information sheet.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

SUGGESTED TROOP EQUIPMENT TO BRING TO CAMP

- TROOP FLAG & US FLAG
- CLOTHING MARKER PENS
- PROPS FOR FAVORITE SKITS/SONGS
- ASSORTED TOOLS FOR CAMP PROJECTS
- ROPE
- WATER COOLERS
- DUTCH OVENS
- LANTERNS
- TROOP/PATROL DINING FLY
(FOR ADDITIONAL CAMPSITE SHADE & SHELTER)
- MATCHES

SUGGESTED PATROL EQUIPMENT TO BRING TO CAMP

- TENTS (CAMP KARANKAWA DOES NOT SUPPLY TENTS)
- PATROL FLAGS
- FIRST AID KIT
- COMPASS
- SCOUT HANDBOOKS FOR EACH SCOUT

INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • SCOUT UNIFORM | • BEDDING, PILLOW, AND GROUND CLOTH |
| • 2 PAIRS OF SHOES | • FLASHLIGHT WITH SPARE BATTERIES |
| • UNDERWEAR | • SCOUT HANDBOOK |
| • JEANS AND SHORTS FOR 4 DAYS | • RAINCOAT OR PONCHO |
| • TOWELS | • TOILETRIES |
| • T-SHIRTS, CAN BE PURCHASED AT CAMP | • FISHING GEAR |
| • STORAGE FOR CLOTHING | • SUNSCREEN |
| • CAMERA | • INSECT REPELLENT |
| • NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL | • SPENDING MONEY |
| • SWIMSUIT | • SOCKS |
| • WATER BOTTLE | • BELT |
| • POCKETKNIFE | • CAMP CHAIR (FOR OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL SEATING) |
| • BELT | |

UNIFORMS

THE OFFICIAL FIELD UNIFORM IS REQUESTED AT DINNER. ADULTS ARE ALSO ASKED TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY WEARING THEIR UNIFORMS IF YOU HAVE THEM. ACTIVITY UNIFORMS SHOULD BE WORN DURING THE DAY (T-SHIRT AND SHORTS). CAMP KARANKAWA HAS AN UNEVEN TERRAIN, AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS WILDLIFE, SO CLOSED-TOED SHOES ARE MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE WHILE AT CAMP.

WHAT TO HAVE AT CHECK-IN

- COPIES OF MERIT BADGE SCHEDULES FOR EACH SCOUT
- SPECIAL NEEDS/ DIETARY NEEDS FORMS
- COMPLETED WINTER CAMP TROOP ROSTER
- MEDICAL FORMS FOR EACH SCOUT & ADULT, SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN WITHIN A YEAR.
- SIGNED FORMS FOR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A PARENTAL PERMISSION SLIP.
- ADULT IN-STATE COMPLIANCE - **PLEASE TURN IN TO THE SCOUT OFFICE AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT CAMP.**

ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE.



ITEMS FOR TROOP LEADERS TO BRING TO CAMP

- CAMP LEADERS' GUIDE
- COMPLETE UNIT ROSTER
- ALARM CLOCK
- COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS FOR EACH SCOUT AND LEADER SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN
- COPIES OF PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR EACH SCOUT
- PROGRESS RECORDS FOR EACH SCOUT
- YOUTH PROTECTION CERTIFICATES

ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME

- FIREWORKS
- FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
- BOWS AND ARROWS
- ELECTRONIC GAMES
- PETS