



2013

# Adult Leader Guide



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<http://www.ransburgbsa.org/adult-leader/>



For over 40 years Ransburg Scout Reservation has participated in the BSA National Camp Accreditation process consistently achieving the highest level of accreditation and continued to do so in 2012.

## Welcome to Camp

Nestled in Hoosier National Forest, Ransburg Scout Reservation is located on beautiful Monroe reservoir near Bloomington, Indiana. We continue to be the premier Scout camp in the midwest because of our diverse programs, state of the art facilities, excellent camp staff, and our commitment to outstanding service to Scouts and leaders.

We know that there are many great camps to choose from and are very happy that Ransburg Scout Reservation is your choice. We hope to serve you to the best of our ability and want your camp experience to be outstanding for both you and your Scouts. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us and we will respond as best we can.

Thank you in advance for placing your trust in Ransburg Scout Reservation. We are eager to serve and hope this guide will assist you in making your plans.

In Scouting,

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jeff@ransburgbsa.org

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tklick@crossroadsbsa.org

Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf  
Council Camping Chair

Keith Korn  
Ransburg Ranger

## 2013 Fees

Program	In Council		Out of Council	
	Early	Regular	Early	Regular
Main Camp & Campsite Cooking	\$215	\$225	\$240	\$250
Adventure Point	\$180	\$190	\$205	\$215
Provisional Scout	\$225	\$235	\$250	\$260
Required Adults	\$80	\$80	\$90	\$90
Additional Adults	\$105	\$105	\$115	\$115

### **MARCH 8, 2013**

50% Payment due to retain campsite.

### **MAY 3, 2013**

Full payment due to qualify for Early Bird fee.

When rotational leaders are in camp, "they" may count as one person for meals. If they double up, they need to pay for additional meals.

### Workshops

A strong work ethic and self-reliance is a lesson that Scouting has been teaching for many years. However, if a Scout is unable to be part of a Scouting event due to lack of funds, he may never learn this lesson. The workshop program begins this lesson by allowing Scouts to identify a "good turn" work project for which he could be awarded up to 50% of his camp fee. Applications are due by May 3th, with projects completed prior to camp. Workshops are available for Crossroads of America Council Scouts attending Ransburg Scout Reservation. Other councils have similar programs for their Scout families.

### Refunds

Camp fees are generally not refundable other than in the case of hardships or an emergency. In order to be considered for reimbursement, a refund must be requested by the unit leadership during camp. The \$20 reservation portion of the fee is non-refundable but is transferable to a new Scout reservation. All refunds will be reviewed following camp and reimbursement should be completed by September 30th.

### Next year's reservations

While at camp, it is possible to reserve a campsite for the following year. A \$100 (5 Scouts deposit @ \$20) deposit is required and should be paid to the camp office or at the Council Service Center prior to camp. The \$100 deposit is non-refundable and cannot be rolled over to the next year. Crossroads of America Council troops may make reservations beginning May 1st. Out of council troops may make reservations beginning June 1st.

## 2013 Dates

### Camp Sessions

Session 1	June 2 - June 8
Session 2	June 9 - June 15
Session 3	June 16 - June 22
Session 4	June 23 - June 29
Session 5	June 30 - July 6
Session 6	July 7 - July 13
Session 7	July 14 - July 20
Session 8	July 21 - July 27
Session 9	July 28 - August 3

### Bloomington Leaders Meeting

Location: Camp Ransburg  
Date: May 4th 2013  
Time: 10am - 11pm

### Indianapolis Leaders Meeting

Location: Belzer Scout Camp  
Date: May 8th 2013  
Time: 7 - 8pm

### Cincinnati Leaders Meeting

Location: Camp Friedlander  
Date: May 19th 2013  
Time: 7 - 9pm

### AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT CAMP

1. All dietary restrictions and special needs emailed to [chris@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:chris@ransburgbsa.org)
2. Mail copies of health forms to [healthlodge@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:healthlodge@ransburgbsa.org) for pre-review
3. Mail pre-camp swim checks to [aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org) for pre-review

### MARCH 8, 2013

50% Payment due to retain campsite.

### MAY 3, 2013

Full payment due to qualify for Early Bird fee.

### Camp Promotion

You should hold a camp promotion for your troop sometime between December and February. Your promotion plan should include a parent meeting, video presentations, date and fee schedule, and collecting of camper deposit

The Ransburg Reservation portal is a good resource for your promotion. It not only contains the information in this guide, but information specifically tailored for scouts, leaders and parents. It is advisable to point scouts and parents to their respective sections of the portal.

## Accident & Illness Insurance

### Crossroads of America Council

Each registered Scout and leader is covered by medical insurance for most injuries or illness that happen while at camp or in transit to and from the camp. **Campers must be registered members of the BSA to be covered by BSA insurance.** The council provides a secondary insurance policy that each member purchases with \$1 fee at registration. All injuries or illnesses sustained at camp must be filed with the member's primary insurance first. Additional expenses can then be submitted to the Boy Scout policy. This generally covers the usual and customary charges up to \$15,000 per accident, up to \$7,500 for sickness, up to \$5,000 for dental treatment, up to \$6,000 for Ambulance Service, and up to \$1,500 for Return Transportation Expenses among other benefits.

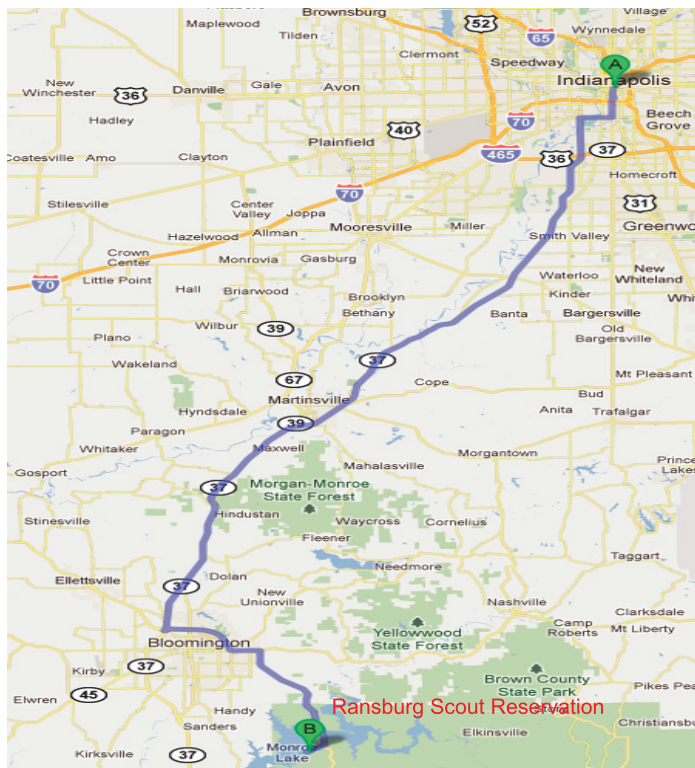
Questions concerning insurance coverage at camp should be directed to:

Office Manager  
Boy Scouts of America  
7125 Fall Creek Road North  
Indianapolis, IN 46256  
(317) 813-7125  
(877) 925-1900  
(317) 813-7126 Fax

### Out of council Troops

For out of council troops attending our camp, you will need to show proof of insurance when arriving on Sunday. If you do not have insurance coverage, you are welcome to purchase a special policy during your week of camp for only \$8 per Scout/leader. Please see the Business Manager when you check in.

## Directions to Camp



From Indianapolis, take State Road 37 south to Bloomington. Turn left (east) on State Road 46 East (the by-pass around Bloomington). Follow State Road 46 East as it turns left (east) at the College Mall. Turn right (south) on State Road 446 East (approx. two miles from the College Mall) and follow it about 10 miles (one mile past the Lake Monroe causeway). On the top of the hill is Ransburg Scout Reservation's entrance on the right (west). Follow the gravel road to the main parking lot.

From Cincinnati, take Interstate 275 West to US 50 (Lawrenceburg Exit). Go west on US 50 to State Road 446. Turn right and go west on State Road 446 for about 17 miles (before the Lake Monroe causeway). On the top of the hill is Ransburg Scout Reservation's entrance on the left (east). Follow the gravel road to the main parking lot.

## Contact Information

### Mail

Parents are encouraged to send a letter or a package to their son at Ransburg Scout Reservation. They should allow a minimum of three days delivery time. When possible, items arriving after Scout's departure will be returned to sender. To ensure delivery, items should have the campsite and troop number listed and addressed in the following manner:

(Scout's name)  
(Campsite)  
(Troop number)  
Ransburg Scout Reservation  
7599 E. Waldrip Creek Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

### Telephone

(812) 837 - 9423

### Fax

(812) 837 - 9397

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ryan@ransburgbsa.org

Ted Klick  
Director of Outdoor Programs  
tklick@crossroadsbsa.org



## Camp Policies

At Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Scout Oath and Law are our guiding principles. We expect each leader to provide the guidance within the troop to follow these principles, the policies of Ransburg Scout Reservation, the Crossroads of America Council and the Boy Scouts of America.

### FIREARM RESTRICTION:

Camp will provide rifles, shotguns, bows, arrows and ammunition at the shooting sports ranges. Under no circumstances should ammunition or firearms be brought to camp.

### SMOKING:

Smoking is prohibited except in designated areas. The goal of this policy is to keep smoking away from Scouts. All buildings are smoke free environments; smoking outside the entrance or exit of any building is not permitted. In addition, all campsites should be on a smoke-free basis. A designated smoking area is available in the central camp area.

### VEHICLES:

Vehicles are not permitted in campsites. Vehicles should be parked only in the main parking lot. One vehicle will be allowed to make one trip to the campsite to deliver and remove troop and personal gear at check-in and check-out. Only camp service vehicles are allowed on camp roads during the week. Please note that BSA Policy does not allow any individual to be transported in the back of any pick-

### DINING HALL:

All Scouts are required to be at all meals, unless the troop is cooking in the campsite for the week. For no reason should a Scout be denied or allowed to skip a meal, nor should food be taken out of the dining hall.

### ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS:

Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted in Scout camp. Possession or use of them on camp property will be cause for removal from camp.

### BOATS:

There is no access to Lake Monroe for personal boats at camp. If you have your own boat and would like to take your troop on an activity in it, you must check your troop out of camp and put in at a local boat ramp. No personal boats are allowed to moor on any Ransburg docks.

### PERSONAL ITEMS:

The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items. If such an unfortunate event occurs, it is recommended that a police report be filed for insurance purposes.

### CAMPER RELEASE POLICY:

Campers will only be released early from camp to custodial parents. Release to others must be communicated in writing in advance, with troop leaders' knowledge. Parents must indicate in writing who the Scout will be leaving with and the time and day of departure. **FOR THE SCOUT'S SAFETY, SCOUTMASTERS MUST ESCORT THE SCOUT TO THE CAMP OFFICE AND SIGN THE SCOUT OVER TO THE APPROVED PERSONS.**

**FUEL:**

All fuels must be kept locked. The camp quartermaster can assist with this service. Remember that any type of open flame is not permitted in any tent.

**PERSONAL TENTS:**

Personal tents must meet the Boy Scout standard of 30 square feet of sleeping space per Scout. Personal tents should also have a "NO FLAMES IN TENTS" sign affixed to them. The signs are available from the Quartermaster.

**PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION****VEHICLES:**

Individuals with disabilities desiring to bring a golf cart type vehicle to camp must apply for a permit through the camp office prior to arriving at camp. Once in camp, please complete an authorization form at the office. You will also need liability insurance, a fire extinguisher, and a first aid kit to comply with BSA National Standards.

**INSURANCE INFORMATION:**

Each scout and adult leader should bring a copy of his or her medical insurance card and prescription card. Upon Sunday check-in, this information will be collected with the appropriate physical form.

**FIREWOOD:**

Due to the outbreak of harmful tree pests and diseases, no outside firewood can be brought into camp

**PETS:**

No pets in camp please.

**TOUR PLAN:**

Any troop from a council other than Crossroads Of America Council should file a tour plan. An office camp staff member will sign the plan at check-in.

**LEAVING CAMP:**

If you plan to leave camp, please sign in and out in the camp office.

**HAZING:**

Hazing is strictly prohibited. There are many instances where "hazing" has led to serious consequences, both to the physical well-being and emotional stability of the Scout. Even a "mild" incident can convince a Scout never to return. Be aware that new campers are particularly susceptible to hazing. Knowledge of any abuse should be reported to the Camp Director immediately.

**YOUTH PROTECTION:**

We adhere to all youth protection provisions of the Boy Scouts of America. Two-deep leadership is required at all times. Please remember that leaders and Scouts cannot sleep in the same quarters and that mixed genders are not allowed to tent together. Exceptions are a parent/son or married couple.

**MEDICATION:**

All prescription medications must be stored at the Health Lodge or in the campsite in a camp issued lock box in its original container. The Scout or leader at the discretion of the Health Officer may keep inhalers, EPI pens and heart medications on their person. Upon leaving camp, it is the responsibility of the unit leader to pick-up unused medications that were brought to camp.

## Camp Visitors

Parents and families are always welcome at Ransburg Scout Reservation. Wednesday evenings and the Friday night campfire are two excellent times for visitors.

All visitors must check in with the camp office when coming into camp, and check out when leaving

### Camper Release Policy

Campers will only be released early from camp to custodial parents. Release to others must be communicated in writing in advance, with troop leaders' knowledge. Parents must indicate in writing who the Scout will be leaving with and the time and day of departure.

**FOR THE SCOUT'S SAFETY, SCOUTMASTERS MUST ESCORT THE SCOUT TO THE CAMP OFFICE AND SIGN THE SCOUT OVER TO THE APPROVED PERSONS.**

### Visitor Meals

If a visitor is going to be in camp and desires to eat a meal, they can purchase a meal ticket at the camp office at a cost of \$8.50 for every lunch and dinner and \$7.50 for breakfast.

Our dining hall has limited space so please let us know two days in advance so we can ensure there is room for your guests. Please also note that though we try very hard to ensure your visitors can be seated with the troop, in many cases this is just not possible and will they will need to sit somewhere else in the dining hall.

## Pre-Camp Swim Checks

If a unit chooses, it may conduct swim checks prior to coming to summer camp by following the procedures developed by the council aquatics committee. Ideally, this would be done as part of a year-round aquatics program.

1. Personnel -- The most important criteria is to have a certified adult conducting the tests. Certification would include Aquatics Instructor BSA, Lifeguard BSA, or Red Cross WSI. Those who administer individual tests to Scouts should be 1) adults with strong aquatics skills or 2) older Scouts with Lifesaving MB, Red Cross Lifeguard or BSA Lifeguard training and/or certification.
2. Safe Swim Defense -- A qualified person should review the Safe Swim Defense plan (and possibly the Safety Afloat plan as well) for the entire unit. All points of the Safe Swim Defense should be adhered to during the test, as during all swimming activities. One note here is that each Scout should have his camp medical turned in before taking the test.
3. Test Administration -- Each test should be administered individually with one guard following and watching a single swimmer for the duration of his test. If you do this at a pool, you could have one guard combination on each side of the pool and run Scouts through in a relatively short time.
4. Beginners Test -- Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 25 feet, turn sharply and return to the starting point. (Emphasize the feet-first jump and the ability to turn without holding on to something).
5. Swimmers Test -- Jump feet-first into water over your head, come to the surface, swim 75 yards in a strong manner using any combination of accepted (crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen) strokes on your front or side. Continue swimming an additional 25 yards using a resting backstroke (elementary, not racing). At the end of the 100 yards, float on your back as motionless as possible for one minute.
6. Records -- Careful records should be kept that include Scout's name, medical check, swimming classification, date, and who supervised the testing procedure (include certification). Copies of these records should be provided to the Aquatics Director upon arrival in camp. To ensure these records are as expected, please email them to:

[aquatics@ransburgbsa.org](mailto:aquatics@ransburgbsa.org)

at least two weeks prior to your arrival.

## Annual Health Forms

An Annual Health and Medical Record with a doctor's signature and date within the past year is required for EVERYONE regardless of how long you will be in camp. Even if they are going to be in camp one night you still need a doctor's exam and it must be signed by a parent or guardian and physician within 12 months of the time they are in camp.

ONLY the Boy Scouts of America Annual Health and Medical Record form will be allowed as per national requirements and standards. School physical forms, sports physical forms, or high adventure base medical record forms (i.e. Northern Tier or Seabase) will not be accepted. They will also NOT be accepted if they are stapled to the BSA form. The information and doctor's signature must be on the Annual Health and Medical Record.

It is highly recommended that you send in the Annual Health and Medical Records from your troop to camp prior to your camping week. Please include the following information:

Troop Number and council/district  
Week you will be attending  
Roster of the included forms

We would appreciate it if they were all sent at once or in large groups, and not individually. Please use the US Postal Service sent to the camp address. Please do not fax them in bulk or individually to camp.

As the adult leader, it is required that you check and review, before coming to camp (with enough time for corrections), the Annual Health and Medical Record forms checking for the following errors and omissions:

- Missing date underneath the doctor's signature in Part C
- Missing doctor's signature in Part C
- Missing parent/guardian signature in Part B
- Physical dated within the past year (Mandatory)
- Missing Health History (Part A)
- Missing immunization record and dates in part A
- Missing Health Insurance card copy and information

The Crossroads of America Council has made modifications to the Talent Release section of the Medical Record. A tradition throughout the council and at Ransburg Scout Reservation is to make multimedia part of the weeklong summer camp experience. As a result, numerous pictures are taken throughout the week at summer camp, and a slideshow is presented at the closing campfire. This is an exciting closing to the week at Ransburg, and is an integral part to the experience. Therefore, Ransburg Scout Reservation requires inclusion of this talent release. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of Ransburg Scout Reservation's Management Team.

## Your Campsite

Ransburg Scout Reservation provides quality equipment and a prepared campsite for each troop in camp. It is important to complete the equipment request and return it to Ransburg Scout Reservation two weeks in advance of your stay in camp. This will allow us to prepare your campsite prior to your arrival. Each campsite is fully equipped with the following items:

1. Propane lantern (one per campsite)
2. Wall tents on platforms with 2" mattresses
3. Cots - one for each youth and adult
4. Permanent shelter with picnic table
5. Latrine with running water, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies
6. Flag pole with American flag
7. Broom and hose at the latrine
8. Additional equipment is available to be checked out from the camp Quartermaster (e.g., Dutch ovens, cooking equipment)

## Sunday Check-in

When arriving at Ransburg Scout Reservation, please be sure that the Scoutmaster reports to the check-in table located at the STEM Center. The SPL should stay with the staff guide and lead the troop through the camp check-in process which will include unloading of gear, medical checks, a tour of camp, and a swim test. The check-in process has been developed to try and reduce the amount of time each troop will spend at each stop, as there are many things to accomplish on this day. Your guide will be the key staff member responsible for keeping your troop on this schedule. National BSA has established an aquatics guideline. Troops with qualified lifeguards may take their water test on their own prior to camp and communicate it to our staff. This can save time at check-in. Our aquatics staff retains the right to require a re-test at their discretion.

**Check-in on Sunday begins at 1:00 pm.**

All troops must check-in at the STEM Center before going to their campsites.

### Sunday Schedule

Time	Activity
1:00 - 2:30pm	Check-in
4:30pm	Leadership meeting at the Inlow Aquatics Center. Please have at least one adult leader and the SPL present per troop.
5:45pm	Early Dinner
6:20pm	Flag Lowering
7:15pm	Merit badge schedule changes
7:45pm	All-faith Chapel service
8:15pm	Gather at flagpoles for Campfire

## Saturday Departure

A continental breakfast will be served Saturday in the dining hall. Remember that another troop will be using the campsite after you have left, so please be courteous to your fellow Scouts and leave the campsite in good condition. There is no provision for 2nd week campers to stay over on weekends; so if a Scout is staying for a second week of camp, please make sure he is picked up on Saturday and returned on Sunday.

### Departure check list

7:00am

Pickup final merit badge information in the Scoutmaster's lounge. Each troop should review all advancement records prior to departure. Discrepancies can be corrected by the Program Director.

7:15am or 8:00am

Continental breakfast in dining hall

7:50am

Flag raising

8:45-9:00am

Return to campsite for checkout. Your staff guide will meet you at your campsite to complete a campsite check-out.

Check out at health lodge.

Pickup medical forms and turn in medication box, lock, key and log.

Check out at camp office.

Pay for any damaged camp equipment and turn in evaluations.

### Damaged equipment

Scouts are expected to take care of all equipment they use. Sometimes, however, equipment is damaged and it needs to be replaced or repaired. If equipment is misused by the troop, the cost of any damaged equipment needs to be settled before the troop leaves camp on Saturday. Damages to equipment should be reported to the Quartermaster or your Ridge Commissioner.



## Experience has shown us...

Ransburg Scout Reservation has been providing a summer home for Scouts for over 45 years, and we have learned a few things that might help you with your stay in camp.

1. Uniforms are encouraged for chapel service, campfires, evening flag ceremonies and evening meals.
2. Merit badges are not the only things going on at Ransburg. We encourage troops to try new adventures and activities.
3. Be prepared for camp. Check equipment needs before coming.
4. Take time to enjoy the beauty of the Hoosier National Forest, Lake Monroe, and Ransburg Scout Reservation.
5. Show troop spirit! The troop that comes to camp with ideas and spirit challenges the rest of camp to come alive.
7. If you have a special need or want to do something spectacular, tell us about it and we will give it our best shot.
8. It is unfortunate when someone loses something of value. Please have a plan for storing valuables.
9. Consider having your Scout's pack the following:
  - Complete Boy Scout uniform (Worn at dinner)
  - Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt
  - Swimming trunks
  - Comfortable hiking boots, athletic shoes
  - Boating merit badges require a pair of shoes that can get wet.
  - Horsemanship Merit Badge and trail rides require shoes with a heel.
  - Long pants are also required to ride horses at the Ranch.
  - Poncho or raincoat
  - Toilet kit (toothbrush, towel, soap, comb, etc.)
  - Notebook, pencil, pen and Scout Handbook
  - Sun block and insect repellent (non-aerosol)
  - Flashlight with extra batteries
  - Watch, first aid kit, camera, sewing kit, religious materials
  - Folding pocketknife (locking blades are encouraged)
  - Long pants (jeans) and a long-sleeved button-down shirt are necessary for the clothes inflation requirement of Swimming Merit Badge.
  - Medical Form and prescription medication in its original container.
  - \$50 or more for spending money and merit badge projects.
10. It is recommended that portable radios, electronic games and other valuables be left at home. Theft is extremely rare, but it can happen even at a Boy Scout camp.

## Food

Meal Schedule	
Time	Activity
7:00 am	Early hopper report
7:15 am	Early breakfast
7:45 am	Late hoppers report
8:00 am	Late breakfast
12:00 pm	Early hoppers report
12:15 pm	Early lunch
12:45 pm	Late hoppers report
1:00 pm	Late lunch
5:30 pm	Early hoppers report
5:45 pm	Early supper
6:15 pm	Late hoppers report
6:30 pm	Late supper

Ransburg Scout Reservation has employed a professional food service management company to provide quality food for Scouts and leaders.

A licensed dietician has reviewed the menus for balanced nutrition.

In the event that you wish to invite guests to dine with your troop at camp, meal tickets can be purchased at the camp office. Please purchase these tickets two days prior to the arrival of your guests. Meals cost \$8.50 for lunch or dinner and \$7.50 for breakfast.

### Special Dietary Needs

We want your stay to be enjoyable at camp. If Scouts and leaders need special meal substitutes because of dietary restrictions, please notify the camp office in writing (through mail, email, or fax) at least two weeks prior to your troops arrival.

### Wednesday Night Meal

**Meals will not be served on Wednesday nights.** It is important each troop make plans for an alternate source of food on the Wednesday night meal. Some troops over the years have chosen to order pizza from town and others have chosen to cook in their campsite. Special arrangements will be made to have pizzas delivered to camp for those troops wishing to order pizza. A special pizza order form will be available on Sunday. Troops should plan on a nominal fee for this pizza meal. Special arrangements can also be made to support those who wish to cook in their campsite. If you are planning to cook in your campsite on Wednesday night and need help getting the food you need, inquire in the camp office as to how we can help.

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex age or disability. (See inside front cover for more details)

## Adult Leaders

### Scout leader services

Ransburg Scout Reservation offers leaders opportunities to learn and to have some fun while at summer camp. We will always have fresh coffee, Scouting-related information and comfortable chairs in the air-conditioned Scout leaders' lounge, which is located next to the camp office

### Leader meetings

There will be an important troop leader meeting on Sunday at 4:30 pm. Scoutleader Mug Club meetings are held Monday - Friday mornings. Each troop should have a leader present to receive all necessary information for the day's program. SPL meetings are held daily.

### Adult leader activities/training

During your week at camp, qualified trainers will offer adult training in: Youth Protection, CPR, Climb On Safely Trek Safely, Religious Emblem, Safe Swim Defense, Saftey Afloat, Merit Badge Counselor Training, Homesickness Training, Outdoor Leader Skills, Scoutmaster Specific, Troop Committee Challenge, This is Scouting, Paddle Craft Safety, Swimming and Water Rescue and Leave No Trace.

You can also take a pontoon boat ride around the lake during one of our scheduled boat rides.

The Scout leader bake-off is a popular tradition where Scout leaders compete with their best Dutch oven cooking. Equipment is available for check-out through the Quartermaster.

### Leader role

A teacher, a listener, a motivator, a disciplinarian, these are just a few roles of a Scout leader. In camp, this is only amplified. Thus, it is required that every troop have at least two adult leaders (at least one must be 21 years of age) in camp at all times. Though a leader's role in camp is probably the most challenging, it is also the most rewarding. The staff at Ransburg Scout Reservation understands the challenge and the reward, so we are always willing to help when needed.

# Making Purchases

## Trading Post

The Ransburg Scout Reservation trading post provides a full selection of souvenirs, Scouting items and snacks for sale during your stay. The following is a list of some of our available items: Ransburg Scout Reservation mugs, neckerchiefs, walking stick medallions, T-shirts, Scout knives, flashlights, Scout items, craft kits, merit badge pamphlets, songbooks, handbooks, Scout socks, belts, council strips, snacks and drinks.

It is suggested that Scouts use a gift card available at the Indianapolis Scout Shop or at the Trading Post instead of carrying cash. This keeps the Scout from losing his money, and can serve as a method of teaching thriftiness.

## Troop and camper photographs

Troops will have the opportunity to have taken a troop photo for each Scout attending Ransburg Scout Reservation. Troops are encouraged to bring troop and patrol flags to make their Ransburg Scout Reservation camp photo complete. Troops should dress in uniform, troop T-shirts, or Ransburg Scout Reservation T-shirts for the photo. Photos will be taken early in the week. Check the link below for prices and options (i.e. 8x10, mouse pad, mug, etc.).

You can order your photos on shutterfly.

For more information check:

<http://www.ransburgbsa.org/photos>

## Payment Options

Mastercard/Visa

Cash

Council Gift Card

# Programs and Program Areas

## Merit Badges

Merit badges are important at Ransburg Scout Reservation, but keep in mind there are many other activities in camp that are beneficial for Scouts. Some times, just "hanging out" in the campsite or around camp is just fine for a Scout. We have qualified staff that holds to the requirements of merit badges as listed. Some of our prerequisites are items that are only written work and can be completed at home prior to camp to make it easier than doing them at camp. Merit badge sessions have built into them about 10 minutes of travel time. So a merit badge that is from 9:00 am to 10:00 am is actually only 50 minutes long. Even with 10 minutes of travel time, getting from one merit badge in Aquatics to another in the STEM Center can be difficult.

Ransburg Scout Reservation makes use of an online merit badge reservation system. We call this the online planner. Generally, the Summer Camp Planner is configured with the current year's merit badges starting the first couple weeks in April. Please schedule all of your Scouts using this system.

This guide does not contain any information regarding merit badge offerings or schedules. Please check the Ransburg website for a full schedule of what will be offered this summer : [www.ransburgbsa.org](http://www.ransburgbsa.org)

## Aquatics Area

The Aquatics Area is one of the most popular areas in camp and features many activities other than the merit badge program.

Shoes that can get wet are required for scouts wishing to use any boating equipment, this includes the merit badges.

While there may be opportunities during the camping week to pass the first and second class requirements of Swimming and Lifesaving Merit Badge (e.g. Eagle Quest) they will not be part of the Merit Badge instruction.

Scouts taking an aquatics MB are encouraged to complete CPR and First Aid before coming to camp. It will not be part of the MB instruction, and is a prerequisite. Check the RSR portal for a printable form you can use to track these prior to arriving at camp prerequisites.

## Nature Center

The newly renovated Nature Center provides many opportunities for scouts to learn about the environment in which they live.

All merit badges require a notebook and pen in order to be successful.

## Field Sports

Safety is the first consideration at Ransburg Scout Reservation ranges. When visiting a range, listen carefully to all instructions from the directors. The sports area is located between the rifle range and the archery range. Just look for the sports shelter and basketball court. Scouts are encouraged to enjoy the expanded merit badges and intramural sports at this area. Set up team competitions and have some great fun.

We offer activities on a troop, campsite or ridge basis. Intramural sports can include softball, volleyball, basketball, or soccer.

Scouts can organize their own teams prior to camp or put one together with their new friends at Ransburg Scout Reservation.

We use .22 caliber, single-shot, bolt-action rifles. The shotguns used are 12-gauge. We supply the ammunition for all of the guns.

The directors are certified in the use of all firearms at our ranges. There is a \$15 charge shotgun merit badge and a \$8 ammunition fee for rifle shooting merit badge.

Highly recommended optional shooting practice is offered daily at 2:00 pm for merit badge participants. Experience indicates that Scouts wanting to earn these merit badges should plan on attending these sessions.

## Ransburg Ranch

The Ransburg Wrangler Program, trail rides, riding instruction, Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Horsemanship merit badge are among the activities offered at the Ransburg Ranch.

There is no age restriction on the trail rides. Trail rides are available with the purchase of a \$8.00 ticket from the trading post. Rides are scheduled for 3:00 and 4:00 pm

Shoes or boots with 3/4" heels and long pants (jeans) must be worn while riding, so come prepared! We have an assortment of both boots and pants, but cannot guarantee all sizes.

Animal Science will cover all of requirements 1-5 and only the Horse and Sheep option of Requirement 6. Scouts wishing to complete the other options of #6 should complete them as a prerequisite.

## Scoutcraft

The Scoutcraft Area is a place where Scouts learn the basic skills of Scouting. Scoutcraft activity features knots, camping, pioneering, fire building, first aid, geocaching and much more.

## Handicraft

The handicrafts badges are a good start for first year Scouts. The pride and satisfaction of making something with your own hands is a good lesson for a young Scout to learn. New Scouts always find success in this area, so encourage them to pick at least one activity from this area.

Many of the activities in the Handicraft Area require the purchase of materials, so be sure that those Scouts signing up for activities in the Handicraft Area bring extra money. Check the activity schedule for prices.

## Climbing Tower

The Climbing Tower is challenging for all Scouts, and may be too difficult for some. Group size is limited. Boy Scouts of America Standards are followed for participant safety (specifically, Scouts must be 13 by January 1 of the current camping season to participate in the climbing program).

## Eagle Quest

Eagle Quest is the place to be for brand new Scouts and first year campers. It provides many activities for new campers and Scouts to work on the Scout ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.

The Eagle Quest Area is located on the middle of Ridge Three. Please check the Eagle Quest Area for the schedule of the different requirements that will be completed daily and see what you need for your rank advancement. Scouts will only complete a select number of rank requirements. The area will be open in the afternoons for unscheduled advancement opportunities.

Scout leaders are always welcome to observe the area and assist the staff. Eagle Quest will provide a meaningful learning experience for the Scouts that seek advancement throughout the week.

## STEM Center

The new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) center encourages scouts to further their interest in STEM. The area offers activities ranging from environmental science to robotics. It continues to be one of our most popular areas and a focus of current camp growth.

Astronomy night hikes are weather dependent.

Space exploration has a project fee. Please see the Activity Schedule, available at [www.ransburgbsa.org](http://www.ransburgbsa.org) for fees.

### Hiking opportunities

Troops can choose to take hikes around Ransburg Scout Reservation or the Hoosier National Forest. Stop in the camp office for more information.

**Nature Hike** - This one mile trail is set up and maintained by the Ecology staff. It leads to areas abundant in plant species and frequented by wildlife. Fourteen posts are located along the trail to draw hikers' attention to various flora and fauna of interest.

**Red Line Trail** -The Red Line Trail starts along the Lakeside and Nature Trail at post 12 and then into Hoosier National Forest winding its way for 5 miles along the borders of Ransburg Scout Reservation and Hoosier National Forest.

### Canoeing Opportunities

If troops are interested in taking canoe trips, a float plan can be picked up at the office. Once you have completed the float plan, you should review it with the aquatics director at least 24 hours before the trip to ensure that you meet Safety Afloat standards.

**Allen's Creek** - The trip takes about 3 hours and offers a great opportunity to combine good fishing and good camping. It is located at Allen's Creek State Recreational Area. All food and equipment must be packed in, and waste must be packed out. The trip should include a service project of litter removal to help insure that future campers enjoy clean facilities. A charge can be expected for use of the state property.

**Patton's Cave** - This trip is seven miles each way in length and takes about 6 hours round trip. The cave can be reached by hiking as well as by canoe; therefore, some troops might want to divide up with some Scouts hiking and some canoeing.

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex age or disability. (See inside front cover for more details)



## Firecrafter Program

Firecrafter is a camp rank system that recognizes and develops a Scout's camping skills. In Firecrafter, Scouts will join a camping service organization that started in 1920 at Camp Chank-tun-un-gi (now Belzer Scout Camp). This popular program is unique to the Crossroads of America Council. The desire to be a Firecrafter is often the push a Scout needs to come back to summer camp for another year or to give him the added confidence to strive for Eagle and other advancements.

The camp ranks can only be earned at camp. They serve to complement your Scout's advancement work. Most of the camp rank requirements are taken directly from Boy Scout rank advancements. Scouts may try for more than one rank during the week, but this is not encouraged.

### Camper

Camper is the first year program. All first year Scouts and Scouts new to Ransburg are encouraged to become Campers. The requirements cover camp citizenship, the Scout Oath and Law, the origins of Scouting, map and compass, hiking and one hour of camp service.

### Woodsman

Woodsman is the second year program. Campers should be encouraged to become a Woodsman. The Woodsman rank covers camp skills (fire building, knot tying, knife and ax), nature, first aid, leadership and two hours of service.

### Firecrafter

Firecrafter is the third year program for First Class Scouts and above. While some exceptional Firecrafters have attained it in their first or second year in camp, it is usually the third year before a Scout has the physical or emotional maturity to candidate for Firecrafter. The standards for the Firecrafter rank are high and include all areas of Scouting skills. The three most difficult requirements are planning and leading a campfire, building a fire by friction set, and the "unknown test" of the Firecrafter Ritual, which takes place after camp is over.

### Minisino

Minisino is a Miami Indian word meaning "tried and proven". A youth is eligible to be tapped out for Minisino the 2nd summer following his becoming a Firecrafter. After a Firecrafter is tapped out he must successfully complete a two-week candidacy at one of the council camps. Only those who are tapped out know its requirements.

## Order of the Arrow

Ransburg Scout Reservation has a program area dedicated to the Order of the Arrow. The area staff are responsible for all O.A. ceremonies, elections and promotions. If your troop or individual Scouts are members of a dance or ceremonial team, they are invited to talk to the camp O.A. Director about joining in the ceremonies while they are in camp. In addition the area offers a number of O.A. related merit badges and youth training opportunities.

Tuesday dinner is O.A. sash night and then after the Tuesday camp-wide event, the Order of the Arrow will conduct a "call-out" ceremony for the entire camp. All newly elected O.A. candidates will be called-out, and candidates who have recently been called-out may be recognized at the ceremony.

Troops from councils outside of the Crossroads of America Council must have a letter from their lodge stating the names of Scouts and Scouters from their troop who have been elected into the Order of the Arrow.

Unit elections must be held prior to summer camp.

## Emergency Preparedness

The camp has established procedures to be followed in the event of most emergencies. Emergency procedures are posted throughout the camp and will be reviewed with everyone upon arrival Sunday. Persons in orange vests are to be recognized as authority figures.

**F I R E :** An intermittent siren means assemble at the main camp flag pole by troop. Report any missing persons to the camp director. Follow other directions.

**SEVERE WEATHER:** A continuous siren indicates that you should head to the closest emergency post on your ridge and take cover immediately. If you are not on your ridge, move to the nearest safe locations (i.e. a shower house, shelter house or on the side of a hill away from the danger of falling tree limbs). **AVOID HILLTOPS AND THE BOTTOMS OF THE RAVINES.** When the danger has passed, an intermittent siren will follow to signal "all clear". Once you hear the intermittent siren, you should assemble at the flag poles with your troop.

**MEDICAL OR ACCIDENTS:** Give minimal first aid and report to the health office. If bodily fluid spills are present, keep individuals away from the area and report to the health director, who will clean the area.

**FATALITY:** Report to the camp director.

**YOUTH PROTECTION:** Notify camp director. Remove victim from the situation, and do not talk to anyone regarding the situation.

**L O S T S C O U T :** Notify camp director, and report all information about the lost Scout. Assist in the search as directed. Follow directions.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT RANSBURG SCOUT RESERVATION:** 1-812-837-9423



A background image of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the center of the frame, partially obscured by a dark, silhouetted horizon line. The sky is a gradient of warm colors, from deep orange near the horizon to a lighter yellow at the top. The water in the foreground is dark with some lighter, shimmering patches reflecting the sunlight.

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[www.ransburgbsa.org](http://www.ransburgbsa.org)  
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