

2026
CATHOLIC SCOUT
CAMPOREE
Open My Eyes



MARCH
13-15, 2026
CAMP BOWERS
WHITE OAK, NORTH CAROLINA



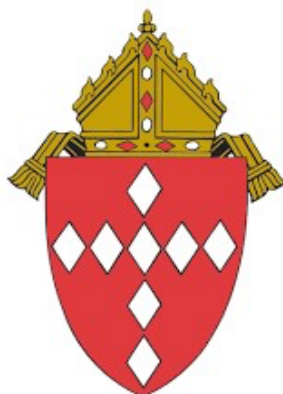
THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* RALEIGH

dioceseofraleigh.org/scouting/catholic-scouting

Leader's Guide

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Section 1: Overview

Dear Scouters,

We are excited to present the *Leader's Guide* for the 2026 Catholic Scout Camporee.

Our theme for this year is **Open My Eyes!**

It's easy to see the world around us and only see the surface. The challenge us to truly see as Christ does - to notice the quiet beauty in nature, the unspoken needs of a friend, and the opportunities try something new. Let's *Open Our Eyes* to the opportunities that God has placed before us during the Camporee.

Mass will be celebrated by **the Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh** on Saturday evening.

We look forward to renewing the fun and fellowship of Catholic Scouters, as well as those from other faith traditions (all are welcome!) at this year's Camporee!

People of Service - In keeping with the ideals of Scouting and in the Camporee tradition, we will provide a service opportunity.

Forms and more - Please take a few minutes to review this *Leader's Guide* and share the information with your units.



To save money, please register and pay **by February 28, 2026**. Registrations after February 28th will incur an extra charge.

***Activity waivers for the climbing wall will be required for youth to climb (no exceptions). The waiver can be found on the Camporee Website (see below). ***

Website:

<https://dioceseofraleigh.org/scouting/catholic-camporee>

Come have fun with your fellow Scouters and Scouting families!

Contact us with questions.

Rob Morrow

Camporee Chief

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Nicolle Pollaci

Camporee Registrar/Religious Emblems

scouts@stmccary.org

919-481-6687

Fr. Scott McCue

Diocesan Scout Chaplain

smccue@stmccary.org

919-942-6234



Section 2: Camporee Fees

(includes all activities, activity materials, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a Camporee patch)

By February 28, 2026:

\$20.00 per person - tent campers

\$15.00 per person - day campers

\$65.00 maximum for a family of 4 or more (tent or day campers).

After February 28, 2026:

\$25.00 per person - tent campers

\$20.00 per person - day campers

\$75.00 maximum for a family of 4 or more (tent or day campers).

Online registration and payment can be made at:

<https://raldioc.configio.com/go/camporee>

All units preferring not to use the on-line registration must send checks and the
Registration Forms via US Mail to:

Catholic Camporee
c/o Frank Jackson
2104 Abbey Marie Lane
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Please make checks payable to "Catholic Committee on Scouting,"
and mark the memo section "2026 Catholic Camporee."

REFUND POLICY: All fees are non-refundable.

Registration fees are NOT REFUNDABLE unless there are extreme & extenuating circumstances totally beyond the control of the Scout/Scouter. Why? Funds are spent on food and supplies prior to the start of the Camporee to ensure its success.

Section 3: Schedule

Friday, March 13, 2026

- 4:00-8:00 pm Friday Check-In in Camp Bowers Admin. Building
- 8:30 pm Cracker Barrel (Adult Leaders, SPLs, Advisors) in Dining Hall
- 10:00 pm Lights out/quiet time

Saturday, March 14, 2026

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Campsites (Note: each unit prepares its own meal)
- 7:00-8 :00 am Saturday Check-In in Admin. Building
- 8:15 am Flag Ceremony & Morning Prayer at Flagpole behind Dining Hall
- 8:30-9:15 am **Retreat Activity with Speaker: Austin Faur,**
Our Lady of Lourdes Director of Youth Faith Formation
- 9:30-10:45 am **Activity** (see Unit's Rotation schedule) - location varies
Adult Training for Religious Emblem Counselors in Dining Hall.
- 11:00-12:15 pm **Activity** (see Unit's Rotation schedule) - location varies
Adult Diocesan Safe Environment Training in Dining Hall.
- 12:15-1:30 pm Lunch of hot dogs, chips, juice box and cookies
(provided by Camporee and prepared by the Knights of Columbus, Sons of Mother Seton Council #9847) in Dining Hall
- 1:45-3:00 pm **Activity** (see Unit's Rotation schedule) - location varies
Board of Reviews for Religious Emblems in Admin. Building
- 3:00-4:00 pm Free time to prepare for Mass

5:10-5:25 pm Flag Retirement Ceremony immediately prior to Mass at
Flagpole behind Dining Hall [*Note: Sunset ~6:15pm*]

5:30-6:15pm **Mass** in Dining Hall (Please wear Class A Uniforms)



Celebrant: the Most Reverend Luis Rafael
Zarama, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh

*Recognition of Religious Award Recipients and
presentations of Adult Awards.*

****** Volunteers wishing to serve as altar servers,
readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion, please sign up [here](#).

6:15-7:45 pm Spaghetti Dinner (provided by Camporee and prepared by
the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Michael A. Carey Council
#6650) in Dining Hall

8:00 -9:00 pm Campfire Program in the Campfire Area
Camporee Closing Prayer

10:00 pm Lights out/Quiet time

Sunday, March 15, 2026

7:00 am Breakfast at Campsites
(units prepare own meals) & Pack-Up

8:00-9:30 am Campsite Inspections

10:00 am Camp Cleared
(Note: No Exceptions)



Section 4: Saturday Unit Rotations

	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>1:45 pm</i>
Group A**	Activity #1	Activity #2	Activity #3
Group B**	Activity #2	Activity #3	Activity #1
Group C**	Activity #3	Activity #1	Activity #2

Note:
Cub scouts must have a
parent with them
at all times.

ACTIVITY AREA #1: TARGET ACTIVITIES

- * Shotgun for youth who have completed 5th grade & up.
- * B.B. gun shooting for all Scouts.
- * Archery

LOCATION

Range

ACTIVITY AREA #2: GAMES and CRAFTS

- *Rocketry & launch/slingshot
- *Scout bracelet craft

Activity Field

Shelter

ACTIVITY AREA #3: CLIMBING, NATURE & COOKING

- *Climbing wall for scouts 13yo +
- *Nature walks or environmental activity
- *Cooking Demonstrations

Climbing Tower

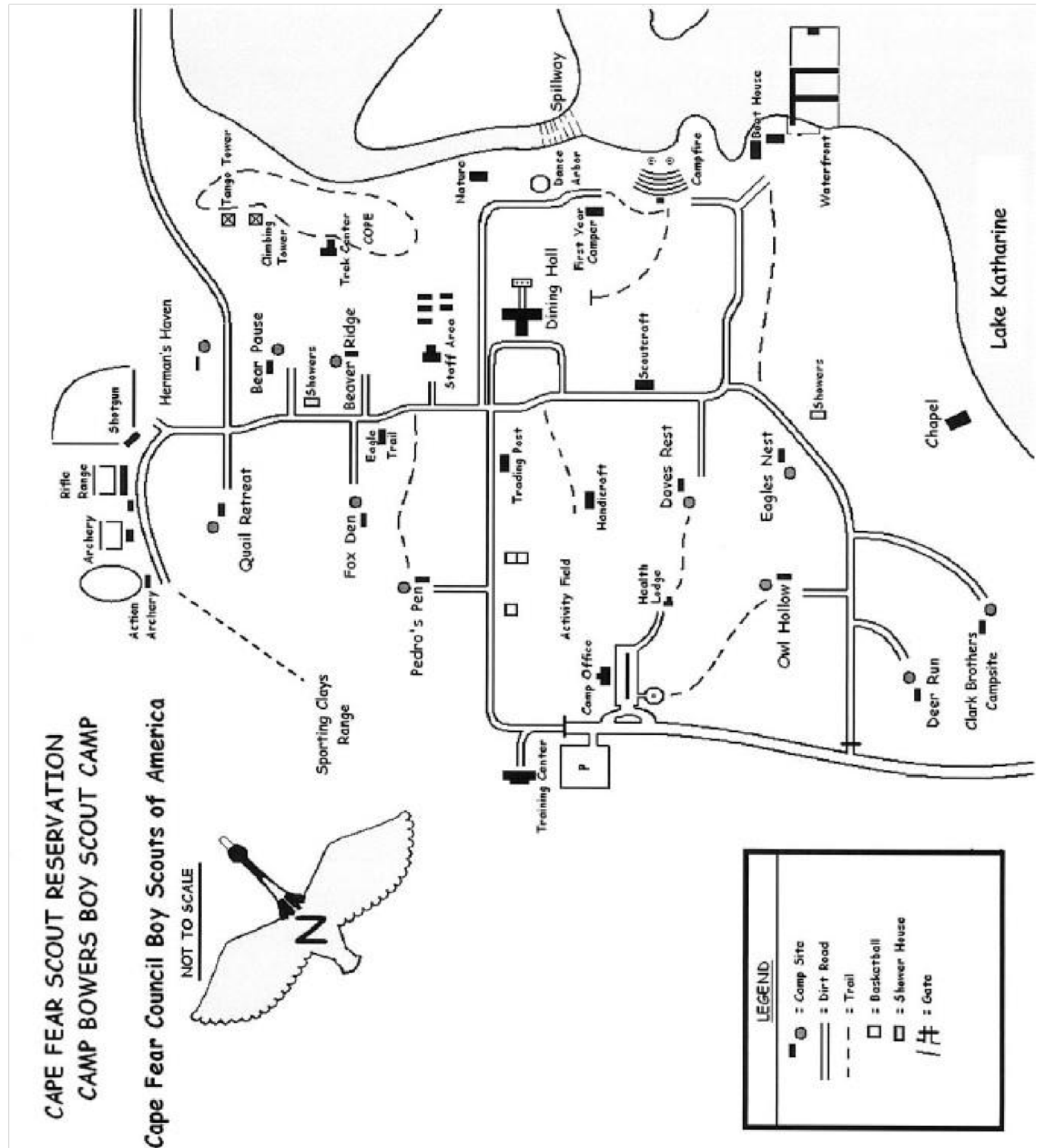
OPEN ACTIVITIES:

- *Gaga Ball
- *Kick Ball
- *Basketball

Activity Field

** Activity Group assignments will be listed in your check-in packet.

Section 5: Map of Camp Bowers



Section 6: Camporee Guidelines and Rules

1. **Campsites.** Campsites will be assigned as registration is received. Most campsites will have more than one similar unit or family group assigned. Units must camp in the assigned areas. All campsites have a shelter with picnic tables, a fire ring and a small bath house. Water is potable at campsites. Facilities are to be shared equally by all assigned units in a campsite. One larger shower/toilet facility is located on each side of Camp Bowers and is to be shared by all campers assigned to nearby campsites.
2. **Check-in.** Will begin at 4:00 pm on Friday March 13, 2026. No one can enter earlier. Upon arrival on Friday, units will check in at the Administration Building to pick up their packets and be directed to their campsites. Activity Group assignments will be listed in your packet. Camporee patches will be distributed to each unit after a successful campsite inspection on Sunday (except day campers, who will get them at check-in).
3. **Vehicles.** Only three vehicles at a time per campsite will be given a CAMPSITE PASS and permitted to drive to campsite to unload. Please unload as quickly as possible and return your Campsite Pass to the parking attendants near the Administration Building so others in your campsite may enter. Unit trailers may be left in the campsite area. Please park all other vehicles in the designated lots near the Administration Building. For the safety of our campers, absolutely NO vehicles are allowed in the campsites overnight. Vehicles driving thru camp during the Camporee hours will be limited to camporee staff and handicap pass holders.
4. **Camporee Headquarters.** Once check-in on Saturday morning is complete, Camporee Headquarters will be moved to the Dining Hall (south end) for the remainder of the Camporee. Camporee staff will be there 8:00 am - 9:00 pm on Saturday and 8:00-10:00am on Sunday to respond to questions or concerns.
5. **Quiet Hours.** Everyone must be in his or her respective campsite between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. All are expected to be quiet. "A Scout is Courteous." This is each unit leader's responsibility.

6. **Health and Safety.** All safety precautions will be adhered to throughout the Camporee. Report all unsafe conditions and actions to the Camporee staff immediately. If the action is unsafe, stop the action. *The buddy system will be in effect throughout the Camporee for scouts. Cubs must be with a parent at all times.*
7. **Weather.** If severe weather affects the Camporee, the Camporee staff, the Catholic Committee on Scouting representatives and/or the Camp Ranger will make the appropriate decision over-riding Unit leadership. No plans have been made for rescheduling the Camporee in the case of extreme weather or a major emergency. If the Camporee is to be cancelled, the Unit contact will be informed as soon as possible.
8. **First Aid.** Scout Leaders should "Be Prepared" to handle minor situations. Each unit is required to have a First Aid kit in their campsite. Serious injuries and emergencies must be reported immediately to the Camporee Headquarters (Dining Hall). There will be a trained Health and Safety Officer present on site during the entire Camporee. Units having additional trained medical personnel present are asked to notify our Health and Safety Officer upon arrival. The nearest full-service hospital is Cape Fear Valley Bladen County Hospital in Elizabethtown, N.C. (16 miles away).
9. **Campfires.** Fire pits are available in each campsite. Under no circumstances should any trees be cut down. Use extreme caution with all fires. Keep all fires in the designated fire pit and at a reasonable size; never leave a fire unattended and always provide adult supervision for all fires. Each unit must bring its own fire extinguishers or have safety buckets (with water in them) available at a unit campfire. And please ensure a fire is completely out before leaving it unattended. NOTE: BSA prohibits liquid fire starters.
10. **Cooking in Campsites.** If there is a ban on open fires, all units need to plan for no-heat meals or use camp stoves properly. Use of liquid fuel, propane, and butane in stoves and lanterns is permitted only with knowledgeable adult supervision. This applies to all units and family campers.
11. **Water.** Water is available at the tap near each campsite latrine. Scouts and Scouters should plan to carry their own canteens or water bottles during all activities.

12. Uniforms/Shoes. Field (or "Class A") uniforms are to be worn during the Flag ceremony, Retreat Speaker and Mass on Saturday. Activity (or "Class B") uniforms may be worn at all other times. For safety, closed-toed shoes are required for all activities. *No flip-flops or sandals!* Sneakers or hiking shoes are best.

13. Service Project. Please encourage each scout and Scouter in your unit to bring one or more of the following most-needed items that will be donated to the food pantry at the mission church of Our Lady of the Snows in Elizabethtown.

- *Pasta*
- *Rice-a-Roni*
- *Cereal*
- *Mac & Cheese*

Your donations can be dropped off at check-in or at Camporee Headquarters in the Dining Hall any time prior to Mass on Saturday.

14. Lost and Found. Lost and Found items should be turned into the Camporee Headquarters at the south end of the Dining Hall. These items will be displayed at the flag ceremony on Saturday evening and in the Dining Hall on Sunday.

15. Campfire Program. Each unit is encouraged to participate in the campfire by performing a song, skit, cheer or other entertainment. Please submit your skit/song request to Camporee Headquarters by lunch time on Saturday. The Camporee staff must approve these performances in advance! Keep it fun (and remember, a Scout is Clean).

16. Liturgy. "A Scout is Reverent." A Catholic Mass will be held in the Dining Hall on Saturday evening. Celebrating the Mass will be the Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh.

It is strongly recommended that all Scouts and Leaders participate. For the Mass and the Camporee as a whole, non-Catholics are ALWAYS welcome, and their participation enriches our gathering. Music will be provided by St. Michael Church One Heart Choir.



Volunteers are needed to assist to serve as altar servers, readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Scouts or Scouters wishing to volunteer sign up [here](#).

17. **Checkout & Campsite Inspection.** Campsites will be inspected on Sunday morning between 8:00-9:30 am. As with Check-In, only 3 vehicles per campsite will be permitted to enter campsites. Car traffic will begin at 7:00 am. When your unit is packed and ready to Check-Out, please alert a Camporee staffer (in the Dining Hall HQ) and turn in your survey. Units will receive their Camporee patches following inspection. If there is more than one unit in your assigned campsite, those units are expected to clean the common areas together. Pavilions, bath houses, picnic tables and fire rings must be left as you found them or better. Leave No Trace principles apply! Fires must be completely extinguished.
18. **Trash/Garbage.** All trash belonging to your unit must be carried to the dumpsters on the road leaving camp (near the main road). Units should bring several large trash bags with them as supplies may be limited. Please ensure that all trash is in the dumpster, NOT piled on top.
19. **Prohibited Items.** Fireworks, firearms, sheath knives, illegal drugs, and alcoholic beverages. Anyone bringing prohibited items will be required to leave immediately with forfeiture of all fees paid.
20. **Absolutely No Pets Allowed.** Service animals and dogs used for the visually impaired are permitted.
21. **Rules Violations.** The Camporee Chief in consultation with the Camporee Staff will determine penalties for any violation of the rules.
22. **Cell Phone/Camp Phone.** Be advised that cell-phone reception at Camp Bowers can be spotty. Those with Verizon may have sufficient signal, other carriers may not. A landline phone in the Administration Building is available for emergencies only.

Section 7: Directions to Camp Bowers

Address (either can be used in GPS and Google maps):

Camp Bowers Trail, White Oak, NC 28399
13165 NC Hwy 53 West,
White Oak, NC 28399

-- or --

From Hwy. 53:

- Turn into **Cape Fear Scout Reservation** (large wooden gateway at entrance)
- Follow signs along dirt access road to Camp Bowers:
 - bear left at Totem Pole, continue along dirt road, cross over red metal bridge,
 - admire Lake Katherine on your right, continue as road bends to right to pass by Camp McNeill ("Cub Scout World") on your left, enter Camp Bowers
- Administration Building will be on your right - pull into parking lot, park and come inside!

Map of BSA Camp Bowers:

A map (not to scale) of Camp Bowers can be found at:

<https://www.capefearcouncilbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/updated-bowers-map-2016.pdf>



The Preference is to register online at: <https://raldioc.configio.com/go/camporee>



**Catholic Scout Camporee, BSA Camp Bowers,
White Oak, NC
March 13-15, 2026**

Section 8: Registration Form

Unit #: _____

Type of Unit (Scouting America, Girl Scouts, etc.): _____

Unit Leader: _____

Address: _____

Phone # (home): _____ (cell): _____

of Youth Camping _____ @ \$20.00 each = _____

of Adults Camping _____ @ \$20.00 each = _____

of Family Units Camping: _____ @ \$65.00 (4 or more in a family)

of Youth - Saturday only: _____ @ \$15.00 each = _____

of Adults - Saturday only: _____ @ \$15.00 each = _____

Total due to Catholic Committee on Scouting \$ _____

(See REFUND Policy on page 4)



On-line registration and payment are preferred at
<https://raldioc.configio.com/go/camporee>

However, personal checks are also acceptable. Please make checks payable to "Catholic Committee on Scouting." And in the memo section of the check, please write: "2026 Catholic Camporee."

Mail registration form and check to:
Catholic Camporee
c/o Frank Jackson
2104 Abbey Marie Lane
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

****TO AVOID ADDITIONAL FEES, FORMS & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2026.**

To help the Camporee Staff with campsite assignments and activity rotations, please complete the following to the best of your ability:

Total # of Youth in your entire unit/family= _____

Please break out total # of youth by age:

Ages 5 and under: _____ Ages 6-9: _____ Ages 10-18: _____

Anticipated # of tents your unit will be setting up _____

_____ Number of adults participating in Religious Emblem Counselor training

_____ Number of adults participating in Safe Environment Training

_____ Number of scouts requesting Religious Emblem Board of Reviews

_____ Anticipated # of youth (ages 11+ or completed grade 5) for Shotgun