

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (I.O.L.S.)

Scouting America

Alamo Area Council

Where & When

August 21-22,2026

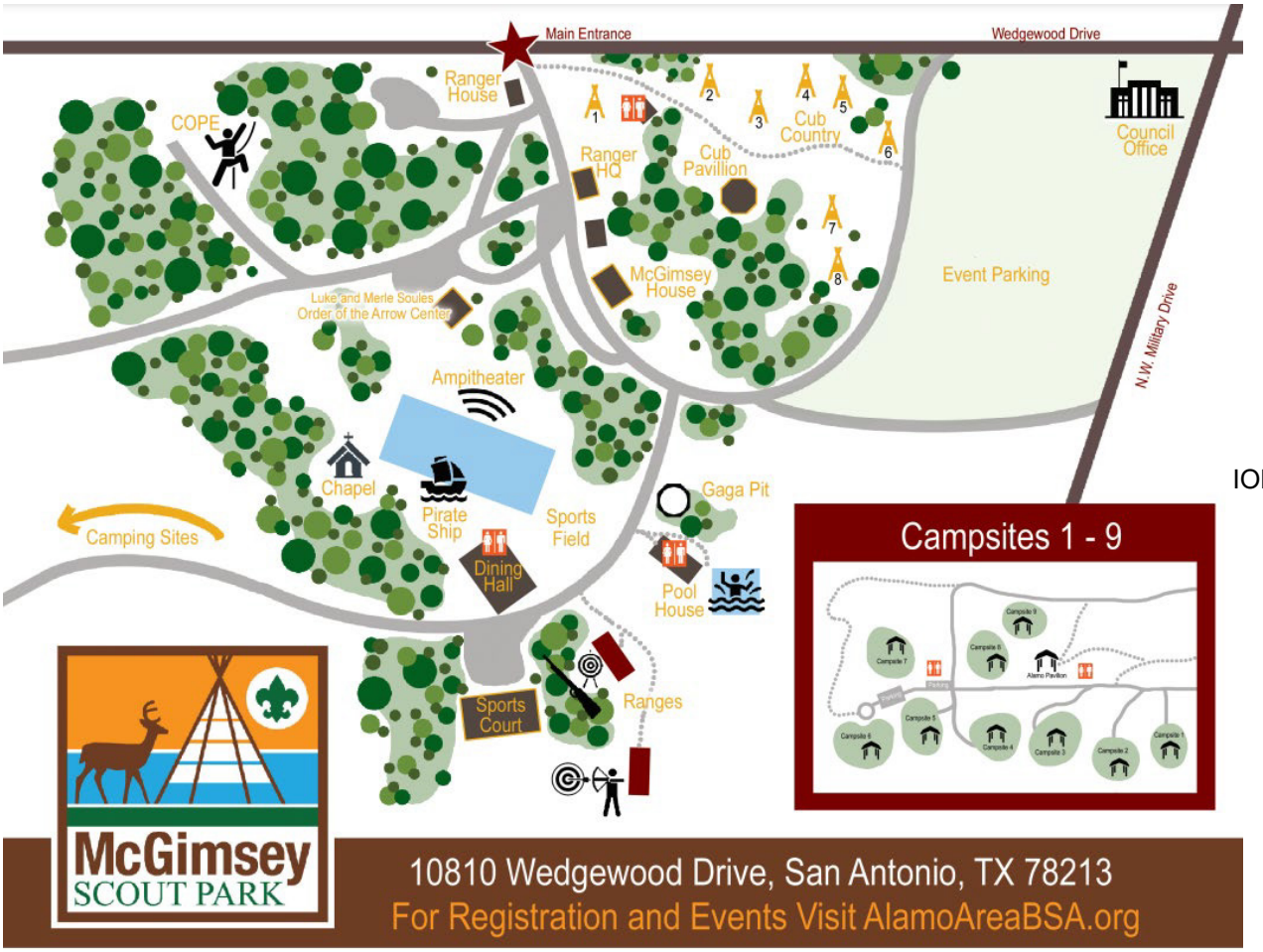
McGimsey Scout Park

10810 Wedgewood Dr. San Antonio, TX 78213

We will meet at the Alamo Pavilion

Required training for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Crew Advisors

Recommended training for all Scouts BSA Leaders & all Webelos and Arrow of Light (AOL) Leaders.



IOLS is here

Check-In

Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. on Friday. We will not be serving dinner, so please eat or bring yourself dinner for Friday. We will serve breakfast and lunch (we will have Vegan options at both meals). I encourage everyone to bring any snack or diet-specific items you might prefer, as our shopping budget is “thrifty.” Water and Coffee will be available throughout the course.

Welcome

Welcome to Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS). I appreciate your commitment to delivering an outstanding Scouting Program! As Baden-Powel said, ‘Scouting is fun with a purpose.’ This course if a fun-filled program of hands-on skills training outdoors, designed to help you master basic camp skills required for Tenderfoot to First Class. We will provide you a practical introduction to the Patrol Method and an introduction to the Scouting abilities necessary to lead Scouts in an outdoor setting. Our Instructors and Staff will help you learn to set up camp, cook, tie knots and lashings, read a map, use a compass, and work with wood tools. They will also discuss hiking and backpacking techniques, plant and animal identification, outdoor ethics, and campfire program planning. Each session will bring to life the pages of the Scouts BSA Handbook to help you deliver the promise of Scouting to yourself and to the youth you serve. Given the compressed timeframe, you will likely not master all of these skills, but you will be on your way to being more confident in your skillset and becoming aware of areas where you may need to obtain additional experience. This course will also allow you to work with the other Scout Leaders from your area, meet new friends, reinforce skill techniques with fellow Unit Leaders, and have fun outdoors. We hope this memorable outdoor learning experience will give you the confidence and essential skills to bring the outdoor program to life in your Unit!

Pre-Course Work

Complete the Online Hazardous Weather Training before the course. You can find this training at my.scouting.org. You are not considered trained until you have had hazardous weather and Scoutmaster Specifics. You must have completed current Youth Protection Training before attending this course.

Health & Safety

We will collect BSA Med Forms (A/B), so please come prepared. Bring your BSA annual Health and Medical records (med forms), parts A and B. Include any allergies, medications, and a copy of your insurance card. During the course, report any injuries or first aid needs to our Medical

Officer. We ask that you practice good handwashing and bring hand sanitizer. Current YPT completions will be needed as well.

Dress Code

Please arrive at the course in your Field Uniform. Field Uniforms will be worn during check-in, dinner, campfire, and closing ceremony. Field Uniforms are also known as Class A. Activity Uniforms will be worn during the day on Saturday. An Activity Uniform can be your Class B from your Unit or, if you do not have one, a Scouting Shirt.

What to Bring

REFERENCE: Boy Scout Handbook, chapter 9, Camping Overnight gear, outdoor essentials, and appropriate clothing are the heart of camping equipment. Carry a light load of only what you need to keep yourself safe and make a good camp; leave all unnecessary items at home.

Personal Overnight Camping Gear

Scout Handbook	Scout Field Book (Optional but a great reference tool)
Outdoor Essentials	**Personal Items (Optional)**
Pocketknife First-aid Kit Extra Clothing Rain Gear Water Bottle w/ Water Flashlight	Watch Camera & Film (legacy recommendation but we all have cell phones now!) Note taking Gear Sunglasses
Fire Starting Gear Sun Protection Bug Spray Map & Compass Clothing for the Season Backpack Rain Cover for Pack Sleeping system Ground Cloth Tent	Gloves

Hygiene	Eating Kit
Soap	Utensils
Toothbrush	Plate
Toothpaste	Bowl
Dental Floss	Cup
Comb	
Washcloth	
Towel	

This list is typical for Scouts; we, for the course, will not need everything listed, and you should not rush out to purchase any missing items. Essential items are a sleep system, tent, chow gear, and clothing

Check-out

We will complete the course no later than 4:00 pm on Saturday

Before check-out, Patrols will be responsible for cleaning the pavilion and the bathrooms. The clean-up checklist, as defined is as follows:

- Leave No Trace
- Sweep pavilion and bathrooms.
- Clean toilets and sinks
- Empty trash cans

Note: If you need to leave the event at any time before Sunday's check-out, please inform your Troop Guide or the SPL.

Check-out

As always, we will follow the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting. The link to the online version is below. It is always good to be familiar with this information:

Guide to Safe Scouting