

**Hawkeye Area Council
2024 Spring Conservation Camporee
Guide for Leaders**



**Camp Wakonda, Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation
4521 Boy Scouts Road, Central City, Iowa 52214
April 19–21, 2024
Hosted by the HAC Conservation Committee**

Registration: <https://mycouncil.hawkeyesba.org/Event/4875>

**Questions? Contact HAC Conservation Committee Chair Shaun Vecera, haconservation@gmail.com,
or HAC Assistant Scout Executive Traci Raber, Traci.Raber@scouting.org**

Welcome

The Hawkeye Area Council welcomes you to the 2024 Conservation Camporee! We are thrilled to bring Scouts, Scouters, and families to the beautiful natural setting of Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation.

The HAC Conservation Committee is hosting this conservation-themed camporee for Scouts of all ages to learn about conservation, to fulfill merit badge requirements, and to participate in conservation service hours for rank advancement. More than that, the Conservation Committee members are committed to the principles of conservation and outdoor ethics that are central themes in Scouting, and we want to support the Council's efforts in providing conservation education to area youth.

Conservation and the Boy Scouts of America have been partners for a long time. The Scouting program includes the Outdoor Code, Outdoor Ethics, Leave No Trace, and conservation service projects. Many of the requirements for advancement from Tenderfoot through Eagle Scout rank call for an awareness and understanding of conservation, ecology, the environment, sustainability, and other aspects of the natural world.

The 2024 HAC Conservation Camporee is being held in conjunction with the Conservation Committee's 2024 Earth Day celebration at Camp Wakonda, Saturday, April 20, 1:00–4:00PM. The Earth Day celebration is open to Scouts of all ages, families, and the public. We encourage you to invite your associated Cub Scout packs and their families to attend Earth Day, as well as anyone who is interested in conservation.

Questions about conservation events and activities can be directed to HAC Conservation Committee Chair Shaun Vecera at haconservation@gmail.com. Questions about registration can be directed to HAC Assistant Scout Executive Traci Raber at Traci.Raber@scouting.org.

Yours in Conservation and in Scouting,



Shaun Vecera
HAC Conservation Committee Chair



Traci Raber
HAC Assistant Scout Executive

2024 Conservation Camporee Schedule

Friday, April 19, 2024

6:00PM	Registration opens
6:00PM–10:00PM	Troop arrival and check-in Campsite set-up (dinner on your own)
8:30PM	Cracker Barrel with Scoutmasters and Senior Patrol Leaders to discuss schedule
10:00PM	All quiet in camp

Saturday, April 20, 2024

6:30AM	Reveille Breakfast (on your own)
7:30AM	Late check-in for troops
8:00AM	Opening flag ceremony
8:30AM–11:30AM	Conservation service projects
11:30AM–1:00PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:00PM–4:00PM	Earth Day educational stations and activities
4:15PM	Closing flag ceremony
4:30PM–6:30PM	Dinner (on your own)
Est. 7:00PM–9:00PM	Star party (or alternate activity if weather does not allow star watching)
10:00PM	All quiet in camp

Sunday, April 21

6:30AM	Reveille Breakfast (on your own) Scouts' Own service
8:30AM	Troop checkout and departure. All units out of camp by 10:00AM.

Rules and Information for the Conservation Camporee

These rules are the general framework around which this Camporee will be operated. The Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code are the guides for ALL behavior at this Camporee. Troops or individuals who do not conform to this spirit will be asked to leave the Camporee.

1. There is no program fee to attend this Camporee due to generous grants received. However, each unit must select and pay for their campsite online at <https://hawkeyebsa.org/camping/rentals/>
2. Troops are encouraged to invite their Arrow of Light Scouts to attend the Camporee. Troops will be responsible for supervision of the Arrow of Light Scouts at all times.
3. Camp opens at 6:00 PM Friday. Campsites will not be available prior to this time. Units should plan to arrive at 6:00PM at the earliest.
4. The Boy Scouts of America has always been a uniformed body. The uniforms help to create a sense of belonging. They symbolize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Wearing a uniform gives youth and adult members a sense of identification and commitment. Scouts and leaders are asked to wear the Scout uniform to flag lowering, religious services, and campfires. Other times are at troop discretion.
5. Troops are welcome to bring their trailers to camp. A member of the Camporee staff will guide you to the area in your campsite to locate your trailer. We encourage your troop and Scouts to bring what you need to be comfortable.
6. Units are expected to pack out all trash in your campsite at the end of the Camporee.
7. Troops are expected to maintain their areas by keeping it both clean and safe. Each campsite will be inspected prior to dismissal from camp on Sunday.
8. If campfire skits, songs, etc. are part of the Camporee activities, they must conform to Scouting standards. Unit or youth leaders who have questions about content should ask Camporee staff.
9. Unit leaders are responsible for the supervision of their units at all times. Two-deep leadership is always required. Please enforce safety and discipline. Each troop in camp must be under the leadership of its own adult leaders with a minimum of two adults (at least 21 years of age or older) on site 24-hours per day. Adult leaders may be male or female, however, troops attending with female Scouts must always have at least one registered female adult in camp. Effective September 1, 2023, all adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement.
10. Pets are not permitted during the Camporee. Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. This applies to both campers and visitors.
11. Troops are responsible for providing their own tents. The tents provided by each troop must meet the following requirement: All tentage in camp meets or exceeds fire retardant specifications by the manufacturer (CPAI-84) and "no flames in tent" is marked on, or adjacent to, each tent.
12. HHCSR has shower areas, open 24 hours a day, for both adults and youth. A separate accessible shower is also available. There are separate adult facilities for men and women. Scout-age campers have their own facility. No youth are to use adult shower areas at any time. No adults are to use the youth shower areas at any time. Leaders and Scouts are reminded to police these areas to ensure cleanliness.
13. Lost and found items will be at the Dakin Dining Hall. If the item is valuable, it will be kept with the Camporee Chair, Campmaster, or Camp Ranger. Leaders need to remind Scouts to have their personal

items marked with name and troop number. Each Scout must take care of and safeguard his/her personal property. Do not take valuables to the program areas or leave them lying unattended around camp.

14. Alcohol and illegal drugs of any type are not allowed. Possession will result in immediate dismissal from the camp property. No tobacco use of any kind is allowed in any camp structures, including tents. No Scouts under the age of 21 are allowed in the smoking area. No knives with blades over 4" long are allowed at camp. Non-folding sheath knives, throwing stars, or martial arts weapons are not allowed. Scouts possessing these items may be sent home from camp. Privately owned guns and/or ammunition are prohibited and may not be brought or used at any time.

Check-in procedures

Check-in will be at the Daking Dining Hall. Please have the following information available when your unit checks in:

- A unit roster of Scouts and adults with addresses and phone numbers
- Campsite fee receipt and any balance owed
- Health Forms Medical A & B for troop members and participating adults including staff. These forms will remain with the unit.
- Medical Authorization (permission forms) for treatment signed by parent/guardian

First Aid

First aid will be available at all times at the camp health office. Units should have adequate first aid supplies as part of their unit's equipment. All injuries, even if treated at the unit level, are to be reported to the health officer in a timely manner.

All medication (doctor prescribed) must be turned in to the unit leader at the time of check-in for proper distribution. All medication containers should be placed in a plastic bag with the Scout's name and Troop number on the bag for easy identification. Any special instructions, in addition to the information on the container, should be placed in the bag. It is the responsibility of each Scout to make sure they come to the unit leader to receive medications at the appropriate times. Medications **MUST** be in their **ORIGINAL CONTAINERS!** All prescription and non-prescription drugs shall be in their original containers. All medications (including those needing refrigeration) are to be locked up with the unit leaders. The only exception is for medications which must be always carried including asthma inhalants, bee sting kits, Epi-pens, and nitroglycerin pills.

Details for Saturday's Conservation Events

8:30AM–11:30AM

Conservation service projects

Meet at Parade Ground after the flag ceremony to walk to the project location(s)

The likely projects

Three hours of conservation service projects will be scheduled for Saturday morning. Scouts can use the projects for merit badge requirements, rank advancement, and conservation award requirements. You do not need to attend all three hours.

The specific projects will be determined based on weather conditions and camp needs as the time gets closer. That being said, typical projects for this time of year are removal of invasive species, erosion control work on trails, and tree/shrub planting.

Conservation service projects at camp may present accessibility issues for some Scouts. So that all Scouts who are interested may participate in a conservation service project during the Conservation Camporee, please contact Shaun Vecera, Chair of the Conservation Committee, at HACconservation@gmail.com, to discuss alternate service project ideas.

Safety is a top priority, and so we will be adhering to [SAFE Project Tool Use](#).

What to wear and bring for the service projects

Iowa weather in April can be unpredictable, so be prepared with an appropriate amount and range of clothing options. At a minimum, clothing for the service project needs to include long pants, work boots or closed-toed shoes, and a long-sleeved shirt. Some clothing to consider packing is rain gear, warm clothing in the event of cold or snowy weather, light clothing for layering, a ball cap or stocking cap, and extra changes of clothing. Expect that the clothing worn for the service project will get muddy, wet, or dirty, and plan accordingly. We advise that you avoid wearing fleece, as stickers or burrs can quickly get lodged into the fabric. Scouts may want to change into a fresh set of clothes before the afternoon Earth Day activities. Scouts should bring a water bottle.

What camp will provide

HHCSR will provide all tools for use on the conservation service projects. Camp work gloves will be available, but Scouts are welcome to bring their own work gloves if they prefer.

1:00PM–4:00PM

Earth Day Celebration

Parade Ground and/or Dakin Dining Hall

The Earth Day Celebration will feature educational stations and hands-on activities to learn about the environment, nature, and sustainability. The Earth Day event will be advertised to the public and is open for anyone to attend. ScoutsBSA and Cub Scouts can complete requirements for rank advancement and other

badges or awards, including merit badges, by participating in certain stations. A spreadsheet that aligns Earth Day activities with Scout requirements will be available to leaders and units as we finalize what stations will be at the event.

Anticipated station topics include invasive species identification, native prairie plant and woodland plant identification, tree identification, monarch butterflies, honey bees and pollination, native bees and pollination, Leave No Trace demonstrations, vermicomposting and composting, sustainability, and more! Related hands-on activities will be offered to reinforce the content of the educational stations. There will be a station for attendees to learn about Scout conservation awards, particularly the Distinguished Conservation Service Award (the successor to the Hornaday Award). Updates to the stations and activities will be communicated through the Council and HHSCR Facebook pages, at Roundtables, and through other Council channels.

Honey processed from HHCSR hives will be available for purchase. Scouts who may be interested in purchasing should bring a small amount of cash.

Time TBA

Evening stargazing (or alternative activity if the weather does not cooperate)

The conservation theme continues into the evening. Weather permitting, Scouts can cap off their Saturday conservation activities with stargazing, led by an amateur astronomer. If the weather does not permit, there will be an alternative activity, such as a Nighttime Nature Hike. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather and activity conditions.

Conservation awards

Participation in the morning conservation service projects can help Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA earn Conservation Awards, in addition to completing requirements related to rank advancement. Troops are encouraged to invite their Arrow of Light Scouts to attend the Camporee and to work on Cub Scout Conservation awards while at the Camporee. Troops will be responsible for supervision of the Arrow of Light Scouts at all times.

The World Conservation Award

The [World Conservation Award](#) provides an opportunity for individual Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to think globally and act locally to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to help youth members gain awareness that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our world environment.

[World Conservation Award- Cub Scouts](#)

One requirement for the World Conservation Award for Wolf Scouts, Bear Scouts, and Webelos is to participate in a den or pack conservation project. Arrow of Light Scouts attending the Camporee with your unit would be eligible to use the Camporee service activity toward this award.

[World Conservation Award- ScoutsBSA](#)

ScoutsBSA must participate in a conservation project as part of an approved Scouting program totaling at least three hours that addresses a conservation need common to more than one country, in addition to completing the designated merit badges, to earn the World Conservation Award.

[Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award](#)

All Cub Scouts are eligible to earn this award. Arrow of Light Scouts attending the Camporee with your unit would be eligible to use the Camporee service activity toward this award.

The relevant requirement is this: Complete a nature/conservation project in your area. This project should involve improving, beautifying, or supporting natural habitats. Discuss how this project helped you to respect nature.

Distinguished Conservation Service Award

Scouts BSA with a strong interest in significant service and leadership in conservation, the environment, or sustainability are encouraged to learn more about the [BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award](#) during the Earth Day event.

For information on these and other conservation awards, see the HAC Conservation Committee Conservation Awards [page](#) and the national BSA Conservation Awards and Recognitions [page](#).

Leave No Trace Principles in Practice at the Conservation Camporee

Scouting has embraced the Principles of Leave No Trace to provide a framework for planning, preparing, and making good decisions for all our outdoor activities.

As with all BSA activities, we request that units follow the principles of Leave No Trace throughout camp and at their campsite. Also relevant for camp decorum is making sure that Scouts are aware of and follow the Outdoor Code and Outdoor Ethics. The BSA has resources on Outdoor Ethics and Leave No Trace at [this page](#).

The Leave No Trace Seven Principles

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Visit the BSA's Leave No Trace [webpage](#) for more information about each of the seven principles.

Units are responsible for all their own meals. This includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and dinner on Friday if your Scouts do not eat before arriving at camp.

A resource that units and leaders may wish to consider is a [November 2023 recording](#) (beginning just past the 12 minute mark) of the national Outdoor Ethics & Conservation roundtable. The focus of this roundtable was using the principles of Leave No Trace Cooking when planning meals for campsites or other outings. The video gives guidance for planning for low-impact meals, as well as suggestions for meals that adhere to LNT principles and that are respectful of individual diets, medical needs, religious considerations, and other food preferences.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

The key LNT principle for a successful low-impact campout is to PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE. There are many aspects to planning ahead and preparing.

Reduce food waste through careful menu planning, including the following:

- Plan to bring and prepare only what is needed for the meal.
- Minimize food waste by using all of an ingredient. For example, If you have potatoes on your menu, find a recipe that uses the whole potato (including the skins) rather than one that asks you to peel the potatoes. That will help minimize how much food waste is generated.
- If there are leftovers, have a plan for who will take the leftovers home. Can any of the leftovers be frozen and used at a future unit outing? Or is someone able to compost the leftovers? Units can DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY by planning ahead for leftovers.
- Try to mix or prepare ingredients ahead of time and bring them to the campsite in a reusable container. This step will save time on meal preparation, and it should help minimize the amount of waste that the unit will need to pack out (DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY).
- Additional information for unit discussion:
 - The World Wildlife Fund has instructional toolkits for youth in grades K-12 titled [“Be a Food Waste Warrior.”](#) There may be ideas in these materials relevant for your unit’s discussion of food waste and sustainability.
 - [Tips to Reduce Food Waste | U.S. Food & Drug Administration](#)
 - [Preventing Wasted Food At Home | US EPA](#)

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Your unit will be following the LNT principle by making use of the established campsites and trails at HHCSR.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Minimize your plastic packaging and single-use products. Planning ahead helps your unit DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY.

- Bring your own reusable water bottle and mess kits. Make sure all items are labeled with the Scout’s name.
- A Scout is thrifty. Instead of buying individually wrapped cheese slices or individual packs of chips, buy in bulk and cut or portion the food ahead of time. You’ll cut down on trash, and you may also save some money on your food budget.
- If the unit is using paper napkins and paper towels, arrange to have someone take those home and compost them.
 - One option to use instead of paper products is to use cloth napkins, cloth rags, or dish cloths. Cloth products can be taken home, washed, and used again and again.

- Bring a bucket to collect compostable food waste and paper products at camp and to transport them home. Make sure your bucket has a tight-fitting lid to keep mice and raccoons out, or you can store the compost bucket in a trailer at your campsite.
- Generally speaking, paper items with a waxy coating cannot go into a compost pile. Paper items without a waxy coating are accepted in some community compost programs.
- Recycle what you can using the camp recycling bins. If your community doesn't recycle, ask if another unit is willing to add your recyclables to theirs.
- Use proper dishwashing techniques to DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY.
 - Your unit should be using reusable dishware (such as individual mess kits) rather than single-use dishware. This means that you will need to plan to wash dishes after each meal. Make use of the four bucket method to strain and remove solids and broadcast dishwater.
 - If you are not familiar with the four bucket method, be sure to stop by the LNT station at the Earth Day celebration for a demonstration.
 - You can also view this video from LNT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hODEilheaPc>
 - Choose a biodegradable soap. Even biodegradable soap degrades slowly, so it's best to use as little as possible. Warm water, a food scraper, and vigorous scrubbing will help to make cleanup easier and require less soap, as will cleaning up before food hardens and adheres to your dishes.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Allow others a sense of discovery, and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the naturalness of many areas has been degraded by overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood. Consider these points:

- Lightweight camp stoves make low-impact camping possible by encouraging a shift away from fires. Stoves are fast, eliminate the need for firewood, and make cleanup after meals easier. After dinner, enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
- If you build a fire, the most important consideration is the potential for resource damage. Whenever possible, use an existing campfire ring in a well-placed campsite. Choose not to have a fire in areas where wood is scarce—at higher elevations, in heavily used areas with a limited wood supply, or in desert settings.
- True Leave No Trace fires are small. Use dead and downed wood that can be broken easily by hand. When possible, burn all wood to ash and remove all unburned trash and food from the fire ring. If a site has two or more fire rings, you may dismantle all but one and scatter the materials in the surrounding area. Be certain all wood and campfire debris is dead out.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers practice these safety methods:

- Observe wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them.
- Give animals a wide berth, especially during breeding, nesting, and birthing seasons.
- Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Never feed wildlife. Help keep wildlife wild.

- Have a plan for storing your food. Will you keep it in your troop trailer inside of sealed coolers? Scouts should be aware that food is prohibited in tents because no one wants a tent to be a smellable.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Thoughtful campers respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

Following the camporee schedule is one way to be CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS. Respect your troop-mates by being ready on time. Quiet hours at camp are intended to make sure that all Scouts and Camporee participants have time to recharge, relax, and get enough sleep. Pay attention to the sounds of nature, and you may be rewarded by falling asleep to the hoots of a barred owl and waking up to the morning songs of birds. Respect the privacy of other Scouts.

Meal Planning and Sustainability

Meal planning can reflect long-held practices and traditions in your unit and may feature favorite recipes through the years. If your Scouts would like to consider meal planning from a sustainability perspective— in keeping with the theme of the Camporee—we suggest two angles to consider: inclusion of locally grown food and inclusion of some plant-forward recipes.

- Locally sourced foods can mean food that you grow in your yard or garden (or that you have canned, dried, or frozen from your garden), food that was hunted or foraged, or food that you purchase from a local farmer, whether you purchase that food at a farmers’ market or in a grocery store. Many grocery stores identify which foods are grown locally. Here’s an [article](#) from ISU on the environmental benefits of local food production and the environment.
- Plant-forward recipes means choosing recipes that have one or more dishes that prominently feature a plant-based food. [Here’s](#) an article that defines a plant-based diet: *“A plant-based diet is exactly what it sounds like. The diet consists primarily of food made of plants: fruits and vegetables in addition to nuts, seeds, whole grains, and legumes. A plant-based diet is not a vegetarian or vegan diet; you can eat poultry, beef, eggs, fish, and dairy products, however most of your nutrient intake is coming from plant-based food sources.”* For a related discussion on plant-based diets and sustainability, see this [article](#).
- Below are some ideas for how to incorporate a plant-based item in one or more meals. See also the video from the national Outdoor Ethics and Conservation roundtable for suggestions for how to provide meat on the side, so that those who want meat can add it to the main dish, and those who do not want meat can skip it. One example is quesadillas that Scouts assembled themselves from ingredients. One of the ingredient options can be a bowl of ground beef. Another example is chili. The main dish can be a chili without the meat or beans added. Meat and beans can be offered in separate bowls, and those who want either or both of those ingredients can add them.
 - Breakfast: pancakes; bagels served with nut butters; oatmeal with nuts or peanut butter for added protein; breakfast burritos with scrambled eggs, cheese, salsa, beans, and guacamole; hashbrown casserole.

- Lunch: PB&J; grilled cheese with apple; pita pizzas with olives, mushrooms, and cheese. Serve a veggie soup on the side– think of tomato, potato, corn chowder, bean soups.
- Dinner: bean-based chili; stews with hearty grains and vegetables; vegetable stir fry served on rice; nachos with refried beans and other toppings; tortillas with veggies and black beans; individual pizzas on pita with veggie and cheese toppings.

Outdoor Ethics

From a Cub Scout’s first hike in a local park to the thrill of our High Adventure bases, from our backyard to the backcountry, our outdoor ethics guide us to be responsible outdoor citizens — protecting our natural world for generations to come and being considerate of other visitors.

The Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout programs all include outdoor stewardship, care for the environment, and Leave No Trace.



Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to —
Be clean in my outdoor manners.
Be Careful with fire
Be Considerate in the outdoors.
Be Conservation-minded