

**What do we do at camp! That’s a great question.**

All of the NCAC camps follow a yearly theme. On top of that, camps execute a program based on the facilities and amenities that their location affords. Goose Creek Day Camp runs:

 Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Friday is a half day from 9:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Twilight Camp runs Monday through Thursday from 6:30 pm – Dusk (~9:00 pm)

Both Day and Twilight camp are held at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds west of Leesburg. We are now back after an absence, the location offers better amenities and feels like a true Scout Camp!

The Fairgrounds offer a large building for gathering with a paved floor. The Big Barn serves as the central location for scouts and an emergency shelter. Throughout the Fairgrounds we offer stations for the boys to engage in exciting activities. All stations are under permanent shelter, some augmented by shade canopies that can accommodate all participants at that station. We keep the participants out of the sun as much as possible.

At Day Camp we run (6) 50 minute stations per day that offers:

Sports, Crafts, Science, BB-Guns, Archery/Sling Shots, a special First Aid program, and Den Time.

Here’s what the boys do in each station:

1. **Sports:** One of the *Aims of Scouting* is physical fitness. While the Sports Belt loops have been discontinued, we will still offer both team and individual sports. This is to be inclusive of all participants. We also run a variety of sports, some specific to the days, some available all week. In that past we have offered Kickball, Soccer, Flag Football, Volleyball, Baseball, and Frisbee Golf. Most years we set up horseshoes, croquet, and/or bocce ball.

2. **Crafts**: The Goose Creek Camps is arguably the best in the Council. We offer the boys exciting, age appropriate crafts. Ensuring that the boys have a unique and memorable craft every day. You will not be disappointed – this is not gluing macaroni on paper.

3. **Science:** Our Science Center is run by a passionate group of veteran volunteers. The participants will be learning by doing. Each of the daily planned activities fits perfectly with the camp theme which offer a mix of instruction followed by practical application of the theory.

4. **Shooting Sports:** Our camp emphasizes safety over everything else. Our ranges are run by seasoned volunteers all trained as BSA Range Safety Officer. Our Range Master is a fully trained NRA instructor who personally supervises a “Top Shot” BB-gun shoot off for boys who excel at shooting. Archery also offers an *Archer Qualification* program where we crown top archers for the week. All the ranges offer variety to challenge the boys. After mastering basic skills, the boys are tested to shoot at different target faces (balloons, cans, self-made targets, etc.,) as their ability improves. On the sling-shot range, they get a day of shooting paintballs from the sling shots. This is always a hit. I guarantee you will not find another camp that give boys more actual shooting time than our camp. Last year the boys shot 100,000 BB’s and somewhere in the neighborhood of 500-600lbs of dog food (that’s what they shoot with the slingshots.) We also shot 18,000+ paintballs in one day!

One aspect to our camp that you’ll not find in any comparable NCAC camp is that we have slots for all boys to shoot. We minimize “waiting time” in all our activities. We know what happens when boys are forced to wait – they find something to do. Unfortunately, what they find to do is 99% NOT what you want them doing. We keep the boys busy!

5. **Den Time:** This is “down time” for the Den. This time allows the den to enjoy “off program” personal activities like playing a game of cards, marbles, chess, or checkers. It’s getting some time to just relax. This period is meant to give the Den time to just decompress. We keep the boys very, very engaged while at camp. Building this down time into the program helps to keep them from becoming over stimulated.

6. **First Aid:** An exciting program we’re offering again this year is a dedicated First Aid activity. We have nursing students from George Washington University on site all week. They’ll go over age appropriate First Aid skills then give the boys plenty of time and practice to execute the skills in a “triage” situation. These practical sessions will be done as small groups so the boys get maximum one on one time with the Explorers. It’s our goal to give the boys a leg up in earning the BSA Emergency Preparedness Award.

In year’s past we offered special lunch time programs like visits from the *Chick-Fi-a* Cow, local amateur archeologists, and law enforcement personal. We are diligently looking to offer comparable programs this year. A mainstay tradition has been a late-week afternoon “Wet Down” by the Leesburg Fire Department. The LFD bring the fire trucks to the park and shoot 3000 gallons of water into the air from their big on truck water cannons. The kids (and adults,) run around under the mist and cool off.

We allow female siblings to participate at our camp which is a bonus for many families. At Day Camp units are organized into “Super Dens.” Your unit, including siblings, is grouped with other units from Goose Creek. Together you will make up a Walking Den of ~60 participants. At the stations, those 60 are broken in half. For example: Archery and Slingshot will conduct training together, then group will split with (30) campers will shooting archery, the other will shoot Sling Shots. Then they will switch ranges during the 50-minute session.

This configuration allows (3) very important things:

1) Caps the Dens and the Camp to maximized program time.

2) Ensures that the boys are actively engaged at all stations, aka – eliminates “waiting time.”

3) Allows the stations a large, but manageable contingent of participants.

**Staff**. The camp is a 75-25 blend of youth to adults. Adults are the directors of the stations and oversee a contingent of youth, Jr. staff. The staff is large enough to give boys personalized attention. Our staff is selected from Boy Scout Troops throughout Loudon County. At least 75% of our youth are multi-year staffers. We also open staff position to Girl Scouts and Venturers. Regards of who they are, the staff is there to ensure the boys have a fun, but safe, week at camp.

**Twilight.** Unique to the Goose Creek District is Twilight Camp. This is a separate camp that is held after Day Camp. This camp offers the best of Day Camp for those families who cannot attend during the day. This includes the (3) shooting sports, Scout Craft, First Aid and Sport thrown in for good measure. Twilight camp is more relaxed that Day Camp. After an opening flag ceremony, Units move to from station to station every ~40-minutes. Camp concludes when it gets too dark to safely shoot. Families may come and go as they please as long as they are wearing the day’s appropriate security wristband. While the boys will not earn as many awards as they would at Day Camp, Twilight camp offers a great introduction to the BSA camp program while accommodating a family’s busy schedule.

We hope this gave you a broad view of camp. If you have any more questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to either of us.

Yours in Scouting

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 Goose Creek District

Day/Twilight Camp Programs