



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 am – 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 a brief 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 scouts 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 campers 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 scouts do in each station:

1. **Sports:** One of the *Aims of Scouting* is personal 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 are arguably the best in the Council. We offer the scouts exciting, age appropriate crafts. Ensuring that the scouts 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 Officers. Our Range Master is a fully trained NRA instructor who personally supervises a “Top Shot” BB-gun shoot off for scouts 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 scouts. After mastering basic skills, the scouts 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 scouts more actual shooting time than our camp. In a previous year, the scouts 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 scouts to shoot. We minimize “waiting time” in all our activities. We know what happens when scouts 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 scouts 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 scouts 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 scouts plenty of time and practice to execute the skills in a “triage” situation. These practical sessions will be done as small groups so the scouts get maximum one on one time with the Explorers. It’s our goal to give the scouts a leg up in earning the Emergency Preparedness BSA Award.

In year’s past we offered special lunch time programs like visits from the *Chick-Fil-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 siblings to participate at our camp which is a bonus for many families. At Day Camp, packs are organized into “Walking Dens.” Your pack, including siblings, is grouped with other packs 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 scouts 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 scouts personalized attention. Our staff is selected from Scouts BSA Troops throughout Loudoun County. At least 75% of our youth are multi-year staffers. We also open staff position to Girl Scouts and Venturers. Regardless of who they are, the staff is there to ensure the scouts 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 Sports thrown in for good measure. Twilight camp is more relaxed than Day Camp. After an opening flag ceremony, Walking Dens move 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 scouts will not earn as many awards as they would at Day Camp, Twilight camp offers a great introduction to the Scouts BSA camp program while accommodating a family's busy schedule.

I hope this gave you a broad view of camp. If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask.
Yours in Scouting

Shannon Klee
Camp Director

Goose Creek District
Day/Twilight Camp Programs