



Blue Ridge Scout Reservation

Brownsea Island Leaders Guide



Brownsea Island Adventure (BSI) is designed for new Scouts and Webelos and was created in the spirit of Baden-Powell's original Brownsea Island camp where Scouting began. The program completes most requirements for Tenderfoot and Second Class, and many requirements for First Class, but can be tailored, to an extent, to suit the needs of the Scouts in your troop. This is a transitional program to help Scouts understand the patrol method, basic Scout skills, and help experience the programs available at summer camp.

Program Goals

- To provide a well-organized program based upon the Patrol Method led by qualified instructors.
- To maintain a ratio of 1 instructor to 12 Scouts
- To teach the basic skills necessary to succeed in Scouting and the outdoor program.
- To instill a respect for the Scouting Methods and Ideals found in the Outdoor Code and Scout Law.
- To provide an exciting and memorable summer camp experience.

Before Camp

- Help the Scouts earn the Scout rank prior to summer camp.
- Ask the Troop Guide or an older Scout to show the new boys how to read and use the Scout Handbook.
- If your troop has more than three Scouts participating in the program, we ask that you provide an adult leader to assist the Patrol Guides throughout the week. This is an excellent opportunity for the new leader in your troop to learn about Scouting. Troops may rotate the leader through the week as needed.
- Host a shakedown at a troop meeting prior to camp to make sure that the Scouts have all the equipment they will need for the week. Refer to the Equipment Checklist in the Reservation Guide, and reference the additional gear listed below:

Required Items	Items Needed Daily	Optional Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rain Gear• Flashlight• Water bottle• Backpack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water bottle• Pen and Paper• BSI Passport (provided)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compass• Pocket knife• Camera

Your Week in BSI

The Brownsea program kicks off on Monday morning with an opening ceremony. During this ceremony Scouts will be grouped into patrols and meet their Brownsea Island Guide — an experienced Scout who will work with them through the week as an instructor and mentor. Scouts will be matched with other Scouts who are similar in rank and experience to increase program flexibility and allow the patrol to work on appropriate material for their skill level. We will attempt to place Troop members in the same patrol. Scouts will be presented with a passport and walking stave to keep with them at all times during the week. The passport will chart their progress towards the advancement requirements of Tenderfoot through First Class.



All camps and programs offered at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation have been nationally accredited through the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program.

Sample Schedule (subject to change)	
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony (Chapel at Powhatan, BSI Amphitheater at Ottari)
9:30 a.m.-Noon	Patrol Time - Time at a site to work with the Patrol Guide on rank requirements and prepare for the troop competition.
Noon-1:45 p.m.	Lunch and free time
2:00-3:30 p.m.	Continue learning and practicing essential Scout skills. Continue lessons from the morning.
3:30-5:00 p.m.	Each day the patrols will compete against each other in a skill they have learned that day. Competitions may include: knot tying, orienteering, fire-building, first aid and team interaction games.

In addition, a day will be scheduled for the patrol overnigher in the beautiful reservation backcountry with their patrol. That evening, they will cook dinner and participate in a special Brownsea Island campfire. This is a highlight experience for the Scouts. A schedule will be provided at check-in.

Additional Information

Extra Programming

In addition to the day-to-day modules that are covered in the Brownsea Island program, additional opportunities are available. Brownsea Island Scouts have the opportunity to earn merit badges outside of normal class time, such as Fingerprinting or Bird Study. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn some requirements for the Swimming Merit Badge during specific BSI class times.

Your BSI Scouts will have an opportunity to shoot rifles during their own scheduled period (and possibly archery) without having to compete with older scouts. This open time for only BSI Scouts allows them to experience other programs at camp and see the fun opportunities that await when they return to camp.

Schedule Flexibility

Each Patrol Guide is given the flexibility to structure the week to maximize their patrol's learning and enjoyment of camp. Therefore, the times listed on above provide a good outline, but not a definitive schedule, for each patrol. Other activities guides may include these in their schedule:

- Touring the camp and explaining the activities at different program areas. This builds enthusiasm in new Scouts by showing them the things they can look forward to when they return to camp next year.
- Participate in various evening activities as a patrol to sample program areas such as Shooting Sports, Handicraft or Nature.
- Inter-Patrol Competitions: Challenge another patrol to a game of volleyball or capture the flag to build Scout spirit and have fun.

Getting the Most of the Program

In order for your Scouts to truly take advantage of the Brownsea Program, there must be a leader committed to working with the boys throughout the week. For example, leaders should ask to see the Scout's passports each night and test them on what they have learned. If you, as a leader, are satisfied with the Scout's knowledge, then sign off the requirement in the handbook. Though there will be informational meetings throughout the week, we encourage you to seek out the Brownsea Island Director if you have any questions or concerns.

Brownsea Island Roster

Dates attending camp: _____ Unit Type: _____ Unit Number: _____

	Name of Participant	Date of Birth	Address	Phone Number
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