

Camp Old Indian-Summer Camp 2026 **Preliminary Program Guide**



A Once-in-a-Lifetime ****Centennial Summer****
Honoring 100 Years of Camp Old Indian
United States 250th Anniversary



Travelers Rest, South Carolina



Why Attend Summer Camp?

Camp is more than just a week away from home—it's where youth discover who they are and who they can become. At summer camp, Scouts build confidence and independence by taking on challenges, solving problems, and learning new skills in a safe, supportive, and structured environment. Whether earning Eagle-required merit badges, conquering a climbing wall, or paddling across a lake, camp provides opportunities for Scouts to grow in ways that last a lifetime.

Scouting America's inclusive program brings boys and girls together in a cohesive outdoor adventure and leadership experience, teaching mutual respect and cooperation. Scouts tackle ropes courses, campouts, competitions, and real-world challenges in mixed-gender teams—the perfect laboratory for leadership.

From hiking, camping, and aquatics to STEM innovation, leadership development, and conservation, Scouts immerse themselves in experiences that teach resilience, teamwork, and responsibility while creating unforgettable memories with new friends. Every activity—whether it's a pioneering project, or mentoring younger Scouts—builds real-world skills, fosters a love for nature, and prepares youth for success in school, career, and life.

Why Camp Old Indian?

For nearly 100 years, Camp Old Indian has been the safe place where Scouts from across the Southeast discover adventure, build lifelong friendships, and push their limits in the outdoors. Nestled on 640 acres at the gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains, the camp sits between two majestic, nearly half-mile-high ridges—an unforgettable setting where nature, history, and Scouting come alive.

Here's why hundreds of thousands of Scouts and leaders call Camp Old Indian their favorite week of the year:

- 16+ miles of manicured trails that lead to a giant waterfall, hidden valleys, and breathtaking mountain overlooks
- Three lakes, including one stocked with bass and trout for unforgettable fishing and aquatics adventures
- Wildlife everywhere—deer, turkey, and even the occasional black bear
- Adjacent to the historic Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preservation Park (1820), the oldest bridge in South Carolina
- All Adirondack campsites—one with in-tree cabins—modern bathhouses with full privacy doors, and hot water
- Gender-neutral facilities with full door privacy and adaptive Scout areas—Camp Old Indian is a Special Needs Ready Camp
- Central air-conditioned dining hall and dedicated program centers (Ecology & Conservation, STEM & Innovation, Range & Targets, Arts & Crafts)

- 13 consecutive years nationally accredited by Scouting America; 5 National Camp School certified directors; winner of two national marketing awards



2026: The Centennial Summer at Camp Old Indian

There has never been a better time to come to Camp Old Indian—and 2026 will be the summer you'll talk about for the rest of your life. Coming off explosive improvements in 2025 (new archery shelter, five-stand shotgun range, aerial zip lines, climbing & rappelling tower, renovated amphitheater, roads & drainage upgrades, landscaping, Greener & Cleaner hydroponics/composting, remodeled privacy bathhouses, new merit badge bundles, STEM drones, Native American Gathering of Nations village, tree cabins in Greenwood, refurbished rowboats, remodeled visitor restrooms, sub-camp games, leadership development for campers, Quest for the Golden Feather upgrades, adult leader trainings, Merit Badge Midway, air-conditioned dining hall, rappelling at Glassy Mountain, and a high-adventure 5-day TREK), we're just getting started.

In 2026, Camp Old Indian celebrates 100 years of Scouting in the Blue Ridge Mountains while the United States celebrates its 250th birthday. We're pulling out all the stops to make this the most unforgettable Centennial Summer in camp history.

What's New and Next in 2026:

- Falconry added to Bird Study (work with birds of prey)
- Extended rappelling at Glassy Mountain

- Paddleboarding, snorkeling, and refurbished rowboats
- Cowboy Action Targets at the range
- Digital Media Production—be a news anchor or radio announcer for Station WCOI
- Hammock hookups in select campsites
- Fully air-conditioned central dining hall
- Kites, catapults (tennis ball launchers!), totem pole carving, basic taxidermy, basics of dog training
- Astronomy at our Night Sky Observatory Platform
- Pioneering projects, sling shot competitions, bigger sub-camp games
- Camp-wide square dance under the stars
- More leader programs, more trade skills, and more merit badge bundles

Older Scouts: our High Adventure 5-Day program grows—rappelling, backpacking, climbing, whitewater rafting, targets, wilderness survival and aquatics across the Blue Ridge.

Under Consideration for 2026: additional tree cabins, an advanced archery range with silhouette animals in the woods, and expanded facilities.

Every camper receives the exclusive, one-of-a-kind Centennial Patch to mark your place in camp history.





Scheduling & Advancement

Merit Badge scheduling at COI utilizes a flexible, block scheduling system with All-Day, AM-only, and PM-only options, plus a Twilight program. This approach maximizes instruction time, reduces transitions, and increases flexibility for units.

COI offers ~50 merit badges; most can be completed at camp. Some require additional work at home due to time or project requirements. Certain badges have prerequisites. If your

council requires blue cards, bring them to camp; the Department Area Director, Camp Commissioner, or Program Director will sign as needed.

Starting Wednesday morning leaders receive Scout-by-Scout progress reports. Whole-day badges are completed in a single day; half-day badges can be paired. Cooking and Pioneering are taught in two parts (daytime + Twilight) and require attendance at both sessions for completion.

Benefits of the block schedule include: no wasted time between classes, more instruction time, and greater flexibility.



First-Year-Camper Program (Pathfinder & Trailblazer)

A week-long program for brand-new Scouts. Pathfinder runs Monday–Wednesday mornings covering Scout & Tenderfoot requirements, concluding with a 5-mile hike Wednesday. Trailblazer runs Thursday–Friday covering many Second- and First-Class requirements.

Program Goals: provide a positive learning experience, teach the Scouting way of life, and create an exciting, memorable summer.

Sixth Week Specialty Tracks Under Consideration (July 12–18)

Choose one of four tracks; each targets 4–6 merit badges while delivering immersive, high-impact experiences.

1) STEM & Innovation Track

Focus: Science, technology, engineering, and math in the outdoors. A science-focused trek that challenges Scouts to explore the natural world through innovation and problem-solving.

Key Activities: Environmental science projects (water/soil/ecosystems), build/test solar ovens, astronomy & star mapping, drone piloting & robotics.

Merit Badges: Environmental Science, Engineering, Robotics, Astronomy, Space Exploration.

2) Trade Skills Track

Focus: Hands-on skills in traditional and modern trades. Build practical projects and explore energy systems with professional supervision.

Key Activities: Welding/metalwork, carpentry/woodwork, electricity & plumbing basics, automotive maintenance, career pathways with local pros.

Merit Badges: Welding, Metalwork, Woodwork, Electricity, Automotive Maintenance, Plumbing.

3) Scoutcraft Track

Focus: Mastery of traditional Scouting outdoor skills for survival, self-reliance, and leadership.

Key Activities: Advanced camping, pioneering projects, orienteering, wilderness survival, campcraft competitions.

Merit Badges: Camping, Wilderness Survival, Orienteering, Pioneering, Cooking.

4) High Adventure Track

Focus: Physically demanding, adrenaline-filled outdoor adventures.

Key Activities: Climbing & rappelling, zip line, canoeing/kayaking/whitewater/paddleboarding, backpacking, shooting sports.

Merit Badges: Climbing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Backpacking.



Adventure Programs

Whitewater Adventure: Off-camp high-adrenaline trip requiring teamwork to navigate waves and currents (lunch & transportation provided; BSA Swimmer required).

Aerial Adventure: Climbing, Rappelling, and Zip Lines—including rappelling at Glassy Mountain.

Additional Opportunities for Youth

COI offers activity free time, Twilight activities, camp-wide events, campfires, Order of the Arrow, and youth leader training sessions.

Staff vs. Scout Frisbee • SPL Meeting & Leadership Program • SPL Award of Merit (requirements available in Leader's Lounge)

Other Field Games: horseshoes, four-square volleyball, football, flag football, ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, soccer, checkers.

Eagle Workshop: collaborative space to ask questions about the Eagle journey.

Leadership Workshop: SPLs/ASPLs meet in the Activity Building for leadership development and collaboration.

Additional Opportunities for Adults

Scoutmasters' Lounge & Free WiFi: inside the Trading Post—A/C, device charging, computers to check advancement and email.

Trail to Eagle: resources and peer tips to help units guide Life Scouts to Eagle.

Special Activities: Staff vs. Scoutmasters Kickball • Scoutmaster Shoot • Basic CPR & AED Training • Scoutmaster Merit Badge • IOLS • Help in Dining Hall Dish Room • Iron Chef Dessert Cook-Off



Special Programs & Traditions

Evenings at Camp Old Indian feature special programs or campfires that bring fun and fellowship to Troops and Crews. Units are encouraged to host their own events to build friendships across camp.

Interfaith Chapel Service • Daily Leaders' Meetings • Wednesday Assembly Parade • Camp-Wide Games

Order of the Arrow (Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge #185): Wednesday Night OA Campfire featuring the Dance Pageant, followed by a Callout Ceremony for ordeal candidates (provide roster at check-in). A Brotherhood Ceremony is offered on Thursday evenings.

Quest for the Golden Feather: field game events where all of camp competes for points. Sub-Camp Games create new challenges and leadership opportunities while mixing units.

Merit and Honor Troop awards recognize units that fully engage in camp program and exemplify Scouting spirit.

2026 Summer Camp Schedule

- Week 1: June 7 – 13
- Week 2: June 14 – 20
- Week 3: June 21 – 27
- Week 4: June 28 – July 4
- Week 5: July 5 – 11
- Week 6 (Tracks Only): July 12 – 18

Cost to Attend Camp

Registration	Early Bird (by 4/15/26)	Regular Cost
In-Council Youth	\$440	\$460
Out-of-Council Youth	\$450	\$470
Bounce Back	\$290	\$305
Day Pass	\$120	\$130
Adult	\$195	\$205

Important Dates

- November 15, 2025: \$195 campsite deposit due (pay by registering one adult leader)
- March 15, 2026: \$100 per Scout due (required to register for programs)
- April 15, 2026: Remainder of fees due to keep Early Bird discount

Program Fees

Program	Fee
High Adventure	\$150
Whitewater	\$50
Metal Working	\$40
Rifle Shooting	\$45
Scoutmaster Shoot	\$35
Shotgun Shooting	\$50
Welding	\$30
Welding Fabrication	\$45
Woodwork	\$20

Camperships: Support for Scouts in Need

The Blue Ridge Council offers financial support of up to 50% of the Early Bird registration fee for summer camp at Camp Old Indian. Families, unit product sales (popcorn, camp cards), and camperships can combine to make camp possible.

Eligibility & Notes:

- Camperships available to registered youth of the Council; non-transferable; not contingent on deposits
- Scouts should “earn their way” via Council fundraisers (popcorn/camp cards)
- Awards based on available funds and verified need; information remains confidential

Application Instructions:

- Participate in at least one Council fundraiser (popcorn and/or camp cards)
- Apply by March 15, 2026, allowing time for Unit Endorsement and committee review before registration closes

Questions? Contact: Charlie Caldwell, Camp Director • Charlie.Caldwell@scouting.org • 864-637-8308

