



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
PRAIRIELANDS COUNCIL

A black and white photograph of a camp entrance. A gravel path leads through a gate towards a dense forest. The gate has a sign that reads "CAMP DRAKE". To the right of the path, there is a wooden fence and a sign that reads "NO TINDER HARVESTING".

# 2023-2024 Program Planning Calendar



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## PRAIRIELANDS COUNCIL



### Camp Robert Drake

9994 Camp Drake Rd  
Fairmount, IL 61841  
Camp Phone: 217.427.5243



### Raymond Lee Scout Service Center & Robeson Scout Shop

3301 Farber Drive, P.O. Box 6267  
Champaign, Illinois 61826-6267  
Phone: 217-356-7291 or 1-800-464-7291  
Fax: 217-356-7785  
Website: [www.prairielandbsa.org](http://www.prairielandbsa.org)  
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday  
9AM to 5PM

### Council Staff & Contact Information

#### Council Services

Jared White, Scout Executive	Phone: 217-531-0214	<a href="mailto:jared.white@scouting.org">jared.white@scouting.org</a>
Sharon Kirk, Office Manager	Phone: 217-531-0218	<a href="mailto:sharon.kirk@scouting.org">sharon.kirk@scouting.org</a>
Gloria Marsh, Finance Associate	Phone: 217-531-0213	<a href="mailto:gloria.marsh@scouting.org">gloria.marsh@scouting.org</a>
Susan Coller, Field Services Associate	Phone: 217-531-0219	<a href="mailto:susan.coller@scouting.org">susan.coller@scouting.org</a>

#### Prairie Fire District

Lovetta Ash-Simpson, Dist. Director	Phone: 217-531-0217	<a href="mailto:lovetta.ash-simpson@scouting.org">lovetta.ash-simpson@scouting.org</a>
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#### Many Trails District

Mike Graham, Sr. District Executive	Phone: 217-531-0212	<a href="mailto:mike.graham@scouting.org">mike.graham@scouting.org</a>
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#### Camp Robert Drake

Rob Pruitt, Caretaker	Phone: 217-621-3289	<a href="mailto:robie.pruitt@antlerking.com">robie.pruitt@antlerking.com</a>
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# August 2023

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>Merit Badge Skill Center—Camp Drake</i>
6	7 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7PM</i>	8	9 <i>Prairie Fire Kickoff and Roundtable— 6PM</i>	10 <i>Many Trails Kickoff and Roundtable— 6:30PM</i>	11	12 <i>Sporting Clays Tour- namant—8:00AM— Olde Barn Sporting Clays</i>
13	14	15	16 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	17	18 <i>Popcorn Show and Sell Order Due</i>	19
20	21	22	23	24 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	25 <b><i>Popcorn Sales Start</i></b>	26
27	28 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	29	30	31		



### **National Youth Leader Training Conference**

NYLT is a leadership development course designed to give youth leaders a step up on peer leadership. The two weekend course will give participants the skills and tools they need to successfully lead in their Troop or Crew and use those same skills throughout their personal and professional life. The course is conducted by Prairielands Council and held at Camp Robert Drake.



# School Night to Join Scouting

The months of August and September are when a majority of new youth join Scouting. Be ready to welcome these new Scouts and their parents (potential leaders!).

1. Schedule your School Night to Join Scouting on your school calendar and let your District Executive know the date.
2. Order your School Night promotion flyers your District Executive. Please give two weeks notice so flyers can be personalized for your Pack Recruitment Night.
3. Have a Pack Committee Meeting to plan your School Night including volunteer needs and leader recruitment strategies.
4. Confirm council & district training opportunities in order to get new leaders trained as quickly as possible.
5. Get ready for a great Scouting year!!



Popcorn Sales begin in September! This sale provides the funds for your Pack, Troop or Crew to operate throughout the year. Think big and set a unit goal for success. Challenge your Scouts to earn the money needed for a super fantastic program. Super prizes make it exciting and fun for your Scouts to sell and the top sellers council-wide are recognized with great prizes. See important dates on the calendar.

# September 2023

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7PM</i>	<i>1 Show and Sell Pop- corn Pick-Up</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>4 Labor Day Office Closed</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <b>National Youth Leader Training Camp Drake</b>	<i>9</i>
<i>10 Illini Lodge Meeting NYLT Camp Drake</i>	<i>11 Properties Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	<i>14 Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	<i>15 Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit Nominations Due</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>18 Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21 ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	<i>22</i> <b>National Youth Leader Training Camp Drake</b>	<i>23</i>
<i>24 NYLT Camp Drake</i>	<i>25 Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> <b>Order of the Arrow Section Conclave Rhodes France Scout Reservation</b>	<i>30 Cub Fun Day</i>



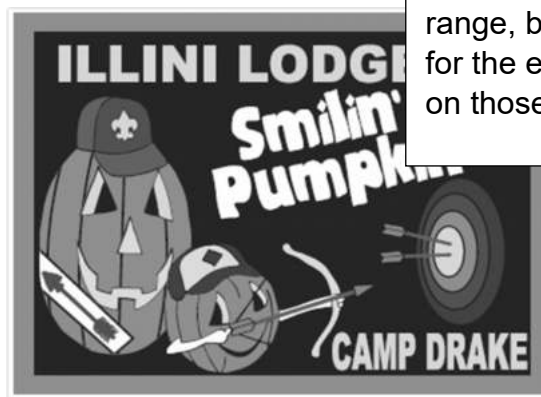
October offers a great deal of training opportunities for new and veteran leaders.

1. Make sure that all registered leaders have completed the new online BSA Youth Protection Training. This training is mandatory for the protection of our youth members AND our registered leaders. It only takes about an hour. New Leaders cannot be registered without completing Youth Protection Training. All leaders must take the New Youth Protection Training immediately. Any leader who is camping with a unit needs to be registered and have Youth Protection!
2. Position specific is available in several ways including on site unit training by your District Training Committee. Contact your Senior District Executive to arrange for a training team to come to your unit and get everyone prepared to run a top notch Scouting program.
3. Outdoor training for leaders is available through the Council Training Committee at Camp Drake. Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) and Outdoor Leader Skills Training for Boy Scout leaders will all be held the weekend of October 27-28.



### **Smilin' Pumpkin at Camp Drake**

Put on by the Order of the Arrow, Smilin' Pumpkin is a great fall family outing and a wonderful introduction to Camp Robert Drake. Lots of action in obstacle courses, archery, bb gun range, biking and much more. Fun for the entire family!! Don't miss out on those smilin' pumpkins!



### **Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship**

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's Camping Honor Society that focuses on service to others. The OA provides support to the maintenance of Camp Drake, offers programs to Cub Scout Packs and supports council events like Smilin' Pumpkin.

# October 2023

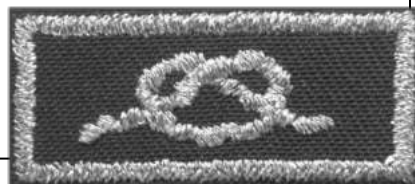
**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>OA Section Conclave</b>	2 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i> <i>Distinguished Citizen Dinner - 7:00PM</i>	3	4	5	6 <b>IOLS/BALOO - Camp Drake</b>	7
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	13 <b>Council Fall Camporee</b>	14
15 <b>Council Fall Camporee</b>	16	17	18 <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	19	20 <b>U of I Homecoming vs. Wisconsin</b>	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>ScoutReach Committee Meeting—Noon</i>	27 <i>Popcorn Orders Due!</i> <b>OA Fall Pow-Wow - Camp Drake</b>	28
29 <b>Smiling Pumpkin</b> <b>OA Fall Pow-Wow - Camp Drake</b>	30 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	31				



#### **Council Celebrates Outstanding Leadership....**

Each November council, district and unit leaders have the chance to nominate Scouters who set the bar of excellence high. Among several awards, the District Award of Merit is presented by the Districts. The highlight of the event is the presentation of the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor a council can bestow on a Scouting volunteer. Those



*All Council Offices and Camps will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 to allow staff to spend time with their families.*



#### **As the year end approaches....**

- Attend the November Roundtable to pick up your Rechartering packet and get all the information you need to complete the rechartering process.
- Make sure all of your registered unit leaders are current with Youth Protection Training. The training is good for two years and if not current at the time of rechartering, leaders cannot re-register.
- Take a few minutes to enter your unit Community Service hours into My Scouting. This is an important measurement calculated into your unit Journey to Excellence score and serves as impressive information about Scouting to the community.



# November 2023

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7:00PM</i>	3 <i>Vigil Honor Ceremo- ny—Camp Drake</i>	4 <i>Lumberjack Day- Camp Drake</i> <b>Trail Race - Camp Drake</b>
5 <i>Lodge Leadership Development Mtg &amp; Illini Lodge Meeting</i>	6 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7PM</i>	7	8 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg— 7:00PM</i>	9 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>
12	13	14	15 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	16 <i>Scoutreach Cmte Meeting—Noon Training Committee Meeting—7PM</i>	17 <i>Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit Nominations Due to Office</i>	18
19	20 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	21	22	23 <b>Offices and Camps Closed Happy Thanksgiving</b>	24	25
26	27 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	29	29	30		



### **Holiday & Inventory Hours**

All Council Facilities will be closed The December 25th and 26th for the Christmas holiday. The Robeson Scout Shop will be closed for inventory December 27th through 29th. The business offices in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center will be open for routine business. Please use the side door for entrance.



### **The Robeson Scout Shop**

Located in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center at 3301 Farber Drive, Champaign, IL 61822. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The Scout Shop is a great place to pick up that perfect gift for that hard to shop for Scout or Scout Leader. At the Shop you can find knives, canteens, mess kits, gift cards, or any other great gift idea.

### **December Summer Camp EXPO!**

Nothing chases away the winter blahs more than thinking about a Scout Summer. On Saturday, December 2nd, we will reveal the new exciting things coming to council camping programs in 2024. Scouts BSA Leaders will meet at 9:00 am and Cub Scout Leaders at 10:30AM, to learn all about summer camping including program updates, deadlines and fees. Everything a unit will need to finalize plans for the 2024 Camp Drake experience.

# December 2023

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1 Popcorn Balance Due to Office</i>	<i>2 Camp Launch</i>
<i>3 Illini Lodge Holiday Party—TBD</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>
	<i>Offices and Camps Closed Merry Christmas</i>		<i>Robeson Scout Shop Closed for Inventory Service Center Open for other business</i>			
<i>31</i>						

# Happy New Year 2024

## **Unit RecharTERS due January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Unit Leaders are reminded that all rechartering paperwork and Journey to Excellence forms are due to the Council Service Center by Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

## **2024 Klondike Derby**

Prairielands Council's big outdoor winter event, the Klondike Derby, will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Be prepared for winter weather and lots of fun at this annual event that features competition of Scout Skills and a camp-wide super race of Scouts and sleds! Klondike goes on, snow or no snow! Racers, start your sleds.



## **Illini Lodge Banquet**

The Order of the Arrow will celebrate 2023 accomplishments at the annual OA Winter Banquet at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Fantastic food, fellowship and fun are the order of the day. Don't miss this great celebration!



## **Annual Meetings to be Held**

Each District and Prairielands Council will hold an Annual Business Meeting in the month of January. During these meetings the District/Council Nominating Committee will present a slate of leadership to be elected for the coming year.

**Prairie Fire District:** Thursday, January 4, 2024. Voting members include current District Committee Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from units within the Prairie Fire District.

**Many Trails District:** Thursday, January 11, 2024. Voting members include current District Committee Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from within Many Trails District.

**Council Annual Meeting:** Monday, January 29, 2024. Voting members include current Executive Board Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from all units in Prairielands Council.

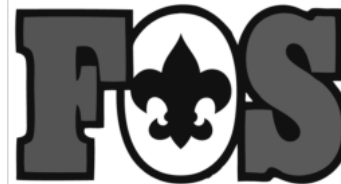
# January 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <div>Office Closed in observance of New Years Day</div>	2	3	<i>4</i> <i>Prairie Fire Annual Meeting—7:00PM</i>	5	6
7	<i>8</i> <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7:00 PM</i>	9	10	<i>11</i> <i>Many Trails Annual Meeting—6:30PM</i>	12	<i>13</i> <i>OA—Illini Lodge Banquet—The Beef House</i>
14	<i>15</i> <div>Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Offices Closed</div>	<i>16</i> <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i> <div>Unit Recharter Deadline</div>	<i>17</i> <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	18	19	20
<i>21</i> <i>Pinewood 101—TBA—11AM to 2PM</i>	22	23	24	<i>25</i> <i>Scoutreach Cmte Meeting—Noon</i>	26	<div>Klondike Derby Camp Drake</div>
28	<i>29</i> <i>Prairielands Council Annual Meeting—6:00PM</i>	30	31			

## **2024 Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner**

The Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner will recognize Scouts for their significant achievements during the past year. The traditional recognition of Eagle Scouts continues; also the Venturing Summit Award recipients will be recognized along with other honors earned during 2023. The Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner will be held on Saturday February 10, 2024



### **Candy Bar Sales**

Camp Candy Bar Sales kick off on February 16, 2024. This council coordinated sale is designed for youth members to be able to earn their Camp fees or other Scouting activities for the coming summer. Sales are operated through each Pack, Troop or Crew.


Did you know: The \$99 annual Scouting registration fee goes directly to the national office of the Boy Scouts of America. If a Scout unit collects dues, that money stays with the unit to help pay for supplies, advancements and other activities. None of that money goes to help the Prairielands Council.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is the annual giving campaign of the Prairielands Council. The FOS campaign provides 25% of the Council budget every year. That means a quarter of every dollar in the council budget comes from the generosity of Scouting families, alumni and community supporters. Without this funding, our council could not provide the resources necessary to provide a quality, adventure-filled scouting program.

Your generous tax-deductible gift to the Prairielands Council, which provides direct funding for Scouting's life-changing programs that program fees alone do not cover, is a statement about your belief in Scouting and helping young people grow into successful adults.

# February 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <b>Scout Sunday</b>  Illini Lodge Meeting	5 Properties Committee Meeting—7:00 PM	6	7	8 Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM	9	10 Youth Achievement Dinner—6:00PM
11 <b>Methodist Scout Sunday</b>	12	13	14	15	16 Candy Bar Sales Start 	17
18	19 <b>President's Day Offices Closed</b>	20	21 Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM	22 ScoutReach Committee Meeting—Noon	23	24
25	26 Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30PM	27	28	29		



### **Council Pinewood Derby Race**

The Council Pinewood Derby Championships will be held Saturday, April 13th. Cub Scouts from all over Prairielands Council will gather to see how their Pack winning cars compete against their peers. Great family fun!



### **Trail Tromp**

Camp Drake, Saturday, April 6, 2024

It's time to put on your hiking boots and come out to hike the Onaquispasippi Trail! Hike the trail and discover the hidden treasures around the perimeter of Camp Drake.

### **Camp Drake Work Days**


Camp Drake, Saturday, March 16, 2024, Saturday, April 13, 2024, & Saturday, May 11, 2024

During the Spring at Camp Drake, the Council holds work days that allow us to prepare camp for the summer season. During this days we pick up sticks and logs around camp, cut down trees, split firewood, have small building projects, and much more. This is a great way for Scouts to earn some service project hours for rank advancement.



# March 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Illini Lodge Meeting</i>	4 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7PM</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	13 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg—7:00PM</i>	14 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	15	16 <i>Camp Drake Work Day</i>
17	18 <i>Camping Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	19	20 <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	21 <i>Scoutreach Committee Meeting—Noon</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting—6:30PM</i>	26	27	28	29 <div>Good Friday Council Offices Closed</div>	30
31 Easter 						



### Camp Fees Deadlines

Boy Scout Summer Camp fees are due to the Council Service Center by Monday, April 22, 2024.  
Cub Scout Summer Camp fees are due to the Council Service Center by Friday, April 26, 2024.



### Council Pintwood Derby

The Council will hold it's annual Pintwood Derby on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**. This event has been held at Riggs in Urbana and is fun for our over 21 year old Scouts. There are 3 classes to race: No Rules, Scout Rules, and Show

Hope to see you there!

### Outdoor Training

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) will be conducted in April for all Cub Scout Leaders wanting to gain a basic understanding of providing a quality outdoor program for Cub Scout families.

Outdoor Leader Skills Training is required for Boy Scout leaders to be certified as completely trained. **The event will take place Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27.**

# April 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7PM</i>	2	3	4	5 <div>Wood Badge—Camp Drake</div>	6 <i>Trail Tromp—Camp Drake</i>
7 <div>Wood Badge Camp Drake</div>	8	9	10 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg—7:00PM</i>	11 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	12	13 <i>Council Pinewood Derby Tool Time—Camp Drake</i>
14	15	16	17 <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	18	19 <div>Council Spring Camporee</div>	20 <div>Wood Badge Camp Drake</div>
21 <div>Wood Badge Camp Drake</div>	22 <i>Scouts BSA Camp Fees Due</i>	23	24	25 <i>Scoutreach Committee Meeting—Noon</i>	26 <i>Cub Camp Fee Due</i> <div>IOLS/BALOO Camp Drake</div>	27
28 <div>Council Spring Camporee</div>	29 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	30				



Remember to honor our Veterans this Memorial Day with Community Service. Many Packs, Troops and Crews provide a flag ceremony at a community memorial service; participate in a Memorial Day parade or help veteran organizations in putting American flags on veterans' graves. Later enjoy your holiday weekend with family at Camp Robert Drake. The council camp is open all weekend for safe family camping. Contact the Council Service Center to reserve your site.

*Happy Mother's Day*

**Sunday, May 12th**



### **Illini Lodge Spring Fellowship**

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's Camping Honor Society that focuses on service to others. The OA provides countless hours of service to Camp Drake maintenance and upkeep. The Spring Fellowship includes work projects to prepare the camp for the summer season.... And lots of fun! See you May 3rd—May 5th!



# May 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7:00PM</i>	3 <div><b><i>OA Illini Spring Fellowship Camp Drake</i></b></div>	4
5 <div><b><i>Illini Spring Fel- lowship—Camp Drake</i></b></div>	6 <i>Properties Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	7	8	9 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	10	11 <i>Tool Time—Camp Drake</i>
12 <div><b><i>Happy Mother's Day</i></b></div>	13 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	14	15 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	16	17	18
19	20 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	21	22 <i>Council Pintwood Derby—6PM</i>	23 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	24	25
26	27 <div><b><i>Memorial Day Offices Closed</i></b></div>	28	29	30	31	

# Summer Camp Fun

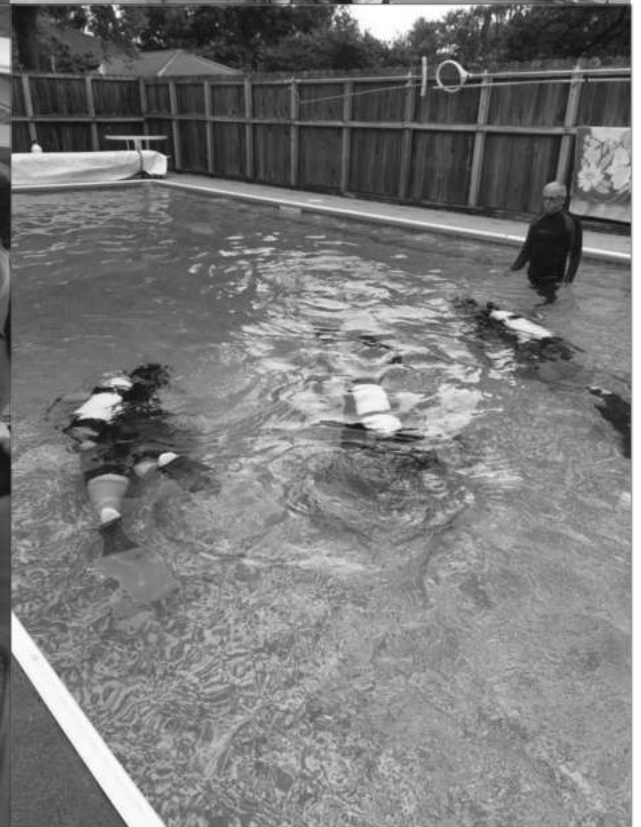


# June 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<div>Day Camp—Camp Drake</div>	1
2	3 Properties Committee Meeting—7PM	4	5	6	7	8
				<div>Summer Camp Staff Training Week</div>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				<div>ScoutReach Day Camp</div>		
<div>Summer Camp Staff Training Week</div>						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<div>Scouts BSA Summer Camp Week 1—Camp Drake</div>						
<div>Happy Father’s Day</div>			<div>Council Office Closed Juneteenth</div>			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<div>Scouts BSA Summer Camp Week 2—Camp Drake</div>						
	Council Executive Board Mtg– 6:00PM					
30						
<div>Cub Adventure Camp</div>						


# More Summer Camp Fun





# July 2024

**\*\*All times are in Central Time\*\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	5	6
<i>Cub Scout Adventure Week 1—Camp Drake</i>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Scouts BSA Summer Camp Week 3—Camp Drake</i>						
					<i>Day Camp—Tuscola</i>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Cub Scout Adventure Camp Week 2—Camp Drake</i>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				<i>Popcorn Training Camp Robert Drake</i>		
28	29	30	31			