

Diocese of Charleston 20th Annual Catholic Camporee

Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee 2025



September 26-28, 2025
Mission Lake Wilderness Camp; Gaston, SC

Open to all Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts USA,
American Heritage Girls, Trail Life Boys, and Venture Crews

Dear Scout Leaders and Crew Advisors:

The Diocese of Charleston Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to the 2025 Catholic Camporee to be held at:

Mission Lake Wilderness Camp near Gaston, SC, 29053.

All registered Scouts are invited, regardless of religious affiliation. The program is designed to promote awareness of Catholic life and prayer through the activities of Scouting.

All scouting units will be assigned camping as appropriate according to Scouting America guidelines.

The Camporee will include mixed Boy & Girl age-appropriate events.

All units will be doing their own cooking and should plan to bring supplies to cover all required meals. **Lunch on Saturday will be provided to all units.** Running water will NOT be available in the camping area, but is available in the central activities area. We strongly recommend that you plan to bring enough water carriers to cover your unit's needs. Camporee Staff will do their best to provide transportation for filled water carriers.

Scouting Good Turn: this year we are asking units to provide donations to your local community (do not bring to Camporee.) Food to local food pantries or St. Vincent DePaul Societies, school or baby supplies to Crisis Pregnancy Centers, etc. Of course, all of these organizations also accept monetary donations.

We encourage Catholic scouts whose troops are not attending the Camporee, and wish to take part, to attend. We ask that leaders of units chartered to Catholic organizations welcome all Scouts in their parishes, even if they are members of different units. Lone Scouts who wish to attend are also welcome. Please contact the Camporee Scoutmaster for assistance. We encourage each unit to search out Catholic Scouts that may be a part of their parish, a neighboring parish, or a troop of another faith.

The secret to the Camporee's success is the support of volunteers. Each unit is asked to provide information on volunteers (number, preferred areas) on the Registration form. We especially need Range Officers. Please help us to find help so that all ranges can be opened.

The cost for the weekend is \$15.00 per person for Units that are camping and \$10.00 per person for Units attending on Saturday only. A unit may camp on Friday, Saturday, or both. If arriving on Saturday, please plan to arrive no later than 8:00 AM.

We will present each Scout that has earned his/her Catholic religious emblem over the past 12 months with a recognition gift from the Bishop. Please identify all Scouts who will be recognized at registration. If you have someone that would like to assist with the music at Mass, please let us know. Please invite your pastor to attend the event, either as a participant or a visitor. Priests are welcome and encouraged to visit the Camporee at any time. If any clergy will be attending, please call George Faller (803) 414-7181. Mass will be celebrated during the weekend. We need a unit to volunteer to make the processional cross to be used at Mass. Please contact George Faller if you want to volunteer to make the cross.

Please use the registration form included in this guide. Please complete a separate form for each Unit. One check for all your units is fine, but we do need separate registration forms. Early Registration is encouraged!

We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Catholic Camporee! Please reserve this time on your calendar for this event.

Yours in Scouting,

Diocese of Charleston Catholic Committee on Scouting

Please complete a separate form for each Unit / Program

Directions: Complete one registration form for each unit / program. (e.g. If you are bringing both an older scout unit and a younger scout unit, complete *two* forms – one for each – you may pay for both with one check.)

Mail form(s) and payment (make checks payable to “DCCCS”) to:
Margaret Childs, 1101 Torrington Circle, Rock Hill, SC 29732
Deadline is Thursday, September 25, 2025.

Use comment section to note any special requests (such as keeping units together).
Bring a COPY of the completed registration to the Camporee.

Fees includes activity fees, a Rosary Patch if earned, and a Camporee patch.

Questions: please contact Margaret Childs at childsfamily@comporium.net or (803) 517-5138.

Contact Information:

Contact name:	Email:	Cell phone:
Address:	Council:	Charter Organization:

Organization (BSA, GS USA, AHG, Trail Life) _____

Program (e.g. Cubs, Juniors, Adventurers, etc.)

Number of Participants: _____ Youth
 _____ Adults
 _____ Siblings 5 and over
 _____ Siblings under 5 (free)
 _____ Total Paid Participants (add first three lines)
 _____ **Amount Enclosed** (\$15 per paid participant if Unit is Camping,
 \$10 per paid participant if Unit is Saturday only)

Comments – please include information on your Unit's Adult Volunteers

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2025 Catholic Camporee Program Schedule

Friday September 26, 2025

by 4:00 PM	Staff Arrives
5:00 – 9:00 PM	Check-in / Registration / Campsite Assignment / Set-Up Parking provided in the vicinity of the campsites (scouts / leaders should arrive in Full uniform)
9:30 PM	Evening Prayers: Campsite Pavilion
10:00 PM	Leaders Meeting (Adults & SPLs) / Cracker Barrel
11:00 PM	Lights Out

Saturday September 27, 2025

6:30 AM	Reveille and breakfast in site.
7:30 AM	Flag Raising / brief announcements and shooting sports safety briefing - Note that wrist bands will be provided for safety briefing at this time and will be required to participate in shooting sports.
9:00 AM	Events begin with Wildlife Presentation; all Scouts gather at the upper lake.
12:30 PM	Lunch- will be provided
1:30 PM	Events continue
4:00 PM	Events conclude; Return to camp and change for Mass
5:00 PM *	Begin walk to Prayer Garden; Mass will begin at 5:30 PM– Full uniform
6:30 PM	Cooking and dinner in site
7:45 PM	Campfire-Full uniform
8:45 PM	Living Rosary-Full uniform
11:00 PM	Lights Out

Sunday September 28, 2025

7:00 AM	Reveille and breakfast in campsites
8:00 AM	Morning prayer followed by awards and recognition – Full uniform
Following Presentation	Campsite Clean-up / Site Inspection Camporee Patches presented at Checkout following site inspection
9:30-11:00AM	Departure (following inspection)
by 11:00 AM	All Units Must Depart by 11:00

***NOTE: the time for Mass may change depending on the availability of the celebrant.**

Camporee Staff

George S. Faller III

Chairman DoC CCs

Gfaller56@gmail.com

803-414-7181

Dan Wagner

Co-Chairman DoC CCS

dan@stjosephcolumbia.org

803-553-2700

Margaret Childs

Camporee Registrar

childsfamily@comporium.net

803-517-5138

Tiffany Craig

GSUSA/AHG Contact

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864-170-9724

Mike Gallagher

Cub Scouts/Scouts BSA/ Venturers

rmgusc@gmail.com

Camporee Activities

Because this year's Camporee is at a new location and will have a new format, our activities and their locations are not yet finalized. We appreciate your understanding. **Note:** not all activities will be available to all levels of Scouts

Planned Activities:

Fishing Instruction	Nature Walk
Service project for older Scouts	Field Games
Fishing	Campfire
Canoeing / Kayaking	Living Rosary
Tomahawks	Special Wildlife Presentation
BB Guns*	Mass
Archery/Slingshots	

* Lion Cubs (and equivalent levels) may not participate in BB guns; they can participate in archery and sling shot

Each unit/troop/patrol will be responsible for checking in at each activity to ensure that their participation is recorded.

Be Prepared

Each unit/troop/patrol should "Be Prepared" by bringing:

- Paper & Pencil
- First Aid Kit
- Hand Sanitizer

Each Scout and Adult should "Be Prepared" by bringing:

- Refillable Water Bottle or Canteen (marked with name and unit number!)

A Note about Fire & Water

Mission Lake is a *Wilderness Camp*. As such we will not have running water in the camping area.

Units are encouraged to bring water carriers and/or 5-gallon drink containers. Camporee Staff will do their best to keep your water carriers filled! If you need staff to transport water, please bring your empty water containers to the Camporee HQ and we will transport to water point.

We will have porta-potties staged throughout the camping and activity areas.

Fires are NOT permitted on the ground. If your unit wishes to have a fire, you must have a raised fire barrel or fire pit. Please keep fires small.

Bishop's Award – Honor Troop

This year we are again offering the **Bishop's Award** for Honor Troops. To earn this ribbon, the unit must complete all mandatory items and a total of at least 7 of the elective 10 items.

_____ **Attend Leader's Meeting (mandatory for Honor Troop)**

The Senior Patrol Leader (or equivalent youth for older Scout Units) and the Adult Unit Leader must attend the Friday night meeting & check-in at the meeting.

Note: Younger Scout Units: Adult Leader only attends

(requirement waived for units attending Saturday only.)

_____ **Adult Volunteers (mandatory for Honor Troop)**

Unit provides 1 adult volunteer/10 Scouts attending - this volunteer must work at his/her area or activity through all activity time: 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon and 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

Note: *the same adult need not work the entire activity time, but the Unit must provide adult(s) to cover the entire activity time.*

_____ **Camporee Program (mandatory for Honor Troop)**

The majority of the unit participates fully in the Camporee. That is, takes part in all assigned activities for your level.

Elective Activities (complete at least 7 for Honor Troop; Day Only units complete at least 5)

_____ **Early Registration**

Register your unit before the deadline: Thursday, September 25, 2025.

_____ **Community Donation**

Provide proof of unit's donation to a local food bank, pregnancy center, etc.

_____ **Scout Spirit**

The unit follows all camp rules, and has a general attitude conducive to a Scout Camp.

_____ **Unit Spirit**

The unit demonstrates spirit (e.g. unit t-shirts, carrying the unit flag, providing skits/songs/etc. at the campfire program, patrol/den flags, marching cadences, songs, etc.

_____ **Living Rosary**

_____ **Campfire**

_____ **Mass**

_____ **Site Inspection**

A Scout is Trustworthy and Clean—Site inspection is done by the Unit's Adult Leader

_____ **Participate in Flag Raising or Lowering**

Member(s) of unit serve as Color Guard or lead Scout Oath / Law / Pledge of Allegiance

_____ **Camporee Logistics Support**

Assist the committee with logistics: carrying water, set-up for Mass, etc. etc.

The Campfire Program

The campfire program will consist of singing, skits, and story-telling. All units are invited and welcome to participate.

The patrol or troop leader should submit and audition the skit (location & time TBD.) Skits should be uplifting and appropriate for scouting and the Catholic Camporee. A bible story or original story with a positive Christian theme is ideal. Originality is highly encouraged!

Skits should be rehearsed, in advance. (Be Prepared!) Remember to speak loudly and clearly.

Adult Volunteers

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting Staff is small; in addition, most committee members will also have units at the Camporee.

The secret to the success of Camporee is the involvement of Units to support the activities at the Camporee. Thus, we need your help!

Each Unit is asked to provide one adult for every 10 scouts to assist with the Camporee activities. This need not be the same adult for the entire day – a ‘tag-team’ is great.

Do NOT ever violate the “two-deep” leadership rule and do NOT leave your unit short-handed.

But, if you have ‘extra’ adults, we need their help! Especially at the ranges and waterfront. On the registration form, please indicate in the comments section the number of adult volunteers you can provide and the areas or activities where they would like to work.

By volunteering, not only will you be doing your Scouting ‘Good Turn’ but you will help your unit to earn the Honor Ribbon.

We may also need some help with logistics / set-up on Saturday; if you would like to help with this, please let us know at the Friday Leader’s Meeting.

Guidelines, Rules, etc.

PURPOSE	The purpose of the Catholic Camporee is to bring together Catholic Scouts for scouting events and Christian fellowship. The Camporee will give each Scout, den, patrol, pack, crew and troop a chance to learn and demonstrate a range of skills and to have FUN.
PRE-REGISTRATION	Units are encouraged to pre-register to help the committee with program planning. Early registration cutoff is September 22, 2025. Walk-in registrations will be accepted at this year's event.
COST	The Camporee Fee is \$15 per person for the weekend or \$10 per person for Saturday day only (for Units that will not camp). Under 5 free.
PREPARATION	Each patrol is encouraged to practice basic scouting skills in preparation for the Camporee and to be prepared. Review upcoming events to ensure patrols are prepared. Remember Troop & Patrol flags.
LOCATION	Mission Lake Wilderness Camp, Pine Plain Road, Gaston, SC 29053. Map Coordinates are 33.84323° N, 81.04715° W
CHECK-IN	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Registration opens at 5 p.m. on Friday. Adult leaders or designees should report to registration location.2) Guidelines for dropping off gear and emergency vehicles will be provided at registration.3) Absolutely no parking on the entrance road.4) ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND CAMP STAFF MUST STAY IN THEIR DESIGNATED PARKING AREA AND NOT MOVE DURING THE CAMPOREE. NO EXCEPTIONS!
LEADER'S MEETING AND CRACKER BARREL	The Camporee Committee will address last minute details, schedule changes, and other matters the Friday Leader's Meetings. SPLs, and Unit Leaders are invited and encouraged to attend.
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	There will be a first aid station designated at the camp. However, units are reminded to bring their own first aid kits for non-critical first aid.
PATROLS	The intent of the Camporee is to challenge patrols or troops to work as a team.
PERSMISSION SLIPS	Units are also reminded they should have all necessary medical forms as required by the Guide to Safe Scouting.
LEADERSHIP	Two-deep adult leadership is required on-site during the entire Camporee. Patrols should follow the guidelines set forth about adult/scout ratios including with sleeping arrangements. The SPL of each Troop is responsible for all youth leadership and their patrols.
CAMPING	Each troop will camp as a unit following their appropriate units camping guidelines, Camporee style, in tents. Each unit is responsible for its camping gear.
UNIFORMS	Scouts and Scouters are required to be in uniform at Friday check-in and those events marked on the enclosed schedule. At other times, scouts should wear activity uniform as designated by their units.

GARBAGE	DO NOT burn or bury any garbage.
DUTY ROSTER	Troops should post duty rosters for each patrol.
MEALS / FOOD	Units should bring supplies to cover all required meals and snacks needed by scouts during the weekend.
CAMPSITE	Do not walk through other unit's campsites without permission. You are encouraged to visit other units / campsites. Camporees are a great opportunity to see how other Units and Programs camp.
CHECK-OUT	Please be sure to take home everything you brought with you! Locations for garbage drop-off will be given at the Leader's Meeting. Camporee patches will only be given after the Unit Leader verifies the campsite is clean and the Unit is ready to depart.
CAMPFIRES	Campfires must be in above ground barrels or fire pits
EVALUATION FORMS	Evaluation forms will be provided to each unit to fill out. Please take time to fill these out as it is an important tool to offer.
QUESTIONS/ CONCERNS	Please report any questions or concerns regarding judging events to the Camporee Scoutmaster by the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader.
GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION	<p>Catholics: In order to be properly disposed to receive Holy Communion, Catholics should be in a state of grace and have fasted (except for water) for a period of at least 1 hour prior to receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord.</p> <p>Non-Catholics are welcome to join in the celebration of the Eucharist in a spirit of prayer. In keeping with the teaching of the Catholic Church, non-Catholics should refrain from reception of Holy Communion. Non-Catholics may approach the minister of communion for a blessing.</p>

Camporee Rules to Live by

Here are a few rules that apply to our Camporee that we sometimes forget.

- No one rides in the back of a truck – everyone wears a seat belt
- If it doesn't have wings, don't throw it. This includes sticks and stones, and especially rocks around the lake.
- No running except on the playground area.
- No open-toed shoes; No bare feet, except at the waterfront
- Use the buddy-system; Scouts should never be in any area alone – this includes walking.
- Campfires should be completely out and cold to the touch before leaving the campsite or retiring for the evening.
- No one should walk with an open knife
- All holes dug for any purpose should be filled
- No food or flames inside tents
- Please follow the tobacco use policy outlined at the Leader's Meeting
- Wear full uniform at check-in, Living Rosary, Mass, Campfire and Award Ceremony.
- The possession and or use of alcohol is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate removal from camp!

Directions to Mission Lake Wilderness Camp

The street address is:

Mission Lake Wilderness Camp
546 State Pond Road
Gaston, SC 29053

Directions to Mission Lake Wilderness Camp

From the Upstate of South Carolina:

- From I-26 East take Exit 115 onto US 176, US 321 toward Gaston, SC, and go 0.3 miles.
- Turn right onto US 321 towards Gaston, SC and go 6.0 miles.
- Turn left onto State Pond Road and go 1.0 miles.
- Stay on Old State Pond Road for 1.0 miles and your destination is through the gate.
- Once you are through the gate look for signs directing you to the Camporee site.

From the Low Country of South Carolina:

- From I-26 West take Exit 119 on to Charleston Highway toward Dixiana, SC and go 1.9 miles.
- Turn left onto US 321 and go 3.3 miles.
- Turn left onto State Pond Road and go 1.0 miles.
- Stay on Old State Pond Road for 1.0 miles and your destination is through the gate.
- Once you are through the gate look for signs directing you to the Camporee site.

***Note:** There will be signs with direction arrows when you enter the Camp.

- Please be aware that we are using the gate entrance on State Pond Road which is off of US 321 this year. This is a change from our first year at Mission Lake (2023.)
- Cars will be allowed to enter the Camporee area to unload Scouts and equipment. All vehicles will move to a separate parking area.
- Only vehicles with attached trailers will be allowed to stay in a designated area adjacent to the campsite. Once parked these vehicles and attached trailers may not move until Sunday morning.

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