

NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL, CAMP SHANDS PRESENTS

WINTER BLAST



Dec. 27-31, 2025

CONTACT US

LEADING UP TO WINTER BLAST

North Florida Council, BSA
521 Edgewood Ave S.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

*For registration, payments, and
general questions.*

Camping Secretary, Nikki Meldrum
(904) 265-3822
Nikki.Meldrum@Scouting.org

DURING WINTER BLAST

(Dec. 27-31)

Camp Shands
1453 Baden Powell Rd.
Hawthorne, FL 32640

*For registration, payments,
and general questions.*

Ames Lodge
(352) 475-5080
Office Manager, Bobbi Melton
Bobbi@NFCBSA.org

CAMP SHANDS LEADERSHIP TEAM



North Florida Council

Camping Director

Eli Rivera

(904) 589-5754

Eli.Rivera@Scouting.org



Camp Shands

Camp Director

Inga Glaspey

(352) 475-5080 *(In Season Only)*

Inga.Glaspey@NFCBSA.org



Camp Shands

Program Director

Aaron Medley

(352) 475-5080 *(In Season Only)*

Aaron.Medley@NFCBSA.org

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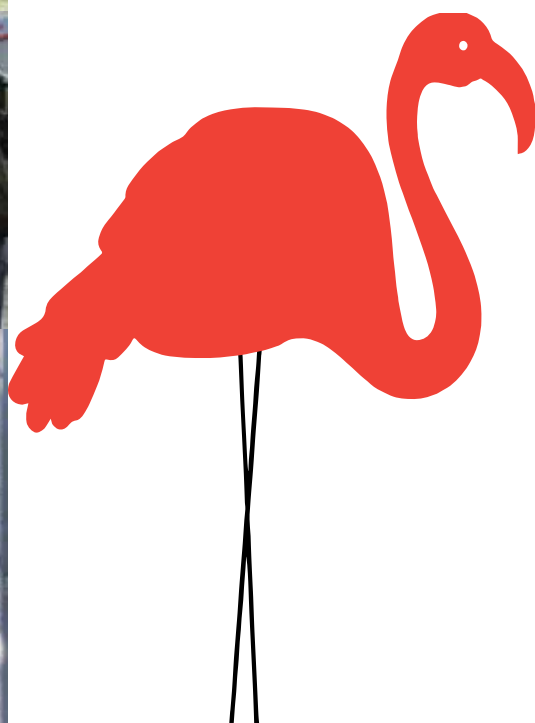
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WHY FLAMINGOS?



Born in the time after the pandemic shutdown, Scoutus Spiritus Flamingis also known simply as Gerald. Now don't let Gerald fool you by his pink charm he can be one of the pickiest creatures. He feeds off of Scout spirit but only flocks to the strongest of Scout Spirits and rewards those with his presence. We have a daily foster program for units who can earn the right to care for and decorate Gerald. By the end of the week Gerald chooses which unit he wants to adopt them.

Gerald the Scout Spirit Flamingo is a camp favorite! Do you dare to Gerald?



CAMP FEES



PRICING SCHEDULE

Early Bird

Ends Nov. 14, 2025

\$350 per Scout

\$400 per Provo

Regular

\$400 per Scout

\$450 per Provo

Unit Deposit \$200

(Non-refundable)

Camp fee includes an exclusive Winter Blast Jacket and Patch!

LEADERS FEE

\$125 per adult (Early)

\$150 per adult (Regular)

or

Scouts 5 Special!

One free adult for every 5 paid Scouts.



RENT-A-TENT

Pre-order \$25

(ends 12/20)

On-Site \$50

Rent the camp's platform style nylon tent plus two cots!

*Camper is responsible to set up and tear down of their tent and cots.

CAMPERSHIPS

Limited funds are available to Scouts and their families in North Florida Council. Applications are available North Florida's website, nfcScouting.org.

Applications must be received before Dec. 1, 2025

PAYMENTS

Payments are payable to,

NFC, BSA

521 S. Edgewood Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Online Payments can be made by going to ***CampShands.org***.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Camp Shands will provide a trained Provisional Scoutmaster for both male and female Scouts during the week of camp. Our goal is to provide the Scouts with a troop-like experience, incorporating PLC elections, ideal campsite, and more!
For \$50 a Scout can come without their troop and be paired with another Scout (of same gender and similar age) in a Rent-A-Tent!



PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Getting Set-up in Tentaroo

Tentaroo is our one stop shop to registering for camp. Here you can make payments, select add-ons, make class selections and changes. Tentaroo is where campsite assignments and post camp reports are found too. To set up your Tentaroo account click here; [Tentaroo get started guide](#)

Payments & Payment Plans

In order to begin program selection, unit accounts must be paid in full. The other option is to establish a payment plan with Camping Director, Eli Rivera. (See Contact Us page)

Program Selection

In order to begin program selection accounts must be paid in full or on established payment plan. In order to lock-in the selections made you must "Check-Out" the cart. Changes can be made up until one week before unit arrival. Any additional changes can be made on site during check-in.

Registration changes close one week prior to your arrival!

Any additional changes can be completed during check-in.

Program Changes at Camp

The evening of Dec. 27th going into Dec. 28th Scouts with an adult leader can come to the Ames Office for program changes. Dec. 28th is the last opportunity for a Scout to change their schedule.

Campsite Assignments

Units may make requests for their preferred campsite, however, due to numerous factors we cannot guarantee the site requested will be the site assigned. Site assignments are finalized one week out from the unit's arrival. The site will be posted in Tentaroo on the unit's event home page for camp.

Special Requests

We strive to provide for the needs of our guests, and every camp is different. For best service please contact us directly. If via email, for fastest response please specify which camp and program you're attending and include details of your request.

Camp Shands understands you may need accommodations to better enjoy your stay, such as:

- Accommodations for wheelchairs or other disabilities
- Inadequate unit leadership
- Golf carts or UTVs (***MUST have Camp Director approval PRIOR to arrival***)

ARRIVAL DAY & CHECK IN

Be Prepared

The Unit Leader must bring the following to check in:

- Health forms for ALL youth and Adults, which includes parts A, B, & C.
(Make sure forms are dated within the a year, parent, and physcian's signature is present, and all dietary restrictions, and prescribed medication is listed.)
- Any program changes or fees that need to be reconciled.
- A roster of all youth and leaders.
- Permission Slips

Check-in runs from 1p-3p

Unit leaders please your email 1 week from arrival for assigned check-in time!

Units park in the Meninak Parking Lot and head toward the Meninak Lodge!

1. In the Meninak Units will be greated by members of the staff and directed to stations.
2. Leaders branch off to corresponding stations to turn in medical forms, permission slips, pick-up jackets and make any class changes.
3. While waiting Scouts can check out the trading post.
4. Units remerge and tour the camp with their assigned guide. Stops include assigned campsite to unload, and program areas.

**@5:00p SPL and Scoutmaster Meeting in the
Green Bar Bill Pavillion**



CHECK OUT

Beginning at 7am Dec. 31st the Ames Lodge (Admin Building) will open. Unit leaders are welcome to come grab their packets which include everyone's advancements, awards, camp patches, and medical forms from the week. Before leaving we highly recommend reviewing paperwork to ensure everything is ship shape. We are human and mistakes do happen. Mistakes are much easier to fix on site before your departure. Once ready to leave please let a Camp Commissioner know so they can do a campsite inspection. Before leaving be sure to also complete and drop-off your camp survey because feedback is a gift!

Note:

- ***Any Units planning to leave before 7am Dec. 31st the advancement report will not be ready before that time.*** The troop packet will then be mailed to the address on file.
- Advancement reports show any completed merit badges and will show any completed requirements if a partial. We do not have physical blue cards, if this is an issue please contact the Program Director in advance prior to camp for help.



FACILITIES

Shands Dining

The Taylor Dining Hall is a full service food facility located north of the chapel. It is capable of feeding 500 Scouts and leaders a week. A state licensed dietitian has reviewed the menus for a balanced meal that is nutritious and portioned just right for every Scout and leader. Your unit will go directly to the Taylor during your assigned time and enjoy your meal in air-conditioned comfort!

Winter Blast Sample Menu

	Sat, 12/27	Sun, 12/28	Mon, 12/29	Tue, 12/30	Wed, 12/31
BREAKFAST		BISCUITS W/GRAVY SAUSAGE SALAD BAR	FRENCH TOAST BACON HASHBROWN SALAD BAR	BREAKFAST BURRITO HASHBROWN SALAD BAR	TO GO BREAKFAST
LUNCH		HAMBURGER FRENCH FRIES CAKE SALAD BAR	BEAN BURRITO NACH CHIPS COOKIE SALAD BAR	FISH STICKS FRENCH FRIES COOKIE SALAD BAR	
DINNER	TACOS W/ BEANS RICE PUDDING SALAD BAR	CHICKEN POT PIE ROLL CAKE SALAD BAR	SPAGHETTI BROCCOLI ROLL BROWNIE SALAD BAR	PORK ROAST POTATOES CORN ROLL CAKE SALAD BAR	

Note: This is a sample menu, there may be changes due to availability from local suppliers.

Dietary Restrictions

Camp Shands can provide substitutions or alternative menus for participants with religious or medical reasons only. We cannot offer special diets because of lifestyles of participants. We recommend campers bring supplements in the event our menu does not suit their liking. We are not able to provide alternate food for other restrictions; or if a participant has multiple of the restrictions above. However, we will store and serve all food that is brought for participants who have additional dietary restrictions.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Please submit your preference using the form which can be found online at campshands.org. Every participant must have their own form. **Please complete the dietary form on Campshands.org at least two weeks prior to arrival when such needs exist.**



CAMPING

Our campsites are the heart of our program. We want your experience at your campsite to be a relaxing one. This is why at Camp Shands we have constructed screened in pavilions that include sleeping quarters for adult leaders (Sleeps 8 w/2 bunk beds in each room), ceiling fans help beat the heat, and electrical outlets to power everything from coffee to your favorite electronics!

We are happy to consider requests for specific campsites, however, there are many factors when assigning sites. Please understand some sites may have more than one unit assigned which means leaders and Scouts may be asked to share with another unit.

Rent-A-Tent

Tired of bringing your old tent to camp?

Wish you could sleep on an elevated platform?

This year you can rent a Camp Shands Wall Tent!

For just \$25 you get a Camp Nylon Wall Tent, 2 cots are included with your rental.

*****You are responsible for set up and take down of the tents and cots.*****



TREE HOUSES

Ever wondered what it might be like to live like Tarzan? Live among the trees of the Shands Forest in Fort Hart Tree houses! Within Ft. Hart there are four tree houses with beds for up to eight Scouts. Each tree house has ample room for storage and electricity for phones and fans! Reservations for this unique site goes faster than a Scout on a sugar rush! ***Get your reservation in as soon as possible. Treehouses are an additional \$25 per Scout staying in the site. Treehouses are available to Units to reserve only.***



TRADING POST

One section of the Meninak Lodge is our Trading Post! This store is packed full of crafts, t-shirts, souvenirs, camping supplies, and so much more. Load up on all your Camp Shands branded memorabilia. This store even has concessions! From pizza, to nachos, candy, ice cream, slushies, soda and all sorts of other delights that Scouts can indulge in. Stop by the trading post to find our hours! Recommend Scouts bring \$50 or purchase a Camp Shands gift card online during registration for spending money during the week.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Merit badges are important at Camp Shands, but keep in mind there many other activities in the camp that are beneficial for Scouts. At camp, the staff is committed to delivering quality merit badge sessions where Scouts complete the requirements as stated. Our goal is that Scouts have fun and learn at the same time. Some of our pre-requisites are written work or items that can be completed at home prior to camp. The online camp registration system is used for class sign ups and rosters. This is the best way to get your Scouts signed up for the merit badges that they want to take. Camp management will be using this system, and making schedule adjustments where necessary.

Scoutmaster note: Merit badges can be age specific. Younger Scouts should not enroll in merit badge sessions until they are academically and physically ready to succeed in completing them. Some examples are Shotgun, Lifesaving, and Citizenship Merit Badges.

In order to start class selection you **MUST** be paid in full for camp. Units un-able to be paid in full open registration can contact Eli Rivera, Camping Director at Eli.Rivera@scouting.org or call (904) 589-5754 to set-up an arrangement.

Program Webpage

For a more detailed overview of each merit badge, including costs and pre-requisites check out the Winter Blast Program Page!

Program Completion Reports

At the end of the week at camp, we will provide your unit with a printed, individual summary report of all merit badge classes attended and the status of completion.

We do not issue physical Merit Badge Blue Cards.

Program Sessions

Scouts get the best of both worlds between advancement and fun! In the morning Scouts have 4 sessions to register for a variety of meritbadge and advancement opportunities. In the afternoon after lunch adventure time begins where Scouts can explore the wonders of camp from Ziplining to range activities, and so much more!

JUST FOR LEADERS

“A Scout deserves a trained leader.” We are offering a variety of opportunities to develop your skills and knowledge as a leader. We understand the sacrifice every adult makes to be at camp with their Scouts and we do what we can to help make your time here enjoyable and productive as possible.

Trainings

Trainer's Edge

Nap on Safely

Scoutmaster Specifics

Outdoor Demonstrations

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

Open Discussions & Best Practices

See Program Webpage for Additional information!



Service Projects/Guest Instructors

We are always in need of your expertise, whether it is for improvements to a facility or instructing a special merit badge class. Let us know your talents and interests!

Leader Lounge

This is a place for leaders only and is off limits to Scouts. We offer FREE air conditioning, restrooms, coffee, and best of all WIFI! Be sure to pack your favorite device to kick back and relax in the Scout-less paradise of the leader lounge.

Commissioner Minute

Meet with the camp commissioner every morning to learn the days events and crucial information while at camp. Hey you may even make a friend while there!

CAMP SCHEDULE

WINTER BLAST 2025 CAMP SCHEDULE					
Time	12/27 Welcome Day	12/28 Western Day	12/29 Star Wars Day	12/30 Gerald Day	12/31 Depart Day
8:00		Assembly			7am -Breakfast pick-up @Dining Hall -Packet Pick-up @Ames
8:10		Breakfast 12/28-12/30 SM Briefing 9:00a Front of Dining Hall			
9:00		Period 1 (9:00-9:45)			
10:00		Period 2 (10:00-10:45)			
11:00		Period 3 (11:00-11:45)			*Field Uniforms recommended
12:00		Period 4 (12:00-12:45)			
1:00	Check-in 1p-3p SM & SPL Meeting 5p @GBB	Lunch (1:00-1:45)			
2:00		Siesta time (2:00-3:30) 12/28-12/30 SPL Meeting 2:00p Front of Dining Hall			
3:00	Adventure Time (3:30-5:30)				
6:00	Assembly*				
6:10	Dinner				
7:30	Opening Campfire*	Movie Night	Movie Night	Closing Campfire*	
10:00	Lights Out!				

Schedule is subject to change

MAIL CALL!

Families are encouraged to send a letter or package to their Scout during camp. Allow a minimum seven days for delivery. Any items arriving after the Scouts departure will be returned to sender. Use the information below to ensure proper delivery. Mail is given out during evening assemblies!

Mailing Address

Scouts Name & Unit #

Camp Shands

1453 Baden Powell Road

Hawthorne, FL 32640

Contact Us!

Website: www.CampShands.org

Phone: (352) 475-5080 (Seasonal use)

Fax: (352) 900-0988

North Florida Council Camping Department

Phone: (904) 265-3814

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Scouts, Scouters, and visitors will be expected to exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law while in camp.

Adult Leadership

Unit leadership should arrange for qualified leadership from your troop to accompany the Scouts at camp. ***At least 72 hours prior to camp, qualified leadership must have completed current youth protection training and bring a copy with them to camp or enter while registering. Qualified leadership includes at least two adult leaders who are at least 21 years old and registered with Scouts BSA.*** Each unit is required to have at least two adults present in camp at all times. If struggling to find a second leader please contact the Camp Director for assistance. Failure to meet this will cause removal from camp.

Quiet Hours

Each Scout must remain in their campsite and observe quiet hours of 10 pm to 6 am.

Smoking Policy

Boy Scouts of America is to provide a smoke free environment for all Scouting participants. Therefore, smoking in the presence of youth or in buildings is prohibited at Camp Shands. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas. This includes vaping. Thank you for your assistance!

Alcohol and Drugs

Possession or use of any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or the misuse of any prescribed medication is expressly prohibited. Groups or individuals found in violation of this will be asked to leave camp immediately without refund.

Visitors

Safety is paramount at Camp Shands! We ask every parent or family member to check in at the Ames upon arrival and departure.

Cell Phones/Electronics

Scouts should not have a cell phone out during Merit Badge/Program Sessions. Scouts are more than welcome to bring their devices, they can be charged in the campsite pavilion. Wi-Fi is accessible in different areas of camp for use to do work, post to social media, etc. Camp Shands and the North Florida Council are NOT responsible for any lost, broken, or stolen items.

Damaged Equipment

Scouts are expected to take care of all equipment they use. Sometimes, equipment is damaged and it needs to be replaced or repaired. If equipment is misused by the unit, the cost of any damaged equipment will be settled before the unit's departure. Any equipment damages should be reported to the Camp Commissioner.

Damaged Equipment Fees

- Cot Replacement \$149 • Fire Extinguisher Refill \$59
- Tent Replacement \$599 • Pavilion Door Replacement \$950
- Tarp Replacement \$129 • Pavilion Screen Replacement \$425

Firearms

It is prohibited to bring any personal firearm or weapon to camp. In the event one is brought it must be checked in with the RATA Director where we will store it in our armory until your departure. This is to maintain everyone's safety at camp.

Pets

Pets are not permitted at Camp Shands. Only properly trained and identified service animals are permitted with prior approval from the Camp Director.

Restricted Areas

Scouts and leaders are restricted from staff quarters at all times. Campsites of other units are off limits and should not be visited or passed through without prior approval. No raids allowed! Raids cause personal and property damage. Raids will be grounds for dismissal from camp.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures will be posted on the bulletin boards and in all campsites. Scouts and leaders hearing the bell or receive a message through our texting service must report immediately to their campsite or other designated area without delay. Leaders make sure all Scouts are aware of the emergency procedures.

Health and Safety

All precautions for the safety of everyone will be taken. The first aid lodge is available with a qualified health officer on duty 24 hours a day. In the case of a non-life threatening injury, the troop leader will be asked to provide transportation to the hospital or other as directed. Emergency services will be called for more critical cases.

Youth Protection

Camp Shands follows the National BSA policies on Youth Protections. These policies include two deep leadership where 2 adult leaders over 21 must be at camp. Every unit serving females must also have at least one female leader over 21. All adults accompanying the unit overnight must be registered adult members of BSA. No one on one contact between adults and youth members. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers and can only intrude to the extent health and safety requires. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Telephone

Should someone at camp need to be contacted, the camp telephone number is (352) 475-5080. This phone is located in the camp office and is staffed from 9:00a-9:00p with the exception of meal times and campfire. Please note this is the camp business phone. Staff can take messages to deliver to the unit or Scout.

Tenting accomodations & Youth protection

Seperate tenting arangments must be provided for male and female adults as well as male and female youth. Youth sharing tents must be no more than 2 years apart in age. Youth and adults must tent separately. (Even if they are your own child)

Weather

Camp Director and Program Director monitor the weather daily and are in constant contact about the weather. We will send messages via text app to let particiapants know about incoming weather. In severe weather we will notify everyone to stay under shelter or move to our emergcy storm locations. Troop Leaders are ultimately responsible for safety of their Scouts, and should use their own judgement when a possible threat exists. As weather effects program, we do our best to make-up time lost.

Vehicles

To protect our camp and Scouts, we ask that ALL vehicles be parked in the main parking lot. Only on Saturday and Sunday, vehicles will be allowed back into campsites to transport gear. Units with trailers are welcomed to keep their trailer in the campsite. No other vehicles are permitted, including mobile homes in the campsite. **Golf Carts, Boats, and Bikes are NOT PERMITTED on camp without prior approval from camp leadership. ATVs and UTVs are NOT PERMITTED. If permitted to bring a golf cart there are additional trainings required to operate at camp.**

Driving Times

We do ask driving is kept to a minimum. Specifically ask no driving is done during program transition times as outlined on schedule for when foot traffic is at it's height during the day.

Driving Permits

Those that need to drive during the week to accomodate any mobility needs, we ask to check-in at the Ames office to recieve a driving permit to leave posted in the windshield of the vehicle for the week.

Refund Policy

Any requests for refunds must be sent via email to the Camp Director, Inga Glaspey at Inga.Glaspey@NFCBSA.org.

Requests for refund made...

- Two weeks or more before event = 85% Refund
- Less than two weeks and until event = 60% Refund
- Event has started and up to five days leading up to event = 40% Refund
- ***Refunds for fees of \$10 or less will not be issued. Checks expire 90 days after the issue date. Uncashed checks that have expired are subject to a \$25 administration fee.***
- ***Refund requests made within 10 days prior to camp start will not be processed until the following Monday of camp ending.***
- ***Refunds are not given for no shows and for bad weather which does not warrant event cancellation.***
- ***Refunds are not given for anyone who leaves camp early for any reason.***
(This includes removal from camp by Managment, Parents, or Unit Leadership.)

Reasons for requesting a refund:

- Serious illness or injury preventing attendance
- Death in family preventing attendance
- Camp is cancelled or rescheduled
- Family Emergency

WHAT'S AROUND CAMP?

GROCERY

Dollar General

845 N State Rd 21
Melrose, FL 32666

Williamsons Food Store

840 N State Rd 21
Melrose, FL 32666

Walmart Supercenter

1800 NE 12th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32641

Walmart Supercenter

1024 FL-19
Palatka, FL 32177

HARDWARE

Bryan's ACE Hardware

871 N State Rd 21
Melrose, FL 32666

GAS

Shell

400 FL-26
Melrose, FL 32666

FOOD

Betty's Pizza (Italian)

319 Wynnwood Ave
Melrose, FL 32666

Gator Bait (Family Sports Restaurant)

304 FL-26
Melrose, FL 32666

Fryers (Fried Chicken)

321 FL-26
Melrose, FL 32666

Subway (Sandwiches)

400 FL-26
Melrose, FL 32666

HOSPITAL

UF Shands Hospital

1515 SW Archer Rd
Gainesville, FL 32608

Putnam Community Medical Center

611 Zeagler Dr
Palatka, FL 32177

CAMP STAFF

Camp Shands takes pride in it's Camp Staff. Each year the camp employs over 100 seasonal staff ranging from 14 to 80+ years of age. Most senior staff and area directors attend regional sessions for their positions including BSA National Camping School. Staff also participate in staff developments leading up to the start of camp. This way all staff are trained, ready, and prepared to provide an amazing experience as well as field any questions you may have upon arriving to camp.

Camp staff is a great tool to keep your older Scouts involved. If you or any of your Scouts would like to join our camp staff, please scan the QR code below or go to CampShands.org. All applicants will be offered an interview for the chance to be a part of Camp Shands. Scouting experience is recommended but not required. Please note Winter Blast Staff is a Volunteer position! Every Winterblast Staff member from Counselor in Training to the Camp Director are volunteering their Winter break in service to the Scouts attending Winter Blast!

Staff spots go fast. If interested, get your application in as soon as possible!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR STAFF!

