

Section VI - Trails, Activities, and Awards

Hiker of La-No-Che Trails

Hiking the trails of Camp La-No-Che at The Leonard and Marjorie Williams Family Scout Reservation can be a rewarding experience for Scouts and Scouters alike. Information and helpful hints are provided to make this experience even more fun. The Ecology department maintains and oversees the trail system throughout camp. *Before starting any hike, please notify the staff at the Ecology Lodge for directions, hints on changes and wildlife, and to sign the log book. Report back to Ecology Lodge upon completion of each hike.* Commissioner points are also awarded to the troops participating and completing the Hiker of La-No-Che Trails award. To become a Hiker of La-No-Che and earn a special patch, one must hike three trails, one of which must be hiked at night. The patch may be purchased at the trading post.

Bear Paw Trail

This trail circles a wetland created by a sinkhole adjacent to Pooh Bear Lake within the Pooh Bear Primitive Area Camp. Watch for signs of bear, turkey, deer and gopher tortoise in this area. The Florida Trail crosses nearby. The *Frances Kirkendall Overlook* has been built viewing this wetland with the help of many Central Florida Council volunteers. Berry bushes are in season and the wetland is ringed with these tasty treats that provide food for our wildlife. Be careful of the gopher tortoise dens and wildlife. This area is a licensed *Endangered Species Preserve* covering 300 acres.

Big Stump Trail

This trail is a tradition at La-No-Che. Expect a muddy two hour walk through the Blackwater Swamp to view an old first growth cypress stump and many natural areas of interest. To take this hike, report to the Ecology Lodge with two leaders and ample time to complete the hike before dark. Weekly changes in times may be invoked as water levels, staff schedules and weather require. *Wear old clothes and closed-toe shoes, preferably all items to throw away after the hike.* Nobody comes back in clean clothes and the mud usually won't wash out completely. Those who make it to Big Stump and back fulfill the requirements for a special t-shirt and patch available for purchase from the trading post.

Cateye Trail

The Cateye Trail is marked with red and amber reflectors which the Scouts follow. The route uses existing roads and trails through the east side of camp to provide a challenge for everyone. Remember to bring your flashlights, look up and keep a sharp eye out for the cateyes.

Hydrowatch Trail

The Hydrowatch Trail is a special program run by the Ecology department. Scouts will measure water levels as they walk and learn about the water resources of the Blackwater Basin and La-No-Che. Sinkholes, wells, lake levels and weather will be united in a fun experience. Anyone wishing to take this trail must make special arrangements through the Ecology Lodge.

Lake Norris Aquatic Trail

Canoes, PFDs, binoculars and cameras are all part of this new trail winding around the north and west shores of Lake Norris. Cypress trees, osprey nests, woodpeckers, egrets, buzzards and fish will keep you interested throughout the one hour trip. The aquatic staff will try to provide a BSA Lifeguard if the troop does not have one. Twelve floating marker posts show the way and provide interpretive locations along the route. Follow the water lily and enjoy a great experience.

Perimeter Trail and Florida Trail

This hike can be as long as eight miles around the reservation. For Scouts needing the Hiking merit badge 10-milers or Trailblazer mileage, this is a great trail since it can be modified to join the Ocala Trail to increase mileage up to 60 or more miles. As you hike through Camp Pooh Bear, you cross the Florida Trail which will take you to Camp Rybolt, Clearwater Lake and other locations north of camp. The Ecology staff can help troops and patrols fit this trail to meet a specific need.

Sulfur Springs Trail

This spring is one of the natural wonders of La-No-Che which is being preserved and protected. Because of this protection, you can experience this wonderful ecosystem which unfolds before you. Please do not damage plants and trees along the way, but take lots of pictures. Also, remember that the spring is not a swimming hole.

Trapper Creek Nature Trail

This is an adventure in wetland forests and creeks that sometimes flow under two bridges. The wood ticks and mosquitos may be a problem, so bring your repellent and spray your ankles. Hikers may see close to half of Camp La-No-Che's plant species on this trail along with many different types of animals. This trail will focus on interpretation, making it an ideal resource for Nature and Forestry merit badges and Trailblazer requirements.

Mile Run

In order to earn the Mile Run award, a Scout or leader must meet Monday morning at 6:00 at the Coggins Pavilion. The award is a progressive award, so attendance *every morning* is required. The patch may be purchased at the trading post.

Mile Swim, BSA

To earn the Mile Swim, BSA award, a Scout or leader must meet every morning at 6:00 to receive instruction and swim. Monday morning, the group will meet at the pool. Tuesday through Thursday, the group will meet at the Phillip Starr Waterfront. The award is a progressive award, so attendance *every morning* is required. The national emblem may be purchased at the trading post. The La-No-Che Mile Swim emblem may be purchased at the trading post. Pre-registration with names from due is due on Sunday night at troop time sign-up.

Order of the Arrow

There will again be an OANight during camp on Wednesdays. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to bring their sashes. Tipisa Lodge will host a crackerbarrel each Wednesday evening featuring free food, free drinks, and fellowship for all Arrowmen.

Conservation Projects

If your troop is interested in doing a conservation project at camp, contact the Ecology staff for assistance. If your troop wants to plan a conservation project prior to coming to camp and would like to bring items to accomplish this task, please contact the camp at least one week before arriving.

Service Projects

If your unit is interested in doing a service project at camp, contact your camp commissioner for assistance. If your unit wants to plan a service project prior to coming to camp and would like to bring items to accomplish this task, please contact the camp at least one week before arriving. This will help the camp ranger determine what is needed to help in accomplishing this task.

Troop Snack Social

Troop snack social is available for various snacks, including ice cream cones, nachos, popcorn, and soda. Each Scout may choose his snacks from the serving line and pay at that time.

Troop Ice Cream Social

This great activity is fun for everyone. Please sign up for this event at the SM/SPL signup Sunday evening. The ice cream may be held at the W. T. Bland Dining Hall at your requested time.

Troop Watermelon Slurp

For a slurping great time, make arrangements at the SM/SPL signup Sunday evening. You may pick up the watermelons at the dining hall.

Troop Pizza Social

Pizza is a great crackerbarrel item for an evening snack. Prices vary, so please make arrangements at the SM/SPL signup Sunday evening. You may enjoy the pizza at the W. T. Bland Dining Hall at your requested time.

Black Powder Shooting

This fun activity is available to you and your troop. It makes a great troop activity and costs \$2.50 per person. Please contact the Shooting Sports Director Sunday evening for more information and for reservations.

Troop Shoot

Troop shoots in Archery, Shotgun Shooting, and Rifle Shooting are available during troop activity time. Rifle shooting costs \$1.00 per person, shotgun shooting costs \$2.00 per person, black powder shooting costs \$2.50 per person, and archery costs \$1.00 per person. The ranges can handle a limited number of participants at a time, so make reservations with the Shooting Sports Director on Sunday evening at the SM/SPL signup.

Troop Canoeing

Enjoy paddling canoes around beautiful Lake Norris. Unit size may be limited by the number of canoes available. Units wishing to sign up for the *Aqua Trail* should do so at troop activity time. Also, you can arrange a troop canoeing trip to *Alexander Springs* or *Juniper Springs*. We'll take you to a drop-off point and pick you up at the end, and everyone will have a great trip. Boys should be taught safety afloat and basic canoe handling before going. The cost is \$9.00 per person for the Juniper Canoe Run and \$6.00 per person for the Alexander Springs Run.

Troop Rowing

A fun activity at Phillip Starr Waterfront for any unit. Arrangements are made through the Aquatics department.

Troop Sailing

Troop sailing is a terrific water sport. Everyone, however, must have the Small-Boat Sailing merit badge. Due to the popularity of this activity, an appointment must be made with the Aquatics Director by Monday.

Troop Swim

Swimming is very popular as a troop activity in the afternoon and evening during troop time. Make arrangements at the SM/SPL signup on Sunday evening.

Snorkeling, BSA

This daily one hour program is offered during merit badge program sessions. Daily attendance is required. The emblem may be purchased at the trading post.

Totin' Chip / Firem'n Chit

These great programs are available during troop activity time and also through the Trailblazer department. Contact the Trailblazer Director for more information at the SM/SPL meeting on Sunday night.

Campwide Games

Prepare to experience challenges playing fast and furious games and skills as troops compete. On Monday evening through Thursday evening, troops will compete in one of three classes determined by troop size. The program starts at 7:30 P.M. A list of events will be provided on Sunday afternoon at the SM/SPL meeting. Awards will be given out Thursday evening at the Family Night campfire. These games are optional and troops may decide whether or not to accept the game challenges.

Troop Volleyball Tournament

The Camp La-No-Che Troop Volleyball Tournament is an opportunity to compete against other troops in a fun game of volleyball. Sign up to compete in the tournament during the Sunday evening SM/SPL signup.

Caving

Scouts who are at least 14 years old may sign up for a Caving Adventure on Friday in Belleview. You will be crawling on your hands and knees for almost two hours exploring the cave, so plan to bring old clothes which can get dirty. There is a small fee associated with this adventure. More information will be provided during the SM/SPL meeting Sunday afternoon and units may register their participants Sunday evening.

Trail Bike Adventure

Camp La-No-Che is proud to own trail bikes to provide older Scouts opportunities for adventure in the Florida outdoors on the Paisley Bike Trail. Scouts must be approved by their Scoutmaster to participate in this adventure. The Paisley Bike Trail is a 22-mile circular trail through the Ocala National Forest. Register at the SM/SPL signup Sunday evening. A small fee is associated with this adventure, and an adult leader must accompany the group.

Custom Troop Activities

If you have a special request for a custom troop activity, please let us know. If possible, please call ahead before summer camp for special custom troop activities. However, you can set up some custom troop activities at the Sunday night SM/SPL meeting.

Commissioner's Awards

The Commissioner's Awards will evaluate campsites and Scout spirit/activity separately. Each troop will be awarded a Commissioner's Award for their troop flag, with the level of award based on the points earned during the week. In addition, overall awards will be presented to the troops with the best campsite, the best Scout spirit, the best gateway, and the best combined score overall. See Section X for the score sheets used for this award.

Summer Camp Patch

Each Scout and registered leader will receive a summer camp patch for completing a week at camp.

World Conservation Award

To complete the World Conservation Award, a Scout must earn the following merit badges: Environmental Science, Citizenship in the World, and either Soil and Water Conservation or Fish and Wildlife Management.

Sports

Camp La-No-Che has a night sports program for Scouts and adult leaders. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights at 7:00 on the sports field, staff will compete against Scouts and adults interested in playing soccer. Also, Tuesday evening at 9:00, the staff will challenge adult leaders in basketball. Camp La-No-Che has lighted sports areas for basketball, volleyball, boulder wall, horseshoes, climbing, and shooting sports.

Gateway Competition

Build a gateway into your campsite. It must be creative and built by the youth, without digging any holes. Gateways will be judged on Thursday morning, and winners will be recognized at the Friday flag ceremony.

Patrol Flag Competition

Bring your patrol flags to camp. Turn them in at the Quartermaster Hut on Wednesday morning and pick them up on Thursday after lunch. Winners will be recognized at the Friday flag ceremony.

Scoutmasters' Award

Each week, this award will be given by the Scoutmasters to the troop that they feel best shows spirit, pride in their unit, proper dress, and good manners. A form will be given to Scoutmasters so they can evaluate each unit that week at camp. Forms will be turned in Friday morning, and the award will be presented at the closing campfire.