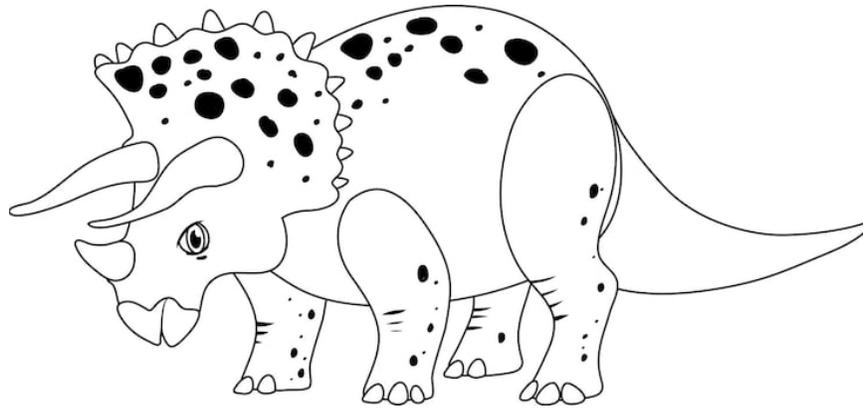


MANATEE DISTRICT

DINOTOPIA

DAY CAMP 2026

PARENT GUIDE



16009 UPPER MANATEE RIVER ROAD

BRADENTON, FL 34212

Welcome and Introduction!

Welcome friends to Manatee District 2026 Cub Scout Day Camp! Thank you for registering your Scout to be a part of this year's program. We know your Scout will have a fun, rewarding and growing experience and so will you if you have also decided to join our team of fantastic leaders and volunteers. Toward that end, we have created this guide to help you and your Scout plan and prepare for this year's program, understand what to expect at camp and to understand what is expected of you and all the other campers during your time with us.

Objectives and Philosophy of Cub Scout Day Camp

"Fun with a Purpose" is what we strive for as we teach our campers Scouting values in a safe and exciting outdoor environment. We focus on teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for each other, the outdoors and for Scouting.

Goals

The goals of the Manatee District Cub Scout Day Camp Program are to provide an exciting and adventurous outdoor opportunity for our Cub Scouts to experience personal growth, meet new friends, enhance their understanding of and learn to appreciate the outdoors, learn new skills and embrace the ideals and values of the scouting experience, all while having an exorbitant amount of fun!

Behavioral Outcomes While at Camp

Scouts will be able to demonstrate living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in a camp setting with the other members of their den for an entire week with the positive influences of other Scouts and leaders. Following the day camp experience, each Scout should be able to articulate to their parents and friends at least one new experience or apply a new skill for each program or activity that they attempted during camp.

Scouting America Mission Statement

The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Registration and Fees

Registering your Scout for day camp and paying the fees is done on the Southwest Florida Council's website at <http://www.swflcouncilbsa.org> under the "Calendar/Event Registration" tab. Find the day camp dates for Manatee District on the calendar and click the link to begin the process.

This year's camp dates are **June 1-5, 2026**. When registering your Scout, remember they will be attending day camp at the next higher rank/grade level than they were the previous year. For example: current Lions would attend as Tigers, current Tigers would attend as Wolves, etc. Incoming

Lions may not attend day camp. A Scout is not completely registered for day camp until all fees are paid. This year the fee is \$95 for all Cub Scouts.

A discount of \$25 is offered for the Scout of an adult who volunteers to be on the day camp staff for all **five** days. One discount is available per family.

The Southwest Florida Council Cancellation Policy: Once registration fees have been paid, for an individual who becomes ill or otherwise be unable to attend the event, as the event has already incurred expenses related to the activity such as program supplies, ins., food, patches, etc., event fees are non-refundable & non- transferrable. An exception will be made **ONLY** if a request is received in writing or email (not phone). The request must and submitted to the Southwest Florida Council Office no less than 72 hours before the date of the event. In most cases, only a partial refund can be made. **Refunds for inclement weather will be made only if the event is cancelled.** No refunds will be given on the Event Processing Fee.

Check-In

The next important administrative action is Check-in. This is when we collect campers required BSA Health Forms, alternate adult pick up designation forms (who else do you authorize to sign your child out from day camp?), permission forms and any unpaid fees. We will confirm den assignments, issue camp t-shirts (a mandatory requirement to wear at camp each day), assign car line pick up tags and answer any further questions you may have.

Required Forms: Please bring the following forms to the first morning of camp as this will speed up the check-in process. All documents will be returned to you at the end of camp.

- Current BSA Health Form parts A&B
- A copy of your insurance card
- Current Photo of Camper
- Emergency Contact form (available at check in)

Sign-In and Sign-Out:

The most important administrative process for parents (or your designated representative), is you must be involved in the daily sign-in and sign-out of your Scout. Every morning, you will drop your Scouts off by walking them to the admin pavilion located just past the Camp Admin Building office. Look for the signs to guide you toward our adventure. You will follow this same procedure when you pick your Scout up at the end of the day at 5:00pm. You must have ID to pick up your child. Please be sure to pick up your Scout on time each day out of respect for the many volunteers that will be needing to get home to their families as well. This simple procedure is so important to ensure the safety and security of all our Scouts.

Arrival

Camp opens to Scouts at 8:30 AM. Parents will be directed to the admin pavilion to sign in your Scout. Your Scouts will be escorted to their dens.

PLEASE, DO NOT DROP YOUR SCOUT OFF AND LEAVE IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THEM IN WITH A CAMP STAFF MEMBER.

Camper Responsibilities

- Sit in assigned Den area
- Stay with the Den Leader
- Ask permission to use the restroom and use the Buddy System
- Have fun!

Visitors

Anyone who is not registered as a Leader or Volunteer is considered a "Visitor" and must check-in at the Camp Directors office at the Admin Area to receive a pass permitting you to be on property.

Late Sign-In and Early Sign-Out

If you must sign-in your Scout late proceed to the Camp director's office. To sign them out early, you will check in as a visitor and proceed to the Health Lodge. Camp staff will have your Scout escorted to the Health Lodge to be picked up. Do not go to the den tables or try to find your Scout on your own.

Before you may enter camp, you must check-in at the Camp Directors office and get a visitor's pass permitting you to be on property. (This is a security measure that must be followed)

Absences

Please call the camp if your child will not be in camp that day. Camp staff will call the parents of any absent campers to confirm the absence and avoid the possibility of a child lost between the parking lot and den tables. Absences should be phoned to 941-526-3318.

Health Care at Day Camp

The camp has a Health Officer on property. The camp health officer dispenses any medications your Scout requires during camp, provided it is in the original packaging with the label and your Scout's health record specifies the need. Please highlight medications, severe allergies or other medical conditions to camp health officer when you turn-in the health forms at check-in. There will be a separate form needed to be filled out by the parent if Scouts require medicine at camp. Parents must bring enough medications for the week to the health officer on the first day of camp. Excess medications will be returned on Friday. If your Scout requires an inhaler or epi-pen, discuss this with the health officer and den leader. The health officer also treats injuries and illnesses at camp, determines if further medical treatment or an early return home are needed, and calls parents as needed.

Campers with Special Needs

We strive to make accommodations to campers with special needs in physical, mental or emotional areas. Day camp leaders will coordinate with parents and caregivers to understand the

limitations and needs of campers, place them in a suitable den and provide alternative activities, or treatment as needed. If appropriate, den leaders will be made aware of the special needs and will confirm their ability to support them. The most common examples of a special need are a child who must report to the Health Lodge at a certain time each day for medication or awareness of extreme allergies and the use of inhalers or epi-pens.

What to Wear & Bring to Camp Wear: (Please label everything possible with name, and pack number)

Wear:

Clean Camp T-shirt (mandatory every day)

Socks and comfortable, closed-toe shoes (no sandals, crocs or flip flops)

Bug Spray (parent-applied; volunteers may not apply bug spray to your child)

Sunscreen (please apply prior to camp and send with camper to reapply at lunch)

Bring:

Sack lunch, labeled with name.

Small backpack or bag for carrying their stuff and to take home projects.

Hat to protect from the sun.

Raincoat or poncho

Swimsuit and towel

Water bottle or canteen (refillable)

Healthy Snack

Medications (in original packaging to be turned in to the Camp Health Officer) Inhalers, epi-pens or other emergency medical equipment (discuss w/ Health officer & den leader)

What Not to Bring to Camp:

Pocket knives or any weapons (real or toy)

Electronic devices, including games, phones, music players, or laser pointers.

Gum

Tobacco

Matches, lighters, or flammables

Rules and Policies at Camp:

The Scout Law is the Law of Day Camp.

The Buddy System is mandatory.

Fun is also mandatory.

Campers must respect each other, their leaders, camp facilities and nature.

Stay with your den.

Practice Leave No Trace.

The Scout Oath and Scout Law guide us in our behavior.

Discipline: Campers having difficulty following the rules and not following leaders' instructions and corrective actions, may be sent to the Camp Director for some time out of the fun. Continued misbehavior may require parental involvement or dismissal from camp.

NO, pets are permitted at camp, other than those required certified as service animals. Please leave pets at home, they will be happy to see your Scout when they get home.

Important Rules and Policies for Adult Participants and Parents:

Please pick up only your own Scout and/or make written arrangements with the camp staff to designate someone else to pick up your child. (Car-pooling is okay if Camp Administration is aware ahead of time)

Two deep leadership applies to all adults interacting with youth at day camp.

There will be no smoking at camp; the designated smoking area is located off camp property.

We welcome parents to visit camp and see how their Scout is doing, but please first check-in with the camp staff at the camp office to receive a guest pass to be on property.

Additionally, **CLOSED-TOE SHOES ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON CAMP PROPERTY. PLEASE DO NOT WEAR FLIP FLOPS OR OPEN-TOE SHOES OF ANY KIND WHEN DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP YOUR SCOUT.** Following this simple rule sets a good example to our Scouts and volunteers.

Theme and Activities

Our theme this year is: "DINOTOPIA". Many activities, presentations, and activities will encompass the theme. Our opening ceremony begins at 9:00am each morning, after which the dens will rotate through a series of activity areas spread across the camp property. A closing ceremony concludes camp each day with the presentation of awards/acknowledgements. The program of activities is essentially the same each day, but specific games, crafts and activities vary day to day. A good portion of your Scout's day will be outside. Water stations will be available around camp to refill their water bottles.

Day Camp Staff

Our day camp staff is comprised completely of volunteers who have generously donated their time and energy to help make a great experience for our Cub Scouts. Many members of our staff have worked for six months or more to plan, organize, train, order, purchase, assemble, test and otherwise create a safe and exciting program of activities. Other staff members have volunteered to spend the entire week at camp, mostly as den leaders to help the campers have fun by keeping them safe, engaged, challenged and on schedule. All our staff are important and valued members of the team and deserve the gratitude and respect of campers and parents. Our Staff is Awesome!

Dens and Den Leaders

The fundamental element of all of Cub Scouting is the den. At our day camp, we organize our Scouts into dens of the same age group (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light). Please note that your Scout may be placed in a den that other members of their home pack are not in,

this is usually done to balance dens. Adult volunteers act as Den leaders to ensure camper's safety, security and fun by accounting for all den members as they are signed in by their parents/designated adult. Den leaders help the Scouts understand the events and activities of camp and help them have fun at each activity area and particularly in between activities.

Advancement

While advancement is not the primary purpose of day camp, we do offer opportunities for Scouts to earn awards and recognition that aid their progression through the Cub Scout ranks and enhance their enjoyment of the Scouting program. At the end of camp, the staff will provide a letter to parents and unit leaders describing the adventures entirely or partially completed. A letter will also be supplied to our Junior Staff members indicating the amount of service hours they have completed.

Contact Information

Camp Director: Shari Kurutz, Cell Number: 941-526-3318

Program Director: Dawn Giddens, Cell Number: 941- 962-1487

Camp email: manateedaycamp@yahoo.com

District Executive: Seth Mininsohn, cell number:941- 525-6765, email:
seth.mininsohn@scouting.org

Please note that this information is tentative and subject to change. In the event any information is changed, an email will go out to those registered.