

WINTER WONDERLAND CAMP

GUIDEBOOK

Friday, December 19, 2025 to Sunday, December 21, 2025

Camp Shands

1453 Baden Powell Road * Hawthorne, FL 32640



Step into the magic of the season at our inaugural Council-level Winter Wonderland Family Camp! Cub Scouts and their families are invited for a weekend of adventure, rank advancement, and holiday fun. This year, we're offering a premium camping experience—tents are already set up on platforms with cots ready for your Scouts, so all you need to do is unpack and dive into the fun.

Get ready for activities that will delight Scouts of all ages—from Snowball Archery and Blizzard BBs, games, and a festive Winter Wonderland Carnival. Along the way, Scouts will have the chance to earn Adventure belt loops and work on rank advancements while families join in the fun. Be on the lookout—our special request to the North Pole might just deliver some real snow for an extra magical touch!

Families will also enjoy seasonal lunch, hot cocoa, and opportunities to meet other Scouts from across the council. Don't forget to pick up your Winter Wonderland Passport to collect stamps at activities and redeem them for a cool prize at the Carnival. For all the details on check-in, schedules, meals, and advancement opportunities, see the corresponding sections later in the guidebook.

And as part of the season of giving, we're supporting the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to drop off at the Welcoming Station and help make the holidays brighter for children in need.

Winter Wonderland 2025 promises memorable experiences, festive surprises, and a magical weekend your Scouts and families won't forget!

Goals of the Event

- Create memorable family experiences in a winter-themed camp setting.
- Provide advancement opportunities through themed Cub Scout Adventures.
- Encourage teamwork, outdoor skills, and Scout Spirit.
- Support Packs with structured programming and fun activities.

Registration & Fees

To keep Winter Wonderland safe and fun for everyone, all participants on property must be registered and paid. (Little ones four and under can join the fun for free but must be registered!)

Early Bird Special (ends 11/21/25)

\$75 per person with jacket; \$45 per person without jacket

Regular Registration (11/22 – 12/12/25)

\$85 per person with jacket; \$55 per person without jacket

What's Included

Your Winter Wonderland weekend comes with more than just activities—it's a premium camping experience designed to keep things fun and hassle-free.

Premium Accommodations: Each family will enjoy a spacious nylon tent already set up on a raised wooden platform—keeping you high, dry, and comfortable. Inside, you'll find two standard camp cots, ready for use. Just bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, and any extra bedding to make it perfectly cozy.

All Weekend Programming: From advancement activities to festive family fun, you'll have access to everything Winter Wonderland has to offer.

Saturday Lunch: A hearty winter meal to keep you fueled for the day's adventures.

Commemorative Patch: A keepsake to remember this magical inaugural event.

Optional Add-On: Saturday Turkey Dinner Bowl – \$10 (includes a Camp Shands mug; must be purchased by 12/12/25).

Register today at campshands.org to reserve your spot! Don't wait—the last day to register is December 12, 2025.



Contact Information

Council Volunteer
CubWinter@nfcbsa.org

Council Staff Advisor
Eli Rivera
Eli.Rivera@scouting.org

Council Camping Assistant
Nikki Meldrum
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Sample Daily Schedule



This is a tentative schedule and likely to change.

Day 1: Friday, December 19th	
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Check In
8:00 PM	Leader/Parent Meeting
10:00 PM	Lights Out
Day 2: Saturday, December 20th	
8:00 AM	Breakfast (on your own)
8:45 AM	Opening Flag Ceremony
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Morning Adventure Activities
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Winter Lunch (camp provided)
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Afternoon Adventure Activities
6:00 PM	Dinner (on your own)*
7:00 PM	Winter Wonderland Carnival
10:00 PM	Lights Out!
Day 3: Sunday, December 21st	
7:00 AM	Breakfast (on your own)
7:30 AM	Interfaith Chapel Service
8:15 AM	Closing Flag Ceremony
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Pack Up & Check Out

**You may pre-purchase a Winter Dinner by 12/12/2025.*

Advancement Opportunities

At Winter Wonderland, each rank will have the opportunity to complete multiple Adventure belt loops while enjoying a wide variety of engaging activities. Scouts will rotate through scheduled stations, ensuring they experience everything the event has to offer. From BB shooting and archery to crafts, outdoor skills, and games, every activity is designed to help Scouts advance in rank while having a blast.

Activities are structured for family participation, so parents and siblings can join in the fun and share in the adventure. Scouts will not only develop new skills and confidence, but they'll also make lasting memories with friends and family. Winter Wonderland is the perfect setting for Scouts to explore, learn, and achieve in an exciting, supportive environment.



Wolf

Digging in the Past

Travel back in time and become a junior archaeologist! Scouts will uncover “ancient” treasures, explore historic artifacts, and learn about the tools and methods used to study the past. This hands-on adventure fulfills requirements for Wolf rank advancement while giving Scouts a chance to problem-solve, observe carefully, and work together in a fun, interactive setting.

Lets Camp Wolf

Get ready to pitch a tent, build a cozy campsite, and practice essential outdoor skills! Scouts will learn camping basics, set up a campfire, and explore nature while completing Wolf rank requirements. This program blends practical skill-building with outdoor adventure, making camping both educational and exciting.



Bear

Lets Camp Bears

Step up your outdoor skills with Bear-level camping adventures! Scouts will learn to plan and set up a campsite, practice safe outdoor cooking, and explore the wilderness while completing Bear rank requirements. This program combines hands-on camping experience with teamwork and problem-solving, making every moment both educational and exciting.

Whittling

Get ready to carve, create, and learn the art of safe whittling! Scouts will practice knife safety, proper techniques, and creative carving projects, fulfilling the Bear Whittling Chip requirements. This program encourages focus, patience, and creativity, all while having fun making something to take home.



Webelos

Chef's Knife

Calling all junior chefs! Scouts will learn safe knife skills, kitchen safety, and meal preparation techniques, completing the Chef's Knife activity requirements. This program combines hands-on cooking practice with creativity, allowing Scouts to enjoy the satisfaction of making something delicious while developing important life skills.

Math on the Trail

Explore the outdoors with a mathematical twist! Scouts will use observation, measurement, and problem-solving skills to complete challenges along the trail, fulfilling Webelos rank advancement requirements. This program turns nature into a classroom, blending adventure, teamwork, and learning in an exciting way.



Arrow of the Light

High Tech Outdoors

Combine technology with the great outdoors! Scouts will explore GPS navigation, digital mapping, and tech-assisted outdoor skills, completing Arrow of Light rank requirements. This program blends modern tools with classic adventure, making learning navigation and exploration exciting and hands-on.

Into the Woods

Step deeper into nature on this immersive outdoor adventure! Scouts will practice orienteering, shelter building, and environmental observation, fulfilling Arrow of Light advancement requirements. This program emphasizes problem-solving, teamwork, and confidence while giving Scouts a true taste of wilderness adventure.



Leader Responsibilities

Adult leaders play a key role in making Winter Wonderland safe, fun, and memorable for everyone. Responsibilities can be shared among adults in your Pack, and helping out also supports our hardworking volunteers who make the event possible.

Key Responsibilities:

- Ensure all Pack participants are registered and have current health forms.
- Adhere to Safeguarding Youth policies at all times.
- Help manage Pack rotation between stations so Scouts get to experience everything.
- Encourage family participation at each activity.
- Supervise Scouts during downtime, especially at the Trading Post and campsites.
- Ensure the campsite is left cleaner than you found it—helping volunteers and future campers.
- Promote Scout Spirit, safety, and fun throughout the event.

By sharing responsibilities and working together, leaders help create a smooth, enjoyable experience for Scouts, families, and volunteers alike! *Parents also play an important role by supporting leaders, staying engaged with their own Scouts, and helping make the event safe and fun for everyone.*

Camp Shands Rules

To ensure a safe, fun, and memorable Winter Wonderland experience, all Scouts, families, and leaders must follow these rules.

Leadership & Supervision

- Packs must always have two-deep leadership while at camp—no exceptions.
- Adults should share supervision responsibilities and actively monitor Scouts, especially during downtime and at activity areas.

Vehicles & Parking

- All cars must be parked in designated camp parking areas.
- Only specially authorized vehicles are allowed in campsites (trailers are permitted).
- Absolutely no riding in the back of trucks or trailers.

Footwear & Personal Safety

- Shoes must always be worn at camp; closed-toe shoes are required.
- Throwing rocks is strictly forbidden.
- Personal firearms, bows, and dangerous items are not permitted.
- No alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances are allowed on camp property.

Outdoor & Nature Safety

- Stay on trails and designated paths; do not wander off alone.
- Respect plants and wildlife—no picking plants or feeding animals.
- No climbing trees or other unsafe structures.
- Campsite fires must stay in designated fire pits and be monitored by an adult at all times. All members of the campsite share responsibility for safety around the fire.
- No flames, fires, or fuels of any kind are permitted inside tents.

Equipment & Recreation

- Bikes, skateboards, inline skates, or mountain boards are not allowed.
- The Ga Ga pit requires all participants to follow posted rules at the activity.

Emergency & Check-In

- All guests must check in immediately at the designated area and bring health forms.
- Meninak & Taylor Dining Hall are emergency shelters for inclement weather.
- First Aid Health Lodge is located next to the Ames building.
- No fireworks of any kind are allowed on camp property.

By following these rules, we keep everyone safe, happy, and ready to enjoy the magic of Winter Wonderland!

Safe Guarding Youth policies are very important in keeping everyone safe.

Two-Deep Leadership: To ensure a safe and supportive environment, all activities are supervised by at least two adult leaders. When activities involve only boys or only girls, at least one adult of the same gender must be present. This policy, a key part of Scouting America's commitment to safeguarding youth, ensures accountability, guidance, and safety for all Scouts.

Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception: Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders. All adults must review the “How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide” that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook. In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.

No One-on-One Contact: One-on-one contact between adult and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting. Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.

Respect of Privacy: Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp and intrude only to the extent that health and safety requires. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Separate Accommodations: Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults and youth. Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age. In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.

What to Bring



Winter Wonderland offers a premium camping experience, so families don't need to bring a tent! Each campsite will have a tent set up on a platform with two cots per tent, ready for your Scouts to settle in. To ensure everyone has a safe, fun, and comfortable weekend, please come prepared with the following items:

Essentials

- Health Forms (Parts A & B) for every participant (youth and adults) – required for check-in.
- Pack First Aid Kit – helpful for minor scrapes, bumps, or other small emergencies.
- Camping Gear – sleeping bags, pillows, and personal items for a cozy night.
- Reusable Water Bottles – stay hydrated during activities even if it is cool outside.
- Mess Kits – plates, utensils, and cups for meals.
- Warm Clothing & Rain Gear – remember to dress in layers; hats, gloves, and hand warmers are recommended for cool-weather camping.
- Spending Money – for the Trading Post (we suggest \$50 per Scout).
- Pack Flag and Spirit Items – to show your Pack pride during activities and events.

Safety & Tips:

- Label all personal items to prevent mix-ups.
- Keep water bottles filled and accessible throughout the day.
- Dress in layers so Scouts can adjust to outdoor temperatures and activities.
- Encourage Scouts to help pack and organize their own gear to build responsibility.

With these items, Scouts and families will be ready to enjoy every adventure, activity, and magical moment Winter Wonderland has to offer!

What to Expect for Arrival, Check-In & Parking

Gates open at 5:00 PM on Friday, marking the start of an exciting Winter Wonderland weekend! As you drive in, a friendly greeter will check in your vehicle and direct you to your campsite. Each family will receive campsite assignments, a camp map, and the weekend schedule.

Be sure to have your Health Form (Parts A & B) ready for each participant—youth, siblings, and adults—to make check-in smooth and quick. A copy of the form is available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr.

Once you've checked in and settled into your campsite, the adventure begins! Head over to our Welcoming Station where the aroma of hot cocoa and fresh coffee awaits. Pick up your Winter Wonderland Passport, join in cheerful activities, and gather with new friends as we light up camp for the weekend. It's the perfect moment to soak up the festive spirit, meet other families, and set the tone for an unforgettable holiday adventure together!

For those arriving on Saturday, check-in begins at 7:30 AM at the Ames Building.

Health & Safety

Keeping everyone safe and healthy is a top priority at Winter Wonderland. All participants should bring completed Health Forms (Parts A & B), which will be collected at check-in. Please review any allergies, medical conditions, or special needs with your Pack leaders so that everyone can enjoy the weekend safely.

Medications must be kept with parents or guardians, not leaders, and should be stored securely to ensure the safety of all participants. Families are responsible for administering their own medications.

The Health Lodge, located next to the Ames Building, is available for first aid, minor injuries, or medical concerns throughout the weekend. Packs should bring a first aid kit for minor scrapes or bumps at their campsite.

Two-deep leadership is required at all times, ensuring that Scouts are supervised and supported during activities, at the campsite, and during downtime. Families should also encourage Scouts to stay on designated trails, follow safety instructions at each activity, and respect boundaries around fire pits, archery ranges, and other program areas.

By following these guidelines and communicating openly about health needs, families help ensure that Winter Wonderland is a fun, safe, and memorable experience for everyone.

Adult Leader/Parent Meetings

All units should be represented at the Friday evening meeting in Meninak—check the schedule for the exact time. This meeting is a great way to stay informed and ensure your Scouts have a safe, fun, and smooth weekend.

During the meeting, we'll cover basic policies and procedures, emergency plans, and any updates related to Winter Wonderland. In addition, we'll introduce a texting application that will provide immediate updates throughout the weekend, keeping leaders and families connected and informed.

Attending helps your Pack stay organized, follow safety guidelines, and make the most of all the activities. Even if your Pack is coming as a family, sending at least one adult ensures you're in the loop and ready for an amazing Winter Wonderland experience!

Smoking & Tobacco Use

For the health and comfort of all families, smoking and tobacco use are only permitted in the designated screened area at the Taylor Dining Hall (back porch) and behind the Ames building. This includes cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and vapor/e-cigarettes.

Please remember that tobacco use in any other part of camp is not allowed. Failure to follow this policy may result in dismissal from camp property without refund. Thank you for helping us keep camp safe and enjoyable for every Scout and family.

Trading Post

Our Trading Post is a must-see stop during Winter Wonderland! Stocked with camp supplies, crafts, souvenirs, toiletries, and plenty of treats, it's the place to grab that t-shirt or hat before heading home. Scouts will also find snacks, drinks, and even ice cream to enjoy during downtime. Families may want to plan on bringing around \$50 per Scout to make the most of the experience. Please remember that Scouts should be accompanied by their parents while shopping.



Cancellation & Refund Policy of Cub Activities

Cub Scout Family Camp is a rain or shine event. Because of the preparation and resources that go into making this weekend possible, all refund requests must be made in writing and will only be granted under the following circumstances:

- Serious illness or injury preventing attendance (Doctor's note required)
- Death in the immediate family preventing attendance
- Event cancellation or rescheduling by Council

Refund schedule

- Requests made up to 30 days before the event – 85% refund
- Requests made up to 10 days before the event – 50% refund
- Requests made up to 3 days before the event – 20% refund

Please note:

- Refunds are not given for no-shows or for bad weather that does not warrant official event cancellation.
- Families who choose to leave the event early, for any reason, are not eligible for a refund.
- If camp management requests a family to leave, there will be no refund.

To request a refund, please send your written request to eli.rivera@scouting.org.

Family Check-Out Policy

Winter Wonderland is made possible by our amazing volunteers, and they could use a hand to help everything wrap up smoothly on Sunday morning. Here's how families can pitch in and make check-out easy and fun:

- Pack up tents together – a demonstration will be provided
- Disassemble cots by removing the bars from both ends, then fold and stack them
- Move all gear to the designated area or under the small open pavilion in your campsite
- Bag up all trash and leave it on the road for pick-up. A fun trick: create a “police line” and do a sweep of the site to catch any stray items
- Extinguish fires completely—pour plenty of water to ensure they won't relight

*Remember: **LEAVE NO TRACE!** A clean site helps volunteers and ensures the next campers have a great experience.*

Once everything is ready, swing by the Ames Building to check out. This is also a great time to:

- Pick up any lost-and-found items
- Receive your advancement report, patches, and health forms
- Check-out is no later than 10:00 AM.

Thank you for helping our volunteers—your teamwork makes Winter Wonderland a smooth, safe, and fun experience for everyone!

Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need to bring our own tent?

No. Tents are provided on platforms with two cots per tent. Just bring your own bedding (sleeping bags, blankets, pillows).

What meals are included?

Saturday lunch is included with your registration and will be served in the dining hall. Families should bring their own mess kits (plates, cups, utensils). All other meals are on your own, unless you pre-purchase the special Saturday Turkey Dinner Bowl.

Is there a Trading Post, and how much money should we bring?

Yes! The Trading Post has snacks, drinks, ice cream, camp supplies, and souvenirs. We recommend about \$40–\$50 per child.

What should we wear?

Dress for cool-weather camping: layers, warm hats, gloves, and rain gear. Closed-toe shoes are required at all times.

Are health forms required?

Yes. Every youth and adult must turn in Parts A & B of the Annual Health and Medical Record at check-in.

What about medications?

Medications should be kept with parents, not leaders, and stored securely.

Are there electricity or charging stations in campsites?

Campsites do have electricity within the pavilion.

Can we have a campfire in our campsite?

Yes, but fires must stay in the designated fire pit and be supervised by an adult at all times.

Where do we go in case of severe weather?

Meninak and Taylor Dining Hall serve as emergency shelters.

What if we need first aid?

The Health Lodge is located next to the Ames building, with trained staff on site.

Can siblings participate in activities?

Yes, siblings may join most activities under parent supervision.

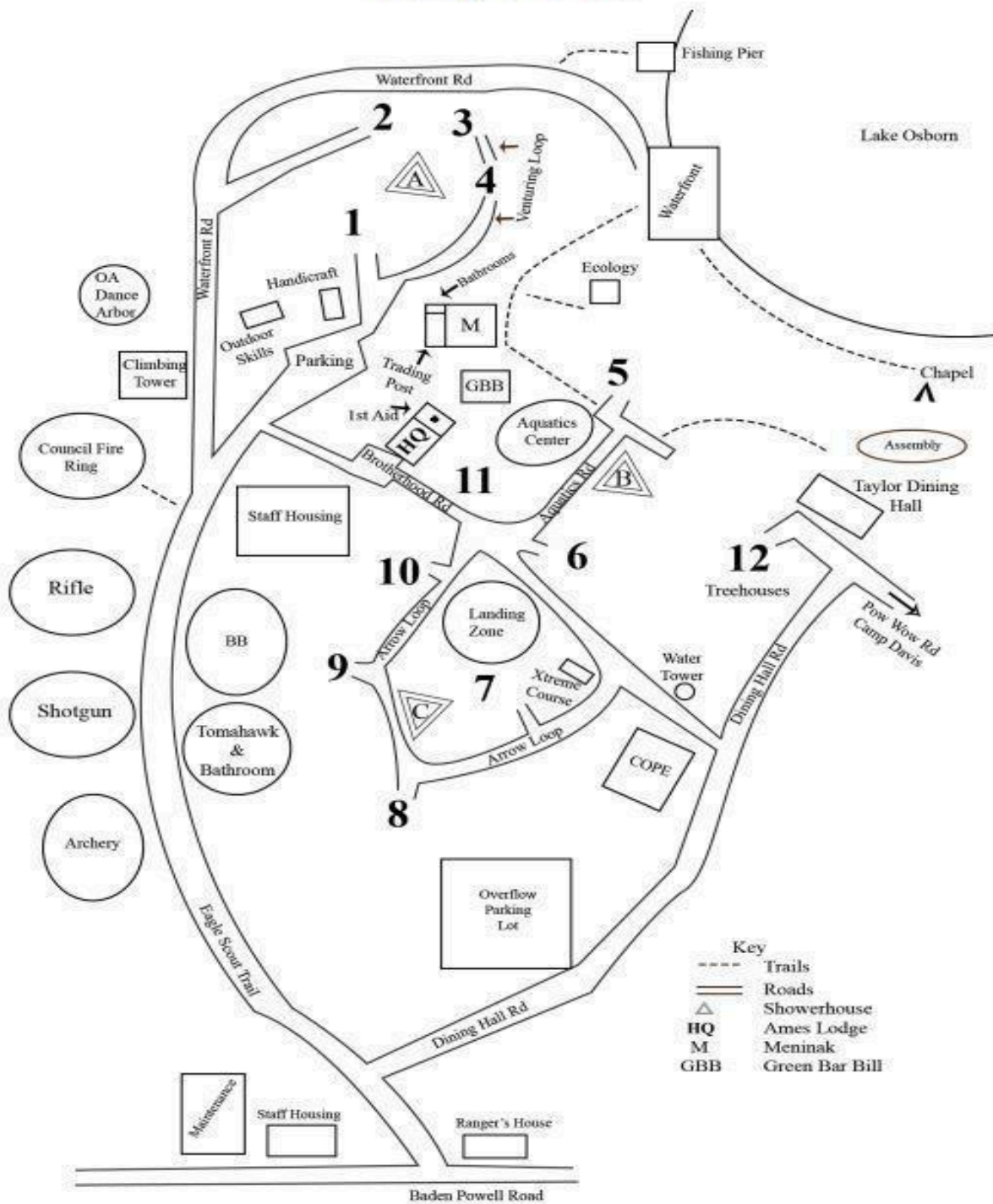
What happens if it rains?

Camp is rain or shine; activities will adjust under shelters or pavilions.

Can families leave and return?

Yes, but check in/out with event staff at the Ames building.

Camp Shands



Be Part of the Magic — Volunteer at Winter Wonderland!

This December, families from across the Council will gather for the **inaugural Winter Wonderland Family Camp at Camp Shands** — and we need YOUR help to make it an unforgettable weekend!

Winter Wonderland is built by volunteers, and together we'll create a festive, safe, and fun environment filled with campfires, adventures, and laughter.

Why Volunteer?

- Make Memories: Help bring joy and adventure to families.
- Be Part of the Team: Work alongside Scouters, parents, and community members.
- Enjoy Perks: Volunteers receive a patch, Saturday lunch & dinner, and a Sunday grab-and-go meal and housing.

Volunteer Roles Include:

- Activity Station Guides (BB, archery, adventure loops)
- Check-In & Hospitality (welcome families with hot cocoa and smiles!)
- Trading Post Helpers
- Support Crew (behind-the-scenes setup and logistics)
- Kitchen Crew
- Evening Activities Crew

What We Ask:

- Commit to the full weekend (Friday – Sunday morning).
- Bring your energy, enthusiasm, and Scout spirit.
- Help us create a safe, family-friendly, and magical event.



Winter Wonderland only happens once for the very first time — help us make history!

Interested? Send an email to CubWinter@nfcbsa.org to sign up today.