

Aquatics

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

Activities with (S) Require Swimmer, (B) Require Beginner

AQUATIC CRAZE (Main Waterfront) (S)

Enjoy the inflatables (slides, climbing the iceberg, etc.) at the Main Waterfront and find out what all the buzz is about.

ASSAULT BOATS (Chase Waterfront) (B)

A Hidden Valley staple! Can you keep your row boat afloat longer than your opponent? Guaranteed laughter and fun to be had!

(Beginners need to be paired with an adult who is a strong swimmer)

CANOE RACE (Chase Waterfront) (B)

Racers start your paddles! Who in your patrol can traverse the waters of Lake Eileen the fastest? There's only one way to find out.

(Beginners need to be paired with an adult who is a strong swimmer and is proficient in canoeing)

CANOE TRIP (Chase Waterfront) (B)

Row, row, row your canoe, gently down Eileen...merrily merrily merrily merrily this tour feels like a dream. Take your Troop on a lake tour and enjoy all its beauty.

(Beginners need to be paired with an adult who is a strong swimmer and is proficient in canoeing)

KAYAK SOCCER (Chase Waterfront) (S)

A Scout is clean, but this activity will make you feel like the Kayak version of (Lionel) Messi. Utilize your balance, speed, and creativity to stay afloat as your team moves together with one goal in sight...the soccer goal, of course!

SNORKEL EXPLORATION (Chase Waterfront) (S)

Explore the depths and aquatic wildlife of Lake Eileen!

SAND CASTLE BUILDING (Main Waterfront)

Your troop versus all others in a wild week long competition for the best sandcastles out there. Come see if you can beat the camp!

TROOP SAIL (Chase Waterfront) (S)

Set sail on the high seas of lake Eileen, taking your troop any direction the wind may blow. This activity is aimed towards troops who have sailed before.

WATER BASKETBALL (Main Waterfront) (B)

Your patrol can dribble and shoot your way to the top in this classic twist to the sport that'll make team building a slam dunk.

WATERMELON SCRAMBLE (Main Waterfront) (B)

Two teams...two sides...one watermelon! Face off in an activity that combines the thrills and teamwork of football and rugby with the refreshing feeling of water...and of course watermelon.

WALK ON WATER (Main Waterfront) (S)

One small step for scout, one giant leap for your troop. See if you can balance your way to the center of Lake Eileen through this challenge that'll put your balance and athleticism to the test.

OPEN SWIM (Main Waterfront)

No advanced signup required. Take a refreshing dip as you spend the time relaxing and having fun with members of your patrol and other scouts! Make sure to bring a buddy!!

**Effective December 31, 2024 the BSA has discontinued the BSA Guard lifeguarding certification, as a result this is no longer a program offering.*

Ecology

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

GSR EXPLORATION

Want to go to the summit of Mount Shannon and enjoy a ‘bird’s eye view’ of Hidden Valley? Or walk around the Swamp and explore its unique plants and animals? Maybe follow the shoreline loop of Lake Eileen? Perhaps even take an extended hike to the Mack Ridge and back while learning about the beautiful wilderness.

You can do any of these with your troop and a staff member with Plan Your Own Hike! It’s the fun of all the classic Ecology hikes in one Program!

ASTRONOMY

When you wish upon a star...you know you’re at camp. Look at the summer constellations and learn about the sky’s celestial bodies and the myths which accompany their storied history. It’s a tradition as old as time, but there’s no better time to do it than when you are at GSR.

Scouts who take the astronomy merit badge will have to meet with their class one night to complete the requirements fully.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Help maintain Griswold Scout Reservation and practice the Outdoor Code! With permission from your troop leaders this could be used toward rank advancement and it’s a good way to give back to the “Land Made for Scouting.”

BOULDER EXPLORATION

Hike through the boulder fields and explore 10,000-year-old glacial caves while ascending the southwest slope of Mt. Shannon.

All Hikes must have at least one Adult Leader in attendance

STEM

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

PATROL WELDING (13+)

It’s the best of both worlds. Learn the basics of MIG welding and make a cool project along the way!

Handicraft

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

Check out our new Handicraft Pavillion where the old volleyball court was next to Carter Lodge!

ICE CUBE CANDLE MAKING

Grab a paper cup, add a wick, pour some wax, and then add some ice cubes...what do you get? A candle!

LEATHER SLIDE MAKING

Take this opportunity to build a slide for your neckerchief that would make even Baden-Powell proud!

PATROL FLAG MAKING

The Patrol Method is the most important method in all of Scouting. What better way to show your Patrol Spirit, than with a Patrol Flag you can be proud of having made as a team! Show your new flag off at a camp-wide assembly!

TOTEM MAKING

Have you ever wanted to make a three-dimensional 'monogram' for yourself using Scout-approved materials? Now is your chance!

CHESS TOURNEY

A Scout is thrifty, but it's time to put that in check. Can you out-strategize the other members of your Unit? Protect your king and you "*knight*" be in for a surprise!

OPEN HANDICRAFT

All of the above activities will be available at Open Handicraft on Monday nights! Bring a buddy and let your imagination run wild!

Need to work on merit badge requirements or create some art? This evening activity is just for you!

TROOP TIE-DYE

Get your troop together and create a work of art you can wear around camp!

Emergency Skills

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

WOODLAND RESCUE

Practice (with the assistance of the Hidden Valley Staff) those all-important Tenderfoot-through-First Class First Aid skills on a realistic "victim." But first, you have to find him... treat his wounds... and bring him back safely!

Scoutcraft

PATROL / TROOP / CREW ACTIVITIES

DUTCH OVEN DESSERT

With guided instruction, learn and do every step of the process of preparing and cooking a delectable campfire masterpiece!

S'MORE FIRE!

Head on down to the scoutcraft area for some fire, s'mores, and possibly some awards. If your troop is interested in relaxing by the fire with the waterfront view and enjoying some delicious snacks, we would love to see you there!

PIONEERING CHALLENGE

Come on down and practice pioneering fundamentals! The skies are the limit with what your patrol can make. From camp chairs to your own playgrounds. Let your imagination and skill run wild as you make your special creation.

ORIENTEERING COURSE

Try an orienteering course...or make your own! Put your skills and teamwork to the test in this classic sport and try to place yourself into the GSR record books.

LEARN THE ROPES

Learn to make ¼ inch rope using bow string and twine. Who knew it was this easy and fun? Learn all the ways to splice!

WOODLAND LIVIN'

This is a classic twist on an age old event, past the main waterfront and past the trading post join the scoutcraft area for some fun building shelters with our staff and your troop, and see who can build it better!

Foxfire

PATROL BLACKSMITHING

Bring your patrol for this unique experience and learn how to forge some HOT METAL!

Make sure to have non synthetic clothing, long sleeve shirt, long sleeve pants and closed toed shoes to participate

Range Activities

Sign-ups for afternoon shoots are individual and will be available at the Administration Building

Check out our new Cowboy Action Range located between Archery and Rifle!

OPEN RIFLE SHOOT (Evening Program)

Are you a marksman? To find out you'll need to give it your best shot...literally! Make your way onto the Hidden Valley bulletin board and enjoy some good old fashion shooting fun!

ACTION ARCHERY SHOOT (Archery MB Prereq)

Ready?...Aim...Fire! Channel your inner Robin Hood as you practice and master your fundamentals with a compound or recurve bow using moving targets!

COWBOY ACTION SHOOT (13+)

Let's travel back to times when cowboys displayed their bravery. Use a combination of handguns, rifles, and shotguns in an old-west themed course of fire for time and accuracy. Participants are encouraged to dress in appropriate theme or era costumes.

TOMAHAWKS

Unlike any other program in this area, test your aim and accuracy with brand new tomahawks. Use your strength and precision to hit the bull's eye!!

BLACK POWDER (MUZZLELOADING)

Want to learn how to safely load black powder? Test your mettle using one of our "antique" firearms this summer, considered by gun enthusiasts to be one of the more challenging firearms to handle.

NRA FIRST STEPS: PISTOL (Day Long Program)

The NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course is designed for individuals of all experience levels who want to learn the fundamentals of pistol shooting. The program covers key topics, including firearm safety rules, pistol parts and operation, ammunition types, shooting fundamentals, and maintenance. Participants also engage in hands-on practice sessions to develop safe handling skills and improve marksmanship. The course typically includes both classroom instruction and live-fire exercises on a range, concluding with an assessment to demonstrate competency. Successful participants receive an NRA completion certificate.

COPE

TROOP COPE/CLIMBING

The Troop COPE program is an opportunity for troops to participate in team building and high ropes exercises. Each troop will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the COPE staff to customize their program. Only age-appropriate elements will be open to the troop. Certain elements require scouts to be aged 14 and up.

The Troop Climbing program is a great opportunity for scouts to learn the elements of Top Rope Climbing. Weather permitting, scouts may also be brought over to the Camp Bell Climbing Barn for this program.

MORNING COPE

For Scouts aged 14 and older, morning COPE offers an exciting opportunity to develop a whole host of skills including trust and leadership, through a series of challenging low- and high-ropes elements. As the program progresses, participants will take on increasingly difficult and rewarding activities!

Bell Farm

Come to the stables of Camp Bell to become acquainted with some of the skills and challenges it takes to care and manage horses and other farm animals! This experience will challenge Scouts and excite the imagination with the tales of how the horse helped settle the US and has been a significant importance in our history. Chances are, you will make some new four-legged friends along the way too!

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Make some new four-legged friends as you take care of some of the animals that make up the Bell Farm. Scouts will be able to work on the Animal Science Merit Badge as they learn about life on the farm.

HORSEMANSHIP MERIT BADGE

Giddy up! It's time to saddle up the horses. Before you go for a ride, you will get hands-on training into what it takes to care for the form of transportation with the most horse-power on reservation. Scouts will also have the opportunity to work on the Horsemanship Merit Badge.

AFTERNOON HORSEBACK RIDING

Back in the saddle again. Take your riding skills to the next level with hands-on tips from the GSR staff. Scouts who partialled the Horsemanship Merit Badge can finish up their requirements, but you can also spend time going through the Bell neighborhood with an extended trail ride! This program is not for "first timers".

There is an additional charge for programs that involve horse riding.

ATV

Over the river and through the roads on ATVs you will go! There's no better way to enjoy the many acres of Griswold Scout Reservation than on an All-Terrain Vehicle? Scouting America New Hampshire is one of only a select group of Councils across the USA to run an ATV Program. This older scout program is a blast for the participants, and we can't wait to see you enjoy it soon!

There are no exceptions to the following conditions...

• Riders must:

- Must be at least age 14+ Submit a permission slip /waiver form – signed by a parent
- Complete online ASI training prior to camp (link will be provided)
- • Pay an additional fee
- • Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirt, and ankle-covering closed-toe footwear

ASI TRAINING & TRAIL RIDE

This program features an ASI rider safety course (complete with certification) which will teach the rider all parts of the ATV, how to care and maintain an ATV and all rules of the road and operational techniques. Riders will be challenged to perform proper riding and control techniques on Camp Bell's one-acre 'terrain neutral' course in order to complete the certification.

Once the ASI rider course is complete, the day culminates with a trail ride – based on time remaining and the overall ability of the group through the many trails, roadways and beautiful sections of the Griswold Scout Reservation.

ATV EXTENDED TRAIL RIDE

Only riders who are already ASI-certified are eligible for participation in this program. Riders will begin their day preparing their machines and reviewing the parts, basic care and rules of the road.

After properly reviewed, a visit to Camp Bell's one-acre 'terrain-neutral' course will retest the rider's aptitude and familiarize him/her with the machine.

Once satisfactorily prepared, the remainder of the day will feature trail riding throughout the expansive and beautiful roads, trails and byways of Griswold Scout Reservation

**ASI E-Course - <https://atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/>
Must Have Printed Certificate Prior To Camp**