

2025 Waynesboro Stake Camp Guide

An Information Guide for Class/Quorum and Ward Adult Leaders

Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 Waynesboro Stake Camp Guide for Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood camps at Camp Shenandoah! This guide provides essential information for ward leaders, quorum/class presidencies, and adult supervisors to prepare for a meaningful camp experience from July 21-26, 2025. Our vision is to help youth and adults gather away from worldly distractions, build gospel-centered relationships, and strengthen faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, while fostering ward unity and stake-wide connections. Let's work together to make this a transformative and fun experience!

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Vision

Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood camps aim to:

- Gather youth and adults away from worldly distractions.
- Build lasting gospel-centered relationships.
- Strengthen faith and testimonies in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
- Enhance ward unity while benefiting from stake-wide opportunities.

To achieve this vision, we invite quorum/class presidencies and ward adult leaders to:

- Attend Camp: Presidencies lead and connect with youth; adults build relationships and receive training.
- Encourage Youth Participation: Help all youth feel wanted, even if camping isn't their preference.
- Plan Ward-Night Activities: Organize unifying evening activities (e.g., campfire songs, skill-building).
- Prepare a Campside Meal: Plan and practice a first-night meal to foster teamwork and skill development.
- Have Fun: Embrace the experience with enthusiasm!

Key Dates

- Camp Shenandoah Reservation: July 21-26, 2025
 - Young Women: July 21-24 (Mon-Thu)
 - Young Men: July 23-26 (Wed-Sat)
 - Note: Groups will remain separate during overlap.
- Training Activity: April 26, 2025, for 16+ year-olds (born in or before 2009).

Preparation Timeline

- January-July: Arrange transportation, equipment, adult leadership, finances, and preparatory activities.
- April:
 - 1st: Complete online registration.
 - 7th: Confirm attendance with parents of unregistered youth.
 - 26th: Training for 16+ year-olds.

June: Distribute packing checklists, confirm arrangements, submit stake gear requests.

- July: Finalize equipment and transportation plans, remind families of details, attend camp!

Gear

- Unit Gear: Label all items; bring cooking equipment, first aid kit, ward activity supplies, and campfire tools (see Appendix C for list).
- Personal Gear: Label items; include bedding, clothing, mess kit, water bottle, hygiene items, and scriptures (see Appendix C for packing list).

Arrival Plan

- Wards arrive as a group on their designated start day (July 21 for YW, July 23 for YM).
- Drive to campsites following the one-way traffic pattern to unload gear, then park in the main lot (no parking at campsites).

- Set up ward campsite, including youth and adult pods, using camp-provided tents or personal tents as needed (see Appendix D for detailed arrival plan).

Campsite Policies

- No fireworks or liquid fuels for fires.
- No flames in tents (includes stoves/heaters).
- Use only camp-provided firewood; never leave fires unattended; build fires in designated rings with safety tools nearby.
- Adults camp separately from youth in designated pods.
- Vehicles: No parking at campsites; unload/load gear and park in the main lot following one-way traffic.
- Tents: Personal tents permitted (damage not covered); trenching around tents permitted but need to be filled back in before leaving (see Appendix J for detailed tent policy).
- See Appendix I for full campsite policies.
- **Cell Phone Policy:**
 - Youth are encouraged not to bring cell phones to unplug and focus spiritually. Cameras are recommended instead.
 - Adults should use phones discreetly and inform parents to contact leaders or camp staff if needed.

Meals

- Most meals are provided by stake volunteers in the dining hall (lunch line style).
- Outpost Cooking (Day 1): Wards plan, provide, and prepare a meal together to build teamwork and skills; youth lead with adult mentoring.

Procedures for Challenges

- Support struggling youth through counseling and stake resources (e.g., nurse).
- Phone calls home are at leader discretion; leaving camp requires parent and stake leader approval and sign-out (see Appendix G for detailed procedures).

Camp Emergency Plan

- Camp Siren: Report to Parade Field by ward for roll call.
- Severe Weather/Tornado: Move to low areas or Dining Hall.
- Thunderstorms: Program areas close; campers report to designated shelters (see Appendix H).
- Extreme Heat (90°F+): Slow activities, monitor hydration, report dehydration to Health Lodge.
- Lost Camper: Notify Camp Director or stake youth leadership immediately.

Adult Information

- Funding: \$80 per youth; see Church Handbook (20. Activities) for guidance.
- Youth Protection: See Appendix F for detailed guidelines, including adult supervision requirements, training, and safety policies.

Exit Plan

- On the final day (Thu for YW, Sat for YM), complete workshops and closing ceremonies before packing.

- Ward reflection time follows ceremonies; pack up and clean afterward, with sign-off from quartermaster or stake leader (see Appendix K for detailed exit plan).

Appendices

A. Detailed Facilities Overview

- Camp Shenandoah, 222 Boy Scout Ln, Swoope, VA 24479: Camp Shenandoah is owned and operated by the Virginia Headwaters (formerly Stonewall Jackson Area) Council, BSA, and is open for year-round camping. In 1999, approximately 150 acres were purchased adjacent to the main camp to form the Wallenborn Conservation Reserve, which to this day is utilized and improved for wildlife habitat and ecological studies. Camp Shenandoah's acreage now totals 456 acres. Camp Shenandoah has 14 campsites. Each campsite is subdivided into approximately four groupings of approximately five tent platforms. Each tent platform has a camp-provided canvas wall tent and two cots. These subgroupings are called pods. Each campsite usually has a shelter, picnic tables, fire ring, and pit toilet that is shared by the pods at the site.

B. Key Terms and Definitions

- Battalions: A group of youth composed of similar-aged youth from different wards led by one or two Youth Camp Leaders (YCLs). These groups will participate in the daily activities together and a few other times like meals. This gathering of youth enables them to build relationships with others their same age in the stake.
- Youth Camp Leaders (YCLs): Stake youth aged 16+ who have been selected by stake and camp leadership to serve at camp. They lead a battalion of youth through their daily activities and lead spiritual discussions.
- Youth Camp Directors (YCDs): Usually youth that have previously been YCLs that help in the planning and leading of APQ/YW Camp. They also help train and minister to the YCLs.
- Solo Time: An opportunity for quiet personal reflection. Youth should be thoughtful about what they choose to do during solo time. Some ideas include reading the scriptures, writing in a journal, preparing a devotional, reading conference talks, etc. Solo time should not be used for chores, games, or other activities that don't foster reverence and an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord.
- Battalion R&R: A designated rest and relaxation period for battalions, allowing youth to recharge and bond informally with their group (specific scheduling to be provided at camp).
- Come, Follow Me Lessons/Evening Devotional: This is an opportunity to counsel together about the day's experiences, share things that happened that day relative to their goals, follow up on assignments, make new goals for the next day, etc. Before camp, youth should be assigned to teach the Come, Follow Me lesson, and it is appropriate to follow the structure of a quorum or class meeting as outlined in Come, Follow Me Appendix D. There is no set length for the duration of this meeting and lesson, but meaningful Counsel Together, Learn, and Act will probably take 30+ minutes. Large wards will probably have separate quorum/class meetings, while smaller wards will probably combine classes.

C. Detailed Gear Lists

- Unit Gear Packing List:
 - Everything labeled with unit name.
 - Presidency meeting/devotional supplies (pencils, paper, Come, Follow Me manuals, Liahona).
 - Cooking equipment: Dutch ovens, charcoal, propane stoves, fuel, pots, pans, cutting boards, knives, utensils.
 - Ward activity supplies (if needed).
 - First aid kit.
 - Fun items (e.g., UNO cards, frisbee).
 - Personal tents (optional), dining flies, pop-up shelters.
 - 100' clothesline, clothespins.
 - Campfire equipment: axe, saw, shovel, rake, water bucket.
 - Lanterns & stoves (liquid fuels stored safely).
 - Snacks (stored in car or critter-proof box).
 - Liquid hand soap, paper towels.
- Personal Gear Packing List:
 - Everything labeled with camper's name.
 - Medicine: Prescription meds in original container (to camp medic), asthma inhalers, 2 Epi-pens (if needed).
 - Bedding: Lightweight sleeping bag/blanket, pillow with pillowcase.
 - Clothing: 4 days' worth (shirts, pants/shorts), socks, underwear, pajamas, shoes (extra pair recommended), hiking boots, hat, rain gear (poncho/jacket), light jacket/sweatshirt, long pants/sweats.
 - Mess Kit (Required): Plate, bowl, cup, utensils (pie tin can double as plate/bowl), mesh bag for drying.
 - Lights: Flashlight/headlamp, extra batteries, optional battery-operated lantern.
 - Swimming Gear: Towel, swimsuit, goggles (optional), boat shoes.
 - Essential Outdoor Gear: Durable water bottle (e.g., Nalgene), wristwatch, sunscreen, bug repellent.
 - Personal Hygiene: Washcloth, towel, shampoo, soap/body wash, flip-flops for shower, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene products.
 - Miscellaneous: Small backpack/day pack, scriptures (with waterproofing), notebook, pen/pencil, bag for dirty clothes, pocket knife, clothesline, clothespins (optional), sunglasses (optional), camp chair (optional), camera (optional).
 - Note: No personal food beyond mess kit items due to wildlife.

D. Detailed Arrival Plan

- Ward leaders finalize transportation plans for equipment and people to and from camp. Wards should arrive as a group on their designated start day (July 21 for Young Women, July 23 for Young Men). Remind all youth and their parents of arrangements, departure times, etc., as finalized in July preparations. Upon entering camp, you may drive a vehicle with gear to be unloaded to the campsite. Please follow the ONE WAY traffic pattern. We

have been informed that we will not be able to have a car parked at the campsites during camp due to liability issues (e.g., safety hazards in storms or catastrophes). Upon leaving the campsites after unloading, please follow the road towards the shower house and back down behind the dining hall. You may park in the main parking lot. Set up ward campsite, including youth and adult pods, using camp-provided canvas wall tents with cots or personal tents as needed.

E. Campsite Inspection and Service

- Inspection: Adult checks campsite post-battalion formation, pre-lunch.
- Service: Wards assigned daily chores (e.g., sweeping dining hall, cleaning showers).

F. Youth Protection Guidelines

- All wards must have adequate adult leaders at Camp Shenandoah at all times. All ward YW and YM leaders are encouraged to attend their respective camp. Camp is for the leaders as much as for the youth.
- “At least two adult supervisors must be present at all Church-sponsored activities attended by children, youth, and young single adults” (General Handbook: Adult Supervision, 20.7.1).
- Minimum adult supervision at campsites (morning, evening, and night): two adults for the first ten youth, plus one additional adult for each additional ten youth or fraction thereof. Each ward should plan to provide the adults needed for supervision at their campsite. For the smaller units, the sharing of a campsite will also allow for sharing of needed adults.
- All adults attending camp need to have completed Youth Protection Training within the last three years (on or after August 1, 2022). Training is available at: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/callings/church-safety-and-health/protecting-children-and-youth?lang=eng>
- It is the responsibility of the Bishop to assure that all ward adults are properly trained.
- The report can be found on the Church website >> Leader and Clerk Resources >> Reports >> Protecting Children and Youth Training (<https://lcr.churchofjesuschrist.org/?lang=eng>)
- The buddy system should be used at all times. The buddy system calls for youth to pair up with a friend or two at activities, hikes, when walking around camp, swimming, etc. This helps ensure safety and accountability, and teaches youth to have responsibility for others. Buddies stay together, monitor each other, and alert the safety team if either needs assistance or is missing. They choose a friend to go with and they stick together, this way if the youth get lost they will have somebody with them.
- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited. In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.
- Youth sharing tents should be no more than two years apart in age. No more than 2 people per tent.
- Youth and adults tent separately.
- Hazing and initiations are prohibited and have no part during any church activity. All forms of bullying and harassment including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited.

G. Procedures for Calling Home and Leaving Camp

- We encourage the ward leaders to work with the youth who may be struggling. Counsel with them to understand their difficulties and feelings. Encourage them to stay. You have the resources of the stake/nurse support for tough issues. If the youth needs to call home, it is at your discretion. If the youth decides to go home, it needs to be discussed with the parent and a Stake leader. Any coming and going from camp needs to be communicated with a Stake Young Women/Young Men Presidency member. Do not leave camp without signing out at the check-in station next to the medic.

H. Emergency Shelter Locations

- Ranges: Scott Nature & Conservation Center
- Scoutcraft/Aquatics: Handicraft Shelter
- STEM/Handicraft: Shelter in place
- Timber Mountain: Dining Hall

I. Detailed Campsite Policies

- No fireworks are allowed at camp.
- Using liquid fuels for starting any type of fire—including lighting damp wood, charcoal, and ceremonial campfires or displays—is prohibited.
- No flames in tents. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel—including tents or teepees that feature or support stoves or fires; and any chemical-fueled equipment or catalytic heaters.
- No outside firewood can be brought or burned at camp. Use firewood provided at camp.
- Fire shall never be left unattended. If departing the fire, or going to sleep, the fire must be out cold.
- Fires shall only be built in designated fire rings. All safety rules must be followed (clear debris at least 10-feet around fire; water bucket, shovel, and rake must be near the fire; etc.)
- Adults will camp in a designated pod in the campsite but appropriately separated from the youth pods.
- Vehicle policy: We have been informed that we will not be able to have a car parked at the campsites during camp. This is a liability issue. If there was a storm or other catastrophe and a car was impeded, that could cause a safety hazard for campers and personal damage done to the car. Upon entering/exiting camp, you may drive a vehicle with gear to be unloaded/loaded to the campsite. Please follow the ONE WAY traffic pattern. Upon leaving the campsites, please follow the road towards the shower house and back down behind the dining hall. You may park in the main parking lot.

J. Detailed Tent Policy

- Disclaimer for damage of personal tents: Camp Shenandoah is not responsible for any damage to personal tents brought by campers.
- Trench policy around tents: Trenching or digging around is allowed, but the trenches need to be filled back in before leaving the camp.

K. Detailed Exit Plan

- We want to keep the spirit constant and without the distraction of “getting home” until we have completed our experience at camp. On Thursday for Young Women and Saturday for Aaronic Priesthood Quorum, we will have our workshops in the morning and closing ceremonies. You then will have a ward reflection time. During this time, help your youth prepare to transition back to the world. Your allotted time for pack up/check out will occur AFTER the workshops. Please create the environment of being present in this camp experience by focusing on the opportunities at hand. Do not pack the night before or the morning of the last day. Each ward will need to clean up their camp area and bathrooms. Before exiting, you will need to be signed off by the Quartermaster or Stake Young Women/Young Men leader. Upon exiting camp, you may drive a vehicle with gear to be loaded from the campsite, following the ONE WAY traffic pattern, and then depart from the main parking lot.