

WIATAVA LODGE
ORANGE COUNTY COUNCIL

Where To Go Camping Guide

2023



PUBLISHED BY:

WIATAVA LODGE, SECTION G18S, ORDER OF THE ARROW
ORANGE COUNTY COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
2 IRVINE PARK RD, ORANGE, CA 92869

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Introduction

Dear Camper,

For years, Wiatava Lodge has been publishing guidebooks on the different camping areas in California. Despite numerous editions, each one has served the same purpose of assisting Scout troops in Orange County locate new camping locations and opportunities. This most current edition continues to fulfill that same purpose as we head into the new decade, as well as a new century of scouting.

This version of the Where To Go Camping guide was made possible by a multitude of people. This layout of this edition is based heavily on the work of the 2008 Wiatava Lodge Vice-Chief of Camp Promotions, Daniel Roberts, and the 2007 Wiatava Lodge Vice-Chief of Camp Promotions, Andy Do. Their work laid the foundation for this guide. This edition was last updated in August 2023.

In an effort to keep this guide as accurate as possible, your input and suggestions are highly recommended. This guide is a compilation of troop and individual recommendations. Please note that this is a living document, so that new camps will be constantly added and edited, and all pricing for BSA camps as it may change before the next update.

We hope that this guidebook will serve useful in your unit, as it has for many others. It is meant to be a tool to show you new camping opportunities, and encourage you to explore new places. If you find something of interest, please use the contact information listed for that camp to learn more and plan your trip to that camp. Good luck and happy camping!

Yours in camping:

Liam Privette
2023 Wiatava Vice-Chief of Camp Promotions

Carter Bohn
2023 Wiatava Lodge Chief

How To Read This Guide

Once all the camp data is updated, the guide will be read in the following format:

Camp Name

Camp Address

Camp Phone Number

Camp Email

Camp Website (hyperlink)

Camp Description

Campsite 1

Fee

Availability

Number of Sites

Elevation

Special notes (water, toilet, etc.)

Campsite 2

Cost (if not listed for multiple sites)

Availability

Water availability (if not listed for multiple sites)

How to make reservations (hyperlink, if possible)

Summer camp dates

Other facts

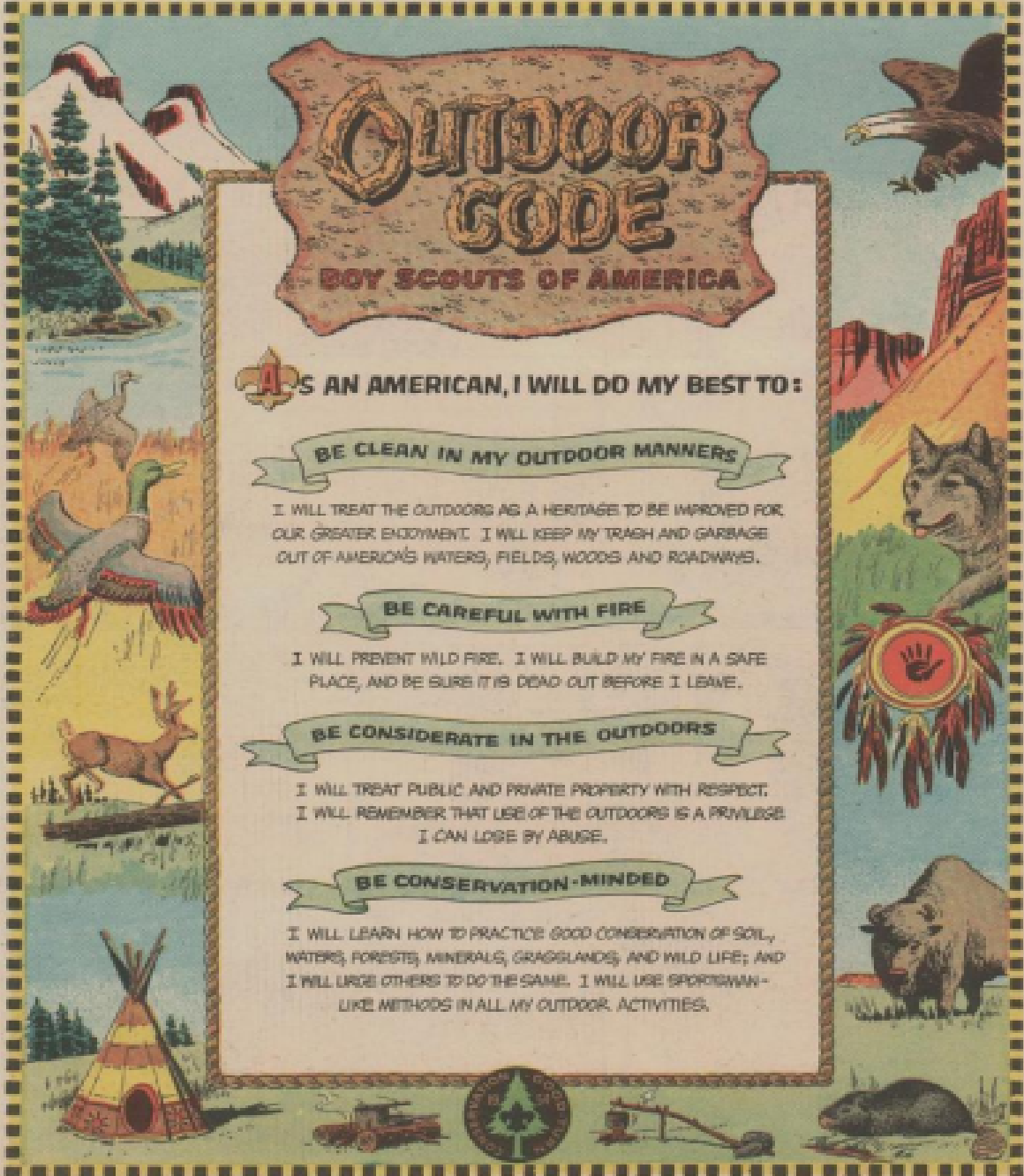
How To Edit This Guide

If you would like to edit this guide (to do a good turn, provide cheerful service, or work towards a camp promo award), please email camppromo@wiatava.org with edit suggestions.

Camping Basics

The Outdoor Code

BOYS' LIFE MAY, 1934 35



The poster features a central text area framed by a rope border, surrounded by various nature illustrations. At the top, a rock-like shape contains the title 'OUTDOOR CODE' and 'BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'. Below this, a fleur-de-lis symbol is followed by the text 'AS AN AMERICAN, I WILL DO MY BEST TO:'. Five green banners list the code's principles: 'BE CLEAN IN MY OUTDOOR MANNERS', 'BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE', 'BE CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS', 'BE CONSERVATION-MINDED', and 'BE CONSERVATION-MINDED'. The background includes illustrations of mountains, a river, a duck, a wolf, a bison, a beaver, a teepee, and a campfire.

OUTDOOR CODE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

AS AN AMERICAN, I WILL DO MY BEST TO:

BE CLEAN IN MY OUTDOOR MANNERS

I WILL TREAT THE OUTDOORS AS A HERITAGE TO BE IMPROVED FOR OUR GREATER ENJOYMENT. I WILL KEEP MY TRASH AND GARBAGE OUT OF AMERICA'S WATERS, FIELDS, WOODS AND ROADWAYS.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

I WILL PREVENT WILD FIRE. I WILL BUILD MY FIRE IN A SAFE PLACE, AND BE SURE IT IS DEAD OUT BEFORE I LEAVE.

BE CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS

I WILL TREAT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH RESPECT. I WILL REMEMBER THAT USE OF THE OUTDOORS IS A PRIVILEGE I CAN LOSE BY ABUSE.

BE CONSERVATION-MINDED

I WILL LEARN HOW TO PRACTICE GOOD CONSERVATION OF SOIL, WATERS, FORESTS, MINERALS, GRASSLANDS, AND WILD LIFE; AND I WILL URGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. I WILL USE SPORTSMAN-LIKE METHODS IN ALL MY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

Copy right material

Leave No Trace Principles



THE LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES



1

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use. Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups. Repackage food to minimize waste. Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary. In popular areas: Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent. In pristine areas: Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

2



3

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

4



5

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing nations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

6



7

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

National Council – Boy Scouts of America

What is a National High Adventure Base?

Our BSA National High Adventure Bases are for those adventurers and explorers who seek higher challenges in the world of Scouting. Spread all across the country in all different territories – from the rivers of Minnesota to the coasts of Florida – the High Adventure Bases offer experiences unparalleled by other camps. Furthermore, for those who are youth Arrowmen, these High Adventure Bases offer a special program called the Order of the Arrow High Adventure Program, where OA members are able to perform service at these camps for a highly reduced cost.

Florida National High Adventure Sea Base

<https://www.bsaseabase.org/>

Sea Base Physical Address: 73800 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL 33036

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1906, Islamorada, FL 33036

Sea Base Phone: 305-664-4173

Sea Base Fax: 305-664-2039

Sea Base EMERGENCY CONTACT AFTER HOURS: 305-664-7766

Sea Base is a unique Scouting program that offers aquatics programs found nowhere else. Whether your interests lie in sailing, scuba diving, rustic camping on an undeveloped barrier island, fishing or a combination of all, this is the place for your Troop, Team, Crew, Sea Ship or Explorer Post. Sea Base serves around 16,000 participants annually.

Sea Base now operates 18 different adventures out of five locations: two in the Florida Keys, two in the US Virgin Islands, and one in Marsh Harbour, Bahamas. Coral Reef Sailing, Sea Exploring Adventure, STEM Eco-Adventure, Scuba Adventure, Scuba Certification, and Live Aboard Scuba Adventure operate in the Florida Keys at Mile Marker 73.8 at Florida Sea Base on Lower Matecumbe Key located 75 miles south of Miami. Out Island Adventure, Keys Adventure, Florida Fishing, Marine STEM and Key West Sailing programs operate in the Florida Keys on Summerland Key at Mile Marker 23.8 at the Brinton Environmental Center located 125 miles south of Miami. Sea Base Bahamas offers Bahamas Adventure and Bahamas Tall Ship Adventure operated out of Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas, located about 100 miles east of Fort Lauderdale. Sea Base St. Thomas offers St. Thomas Sailing Adventures and STEM Eco Sailing Adventures operate out of St. Thomas, USVI. Sea Base St. Croix offers St. Croix Scuba Adventure and St. Croix Adventure operate at Camp Howard M. Wall, a camp owned by the National Capital Area Council.

Scouting's most complete aquatic facility offers a variety of water activities from scuba diving to sailing "Tall Ships". All of our participants have the opportunity to swim, snorkel, and fish among the most beautiful coral reefs in the northern hemisphere.

Scouts in the Order of the Arrow can participate in OAHA (OA High Adventure) at the Florida Sea

Base. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the lower Florida Keys and the surrounding area while completing conservation projects that help protect the local environment.

Last Edited: 2023

Northern Tier High Adventure Base

<https://www.ntier.org/>

Northern Tier is the Boy Scouts of America's gateway to adventure in the Great Northwoods. In the summer, Scouts from Northern Tier's three wilderness canoe bases explore millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests and wetlands in Northern Minnesota, Northwest Ontario and Northeast Manitoba. Northern Tier crews paddle in almost 6 million acres of exclusively canoe-access wilderness from the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness \(BWCAW\)](#) of Minnesota to the [Atikaki Provincial Park](#) of Manitoba. Trips range in length from 6-14 days and usually include between 50-150 miles of wilderness travel.

In the winter, Northern Tier is home to the Okpik Cold Weather Camping program, the BSA's premier winter high adventure program. Fall trips are also available.

All trips are fully outfitted and provisioned. A highly trained staff member, called an Interpreter, accompanies all crews on their trek.

All participants must be age 14 by the time they arrive at Northern Tier OR have graduated from the 8th grade and be age 13 by the time they arrive.

We are a Cooperator with the USDA Forest Service under the Superior National Forest. We issue permits into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. As a Cooperator with the Forest Service, we are an equal opportunity service provider.

Scouts in the Order of the Arrow can participate in OAHA (OA High Adventure) at Northern Tier. Participants will have the opportunity to explore canoe the beautiful rivers of northern Minnesota while completing conservation work in the local area.

Last Edited: 2023

Philmont Scout Ranch

Address: 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, NM 87714

Phone: 575.376.2281

Email: camping@philmontscoutranch.org

Website: <http://philmontscoutranch.org/>

Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts of America's premier High Adventure base, challenges Scouts and Venturers with more than 214 square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness. Backpacking treks, horseback cavalades, and training and service programs offer young people many ways to

experience this legendary country. Groups and crews can choose one of the 35 treks to participate in. Programs along each itinerary include black powder rifles, chuck wagon dinners, gold panning, geocaching, shogun shooting, rock climbing, mountain biking, fishing, .30-06 shooting, horse riding, burro racing, blacksmithing, and numerous other educational, historical, just for fun, or scout skill program areas. Each itinerary has a different assortment of these program opportunities. Horse cavalcades are also available. Individual backpacking treks, leadership and outdoor schools, and cavalcades are offered for those not participating with a larger group. The Philmont Store, Tooth of Time, offers backpacking equipment to outfit crews before their treks.

Scouts in the Order of the Arrow can participate in OAHA (OA High Adventure) treks at Philmont. In addition to getting to explore the vast New Mexico wilderness, OAHA also participates in cheerful service by providing trail maintenance along their trek.

Fee: varies according to program

Availability: year-round programs

Last Edited: 2023

Summit Bechtel Reserve

2550 Jack Furst Drive Glen Jean, WV 25846

Phone: 304.465.2800

Email: summit.program@scouting.org

Website: <http://www.summitbsa.org>

Situated in the wilds of West Virginia, The Summit is a training, Scouting, and adventure center for the millions of youth and adults involved in the Boy Scouts of America and anyone who loves the outdoors. Bordering the New River Gorge, the camp's geography allows for a unique experience when white-water rafting, mountain biking, or rock climbing. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is also home to the National Scout Jamboree. With incredible facilities and amazing outdoor programs, The Summit is a place that takes Scouts and Venturers to the limits of what they think they can do, and then pushes them further.

Scouts in the Order of the Arrow can participate in OAHA (OA High Adventure) at Summit Bechtel Reserve. Participants will have the opportunity to go mountain biking, white water rafter, climbing, and more while completing conservation work in the trails surrounding the camps.

Last Edited: 2023

Gateway Region 18S Council Camps

California Inland Empire

Camp Emerson

Address: 53155 Idyllbrook Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549

Phone: 909.793.2463

Email: campinfo@campemerson.org

Website: <http://www.bosekerscoutreservation.org/camp-ermeson.html>

Scouts began camping at Camp Emerson in 1919, making it one of the oldest Scout camps in the west! Camp Emerson offers a full range of facilities year-round, including a lake, several creeks, a pool, a climbing tower, rifle and archery ranges, and a black powder range. The summer camp offers 39 different merit badges to Scouts in areas ranging from salesmanship, law enforcement, nature, shooting sports, and handicraft.

Take the 91 Freeway East towards Riverside and merge onto the 60-Freeway East towards San Diego/Indio. Exit towards Hemet/San Jacinto and head south on Gilman Springs Road. Merge onto North Sanderson Avenue/Highway 79 South to Hemet/San Diego and turn left onto the Ramona Expressway. Turn left on Highway 74 and head east and proceed to turn left onto Highway 243. Once in the Idyllwild area, take the Camp Emerson turn-off on Tollgate Road (there is a sign to Camp Emerson, which is seen easier heading North).

Availability: year-round; summer camp

Last Edited: 2016

Orange County

Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

Address: 2 Irvine Park Road, Orange, CA 92869

Phone: 714.923.3191

Email: info@outdooreducationcenter.org

Website: <http://www.outdooreducationcenter.org/>

In operation since 2009, the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center lies at the threshold of 24,000 acres of wilderness in Southeast Orange County, and is bordered by Irvine Regional Park and The Irvine Ranch Reserve. This 210-acre camp is designed to educate all those who pass through on the wilderness and the outdoors. The center is divided into three themed camps: the astronomy camp, the mining camp, and the ranch camp. Students and Scouts can also take advantage of the center's other activities and facilities, including seven different merit badge classes, a high and low C.O.P.E. course.

Take the 55-Freeway North and exit on Chapman Avenue EAST. Continue along Chapman Avenue and

turn left onto Jamboree Road. Continue along Jamboree Road into Irvine Regional Park.

Fee: varies according to program

Availability: Year-round

Visit website for more information.

Last Edited: 2016

Newport Sea Base

Address: 1931 West Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA 92663

Phone: 949.642.5031

Website: <http://www.newportseabase.org>

Occupying 400 feet of waterfront, Newport Sea Base is the aquatic center for Orange County Council. Since its expansion in 2002, this camp has come to offer modern facilities and programs to educate Scouts and students on marine programs. Among its fleet of watercraft include kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and over fifty sailboats. Also based out of the Sea Base are Orange County Council's three Sea Scout ships: Del Mar, Renegade, and the Triton. Different programs offered include merit badge classes, instructional courses, and Webelos Day Camp.

This is a great camp to attend if a scout is looking to complete merit badges required for the Eagle Scout rank, likes to participate in watersports and boating, and/or is interested in environmental science.

Take the 55-Freeway South toward Newport Beach and exit onto Pacific Coast Highway/Highway 1 LEFT. Newport Sea Base will be on the right.

Fee: varies according to program

Availability: instructional programs, day camps, other programs

Notes: no overnight camping

View website for upcoming events and more information.

Last Edited: 2023

Schoepe Scout Reservation at Lost Valley

Address: 31422 Chihuahua Valley Road, Warner Springs, CA 92086 Phone: 951.767.1183

Email: ssrlv@ssrlv.org

Website: <http://www.ssrlv.org/>

Serving as Orange County Council's main camp, Schoepe Scout Reservation at Lost Valley offers a highly diverse, and wide variety of top-notch facilities and programs. This 1400-acre camp is located in Warner Springs near the Cleveland National Forest and Anza-Borrego State Park. Among its facilities include 22 cabins, two swimming pools, a 65-foot rock face for climbing, a two-acre lake, an archery range, horse stables, a mountain bike center, rifle and shotgun ranges, an Indian village, an observatory, nature and handicraft centers, two comfortable dining halls, and much more! Lost Valley's summer camp offers trail to First Class, a C.O.P.E. course, and a selection of 40 merit badges. Recently added programs

include the ATV Rider Course, a Brand New C.O.P.E Course, Pistol Program, a Technology Center, and an expanded Camp Borrego—the summer camp’s program for older boys.

Lost Valley also serves as a family camp, a search and rescue training area, merit badge weekend setting, and a regular campsite for scouts or friends.

Take the 91-Freeway East to Corona. Take the I-15 South through Temecula and exit at Temecula Parkway/Highway 79 South and turn left (take exit for Pechanga). Continue south on Highway 79 through Temecula for approximately 30 miles. Make a left on Chihuahua Valley Road and drive approximately 6.5 miles to the dirt road entrance, which will be straight ahead as the road makes a sharp right and marked by a Lost Valley sign. Schoepe Scout Reservation awaits you at the end of a 10-mile scenic journey along this unpaved road.

Lost Valley is celebrating its 60th anniversary this upcoming year. They are hosting multiple events all in celebration of this milestone in the camp's history, culminating with their 2024 summer camp program. It’s sure to be an unforgettable summer camp experience. See the Lost Valley Website for more information.

Campsites: all campsites include picnic tables and a flagpole, and have nearby access to restrooms and water; canvas tents available for summer camp; cabins require additional fee.

Availability: Year-round (summer camp, special programs; open camping on reserved weekends) – call for information

Notes: no fires permitted; Wi-Fi available in certain areas for adult leaders

Visit website for information.

Last Edited: 2023

Oso Lake

Address: 21131 Los Alisos Boulevard, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-3242 Phone:

714.546.8558 Website: <http://www.osolake.org>

Located in Rancho Santa Margarita, Oso Lake is conveniently located for units to visit. The main feature of the camp is the large 100-acre lake, home to some of the best bass fishing in Orange County. Other watercraft activities are available on the lake. Additional features include an archery range, BB gun range, and slingshot range. Bike trails that circle the lake provide excellent routes for a short ride. The facility is accessible to open camping, and several programs are offered on the weekends, including Webelos days and merit badge programs.

Take the I-405 South and exit toward El Toro Road. Take El Toro Road north and turn right on Marguerite Parkway. Turn left onto Los Alisos Boulevard and make a U-turn once Altisima is reached. Oso Lake will be on the right.

Availability: year-round

Last Edited: 2016

Western Los Angeles County

Camp Josepho

Website: <http://bsa-la.org/index.php?page=josepho>

Camp Josepho is nestled into Rustic Canyon near the beaches of Pacific Palisades and Malibu. This 110-acre camp has a rustic western style, and is filled with different facilities for activities. Among these include multiple hiking trails, a swimming pool, and archery range, and a BB gun range.

Fee: call council office for information

Availability: year-round; special programs

Reservations: call council office for information

Last Edited: 2016

Camp Whitsett

Camp Whitsett's summer camp offers over 20 merit badges, a C.O.P.E. course, mountain biking, hiking, and a whitewater-rafting. Its unique program makes this camp a great experience for new scouts, as well as older scouts. Also, Camp Whitsett's convenient location allows it to offer several backpacking and mountain biking expeditions into the rugged Sierra Nevada Mountains, including everything from the Intro to Backcountry Living instructional course to lengthy 65-mile treks to Mount Whitney.

Fee: varies according to program

Campsites: tented sites or wilderness sites available for summer camp
Availability: year-round programs; summer camp

Reservations: visit website for information

Last Edited: 2016

Camp Emerald Bay

Address: P.O. Box 5066, Avalon, CA 90704

Phone: 818.933.0130

Email: camping@bsa-la.org

Website: <http://www.campemeraldbay.org/>

Located on the western end of Catalina Island, Camp Emerald Bay is one of the most popular camps among Southern California Scouts. Equipped with full year-round programs, including a complete summer camp program, Emerald Bay offers several unique and incomparable experiences to its visitors. Its large waterfront is perfect for a wide array of aquatic merit badges and activities. Also available are shooting ranges and several scenic hiking trails. In addition to its summer camp, Emerald Bay offers a special Rugged Adventurers program which takes participants on breathtaking experiences of the island, including scuba diving, mountain biking, canoeing, and more!

Fee: visit website for information

Availability: year-round programs; summer camp

Reservations: visit website for information

Last Edited: 2016

National Parks

- Channel Islands
- Death Valley
- Joshua Tree
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon
- Yosemite

California State Parks

- Desert Region
 - Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
 - Red Rock Canyon State Park
- Inland Empire Region
 - Chino Hills State Park
 - Mount San Jacinto State Park
- Orange County Region
 - Crystal Cove State Park

Orange County Parks

This section has yet to be added.

Forest Service Campgrounds

- Angeles National Forest
- Cleveland National Forest
- Inyo National Forest
- Los Padres National Forest
- San Bernardino National Forest
- Sequoia National Forest