

# GRIFFITH LEAGUE SCOUT RANCH



**UNIT CAMPING**  
at the  
**GRIFFITH LEAGUE SCOUT RANCH**

# GRIFFITH LEAGUE SCOUT RANCH

## Camping Reservation Form

<b>Type of Group:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout Troop/Team <input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Crew <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring Post	Unit Number: _____ District: _____ Chartering Organization: _____ Address: _____
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<b>Activity Planned:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> One-Day Hiking Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend Camping — Unit conducted program <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend Camping — Biology Program	<b>Scheduled Dates:</b> Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ Program Date: _____
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Number of Participants: Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
*The maximum group size is 12. If you have more than 12, they must be divided into smaller groups for camping.  
 Each group must have a LEAVE NO TRACE trained leader.*

<b>Person Making Reservation: Group Leader</b> Name: _____ Address: _____  Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____	<b>On-Site During Course:</b> Name: _____ Address: _____  Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
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<b>Leave No Trace Training Certification</b> (at least one person per group must be trained in LNT techniques):	
Name: _____ Address: _____  Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____	<b>Type of Training:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> BSA L.N.T. Award <input type="checkbox"/> LNT Train the Trainer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection Training  _____ <i style="text-align: center;">Date of Training/Award</i>

**\*\*Copy of LNT Training Card must accompany this reservation form\*\***

I/we agree to follow all rules and policies of the Griffith League Scout Ranch and the Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America (Medical form is required for each participant). We will abide by the Griffith League Scout Ranch Environmental Policy and use low impact camping techniques.

Signature of Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Council Use:  
 Out of Council Units, \$5.00 per participant. \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

## **CAMPING PROGRAM AT THE GRIFFITH LEAGUE SCOUT RANCH**

Are you up to it? Can you do it? Is your unit capable of maintaining a legacy of a historic Texas property while actively practicing environmental conservation?

If you are equal to these challenges, you may be eligible for outdoor activities at the Capitol Area Council's Griffith League Scout Ranch. This is a special place and only groups with special appreciation and skills can enjoy it.

The Griffith League Scout Ranch holds a special place in Texas history. The Griffith family obtained the property soon after the Texas Revolution. The Griffith family gave the ranch to the Capitol Area Council in 1999.

The Griffith League Scout Ranch also provides a very unique opportunity to observe environmental policies and practices. The GLSR is habitat for the Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*), an endangered species. This provides visitors to the Griffith League Scout Ranch with the opportunity to see how conservation and low impact camping techniques can coexist to protect the species while allowing use of the property for recreational purposes.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Griffith League Scout Ranch covers approximately 5,000 acres in Bastrop County. The historical ownership of this property may easily be traced from Mexico to the Nation of Texas to the family with the Griffith name to the Capitol Area Council, B.S.A.

When the Capitol Area Council obtained the Griffith League Scout Ranch in 1999, it was viewed as a very important asset that could be used for high-adventure, Scouting oriented activities. Early visions were of a Philmont-style program oriented facility with emphasis on Texas history. That vision changed significantly when it became known that the Houston toad was present at the Griffith League Scout Ranch.

The Houston toad is a small toad that is listed on the federal endangered species list. Quite simply, this means that there is a real danger that the species

could become extinct.

### **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

When it was learned that the Griffith League Scout Ranch was habitat for the Houston toad, the Council began working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The objective of this work was to develop a plan to insure that the use of the ranch by the Boy Scouts would be compatible with the Endangered Species Act. A gradual evolution took place as this work continued. This evolution was from how to minimize the impact the toad would have on Boy Scout use to how the Boy Scouts could help preserve this species. A written outcome of this effort is a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that defines how the Boy Scouts will manage the property to not only preserve the Houston toad but also, help reduce its risk of extinction.

### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

The only activities the Council will permit at the Griffith League Scout Ranch are hiking and wilderness (backcountry) camping. All camping must utilize low impact camping techniques and each camping group must include at least one person trained in LNT techniques who will teach these techniques to the other participants. Car camping is not permitted.

### **TIME-DEPENDENT ACTIVITIES**

Specific areas of the Griffith League Scout Ranch may be marked off-limits during certain times of the year. At the information kiosk in the parking area is a "Toad Flag." When this flag is flying, campers will not be permitted to enter certain areas of the ranch or to conduct specific activities without being accompanied by a trained biologist.

Most of the areas that will be off-limits are the ponds that the Houston toad uses for reproduction. When the Toad Flag is up (which could be in the November to May timeframe), campers may not go within 200 yards of most of the ponds without a biologist.

There are a number of structures that the biologists studying the Houston toad have constructed. These are "pond arrays" and herpetofaunal arrays used to

conduct surveys and make census counts of the toads and other animals. While access to these sites is part of the education and conservation awareness program on the Ranch, campers should always avoid these areas unless accompanied by a permitted biologist.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Each group desiring to camp or hike at the Griffith League Scout Ranch must agree to the following requirements:

1. Groups must be divided into small groups with no more than 12 participants in each camping group.
2. All camping must follow L.N.T. guidelines. This may include packing out toilet tissue and/or feces.
3. At least one participant in each camping group must have been trained in L.N.T. techniques (preferably a GLSR specific course). This person must take responsibility for insuring their group adheres to these principles and must train any untrained participants. It is recommended that one of the outcomes of the camping activity be of working to earn the B.S.A.'s L.N.T. award. Proof of this person's LNT training is required at time of reservation.
4. All campsites should be a minimum of 200 yards from the parking area and should not be in the open fields.
5. There are NO fires permitted at the GLSR. Each group must prepare hot meals with backpacking stoves.
6. Groups must follow the Council and BSA Youth Protection policies. These require two-deep leadership with each camping group and at least two Youth Protection trained adults must accompany the Troop/Team/ Crew.

## **HEALTH**

GLSR camping participants must be in good health and the group's adult advisor must have in their possession a signed *Medical Form* for each participant. These forms are available to be downloaded from the Council or National BSA websites. Go to [www.bsacac.org](http://www.bsacac.org) and click on Resources-Forms-Medical form for all BSA members.

## **ARRIVAL/LOCATION**

The Griffith League Scout Ranch is north of Bastrop, Texas. Take US 290 to State Highway 95 and turn south or take US 71 to State Highway 95 and turn north. On State Highway 95, turn east on FM 2336. Turn right on Oak Hill Cemetery Road. Continue on Oak Hill Cemetery Road 1.5 miles to the entrance to the Griffith League Scout Ranch on the left at a bend in the road.

## **Camp Address**

Griffith League Scout Ranch  
424 Oak Hill Cemetery Rd.  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
512-966-1531  
512-332-0277 (fax)

## **FACILITIES**

Water and a portable toilet are available at the Base Camp parking lot, along with one pavilion made possible by the generosity of Mark Palmer.

## **HOW DO I SCHEDULE MY GROUP?**

GLSR Camping activities are scheduled by application through the Capitol Area Council. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Tentative reservations are taken by phone. The appropriate application form must be received no later than 14 days before the scheduled date to confirm the reservation.

**Map of the 16 miles of trails is available on the Council website.**

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For additional information or to schedule an outdoor activity for your group, please contact:

**Capitol Area Council**  
**Boy Scouts of America**  
12500 North IH 35  
Austin, Texas 78753-1312

(512) 617-8611  
(800) 444-1910  
(512) 926-6870 (fax)