



WINTERFEST 2023 Advisor Guide

January 27-29, 2023 | Gatlinburg, TN

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Included in this packet is much of the information needed for your unit to have a great experience at Winterfest. Please take a few minutes to review the guide as many questions will be answered here. In addition, there will be supplemental information that will be published as it becomes available.

In addition to this handbook, you will find complete event information such as event guides, schedules, discounted hotel reservation system, ticketing and more at bsawinterfest.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Gatlinburg in 2023!

Key Information

Date: January 27 – 29, 2023

Location: Gatlinburg, Tennessee

- Rocky Top Sports World will be the home base of the event on Saturday with some events taking place at nearby locations such as the Community Center and Gatlinburg-Pittman High School.
- There are a variety of hotels located in Gatlinburg with which we have negotiated special rates. Be sure to check that list to get the best rates.

Who Can Attend?

- Winterfest is open to all currently registered Venturers, Explorers, Sea Scouts, and Scouts of Venturing age (14 yrs old OR completed the eighth grade). Youth not meeting the aforementioned age requirement will NOT be allowed to participate.
- *All participants, adult advisors, unit leaders, and visitors are required to have a wristband for entry to all events and activities or to ride the shuttle.* Wristbands will be provided at check-in for all who registered in advance of the event. They will also be available for purchase throughout the weekend. Please make sure all parents, relatives and visitors attending understand they will need a wristband to spectate.

What is Winterfest?

Winterfest is an exciting, fun-filled, and competitive event for older youth registered in Scout programs (ages 14+) – Explorers, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Scouts BSA.

There is a lot to do at Winterfest. Some of the events your youth will find are:

- Competitions for Explorers related to various career fields (fire service, law enforcement, and emergency medical services)
- Aquatic events
- STEM hands-on activities
- Climbing/caving/bouldering
- Sports tournaments
- Shooting sports

Participants can also enjoy snow skiing, shopping, and sightseeing in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains of Eastern Tennessee.

Where can I get more information?

Event information, registration, scheduling and ticketing information is posted at bsawinterfest.org and is updated regularly.

Questions may be addressed to:

Candy Lee, Staff Advisor
Northeast Georgia Council
candy.lee@scouting.org
706-693-2446 Ext. 109

EST. 1974

Winterfest

GATLINBURG, TN





REGISTRATION DATES & TICKETING

Fees	Discount (before January 7, 2023)	January 8 – January 20, 2023	Walk up
Participants (age 14-20)	\$55	\$65	\$70
Advisor/Unit Leader/ Visitors (Minimum of 2 per unit over 21)	\$20	\$30	\$35
Visitors (under age 7)	FREE	FREE	FREE

Ticketing & Registration

Registration will be online at bsawinterfest.org and will open on November 2022. We will also make an announcement through Facebook and Remind when registration opens. Our website will be updated up until the event, so be sure to check back for the latest updates. Once you have purchased tickets and are registered, you will also be receiving updates via email.

All attendees must register. Discounted registration will end at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2023. Payment deadlines are strictly enforced. Please note that *visitors will not be allowed to participate in events*. Visitor fees only allows entry to spectate. All participants and visitors must obtain and display a wristband specific to the ticket type purchased for entry into the event areas.

All Winterfest fees are non-refundable.

Event Registration

Check the website Events tab OR the [2023 Event Guide](#) (PDF available for download on that page) for important details regarding event registration.

Outdoor Range Events:

A **\$10 activity fee** (purchased at time of registration) will be assessed for the outdoor range shooting sports. *This excludes archery.*

- The outdoor range events require a safety briefing which you must attend before going to the Sportsman's Club. There will be two (2) or more sessions offered Friday night and one (1) session on Saturday morning. We ask that the Saturday morning session be reserved only if you will not arrive in Gatlinburg in time to attend a Friday night session. Further, if you plan to shoot prior to 10 am Saturday morning you must attend a Friday night briefing.
- All participants who plan to shoot at the outdoor range **MUST** attend one of these safety briefings **PRIOR** to arriving at the shooting range at their scheduled time. Registration for the safety briefings will be available through the online registration and ticketing process. Safety briefings are only offered Friday evening and one session early Saturday morning.
- **Scouts BSA attendees MAY NOT participate in pistol shooting.**
- **IMPORTANT!!! You MUST bring your Ammo voucher to the Safety Briefing in order to be able to participate.**

Aquatics Events:

A **\$15 activity fee** (purchased at time of registration) will be assessed for the Discover SCUBA event. Space for this event is very limited.

- All participants who will be participating in pool-based events (Cardboard Boat Regatta, Discover SCUBA, etc) will need to present proof of a current BSA Swim test OR pass a BSA swim test prior to participating in the event. BSA Swim Test requirements and form can be found [HERE](#).
- Cardboard Boat Regatta participants will be provided with cardboard and duck tape. Teams must provide their own materials for decorations, etc. Rules for the Cardboard Boat Regatta can be found in the [2023 Event Guide](#).

Health & Safety

Boy Scouts Of America (BSA) – Health Forms

The Boy Scouts of America national policy states that anyone participating in scouting activities must provide a completed and signed health form. Unit leadership should collect and maintain the health forms for all participants (adults included) in their units during the event. Only Parts A and B are required for the event. If your unit's planned activities for Winterfest exceed 72 hours, then Part C is required.

NOTE: Included in each health form is a release the parent will sign providing permission to treat their child in the event of illness or injury. This may include, but is not limited to, examination and routine treatment by medical personnel at the event, transport to a hospital, X-ray examination, anesthesia, medical or surgical diagnostic procedures, or treatment that is considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital furnishing medical services. In the event of serious illness or injury, all reasonable efforts to reach the parent will be attempted.

Health forms for Explorers, Crews, Troops & Ships can be found [HERE](#)

Boy Scouts Of America (BSA) – Youth Protection Policy (YPT)

The Boy Scouts of America national policy states that anyone participating in activities over 18 must complete youth protection training.

Participants must be able to provide proof of **CURRENT** YPT certification.

The BSA Youth Protection Training can be found [HERE](#) (or by clicking on the logo).



Aquatics Events – BSA Swim Tests

Anyone (youth and adult) participating in Aquatic Events must have proof of "Swimmer" classification on the BSA swim test. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Traveling to Gatlinburg & Getting Around Town

Gatlinburg is next to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has miles of hiking trails in the mountains and tons of dining, attractions, shopping, and arts and crafts in town. Make Gatlinburg your basecamp for adventure. Your youth will have a blast!

Most units will travel by personal vehicle to Winterfest, but be sure to check into alternative means of transportation. You may be able to save money by working with other units in your area to charter a bus.

Event parking at the Rocky Top Sports World is FREE. If you plan to drive your car to downtown Gatlinburg, expect to pay for parking. Parking in Gatlinburg can cost from \$10 to \$20 for the day. Some restaurants and attractions advertise that they have free parking (which is awesome), but they tend to be outside of the most congested part of the city center.

Downtown Gatlinburg is eminently walkable, as are the nearby park trails accessible from the city. If your feet get tired, take the inexpensive trolley to explore locally.

Visit gatlinburg.com for more information on the location.



Lodging

It is each unit's responsibility to make their own hotel reservations. Hotels will fill up fast. BSA Winterfest has secured discounted hotel pricing. Be sure to view the list of hotel discounts to assist you in making your plans. Reservations for discounted lodging can be made [HERE](#) and can also be found on bsawinterfest.org.

Event Check-In

Once you arrive in Gatlinburg you will need to check-in to receive your materials.

Where: **Rocky Top Sports World**
1870 Sports World Blvd,
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

When: Check-In will be on the following days/times:

Friday 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

List of items to bring to Check-in:

- Your copy of ALL Registration Materials

You will receive a packet of information containing:

- Wristbands for all pre-registered youth and adults
- Ripley's, and/or WonderWorks tickets (if pre-ordered)
- Tickets for the shooting sports training for those that registered
- Youth **MUST** bring Ammo voucher to the safety briefing in order to participate

Please send only one Unit Advisor and one Youth Representative to check your unit in.

Additional wristbands will be available for sale but they will be sold at the walk-up price listed in the fee table on page 3. Wristbands are required for all youth, adults, and visitors to obtain entry into all events and areas as well as providing access to the shuttle service.

Winterfest DRAFT Agenda

The final agenda will be posted on bsawinterfest.org prior to the event. We will also post locations for all events.

FRIDAY	
Morning	On your own, tour the city.
10:00am – Midnight	Ober Mountain / WonderWorks / Ripley's (see website for operating hours for each partner)
4:00pm – 9:00pm	Check-in & Winterfest Opening Bash (Rocky Top Sports World)
7:00pm – 10:00pm	Outdoor Range Safety Briefings (multiple sessions offered)
9:00pm	Advisor's Briefing and New Unit Orientation - (Rocky Top Sports World)
9:30pm	Law Enforcement & Fire Service Events Briefing (1 adult/1 youth only per Post)
1:00am	Everyone in their own room – curfew
SATURDAY	
8:00am – 9:00am	Outdoor Range Safety Briefings
8:00am – 10:00am	Late Check-in (Rocky Top Sports World)
9:00am – 5:00pm	Winterfest Events
Saturday Evening (time TBA)	Awards Presentations
1:00am	Everyone in their own room – curfew
SUNDAY	
All day	Tour the city, visit the event partners, and safe travels home

Shuttle Services

There will be one shuttle bus providing transportation for Winterfest youth and adults on **Saturday from 7:30AM to 5:30PM**. This bus will primarily run between Rocky Top Sports World and the shooting ranges. Each location will have a “bus stop” and riders will be required to show their wristbands to gain entry.

Food & Concessions

All meals at Winterfest are “on your own.” **NO OUTSIDE FOOD IS ALLOWED IN THE SPORTS CENTER.** The center offers a snack bar and a local vendor will be onsite Saturday morning to offer coffee and doughnuts. Don’t forget to bring a refillable water bottle.

After Hours Gatlinburg: Ober Mountain, Ripley’s & WonderWorks

Discount tickets will be available for Ober Mountain, Ripley’s, and WonderWorks. Details on these event partners will be in the 2023 Event Guide and at bsawinterfest.org. Tickets can be purchased online at the time of registering for Ripley’s and WonderWorks and onsite at check-in on Friday for Ober Mountain. These discounted tickets are available to anyone attending, including visitors. Tickets can be used throughout the weekend, but each partner is offering special hours on Friday night to accommodate Winterfest participants.

Ober Mountain is offering Winterfest participants special group pricing on all their activities throughout the weekend. Pricing for Ober Mountain activities will be posted at the event. Tickets can be purchased directly at Ober Mountain facilities. For questions, please contact Ober Mountain at 800-251-9202.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION! The BSA Guide to Safe Scouting requires the use of helmets for downhill skiing and snowboarding. Helmets are encouraged for tubing and sledding. Because Ober Mountain does not require helmet use, they have a limited supply available for check-out. You are encouraged to bring helmets with you if you will be skiing or snowboarding.

If you plan to visit **WonderWorks** or **Ripley’s** and have purchased tickets during registration, you will pick up your tickets when you check-in to the event. If your unit plans to take advantage of the late-night Friday hours, be sure to send someone to the Winterfest Advisors’ Meetings. **All minors (youth under the age of 18 yrs old) will need a Liability Waiver** to participate in **Ober Mountain**. All waivers can be found on bsawinterfest.org/waivers.



FAQs

- Two-deep adult leadership is required. Co-ed leadership is required if you have a co-ed group. Adult leadership is responsible for the conduct of their youth during the event, including compliance with the designated curfews.
- Winterfest has an active Facebook page. Make sure you are following the page for updates. We use Facebook as our primary communication to update attendees prior to and during the event.
- Transportation, meals, hotels, and the extra activities are your responsibility.
- Winterfest is staffed with trained medical personnel to assist your unit as needed. If medical assistance is needed, please ask for assistance from any staff member with a walkie-talkie and help will be summoned. Our medical personnel are first responders and coordinate with Gatlinburg EMS as needed. If you need immediate assistance, dial 911.
- The event staff will enforce the Winterfest Code of Conduct that was accepted at the time of registration. Behavior and discipline are the responsibilities of the Unit Leaders. Serious discipline breaches are subject to review by the Winterfest Executive Staff, who reserves the right to take appropriate action, including but not limited to asking the involved persons to leave all Winterfest events.
- Damages to hotel rooms or any Winterfest event facilities are the responsibility of the youth and their unit.
- Contingent leaders for each unit are responsible for checking their units into their selected hotels.
- Please make sure that the Winterfest staff is notified of the hotel location where your unit is staying.
- In the event of an emergency, it is necessary to be able to track down your unit. An emergency contact will be required at registration.
- If you need to get a Tennessee Tax-Exempt Status Certificate to avoid the State Sales Tax go to bsawinterfest.org/waivers.
- There are a variety of worship options available for you and your youth. Be sure to use the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce to find the church/synagogue of your choice [HERE](#)

Social Media



Winterfest Facebook



Winterfest Instagram



Winterfest Twitter



Sign up to be notified of updates as they are published. This service is through Remind and you can receive notifications in a variety of ways. Get the app at the QR code below.

Click on your link below or text your code to 81010:

@bsawf1 - Fire/EMS Explorers

@bsawf2 - Venturers

@bsawf3 - Law Enforcement Explorers

@bsawf4 - Explorers (all other)

@bsawf9 - Winterfest General (+ Sea Scouts/Scouts BSA)

