



COPE-A-Palooza

April 17-19, 2026



LEADER GUIDE

WHERE: H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation

WHEN: April 17-19, 2026

WHO: TROOPS AND CREWS

CHECK IN: Friday from 6:30-9:00PM

CHECK OUT: Sunday 8:00-11:00AM

FEES*: \$25 per participant (youth or adult**)

**includes facility use, memorabilia, and program features*

***no charge for non-participating adults*

Registration: ONLINE @ www.hoac-bsa.org/cope-a-palooza

COPE-a-Palooza is an excellent opportunity to expose your scouts to the fun and adventure of COPE & climbing activities in the Heart of America Council. This event was started to provide different climbing opportunities in the council outside of summer camp. The event is located at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation where there are numerous COPE, climbing, and rappelling sites available. All participants who sign up on time will receive COPE-a-Palooza event memorabilia.

Is your troop or crew new to COPE, climbing, or rappelling? No worries. **Heart of America Council will be providing all the necessary gear for this weekend.** If you or your unit has personal harnesses, helmets, rappel devices, and gloves please bring them to registration Friday night for inspection.

Outdoor activities will include natural site climbing and rappelling, tower program, COPE, crate stacking, rope ascending, Up & Down cave, and ice climbing. Are you a trained Level 1 or Level 2 instructor? If so, volunteering to staff one of our program sites will give you continuing education towards your recertification requirements.

REGISTRATION

HOAC would prefer that all units sign up via the website www.hoac-bsa.org/cope-a-palooza. Early registration fee is only \$25 per participant if received by April 5, 2026. Afterwards the fee will increase to \$35 per participant. Fees go toward the use of our facilities at Camp, event memorabilia, and most importantly to help maintain your council climbing equipment.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

COPE-a-Palooza is an excellent opportunity to expose your scouts to the fun and adventure of COPE, climbing and rappelling activities in the Heart of America Council. This event provides youth the opportunity to participate in program outside of the normal summer camp program times. The guidance and supervision of trained council climbing instructors will ensure your youth have a safe and exciting time.

We recommend that first time climbers and rappellers start at the climbing tower or Davis Lodge. Scouts participate in the program as a unit and decide which activities they would like to experience. Feel free to move around program sites as you desire.

Please be prepared to eat and camp as a unit. No meals will be provided with your registration. Shower house facilities at Piercing Arrow may be available for use depending on temperature and weather conditions.

Activities are scheduled to operate from these program sites:

Site	Program Sites	Activities
A	COPE Course	 Zip line  2 COPE element climbs will be offered with a rappel at the end of those climbs  Spar Pole Climbing  Flying Squirrel
B	Climbing Tower	 Climbing & Rappelling  Ice Climbing  Up and Down Cave
C	Campsite Fort Carson	 Natural rock rappelling  Rope Ascending  Crate stacking
D	Davis Lodge	 Tyrolean Traverse  Rope Ascending  Crate stacking
E	Cedar Bluff – access via Lakefront	 Rappelling Cedar Bluff  Climbing Devils Staircase  Explore Rattlesnake cave
F	Near COPE	 Escape Room

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Check-in will start on **Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.** at reservation headquarters. At check in unit leaders will receive wrist bands which are needed to participate. Unit leaders will confirm that each participant has a [BSA Health and Medical Record parts A, B](#) in order to receive their wrist band. Also at check in, unit leaders will receive the unit's campsite location, information regarding site locations, and confirmation of start times or changes to program due to weather conditions. It is not necessary for each participant to come to check in.

Please make sure you have at least one leader at the leader meeting **Friday evening at 9:00 p.m.** in the Piercing Arrow dining hall to receive important updated information regarding site openings and procedures for the day.

You may bring personal or unit climbing gear (e.g. helmets and harnesses). These must be presented to staff for initial inspection during the leaders meeting on Friday evening.

Please note that HOAC climbing instructors at each program site have the authority to disqualify any piece of gear for use *at any time* during the event. For example, if a harness was approved at check in, but an instructor running a program site the next day feels that there is a problem with the harness, they have the authority to

require use of a different harness for that site or the duration of the weekend. This policy is for the safety of participants and climbing instructors providing program.

PARTICIPANT GEAR LIST

Here is a list of personal items that each participant should bring with them to the event:

- ✓ Water bottle filled with water
- ✓ Food or snacks to eat while waiting in line or hiking between sites
- ✓ Rain jacket for inclement weather or fleece
- ✓ **NO baggy clothing**. All clothing must fit properly so it does not interfere with climbing gear
- ✓ Laced up closed toed shoes
- ✓ Small first aid kit for scrapes or blisters on the trail
- ✓ Leather Gloves for rappelling - these **must fit** (NO NYLON GLOVES)
- ✓ Flashlight or head lamp for evening program
- ✓ Hair bands or some other method to hold back long hair

PROGRAM AGENDA

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY AND WEATHER CONDITIONS)

Friday

- 6:30-9:00 pm Check-in and gear inspection begins at reservation headquarters.
8:00-8:30 pm COPE-a-Palooza Staff meeting in the Piercing Arrow dining hall.
9:00-9:30 pm Leader's meeting in the Piercing Arrow dining hall.

Saturday

- 8:00 am Opening Flag Ceremony at Piercing Arrow flag mall.
8:15 am Program sites open – please see attached site map.
A. COPE Activities (zip lining, rappelling, COPE element climbs, spar pole climbing, flying squirrel)
B. Tower Activities (rappelling, up & down cave, climbing, ice climbing, slack line, stem)
C. Fort Carson Activities (Natural rock rappelling, rope ascending, crate stacking)
D. Cedar Bluff Activities (natural rock climbing and rappelling)
E. Davis Lodge Activities (tyrolean traverse, rope ascending, and crate stacking)
F. Escape Room
- 12:00 pm Units can eat lunch at camp or at program sites.
Instructors will eat lunch at program sites and certain sites may shut down temporarily for the lunch break.
- 4:30 pm Program sites Cedar Bluff, Fort Carson, and Up and Down Cave close for the afternoon.
5:15 pm Program sites Climbing Tower and COPE close for dinner.
5:30 pm Closing Flag Ceremony at Piercing Arrow flag mall.
7:00 pm Program sites open, except Cedar Bluff.
9:00 pm Program sites close.

Sunday

- 8:00-11:00 am Unit check-out at Bartle Reservation Headquarters (RHQ).

