



2026 ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend April 10-12, 2026

The ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend is for Philmont-bound or backcountry-bound crews wanting a Shakedown trek of 15+ miles. This event is intended for units planning to attend a high adventure trekking program. This is purely a shakedown for your high adventure treks, such as Philmont, ZBASE, or long-term backcountry treks. Scouts will enhance their backpacking skills—experienced backpackers recommended. Participants must be able to carry backpack (with padded hip belt) that has personal and crew gear entire time.

No merit badge material teaching will be covered (Scouts may complete the cooking and trek requirements during the weekend). NOTE: An introductory backpacking course will be offered in Fall 2026 for skill development and merit badge work.

All food provided. Stoves, Fuel, and Cooking gear provided, but we recommend you bring the crew gear that you plan to take to Philmont/high adventure trek to test it out over the weekend.

This ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend Adventure Guide will assist you in planning for a successful weekend. The volunteer committee and staff look forward to seeing you soon at the Zink Scout Ranch on April 10-12!

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GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Babbitt Cub World at Zink Ranch

8607 Zink Ranch Road, Skiatook OK 74070 (Note: This address works in Google maps)

The ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend will be held at Babbitt Cub World at Zink Scout Ranch. The Zink Ranch is located northwest of Tulsa in Osage County on Skiatook Lake. The Zink Ranch is a 35,000-acre property that is home to multiple outdoor groups including gun clubs, motocross events, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, fly fishing clubs, and more. It is also a working ranch. Please observe the posted speed limit of **25 mph** and be aware of traffic flow and pedestrians.

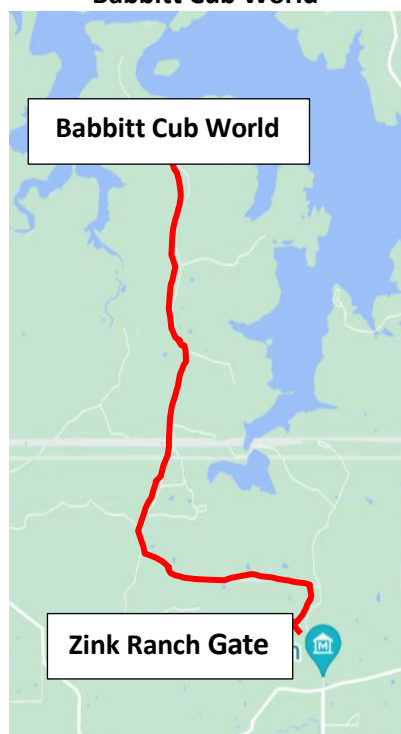
Zink Ranch Access Gate

The Zink Ranch has an entry gate that requires a four-digit access code that is changed monthly. Units will be advised of the code prior to the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend to share with your unit. After entering the gate, proceed to the left up the hill on the asphalt road. Continue until you come to the main sign which will show Babbitt Cub World. Bear to left and proceed on the asphalt road to the Cub World Welcome Center for check-in. It is approximately 6 miles from the Zink Ranch Gate to the Cub World Welcome Center.

Map Showing Zink Ranch



Map Showing Zink Ranch Road to Babbitt Cub World



FEES

Youth/Adult ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend Fee – \$40 Regular Fee.

Who: All BSA registered Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts

Includes:

- All food provided.
- Stoves, Fuel, and Cooking gear provided, **but we recommend you bring the crew gear that you plan to take to Philmont/high adventure trek to test it out over the weekend.**
- Map

How: Register online

Staff Fee – Free for Full-time and Day Only Staff. Register as “Staff” at the Council website. **See below to determine what staff type you should register as.**

REGISTRATION

Scouts BSA and Venturers should register as a group. Registration is online at www.okscouts.org. Please access the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend webpage (under Events & Activities). Thereafter, registrations, updates, substitutions, and deletions will need to be made at the Scout Service Center, or upon arrival at the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend.

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 10

4:30-6:00pm	Arrival/Check-in (eat dinner prior to arrival) at Zink CubWorld Welcome Center
6:30-7:00pm	Program Briefing
7:00-8:30pm	Class Round-Robin (20 minute rotations): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food/Gear Distribution• Crew Roles• Map Planning• Gear Shakedown
9:00-9:30pm	Cracker Barrel
10:00-10:30pm	Taps
10:30pm	Lights Out

Saturday, Sept. 27

6:00am	Wakeup
6:30-7:15am	Breakfast
7:30am	Departure on Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orienteering• First Aid Topic Cards
	Trail Lunch
	Arrival in Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campsite Eval• Leave No Trace
	Cooking
8:00pm	Campfire

Sunday, Sept. 28

6:00am	Wakeup
7:00am	Departure
11:00am	Base Camp Debrief
12:00pm	Departure

CHECK-IN, ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

CHECK-IN – FRIDAY NIGHT ARRIVAL

Commencing at 4:30pm on April 10th units may check in at the Cub World Welcome Center. To make your Check-In go smoothly, please:

- **Arrive as a unit at the Cub World Welcome Center.**
- In addition, **the unit leader will provide the unit's Annual Health and Medical Records for visual inspection** by the ZBase Staff and to address any medical issues with the onsite Health Officer (medication storage, medical issues that should be made known to the Health Officer, etc.). **Units will be responsible for their Annual Health and Medical Records.**
- **During the Check-In, the unit leader** must provide two contacts for each unit who will be contacted first in case of an emergency. Annual Health and Medical Records should be readily available for access in an emergency.
- The unit leader should also advise the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend staff at check-in as to any late arrivals; "late" meaning any vehicles arriving after the unit leader and the bulk of the unit.
- Once the unit leader, Crew leader, and other adult(s) have checked-in, the unit may proceed to its campsite and commence set-up.

PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND

PRE-EVENT MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Approximately 3 weeks prior to the event, participants will attend a Pre-Event Teams meeting to review the weekend plan, review menu plans, and answer any questions. **Your Registration Contact will receive the email with meeting logistics to distribute to all your participants.**

GEAR LIST

ZBase will provide food, stoves, and cooking gear. You need to bring your own tent. If you want to use your own stove or cooking gear, you may bring it.

- Clothes (adjust for the weather and season)
 - T-shirt
 - Long-sleeved shirt
 - Underwear
 - Hiking shorts
 - Long pants
 - Socks (synthetic blend or wool)
 - Hiking shoes or boots (well-fitting and broken in)
 - Camp shoes (closed toe)
 - Sweater or jacket
 - Brimmed hat, stocking hat
 - Sunglasses
 - Bandana
 - Rain gear
- Personal Gear
 - Backpack with rain cover
 - Hiking poles (optional)
 - Sleeping bag and pad
 - Eating gear (mess kit)
 - Backpacking Tent
 - Hammock (optional, but must have a tent as a backup)
 - Camp Chair (optional)
 - Pocketknife
 - Personal First-Aid Kit
 - 2-3 Water bottles, 1L each (must have 2 water bottles minimum. Bladder may be the 3rd)
 - Headlamp
 - Sun and Insect Protection
 - Compass
 - Personal toiletry kit (Kleenex, TP, toothbrush, wash cloth, etc.)
 - Misc.: Medications, insect repellent, bug net, paper & pencil, whistle, camera, binoculars, fishing gear, etc.

Crew Gear

- Crew First-Aid Kit
- Sun Protection
- Insect Protection

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES & WEATHER

GENERAL

Emergency Procedures will be headquartered at the Cub World Welcome Center. Throughout the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend, there will always be a Health Officer on duty, together with the Staff Advisor. The Staff Advisor will have a radio as well as their cell phone to coordinate any emergency. Please remember, we're there to help.

WEATHER

Throughout the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend, we will monitor the potential for severe weather. Should the forecast include the risk of severe weather including lightning, this will be addressed when unit's check-in and at the Friday night briefing.

OUTSIDE EMERGENCIES

In the event of an outside emergency which requires a participant to be contacted by his/her family, we ask that the family member contact the unit directly by mobile phone. We will not provide an emergency contact number for outsiders to call.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your constructive feedback and comments, which will be used to plan the next ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend.

Questions about the ZBase Backpacking Shakedown Weekend can be directed to Bill Fournet at billfournet@thepersimmongroup.com.