



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

SCOUT OVERNIGHTS

What is a Scout Overnight?

Scout Overnights provide a unique opportunity for you and your scout group to experience and explore the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) or Shaw Nature Reserve (SNR). You will spend a fun-filled evening enjoying activities based on the wonders of nature and the world around you. We will work on badge requirements at MBG only.

When are they offered?

Scout Overnights are offered seasonally by designated dates, requiring pre-registration. Between MBG and SNR, we offer 3-4 overnights per year. If our dates don't work for you and you wish to schedule your own experience at SNR's Dana Brown Overnight Center, please contact supervisor Aileen Abbott at (636)451-3512 or aileen.abbott@mobot.org.

Scout Levels

Scout Overnights are offered by Scout Level. We currently offer overnights to Girl Scout Brownie, Junior and Cadette levels. We also offer overnights to Cub Scout Wolf, Bear and Webelo levels. The age range for scout groups is determined by the designations set by the appropriate councils. In the interest of consistency, we are unable to make exceptions for children outside of the levels specified.

Registration & Payment

Pre-registration is required online. Payment is made via credit card only. A leader may choose to register and pay for all of their participating scouts at the same time, or allow scouts to register individually. Troop, den or pack number is required at the time of registration. When registering chaperones for SNR overnights, please remember that we can only allow two chaperones per troop, den or pack due to facility size. Thank you for understanding.

After registering online, please print and fill out the **Scout and Adult Participation forms** (see the "Before you Come" section), available on our scout overnight web pages. These forms need to be to the Scout Instructor at least 2 weeks before your event. **You and your child/scout cannot participate without these completed forms.**

Cancellations & Refunds

For Scout Overnight refunds, **cancellations must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the program.** Refunds cannot be issued for cancellations less than 2 weeks in advance or for missed programs. If Shaw Nature Reserve must cancel a Scout Overnight, you will be notified and receive a full refund.

Before You Come

Please fill out the **Scout and Adult Participation forms** for each scout and chaperone and submit it at the time of registration. This is the most important record we will have for your participants. This form provides us with information to better serve each person while they are participating in the program. Whether your child is coming with you, a scout leader, or another adult guardian, this form must be completed for each participant. Should they become ill or in the event of an emergency, we will need this information to contact you or your designated contact person immediately. If you intend for your child to take any medications during their time with us (including an inhaler), it is important that we know and your permission is given. If you have more than one child participating, one form must be completed for each child. **You and your child/scout may not participate without this completed form.**

Please mail to:

Missouri Botanical Garden
Scout Programs- Overnight
PO Box 299
Saint Louis, MO 63166

What to Bring

We will have plenty of indoor and outdoor activities that may include sitting on the ground, walking, and crafts. You must wear close-toed shoes at all times. Here's a checklist for with recommendations on what to consider bringing, depending on the weather. Feel free to bring anything else you think you might need for sleeping in the lodges at Shaw Nature Reserve. You will be carrying your items from the parking lot to the lodges, *so please pack accordingly!* **Remember to label your belongings.**

1 comfortable clothes & shoes	1 umbrella or raincoat	1 towel
1 pajamas	1 washcloth and soap	1 flashlight
1 sleeping bag	1 toothbrush and paste	1 camera
1 pillow	1 hair brush	1 water bottle
1 jacket or sweatshirt	1 blanket	1 bug spray

Optional items for SNR:

- Board/card games for free time
- Extra toiletries if utilizing shower facilities in bathhouse

Overnight Parking

Missouri Botanical Garden

Parking for overnight participants at MBG will be in the Ridgway Visitor Center parking lot located at 4344 Shaw Blvd., 63110. Please park on the left-hand (east) lot. There is no additional charge for parking. All sleepover participant vehicles must display the Sleepover Participant parking pass (received at check-in or emailed prior) in their windshield for security notification.

Shaw Nature Reserve

Parking at Shaw Nature Reserve's Dana Brown Overnight Education Center will take place just beyond the lodges in the parking lot. **You may not unload your items in front of the lodges.** Please plan to park in the lot and then carry your items from the parking lot. The walk takes just a few minutes. With this in mind, please pack accordingly!

Check-in Process

Group Leaders are required to check-in their entire group together. At the time of check-in the Group Leader will be given the materials to internally check-in their scouts and chaperones in their group. All pre-registered participants will be listed on our roster and will need to give the name under which the reservation was made at the time of check-in. *Please note:* participants may not participate without a completed Scout or Adult Participation form (see the "Before You Come" section).

Missouri Botanical Garden

Check-in begins at 5:00 p.m. Please do not expect to check in before then. All overnight participants need to check in at the registration table at the Linnaean Plaza Entrance. This entrance will be open until 5:30 p.m. On-time arrival will give participants time to orient themselves, claim a sleeping spot, drop off their belongings, explore the Children's Garden and participate in activities before dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Participants are strongly discouraged from arriving after 7 p.m. If it is absolutely necessary for you to do so, you must notify the Scout Instructor 24 hours prior to the sleepover so special arrangements can be made. If a participant needs to leave between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., please notify staff PRIOR to the day of the event so that we may make arrangements.

Shaw Nature Reserve

Check in is from 1:00-1:30 p.m. We strongly encourage all participants to arrive at the SNR before 1:45 p.m. Arrival prior to 1:45 p.m. will give participants time to orient themselves and drop off their belongings in their lodges before formal orientation at 2:00 p.m.

Participants are strongly discouraged from arriving after 2:00 p.m. If it is absolutely necessary for you to do so, you must notify the Scout Instructor 24 hours prior to the overnight so special arrangements can be made. If a participant needs to leave between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., please notify staff PRIOR to the day of the event so that we may make arrangements.

Sleeping Arrangements

Missouri Botanical Garden

Overnight participants will be sleeping on the lawn within or around the Kemper Center for Home Gardening. In the event of rain or inclement weather, participants will be moved inside. **Please bring at least 1 large tarp with you.** Items can get wet with dew in the evening hours. Guests are welcome to bring tarps, sleeping bags and blankets, but **TENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON GARDEN GROUNDS.** Sleepovers are scheduled during mild weather months, however, at times, the temperatures may vary. To be safe, we suggest bringing layers of clothes - as in a t-shirt *and* a sweatshirt/jacket as well as a raincoat or umbrella.

Shaw Nature Reserve

Overnight participants will be sleeping in the historic lodges. Each lodge contains bunk beds as well as a few single beds (for chaperones) and restrooms. The shower facilities are located in the bathhouse.

Dinner, Snack and Breakfast

Your overnight experience includes dinner, and a late night snack, and a continental breakfast the following morning. We will include items from the essential food groups and will do our best to provide options for varied diets and “picky eaters”. Peanuts will not be served. **Please e-mail scoutprograms@mobot.org regarding significant food allergies.**

Dinner:

A dinner buffet will be provided shortly after participants have arrived. The menu varies at each sleepover and may include: a build-your-own taco bar, or a baked potato bar, or pizza, or sub sandwiches. Beverages may include water, tea, and lemonade. A tasty treat will be provided for dessert.

Snack:

MBG: We will provide a late-night snack that may include fruit, vegetables, milk products, wheat, soy, or eggs, unless the staff knows of an existing allergy or dietary need.

SNR: After dinner we will be roasting s’mores over the campfire!

Breakfast: A continental breakfast will be served the following morning which may include fruit, assorted cereals, muffins, bagels, fruit juice, coffee, tea and other tasty treats.

This is not a complete list, and not every item listed above will be available at every overnight. We do ask that all food provided at an overnight be kept within designated eating areas.

OUTSIDE FOOD: We ask that NO outside food be brought with you. If you have severe food allergies or specific dietary needs, we do allow you to bring in an outside snack under the following conditions:

- It must be sealed in a heavy-duty plastic container (Tupperware, not a Ziploc bag).
- It must be labeled with the participant’s name.
- It must be taken directly to the dining area and left there for the duration of the event.
- Items must be non-perishable, as refrigeration space is very limited.
- Items should not require re-heating, as sleepover staff will not have access to a microwave or stove.

Any guests needing to bring in outside food for health reasons should notify the sleepover staff immediately upon arrival. Staff at the check-in station will show participants to the dining area where they can leave their items. ***Please note:*** We can’t guarantee the safety of the food that is left there, nor can we take responsibility if it is lost or taken. Participants will be asked to take any food not meeting these criteria back to their vehicles.

Overnight Etiquette

Staff will do all that they can to ensure your child's safety while at MBG and SNR. For the sake of other participants, children are expected to display cooperative and respectful behaviors. Should behavioral difficulties arise; parents, chaperones or scout leaders will be notified. If problems continue, we reserve the right to dismiss participants from our sleepovers.

For the enjoyment of all our sleepover participants:

- Have fun!
- Respect your fellow sleepover participants and their belongings as well as staff.
- Eat only in designated eating areas.
- Stay with your group, both children and their chaperones, at all times. If you get separated from your group, we ask that groups reunite at the Kemper Center at MBG or the Assembly Building at SNR.
- Keep your shoes on (except while sleeping) and leave your wheeled shoes at home.
- As far as we can tell, our plants do not snore. Overnight participants, however, sometimes do. Please be respectful of those who do and mindful of those who do not.
- Lights out is quiet time. Please turn off or silence your electronic devices and go to sleep!
- Staff and volunteers are here to help. Feel free to ask questions or go to them for first aid needs. An Information and First Aid Station will be located in the Kemper Center at MBG and the Assembly Building at SNR.

Shaw Nature Reserve Lodges

The historic lodges at SNR are old buildings, all built in the mid-1800's! Please treat them with respect and follow these guidelines:

- No horseplay or running around inside any building.
- There must be adult supervision at all times. No one can be in any building unless there is an adult/teacher/parent/chaperone present. When exploring outside make sure an adult always knows where you are.
- A First Aid Station will be located in the Assembly Building.
- Scouts may only enter the sleeping lodge that they are assigned to.
- No food, candy, gum, juice, soda etc. in the sleeping lodges, only water.

Other important information and guidelines pertaining to the lodges and bathhouse will be given out during orientation.

Inclement Weather

Participants should come dressed for the weather. All overnights are held rain or shine. In the case of rain, we will be able to relocate the group to an indoor covered area. If we are unable to hold a sleepover due to severe inclement weather, we will notify you by phone if staff decides to cancel prior to the event. In the event severe inclement weather occurs during the overnight, staff is prepared to ensure participant safety and will be using a facility that the staff has identified as a storm shelter.

Security & Emergencies

Overnight participants are encouraged to leave their belongings in the sleeping area during the overnight activities as a means of staking out their own spot. While we expect that all participants will respect other participant's belongings, we do highly recommend keeping valuables on your person at all times, as the Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Nature Reserve do not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

The Missouri Botanical Garden Safety and Security team is on Garden grounds 24 hours a day. The Garden's Safety and Security staff, as well as the Overnight Staff, are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

In case of security concerns or emergencies, please contact any overnight staff member immediately.

Special Accommodations & Accessibility

Please call the Scout Programs Instructor at (314) 577-9473 x6357 or email scoutprograms@mobot.org at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the sleepover if you or your child/scout requires special accommodations.

The Next Day

Missouri Botanical Garden:

Participants are welcome to explore the Garden after 9:00 a.m. the next morning. If you wish to stay after 9:00 a.m., participants are asked to return their sleeping bags and other gear into their cars *before* 9:00 a.m. and then re-enter the Garden with an admission pass from Garden staff good for general Garden admission, all other admission rates apply.

Shaw Nature Reserve:

Participants are welcome to explore the Reserve after 10:00 a.m. the next morning. All belongings must be out of the lodges by 9:00 a.m. and you will need to pack up and move your vehicles from the DBOEC parking by 10:00 am. Participants must re-enter the Reserve at the main entrance on West Osage Street.

Contact information

During the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, please call the Scout Programs Instructor at (314) 577-9473 x6357.

For emergencies only during the sleepover: Should you need to reach sleepover staff or a sleepover participant overnight during the sleepover for an emergency situation, call (410)430-0018 to reach someone immediately.