

OAX 2027 | Exhibitor Guide

Hands-on exhibits at Camp Bowers

Event and audience

OAX is Saturday, April 17, 2027, from 9:00 AM to noon at Camp Bowers, White Oak, NC. Plan an interactive, educational exhibit.

We expect nearly 1,000 youth and young adults, including ages 12–20 from six North Carolina lodges. Theme: Forging the Future — Tools, Trades, and Traditions in Action | See It. Try It. Lead It.

The goal: hands-on, not handouts

Offer tools to handle, a short challenge, or a safe live demo—not just brochures.

What works

Approach	Characteristics	Scout Engagement Level
Static display	Brochures and a seated attendant	Low: little interaction
Hands-on display	Try-it activity, live demo, or tools to handle	High: Scouts stop and participate

Make it visible in three seconds

Scouts should see what they can try from the walkway.

- **Display tools, equipment, or activities at the front of your booth.**
- **Stand where you can greet Scouts and invite them to participate.**
- **Ask “Want to try this?” or “What do you think happens next?”**

Demonstration ideas

Examples by field:

Category	High-Impact Demonstration Examples
Skilled Trades & Industry	Blacksmithing, utility safety, engines, wiring.
Public Safety & Emergency Services	Fire/rescue vehicles, thermal cameras, search gear, K9.
Engineering, STEM & Science	Robotics, simulators, rockets, drones.
Traditional Crafts & Outdoor Skills	Crafts, woodwork, outdoor survival, knots.
Culinary & Food Science	Food science and supervised food demonstrations.

Conclave Passport

The planned Conclave Passport encourages Scouts to participate at each exhibit.

- **Stamp or scan a Scout's passport after they complete a brief task or question.**
- **Completed passports may earn event rewards. Keep demonstrations active from 9:00 AM until noon.**

Exhibit Guidelines

Please follow these standards:

DO:

- **Bring free giveaways such as stickers, patches, or pens.**
- **Share career, training, and educational resources, including QR codes.**
- **Bring a 10 × 10 ft canopy with appropriate stakes or weights; booths are outdoors.**
- **Unload at your assigned booth 7:30–8:30 AM. Move your vehicle to exhibitor parking by 8:45 AM.**

DON'T:

- **No sales or paid transactions, including card payments or deposits.**
- **No unattended, brochure-only booths. Be ready to demonstrate.**
- **No teardown before noon; some Scouts visit late in the program.**

Event-day checklist

- **Use the booth number and arrival map sent during event week.**
- **If approved for 110V power, bring a 50–100 ft outdoor-rated extension cord and surge protector.**
- **Camp Wi-Fi is unavailable and cell service may be unreliable. Run demos offline.**
- **Box lunches and water are planned for delivery around 11:30 AM; confirm staff counts and dietary needs.**
- **Keep all interactions in public view and follow two-deep leadership requirements.**
- **Friday, April 16, 5:00–7:30 PM setup is by advance approval only, for complex or heavy displays. Prior approval and notice is required.**
- **Get camp approval at least 30 days ahead for animals, heat/flames, machinery, utility hazards, or flights.**
- **Need help? Austin Mirando: 919-995-6171; David Syster: 910-443-5330. Or training@e8.aa-scouting.org**