



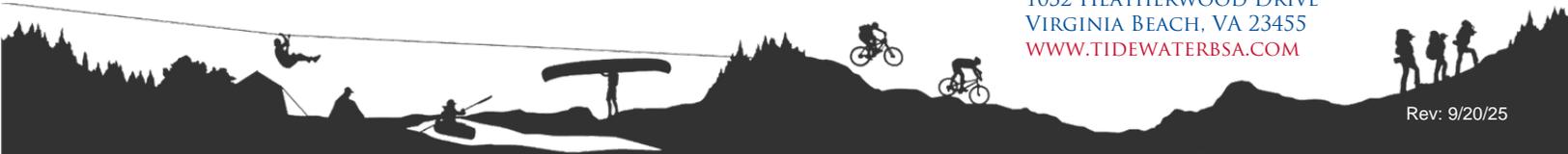
# TIDEWATER COUNCIL CAMPING RESOURCES GUIDE

PROVIDED BY:

TIDEWATER COUNCIL'S CAMPING COMMITTEE

NOTE TO READER: IF THERE IS ANY INFORMATION YOU FEEL THAT IS MISSING FROM THIS DOCUMENT, PLEASE CONTACT WES PARKER-  
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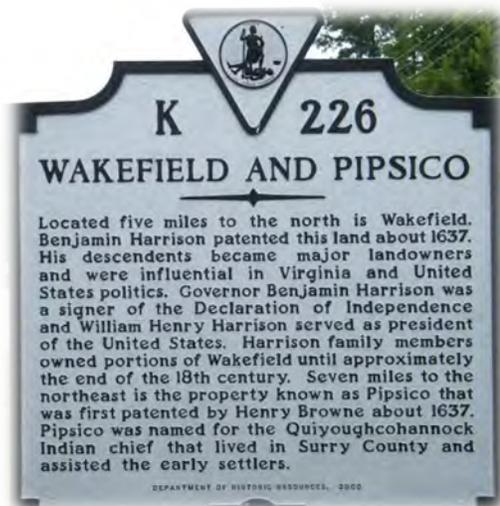
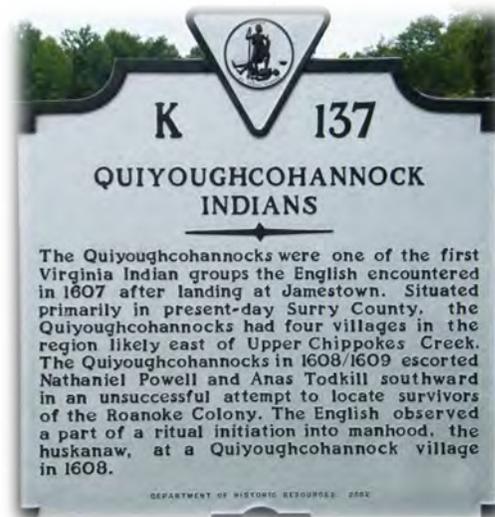
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## PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION –

Pipsico as a Scout camp dates back to 1958, but its history goes back much further. In fact, the patent history (now deed history) goes back to December 13, 1634 when King Charles I patented 2000+ acres of land, on the South shores of the James River and four miles upstream from Jamestown, to Col. Henry Browne. Henry Browne was born in 1598 in Westminster, London, England and arrived in Virginia in 1634 and was a member of Sir William Berkeley's Council in 1634. In 1637 Pipsico Plantation increased in size with the addition of land known today as Eastover. The land was considered part of the original Jamestown Colony, and served as a look-out post to protect the settlers at Jamestown.

Even since the mid 1600's, the land and area that encompasses and abuts the Scout Reservation has incorporated the name "Pipsico". The name/term "Pipsico" honors Chief Pepsicumah (also know as a werowance) of the Quiyoughcohannock Indians. He was referred to by the English settlers as Pipsico. Chief Pipsico assisted settlers by providing them with food and training them to raise and manage indigenous crops, such as corn. It was Pepsicumah and his tribe who during the "starving time" of the Jamestown Colony, saved the English colonists by providing food and the training in raising indigenous crops such as corn that allowed them to survive this time and eventually prosper as the first permanent English Colony in America. Shortly after Pepsicumah assisted the English Colonists he was deposed by Chief Powhatan and one of Powhatan's wives.



Tidewater Council purchased Pipsico Plantation, now PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION, in 1958. Serving the Scouts, Scouters, and the population of southeastern VA ever since, Pipsico is over 900 acres of woodland, open fields and marshes. The terrain includes a natural ravine system and ranges in elevation from 20 to more than 100 feet above sea level.

Pipsico Scout Reservation's northern boundary extends for a mile and half along the banks of the historic James River. Cliffs 60 to 75 feet high overlook a picturesque mile long sandy beach and several cypress tree coves. The cliff walls are studded with marine shells and fossils providing tangible evidence of the James River's influence on life over the centuries.

Pipsico's "Red Trail" provides visitors with a hiking trail that encircles the reservation providing a variety of visual and ecological wonders for hikers of all ages to marvel. Along the trail you may choose to stop and see the "Pipsico Tree" a tulip poplar nearly 20 feet in circumference that predates the arrival of the first English colonists or stroll along the sandy beach of the James River and observe the flight of the bald eagles that nest on the reservation. As you hike through the wooded areas imagine yourself as one of the early settlers and experience the history that is part of this land!





## PIPSICO FACILITY OVERVIEW –

Pipsico Scout Reservation comprises over 900 acres of woodland with several open fields and marshes in Surry County, Virginia. The terrain, which includes a natural ravine system, ranges in elevation from 20 to just over 100 feet above sea level. The northern boundary extends for a mile and a half along the banks of the historic James River, which is about four miles wide at this point due to the confluence with the Chickahominy River. About one mile of this shoreline consists of cliffs 60-75 feet high overlooking a sandy beach. These cliff walls are studded with numerous marine shells and fossils.



One of four year-round camps on the Reservation, Base Camp serves the long-term camper with facilities compliant with and in most cases exceeding Scouting America National Standards. Most prominently, it includes an air-conditioned dining hall capable of seating 400 people, a 25-yard swimming pool, central shower facilities, a health lodge, trading post, activity shelters, a 40-foot-high climbing & rappelling tower, shooting sports range, and eleven troop campsites with water and latrines. During the summer, Base Camp offers a wide variety of activities and programs ranging from camping skills and merit badges to a host of aquatic and Special Summer Adventure program opportunities.



PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION  
57 PIPSICO ROAD  
SPRING GROVE, VA 23881



The first camp at Pipsico, Kiwanis is used for weekend camping and other short-term events such as Camporees and training. This former long-term camp with its many campsites and broad fields offers a separate large shelter for inclement weather and the “K” building. The “K” building with its large room, exposed trusses, wood ceiling, wood paneled walls, stone fireplace and scouting mementos from years gone by makes it a favorite for meetings, training and cold weekends.



The newest short-term camp provides the year round camper with water, two quadruple latrine facilities and twelve campsites.



*Greason Center - Welcome Center & Museum.*

## POWHATAN AND THE RED TRAIL

This mature forest camp is the most primitive of the four. Best suited for backpackers, it is accessed via the five mile long Red Trail or by way of a short hike from the barn.

**For short-term camping, Summer Camp reservations or just for information, please visit [PipsicoBSA.com](http://PipsicoBSA.com)**

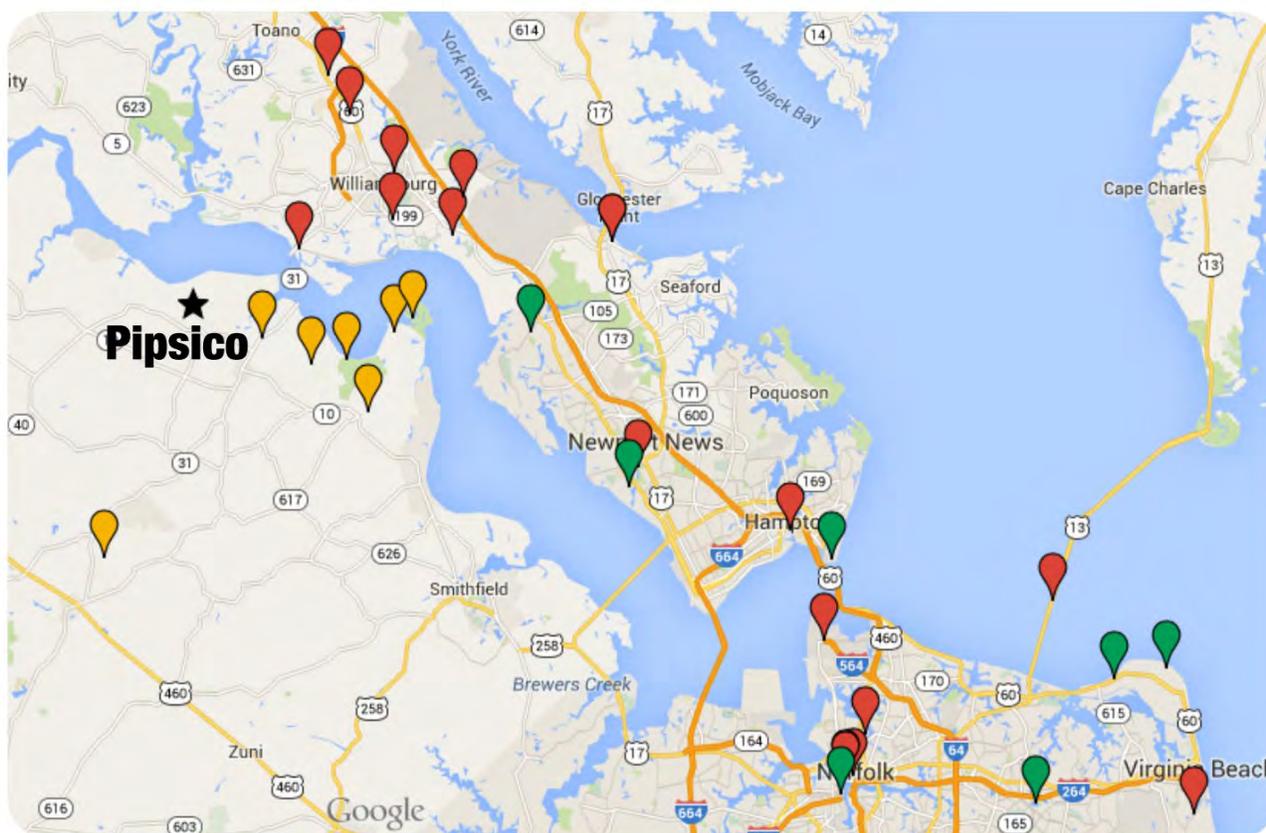
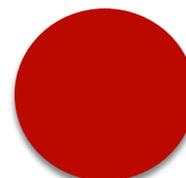




PIPSICO is located in Surry, VA across the river from the Jamestown Settlement in historical Virginia. The Hampton Roads area is home to 18 to 25 of Virginia's top tourist attractions. There is no shortage of amusement to be found for those interested in American history and heritage. The area also boasts an abundance of hot spots for thrill seekers. Most of the attractions listed below can be reached from Pipsico in under an hour.

VIRGINIA'S TOP TOURIST DESTINATIONS (18 OF 25 LOCATION IN HAMPTON ROADS)

- Colonial Williamsburg
- Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- Bush Gardens, Williamsburg
- Williamsburg Premium Outlets
- Naval Station Norfolk
- Williamsburg Pottery
- Virginia Zoo
- MacArthur Center Mall
- Yorktown Battlefield
- Colonial Parkway
- Jamestown Settlement
- Virginia Aquarium
- Virginia Air & Space Center
- Virginia Living Museum
- Water Country USA
- Nauticus/ Battleship Wisconsin
- Hampton Roads Naval Museum

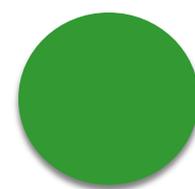


SURRY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

- College Run Farms
- Surry Nuclear Power Station
- Drewry Farms
- Hog Island Wildlife Area
- Bacon's Castle (et. 1665)
- Chippokes Plantation (est. 1671)
- Smith's Fort Plantation (est. 1609)

OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- The Mariners' Museum
- US Army Transportation Museum
- Fort Monroe
- Virginia Sports Hall of Fame
- Cape Henry Lighthouses
- Mount Trashmore
- First Landing State Park





## PIPSICO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES –

### SUMMER CAMP:

Pipsico Scout Reservation offers a wide variety of activities and programs that enable Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers to earn awards while having fun! Facilities include a 40-foot climbing and rappelling tower, a modern air-condition dining hall, a swimming pool with ramp access for those with disabilities and an attached individual room bath facilities, a fully equipped health lodge, a trading post, shooting ranges, a brand-new shower facility with individual shower/ toilet rooms, and 11 campsites with potable water and toilets. All Pipsico programs and facilities are Nationally Accredited through Scouting America's NCAP process.



During Cub Scout resident camp, Cub and Webelos Scouts, along with their adult camping partners, participate with den and pack leaders in a theme-related outdoor program that spells fun and excitement for all! Programs present a variety of structured and camp-wide events. The Cub Resident Program includes swimming, archery, BB guns, handicrafts, sports and nature. Many special activities are scheduled during the sessions, including competitions, games and campfires.

During the Scouts BSA resident camp weeks, the aquatics' program includes instruction in swimming and of course, having fun! During the Scouts BSA resident camp weeks, the aquatics program includes instruction in swimming and lifesaving, along with sailing, rowing, water-skiing, motor boating and canoeing on the James River. Other supervised instructional activities include field sports, ecology/conservation, scoutcrafts and handicrafts.

Pipsico offers a unique first year camper program called Huskanaw. Huskanaw is the Powhatan Indian name for the rite of passage that taught young men the skills needed to meet their responsibilities in the tribe. Our Huskanaw program does much the same thing by teaching new Scouts the skills they need to fully participate in troop activities. At Pipsico the Huskanaw program area is designed to welcome new youth to Scouts BSA (whether they have recently crossed-over from Cub Scouts or just joined a Scouts BSA troop). The program's purpose is to teach Scouts about the patrol method, Troop organization, being prepared, resourcefulness, and skills for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

Pipsico also offers Specialty Adventure programs for scouts who are looking for something a little different from merit badge programs. The diverse offering of programs includes a week long sailing program, SCUBA camp, and the Pipsico Experience (PEX) which is a varied experience that includes shooting sports, aquatics activities, fishing, climbing, and a trip to a water park at the end of the week. Summer Adventure programs are open to youth & adults.





## SCOUTS BSA "LONG-TERM" SUMMER CAMP –

PIPSICO offers Scouts the opportunity to immerse themselves in a positive camping environment. Programs for every Scout make the Pipsico Scout Reservation a great choice for youth new to Scouting America that are eager to earn rank. The diverse menu of approximately 60 merit badge programs is sure to cater to interests of the most experienced campers. Scouts seeking the thrill of adventure may choose from a collection of Special Summer Adventure Program opportunities. Annually, campers converge on Pipsico from all corners of the globe to experience genuine hospitality. Most importantly, Pipsico welcomes individual campers and contingents. All Scouts deserve the summer of a lifetime regardless of the size of their contingent.

### 2026 SUMMER CAMP DATES

**Week 1:** June 21 – June 27

**Week 2:** June 28 – July 4

**Week 3:** July 5 – July 11

**Week 4:** July 12 – July 18

### INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM RATES

**Youth:** \$445 (If Paid in Full on or before 5/30/26) **Adult:** \$195

\*\*\*[Scouts BSA Long-Term Summer Camp Information Website](#)\*\*\*

### FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- **Early Discount:** (Youth): \$20 Off When Paid In Full on or before 4/13/26)
- **First Free Adult:** Register 3 – 7 Youth & Earn 1 Free Adult (\$195-value)
- **Second Free Adult:** Register 8+ Youth & Earn 2nd Free Adult (\$390-value)
- **Sibling Discount:** \$10 Off Per Sibling (Same Week)
- **Late Fee (Youth Only):** \$25 (If Not Paid In Full on or before 5/30/26)



## SPECIALTY SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:

For Scouts looking for something a little bit different from a traditional week at a Scouts BSA Long-term Camp, Pipsico offers three Special Summer Adventure Program opportunities. Our Special Summer Adventure programs are designed to include action, adventure, challenge, an increased level of excitement, and vigorous activity for both youth and adults. The excitement and adventure of a week at Pipsico Scout Reservation will not be a week forgotten. Participants can choose to attend as an individual or as part of a contingent. Each activity has a specific age requirement which can be found within the information provided on the following pages. Each of these programs will offer participants one of the most comprehensive programs you will find anywhere.



**SAIL HAMPTON ROADS**- This program is designed to provide older Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts and Sea Scouts with the opportunity to experience a full week of sailing including port visits every night along the southern Chesapeake Bay, York and Elizabeth Rivers. Life aboard is not a luxury cruise, rather it is a continuous, fun, adrenaline filled experience aboard a working sailboat. All members gain knowledge and use teamwork to successfully operate their boat while underway. These 42 or 32 ft long boats will be a unique home for participants throughout the week providing transportation, fun, entertainment, cooking, and sleeping accommodations. Most participants will become very attached to their vessel by the end of the week as they learn to control her all on their own!

Each night after the day of sailing, participants pull into their port of call. Each port of call is a safe harbor marina with air-conditioned shower and bath facilities, including pool visits on 2 nights! Additionally, each of the 4 port visits will provide participants with a wide variety of exciting, interesting, and adventurous experiences that will not be forgotten. Stops along the way include but are not limited to: a tour and dinner in historic Cape Charles, an evening swim call and visit to Yorktown VA, a stop in Hampton River for a seafood dinner, a tour of Nauticus, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and the battleship Wisconsin at the City of Norfolk and lastly, a lunch tour and grill out at historic Fort Wool; which has been protecting the mouth of Hampton Roads for almost 200 years! Participants must be at least age 14, or 13 & completed 8th grade, and be able to pass a Scouting America Swim Test. This program is available to all BSA members (youth, adult, male & female).





**SCUBA CAMP- OPEN WATER** – Earn your Open Water Scuba Certification and your Scuba Merit badge! Pipsico has partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Diving Center (organizers of the annual SCUBA Jam) to produce an intense week of underwater adventure concluding at [Lake Phoenix](#). With this SSI certification, it is possible to dive all over the world. The course consists of three parts: Classroom, Confined Water, and Open Water. Each component must be completed to achieve the course certification. On Wednesday, SCUBA Camp participants load up personal gear, camping supplies, and dive equipment to complete their practical training [Lake Phoenix](#) in Rawlings VA. On Thursday evening, participants will return to Pipsico and rejoin their units. Friday is free time to spend hiking the Red Trail, fishing in Lake Beasley, walking on the beach, riding bikes, or just relaxing somewhere on our 916 acres. Participants must be at least 13 years old and pass a Scouting America Swim Test. This program is available to all Scouts BSA members (youth and adult).

**PEX (THE PIPSICO EXPERIENCE)** – The PEX (Pipsico Experience) program was conceptualized by teenagers; for teenagers. Fundamentally, the program was required to:

- Offer a co-ed program for youth
- Provide a diverse collection of on/off-site activities
- Offer challenging programs
- Include teamwork/building exercises
- Visit site(s) of local historical significance
- Allow ample opportunity for fellowship
- Accommodate individuals and contingents.
- Spend Friday at an outdoor adventure park.

Campers age 14 and above are eligible to rotate through a series of programs such as canoeing, kayaking, tubing, rifle, shotgun, tomahawk, climbing, and pool partying! These off-site experiences might include such adventures as a fishing head-boat trip in the Chesapeake Bay, an informative stroll through colonial Williamsburg, high COPE, rafting the James River, and an all-day trip to Busch Gardens, or other such adventures.

Participants camp with their units (or assigned site), enjoy program with PEX staff during the day, and eat meals as a PEX group, as they are on a different schedule than Base Camp. This program is physically challenging.





## PIPSICO CONTACT INFORMATION –

Pipsico is owned and operated by the [Scouting America, Tidewater Council](#) located at [1032 Heatherwood Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455](#). The camp is located at [57 Pipsico Road, Spring Grove, VA 23881](#).

Then key personnel for Pipsico related business are:

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(Executive board/corporate officer)

Mike Maruska  
Pipsico Maintenance Chairman  
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## STAYING UP-TO-DATE WITH PIPSICO:

Want to stay up-to-date with everything that is going on at Pipsico Scout Reservation? Make sure you “Like” us on Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/Pipsico](http://www.Facebook.com/Pipsico)), visit us online at [www.TidewaterBSA.com](http://www.TidewaterBSA.com) & at [www.PipsicoBSA.com](http://www.PipsicoBSA.com), follow us on Instagram [@Pipsico](#), follow us on X [@PipsicoBSA](#), check us out on [YouTube](#), and don’t forget to look for our displays at Tidewater Council Events, trainings and activities!

