

Camp Somers

Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation

Stanhope, New Jersey

2026 Summer Camp

Leaders' Guide



Patriots' Path Council, Scouting America
1 Saddle Road
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
973-765-9322

www.campsomers.org

www.PPCscouting.org/camping

Welcome to Camp Somers Summer Camp 2026!

Outdoor adventure is one of the strongest forces driving the Scouting program. At camp, we welcome the challenge- the chance to test your grit on mountain trails, build real skills around the campfire, paddle across quiet lakes, and sleep under open skies. Whether you're hiking through Allamuchy's rocky terrain, setting up a sturdy campsite, mastering the waterfront, or taking on high-adventure treks, every experience is crafted to build confidence, capability, and a deep love for the outdoors.

Scouting's outdoor program is designed to match the abilities and ambitions of every age group. For many Scouts, camp is where the real adventure begins. The hikes, campouts, overnights, outposts, and rugged expeditions become the core of their Scouting story—and often the reason they come back year after year. These adventures come alive within the troop and especially within the patrol, where Scouts build teamwork, identity, and leadership through hands-on, camp-tested experiences.

The skills needed to thrive in a primitive outdoor setting are learned and lived right here at camp. Scouts develop respect for the natural world while learning to handle whatever the woods, weather, or wilderness throws at them. Using their head, heart, and hands to take care of themselves and their patrol mates is a defining part of camp life and a key piece of their advancement.

This guide has been prepared to help you and your Scouts get the most out of your summer at Camp Somers – Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation. Take the time to look through it - it will give you a clear picture of what camp offers and how to be ready for a successful, adventure-filled week.

Our counselors, staff, and camp directors have poured their energy into creating a week packed with rugged camp adventure, skill-building, and nonstop fun—all while keeping the Scouting spirit alive beneath the starlit skies of Allamuchy Mountain. Get ready to gather around the campfire, tackle new challenges, make lifelong friends, and build memories that campfires will retell for years to come.

Yours in Scouting,

Shane Jones - Camp Director

Ryan Borinski - Program Director

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Preparing for Camp

Contact Information and Camp Address

Patriots' Path Council

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Stanhope, NJ 07874

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Shane Jones

Camp Director

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Shane.Jones@scouting.org

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Ranger

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(973)765-9322 x 414

(973) 222-8026 cell

Pre- Camp Leaders' Meeting

The 2026 Summer Camp Leaders' meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM** at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation Camp Somers Dining Hall at 750 Waterloo Road, Stanhope, NJ 07874

It is recommended that at least one member from each unit attends this meeting. The camp directors and staff will be there to highlight this year's exciting activities, help you customize your experience with us, and answer your questions.

Pre-Camp E-Z Check-In

We would like to make your Sunday check-in more efficient and less time-consuming. By taking advantage of our pre-camp E-Z Check-In, you can spend less time waiting and more time at your campsite.

Each camper must complete the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, parts A, B, and C. Patriots' Path Council is using CampDoc, a digital medical record, to collect this information. This record is required for all Scouts and adults in camp. Forms are good for one year.

You will receive information via email regarding creating a CampDoc profile upon completing your summer camp registration. You will complete the Annual Health and Medical Record in CampDoc. If you plan to attend multiple sessions, your medical form is valid for the whole summer.

For assistance with CampDoc, please see the CampDoc FAQ at www.PPCScouting/camping, or contact Dave Kopsa at David.Kopsa@scouting.org.



Pre-camp E-Z Check-In is held **the Tuesday prior to the week you are attending camp**, at 7:00 PM in the Camp Somers Office. All units are strongly encouraged to have one adult attend E-Z Check-In. E-Z Check-In will review the following:

- **Camp Roster** - The roster must be printed from Black Pug. It must include all Scouts and adults staying at camp, including those staying only one night. Please include all the cell phone numbers of the adults listed on the roster in case of emergency. Rosters can be downloaded from your reservation by selecting the Reports Tab located above the Registration Contact area.
- **Annual Health and Medical Records** - Required for all Scouts and leaders. Parts A, B, and C must be completed and signed in CampDoc.
- **My.Scouting Roster & Safeguarding Youth Training** - A unit roster downloaded from My.Scouting in PDF form only with a date generated within a week of the unit's arrival must be presented at check-in. All adults attending with the unit, no matter the length of time, must be on that roster and must have a current Safeguarding Youth Certificate expiring no sooner than August 15, 2026. This roster is different from the camp roster.
- **Reasonable Accommodations** - Please inform us of any Scout or leader with special needs and let us know the specifics: i.e., behavioral, physical, medical, dietary, food allergies, etc. Special requests and needs should be submitted as soon as possible in order to prepare accordingly. Feel free to call Shane at any time prior to E-Z Check-In to discuss any special needs. You may also make arrangements to meet with the health officer ahead of time by emailing healthofficer@campsomers.org.
- **ATV Waiver** - Provide copies of signed ATV permission forms and certificate of completion for the required online course for any Scouts participating in the ATV program – 14 and older. Visit www.CampSomers.org to download the forms. These forms can also be turned in at check-in.

Troop Trailers

If possible, please bring your trailer to camp on **Saturday prior to camp, from 3 to 6 PM** You will be able to park it at your campsite and leave it there for the week. If you prefer you can drop your trailer in the parking lot with it clearly marked with your unit number, and we will put it in your site. This helps us minimize vehicle traffic on camp roads while Scouts are in camp. We can make accommodation for units arriving on Sunday with a trailer, please call the camp office.

At Camp

Security Gate

Our enhanced security includes a security gate at the entrance of camp.

- During designated arrival and departure windows the gate will be manned and operated by camp staff.
- Outside of the defined arrival and departure the gate will be down and does not need to be staffed. Access during these periods will be managed through the touch screen at the gate or temporary access code.
- Protocols may be adjusted if deemed necessary by the Ranger for safety or security reasons.
- Park in the parking lot, walk to the camp office and sign in. Sign-in will include an age and colored appropriate camper identification that must be worn visibly while at camp.
- If you need to leave for any reason during the times the gate is closed, approach the gate with your vehicle and the gate will open automatically.
- If in case of an emergency and you need to enter the camp during the hours the gate is closed, you can use the call box on the gate booth to reach camp management.
- On departure you will sign out and return all camper identification issued.



Check-In Times

Check-in times vary based on your campsite. Please adhere to the following schedule. This is a big help to make the check-in process go as smoothly as possible. To make check-in even easier pre-camp E-Z Check-In is available.

Arrival Time	Sites
12:30 PM	7, 8, 10A, 10B, 13
1:00 PM	4B, 5, 11, 12A, 12B
1:30 PM	3B, 4A, 6A, 10C
2:00 PM	2, 3A, 6B, 9

- Please arrive with swimsuits on. Everyone should bring a small bag with a towel, T-shirt, and socks so they can dry off after the swim test. Scouts should bring and carry a filled water bottle. The first meal will be dinner, so please eat lunch before arriving, or bring lunch and/or snack.
- Please be sure you inform your parents that they should follow the flow of cars in the parking lot. Car-pooling would be a tremendous help and is strongly encouraged. It is best to gather before arriving at camp, so all cars arrive at the same time as a group.
- Unit gear will be deposited at the basketball court near the main office for transfer to your site. Gear should be placed in an organized fashion behind the appropriate site number placard. This is also where you will meet your site guide who will lead your unit through the rest of the check-in process.

No personal vehicles will be permitted outside of the parking area during the week. All equipment must be organized by unit and will be transported to the campsites by camp service vehicles. This policy is in place as a health, safety, and liability precaution.

Orientation

When your whole unit has arrived and gathered at the designated spot, your site guide will bring the Scoutmaster to check-in. This is when you will submit the appropriate and required paperwork if you did not take advantage of the E-Z Check In. All forms are available on the Forms/Information page of the Camp Somers website. Scoutmasters should have the following ready to expedite the check-in process:

- **Camp Roster** - The roster must be printed from Black Pug. It must include all Scouts and adults staying at camp, including those staying only one night. Please include all the cell phone numbers of the adults listed on the roster in case of emergency. Rosters can be downloaded from your reservation by selecting the Reports Tab located above the Registration Contact area.
- **Fees** - Camp fees that have not been paid for any additional Scouts/adults need to be paid at check-in. If you are bringing more Scouts or adults to camp than the amount you registered with, please inform the council office as soon as possible before camp. This way we can be sure we will have enough food and Dining Hall seats for you. Call (973)765-9322 ext. 225 with any questions.
- **Annual Health and Medical Records** - Required for all Scouts and leaders. Parts A, B, and C must be completed and signed in CampDoc.
- **My.Scouting Roster & Safeguarding Youth Training** - A unit roster downloaded from My.Scouting in PDF form only with a date generated within a week of the unit's arrival must be presented at check-in. All adults attending with the unit, no matter the length of time, must be on that roster and must have a current Youth Protection Certificate expiring no sooner than August 15, 2026. This roster is different from the camp roster.



- **ATV Waiver** - Provide copies of signed ATV permission forms and certificate of completion for required online course for any Scouts participating in the ATV program - 14 and older. Visit www.CampSomers.org to download the forms and the link to required online course.
- **Reasonable Accommodations** - Please inform us of any Scout or leader with special needs and let us know the specifics: i.e., behavioral, physical, medical, dietary, food allergies, etc. Special requests and needs should be submitted as soon as possible to prepare accordingly. Feel free to call Shane Jones at any time prior to check-in to discuss any special needs. You may also make arrangements to meet with the health officer ahead of time by emailing healthofficer@campsomers.org.
- **Medications** - All non-emergency medications are administered by the Health Officer and must be kept at the Health Lodge. All medication must be provided in the original container. Please place that container in a zip lock type bag with the person's name and unit number written on the bag.

Sunday Afternoon Process

Your site guide will be with you throughout the check-in and orientation process until you are settled in your site. Once you are checked in, your site guide will take your unit to your campsite to drop off your gear and then will take your unit on a camp tour.

Campsite

Once the leader has finished checking in, please return to your unit to determine if they are ready to have the gear transported to the site.

- Once you arrive at the site, the site guide will escort you through the site for a preliminary inspection. We will make arrangements at that time to make any adjustments needed to accommodate your unit.
- This inspection will take place while your Scouts are unloading the truck.
- Once the inspection is complete, allow your Scouts to move their gear to their tents. This is not the time to unpack, merely place their gear on the platforms and return to the site guide. Your unit will have time after the camp tour to organize and unpack.

Camp Tour & Swim Test

Your site guide will lead your unit from your campsite through camp to point out program areas and points of interest. You will stop at the Dining Hall for an orientation by our kitchen staff and finally end up at Aquatics, to take swim tests.

Return to Campsite

Once you have completed the camp tour, your site guide will escort you back to your site. The rest of the afternoon should be spent setting up your site the way your unit prefers. During this time, it might be a good idea to allow the senior patrol leader to hold a meeting with the Scouts to go over any plans for the week. Please be ready to attend evening flags by 5:45 PM.

Adult Leader and Senior Patrol Leader Meetings

There are several opportunities for the Scoutmasters and senior patrol leaders to meet with the camp director and program director to discuss a variety of topics. Please have one adult leader attend these meetings. Leadership meeting



locations will be announced during the meal before the meeting. Outside of leadership meetings, feel free to stop the camp director, program director, or commissioner for any questions or concerns.

- Sunday evening at 7:00 PM: Scoutmasters - Introductions and program information
- Monday immediately after lunch: Senior Patrol Leaders
- Friday 10:00 AM: Scoutmasters Feedback Friday/Week in Review

Morning and Evening Colors

Flag raising and flag lowering ceremonies are held daily in the parade field in front of the camp office, before breakfast and before dinner. Friday evening colors are held before campfire. Senior patrol leaders are asked to report the status of their units to the camp leadership as part of the ceremony. Full BSA field uniform is expected for evening colors.

Emergency Alerts

Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation has an emergency alert system (horn, siren) in place to notify campers of an emergency. When an alert is sounded, the entire camp should proceed to the lot in front of the Camp Office, where we will conduct a headcount. Once your troop is assembled and present, check in with the Camp Director/designee. Further directions will be given at that time. We may have to initiate the emergency plan for a variety of situations including fire, thunderstorms, earthquakes, tornados/high winds, or a lost camper. This process is reviewed on Sunday during the check-in process.

Health and Safety Checks

All unit leaders are requested to conduct a daily check of all Scouts' personal quarters for health and safety concerns. Early detection of hazards ensures a prompt corrective response.

Mail

Incoming Mail

All incoming mail will be available in your unit box in the Camp Office. If parents want to send letters or packages to their Scouts, be sure they mail early. If you send mail while your Scout is at camp it will not arrive in time. We recommend you send mail by Friday before your Scout leaves for camp. The mailing address is:

Name, Unit Number, Campsite Number
MASR- Camp Somers
750 Waterloo Road
Stanhope, NJ 07874

Outgoing Mail

Bring any outgoing mail (with the correct postage) to the Camp Office and put it in the outgoing mailbox which is located near the unit mailboxes in the office.



Telephone Service

Incoming Calls

Incoming calls to individuals are seldom practical due to the size of our camp.

Emergency Calls

In case of emergency, call the camp director at 973-945-8835. A message will be taken and delivered to the individual concerned as quickly as possible. Do not expect to talk to the person immediately.

Cell Phones

Many troops have policies regarding cell phone usage by Scouts at camp. Camp Somers respects the troop policies. If your Scouts bring cell phones to camp, please remind them to follow good cell phone etiquette. This includes turning off cell phones and putting them away during merit badge classes and during meals in the dining hall.

Facilities Outside Camp

Ask at the camp office for directions to nearby stores and other services. Here are a few popular destinations:

Hackettstown Hospital

651 Willow Grove St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

[\(908\) 852-5100](tel:9088525100)

Pizza Station

3043 Rt-23

Oak Ridge, N.J. 07438

[973-697-2222](tel:9736972222)

Walmart

40 International Dr S, Flanders, NJ 07836

[\(973\) 347-7400](tel:9733477400)

Joe & Anthony's Pizza

30 International Dr S, Flanders, NJ 07836

[\(973\) 448-6777](tel:9734486777)

Leggo my Bagel

13 US-206 #1, Stanhope, NJ 07874

[\(973\) 347-1339](tel:9733471339)

Only adults should leave camp. Please respect our fellow Scouts and do not take your child out of camp to go shopping.

Unit Photos

Unit Photos are taken Monday evening beginning at 4:30 PM on Frenche's Dam. Units need to be in full field uniform and have their troop flag with them if they choose to have it in the photo. Units and individual Scouts can purchase copies of the photos for keepsakes. 8 x 10 photos are \$13 per picture, and digital copies are \$100. Payment can be made to the photographer during your photo session. Please make checks payable to "Charlie Neely Photography."



Check-out Procedure

On Saturday morning, please clean your sites and pack your troop gear and personal gear. For site cleanup, please do a police line through the site. Check the perimeter for trash that may have been thrown or blown in the woods. Double check the interior of all tents, including any you may not have used (Scouts tend to still go in them.) Lastly, please be sure to check that your latrine is clean and in good order. Please be sure to inform your site guide of any site issues. Your site guide will inspect your site with you and bring the Site Report to the office. Please collect all camper identification and give them to the site guide.

Notify the camp office at Shane at 973-945-8835 when you are ready for us to transport gear to the parking lot if needed.

Once the Site Report is cleared, please bring your complete feedback form to the main office. Once that is turned in you will be issued your Troop Packet. The packet will contain any mail or notices left in your mailbox, blue cards, and Dan Beard records.

Scouts should check out with their unit before departing with their parents. Provisional and Specialty Week Scouts must have a parent sign them out at the office. Please ask parents picking up Scouts to park as directed in the parking lot.



Sample Camp Menu

SUNDAY			Welcome Dinner! Braised Short Rib Glazed Carrots Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes Dinner Rolls Double Fudge Brownies
MONDAY	French Toast Plump Sausage Links Tator Tots	Breaded Chicken Sandwich on Potato Buns American Cheese, Lettuce Tomato, Homemade Potato Chips, Rice Krispy Treats	Italian Night Pasta and meatballs Garlic Knots Red Velvet cookies
TUESDAY	Scrambled Eggs Bacon Cinnamon Buns	Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup, Classic Grilled Cheese with Turkey, Creamy Tomato Soup, Tater Tots, Ice Cream Cups	Taco Tuesday Seasoned Ground Beef Chipotle Chicken Thighs Tortilla Chips and Salsa Cinnamon Sugar Churros
WEDNESDAY	Pancakes Turkey Sausage Home Fries	BBQ Lunch 1/3-pound Pat La Frieda Burgers Beef Hot Dogs Crispy Coated French Fries Watermelon	Site Cooking Pub Steaks Corn on the Cob Yukon Gold Potatoes S'Mores packs
THURSDAY	Waffles Taylor Ham Mini Loaf Cakes	All White Meat Chicken Tenders Sweet Roasted Corn Dipping Cups Pudding Cups	Roasted Pork Loin Smashed Potatoes String Beans Apple Sauce Homemade Apple Cobbler
FRIDAY	Frittatas Individuals Hash Brown Bake	Sheet Pan Pizza Lunch Roasted Mixed Veggies Warm Chocolate Chip Cookies	BBQ Chicken on the Bone Corn on the Cob Corn Bread Cole Slaw Chocolate Cake
SATURDAY	Skillet Breakfast Roasted Potatoes, Diced Ham, Scrambled Eggs and Cheddar Cheese	<i>Please let us know of any dietary restrictions and we will accommodate the best we can.</i>	
DAILY	All breakfasts served with assorted yogurts, granola, assorted cereal, pitchers of citrus water, milk, orange juice, and apple juice.	All lunches served with buffet style fresh fruit, garden salad bar, pitchers of citrus water, assorted juices, lemonades, and ice teas.	All dinners served with buffet style fresh fruit, garden salad bar, pitchers of citrus water, assorted juice, lemonades, and iced tea.
	Fresh brewed and iced coffee available throughout the day in the kitchen for adult leaders and staff.	Menu selections are subject to change based upon availability.	



Campwide Events

Campfires

The opening campfire is held on Sunday evening and the closing campfire is held on Friday evening. Units meet at the entrance to Council Point at 8:30 PM. The staff will lead all units to the council ring.

The closing campfire is held on Friday evening. Troops meet at the parade field at 7:30 PM for colors. Each troop is invited to perform a skit or song at the closing campfire. Feel free to bring any props with you. Please bring your skit or song to the program director for approval no later than noon on Friday. Songs and skits must be Scout appropriate. The more original, the better!

A Scout is Reverent

Scout vespers are held in camp during the week. More information will be provided at camp.

In-Site Cooking

Wednesday evening's meal will be cooked by your unit, at your site. The Dining Hall will not serve dinner that evening. This is a rain-or-shine event. Please plan to cook your dinner by whatever method your Scouts choose. Food for the meal, juice mix, napkins, cups, plates, forks, knives, and spoons will be provided. Cooking equipment and supplies will not be provided by the camp. Please plan to bring everything you need to cook dinner with you. If your troop needs assistance with something for in-site cooking, please see the camp director.

Dessert Cooking Contest

Troops can choose to participate in the Dessert Cooking Contest on Wednesday evening that coincides with in-site cooking. Any cooking methods are allowed for this contest. All desserts must fit into one of the categories, either Scout-made or adult-made. Adults or senior patrol leaders need to register for the contest with the program director before Wednesday. Judging will take place after in-site cooking.

- There are two categories: Scout-made and adult-made.
- Food and cooking supplies need to be provided by the unit.
- The dessert should be presented to the judges at a location and time determined when the unit registers for the contest.
- Creativity is a definite plus.

Free Time

Although there are many activities throughout the day at Camp Somers, we recognize that Scouts may have a few minutes of free time between merit badges or after meals. During this time, if Scouts do not want to return to their sites, we offer activities that are available all day.

- **Basketball:** ask at the office for a ball.
- **Volleyball:** balls are kept at the entrance to the Handicraft pavilion.
- **Gaga Ball:** ask at the office for a ball.
- **Disk Golf:** ask at the office for the location of goals and disks.



Firewatch

Firewatch is an opportunity for Scouts to learn historical information about Scouting's past, local legends, and personal Scouting stories. It is a chance for Scouts to build relationships with Scouts from other units, and to share tales of Scouting among their peers, staff, and adults within the movement. On Monday night one Scout from each unit is invited to continue the tradition.

Each unit should nominate one mature Scout who has upheld the aims of Scouting. Selection should be made by the unit adult leadership. The unit's site guide will meet your chosen Scout at your campsite at 10:00 PM. Please be sure your Scout is equipped with raingear, bug spray, a water bottle, and sleeping bag. The Scouts will be expected to build, light, and monitor the fire throughout the night.

The staff conducting Firewatch will stay on site throughout the night. Adult leaders are encouraged to volunteer to participate in Firewatch. They may do so by speaking to the Program Director before Monday evening. Staff and adult volunteers are encouraged to share stories and pass along traditions to the Scouts. They will also be monitoring the site for safety.

Firewatch is a serious and solemn event that has a long history at Camp Somers. We hope to continue that tradition with Scouts for years to come.

Camp Awards

Camp Somers offers the long-standing tradition of opportunities for Scouts to earn awards during camp. There are 3 awards that can be earned during your week at camp. The requirements can be picked up at check-in or in the camp office. Please fill out and return the requirements to the Program Director by Friday at breakfast, so that Scouts can be recognized at the closing campfire on Friday evening.

Frenche's Follies

This award is for individual Scouts to learn about the lore and history of camp as well as show that they are a well-rounded Scout by experiencing multiple program areas and other camp offered activities.

Green Bar Bill Honor Patrol Award

This award recognizes Scouts who want to work together as a patrol to experience camp and everything it has to offer. Patrols show how they accomplish tasks and get all that they can out of the camp program together. Camp is always better with friends. If a Scout comes to camp without his or her patrol, camp patrols within a single unit may be formed to earn this award. Scouts can form a patrol just for the week of camp then return to their normal patrol structure after camp.

Baden Powell Honor Troop Award

Troops must meet the following requirements: Attend the opening and closing campfires, attend campwide games, attend the water carnival, send a representative to the firewatch, obtain excellent reviews on-site inspections.



Health Information

Health Lodge/Emergency Services

Our health officer is available 24 hours a day for emergencies. The health officer has early morning office hours at the Health Lodge. They are available at the dining hall during mealtimes to administer medications, and available at either the Health Lodge or the camp office to administer evening medications. The location will be posted on the door of both buildings. In an emergency, please contact the camp office during normal office hours. After hours, knock loudly on the door of the Health Lodge.

Camp Doc Annual Health and Medical Record

Patriots' Path Council is now using CampDoc to collect the Annual Health and Medical Records. Required for all Scouts and leaders - parts A & B must be completed in your CampDoc profile, and part C must be completed and signed by a doctor, then uploaded to CampDoc. Troops should bring a copy to camp for their own use if desired. Learn more about CampDoc on our website.

Medication Administration (prescription and over the counter)

Policies

- All medication(s) currently being taken must be noted on part B of the Annual Health and Medical Record. The medications section in part B should be filled out at the time of the annual medical evaluation.
- Medications must be kept in the original (pharmacy or over the counter) container.
- Medications are administered by the health officer as directed by the label.
- The Scouting America routine drug administration record will be filled out by the health officer during check-in.
- Each Scout will be observed to ensure that the medication is taken.
- If a Scout fails to take the medication, camp staff will notify the leader and camp director, who will then notify the parents or guardians immediately.

Administration

- The health officer will bring medications to the dining hall for Scouts who take medications at mealtimes.
- At other times, the health officer and the medications will be at the Health Lodge or at the administration building/camp office. Locations will be posted on the door of both buildings and announcements will be made in the dining hall.



Camp Policies

Personal Bike Policy

Personal bicycles are allowed in camp with prior permission from the camp director. Your personal bike is your responsibility and should be kept in your site. Bikes in camp are to be ridden on one of the mountain bike treks NOT as a mode of transportation to and from program areas or meals. Everyone bringing their bike to camp is asked to always wear a helmet, ride at a safe speed, and remember to use the buddy system.

Private and Off-Limits Areas

Some of our buildings and camp areas are off limits to Scouts and leaders. Please respect the privacy of our staff and avoid their living quarters. Please do not enter any program areas without staff present. Off limits areas include:

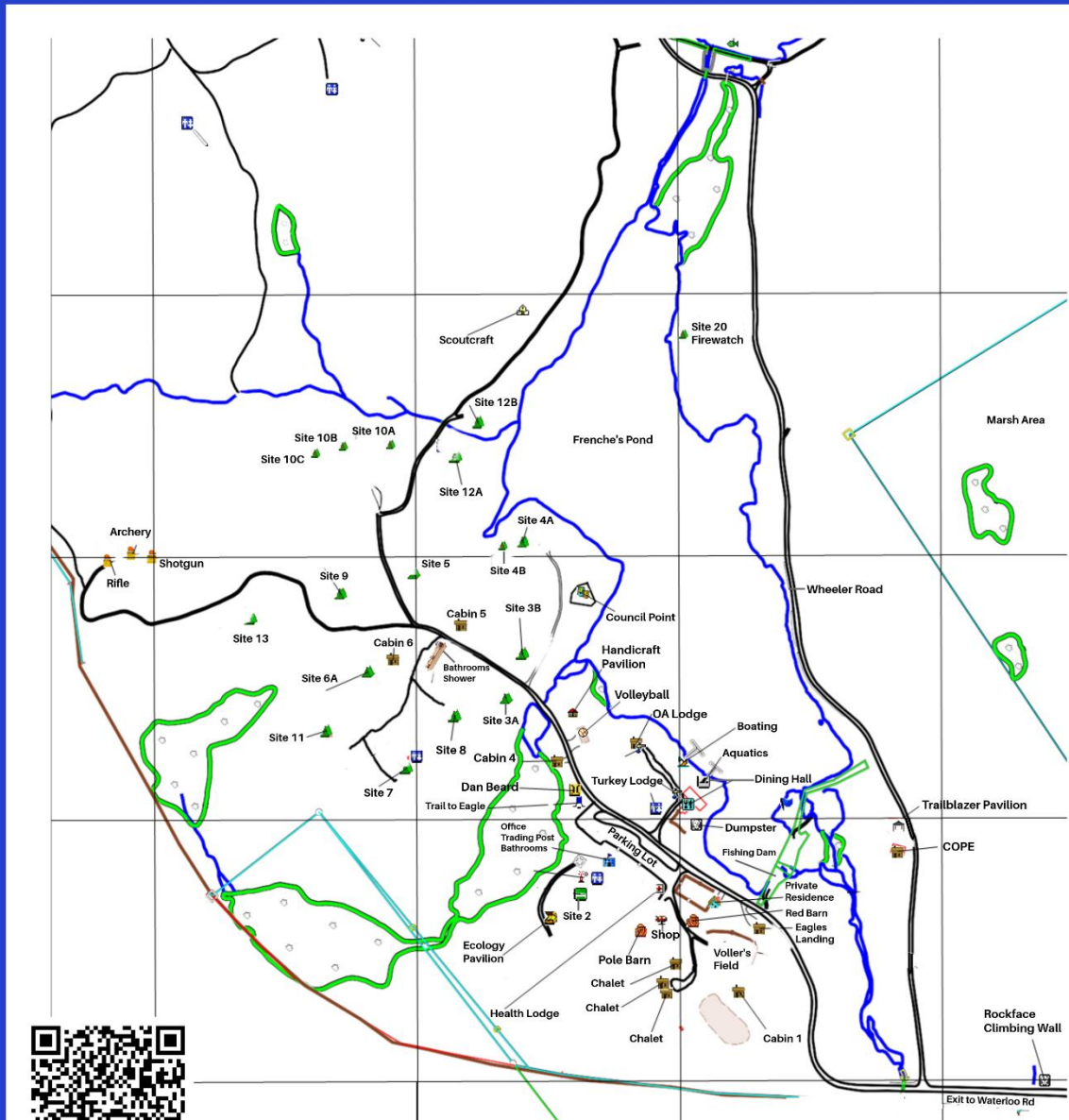
- Behind the rifle, shotgun and archery ranges
- Ranger's residence
- Staff living quarters



Camp Map

<https://ppcscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/MASR-3.pdf>

Camp Somers



Scan for digital map



Programs

Program Areas

Camp Somers is organized into program areas which offer a variety of experiences for Scouts and leaders. Our program offers Scouts a chance to have fun, learn new skills, work on merit badges, and achieve personal as well as patrol/unit awards. A schedule of open program times and merit badge classes can be found later in this guide. An overview of each program area is provided below.

Aquatics

Camp Somers Aquatics is the place to be on a hot summer day! Whether attending merit badge sessions, open programs or leader training, fun is had by all! This is the only area in camp where you can cool off, splash your friends, and climb the inflatable obstacle course.

Aquatics offers Swimming, Lifesaving, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, and Small Boat Sailing Merit Badges. Come on down and relax by the water or get some exercise during daily open program time. If you are up for the ultimate challenge, work with our aquatics staff during the week and take a mile swim on Friday. Are you a morning person? Then jump in the lake before breakfast for the Polar Bear swim on Tuesday morning!

Ecology and STEM

The Ecology and STEM Center offers a variety of environmental, nature, and science related merit badges, activities, and programs. Scouts can learn to fish in Frenche's Pond, explore the Nature Trail, or learn about conservation. The Ecology area offers merit badges such as Sustainability, Fishing, Environmental Science, and Nature. This area is on a 3-year rotation of merit badges. You will find some merit badges every year, but most are on a rotation basis to keep Scouts coming back for something new.

Handicraft

Handicraft is perfect for Scouts who enjoy working with their hands. Handicraft offers Basketry, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Model Design and Building, Pottery, and Wood Carving Merit Badges.

Scouts that have had the desire to try the pottery wheel, make a leather craft project, or bring home a basket to mom but don't want to take the whole merit badge can stop in during open program to give this area a try.

High Adventure

The COPE and climbing area offers the Climbing Merit Badge. Scouts who are interested in climbing can take the Climbing merit badge or attend open climbing hours. We have both a climbing tower and a natural rock face so Scouts can experience both these kinds of climbs. The open climbing time allows ample time for Scouts to complete the climbing requirements for both the Climbing merit badge and the Camping merit badge or learn the basics of this exciting sport.

Our All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) program is offered daily for Scouts that are a minimum of 14 years old, and leaders. During this five-day program, participants will have the opportunity to learn simple maneuvers and safe riding techniques as well as participate in a trail ride! Space for this program is limited due to the number of available machines, Scouts should sign up for this program online, in advance, as part of the merit badge sign-up. You can also register at the Sunday meet-and-greet if additional space is available. The ASI ATV e-course must be completed by each rider **before** camp. The ATV e-course can be completed by going to this link: <https://atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/>. Parent permission slips are required for the ATV program. These can be found on the Forms section of the Camp Somers website - there are two forms that need to be signed by parents and brought to camp with the Scout.



Scoutcraft

The Scoutcraft program area is where Scouts can earn merit badges or just practice their Scout skills. Scoutcraft offers Camping, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Forestry, Geocaching, Orienteering, Pioneering, Search and Rescue, Signals and Codes, and Wilderness Survival Merit Badges. If you're not taking a Scoutcraft merit badge, you can still drop by for our afternoon open programs to learn, practice, or teach Scout skills. One evening a week, our Scoutcraft area hosts a camping outpost for Scouts to fulfill Wilderness Survival merit badge requirements.

Range & Target Activities

Head on up to the top of the hill to try your hand at a shotgun, rifle, or bow and arrow at Range and Target Activities. Sign up for Rifle, Shotgun, and/or Archery Merit Badges to learn firearm safety and to advance your shooting sports skills. Take part in special events including action archery and troop shoots. See the Range and Target Activities Director to take part in special events during our open program hours!

Dan Beard – Introductory Camper Program

The Camp Somers Dan Beard Program is designed for Scouts to get a taste of camp, learn about the Scouting program, learn Scout skills for rank advancement and earn a merit badge. Campers signed up for the Dan Beard program will spend the week working in patrols, exploring camp and all that it has to offer, swimming in the lake, hiking the trails in camp, playing games, singing songs and learning skits, shooting at the range and participating in camp events with their troop. Scouts are bound to learn important skills that will stick with them and create lasting friendships with Scouts from other troops during their week at camp. Expect Scouts who participate in the program to be ready to get many requirements completed for their ranks up to 1st class when they return to the troop. They will do the Fire Safety, Fingerprinting, and Swimming merit badges during the week.

The Dan Beard Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in an outpost trip on Thursday. Scouts need to be prepared to go on the outpost with a tent, day pack ready with the Scouts 10 essentials, sleeping bag, and a mess kit.

Outpost is bringing the Scout to a campsite on the property to practice in an overnight camping experience. They will use their newly learned skills during this overnight trip including cooking their own dinner, setting up their campsite, building a campfire and making memories.

Dan Beard Program Schedule

Dan Beard Scouts will meet their instructors at the Dan Beard area every morning at 9:00 AM unless otherwise instructed during morning announcements.

The Dan Beard Scout's day will consist of working on rank advancements through first class, visiting different program areas each day, and playing games. Dan Beard Scouts will have the opportunity to earn merit badges as well. Those badges will be determined once we are closer to the summer. Dan Beard program dismisses at 4:00 PM each day except Thursday so scouts can participate in merit badge program or open program.

They will be with their troop for morning colors, breakfast, lunch, evening colors, dinner and evening program. The exception to this is on Thursday where after lunch Dan Beard Scouts will gather and retire to Vollers Field for their outpost experience. They will return to their troops on Friday, at Morning Colors and continue with their program after breakfast.



Eagle Academy

Our Eagle Academy program is open to Scouts who have achieved the rank of Star or higher.

- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication (offered during Siesta)

If the Scout hopes to complete the merit badge while at camp they should review and complete any requirements that will need more time or participation than the week at camp provides. Completion of any requirements beforehand is not required to participate in the program. Scouts may focus on any or all areas of the merit badge they choose to. The Scout should bring a verifiable record of any completed work. The Eagle Academy counselor will sign off on any verifiable pre-work that has been completed and any work done at camp.

The following Eagle required merit badge classes are also being offered through our regular merit badge program:

- Camping
- Cooking
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Science
- First Aid
- Lifesaving
- Sustainability
- Swimming



Daily Schedule

Sunday

12:30 - 4:00 PM	Check In, Camp Tour, Swim Test
4:00 - 5:45 PM	Troop Time
5:45 PM	Dinner Waiters Call
5:50 PM	Evening Colors
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Meet and Greet
7:00 PM	Leaders Meeting
8:00 PM	Opening Camp Fire

Monday – Friday

7:45 AM	Breakfast Waiters Call
7:50 AM	Morning Colors
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Morning Program
12:00 PM	Lunch Waiters Call
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Siesta
2:00 - 5:00 PM	Afternoon Program
5:45 PM	Dinner Waiters Call
5:50 PM	Evening Colors
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Evening Program
10:00 PM	Quite Time

Saturday

7:45 AM	Breakfast Waiters Call
7:50 AM	Morning Colors
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Check out and Departure



Open Program Areas

You do not need to sign up for any of the following.

Monday & Thursday: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Open Archery, Shotgun, Rifle (NO FEE); Open Handicraft; Open Climbing; Open Scoutcraft; Open Ecology; Open Eagle's Academy; Open Swim/Boating (Area Director's Discretion on which is open)

Evening schedule at a glance:

Sunday

- 7:00 PM: Meet and Greet
- 8:00 PM: Opening Campfire

Monday

- 7:00 - 9:00 PM: Open Program Areas
- 10:00 p.m. Fire Watch

Tuesday

- 7:00 PM: Campwide Games
- 8:30 PM: OA Social

Wednesday

- 6:00 PM: In-site Cooking
- 7:00 PM: Water Carnival
- 7:30 PM: Desert Contest Judging

Thursday

- 7:00 - 9:00 PM: Open Program Areas
- 2:00 PM: Dan Beard Outpost
- 8:30 PM: Wilderness Survival Outpost

Friday

- 8:00 PM Closing Campfire



Merit Badge and Program Schedule

Merit Badge Disclaimer

All merit badges have a wide variety of requirements. Some merit badges require that you hold a different merit badge before starting the current one. Some merit badges require long-term tasks that cannot be completed at camp.

A Scout is prepared. When choosing merit badges, make sure to read through the current requirements for the merit badge to see if there is anything you must do BEFORE coming to camp

Aquatics

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Canoeing	Aquatics	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						2 (complete swimming test)
Kayaking	Aquatics			10:00 - 11:00 PM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				2 (complete swimming test)
Lifesaving	Aquatics	9:00 - 10:00 AM										4:00 - 5:00 PM		2 (complete swimming test). Must have Swimming MB
Small Boat Sailing	Aquatics					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		2 (complete swimming test)
Swimming	Aquatics			10:00 - 11:00 AM		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 AM						2 (complete swimming test)
Rowing	Aquatics									3:00 - 4:00 PM				2 (complete swimming test)
Trailblazer Open Swim	Aquatics													Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Trailblazer Open Boating	Aquatics													Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM



Eagle Academy

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Citizenship in the Community	Eagle Academy	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						Prereq: 3A, 5
Citizenship in the Nation	Eagle Academy			10:00 AM - 11:00 AM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				Prereq: 5, 7
Citizenship in the World	Eagle Academy					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		Prereq: 7
Communications	Eagle Academy													During Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM,prereq: 5, 7

Ecology

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Astronomy	Ecology													Hope for clear skies!
Electricity	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM												Prereq: 2
Electronics	Ecology									3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Engineering	Ecology					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM						Prereq: 1
Environmental Science	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM										4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Fishing	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				Bring fishing equipment.
Geology	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None
Nature	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None
Open Fishing	Ecology													Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM. Bring fishing equipment.
Plant Science	Ecology							2:00 - 3:00 PM						None
Reptile & Amphibian Study	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM												None



Ecology Cont.

Soil & Water Conservation	Ecology					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM							4:00 - 5:00 PM	None
Space Exploration	Ecology					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM							None
Sustainability	Ecology											3:00 - 4:00 PM		None
Weather	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM									4:00 - 5:00 PM	None

Handicraft

Merit Badge/ Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Art	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM								4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Basketry	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM										Purchase kit from Trading Post (under \$10)
Chess	TBD													Mon & Thurs 7:00 PM
Composite Materials	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM								4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Fingerprinting	TBD											4:00 - 5:00 PM		Mon & Thurs 7:00 PM
Leatherwork	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 PM												Purchase kit from Trading Post (under \$10)
Metalwork	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM						None
Model Design & Building	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 PM								3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Photography	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Pottery	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM						None
Scouting Heritage	Handicraft							2:00 - 3:00 PM						Bring collection of scouting memorabilia or pictures
Sculpture	Handicraft									3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Wood Carving	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 PM								3:00 - 4:00 PM				Purchase kit from Trading Post (under \$10). Must have Totin' Chip



High Adventure

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
ATVs	ATV Field	9:00 - 10:30 AM			10:30 AM - 12:00 PM			2:00 - 3:30 PM			3:30 - 5:00 PM			Complete online training and bring permission slips.
Climbing	Climbing	9:00 - 10:30 AM			10:30 AM - 12:00 PM			2:00 - 3:30 PM			3:30 - 5:00 PM			None

Range & Target Activities

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Archery	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM		10:00 - 11:00 AM		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM		3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Rifle	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM		10:00 - 11:00 AM		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM		3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Shotgun	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM		10:00 - 11:00 AM		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM		3:00 - 4:00 PM				Must be able to handle shotgun safely

Scoutcraft

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Camping	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						See note below. 9
Cooking	Scoutcraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				2C, 4, as much of 5 as possible
Emergency Preparedness	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM								3:00 - 4:00 PM				2, 9 (must have First Aid MB)
First Aid	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM				4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Forestry	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Geocaching	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM								None



Scoutcraft Cont.

Orienteering	Scoutcraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM										7, 8, 9
Pioneering	Scoutcraft							2:00 - 3:00 PM						None
Search & Rescue	Scoutcraft									3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Signs, Signals, & Codes	Scoutcraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None
Wilderness Survival	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM										4:00 - 5:00 PM		See note below. No prereqs.

Camping and Wilderness Survival merit badges have an outpost experience which will be held Thursday evening.

Camping: Please bring all required gear as per the merit badge book. Also, bring a report of previous camping trips signed by a Scoutmaster.

First Aid: Bring your homemade first aid kit.

Trades

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Automotive Maintenance	TBD					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM								None
Plumbing	TBD			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None



Alphabetical Merit Badge and Program List

Merit Badge / Program	Program Area	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Notes and Requirements you cannot do while at camp:
Archery	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM		10:00 - 11:00 AM		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		2:00 - 3:00 PM		3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Art	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM								4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Astronomy	TBD													Hope for clear skies!
ATVs	ATV Field	9:00 - 10:30 AM			10:30 AM - 12:00 PM			2:00 - 3:30 PM			3:30 - 5:00 PM			Complete online training and bring permission slips.
Automotive Maintenance	TBD					10:00 - 11:00 AM								None
Basketry	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM										Purchase kit from Trading Post (under \$10)
Camping	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						9
Canoeing	Aquatics	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						2 (complete swimming test)
Chess	TBD													Mon & Thurs 7:00 PM
Citizenship in the Community	Eagle Academy	9:00 - 10:00 AM						2:00 - 3:00 PM						3A, 5
Citizenship in the Nation	Eagle Academy			10:00 - 11:00 AM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				5, 7
Citizenship in the World	Eagle Academy					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		7
Climbing	Climbing	9:00 - 10:30 AM			10:30 AM - 12:00 PM			2:00 - 3:30 PM			3:30 - 5:00 PM			None
Communications	Eagle Academy													During Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM. 5, 7
Composite Materials	Handicraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM								4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Cooking	Scoutcraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM						3:00 - 4:00 PM				2C, 4, as much of 5 as possible
Dan Beard Program	Dan Beard	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM						2:00 - 4:00 PM						None
Electricity	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM												2
Electronics	Ecology									3:00 - 4:00 PM				None
Emergency Preparedness	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM								3:00 - 4:00 PM				2, 9 (must have First Aid MB)



Engineering	Ecology					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM							1
Environmental Science	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM										4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Fingerprinting	TBD											4:00 - 5:00 PM		Mon & Thurs 7:00 PM
First Aid	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM					4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Fishing	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM								3:00 - 4:00 PM		Must attend Fish Fry. Bring fishing equipment.
Forestry	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Geocaching	Scoutcraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM								None
Geology	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None
Kayaking	Aquatics			10:00 - 11:00 AM								3:00 - 4:00 PM		2 (complete swimming test)
Leatherwork	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM												Purchase kit from Trading Post (under \$10)
Lifesaving	Aquatics	9:00 - 10:00 AM										4:00 - 5:00 PM		2 (complete swimming test). Must have Swimming MB
Metalwork	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM							None
Model Design & Building	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM										3:00 - 4:00 PM		None
Nature	Ecology			10:00 - 11:00 AM										During Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Open Fishing	Ecology													On the Dam
Orienteering	Scoutcraft			10:00 - 11:00 AM										7, 8, 9
Photography	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM						4:00 - 5:00 PM		None
Pioneering	Scoutcraft						2:00 - 3:00 PM							None
Plant Science	Ecology						2:00 - 3:00 PM							None
Plumbing	Trades/TBD			10:00 - 11:00 AM										None
Pottery	Handicraft					11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM							None
Reptile & Amphibian Study	Ecology	9:00 - 10:00 AM												None



Rifle	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM	10:00 - 11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM	3:00 - 4:00 PM			None
Rowing	Aquatics					3:00 - 4:00 PM			2
Scouting Heritage	Handicraft				2:00 - 3:00 PM				Bring collection of scouting memorabilia or pictures
Sculpture	Handicraft					3:00 - 4:00 PM			None
Search & Rescue	Scoutcraft					3:00 - 4:00 PM			None
Shotgun	Range	9:00 - 10:00 AM	10:00 - 11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM	3:00 - 4:00 PM			Must be able to handle shotgun safely
Signs, Signals, & Codes	Scoutcraft		10:00 - 11:00 AM						None
Small Boat Sailing	Aquatics			11:00 AM - 12:00 PM				4:00 - 5:00 PM	2 (complete swimming test)
Soil & Water Conservation	Ecology			11:00 AM - 12:00 PM				4:00 - 5:00 PM	None
Space Exploration	Ecology			11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM				None
Sustainability	Ecology					3:00 - 4:00 PM			None
Swimming	Aquatics		10:00 - 11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM				2
Trailblazer Open Swim	Aquatics								During Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Trailblazer Open Boating	Aquatics								During Siesta from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Weather	Ecology		10:00 - 11:00 AM					4:00 - 5:00 PM	None
Wilderness Survival	Scoutcraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM						4:00 - 5:00 PM	None
Wood Carving	Handicraft	9:00 - 10:00 AM					3:00 - 4:00 PM		Purchase kit at Trading Post (under \$10). Must have Totin' Chip



2026 Patriots' Path Camps Appendix

Please take a moment to read through the *Patriots' Path Camps Appendix*. This consolidated guide brings together information that is applicable to both Camp Somers at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation and Camp Winnebago at Winnebago Scout Reservation.

Before Camp

2026 Camp Dates

- Week 1 July 05 – July 11
- Week 2 July 12 – July 18
- Week 3 July 19 – July 25
- Week 4 July 26 – August 01

Planning Calendar

Backdate	Item
As early as possible	Complete the site deposit form before leaving camp
Fall-Spring	Schedule a summer camp promotion for your troop
Fall	Troop camp leader selected
December	Camp registration opens
February 25	CampDoc and Black Pug Q & A session 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the PPC Service Center
Late March	Camp required forms, equipment lists, and information for parents
April 1	Camping scholarship application deadline
April 1	Early Bird deadline (\$75 per youth)
April 11	Winnebago leaders' meeting at 10:00 AM
April 12	Somers leaders' meeting at 10:00 AM
April 22	CampDoc and Black Pug Q & A session 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the PPC Service Center
May 15	Troop T-shirt order form due
May 21	Merit badge class registration opens at 5:00 PM
May/June	Scouts review merit badge requirements and prerequisites
May/June	Scouts set individual goals
May/June	Troop program developed
May/June	Inform parents of camp plans and activities
1 Month Prior	Finalize merit badge planning
1 Week Prior	Troop equipment prepared



Financial Information – Fees, Discounts, Scholarships, Etc.

2026 Fees and Due Dates

Fee	Early Bird	Regular
Scout Fee	\$580	\$660
Extra Adult Leader Fee	\$200	\$200
Rotating Leader Fee		\$25
Site Deposit		\$250 (nonrefundable)

- Early Bird fees must be received by April 1, 2026.
- Free leader policy – three free leaders per troop.
- Rotating leaders are \$25 per person per day at camp.
- Site deposit – \$250, non-refundable.

Discounts

Multi-Week Discount: 20% off additional weeks at PPC Camps for Cubs and Scouts. Scouts attending National High Adventure programs/2026 National Jamboree receive 20% discount at PPC Camps. Scouts attending NYLT in Aug. 2025, Nov. 2025, or June 2026 receive 20% off PPC Camps.

Sibling Discount: \$25 off each sibling attending PPC Summer Camps. New! The sibling discount is now a part of your camp registration checkout.

Military Discount: Active-Duty Service Members receive 50% off one week at the current registration price. Service members must email from official email account.

Day Camp Crossovers: Scouts who attended Camp Wheeler or Watchung Day Camp in 2025 get \$75 off any PPC Scouts BSA Camp in 2026. Trailblazer Day Campers from 2025 receive \$75 off any PPC Resident Camp in 2026. All Arrow of Light (AOL) Scouts automatically receive Early Bird Pricing for 2026 camp programs.

Custom Troop T-shirts: Bring more than 60% of the registered youth in your troop to Camp Somers or Camp Winnebago summer camp and receive custom camp T-shirts with your troop number for each paid youth and adult.

Welcome Back to PPC Camps! We will refund up to \$250 to any troop that has made a site deposit to an out of council camp and choose PPC Camps instead.

Payments

Full payment for all Scouts and leaders attending summer camp must be received one week prior to your arrival at camp. This will allow time to order and prepare sufficient food and arrange for adequate supplies. It is extremely difficult to accommodate multiple additional Scouts and adults arriving at the last minute.

Payment may be made online in our reservation system through your troop camping coordinator. Payment may also be paid with a single troop check and submit a *Summer Camp Site Reservation and Payment Form* with each payment. Be sure to complete your troop information and the payment section. The form is available in the Scout Shop at 1 Saddle Road, Cedar Knolls.

Refunds

Individuals or groups that cancel a program reservation 30 days prior to the event date will receive a refund of fees paid less an administrative charge of 15% of the total paid. No refund will be made after the 30-day cancellation deadline. All cancellations and refund requests must be made in writing (mail or email) and sent to the council service center, Attn: Camping Department. This policy is strictly enforced – no exceptions. Site deposits are non-refundable.



Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarship

Every Scout should be given the opportunity to take part in all Scouting activities. The Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarship program has been established so that Scout families will find these programs within reach. Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarships are open to all Patriots' Path Council youth. The application deadline for summer camp programs is April 1, 2026.

Visit our website at www.ppcscouting.org/camping for the scholarship application link.

More Summer Camping Opportunities for Individual Scouts

Provisional Camp- Enjoy an exciting week of resident camp at Camp Winnebago or Camp Somers without your troop. Get a chance to meet new Scouts while visiting your favorite program areas, completing merit badge partials, working on more merit badges/advancement, or just having fun at camp. Scouts who attend camp without their home troop are **expected to arrive at camp with a signed blue card** from their Scoutmaster for each merit badge they plan to work on during the week.

At Winnebago Scout Reservation

Skills and Trades – Weeks 3 & 4 – Get hands on this summer! Choose from two weeks of this popular camp with identical programming. Scouts at this resident camp will earn Automotive Maintenance, Electricity, Plumbing, and Welding merit badges. All materials will be provided for this program. Must be 13 years old plus to participate.

At Camp Somers, Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation

Trailblazer Day Camp - Scouts are also welcome for a week of day camp. Trailblazer Day Camp runs from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 pm, Monday through Friday, for four weeks. Bus transportation is provided from many locations throughout Morris, Sussex, and NW Somerset counties. Scouts can try or continue the Dan Beard program, or they may work on merit badges and enjoy some of the open programs!

Range & Target Week - Get ready for an action-packed week you'll never forget! Step onto the range, lock in your focus, and experience the thrill of hitting your first bullseye. But it's not just about the targets — it's about teamwork, confidence, and fun! You'll make new friends, challenge yourself, and learn how focus and patience can turn into power. Daily range time with top-tier safety gear and guidance, hands-on training for archery, rifle, and shotgun. Skill challenges, tournaments, and team events Campfire nights, games, and epic memories! So, grab your gear, take aim, and join us for a week of focus, fun, and bull's eyes.

Adventure Week - This isn't just camp — it's your chance to push your limits, build confidence, and become part of an epic outdoor crew. Learn backpacking skills with an overnight trek! Ride the rapids on the Lehigh River. Explore camp on ATVs (must be 14 yrs. to ride ATVs). Climb our rock face wall or summit our climbing wall! And more! This one-week camp is perfect for youth looking for a great adventurous week!

Camp COLEY - August 2-8 - Celebrating the Outdoors with Laughter and Excitement for all Youth! Camp COLEY is a weeklong resident camp. Girls and boys in grades 3-12 and their families experience age-appropriate versions of the programs offered to Scouts BSA members. Campers and their leaders rotate through program areas such as aquatics, outdoor skills, ecology, and Range and Target Activities. Outdoor fun for all—plus memories and friendships for a lifetime!

Visit our website at www.ppcscouting.org/camping to register, or to find out more information on all our camps for individual Scouts.



Equipment Lists

Personal Equipment

<u>Recommended Gear</u>	<u>Optional Gear</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pack/duffle bag/footlocker	<input type="checkbox"/> Alarm clock
<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Backpack (outpost camping)
<input type="checkbox"/> Official Scout uniform	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible/prayer book
<input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts (6 Days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera/film/memory cards
<input type="checkbox"/> Bathing suit	<input type="checkbox"/> Compass
<input type="checkbox"/> Fleece (preferred) or sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cord/clothesline
<input type="checkbox"/> Hat	<input type="checkbox"/> Day pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots (waterproof)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing tackle
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground cloth (Outposts, Camping/Wilderness Survival merit badges)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pants or zip-offs	<input type="checkbox"/> Hangars
<input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear	<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry bag
<input type="checkbox"/> Shorts or zip-offs	<input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirt
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes that can get wet (required for boating)	<input type="checkbox"/> Long pants
<input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or moccasins	<input type="checkbox"/> Mattress/foam pad
<input type="checkbox"/> Socks (6 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Merit badge pamphlets
<input type="checkbox"/> Underwear (6 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito netting
<input type="checkbox"/> Comb or brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Musical instrument
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight or LED headlamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow
<input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchief or tissues	<input type="checkbox"/> Pocketknife (no sheath knives)
<input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (no aerosol)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent (outpost camping)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications properly labeled (all must be listed on the medical form)	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch
<input type="checkbox"/> Merit badge prerequisites	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle/hydration bladder
<input type="checkbox"/> Pen/pencil/notebook	A good rule is: If you don't want it lost, damaged, or destroyed, consider leaving it at home.
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags - 1 and 2 gallon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scout Handbook	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soap/shampoo/deodorant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush/toothpaste	
<input type="checkbox"/> Towels	



Troop Equipment

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ American flag | ___ Copies of medical forms for leaders |
| ___ Troop flag | ___ Magic marker pens (red, blue, black, green) |
| ___ Patrol flags | ___ Merit badge pamphlets (there will be a limited number of pamphlets at the trading post) |
| ___ Addresses and phone numbers of parents on vacation | ___ Merit badge blue cards (available for purchase at the trading post) |
| ___ Alarm clock (battery operated) | ___ Polyethylene sheets (for numerous uses) |
| ___ Camp leaders' guide | ___ Propane lantern with fuel |
| ___ Cash box | ___ Stapler and extra thumbtacks for the bulletin board |
| ___ Charcoal (if desired) and cooking equipment for in-site steak dinner | ___ Assorted hand and woods tools |
| ___ Dutch oven for dessert competition | ___ Tools for camp projects |
| ___ Clothes marking pen (for those who forgot) | ___ Troop record book (for advancement and Scout record) |
| ___ Duct tape – always a good idea | ___ Your advancement objectives |
| ___ Troop first aid kit | ___ Your troop program idea |
| ___ Matches / lighter | ___ Props for your favorite skits and stunts |
| ___ Garbage bags | ___ Your best troop spirit and enthusiasm |
| ___ Helpful books from your troop library: handbook, field book, Scout songbook, nature books, etc. | |

Equipment Available at Camp

Items Provided at Each Campsite

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Latrine with washstand and supplies ▪ Pavilion or dining fly ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Water spigot ▪ Fire buckets ▪ Bulletin board ▪ Flagpole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire pit ▪ Split firewood ▪ Cooking grate ▪ Two-person wall tents with wooden platforms and canvas cots or four person lean-tos with bunks and mattresses
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Equipment for Conservation and Camp Improvement Projects

Please see your commissioner for any tools you may need to complete a camp project. Supplies are limited, so please help us out by returning them when you are done.



Camp Information

Administration Building/Camp Office

The Winnebago camp office is staffed from 7:00 AM until 12:00 AM (midnight) and is in the same building as the Health Lodge. If you need assistance outside of those hours, emergency contact information is posted on the office door.

The Camp Somers office is staffed during business hours. If you need assistance outside of those hours, emergency contact information is posted on the office door.

Camp Evaluation Forms

We value your opinion! At the end of your camp stay, we ask that you evaluate how we did – be as honest as possible, we are looking for true feedback as we continue to provide the best program possible. Comments are especially helpful. The link to your evaluation will be sent electronically to every email provided in your registration, adults and parents of Scouts.

If you have any issues or concerns during your stay, please talk to the camp director, Shane Jones. We will do our best to rectify any issues immediately.

Camp Uniform

Scouts and adults should be in full Scout Uniform when they arrive at camp. Full uniform should also be worn to evening flags, dinner in the dining hall and to the opening and closing campfires. A uniform is not a requirement to come to camp. If someone does not have a uniform, please dress appropriately.

During other times, including breakfast and lunch, uniforms are not required. Troop T-shirts are encouraged. Other Scouting, plain and appropriate T-shirts are always welcome.

Commissioner Service

The camp commissioner's job is to ensure troops obtain the maximum benefit from their summer camp experience, maintain regular contact with leaders, counsel leaders on resources available, and assist troops in fulfilling their program needs. Your commissioner will visit your site daily. During the visit, a health and safety check will take place. The health and safety check is used to check tents, overall site cleanliness, latrines, etc. Tent flaps should be rolled up during the day (weather permitting) to help prevent the tent and the Scouts' gear from getting musty. Your daily scores are used as one of the requirements in the Baden-Powell Honor Troop Award. The site inspection form is included here.



Daily Campsite Visitation Form

Daily Campsite Visitation Form Troop: _____ Week: _____ Site: _____

INSPECTION ITEM:	MAX. POINTS	POINTS AWARDED				
		M	Tu	W	Th	F
SITE CLEANLINESS: Garbage is disposed of properly Site is clear of litter All troop equipment is in order Natural groundcover is left on all site trails	20					
TENTS: All tents (camp and troop) are set up tightly "No Flames in Tent" posted on each tent Flaps are rolled (weather permitting) Gear is stored neatly Tents are free of litter	20					
CAMPSITE SAFETY: Emergency procedures are posted All clotheslines away from paths and at a safe height Axe yard is properly marked 2 filled fire buckets Fireguard plan is posted and followed	20					
LATRINE and WASHSTAND: Disinfected daily Cleaned and swept daily Seats closed after use Water is off	20					
GENERAL ITEMS: Campfire area in order and clear of burnt trash Wood is neatly stacked American flag is displayed Patrol flags are displayed	20					
SUBTOTAL	100					
CAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	5					
ADULT LEADER VOLUNTEER IN PROGRAM AREA	5					
GRAND TOTAL	110					
COMMISSIONER SIGNATURE:						
TROOP REPRESENTATIVE:						



Camp Safety

Safety Enhancements at our Properties

Patriots' Path Council has made extensive safety enhancements at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation and Winnebago Scout Reservation to protect our Scouts, leaders, and staff. Our goal is to raise awareness of safety and to safeguard our campers and families so that they feel comfortable participating in Scouting activities at our properties. Our council has been nationally recognized for our proactive approach and will continue to add safety enhancements as ideas are presented by industry experts as well as Scouters. These ideas will be reviewed and if appropriate, implemented by our volunteer and professional leadership along with security experts.



- Security cameras in public areas of our camps
- Safety and electronic surveillance assessments by law enforcement agencies
- License plate reader / movement detectors at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation and Winnebago Scout Reservation
- Established hotline to report YP incidents - local number direct to Scout Executive
- Camper identification systems (wrist band or lanyard) for year-round usage to help identify different groups in our camps
- Safety posters in public areas and campsites at our camps
- Guard booths with security gates (arm barrier) and signage at both of our camps
- Expert training provided to our camp ranger's dog to detect electronic equipment through periodic sweeps
- Speed bumps installed to help reinforce speed limits
- Fortify internal communications through a new fiber optic solution at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation
- Enhanced lighting at camp entrances
- Cellular connected trail cameras at strategic camp remote perimeter sites in progress
- System data is backed up at multiple locations for redundancy.
- Violent intruder plan developed and implemented for year-round safety in progress

Accountability/Unauthorized Person in Camp

If you see anyone who appears to be an unauthorized person, or anyone without camper identification, please notify a staff member immediately.



Animals

Animal Bites/Insect Bites

Immediately notify the health officer.

Bears

Bears have been a part of the woods surrounding our camps for thousands of years. They feed off wild berries and fruits as part of the ecological process and help scavenge edible refuse from the area. Our camp and tent sites are a part of the bear's natural habitat. Bears will generally avoid contact with humans, but have the need to eat, like all living things.

Please – Keep a clean campsite and **no food or smellables in tents or lean-tos**. Keep these items stowed away in a safe place. A bear information page is posted in each campsite. Please read it and discuss with your Scouts.

If you encounter a bear, remain calm and do not run. Make sure the bear has an escape route. Avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak with a low, assertive voice. Notify a staff member.

Bats

Bats are inherent at any camp. At no time is anyone to ever touch a bat. If you come in contact or even suspect contact with a bat, see the health officer and/or camp director immediately. Every bat is considered to be rabid. If anyone comes into contact with a bat and it isn't captured, the person will go for rabies shots. Please take this concern seriously.

Tick Treatment

The health officer should perform all tick removals at camp. Please discuss ticks with your Scouts.

Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are a part of the environment here at camp. Use of dark clothes and bug repellent, such as Skin So Soft, Deep Woods, and DEET are encouraged. Please do not apply "bug spray" directly on or in the tents as it damages the canvas.

Fires at Camp

Each campsite has a fire ring for troop use. No fire may be left unattended at any time. Only pre-existing fire rings or campfire areas may be used. All fires must be completely out before the last adult leader in the site retires for the night. Fires must be extinguished before you leave. Please use *Leave No Trace* practices when disposing of campfire ashes or partially burned wood. Fire buckets are provided at every campsite; the water in them needs to be changed daily and they must be full at all times.

Fireguard Plan

A blank troop fireguard plan is in every campsite. Please fill out the plan on Sunday when you arrive at your site. The fireguard plan will help prevent fires so we can enjoy our camp for many years to come. The plan will be discussed along with our emergency procedures and other topics at the troop leader meeting on the day your troop arrives in camp.

Remember to check with your commissioner before holding a campfire in your campsite. He will know if the ranger has instituted any fire restrictions during dry spells. As always, in camp and on your own, **no flames in tents**. This includes candles, matches, propane lanterns, and stoves.



Firewood

We provide split firewood. Speak to the ranger about obtaining firewood and scheduling a service project to split wood using our hydraulic splitter and help replenish the wood piles.

Guide to Safe Scouting

Scouting America's **Safeguarding Youth** prepares members to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through over 100 years of experience.

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Scouting America policies and guidelines. The guide provides an overview of Scouting policies and procedures rather than comprehensive, stand-alone documentation. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Troop leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

Patriots' Path Council camps follow policies and procedures in the guide, please use it as your primary reference source. You can find it online at <https://ppcscouting.org/scoutingsafely>.

Safeguarding Youth Policy

The Patriots' Path Council and Scouting America believe protecting the safety of children is a critical priority. To achieve this goal, all adults staying overnight at any Patriots' Path Council summer camp program must have proof of current Youth Protection Training and background check.

If you are not currently Safeguarding Youth trained, visit www.myscouting.org to take the free online course. Certificates are valid for one year.

Buddy System

The buddy system is an important requirement for the safety of our Scouts and leaders while at camp. The Patriots' Path Council always requires the use of the buddy system throughout camp at all times. Please emphasize to your Scouts the importance of always traveling with a buddy and to always remain in sight of your buddy. If you do not have a buddy, you can often find a Scout from another troop who is heading in the same direction. This is a great way of finding a new buddy. Please remember the no one-on-one adult-to-Scout contact requirement when pairing up with buddies.

Camper Identification

All campers (Scouts and leaders) are required to wear a camp issued identification while in camp. One form of identification will be provided for each person upon check-in. Replacements are available for a nominal fee. Camper identification is required for dining hall meals. This will ensure that all Scouts and leaders have checked in with the camp office. Any camper or leader who is not wearing their identification will be directed to report to the office to check-in or receive a replacement. **Please return your camp identification to the office prior to your departure.**



Leaving Camp

Scouts are under the supervision of their troop leaders. Should a camper need to leave camp (family obligations, sports, etc.) they will be released to a parent/guardian, or other adult authorized in writing by the parent/guardian. The Patriots' Path Council will not release a Scout to an unauthorized adult. A sign-out/sign-in log is kept in the camp office and must be used by all adults or Scouts entering or leaving camp outside of the normal Sunday arrival or Saturday departure schedule. Patriots' Path Council requires parents/guardians taking Scouts out of camp to have a state issued photo ID.

Missing Person

Troop leaders should make regular headcounts. If you think a Scout has gone missing, check the individual's tent, the latrine, and surrounding areas. Report any absence to a staff member. The staff will alert the camp director and follow protocols regarding missing Scouts. **Please emphasize to your Scouts the importance of the buddy system.**

Camp Policies

Troop Leadership

Each troop is required to have a minimum of two adult leaders per Scouting America's **Scouting Safely**. If your troop cannot meet this standard, please contact camp well ahead of time to work out a solution. We recognize that all our leaders have very busy schedules, and a rotating troop leader(s) is acceptable (always keeping the minimum of two adults in camp). Please include all leader names on the roster and note when they will be in camp. Patriots' Path Council recommends a 1:10 ratio of leaders to Scouts.

Any adult accompanying a Scout troop to a residence camp or other Scouting event **must** be registered as a leader, including completion of a Criminal Background Check (CBC) and Youth Protection Training (YPT), even if they are the parent of a youth on the trip.

Campsite Reservation Policy

Troops camping with us this summer may reserve their current campsite for the same camping week the following year. The *Summer Camp Site Reservation and Payment Form* and site deposit must be submitted to the business manager prior to departing camp. If a troop departs camp without making a reservation for next summer, the site will be made available to all troops on a first-come-first-served basis. Troops that do not meet the published site minimum may be asked to share their site with another troop.

Swim Classification Test

All campers, youth, and adults, who desire to participate in aquatic activities (swimming, boating, etc.), must take a swim classification test **at Winnebago Scout Reservation/Camp Somers** to determine their swimming ability. A buddy tag will be issued to indicate the appropriate classification.

The classifications are as follows:

Swimmer – Blue tag The Scout has successfully completed the swimmer's test:



Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stopping and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Beginner – Red tag The Scout has successfully completed the beginner's test:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, and return to the starting place.

Non-Swimmer/Learner

Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a non-swimmer.

Camp Facilities Policies

- There is a \$50 per hour maintenance repair fee for malicious damage to camp facilities or equipment.
- There is only one (1) campfire (must use a fire ring) per site, if allowed by camp ranger.
- Please be environmentally conscious and pick up any trash you find in camp.
- Be aware of ticks, bees, bats and bears. Notify camp staff members of any strange acting nocturnal animals.
- Keep shower houses and bathrooms clean.

Leave No Trace

"Leave No Trace" is a nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics education program. Scouting America is committed to this program. The principles of Leave No Trace are not rules; they are guidelines to follow at all times.

The Leave No Trace principles might not seem important at first glance, but their value is apparent when considering the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors. One poorly located campsite or campfire is of little significance, but thousands of such instances seriously degrade the outdoor experience for all. Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility.

Pets in Camp

Scouting America does not permit pets at camp. Please leave them at home with a caregiver. Individuals bringing pets will be asked to remove them from camp property.



Prohibited Items

Scouting America or Patriots' Path Council policies prohibit the following in camp:

- Motorcycles
- Generators
- Pets
- Fireworks
- Firearms
- Bows and arrows
- Chain saws
- Hunting
- Gambling
- SCUBA tanks and wetsuits (snorkeling equipment may only be used during Snorkeling instruction).
- Personal Climbing Equipment (exceptions: climbing shoes, gloves).
- Tobacco - Use of tobacco products is prohibited in view of Scouts.
- Alcohol – Scouting America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving the participation of youth members. This includes offsite locations before or during the activity.
- Heaters – Kerosene, electric and propane heaters are prohibited in our camps.

Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the property and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Vehicle Policy

All our camps are designed for rustic camping. The campsites are in the woods and are a 5-to-10-minute walk from the parking lot. They are designed with Scout camping methods in mind; therefore, the following vehicle policies are established for camping at all our camps.

- Park in the parking lot only.
- The posted speed limit in camps, parking lots, council properties, etc. is 15 mph.
- Please observe the posted speed limit in camp. No vehicles are allowed in restricted areas. Please keep them in designated parking lots.
- There will be no unauthorized vehicles on camp roads.
- Camp vehicles, and those personal vehicles authorized by the camp director, will transport gear to the campsites both at the beginning and the end of the camping period.
- All pick-up and drop off Scouts and their equipment will be made from the parking lot.
- Do not drive vehicles past barriers.
- A temporary waiver of the non-personal vehicles policy may be considered for health or other reasons, at the discretion of the camp director.
- Trailers will be allowed to be towed to sites and left there during troop stay. They will be allowed to be retrieved at the end of the week.
- The camp director will notify the troop leader of any infraction of the vehicle policy.

Wood Tools Usage

- Scouts will not cut or mark trees, buildings, or any other camp equipment with any sharpened tool. Proper use of knife, axe, and saw must be demonstrated at all times, if used unwisely, they become dangerous. There is no need for non-folding sheath knives in camp. Please leave them at home.



Parking

The parking lot at camp is too small for all Scouts and their parents to arrive separately. Please help us by carpooling when transporting Scouts and equipment to and from camp. This will benefit both your experience and help the environment. All vehicles must remain in the parking lot while at camp.

Merit Badges and Advancement

Overview

The purpose of merit badges in the Scouting program is to provide Scouts with experience in an area of interest to them and to teach them valuable skills. The experience gained through merit badges often leads to careers and lifelong hobbies for Scouts. We want all Scouts to experience success with their merit badges. It is important for Scouts to begin their preparations at home. They need to select the merit badges they want to try at camp, look at the requirements and information in the merit badge pamphlets, and determine if there are prerequisites for the badges, they choose that must be done first. Camp Somers and Camp Winnebago use the most up to date requirements for our merit badge programs. Current requirements can be found at Scouting.org.

Very few merit badges have prerequisites that must be completed before a Scout can begin working on the badge. However, some merit badges have requirements that *cannot be completed at camp*. To complete the badge at camp, the Scout must complete these requirements before attending camp and bring a blue card with those requirements signed off by a registered merit badge counselor. These requirements are commonly referred to as prerequisites. Scouts who have not completed the prerequisites or did not have time to finish all requirements at camp can still earn a partial completion and finish the badge at a later date, with any merit badge counselor approved by your Scoutmaster.

To help Scouts prepare, we offer the following suggestions that you may wish to include in your camp planning, perhaps enabling a larger number of merit badge completions.

- **Do not over-schedule.** We set no limit on the number of badges a Scout can attempt, but sometimes their desires are bigger than their time limit or abilities allow.
- **Enjoy all camp programs.** Scouts come to camp for more than merit badges and should not miss other opportunities. Please do not allow your Scouts to plan for failure and to be consumed with merit badge requirements.
- **Scheduling conflicts should not discourage a Scout from taking a merit badge.** All times are flexible, and most conflicts can be worked out with a counselor. If a Scout comes to camp prepared to pass the merit badge, he or she may ask a counselor for a review without waiting until the end of the week. Your Scout should be able to plan their day based on the sessions offered.
- **Merit badges offered through the Trail to Eagle or Eagle Academy** have age and rank requirements set by the PPC Advancement Committee. **You must be 13 years old and Star rank to take these merit badges.**

There will be a limited quantity of merit badge pamphlets available for purchase in the trading post. Be sure to bring all merit badge pamphlets you need with you to camp. Pamphlets are available online for free. Scouts need to arrive at their merit badge classes on Monday with properly filled out blue cards. If a blue card is not presented to the staff teaching the class, they cannot record the requirements that are completed for the Scout. Scoutmasters need to bring enough blue cards with them to camp for each Scout, a limited number of blue cards will be available at the trading post for purchase.



Application for Merit Badge/Blue Cards

An Application for Merit Badge, commonly called a *blue card*, is required for each Scout, for each merit badge he or she is attempting. Please bring sufficient blue cards for your Scouts. Extras will be available for purchase in the trading post.

The Scout should complete all the required information on the blue card legibly in ink. The Scoutmaster's approval is evidenced by the Scoutmaster's signature on the front section of the blue card. Because there might be more than one troop "5" in camp, we ask that the Scout put their campsite on the blue card. This will increase the probability that the Scout gets their card back on Saturday morning.

Scouts who attend camp without their home troop are expected to arrive at camp with a signed blue card from their Scoutmaster for each merit badge they plan to work on during the week.

Partials

Not all requirements can be completed at camp. Some require a visit to a specific location, cooking meals for a Scout's family, observations for a prolonged period, or tests. Some Scouts, for a variety of reasons, do not finish all requirements for a specific badge at camp. Only those who fulfill all the requirements for a merit badge will get a completed signed blue card back. Those who cannot complete the requirements, for whatever reason, are issued partials. A partial may be finished with a qualified merit badge counselor at home, or the Scout may sign up to return to camp for an additional week as a Provisional Camp Troop. Of course, a Scout may also bring the partial blue card back to camp next year to complete the requirements. The only expiration on a partial blue card is the Scout's 18th birthday!

Online Merit Badge Sign Up

Online merit badge sign up is available for all Scouts. Scouts can enroll in merit badge classes through the online Parent Portal. The online registration system helps Scouts select the exact badges they want, to maximize their time in camp. Please visit the Camp Somers or Camp Winnebago website for information on how to sign up for merit badges and selected activities. Advance sign-ups allow us to prepare for sessions and ensure we have the resources in place prior to your week at camp.

Meet & Greet

Please note that Scouts are not locked into their online choices and can make the changes they would like upon arrival at camp if there is room in the classes they want. Selecting classes in advance is preferred to ensure that the staff can be prepared. A Sunday evening Meet and Greet will be held so Scouts can review, make changes to their merit badge schedules, and meet our staff.

Registration for Camp

The 24/7 Scouting system (Black Pug) allows troop leaders and camp coordinators to access and alter the troop registration. This gives the troop the ability to add participants and attendees to a registration, make payments for the troop, complete attendee information, print Black Pug roster, and register participants for merit badge sessions and programs.

To edit or complete an attendee's information, begin by logging into your troop's registration.



- Visit <https://scoutingevent.com/358-CampWinnebago> or <https://scoutingevent.com/358-CampSomers>. If you know your log in information, use the “Sign In” tab.
- If you do not have an account, you can either create one or click on the Lookup tab at the top right of the page.
- Select “Lookup Registration” from the dropdown menu, enter your registration contact email, then “send email.” You will receive an email shortly after with your registration link.
- If you do not know your registration information, please contact Stephanie LaFontaine at stephanie.lafontaine@scouting.org.

By accessing your troop’s registration, you will have access to your **Troop Contact** information, **Participant** information, **Troop Payment** information, **Parent Portal** settings, and **Troop Reporting**.

To navigate from page to page, simply select the desired tab, or heading:

- The **Participants** section lets you edit the attendees in your registration.
 - A **Youth** registration will be available for each participant. Each participant can be viewed and updated by clicking on the “Update Information” button.
 - You will see the option to add merit badges here when **Merit badge and program sign-up opens on May 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM**. In the Merit badge Sign Up section, begin by selecting the blue button “View All Classes.” This gives the entire list of available options. In the box “Available Classes,” you can scroll through the list and select any class you would like to register for by clicking anywhere in that box. This will add the class to the participant’s schedule. As you continue selecting classes, all classes that overlap will disappear from this box. Scouts cannot be registered for classes that overlap.
- The **Payment** tab gives you access to make a payment for your registration. You can view the total balance for the registration here. **A 3% fee is charged if paying by credit card.** Participants and troops have the option to make ACH payments using their routing and account number of their checking account.
- The **Reports** tab has Unit Rosters, Payment Allocations, and Class Schedules. **“Unit Roster” will provide a report of your troop roster that you will need for check in.** “Payment Allocations” shows individual payment status. “Class Schedule” shows an attendee report showing each Scout’s class or merit badge schedule on a separate page.

Using the Parent Portal

The **Parent Portal** is located in the Registration Contact box. To use the Parent Portal option, the troop coordinator must enable this feature.

Select the “Additional Actions” button to access the Parent Portal. This is an optional feature that allows you (the Registration Contact) to provide your parents with access to just their Scout's part of the registration, to make payments and complete data entry. To better understand the Parent Portal, please read the “Parent Portal FAQ” and the “Here is how it works” link in this section. It is strongly recommended that the troop coordinator enter each scout’s name into the registration before distributing Parent Portal links. All other information can be provided by the parent.

To enable the **Parent Portal** for your troop, do the following:

- Start by clicking on the **Parent Portal** link.
- Print **parent login credentials** using one of the two buttons (credentials or credentials EXCEL)
- Give parents one login credential for each of their participants (including themselves if they're one of the participants).
- Parents use this link to make payments and update data entry fields such as name, rank, dietary requirements, etc.
- Parents with multiple **cards (participants)** can link their participants together once they log in.



- Selecting **“Prevents parents from making payments or seeing event fees”** blocks parents from making payments. This option is good for troops where parents pay the troop and then the troop pays the council.
- **“Allow Parent Portal class selection”** lets parents choose or change class and merit badge selections. When unchecked, parents will only be able to view class and merit badge selections.
- If the previous box is checked, optionally check **“Email me when classes are changed through Parent Portal”** to receive an email when parents make or change their selections.
- **Optionally** check one or more days to receive a troop summary email showing payment and data entry status for each participant.

Troops may choose to use the **Parent Portal**, allowing Scouts and their families to fill in their own information, and even submit payment for camp online. If enabled, your troop leader or trip coordinator will distribute individual login usernames and passwords to registered participants.

The information cards contain specific instructions on how to access your individual participant information. Once logged in, complete all required fields, register for merit badge sessions, and submit payment for your participant

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