

Camp Cherry Valley Program Guide

4th Edition



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Please note that all Camp Cherry Valley programs are subject to change

FROM THE STAFF

I couldn't be more excited to be running Camp Cherry Valley as we step into this next chapter with our newly renovated facilities. Walking around camp and seeing the updates come to life has been incredible, and I can already imagine the memories campers will be making in these refreshed spaces. The renovations are going to make camp even more enjoyable and comfortable, while still keeping that same charm that makes Cherry Valley such a special place.

What I'm really looking forward to is pairing all these improvements with the good old-fashioned program we all know and love. The hikes, the campfires, the waterfront adventures, and the traditions that have brought so much joy over the years aren't going anywhere. They're at the heart of what makes Cherry Valley, Cherry Valley. It feels amazing to know we're not just preserving that spirit but enhancing it for the next generation of campers.

Yours in Scouting,
Derrick Schemel
Camp Cherry Valley Program Director





SERVICE



Prayer

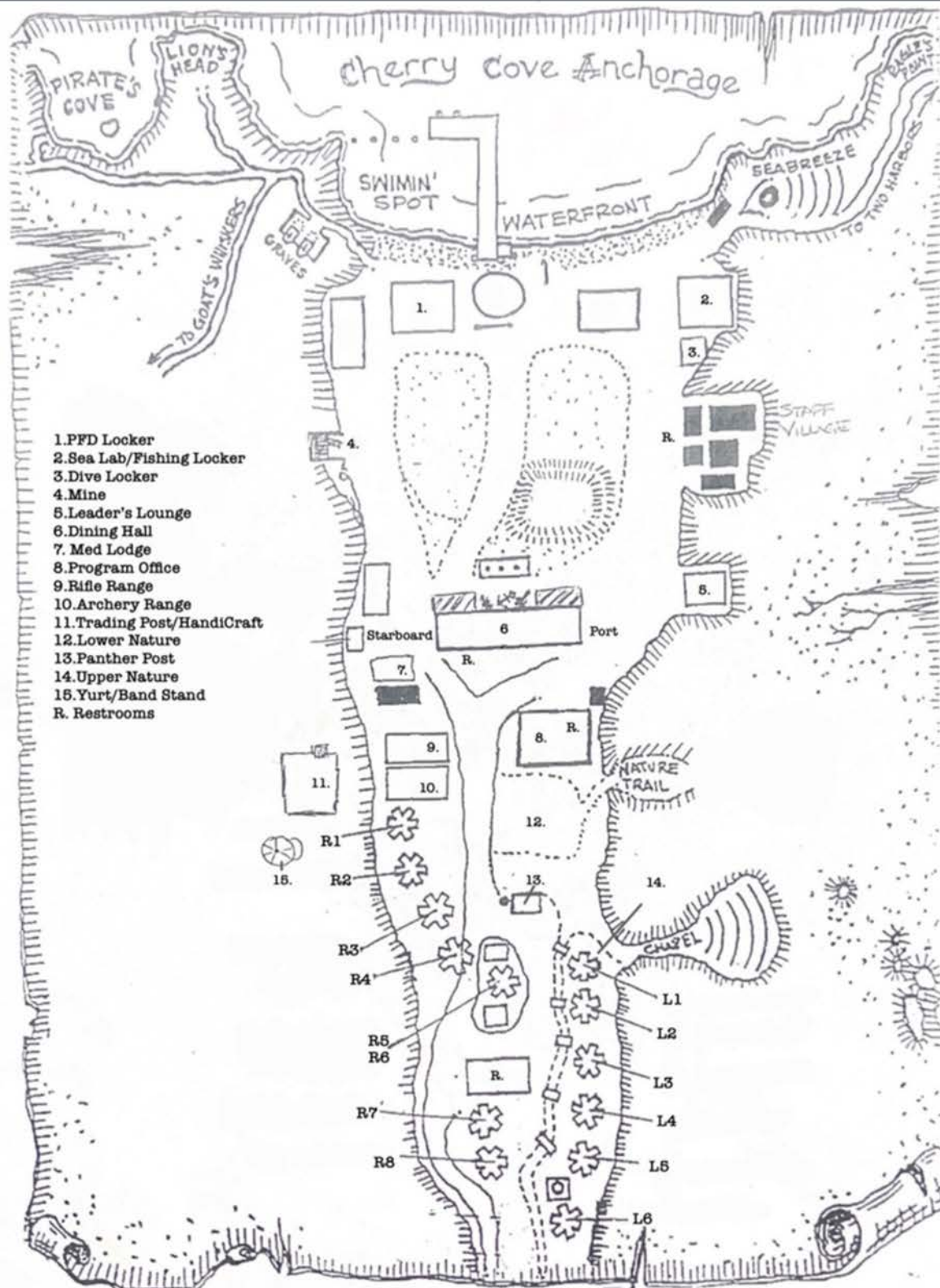
A Scout is Reverent. Before each meal Scouts will have opportunities to pray.



Flag Ceremonies

To do my duty...and my country. Units will have the opportunity to preform flag ceremonies throughout the week.

CAMP MAP



MAP IS ADJUSTED, WILL BE UPDATED AS SOON AS IT IS READY

AQUATICS

It's why everyone comes to Camp Cherry Valley, it's aquatics. With an ocean waterfront, no other camp on the mainland comes close to the experience we offer here on the island. A pool or lake simply does not compare, it's like nothing you've ever experienced. With programs like snorkeling, scuba-diving, ocean war canoes, ocean kayaking, swimming, paddleboarding, and so much more!



Kayaking Merit Badge



Canoeing Merit Badge



Life Saving Merit Badge



Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge



Swimming Merit Badge

Swim Checks

Swim checks will be held on Sunday after arrival. These will be the standard BSA Swimmer and Beginner swim checks. The Swimmer classification is required for most deep water swimming and boating activities, but there are plenty of great things to do around camp while Scouts are working on their swimming ability. Lifeguards will work individually with scouts who need extra help with the goal of helping every scout earning the Swimmer classification.

Swimsuit Guidelines

Appropriate attire is required for all activities.

Scouting Americas' National Aquatics Committee requires that swimsuits "be comfortable, functional and modest." This often means board shorts for males and tankinis or one-piece swimsuits for females.



Kayaking and Canoeing

The camp provides kayaks and canoes, for scouts and adult leaders to enjoy. Campers can take out these boats during free time to explore Cherry Cove on their own.

Stand Up Paddle Boarding

Stand Up Paddle Boarding around the cove is offered during free time. Guided by a lifeguard, scouts and adults can earn the BSA Stand Up Paddle Boarding Award.



Free Time Sailing

Sailing is a special part of camp at Camp Cherry Valley. The goal is to give every scout, regardless of sailing experience, the opportunity to sail during the week. There are multiple sailing trips offered every day during free time. Once you arrive at camp, you can reserve a seat on one of these sailing trips with our qualified sailors.





Swimming and Snorkeling

Camp Cherry Valley is lucky to be located on the beautiful Catalina Island with calm waves and extremely clear water. This environment makes for amazing swimming and snorkeling. The swimming area will be open every day during free time.

Snorkeling gear will be provided at no charge, but feel free to bring your own if you'd like. In addition to snorkeling in the swimming area, snorkeling lessons and trips are available during free time as well.

Merit Badge Classes

The waterfront offers merit badges for kayaking, canoeing, swimming, lifesaving, and sailing.

These badges require scouts to earn the Swimmer classification on their swim check.

Polar Bear Swim

There will be opportunities to participate in the polar bear swim by jumping into the ocean early in the morning.

Mile Swim

The Mile Swim Award can be completed at camp. Our camp provides a unique opportunity to earn this challenging award by completing this distance swim in the ocean.

Morning Sailing Program

In this program, scouts will go on sailing trips, learn how to sail on their own, and earn the Small Boat Sailing merit badge. Because this is a more rigorous program, it is recommended that only mature scouts with experience kayaking or canoeing participate. All scouts are encouraged to sail during free time.



SCUBA DIVING

To be Announced



S.T.E.M.

For the last 101 years, Camp Cherry Valley has prepared Scouts with the skills they need to be competitive in the world. As we get ready for the next 100 years, new skills like STEM are at the center.



Chemistry Merit Badge



Digital Design Merit Badge



Composite Materials Merit Badge



Sustainability Merit Badge



Inventing Merit Badge



Entrepenurship Merit Badge



3D Printing

NATURE

Catalina Island is like nowhere else on the mainland. The opportunity to interact with the nature you experience here is like nothing you can get back home. Get up close and personal with animals from deep below the ocean blue, spot animals native to our island like the Catalina Fox, or see the Bison that came to our island long ago.



Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge



Astronomy Merit Badge



Oceanography Merit Badge



Geology Merit Badge



Environmental Science Merit Badge



Weather Merit Badge



Mammal Study Merit Badge



HIKE DAY IN PARADISE

Hiking on Catalina Island is a unique experience. The Island boasts spectacular vistas with easy or difficult terrain that make hiking challenging and enjoyable. Wednesday is hike day for Cherry Valley campers. Each troop selects one of several locations and spends the day hiking with experienced Troop friends. The hikes offered vary in difficulty, length, and terrain, so please work with your Senior Patrol Leader and troop to select a hike that suits everyone.

Each Scout will be given a lunch to pack on the trail. Program areas will be closed all day. However, the trading post and a range open at 3:30 that afternoon. Pack inspections will be done by staff and leaders to ensure that every Scout has the proper equipment for their hike.

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat policies will be followed at all hike day destinations.

Hikes Silver Peak

This is a 17-mile hike to the highest peak on the West End of Catalina Island, which reaches an altitude of 1804 ft. The hike takes the better part of the day, even for the physically fit. Hats, canteens, proper hiking shoes, and sunscreen are necessary equipment and must be brought to camp by the hikers. This hike requires training prior to arrival at camp; it is NOT for Scouts NOR adults who do not regularly hike or are not in hiking condition. Troop friends will inspect packs, shoes, footwear, and water supply before departure from camp. The hike to Silver Peak offers many scenic vistas of the west end sights that most tourists do not see. This includes fabled Iron Bound Bay, the impressive Eagle Rock, and Land's End. Scouts participating in the ACE program for the week will use Silver Peak as their ACE hike.

Parson's Landing

An approximate 8-mile round-trip hike along the scenic West End coast hills to one of the more popular West End beaches on the island. Campers should take their swimming gear, dry hiking boots, and water shoes. Plan to enjoy the sandy beach and waters of Parson's Landing. Goats Whiskers Loop may be added if a more difficult hike is preferred.

Little Fisherman's

An approximate 5-mile round-trip hike up the Goat Whisker trail and down into Catalina Harbor. From Catalina Harbor, you will hike past the town of Two Harbors to Little Fisherman's Beach. Bring your snorkel gear and experience the sea life that the Pacific Ocean has to offer. Bring Frisbees or footballs for a fun day in and out of the water on the beach. Then change back into your hiking clothes for the short 2-mile hike back to camp.

Emerald Bay

A moderately flat 6-mile hike round trip. This adventure allows the Scouts to combine an ocean war canoe adventure with a hike along the scenic West End coast hills. Troops will be assigned on Tuesday evening by their commissioner to hike to the beach and then take a war canoe back to camp, OR to a war canoe to the beach and hike back. The canoes do not have seats. All Scouts and adult leaders will be on their knees or at the bottom of the canoe paddling. The paddle takes approximately 30-45 mins. Campers should take their swimming gear, dry hiking boots, and water shoes. Plan to enjoy the beautiful beach and waters of Emerald Bay. We do recommend bringing your snorkeling gear. This is a great hike for first-year Scouts or those looking to enjoy a day in the water and relaxation on the beach. Goats Whiskers Loop may be added if a more difficult hike is preferred.

Shark Harbor

This 16-mile hike is challenging but highly rewarding. Starting early in the morning, hikers walk into Two Harbors, then follow the Banning Trail road up 1200' to the ridge line. They then follow the ridge line traveling southeast until they reach Little Harbor. On clear days, hikers may see San Clemente Island on the way. Once in Little Harbor, it's a short distance to neighboring Shark Harbor, where the swells from the open ocean will greet them. Various water toys (boogie boards, skim boards, etc.) may be available for play once they arrive. After lunch and water time, hikers will travel back to camp by the main road, through the interior of Catalina Island. It is not uncommon for Shark Harbor hikers to come across Catalina's famous bison. Those who go on the ACE overnighiter will do this hike. Adults or Scouts over 14 wishing to join the ACE overnighiter hike may do so, even if they are not participating in the rest of the ACE program. Proper adult leadership is expected to be with the rest of the troop. Although not as physically demanding as the Silver Peak hike, it is required that all hikers be in hiking shape, with the proper hiking attire and gear (hat, broken-in hiking shoes, canteen, etc.).



Goat Whisker's Loop Alternative

Emerald Bay hike or the Parson's Landing hike. Campers will begin their hike day by summiting the peak that overlooks Cherry Cove. At an altitude of 1224 feet, enjoy scenic views of Isthmus Harbor, Cat Harbor, as well as stunning views of the windward side of the island. Continue down the fire break road until you meet the west, enjoy the remainder of your hike through the canyons of the West End.

Honor Trial

After the Highland Games have been completed, the troops move onto the Honor Trail. Hiking at dusk up along the road that encircles Camp Cherry Valley, scouts will hear from the four commissioners, who will speak regarding the Scout Oath. Drawing on their personal experiences, each commissioner will relate to the troops how scouting has changed their life. This opens the door for serious, profound discussion back in your campsite.

Outdoor Ethics

Along with providing Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class advancement opportunities the Trail to First Class program will also teach Outdoor Ethics Training. All Monday classes will spend a portion of time teaching the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace and conducting several activities that emphasize understanding the Outdoor Code.



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Prepare yourself for everything you might face here on the island or abroad with our outdoor skills program. With everything from Wilderness Survival to Fishing (in the great big sea), get ready to be equipped to BE PREPARED. Scouts will experience firsthand what it takes to survive in the great outdoors. It's an experience unique to Camp Cherry Valley.



First Aid Merit Badge



Wilderness Survival Merit Badge



Fishing Merit Badge



Cycling Merit Badge



Orienteering Merit Badge



Pioneering Merit Badge



Sports Merit Badge

HANDILAND

Unleash your inner creativity with our Handiland Program. Whether you're the next DaVinci or a novice artist, we have activities for every skill set. We have even included free merit badges like photography and art to get you started.



Leatherworking Merit Badge



Photography Merit Badge



Sculpture Merit Badge



Art Merit Badge



Woodcarving Merit Badge
PREQUISITES: Totem' Chip



Basketry Merit Badge



Pottery Merit Badge



Music Merit Badge

Range and Target Activities

Whether you're a beginner or a skilled marksman, our Shooting Sports Program will put your skills to the test. Working side by side with each Scout, our highly trained instructors will help you hone your skills on the range. Compete with your friends to join the Donut Club in archery, or the Dime Club in rifles, to show off your skills.



Archery Merit Badge



Rifle Merit Badge





ADVANCEMENT

The mission of our advancement program goes beyond achieving the next rank. We aim to educate and empower our campers to promote the values and skills they learn here through rank advancement. It's about equipping Scouts for the next 100 years. Our instructors work with each Scout using the Scouting America EDGE method to guide them along the way.

Trail to First Class

The Trail to First Class program is for all Scouts needing to pass off rank advancement requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Camp Cherry Valley offers a merit badge period for teaching the skills required in each rank. If a Scout wants to work on all three ranks at once, he will have to take each of the merit badge periods or classes during the troop time. We suggest that new Scouts who are focusing on rank advancement take at least one class, as they will meet every day, except Wednesday, to work on requirements. For Scouts who have only a few requirements to pass off, it is suggested that they do not sign up for a class, but rather work on their requirements during the troop time. If the Scouts do take all three periods, they will still have time during free time to earn other merit badges.



Trail to Eagle Program

The Trail to Eagle program is for all Scouts needing to earn the merit badges required to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. Each year, Camp Cherry Valley will offer three Eagle-required merit badges. Trail to Eagle is offered as an alternative to troop time on the day the class is offered. If the Scout wants to work on all three Eagle merit badges offered this summer, he will have to spend their troop time in class working, forfeiting personal free time and any troop activities planned during that time period. It is suggested that older Scouts take these classes. Each class will move at a faster pace than standard merit badge classes; however, all requirements that can be taught, no more, no less. Scouts do not have to earn or attend all three merit badge classes to be involved in Trail to Eagle. If they have already earned one of the badges offered, they will be free to enjoy their troop time until the day that the class they want to take is taught. Scouts do not have to pre-register for these classes. All they need to do is show up in the dining hall at 2 pm on the day the class they want to take is being offered. The Trail to Eagle merit badge classes will focus on requirements that can be completed at camp. Many of the requirements for these badges cannot be taught at camp, as they require things that the Scout must do on their own. Please know that the counselor will only pass off prerequisites Scouts have completed if they come to class with a note from the Scoutmaster indicating their completion to their level of expectation. Scouts who come to camp without having the prerequisites completed will not earn the merit badge. They will, however, go home with a signed blue card that only needs to be dated by their Scoutmaster upon completion of the missing personal requirements.



HONOR & AWARDS

Is your Unit ready to join the 100-year tradition of camping excellence here at Camp Cherry Valley? At Camp Cherry Valley, we are proud to promote honor programs like the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society, as well as camp-specific ones like Polaris. Additional programs like leadership training for youth and adults, and Unit service projects are available to promote the timeless values of Scouting in meaningful ways.

Polaris

Camp Cherry Valley has its own in-camp honor society known as Polaris. Scouts who meet the rank-appropriate requirements will advance in Polaris and will be given the corresponding arc, which symbolizes their standing in the tribe. Adult leaders can also advance as they complete requirements at camp. The Polaris round patch can be purchased in the trading post. The senior patrol leader, under the direction of the Scoutmaster, is ultimately responsible for keeping track of each Scout's progress. The rank advancement requirements are found at the end of this program guide, and forms can be filled in before camp and brought to camp. Scouts and leaders returning to Camp Cherry Valley year after year participate.

Camper Totem and Beads

Each camper will be given a leather totem. Throughout the week, each camper will be recognized for participation in programs. This is done by presenting colored beads for each activity they have participated in. While some beads will be earned through program participation, other beads are elective. As part of our camp Intrusion Policy, the camp asks that each adult camper wear their totem at all times. This allows staff to quickly discern between adult campers and unwanted visitors. With the totem, we do offer a program that shows what the participants have done in the form of beads.

Leadership Training

Roundtables will be held for Scoutmasters and Adult Leaders on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. These meetings are designed to keep you informed about the daily program while simultaneously infusing leadership concepts into your experience at camp. They are also a great time during which questions can be asked and answered. We highly encourage that at least one adult leader from every troop attends the daily roundtable so that they can relay the appropriate information to their troop.

Troop Service Project

Camp Cherry Valley provides opportunities for your unit to participate in service projects while in camp. This is an important part of the camping experience and helps Scouts feel a sense of ownership in Camp Cherry Valley. The ranger staff will tailor projects to your troop's skill, overall age, and ability level. If you have any ideas about the service project you would like to perform, simply let us know. Tuesday evening, Troop Friend Night is designed for Scouts to have a chance to work on service projects with their troop friends. This service participation also helps the Scouts advance in Polaris.



Order of the Arrow

Camp Cherry Valley emphasizes the promotion of the Order of the Arrow (OA). This is done through a social for all current members of the OA on Monday at 9:00 pm in the Dining Hall. Please bring either your sash or lodge flap to show membership. The OA is also emphasized and promoted at the ACE overnight campout.



Advanced Camper Experience

During each summer camp session, CCV offers a program geared toward the 14+ year old camper. The Advance Camper Experience (ACE) Program gives older Scouts and adults an opportunity to meet others their own age, participate in high adventure activities, and experience activities they may have never done before. These Scouts will stay in their troop campsites, eat, and participate in most troop program activities and all camp-wide activities while experiencing the best adventures our island offers.

PROGRAMS

TO BE DETERMINED

ADULT PROGRAM

The fun and learning are not exclusive to the youth! For 2026, we are overhauling our Adult Leaders' Program with new advanced training on a variety of Scout-related subjects, including a refreshed IOLS program.



Nap on Safely

It is ok to admit we have all thought about this one before!



Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)

The Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) course builds and expands on the concepts and themes introduced in Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training.



Dutch Oven Cooking Introduction Class

The Introduction to Dutch Ovens is to teach the basics of Dutch Ovens. You will be able to cook different types of food in a great class.