



Leader Guide

Camp Tamarack - 2026

Wood Lake Scout Reservation
LaSalle Council, Scouting America

Welcome to Camp Tamarack

Welcome to Camp Tamarack at Wood Lake Scout Reservation.

Our goal is simple: to provide a camp experience that is engaging, well-structured, and meaningful for every Scout and leader. We recognize the important role you play in your unit, and this program is designed to support your leadership while strengthening your Scouts' experience.

Summer camp is an opportunity for Scouts to fully engage in the Scouting program—building skills, gaining confidence, and strengthening connections within their unit. We encourage units to take full advantage of all aspects of camp, including program areas, leadership opportunities, and camp-wide experiences.

Camp Tamarack is nationally accredited by Scouting America, reflecting our commitment to safety, program quality, and well-managed operations.

This Leader Guide is designed to help you prepare for your week at camp. It outlines key information, expectations, and procedures to support planning with your unit leadership. As the program continues to evolve, leaders should review this guide carefully prior to arrival.

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, adjustments may be necessary. Any updates will be communicated clearly so units can plan accordingly.

We look forward to working with you and your unit this summer. Thank you for your leadership and for the time and energy you invest in your Scouts.

If you have questions not addressed in this guide, please reach out using the contact information provided.

We look forward to seeing you at camp.

Yours in Scouting,

Camp Tamarack

Understanding the Leader Guide

Purpose of This Guide

This Leader Guide is designed to support unit leaders in preparing for and managing their week at Camp Tamarack. It outlines camp operations, expectations, procedures, and key information needed to ensure a safe and well-organized experience.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is organized to follow the flow of a typical week at camp, including arrival, daily operations, program participation, health and safety procedures, and camp policies.

Leaders should use this guide to:

- Prepare for arrival and check-in
 - Understand daily structure and expectations
 - Support Scouts in participating fully in camp programs
 - Respond effectively to health, safety, and emergency situations
 - Reference camp policies and procedures as needed
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Program Planning & Registration

The Scout Program Guide provides details on program offerings, schedules, and advancement opportunities. Leaders should use the Program Guide alongside this document to help Scouts plan their experience and select appropriate programs.

Registration, program selection, and required forms must be completed prior to arrival at camp through the camp registration system. Leaders are responsible for ensuring all requirements are completed and Scouts are prepared for the week.

Detailed instructions, deadlines, and required documentation are provided through the registration system and camp communications.

Camp Systems & Scheduling

Camp Registration System (BlackPug)

BlackPug is the camp's registration and information system used to manage unit registration, program selection, required forms, and pre-camp communication.

Leaders will use BlackPug to:

- Complete unit registration
- Submit required forms and documentation
- Review schedules and program selections
- Access updates and pre-camp communication

Detailed instructions and requirements are provided through the registration system and camp communications.

Block Scheduling

Camp Tamarack uses a block-based daily schedule designed to reduce travel across camp and increase time in program areas. This structure supports a balance of advancement, skill development, leadership opportunities, and flexible participation.

Leaders should understand the schedule in advance to help Scouts plan their time and move effectively between program areas.

- Scouts focus on fewer program areas at a time
- Flexible scheduling supports individual interests and goals
- Open Program provides additional opportunities throughout the week

A Leader's Role at Camp

Leader Responsibilities

Leader Role Overview

Unit leaders play an essential role in supporting a safe, structured, and engaging camp experience. At Camp Tamarack, leaders are responsible for maintaining awareness of their Scouts, supporting participation, and reinforcing expectations for behavior, safety, and respect throughout the week.

Leaders are expected to be active participants in the camp experience, including evening activities and camp-wide events. Camp staff lead program areas and instruction, while leaders ensure Scouts are prepared, present, and engaged.

Leader Expectations & Staff Partnership

Leaders and camp staff work in partnership throughout the week to support a safe and engaging experience for all Scouts.

Leaders are expected to:

- Maintain accountability of all Scouts at all times
- Support Scout participation in scheduled and camp-wide activities
- Reinforce expectations for behavior, safety, and respect
- Remain present and engaged during key parts of the day
- Ensure Scouts are prepared and ready for program areas
- Communicate with camp staff regarding needs, concerns, or changes

Camp staff are responsible for program delivery, instruction, and area supervision. Leaders support staff by helping Scouts stay engaged, prepared, and on schedule, while staff provide the structure and instruction that make the program successful.

Clear communication and shared responsibility between leaders and staff ensure that Scouts are supported, safe, and able to participate fully throughout the week.

A Leader's Role at Camp

Leader Responsibilities

Presence & Participation

Camp programming throughout the day includes scheduled program sessions, open program time, unit-based rest periods, and evening camp-wide activities. During unit time and rest periods, Scouts are with their troops, and leaders are responsible for supervision, coordination, and supporting unit needs.

Leaders should reference the **Scout Program Guide** for detailed descriptions of program offerings and camp-wide activities.

Leader Responsibilities by Program Type

- **Program Session Time**
Leaders should ensure Scouts are prepared, on time, and attending their scheduled program areas. Leaders are not responsible for instruction, but should support participation and help address any issues that arise.
- **Open Program**
During Open-Program, leaders should ensure Scouts have a clear plan and remain aware of their location. Open-Program allows flexibility, but leaders continue to support engagement and supervision.
- **Open Program Sign-Ups (Wednesday)**
On Wednesday, Open-Program includes sign-up activities that may differ from scheduled programs. Leaders should ensure Scouts understand their selected activities and report to the correct program areas.
- **Evening Programs**
Evening programs are designed as shared experiences for Scouts and leaders, and full unit participation is expected. Leaders are expected to be present and actively participate alongside their Scouts, maintaining awareness, engagement, and support throughout the event.

A Leader's Role at Camp

Camp Structure & Program Overview

Camp Tamarack is organized into two connected program experiences: Scout Camp and the Leadership & Training Center.

Leaders are encouraged to review the Scout Program Guide in advance and become familiar with the range of program opportunities available at Camp Tamarack. This includes traditional merit badge programs as well as advanced and leadership-focused experiences. Understanding these options allows leaders to better guide Scouts in exploring a variety of programs and making informed decisions about their time at camp.

- **Scout Camp**

The primary camp experience for most Scouts, focused on merit badges, skill development, and structured program sessions. Most Scouts will spend the majority of their time in Scout Camp program areas working toward advancement and building skills.

- **Leadership & Training Center**

The Leadership & Training Center provides leadership-focused opportunities for older Scouts, including training, team challenges, and service experiences designed to build responsibility, confidence, and leadership skills. These opportunities are open to Scouts BSA members as well as participants from Venturing and Sea Scouts.

Participation & Movement

Scouts may participate in one or both program experiences throughout the week. Participation is flexible, and Scouts may move between program areas, leadership opportunities, and unit time depending on their schedule and interests.

Leaders should plan for this flexibility when coordinating and supervising their unit throughout the day.

A Leader's Role at Camp

Understanding the Week

Camp Tamarack follows a consistent daily rhythm that blends structured program time, open program opportunities, and camp-wide activities. Leaders play a key role in supporting this structure by understanding when supervision, coordination, and active involvement are most important throughout the day.

Daily Schedule Overview

The schedule below outlines a typical week at camp and is intended to support planning and coordination.

	Time	Monday (Red, White & Blue)	Tuesday (Crazy Socks)	Wednesday (Tye Dye)	Thursday (Scout Throwback)	Friday (Hawaiian Shirt)
MORNING	7:45-8:00	Morning Flags				
	8:00-8:45	Breakfast				
	9:00-10:30	Session 1		Open Program		Session 4
	10:45-12:15	Session 2		Open Program		Session 5
AFTERNOON	12:30-1:15	Lunch				
	1:15-2:15	Midday Break				
	2:15-3:45	Session 3		Open Program Cowboy Action Shoot		Session 6
	4:00-5:00	Open Program / Troop Service Projects		Open Program Cowboy Action Shoot		Open Program / Troop and OA Service Projects
EVENING	5:00-5:45	Evening Rest				
	5:45-6:00	Evening Flags				
	6:00-6:45	Dinner			Dinner	
	7:15-9:00	The Amazing Race- Tamarack	Capture the Flag 9:30 Star Hike	70's Disco and Tamarack Cookout/ Camp Olympics	Great Tamarack Canoe Race	Closing Celebration/ Campfire
	11:00	Lights Out				

Sunday arrival, check-in, and opening activities are detailed in the *Check-In & Arrival* section of this guide.

Arrival & First Day

Check-In & Arrival

Units will arrive at camp on Sunday and complete the check-in process prior to beginning program activities. Camp staff will guide units through each step of the arrival process.

Leader Responsibilities During Arrival

Leaders are expected to:

- Ensure required documentation is prepared and available
- Supporting unit movement through the check-in process
- Coordinating with camp staff as needed

Additional Details

Detailed arrival schedules, procedures, and required materials will be shared shortly.

Daily Operations

Dining & Meals

Meals are served family-style in the Dining Hall and are a structured part of the camp day. During the day, units eat together, and leaders are expected to be present to support supervision and reinforce expectations for behavior and participation.

Units should arrive on time for meals. If a unit expects to be late, leaders should notify Dining Hall staff in advance so appropriate portions can be reserved.

Totems: Evening Meals

Evening meals are a camp-wide experience. Staff and Scouts share meals together, and units may be joined by different staff members throughout the week by selecting a staff totem to indicate where staff should join them. Leaders should support participation and help maintain a welcoming, respectful environment.

Dining Hall Expectations

Units are responsible for assigning Scouts to assist with meal service and cleanup as directed by Dining Hall staff. Leaders should ensure Scouts understand and follow these responsibilities.

Belongings should remain outside the Dining Hall to help maintain a clean and organized space. Scouts and leaders carrying medical equipment or medications are welcome to keep those items with them as needed.

Meals are a shared part of camp life, and leaders should help set the tone by modeling respectful behavior and supporting a positive dining environment.

Daily Operations

Dining & Meals

Dietary Needs & Food Allergies

Leaders should ensure any dietary needs have been communicated prior to arrival through the camp registration system. These needs should be confirmed during check-in and with Dining Hall staff at the start of the week.

Camp Tamarack supports a wide range of dietary needs and food allergies, and all concerns are taken seriously. Leaders and Scouts are encouraged to communicate with Dining Hall staff throughout the week if something is not working so adjustments can be made whenever possible.

While every effort is made to support dietary needs, some restrictions may be limited by available facilities and food service capabilities. Leaders should communicate any significant or complex needs in advance so appropriate planning can take place.

If there are any concerns about cross-contamination or a potential allergic reaction, please notify camp staff or a member of camp leadership immediately so appropriate action can be taken.

Daily Operations

Communication at Camp

Clear communication between leaders and camp staff is essential to a successful week. Area Directors and program staff are the primary points of contact for questions related to program areas, activities, or concerns. Leaders should communicate questions, conflicts, or changes as early as possible so staff can provide support.

Camp-wide information, updates, and schedule adjustments will be shared by camp staff throughout the week. Leaders should stay informed and help ensure information is communicated within their unit. If concerns arise, leaders are encouraged to speak directly with camp staff so they can be addressed promptly. Open communication helps ensure a safe, organized, and positive experience for all Scouts.

Ranger Request Cards are available through Area Directors for any maintenance or facility concerns. Leaders should use these to report issues so they can be addressed throughout the week

Mail at Camp

Mail and care packages may be sent to Scouts during the week. To ensure proper delivery, items should be addressed using the format below:

(First Name) (Last Name), Troop #####
C /O Wood Lake Scout Reservation, Camp Tamarack
10891 Withers St,
Jones, MI 49061

Health & Safety

Health Preparation for Camp

Health Forms

All required health forms and pre-camp documentation are managed through the camp registration system. Leaders should ensure all forms are completed and submitted prior to arrival.

Units are responsible for submitting:

- Annual Health and Medical Records (Parts A, B, and C) for all Scouts and leaders
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medication authorization
- Any required medical or accommodation information (allergies, dietary needs, or special considerations)
- Adult leader certifications, including Youth Protection Training and Hazardous Weather Training
- Any additional council-required documentation

Medication Administration Records (MARs) and unit medication materials will be provided to leaders during check-in.

Leaders should arrive prepared with:

- All required documentation completed
- All medications in original containers with clear instructions
- An understanding of each Scout's medical needs

Support & Medical Assistance

The Health Officer is available throughout the week to support leaders with health concerns, medication questions, or any medical needs that arise during camp.

Health & Safety

Medications

Medications & Health Management

Leaders are responsible for the supervision, storage, and administration of all medications for Scouts in their unit. At least one adult leader must be prepared to manage medications and maintain MARs throughout the week.

At check-in, medications will be reviewed with the Health Officer, and a lockbox will be issued for secure storage.

During the week:

- Medications must be administered as directed
- Each administration must be recorded on the MAR
- MARs must remain with the unit and be kept with the medication lockbox

At the end of the week, all medications, MARs, and lockboxes must be returned as directed.

Medication Guidelines

- **Prescription Medications**
Prescription medications must be stored securely and remain under adult supervision at all times.
- **Over-the-Counter Medication**
OTC medications must be approved prior to use and documented appropriately in the scouts Health Form. Medications may not be administered without proper authorization.

Emergency medications (inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors, etc.) should remain with the Scout and be accessible at all times.

Safety & Emergency Procedures

Emergency Response

When an alarm sounds:

- Stop all activity immediately
- Move your unit to the designated location
- Account for all Scouts
- Report unit status to camp staff

Leaders are expected to:

- Maintain immediate accountability of all Scouts
- Keep units together and calm
- Report accurate attendance quickly
- Follow staff direction without delay

Emergency procedures are practiced early in the week. A fire drill will take place within the first 24 hours of camp.

Camp-Wide Alarms

- **Fire (steady on-off tone)**
Units assemble on the parade field. Once all members are accounted for, the SPL reports to the designated staff member. Units remain until the “All Clear” is given.
- **Severe Weather (continuous hi-lo tone)**
Units assemble in their designated campsite shelter. Staff will check campsites and program areas. Once all members are accounted for, the SPL reports to staff. Units remain until the “All Clear” is given.
- **Lost Bather (continuous solid tone)**
Units assemble on the parade field. Once all members are accounted for, the SPL reports to staff. Units remain until the “All Clear” is given.

Safety & Emergency Procedures

Safety Procedures

Fire Safety

Units may have campfires in designated areas. Campfires must always be attended and may not be left unattended. Additional guidance will be provided during leader and SPL meetings.

Weather & Environmental Conditions

Scouts and leaders should be aware of conditions that may lead to heat-related illness, including dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Encourage regular hydration and use available water stations throughout camp.

If signs of heat-related illness are observed, notify the Health Officer or a staff member immediately.

Staff monitor weather conditions throughout the week. Leaders should remain aware of changing conditions and be prepared to respond to staff direction if severe weather develops.

Personal Safety

- Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times
- Shower shoes should only be worn in shower areas
- Swimming is permitted only in designated aquatics areas and must follow all safety procedures
- The buddy system is expected throughout camp
- Running is not permitted except during designated activities or emergencies
- Be aware of natural hazards such as poison ivy and stinging nettle

Camp Policies & Expectations

Camp Expectations

Camp Tamarack is a shared environment where Scouts, leaders, and staff are expected to follow the Scout Oath and Law at all times. Respect for others, camp property, and the natural environment is expected throughout the week.

Leaders are responsible for supporting appropriate behavior within their unit and reinforcing camp expectations with Scouts.

Prohibited Items

The following items are not permitted at camp:

- Alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances
- Tobacco or vaping products
- Fireworks
- Personal firearms, ammunition, or archery equipment (except authorized use)

All applicable laws apply while on camp property.

Health & Training Requirements

The following items are submitted prior to camp:

- Youth Protection Training
- Hazardous Weather Training

Camp Policies & Expectations

Facilities & Equipment

- Only fuel containers attached to a stove or lantern are permitted within campsites.
- Extra liquid or propane fuel must be secured when not in use and stored in designated areas or with the Quartermaster if proper storage is not available within the campsite.
- Acceptable fuel storage must be lockable and well-ventilated.
- All fuel containers must be clearly labeled with the unit number.
- Campfires are only permitted in designated areas and must always be attended by a responsible individual. Fires may not be left unattended and must be fully extinguished when not in use.
- Charging access is limited and available only in designated locations. Priority is given to medical equipment, including CPAP machines and other essential devices.

Leaving Camp & Release Procedures

- All individuals leaving camp during the week must sign out and sign back in
- Scouts may only be released to individuals listed on their medical form

Vehicles & Transportation

- Speed limit is 10 mph
- Vehicles must remain in designated areas
- Campsite access is limited to loading and unloading only
- Seatbelts are required at all times
- Golf carts require prior approval

Camp Policies & Expectations

Personal Conduct & Daily Life

- Scouts and leaders are expected to wear appropriate uniforms during designated times
- Swimwear is only permitted in designated aquatics areas
- Wi-Fi access is for leader use and must be used responsibly
- Special needs or accommodations must be communicated in advance

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Camp Life & Experiences

Friday Visitor Night

Friday evening serves as Visitor Night at Camp Tamarack. Families and guests are welcome to attend evening activities and spend time at camp.

Meal options for visitors are available through the camp registration system and must be arranged in advance. Availability may be limited, and meals are not guaranteed for those who have not registered ahead of time. Additional details will be shared prior to your unit's week at camp.

Units may gather in their campsites or participate in camp-wide evening activities. Space within the Dining Hall may be limited depending on attendance.

All visitors must check in upon arrival to receive a visitor pass. Vehicles should be parked in designated parking areas, and all visitors are expected to follow camp policies while on property.

Awards & Recognition

Camp Tamarack offers several opportunities for Scouts and units to be recognized for participation, leadership, and engagement throughout the week.

- **Camp Tamarack Religious Award**
Scouts may earn religious recognition by participating in services and unit devotionals. Additional details are available in the Chaplain's Aide Guide.
- **Tamarack Honors Program**
Units are recognized for maintaining a clean, safe, and well-organized campsite and active participation in camp.
- **Commissioner's Award**
Units may earn additional recognition through service projects and contributions to camp.

Additional details and requirements will be shared during camp.

Packing & Unit Preparation

Leaders should reference the Scout Program Guide for individual packing lists. The information below highlights additional items and considerations to support unit organization and campsite operations throughout the week.

Unit Equipment

Units are responsible for bringing equipment necessary to safely operate and maintain their campsite. Recommended items include:

- Unit first aid kit
- Water containers or hydration setup
- Lanterns or campsite lighting
- Rope, tools, or equipment for campsite setup
- Tarps or weather protection (as needed)
- Cleaning supplies for campsite upkeep

Additional Items

Leaders may also consider bringing:

- Unit flag or identification materials
- Notebook, roster, or materials for tracking attendance and communication
- Any unit-specific supplies needed for organization or activities

Important Notes

- Leaders are responsible for ensuring Scouts arrive prepared using the packing list provided in the Scout Program Guide.
- Valuable items should be left at home.
- All items brought to camp should align with camp policies and safety expectations.

Map of Camp Tamarack

This map is provided to help Scouts and leaders become familiar with Camp Tamarack and the locations of key program areas, facilities, and landmarks.

*Personal maps will be provided to all Scouts upon arrival at camp for easy reference throughout the week.



Camp Tamarack

Wood Lake Scout Reservation



Adopted by Camp Tamarack, 2026

Next Steps

Questions Before Camp?

Leaders are encouraged to direct questions through the LaSalle Council Scout Office. Staff can assist with registration, program questions, and camp preparation to ensure your unit is ready for the week.

Lasalle Council Scout Office

Phone: (574) 289-0337

See You at Camp

We look forward to welcoming you and your unit to Camp Tamarack. This guide is intended to support your preparation and help ensure a safe, organized, and successful week at camp.

Come prepared to lead, support your Scouts, and take full advantage of the camp experience.

*This Program Guide reflects information current as of March 30, 2026 and is subject to change.
Last updated 3/30/26.*