



Camp Tamarack
Leaders Guide
2026

Dear Unit Leader,

Welcome to Camp Tamarack at Wood Lake Scout Reservation! On behalf of our leadership team and staff, we are excited to welcome you and your Scouts to the 2026 summer camping season.

At Camp Tamarack, our mission is to provide every Scout and leader with a safe, exciting, and memorable summer camp experience rooted in the values of Scouting. Summer camp is a unique opportunity for Scouts to grow in leadership, confidence, outdoor skills, and friendship while strengthening their unit program.

Whether your Scouts are attending for the first time or returning for another summer on the shores of Wood Lake, our staff is committed to delivering a fun, challenging, and meaningful program for every participant.

Why Choose Camp Tamarack for Summer Camp 2026?

- Dedicated and welcoming staff.
- Merit Badge instruction focused on learning and skill development.
- Outstanding aquatics program on beautiful Wood Lake.
- Over 500 acres of outdoor adventure.
- Modern shower facilities with private stalls and hot water.
- Quality meals with accommodations for dietary needs.
- Strong commitment to health, safety, and youth protection.

Camp Tamarack continues to operate in accordance with the standards of Scouting America and remains committed to providing a safe and high-quality camping experience for all Scouts and leaders.

This Leader Guide is designed to help you prepare for your week at camp with important information regarding camp operations, schedules, safety procedures, and program offerings.

Thank you for the time and dedication you invest in Scouting. We look forward to welcoming you to Camp Tamarack this summer.

If you have questions before camp, please contact the Camp Director, Kevin Trojan.

Yours in Scouting,



Kevin Trojan – Camp Director

812-272-2368

Kevin.Trojan@scouting.org

ABOUT US

Camp Tamarack, located at Wood Lake Scout Reservation in Jones, offers Scouts and leaders more than 500 acres of heavily wooded outdoor adventure. Nestled among the natural beauty of southwest Michigan, the reservation features two scenic glacial lakes, Wood Lake and Little Wood Lake, along with miles of hiking trails, diverse wildlife, and countless opportunities for exploration and adventure.

Fourteen campsites are spread throughout the wooded areas surrounding the lakes, providing units with a true outdoor camping experience. Scouts camp in their own tents, encouraging responsibility, teamwork, and the development of outdoor skills. In addition to the campsites, Camp Tamarack features a modern dining hall, shower house, health lodge, program areas, and a well-stocked trading post serving Scouts and leaders throughout the summer.

Camp Tamarack continues to operate in accordance with the standards of Scouting America and remains committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and high-quality camping environment for all participants. Camp operations comply with national accreditation standards and all applicable state and federal safety regulations. Camp Tamarack maintains a policy of non-discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, or disability in all phases of its programs and operations.

Life at Camp Tamarack is centered around the Patrol Method, youth leadership development, outdoor adventure, and Scouting spirit. Whether participating in merit badge programs, aquatics, camp-wide activities, or evening fellowship events, Scouts are encouraged to challenge themselves, build confidence, and strengthen their unit through shared experiences.

Camp Tamarack is also proud to be home to one of the most experienced and dedicated summer camp staff in the region. Key leadership staff and Area Directors are trained in accordance with national camp standards, with many attending National Camping School and advanced Scouting training programs. A strong returning staff tradition helps provide consistency, experience, and a welcoming atmosphere that keeps units returning year after year.

Most importantly, Camp Tamarack is a place where Scouts create lifelong memories, develop lasting friendships, and experience the very best of Scouting outdoors.

Camp CHECK-IN Process

Units may begin arriving at Camp Tamarack starting at 9:00 AM (camp time) to set up their campsites. Early arrival time is intended to allow units additional time to settle in, organize gear, and prepare for the week ahead. Units planning to arrive prior to official check-in should notify the Camp Director and Program Director 7–10 days in advance so staff can plan accordingly.

Official check-in begins at 1:00 PM EDT at the Trading Post porch. Upon arrival, units should have all required Annual Health and Medical Records (AHMR) ready for review. A trained staff member will meet each unit at the Trading Post porch, assist with the check-in process, and escort the unit to their campsite to ensure a smooth and supported arrival experience.

Health Forms (Annual Health and Medical Record)

All participants (youth and adult) must complete the Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR), including Parts A, B, and C as required for all individuals attending long-term camps. Part C (physician examination) must be completed by a licensed medical provider and remain valid for the entire duration of camp (within 12 months of the camp end date). A parent/guardian signature is required for all youth participants.

The most current AHMR form and instructions are available at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

Medications

Medication procedures at Camp Tamarack follow current Scouting America camp health and safety standards:

- All medications must be presented to the Camp Health Officer during check-in.
- The Health Officer will review AHMR documentation and verify medications upon arrival.
- Medications will be logged and stored securely in accordance with Scouting America policies.
- A medication administration record (MAR) will be created and reviewed with the unit leader.
- Medications will be issued in a secured unit medication box to be stored at the campsite under the supervision of the unit leader.
- Unit leaders are responsible for administering and documenting all medication doses throughout the week.

- Emergency medications (such as epinephrine auto-injectors and rescue inhalers) will always remain with the individual Scout per Scouting America guidelines.
- At the end of the week, remaining medications will be returned to the unit leader or parent, and all records will be finalized with the Health Officer.

The Camp Health Officer will be available throughout the week to assist unit leaders with any questions regarding health forms or medication procedures.

Questions may be directed to Camp Director Kevin Trojan at 812-272-2368 or Kevin.Trojan@scouting.org.

Allergies, Dietary Restrictions, Special Diet Requirements

If any member of your unit has dietary restrictions or special dietary needs (including food allergies, food intolerances, medical dietary requirements, religious dietary practices, vegetarian/vegan diets, or other necessary accommodations), these must be communicated in advance so appropriate arrangements can be made in accordance with current Scouting America health and safety standards.

To ensure proper accommodation, units must complete the following:

1. Clearly document all dietary needs on the individual's Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR).
2. Submit a written notification to Camp Administration no later than two weeks prior to arrival. Please email both the Camp Director and Program Director to confirm all dietary requirements.
3. Confirm upon check-in that Camp Dining Hall staff has received and reviewed all dietary accommodation requests for your unit.

While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate dietary needs, advance notice is required to ensure safe preparation, prevent cross-contamination, and allow for proper planning by the food service team. Questions regarding dietary accommodations may be directed to Camp Administration prior to arrival.

Severe and hard to provide for allergies (soy or gluten)

For 2026, in alignment with current Scouting America health and safety guidance, Camp Tamarack makes every reasonable effort to accommodate severe food allergies and medically necessary dietary restrictions, including but not limited to gluten and soy allergies.

However, due to the nature of large-scale camp food service operations, we may have limited ability to guarantee fully allergen-free preparation environments or access to all specialty products.

In cases of severe or highly restrictive allergies, units may be asked to provide approved supplemental or substitute food items for the individual(s) affected. When this occurs, Camp Tamarack will coordinate in advance with the unit and adjust meal fees accordingly to reflect any meals not provided by the camp.

All substitute or provided foods will be stored and handled separately whenever possible and prepared with heightened awareness to reduce cross-contact risk. However, absolute allergen-free conditions cannot be guaranteed within a shared commercial kitchen environment.

Advance communication is required so that the Camp Administration and Food Service Team can evaluate each situation appropriately and determine the safest possible accommodation plan prior to arrival.

All dietary accommodation questions should be directed to the Camp Director prior to the start of camp.

Family Night

For 2026, Camp Tamarack has updated its Family Night programming to better support family participation and camp-wide operations.

Family Night will take place on Tuesday from 3:45 PM to 9:00 PM. This is the only designated family visitation opportunity during the camp week. Families are encouraged to attend, spend time with their Scouts, and experience camp life firsthand.

The Order of the Arrow Call-Out Ceremony will also be held on Tuesday evening, allowing families to be present for this important and meaningful Scouting tradition.

For Family Night dinner, Camp Tamarack will be hosting a **camp-wide pizza dinner** for all Scouts, leaders, and guests. Pizza pickup will take place in the Dining Hall from **5:30 PM to 6:00 PM**, and all units will eat in their campsites.

To ensure accurate ordering and adequate preparation, **units are required to submit a guest count for Family Night by breakfast on Monday morning.** This allows the Food Service Team to secure the correct number of pizzas for camp-wide distribution.

Units anticipating a larger number of guests may order additional pizzas at their own expense. These additional orders must also be submitted with the Monday morning count to ensure availability.

Due to this updated schedule and meal service plan, Camp Tamarack will no longer be offering the traditional Friday steak dinner in 2026, and there will be no separate visitor night later in the week.

Guest Meals

For 2026, guest meal service at Camp Tamarack will require advance planning to ensure proper food service preparation and dining hall capacity management.

Units planning to have guests attend meals during the week must provide a confirmed headcount to Camp Administration at least **one day prior to guest arrival**, along with payment of **\$6 per guest, per meal**. This advance notice is required so the Food Service Team can properly plan quantities and ensure safe, efficient service.

Guest meals during the week **cannot be guaranteed on an individual or walk-in basis**, as dining hall seating and food preparation are prioritized for registered campers and staff. Any guest meal requests for Monday through Friday afternoon must be approved in advance by the Camp Director, and availability will depend on dining hall capacity at the time of request.

Seating and meal service for Scouts and camp staff will always take priority. Guests may only be accommodated when space and food service capacity allow.

All guest attendance and meal arrangements must be coordinated in advance with the Camp Director prior to arrival to confirm availability.

2026 Camp Weeks and Fees

Camp	Dates/Fees
Scouts BSA Pre -Camp	June 10-June 13
Scouts BSA Staff Week	June 14-June 20
Scouts BSA Week 1	June 21-June 27 \$375/Youth \$190/Adult
Scouts BSA Week 2	June 28-July 4 \$375/Youth \$190/Adult \$200/Second Week Youth
Scouts BSA Week 3	July 5-July 11 \$375/Youth \$190/Adult \$200/Second Week Youth \$375/ Provisional Scout Camper
Scouts BSA Week 4	July 12-July 18 \$375/Youth \$190/Adult \$200/Second Week Youth
Cub/Webelos Resident Camp	July 19-July 22 \$135/ Youth \$95/Adult

LaSalle Council, Scouting America Refunds Policy

Registration fees can be transferred to another person attending the same unit for the same event in the same year without any financial penalty. In the case of registration fees that have been paid and are not being transferred as above, 50% of the individual registration fee is considered non-refundable. A refund for the remaining 50% of the registration fee will be processed if a written request or email (info@lasallecouncilbsa.org) is received by the Program Administrative Assistant at the service center at least two weeks prior to the start date of your camp week, activity, or event. After that, refunds of the nonrefundable portion will be considered only for hardship and emergency cases on an individual basis.

Merit Badge Information

To help ensure a successful and rewarding camp experience, unit leaders play a key role in preparing Scouts for their merit badge programs before arriving at Camp Tamarack.

- **Pre-select merit badges early:** Work with your Scouts before camp to choose their merit badges and ensure they are properly registered online prior to arrival.
- **Prepare with merit badge resources:** Encourage Scouts to obtain the current merit badge pamphlets and review all requirements ahead of time.
- **Complete pre-camp requirements:** Carefully review any listed pre-camp work for each merit badge and ensure it is completed before camp begins. This is essential for successful completion of many badges.
- **Build a balanced weekly schedule:** Help Scouts create a realistic weekly plan that allows time for merit badge classes, camp wide activities, and free time. Camp Tamarack strongly encourages Scouts not to overschedule themselves. Open program periods provide opportunities to explore aquatics, shooting sports, handicraft areas, and other camp experiences beyond advancement.
- **Resolve conflicts early:** If scheduling conflicts arise, encourage Scouts to speak with program staff as soon as possible, so adjustments can be explored when available.
- **Shooting sports requirements:** Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, and Archery require additional range time beyond scheduled classes. "Open shoot" periods are used to complete qualifying requirements.
- **Program fees:** Some merit badges may require additional fees for materials or supplies. Common examples include Archery, Shotgun, Handicraft, and Blacksmithing. These items can typically be purchased at the Trading Post beginning Sunday.
- **No worksheet-only participation:** Counselors will not accept merit badge worksheets as a substitute for active participation. Scouts are expected to fully engage in instruction and skill development.
- **Merit badge partials:** Previously earned partial merit badges will be honored regardless of when they were completed. Scouts should bring documentation to their counselor on Monday, so a plan can be made to finish remaining requirements.

It is very important that Scouts are properly registered for merit badge classes prior to camp arrival using the online registration system. This helps ensure accurate scheduling and the best possible program experience for all participants.

Merit Badge Schedule

Merit badges are often the gateway to new experiences for Scouts, introducing them to new hobbies, skills, interests, and even future career paths. With 137 merit badges available through the Scouting America program, Camp Tamarack offers many opportunities for exploration and growth. For the 2026 season only, Camp Tamarack will use a **block-style schedule format** to improve instruction and program delivery. Working with Area Directors, we have identified core merit badges that are central to our camp program. This system is designed to improve class quality, manage staffing and resources more effectively, and ensure Scouts still have meaningful opportunities to experience a variety of merit badges throughout the week.

	Time	Monday (Red, White & Blue)	Tuesday (Crazy Socks)	Wednesday (Tye Dye)	Thursday (Scout Throwback)	Friday (Hawaiian Shirt)
MORNING	7:45-8:00	<i>Morning Flags</i>				
	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		*Catholic Mass	Evening Rest	*Religious Service	
	5:45-6:00	Evening Flags				
	6:00-6:45	Dinner		70's Disco and Tamarack Cookout/ Camp Olympics	Dinner	
	7:15-9:00	Trivia Night	Capture the Flag OA Callout 9:30 Star Hike		Great Tamarack Canoe Race	Closing Celebration/ Campfire
	11:00	Lights Out				

Classroom Hours:

For the 2026 season, Camp Tamarack will be utilizing a **block-style schedule** designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of merit badge instruction. Each class period will be **90 minutes**, allowing Scouts more focused, hands-on learning time and often making it more efficient to complete merit badge requirements within the week.

Merit badge offerings will follow a structured rotation throughout the week to ensure consistent instruction, appropriate skill development, and strong support from program staff.

We appreciate your understanding as we implement this updated 2026 schedule model to enhance merit badge programming at Camp Tamarack.

After-Camp Makeups

While Camp Tamarack's 2026 block-style schedule is designed to maximize instruction time and help Scouts make strong progress on their merit badges, some badges may still require additional time beyond the camp week to fully complete all requirements.

To support Scouts in finishing their advancement, any Scout who does not complete a merit badge during their session is welcome to return to Camp Tamarack in a future session to continue working on remaining requirements. However, Scouts may not begin new merit badges in a different session prior to incomplete badges are addressed.

In addition, Scouts may work with their unit leaders and parents to complete remaining requirements within **60 days following the end of the camp season**. Documentation of completed requirements may be submitted to the Program Director for review, approval, and official recording.

First Year Scouts:

The prospect of a first long-term camp experience away from home can be both exciting and challenging for new Scouts. To help support families and first-year campers, Camp Tamarack continues to provide the **First-Year Camper Guide**, originally introduced in **2022**, as a helpful resource for the 2026 season. This guide offers an overview of a typical week at camp, what Scouts and parents can expect, and recommended class selections from our program team to help first-time campers have a successful and enjoyable experience.

Class Schedule
Scouts BSA Summer Camp: Week 1 at Camp Tamarack

Jun 21 Week 1

Class Nbr	Class Title	Fee	Camp Tamarack Merit Badges (Scheduled Classes)			Addl Info
			Morning Session	Mid-Day Session	Afternoon Session	
CTMB103	American Business	MT				
CTMB108	Archery	RF	A	A	B	
CTMB110	Art	RF		B	B	
CTMB246	Artificial Intelligence (AI) (2025 version)	RF	A	A		
CTMB111	Astronomy	RF	A			
CTMB116	Bakery	MT			B	
CTMB245	BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding (unknown version)	MT		A	A	
CTMB119	Canoeing	MT	A			
CTMB227	Chess	MT			A	
CTMB123	Citizenship in the Nation	RF	A			
CTMB124	Citizenship in the World	RF	A			
CTMB128	Communication	MT	A			
CTMB131	Cooking	MTWRF		A		
CTMB140	Emergency Preparedness	MT	A		B	
CTMB142	Engineering	MT		A		
CTMB143	Entrepreneurship	MT	A		B	
CTMB144	Environmental Science	MT		A	B	
CTMB148	Fire Safety	MT	A		B	
CTMB149	First Aid	MT			A	
CTMB150	Fish and Wildlife Management	MT			A	
CTMB151	Fishing	MT	A			
CTMB152	Fly-Fishing	MT		A		
CTMB153	Forestry	MT	A		B	
CTMB224	Geocaching	MT		A		
CTMB156	Geology	RF		A	B	
CTMB157	Golf	RF		A		
CTMB247	Instructional Swimming	MT			A	
CTMB225	Kayaking	MT	A			
CTMB167	Leatherwork	RF		A	B	
CTMB168	Lifesaving	MTWRF	A	A		
CTMB169	Mammal Study	MT	A	B		
CTMB175	Nature	RF	A	B		
CTMB179	Oceanography	RF	A		B	
CTMB180	Orienteering	RF	A		B	
CTMB241	Pathfinder Program	MT	A	A		
CTMB185	Pioneering	RF	A		B	
CTMB196	Rifle Shooting	MT	A	B	C	



Class Schedule

Scouts BSA Summer Camp: Week 1 at Camp Tamarack

Jun 21 Week 1

Class Nbr	Class Title	Fee	Camp Tamarack Merit Badges (Scheduled Classes)			Addl Info
			Morning Session	Mid-Day Session	Afternoon Session	
CTMB197	Rowing		A			
CTMB201	Sculpture			A		
CTMB202	Shotgun Shooting		A	B	C	
CTMB238	Signs, Signals, and Codes				A	
CTMB204	Small-Boat Sailing				A	
CTMB244	Snorkeling BSA (unknown version)		A			
CTMB206	Soil and Water Conservation		A	B		
CTMB207	Space Exploration				A	
CTMB210	Surveying			A		
CTMB211	Swimming			B	A	
CTMB214	Traffic Safety		A	A		
CTMB219	Weather			A	B	
CTMB222	Wood Carving			A		



Aquatics

Merit Badges Offered:

Canoeing, Kayaking, **Lifesaving**, Rowing, Small-Boat Sailing and **Swimming**

Instructional Swimming

Offered during the 3rd and 6th session for those who want to become a more skilled swimmer. The emphasis will be to gain the skills to pass the BSA swim test.

Great Camp Tamarack Canoe Race

The annual Great Camp Tamarack Canoe Race will be held on Thursday at 7:15 PM. Pairs of Scouts will compete against each other as they race around the perimeter of Wood Lake.

Aquatics Safety Certifications

Several certifications are available at the Camp Tamarack waterfront and can be signed up for through your Area Director at the Sunday leaders meeting. These programs are designed to build aquatic safety knowledge and practical skills.

For 2026, Scouting America no longer offers **BSA Lifeguard**, and all lifeguard-level training has transitioned to **American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification**. Interested Scouts or leaders should speak with their Area Director or the Director of Operations for details.

Short safety courses such as **Safe Swim Defense** and **Safety Afloat** cover basic Scouting America aquatics guidelines and take about one hour to complete. More advanced courses, including **Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue** and **Paddle Craft Safety**, require approximately eight hours of training.

American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification is also available for qualified strong swimmers seeking professional-level training. All certifications are open to participants age 15 and older.

Eagles & Beyond

Merit Badges Offered:

Chess, **Citizenship in the Nation**, **Citizenship in the World**, Communications, Space Exploration, Entrepreneurship, Traffic Safety, American Business, Engineering, Surveying, Signs/Signals/Codes, Artificial Intelligence

Game Night

Eagles and beyond hosts Game Nights during the Open Program. Bring your unit to hang out with staff and fellow campers and to enjoy the many board and card games Eagles and Beyond has to offer!

Ecology

Merit badges Offered:

Forestry, Mammal Study, Soil and Water Conservation, **Environmental Science**, Nature, Astronomy, Geology, Weather, Oceanography

Camp-wide Conservation Project

Join the Ecology staff for the camp wide conservation project helping maintain the natural beauty of Wood Lake Scout Reservation. This project is required for Environmental Science, Mammal Study, Soil and Water Conservation, and Camping. Anyone else is welcome to join. The project will take place on Thursday and Friday during Open Program.

Astronomy Star Hike

Hosted by the Astronomy merit badge, come to the Ecology area at 9:30 PM on Tuesday to hike under the night sky while learning about the wonders of our galaxy.

Handicraft

Merit Badges Offered:

Woodcarving, Sculpture, Basketry, Art, Leatherwork

Handicraft Projects

Scouts taking basketry, leatherwork, or woodcarving need to bring the project(s) they would like to do to the first day of their merit badge class. Scouts can purchase the necessary projects for each of their merit badges. The Trading Post staff knows what is required for each class.

Open Handicraft

Offered during Open Program, this is available to let Scouts work on their projects or even start projects not related to a merit badge.

Woodcarving and Leatherworking

Due to safety concerns, woodcarving and leatherworking have a cap of 10 Scouts. Additionally, Scouts are not permitted to use their own knife to complete the wood carving projects, unless they have a carving knife. The Handicraft area will provide the necessary materials for carving.

Outdoor Skills/Pathfinder

Merit Badges Offered:

Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, Cooking, Geocaching, Orienteering, Pioneering, First Aid
Disc Golf

Friday Cookout

Scouts taking the cooking merit badge will be joining Scoutcraft on Friday to cook the necessary meals for requirement 5.

Fire Safety

This merit badges are offered in a hybrid class style. The hybrid class fills one session, and Scouts will work towards Fire Safety

Pathfinder Program

From 9 am to 12:15 am, Outdoor Skills will host Pathfinder, a 3.25-hour, patrol-based, first-year camper program. Our program is modeled to challenge first-year Scouts to develop and expand upon a variety of skills that have been staples of the Scouting program since its conception. Pathfinder Scouts will have the opportunity to work on approximately seventy requirements from Scout to First Class and earn their Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit. Scouts who sign up for the Pathfinder program are required to stay at Pathfinder for both sessions.

The Pathfinder program will also include an overnight trip to the south side of Wood Lake (weather permitting) from Thursday at 6:45pm to Friday at 10:45am. This will be an imitation of Baden-Powell's original Brownsea Island camp and will provide an opportunity for first-year Scouts to practice basic Scoutcraft skills and participate in a variety of challenges. Packing lists for the trip will be issued on Thursday.

Activity Session (4th Session)

Monday - Friday: Paul Bunyan Award (for youth and adults 14 years and older; plan to spend all five days working on this award)

Monday: Totin' Chip

Tuesday: Firem'n Chit

Wednesday: Euchre Tournament

Thursday: Euchre Tournament (final games)

Individual Rank Classes

During the 3rd session, Pathfinder offers week-long classes in single ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, or 1st Class). Scouts can expect to spend all week working on a single rank.

Note: Scout will be doing Water Rescue for rank advancement. (2nd and 3rd Class). This will take place at the waterfront.

Shooting Sports

Merit Badges Offered:

Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, and Archery

Personal Firearm Policy

If a Scout or Leader brings their personal bow or gun, the equipment must immediately be turned over to the Shooting Sports Director for storage upon arrival and will be returned when the camper is leaving camp. Only law enforcement officers who are required to carry firearms are permitted to have them in camp and not locked up.

Open Rifle Shoot

A great time for you and your Scouts to brush up on your aim and have some fun shooting. Open rifle shooting is available during Open Program on Monday and Tuesday. If your scout is taking the Rifle Shooting merit badge, they will need to use at least one open shoot period daily to practice achieving the required score.

Open Shotgun Shoot

A lot of fun for Scouts and adults. Come and try to hit clay pigeons. There will be an extra expense for this activity due to the cost of the supplies and equipment; the price is determined by the cost of supplies. Open Shotgun is offered during the Open Program on Thursday and Friday. Scouts taking Shotgun Shooting merit badge will need to attend at least one open shoot session to hit the required number of pigeons.

Marksmanship Contest

Throughout the week during open shoot, the Rifle Range will be hosting a marksmanship contest. Come down during any open rifle session and shoot for score! There will be a prize given out for the highest scoring youth and adult.

Open Archery

Open during Open Program as well. Come down and test your skills with a bow! Merit badge shooters will need to block off one of their afternoon sessions, so those Scouts will have priority during open sessions.

Archery Merit Badge

Offered during Session 1,2,4,5, the archery merit badge is great for both Scouts new to archery and those who have experience. Archery merit badge students won't have time to shoot during class, so they'll have to come to open archery sessions. Additionally, those Scouts will have to purchase an archery arrow kit from the Trading Post.

Grand Archery Tournament

The Archery range will host the annual Grand Archery Tournament throughout the week, be sure to listen to the Words of Wisdom at meals for when the tournament will take place!

Cowboy Action Shoot

Shooting Sports will offer a Cowboy Shoot on Wednesdays during Afternoon Open Program. Test your skill at revolver, longbow, lever action rifle, tomahawk throwing, hinged shotgun, & knife throwing.

Offered all week: Additional Camp Programs

Sunday

Aquatics Orientation (Waterfront)

- This event is required for all Scouts and leaders and will take place immediately following the evening meal.

Leader Meeting (Dining Hall)

- One leader from each unit must attend, but all leaders are welcome. Each area director will give a short overview of their areas and be available for questions. This will take place concurrently with the aquatics orientation.

Opening Campfire

- No Summer Camp should start without a campfire. Join the staff as they entertain you with a multitude of songs and skits as you begin your week at camp!

Monday

Camp Tamarack Cobbler Bake-Off

- Units can bring as many cobbles as they like, but all cobbles must be in by 8 PM to be judged.

Tuesday

Non -denominational Chapel Service (Chapel)

- A great way to start the week is by attending the non-denominational service.

Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony

- Come see your fellow campers be recognized for being elected to Scouting's National Honor Society. Parents are more than welcome to come up to view this impressive ceremony.

Star Hike (Ecology)

- Come hike with our Ecology staff to see stars like you've never seen them before. Open to all campers but required for Astronomy merit badge students.

Wednesday

70's Disco Party

- Bring your unit to hang out with staff and fellow campers and to enjoy the party at the Trading Post

Trivia Night (Dining Hall)

- After the evening meal, join us in the dining hall. During this will also be the

Thursday

Great Camp Tamarack Canoe Race (Aquatics)

- Enter a team in the race, or come out and support, as canoers compete for fastest paddler of Wood Lake!

Camp-wide Conservation Project (Ecology)

- Required for all Scouts taking Soil and Water Conservation, Mammal Study, Environmental Science, and Camping merit badge, but open to all campers (Does not apply for the service project for Tamarack Honors)

Friday

Camp-wide Conservation Project (Ecology)

- Required for all Scouts taking Soil and Water Conservation, Mammal Study, Environmental Science, and Camping merit badge, but open to all campers (Does not apply for the service project for Tamarack Honors)

Closing Campfire

- As our week ends, it would be wrong to not close out our week with a campfire. However, now it is your turn to put on a song or skit of your choice to entertain the other units, guests, and the staff. Signups for skits and songs will be at the SPL meeting on Friday morning; all skits or songs must be approved by the Program Director to ensure appropriateness and prevent duplication.

Daily Ongoing Activities

All activities will happen during Open Program (4:00 PM-5:00 PM), activities are subject to cancelation and/or change

Monday – Friday

- Ultimate Frisbee (Athletic Field)
 - Played during most rest periods. Listen at lunch to see if we're playing. You can also challenge the staff to a 7 v. 7 game.
- Open Archery (Archery Range)
- Open Rifle Shooting (Rifle Range)
- Open Shotgun (Shotgun Range)
- Open Swimming (Aquatics)
- Open Boating (Aquatics)
- Open Fishing (Aquatics)
- Open Handicraft (Handicraft)
- Euchre Tournament (Outdoor Skills)

Adult Programs and Activities

Leader Meetings

Leader meetings will be held on Sunday night following dinner, and a daily meeting with program staff throughout the week. If there is a major announcement, a leader's meeting will be called at the next meal. This will require the attendance of at least one adult leader per troop/contingent. If possible, this announcement will be written and distributed to ensure the flow of information from the admin team to units. The daily meetings will be held in the morning at a different program area each day, with the specific locations included in the check-in packet.

Thursday Night Leader Dinner

Leaders and SPLs from every unit will be invited to a special dinner Thursday night with the Summer Camp Leadership and the LaSalle Council Scout Executive, James Hulgan. Leaders will have the opportunity to interact directly with the Scout Executive and council leadership team as well as enjoy a meal outside of the dining hall.

Adult Trainings

Camp can be a great time for adults to have fun and hone their skills as well. In trying to make the best use of time, our team is happy to offer these training sessions below. To make the process easier for the units, leaders will be able to sign up for these trainings in person at the Leaders meeting on Sunday.

- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
- Leader Specific Training
- Outdoor Leader Essentials
- Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety
- Aquatics Supervision: Swimming & Water Rescue
- Safety Afloat
- Safe Swim Defense

Daily Activities for all participants

- Mile Swim
 - See Aquatics schedule
- Snorkeling BSA
 - See Aquatics schedule
- Stand-Up Paddle boarding
 - See Aquatics schedule
- Advanced Leatherworking
 - See Handicraft schedule

A Scout is Reverent

Camp Tamarack Religious Award

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is an essential part of the scouting program. The Camp Tamarack religious award challenges Scouts to live out this point.

Requirements:

1. Attend the Tuesday camp religious service
2. Participate in at least three daily devotionals with your unit
3. Lead grace before a meal

Requirement forms can be picked up from the Trading Post and once completed can be returned to the Trading Post to get your free "Duty to God" patch.

Commissioner's Award

To stimulate good unit and patrol operation, and to ensure that all Scouts and Scouters have a clean, safe environment, the Camp Commissioner administers the Tamarack Honors Program. The Tamarack Honors Program measures unit participation in camp activities and programs and daily campsite inspection results. The campsite inspections look at camp layout, cleanliness, safety, and unit administration, display of US and Unit flags and service to the camp. Each unit/campsite is visited daily by a Camp Commissioner who will utilize the worksheet shown at the end of the leader's guide. A total score of 500 points is required to be awarded the "Tamarack Honors" ribbon.

For those units wanting to take the Honors to the next level, they can try to earn "Commissioners Award". To earn the Commissioners Award, sign up with the Camp Commissioner by noon on Monday. The Commissioners Award involves not only achieving perfect scores (100 points) on the daily section and earning at least 150 points for participation in camp activities, but also giving back to the camp. A unit must also complete a camp service project selected from the Ranger's "Good Turn Projects" list and make a permanent camp or camp site improvement (approved by the Ranger). You may contact the Ranger prior to camp for approval, 269-435-7533 or Stephen.whorwell@gmail.com. The score sheet for the Commissioners Award is shown at the end of this leader's guide. Scores are calculated as of noon on Friday, so all points must be earned and recorded by then.

Order of the Arrow

Public Callout Ceremony

LaSalle Council Sakima Lodge will host an OA Call-Out Ceremony on Tuesday night with a special campfire. Parents are more than welcome to come up to watch this impressive ceremony. All OA candidates, both Sakima Lodge and other lodges, can be recognized at this ceremony. All units are encouraged to attend! Any youth Arrowmen interested in assisting or participating in this ceremony should listen for the announcement during evening meal announcements.

Ordeals at Camp

Sakima Lodge hosts four Ordeals throughout the summer camp season at Camp Tamarack. The Ordeal is the induction process into the Order of the Arrow and is available only to eligible Scouts and Scouters from LaSalle Council in accordance with current Scouting America policy.

For the 2026 season, adjustments to the camp's block-style schedule have been made to ensure that Scouts participating in their Ordeal will **not miss any merit badge classes** while completing the induction process. The Ordeal will begin Tuesday evening following the Order of the Arrow Call-Out Ceremony and conclude on Wednesday evening.

Brotherhood at Camp

If an Arrowman has been a good-standing Ordeal member for 6 months, they are eligible to undergo their Brotherhood. There will be an information class for this during the week, and the ceremony will take place on Wednesday.

Camp Policies

Alcohol and Drugs

The consumption, possession, or use of controlled substances is prohibited at camp. Local, State, and Federal laws will be enforced where violations of the above are reported.

Code of Conduct

Conduct at camp will be guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and will obey all U.S. federal laws, as well as local and state laws. Every person on camp property has the responsibility not to engage in behavior that constitutes discrimination or harassment in any way, including race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or citizenship of an individual.

Chemical Fuels

Only fuel containers attached to a stove or lantern are permitted in a camp site. Extra liquid/propane fuel must be locked up by the Quartermaster when not needed. Please label containers with unit numbers.

Fireworks

The possession and use of fireworks by Scouts or Leaders is strictly prohibited.

Personal Firearms

If a Scout or Leader brings their personal bow or gun, the equipment must immediately be turned over to the Shooting Sports Director for storage upon arrival and will be returned when the camper is leaving camp. Only law enforcement officers who are required to carry firearms are permitted to have them in camp and not locked up.

Release from Camp

No Scout may be removed from the camp's care or custody except by persons identified by his legal Parents or guardians. These names must appear on the medical form where indicated. See the Camp Director if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Smoking

National Boy Scouts of America policy prohibits smoking in all Scout Council Buildings and in the presence of Scouts. Camp Tamarack is a smoke-free camp.

Criminal Background Checks

In accordance with State of Michigan regulations and current Scouting America youth protection standards, all individuals age 18 or older staying on Camp Tamarack property are required to complete and submit a criminal background check authorization prior to arrival at camp. This requirement applies to all adult leaders, volunteers, staff, and visitors remaining on property during the camping session. Completed forms must be submitted to the Camp Director before arrival to ensure compliance with state licensing and camp operation requirements. Adults who have not completed the required authorization process may not be permitted to remain on camp property.

Safety

Personal

- Shoes must always be worn while in camp. Open toe sandals, clogs, and thongs are not considered shoes (unit leaders are requested to notify their visitors of this policy). Shower shoes should only be worn while in the shower area.
- Swimming is allowed only in the designated area of the Waterfront and only in accordance with BSA Policy and Procedures. Buddy Tags must be used when at the waterfront.
- The use of the buddy system throughout camp is encouraged.
- There is no running in camp, except for staff in an emergency and during Camp-wide games.
- Campers should watch for poison ivy. Camp Tamarack has poison ivy in most of the wooded areas.

Weather

Heat

Campers should be aware of conditions that can cause heat injuries. Contact the Health Officer or any staff member if you notice a camper with heat injury signs. Be sure to carry a water bottle and drink plenty of fluids. Each Program Area has water available to refill campers' water containers.

Severe weather

Campers should be aware of the weather conditions and watch for severe weather. All Area Directors carry radios equipped with a weather frequency. Additionally, the weather is constantly monitored by staff at the Director's Lodge

Fire Safety

Units are permitted to have campfires in their camp sites. Camp fires need to be attended at all times. Do not leave your campsite with an unattended fire.

Lost Camper

If a unit becomes aware that a Scout or participant is missing or unaccounted for, the unit leader should immediately notify the nearest camp staff member or member of Camp Administration. Once notified, Camp Administration will activate the camp's missing person procedures and coordinate the appropriate response. Camp leadership will gather necessary information, organize staff resources, and direct further actions in accordance with established camp emergency protocols and current Scouting America safety guidelines. Units should keep Scouts together, maintain accountability within the campsite, and follow all instructions provided by Camp Administration during the situation.

Camp wide Alarms

Fire

A steady on-off tone, 3 seconds in duration. All campers (youth and adults) must assemble on the parade field. Once all members of a unit are present, the SPL should report to the camp staff member taking the reports. Units will be dismissed once the all clear is given.

Note: A Fire Drill will take place during the first 24 hours of camp

Severe Weather

A continuing hi-lo tone. All campers (youth and adults) must assemble in the designated area of their Campsite. Campers will be assigned their designated area when arriving at Camp. The Ranger staff will check all campsites and program areas to ensure all campers are notified. Once all members of a unit are present, the SPL should report to the camp staff member taking the reports. Units will be dismissed once the all clear is given.

Lost Bather

A continuous solid tone. All campers (youth and adults) must assemble on the parade field. Once all members of a unit are present, the SPL should report to the camp staff member taking the reports. Units will be dismissed once the all clear is given.

Trading Post

The Camp Tamarack Trading Post is stocked full of snacks, drinks, Tamarack gear, knives, camping essentials, camp souvenirs, and merit badge supplies. If your scout is taking a merit with an additional cost, they can pay for what that merit badge needs at the trading post. Additionally, the trading post has merit badge books available for rental, there is a \$5 rental fee, but you get \$3 when it is returned in good condition.

The trading post porch has picnic tables to offer a great place to sit and relax during the middle of a busy camp week. The trading post also offers free coffee to leaders anytime the trading post is open.

Note: The trading post does sell bags of ice.

Expected hours of operation for both the Trading Post and Quartermaster (subject to change)

Sunday	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Monday-Thursday	8:45 AM – 11:45 AM 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday	8:45 AM – 11:45 AM 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	30 minutes immediately following campfire
Saturday	8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Quartermaster (QM)

Camp Tamarack's Quartermaster (QM) is attached to the Trading Post. The QM has weekly campsite supplies provided by the camp which include: trash can, shovel, rake, fire extinguisher, toilet paper, hose, and cleaning solution. These are available to pick up Sunday during check-in and should be checked in with the Quartermaster or Trading Post Staff in person before leaving Saturday morning or Friday evening for those leaving early.

The QM also has tools available to borrow for use in campsites and around camp for 'Good Turn' projects and camp improvements. Tools available: shovels, pickaxes, post hole diggers, saws, hand tools, and brush clearing tools. These tools are available to borrow for a day at a time and should be returned daily by 5pm. Just stop in at the trading post and they will be able to get you the tools you need. We do ask that any tools be cleaned up before returning them (just kick the dirt off) to help us maintain a clean workspace. THANKS!

Uniforms

Scouts and Leaders are strongly encouraged to wear the scout uniform for evening flags, evening meals, and campfires. Order of the Arrow members are permitted to wear their sash with their uniforms on Wednesday.

- Field Uniform: Scout shirt, Scout shorts or pants, Scout socks, and a Scout belt.
- Activity Uniform: Scout related or plain T-shirt, Scout shorts or pants, Scout socks, and a Scout belt

The uniform for evening flags is determined by the Health Officer and Camp Director in the early afternoon. A sign with a letter corresponding to the uniform will be posted on the health lodge door, and a group message will go out. "A" indicates field uniform and "B" indicates activity uniform. The standard uniform for evening flags and dinner is the field uniform unless weather conditions indicate the need to wear the activity uniform.

Vehicles

Vehicles may not be moved beyond the parking lot except for loading and unloading during arrival and departure from camp. Unless medically necessary, vehicles will not be permitted in camp during the week. Any vehicle parked in a camp site must have a vehicle permit issued by the Camp Director. **All vehicles without a vehicle permit must remain in the main parking lot.** Trailers detached from vehicles are permitted in most sites. Please plan for your Friday evening guests, vehicles may not be driven to the campsites, and must remain in the main parking lot.

Golf Carts

If you wish to bring a golf cart to camp, you must contact the Camp Director for approval no later than two weeks before you arrive at camp. Golf carts will be permitted for legitimate medical reasons and will not be provided by the camp. Proof of Insurance must be provided at check-in on Sunday.

Wi-Fi Policy

Camp Tamarack does have internet access available to all leaders. The Wi-Fi is password protected. Please see the Camp Director, Program Director, Commissioner, or signage in the Scout Leader Lounge to get the password.

S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth

All campers over the age of 18 staying in camp at any point are required to have completed Scouting America S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth and have a current training completion certificate available during in-processing.

Check Lists

Personal Gear

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Comb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap/Shampoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Scout Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook & Pens | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | | |

Clothing

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout Uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants/jeans | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket | |

Optional Gear

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Cot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Pack (Backpack) | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray |

What not to bring to camp

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Radios | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phones |

Things to remember while packing:

- Mark all your gear with your name and unit number
- Plan all your packing for a six-day trip
- Pack everything in watertight bags

Two important things:

1. Medical forms for every Scout AND Leader
2. Make sure all your Scouts are registered for their merit badge classes before you arrive

Unit Gear

- Alarm Clock
- Camp Chairs
- First Aid Kit
- Lantern Mantles
 - Patrol Flags
 - Saws
- Thumb Tacks
- US Flag
- Axes
- Cash
- Food Coolers
- Paper & Pens
- Propane Lantern
- Soap
- Unit Flag
- Binder Twine
- Dutch Ovens
- Tarps
- Patrol Boxes
- Rope
- Tents
- Unit library

Telephone

The camp phone should be used for emergencies and BSA business only. If you need to contact your Scout or Scouter while at camp, the camp phone number is 269.435.7533. For calls home please see the Camp Director.

Address

10891 Withers St, Jones, MI 49061

Tamarack Honors Worksheet

This is a sample of the Honors Worksheet. The final copy that will be used during camp will be given to the Unit Leader at check-in.



TAMARACK HONORS WORKSHEET



TROOP NO _____ Camp Site _____ Week # 1 2 3 4 5

DAILY

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Campsite						
US & Unit flags displayed	10 Points					
Camp layout functional	5 Points					
Campsite policed	5 Points					
Campsite Improvement	5 Points					
Improvement						
Administration						
Duty Roster posted and updated	5 Points					
On time for flags	10 Points					
Scouts in program areas	10 Points					
Safety						
First aid kit available (visible) in camp site	10 Points					
Ax yard in safe location	5 Points					
Ax yard tools stored correctly	5 Points					
No flame in tent displayed	5 Points					
Fire ring area safe	5 Points					
Fire Extinguisher/Tools stored correctly	5 Points					
Fire guard chart displayed and complete	5 Points					
Extra fuel stored at quarters	5 Points					
Fire properly attended	5 Points					
<i>Fire in campsite left unattended (- 100 points)</i>	<i>-100 points</i>					
Total Daily Points	100 Points					


SAMPLE

ACTIVITIES


Take a Unit Canoe Trip	20 points					
Take a Troop Swim	20 points					
Inter-Faith Chapel Service (MONDAY)	5-20 points					
Participate in the Cobbler Cookoff (MONDAY)	20 points					
Attend Indian Lore Program (TUESDAY)	5-20 points					
Attend Star Hike (TUESDAY)	5-20 points					
Participate in Camp Conservation Project (WEDNESDAY)	5-20 points					
Participate in the Mock Trial (THURSDAY)	5-20 points					
Participate in the Great Tamarack Canoe Race (THURSDAY)	5-20 points					
Camp Good Turn Project	20 points					
Participate in a Camp Color Guard	20 points					
Clean the Shower House	20 points					
Sweep Trading Post Porch	10 points					
Total Activity Points	160-250					
Total Points						

Commissioner's Award Worksheet

This is a SAMPLE of the Commissioners Award worksheet. The final copy that will be used during camp will be given to the Unit Leader at check-in.



COMMISSIONERS' AWARD



Week # 1 2 3 4 5

TROOP NO _____ Camp Site _____

Daily Required	Daily Achieved	Activity Earned
100 Points		
100 Points		
100 Points		
100 Points		
100 Points		
TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED		

SAMPLE

Service project from the "Good To Go Projects" list.

Project: _____

Date Completed: _____

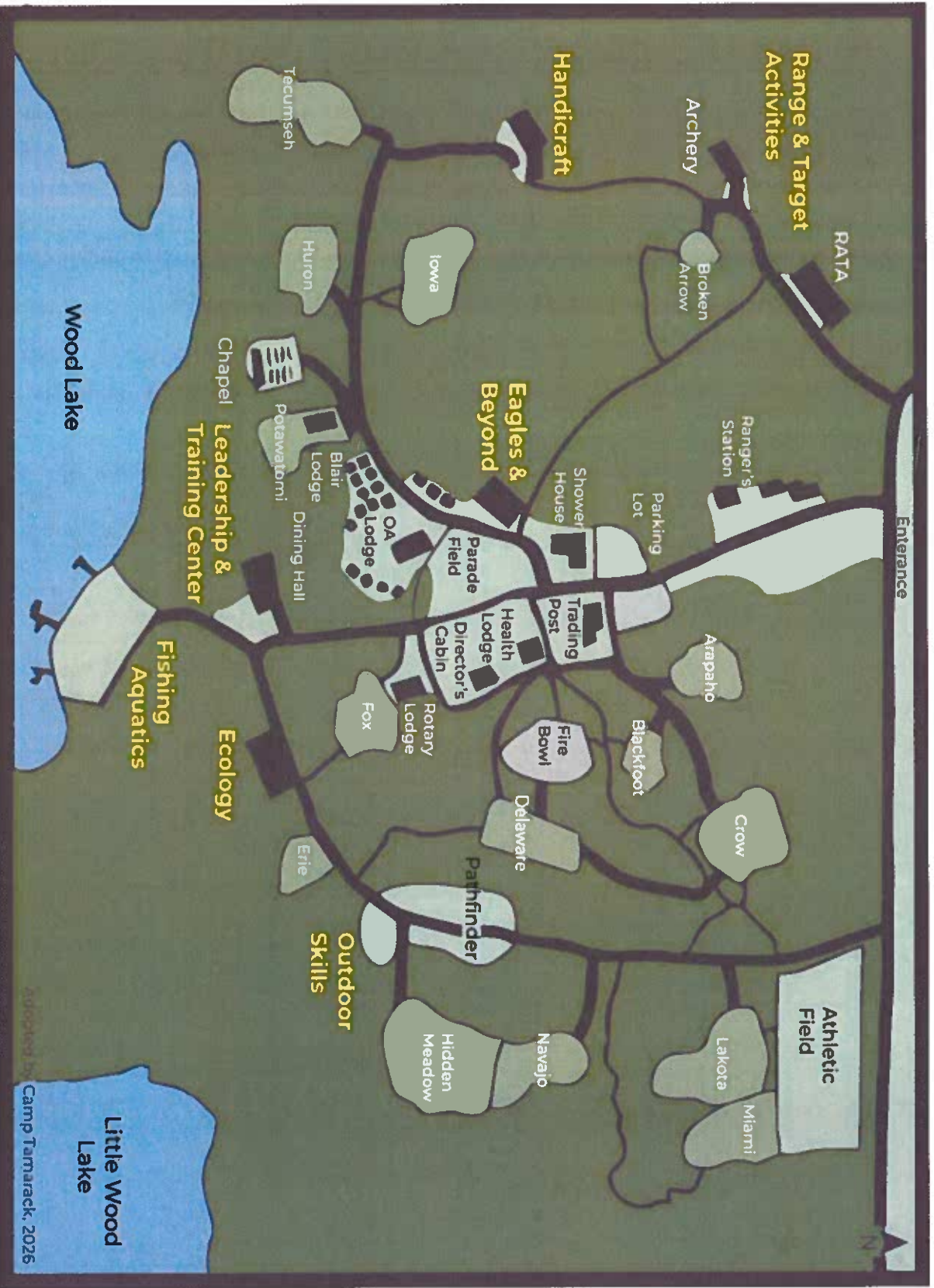
Permanent camp site or camp improvement - must be approved by the Camp Ranger

Improvement: _____

Date Completed: _____

Commissioners Award Approved:

Camp Commissioner/Date



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Camp Tamarack, 2026