

**American Heroes
Spring Camporee**

May 17-19, 2024



Event Guide

for all participants



Stearns Scout Camp

3303 Co Rd 44
South Haven, MN 55382

Welcome!

Welcome to the Northern Star Scouting "American Heroes" Spring Camporee. This event celebrates those heroes who helped form and shape this country as well as the indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live in it. There will be opportunities to satisfy requirements of three merit badges: American Heritage, Citizenship in the Nation, and Indian Lore.

There will be a variety of activity stations around the camp, some of them focused on specific merit badge requirements and some just for fun and activity. A few of the activities will require pre-registration for a specific time slot. Most will be open to be visited by any participant at any time and Scouts may have to wait in line much like when attending a fair.

Webelos Welcome!

This event is both a Spring Camporee and a Webelos experience introducing Webelos Scouts (and parents) to the Patrol Method and Scout-led camping. This event is also a great opportunity for Scouts to invite friends to join them to experience the Scouting program. Webelos Dens register with a Troop of their choosing. If there are enough, Webelos Scouts will form a Patrol under the leadership of two experienced Scouts BSA youth and work together in their campsite along with the other Scouts BSA Patrols from the Troop. If there are too few Webelos to form a Patrol, they can work with an existing Patrol in the Troop. **Attending Webelos will camp separately from the Troop and still need to follow all of the appropriate Cub Scout camping rules as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting.**

Advancement Opportunities

Tracking sheets will be issued to Scouts to be signed off if they complete specific requirements for the merit badges mentioned above. Scoutmasters are asked to ensure that each Scout has a signed merit badge card for each merit badge he or she is interested in working on. Note that some requirements can be met at the Camporee but some must be done outside the Camporee. Detailed lists of requirements are available for download on the event registration site.

Honor Veteran Friends and Family

Since our nation's founding until the present day, many men and women have served and sacrificed for our country's freedom and for the freedom of others around the world. Some made the ultimate sacrifice. We get to enjoy our communities and what life opportunities are available to us, because of our veterans.

We would like to invite you to share the stories of the veterans and current service members, from war time or peace time, living and deceased, from your families, at this Camporee. This is an opportunity for our youth to get a glimpse of what our freedoms cost. This is also an opportunity to write down your loved one's stories. Please do your part to help keep their memory alive.

Please submit an article about your family's veteran(s) with any scanned service photos you might have of them to the Council. A poster of your veteran will be made to be displayed in our "Hall of Heroes." The Camporee is spanning our Nation's history from its founding to present day. Please feel free to submit stories of family veterans from any of those time periods. You can email them to daveyarusso@gmail.com. An example story is available for download on the event registration site.

Event Schedule

Time	Friday	Location
5:00 to 8:30	Arrival, camp setup, introductions	Parking by camping location: McClintock Shelter road for Field Camping area Tonkawa Lodge parking lot for "D" campsites (east of Tonkawa)
8:00 to 9:30	Unit check-in with final rosters	Tonkawa Lodge
Time	Saturday	
7:00 to 8:30	Breakfast & Cleanup	Troop campsites
8:30 to 8:45	Campwide Flag Raising - Opening Ceremony	Flagpole at east side of field east of Diamond Lake Lodge
9:00 to 12:00	Activity stations open	
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch & Cleanup	Troop campsites
1:00 to 4:00	Activity stations open	
4:00 to 5:00	Free Time	
5:00 to 7:00	Supper and cleanup	Troop campsites
7:00 to 8:00	Campfire Program, Awards, and Recognition	Natural amphitheater near McClintock Shelter
8:00 to 9:00	Troop Fellowship, snacks	Troop campsites
10:00	Taps - Quiet Time	
Time	Sunday	
7:00 to 8:00	Breakfast, cleanup, break camp	
8:00 to 9:30	Site inspection, checkout	

Adult Training:

Conversation about the transition from Cub Scouting to the Scouts BSA program for Webelos parents and adult leaders: 9-10:30 on Saturday under Foust picnic pavilion.



Program Areas on Map

1. Indian Lore
2. Lacrosse
3. Letters, News, Speeches, Hall of Heroes
4. Inflatable axe throwing
5. Civil War Era Cannon - New Ulm Battery
6. Ga Ga Ball
7. Obstacle Course
8. Field Navigation
9. Field Communication
10. Veteran Interviews
11. Climbing
12. Shooting Sports (North Range)
13. Shooting Sports (South Range)
14. American Revolution and Founding Documents
15. World War II Reenactors
16. Steel Forging
17. Disc Golf (West Course)
18. Disc Golf (East Course)

Merit Badge Related Activity Areas

Founding Documents (Citizenship in Nation Reqs. 1-4, American Heritage Req. 1)

Copies of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution (including preamble) will be provided. Scouts can use these resources to work on the associated requirements with a counselor. Pocket Constitutions will be available for Scouts to take with them. (Deckenbach Lodge)

Letter writing to Senator and Congressional Representative (Citizenship in the Nation Req. 8)

Names and addresses of Senators and Congressional Representatives and maps of Congressional Districts to help determine who the Scout's Representative is. Scouts will write a letter to their Senators and Representatives expressing their views on an issue of national importance and prepare it for mailing. (Tonkawa Lodge)

Topics in the News (Citizenship in the Nation Req. 5, American Heritage Req. 3a)

Copies of various newspapers will be available from a recent 5 day period. Scouts can read the major stories and discuss them with a counselor according to the merit badge requirements. (Tonkawa Lodge)

Historic Speeches (Citizenship in the Nation Req. 6)

Copies of various historic speeches will be available for Scouts to read and explain to a counselor to meet the requirements. (Tonkawa Lodge)

Popular Songs from Periods in American History (American Heritage Req. 5c)

Recordings and/or lyrics of songs from various eras in American History will be available to Scouts to discuss with a counselor to meet the requirement. Distributed by era: Revolution – Deckenbach Lodge; Civil War – Foust Picnic Pavilion, WWII – Whitewater Lodge

Indian Lore (Advance reservations for time slot required)

Learn about the history of Native American people in Minnesota, especially the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and some aspects of their culture. Learn native crafts and games. (Diamond Lake Lodge)

Veteran Interviews (American Heritage, Req. 2c)

Veterans will be available for interviews by Scouts. Scouts should come prepared with some questions they want to ask about the veterans' experiences. (Akela Lodge)

Theme Related Activity Areas

Sons of the American Revolution

This group will provide a living history exhibit with period uniforms, artifacts, and information about the Revolutionary War. (Deckenbach Lodge, south end of camp)

Women in World War II

The "Cat's Meow" Women's group will present information about the roles of women in World War II. (Whitewater Lodge, south end of camp)

Hall of Heroes

Tour posters and exhibits contributed by Scout families about relatives who served the US in military or support positions. (On display in Tonkawa Lodge.)

Field Communication

Scouts will try their hand at communicating messages with a basic telegraph key and wire system strung between field locations. This was the primary method available during the Civil War. They can also try out WWII era field phones. (Field east of Tonkawa Lodge)

Boot Camp Obstacle Course

Test your skills through an obstacle course including tires, balance beam, cargo net, belly crawl, and other challenges. (North end of Diamond Lake Field)

Field Navigation

Use a map and compass to find your way around an orienteering course, checking in at each control point. Use the information on the map about terrain to help choose the

best route. These are skills that have been and remain critical in warfare. (Start and end under Foust Picnic Pavilion)

New Ulm Battery Civil War Era Cannon

Established in 1863, the New Ulm Battery remains the only town-based Civil War-era militia in the country that is still in existence.

The New Ulm Battery was formed to protect the town in the aftermath of the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Today, the Battery is still around to serve as an historic reminder of the town of New Ulm's past.

The Battery (wearing period uniforms) will have the original Civil War era cannon on display throughout the day on Saturday near the Foust Picnic Pavilion east of Tonkawa Lodge.

Forging Steel

Try your hand at forging steel with a portable forge, hammer, and anvil. You can bring your piece of shaped metal home as a souvenir. (Maintenance building.)

Lacrosse

Scouts can try their hand at Lacrosse, a game with roots in various indigenous tribes in North America. (Field east of Diamond Lake Lodge)

Other Activity Areas

Shooting Sports (Advance reservations for time slot and additional fee are required)

Shooting sports will include archery, 22 caliber rifle (Scouts BSA only), and BB rifle (Webelos or Scouts BSA). The north range will include archery and BB rifles. The south range will include archery and 22 caliber rifles. Shooting Sports Waivers and wristbands (issued to those with reserved Shooting Sports tickets) are required for everyone who will be shooting. See waiver included on the registration page. You will have an opportunity to try the Minuteman Marksmanship Challenge on the rifle ranges, shooting 10 shots at a one-inch square with the goal to get all ten shots inside the square.

Inflatable Axe Throwing

Try your hand at hitting the target on our inflatable axe throwing range (with Velcro axes and targets). It's all in the timing of the axe rotations! (Outside east side of Tonkawa Lodge)

Climbing Tower

With its four different climbing faces, scouts will have multiple ways to reach new heights! All climbing gear is provided at the tower. Climbers must have closed toe shoes to climb. Experienced and trained climbing staff will run this station.

Gaga Ball

Ga...Ga...Ball!!!!!! Everyone's favorite outdoor scout game. Adult supervision required for safe game play. Bring your adults with you to this station. Due to the popularity of this station, the time for each group of participants will be limited.

Disc Golf

Can you toss a frisbee? If the answer is yes, then you can try out this cool activity. Like regular golf, you will play a series of holes (fields) where the goal is to get your disc (frisbee) into the goal (metal basket). For each toss thrown you score a point. As your skills grow it will take you less tosses to get the disc into the basket. It might seem a little silly but the lower the score the higher your 'pro' level. Discs and maps provided.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow lodge is celebrating the 100th year as a Lodge. Stop by the Order of the Arrow Information booth to learn more. Located in the Field east of Diamond Lake Lodge. If you are not a member of the OA, learn about how you can be elected into the OA or if you already are an OA member, stop by and learn about all the great opportunities you have available, such as special OA high adventure treks at each of the High Adventure bases.

Gear and Parking

All participants should be prepared to carry their personal gear up to a half mile from the parking area to the campsite.

Each Unit in the "D" campsite area will be allowed to park one vehicle and a Unit trailer near the site but it will need to be moved in once and parked for the duration of the event. All other vehicles will need to park in the Tonkawa Lodge parking lot. To minimize the amount of gear that needs to be carried from Tonkawa, you may want to collect gear in the vehicle and trailer that will be issued a pass to park near the campsite

Units camping in the Field camping area will have all vehicles parked in spaces along the road leading to McClintock Shelter. Because we will park vehicles as units arrive, individual vehicles may not be adjacent to their site but all the sites are relatively close to the road. These sites do not have tables or fire rings. Units wanting to have a fire will need to bring a portable fire ring raised off the ground. Tables are available under McClintock Shelter.

Personal Gear to Bring

1. A Class A uniform shirt is a must for all Scouts.
2. A hat.
3. A pair of comfortable hiking boots or walking shoes (Keep them properly tied to prevent blisters).
4. One extra pair of shoes, in case the first pair gets wet.
5. One change of trousers and shirt.
6. Three pairs of socks.
7. Two sets of underwear.
8. Toiletry kit, containing: towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb.
9. Sweatshirt or light jacket. (Heavier outerwear if the weather dictates).
10. Poncho or raincoat, with rain hat or hood (A MUST).
11. Sleeping bag or blankets. We will be tent camping. A cot, air mattress, or sleeping mat will also make you more comfortable.
12. Pillow
13. Eating utensils: plate, cup, knife, fork, and spoon (unless your Troop provides these).
14. Flashlight or headlamp and extra batteries.
15. Lawn chair or camp stool for adults. (You may want to bring reading materials for your free time).
16. Water bottle
17. Handbook
18. Compass
19. Watch. Don't be late for meals!
20. Sunscreen

NOTE: Make sure all your personal gear is marked with your name!

Troop Preparation for Troops hosting Webelos

Besides planning as you would for any weekend campout, if you are hosting a Webelos Den, you will need to prepare the Webelos Scouts and their accompanying leaders and parents. If you have a relationship with a specific Pack, we encourage you to contact their Webelos leaders, invite them to participate in the event, and coordinate with them. Please agree on an arrival time so that the Webelos Scouts and parents can set up camp with you when they arrive if they do not travel with the troop.

Coordinate with your Webelos guests as you would with any other patrol in your troop to ensure that they have proper youth leadership, food, and shelter for the weekend.

Model the Patrol Method according to the practices in your troop. Ensure the Webelos have appropriate youth leadership assigned to guide them through the weekend within the campsite and while participating in adventures.

Ensure Webelos and their adult partners are part of your meal planning process. Be sure that the Webelos have food and can prepare it with the rest of the Troop.

Ensure that the Webelos and their adult partners have appropriate shelter for the weekend according to practices in your troop and youth protection guidelines.

Welcome the Webelos adult partners into your adult patrol with food and shelter according to practices in your Troop. Explain how the Scouts BSA program works and how the Methods of Scouting are implemented by your Troop. Encourage them to attend the 9:00 am training session on Saturday.

This is your chance to showcase Scouting in your Troop and recruit Webelos Scouts into the Scouts BSA program!

You should identify two Troop Guides for the Webelos Patrol at this event. These Scouts should have the necessary skill and mindset to effectively help and teach these Webelos Scouts to work together and to do basic camp tasks on their own without the help of their parents. They will also be leading them through the program activities on Saturday.

Your Troop will be planning and purchasing its own food as you would for a weekend campout or a typical Camporee. If you are coordinating with a specific Webelos Den, you could coordinate with them on the menu planning for their Patrol and adults. The Troop Guides should be eating with the Webelos Patrol.

You should designate an adult leader to be the primary liaison to the Webelos Den leader and the Webelos parents. This person should be prepared to help explain the Scouts BSA program, how Scout youth leadership works in your Troop and encourage them to observe their Webelos Scouts operating independently. They should also accompany the Webelos adults to the 9:00 am training session designed for them on Saturday.

Webelos Patrols will be given materials to make a Patrol flag. We encourage other Patrols to bring a Patrol flag if they have one and carry it to the Saturday campfire.

Attending Webelos will be camping in their own designated area away from the Troops per the Guide to Safe Scouting, following all appropriate Cub Scout camping regulations.

Webelos Den Preparation (Scouts, Leaders, and Parents)

We strongly encourage at least one parent/guardian of each Webelos Scout to attend this event. There will be a presentation on Saturday afternoon to explain the Scouts BSA program and answer questions parents may have about their Scout's transition to the Scouts BSA program. You will also get to see the program in action throughout the weekend by camping with a Troop.

If you have a relationship with a specific Troop, we encourage you to contact their leaders, encourage them to participate in the event, and indicate your desire to be included in their registration.

You will be camping with a Troop and they will generally provide the tents and cooking gear for your Scouts. Check with your Troop to be sure. Your Webelos Scouts will work as one of the Patrols in the Troop with two Scouts BSA youth leaders assigned to serve

as their Troop Guides for the weekend. The Webelos Den adults will camp with the Troop adults in the same site. Webelos Scouts are encouraged to tent with one another as the Scouts BSA youth will do but Webelos families can choose to have their Scout tent with their parent/guardian, if desired. Webelos Den adults should provide their own tents if available or can check to see if the Troop can provide them. You should also coordinate arrival times so that you will be able to set up camp with the Troop when you arrive.

The Webelos Scouts will have the opportunity to work together under Scout youth leadership to carry out basic camping tasks including tent setup, fire building, getting water, cooking for themselves, and cleaning up. They will also work together throughout the day on Saturday as they move through the event activities, games, and challenges.

Please communicate with the Troop to coordinate a menu and food purchase plan for your Webelos Den/Patrol and adults as well as for the two youth from the Troop who will serve as Troop Guides for the Webelos Patrol.

Each Webelos Den/Patrol will be provided with materials to make a Patrol flag (white pillowcase and fabric markers). It would be helpful for the Webelos Scouts to discuss a possible Patrol name and design for the flag at a Den meeting prior to this event. They can work on making this flag during any free time and should plan to carry it to the Saturday campfire.

Attending Webelos will be camping in their own designated area away from the Troops per the Guide to Safe Scouting, following all appropriate Cub Scout camping regulations.