



Melita Island Program Guide 2024



Melita Island 2024 Program Guide

Welcome to Camp Melita Island! We're excited to host you and your Scouts for an amazing week on Flathead Lake. We encourage you to review this guide and share the information with Scouts and families. Our staff has prepared for merit badge and activity instruction to ensure your Scouts both meet the badge requirements and have fun!

All merit badge sign-ups are online! Melita Island does not use blue cards. Our new registration system allows you to select badges for your Scouts, pay any associated fees, review prerequisite requirements, download and print schedules and advancement reports, and upload final badge information into your unit's Scoutbook account. You can also give parents direct access to select badges and pay fees using the "Parent Portal". More information on these features will be available on our website and at camp.



Trail to First Class

Melita Island no longer offers a morning-long Trail to First Class program. Instead, Scouts can work on specific rank advancement requirements during our Open Program times from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday). Each day will focus on a set of advancement requirements such as wood tools, first aid, etc. The specific schedule for these drop-in programs will be announced at camp. Please note that Melita Staff does not "sign off" on requirements. It is the unit's responsibility to confirm (and approve) that Scouts have individually met each requirement.

A.C.E. (Advanced Camper Experience)

The A.C.E. program provides a challenging experience for your older Scouts, ages 14 - 17. This program replaces the merit badge program. Scouts in the A.C.E. program will not be able to take other badges. Many of the activities are water-based. Scouts must pass the BSA Swimmer Test to participate. While the specifics of this year's A.C.E. program are still being finalized, previous year's programs have included Watersports, Sailing, High Ropes, SCUBA, Hiking, Kayaking, and Rafting. Final program details will be released prior to camp. There is an additional \$115 fee for the A.C.E. program, which is charged through your camp registration. A.C.E. participants should bring a swimsuit, hiking gear, sunscreen, water bottle, and a positive attitude! Note that if an A.C.E. participant is also a Senior Patrol Leader, he/she will miss most of the daily SPL meetings. A representative should be designated in their absence.

New Merit Badges and Programs in 2024

New Badges: Oceanography, Sculpture, Pulp and Paper, Bugling, Exploration, Scouting Heritage.

New Programs: Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) training for adult leaders will be held from 10 a.m. -12 p.m., Monday - Thursday, plus one day extending over lunch.

Merit Badge Areas

Merit Badge Prerequisite Requirements

Please note that some merit badges have prerequisite requirements that the Scout must complete away from camp. Prerequisite requirement details will be posted on our website resources. Most of these have to do with planning and executing requirements at home or time periods beyond that available at camp. Merit Badges with prerequisites are indicated on the following pages with an asterisk (*).

Boating Area

Our Boating Area offers the best of Melita Island and Flathead Lake. Scouts learn new skills and expand their experiences through several boating merit badges. Additionally, the BSA Paddle Boarding Award is offered. Open Boating time in the afternoon and some evenings provides ample opportunity to explore boating activities outside of merit badges, as well. **Note:** Scouts must be BSA Swimmers to take most Boating Area badges. Scout-appropriate swimwear is required. **Due to the rocky terrain of Melita Island, closed-toe shoes are required. Water shoes are recommended for boating and swimming activities.** Small Boat Sailing is reserved for Scouts 14+ due to the frequent difficult conditions and strong winds.



CANOEING



KAYAKING



MOTOR
BOATING



ROWING



SMALL
BOAT
SAILING



WATER
SPORTS

Swimming Area

Our Swimming Area on Flathead Lake is an excellent place to relax, have fun, and cool off on a hot summer day. We also offer several inflatables for Scouts to enjoy with their friends! In addition to merit badges, Instructional Swim, and the BSA Snorkeling Award, Melita Swimming Area offers BSA Aquatics Supervision Certification for older Scouts and adults. Polar Bear Swim is offered before breakfast (specific days and times TBD) as well as the Mile Swim. **Note:** Scouts must be BSA Swimmers to take Swimming Area badges. Scout-appropriate swimwear is required. **Due to the rocky terrain of Melita Island, closed-toe shoes are required. Water shoes are recommended for boating and swimming activities.**



SWIMMING



LIFESAVING



SNORKELING
BSA



POLAR
PLUNGE



BSA MILE
SWIM

BSA Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue Training

Melita Island is excited to offer BSA Aquatics Supervision (formerly BSA Lifeguard) for older Scouts age 15+ and adults. The week-long training course gives Scouters the information and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies during unit swimming activities. This training expands upon the BSA Safe Swim Defense training and is recommended by the BSA for unit-based swimming activities when certified lifeguards are not present.

Prerequisites: age 15 or older, Safe Swim Defense training, BSA Swimmer, CPR Certification. Youth must also have earned the BSA Lifesaving Merit Badge to participate in this course.

Instructional Swim

Designed for those Scouts who haven't yet passed the BSA Swimmer Test, Instructional Swim focuses on the basics of swimming, including getting comfortable in the water, basic swimming strokes, and the fun of aquatics!

STEM Area

Using our island's unique setting, we offer each of these merit badges while immersed in nature. Endeavoring to stay at the edge of modern merit badge classes and emerging technology, Melita Island created the STEM area. Despite being remote, you can still enjoy many of life's technological luxuries.



* ASTRONOMY



* FORESTRY



* BIRD STUDY



* CHEMISTRY



PLANT
SCIENCE



* ENGINEERING



CHESS



* INVENTING



* NATURE



* OCEANOGRAPHY



* ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE



ROBOTICS



* SOIL AND
WATER
CONSERVATION



* WEATHER

Fine Arts Program

We have established a fine arts program that piques the interest of each person who gets involved. Basic skills are taught to provide the working knowledge and, hopefully, the interest to take the skill to a level beyond the minimum required.



SCULPTURE



ART



LEATHERWORK



BASKETRY



ANIMATION



* PULP AND
PAPER



PHOTOGRAPHY



* THEATER



* WOOD CARVING

Outdoor Skills Programs and Shooting Sports

The heart of traditional camping programs lies in the learning of basic outdoor skills. At Melita Island, we seek to instill a love of the outdoors and an appreciation for active contributions to its stewardship. We teach and use the principles of Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, Toten' Chip, Firem'n Chit, Conservation, and other basic outdoor skills. We offer skill instruction for a wide range of outdoor merit badges.

Please note that most of these merit badges have prerequisite requirements that the Scout must complete away from camp. Most of these have to do with planning and executing requirements with their home troop, or time periods beyond that available at camp.



* FIRST AID



* EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



GEOCACHING



* BUGLING



ORIENTEERING



SEARCH AND RESCUE



WILDERNESS SURVIVAL



PIONEERING



* CAMPING



SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND CODES



ARCHERY



* SCOUTING HERITAGE



* EXPLORATION



* FIRE SAFETY

Fishing



* Per Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) regulations, fishing on Flathead Lake requires a license for ages 12 and up. Please see Page 9 of the Leaders Guide for more information.



ANNUAL MONTANA COUNCIL

PHOTO CONTEST

Did you just take a photo you are particularly proud of? Celebrate Scouting in Montana by entering the annual council photo contest. It's never too early to enter.

Scouts and Scout leaders of all ages are welcome to participate.

Ready to submit today? Scan the code at right to use the online form or email photocontest@montanabsa.org. Be sure to visit the website for full details and contest guidelines.



PHOTO CONTEST

Adult Programs and Activities

NEW FOR 2024: Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS). IOLS will be held from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monday-Thursday, plus one day extending over lunch. Registration in advance is required (using the same system as merit badge signup).

We want camp to be fun for adults, too! At Melita Island, our Commissioner provides a variety of fun and informative activities for adult leaders. BSA Trainings are also provided (specific training plans TBD). Some of the activities offered to adults are: Boat Rides, Breakfast/Dinner on the Lake, Sailing, and Pie Making.

Other Camp Activities

Theme Days - Each day at Melita we plan for themes to flair up your outfits! Scouts and adults are encouraged to bring items for each theme day. Theme "swag" can be worn for morning flags and throughout the day. Attire for evening flags and dinner is the regular BSA field uniform.

DAY	THEME	WHAT IT INCLUDES
Monday	Montana Monday	Classical western attire: denim, boots, big belt buckles, cowpoke headwear.
Tuesday	Tourist Tuesday	Wear your Hawaiian shirts, fanny pack, and best tourist gear. Smile for the camera!
Wednesday	Wacky Wednesday	To the tune of Dr. Seuss, It's a weird day! Wear a wacky fit, In a wacky way.
Thursday	Throwback Thursday	Wearing the best fits from yesteryear! Pick a decade and go all out: bell bottoms, tie dye, neon, snapbacks, whatever you like.
Friday	Freedom Friday	Wear your red, white and blue- 'Merica!

Evening Programs

Each night at Melita Island, Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in non-merit badge programs led by our staff. The tentative schedule (subject to change) for these evening programs is below.

SUNDAY

Opening Campfire: Join us for a welcoming campfire with skits and songs led by our camp staff.

MONDAY

Camp-wide Scavenger Hunt: Start in one spot, solve the rhyme. This might take a little time! Try each activity, do your best. Just be faster than the rest.

TUESDAY

Boating and Swimming: Scouts and their buddies can choose from boating or swimming areas for Tuesday and Thursday evening programs. Enjoy a swim or have fun out on the boats.

WEDNESDAY

Trivia Night and Patch Trading: Come up with your team's name and challenge your knowledge! After testing your mind, join our staff for some patch-trading fun. You never know what patches you might come across!

THURSDAY

Boating and Swimming: Scouts and their buddies can choose from boating or swimming areas for Tuesday and Thursday evening programs. Enjoy a swim or have fun out on the boats. Vespers.

FRIDAY

Closing Campfire: It's the troops' turn to entertain us with skits and songs!

Additional Fees

Some of the merit badges have additional fees or costs associated. Most fees will be charged directly to your unit's online registration when the badge is selected. Final balances for program fees must be paid before departing Melita at the end of your week.

COURSE:	COST
Motorboating	\$5
Basketry	\$10
Leatherwork	\$10
Sculpture	\$10
Wood Carving	\$15
Watersports	\$15
A.C.E	\$115

CONTACT INFORMATION:

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE: Kirsten Steele, kirsten.steele@scouting.org

CAMP DIRECTOR: Ashley Jerome, ashley.jerome@montanabsa.org

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Ryan Hollinger, 16hollingerr@gmail.com

COUNCIL SUPPORT: Terry Dutton, terry.dutton@scouting.org

Sunday Schedule		
Time	Activity	Location
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Arrival	Melita Gateway
	Troop Check-in	Pavillion
	Swim Checks	Waterfront
5:00-5:45 PM	Troop Time	
5:45 PM	Evening Flags	Flag Pole (located in front of the Lodge)
6:00 PM	Dinner	Lodge
7:00 PM	Camp Tour	Meet at the Lodge Porch
	Scoutmaster and SPL meeting	Pavillion
8:30 PM	Opening Campfire	Firebowl
10:00 PM	Taps/Lights Out	

Time	Daily Schedule
6:30 - 7:30	Polar Bear Swim / Mile Swim (Specific Days TBD)
7:00 - 7:45	Revielle / Troop Time
7:45	Morning Flags
8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast
9:15	Adult Leader Meeting (Commissioner Area)
9:00 - 12:00	Morning Badges / Programs
12:30 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00	SPL Meeting
1:00 - 2:00	Troop Time / Siesta
2:00 - 3:30	Afternoon Badges / Programs
3:30 - 5:00	Open Program Areas
5:00 - 5:45	Troop Time
5:45	Flags
6:00 - 6:45	Dinner
7:00 - 8:30	Evening Program
8:45	Evening Snack (M - F)
9:00 - 10:00	Troop Time
10:00	Quiet Hours / Lights Out

Friday Program Schedule		
Time	Activity	Location
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Merit Badge Wrap-up	All Program Areas Open
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Water Carnival	Stations Throughout Camp
4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Scoutmaster Belly Flop	Boat Docks
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Campers' Campfire *	Firebowl

*All skits, songs, run-ons, etc must be pre-approved by Admin and follow the policies set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. [Details about these policies can be found here.](#)

Merit Badge Schedule

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:00-11:50	12:00 – 2:00	2:00-2:50	3:00-3:30	3:30-5:00		
Waterfront	Lifesaving		Lifesaving	Lunch and Siesta Time	Instructional swim			Open Program (Separate Schedule Will Be Provided)	
	BSA Aquatics Supervision certification		Swimming		Swimming				
			Instructional Swim		Snorkeling	Snorkeling	Snorkeling		
STEM	Environmental Science		Environmental Science		Astronomy		Chess		
	Forestry/Soil and Water	Weather	Oceanography		Plant Science	Chemistry			Inventing
	Bird Study	Nature			Astronomy	Engineering	Robotics		
Fine Arts	Theater	Photography	Animation		Art	Sculpture	Pulp and Paper		
	Leatherwork	Wood Carving	Leatherwork		Woodcarving		Basketry		
Archery	Archery		Archery		Archery				
Outdoor Skills	First Aid	Search and Rescue	Emergency Preparedness		First Aid	Fire Safety			
	Signs, Signals, and Codes	Orienteering		Exploration	Scouting Heritage				
	Pioneering	Camping	Geocaching	Bugling	Wilderness Survival				
Fishing	Fishing		Fishing						
Boating	Kayaking	Kayaking	Kayaking	Kayaking					
	Water Sports		Water Sports		Water Sports				
	Motorboating	Motorboating		Motorboating	Paddle-boarding	Paddle-boarding			
	Rowing	Canoeing		Canoeing	Canoeing				
	Small Boat Sailing		Small Boat Sailing		Small Boat Sailing				

All badges are held Monday-Thursday (Except Paddleboarding where sessions are Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday)



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