

# Patriots' Path Camps

## 2025 Summer Leaders' Guide



# PATRIOTS' PATH CAMPS

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[www.PPCScouting.org](http://www.PPCScouting.org)



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## Introduction

Please take a moment to read through the *Patriots' Path Camps Guide*. This consolidated guide brings together information that is applicable to both Camp Somers and Camp Winnebago. This guide provides important information for both leaders and parents involved with the camps.

Some of the important updates that are in this guide:

- **E-Z Check-In Update:** The check-in process has been updated with new CampDoc information, likely for smoother and faster registration.
- **New Security Measures:** Additional security protocols have been implemented, enhancing safety at the camps.
- **Availability of Guide:** The guide is available on the website for leaders to share with parents, ensuring they have the latest details for their Scouts.

It is important that both leaders and parents review this guide and the camp-specific Leaders' Guide to stay informed about all changes. Should you have any questions, the Outdoor Program Group is available for support

## Preparing for Camp

### 2025 Camp Dates

- Week 1            July 06 – July 12
- Week 2            July 13 – July 19
- Week 3            July 20 – July 26
- Week 4            July 27 – August 02

### Planning Calendar

Backdate	Item
As early as possible	Complete the site deposit form before leaving camp
Fall	Schedule a summer camp promotion for your unit
Fall	Troop camp leader selected
Late March	Camp required forms, equipment lists, and letter to parents
April 1	Camping scholarship application deadline
April 1	Early Bird deadline (\$75 per youth)
April 5	Winnebago leaders' meeting at 10:00 a.m.
April 6	Somers leaders' meeting at 12:00 p.m.
May 21	Merit badge class registration opens at 5 p.m.
May/June	Scouts review merit badge requirements and prerequisites
May/June	Scouts set individual goals
May/June	Troop program developed
May/June	Inform parents of camp plans and activities
1 Month Prior	Finalize merit badge planning
1 Week Prior	Troop equipment prepared

### Financial Information

#### 2025 Fees and Due Dates

Fee	Early Bird	Regular
Scout Fee	\$565	\$640
Extra Adult Leader Fee	\$200	\$200
Site Deposit		\$250 (nonrefundable)

- Early Bird fees must be received by April 1, 2025.
- Free leader policy – three free leaders per troop.
- Site deposit – \$250, non-refundable. Must be applied to 2025 total camp fees.

## Discounts

### **Multi-Week Discount**

20% off additional weeks at PPC Camps for Cubs and Scouts. Scouts attending National High Adventure camps and \*NYLT are also eligible. (\*Aug. 2024, Nov. 2024, & June 2025 NYLT courses can receive the discount for 2025 Summer Camp.) Requests for the multi-week discount (other than multiple weeks at PPC summer camps) must be requested August 31, 2025. Multiple weeks at PPC summer camps will automatically discount the second week of camp as long as you use the same name and unit information.

### **Sibling Discount**

\$50 sibling discount. The first youth is at early or regular pricing (based on payment date), each additional youth take \$50 off. Applies to Cubs, Camp Somers, and Camp Winnebago - does not include Camp COLEY or treks.

### **Troop Discount**

Bring 12 Scouts to a resident PPC Camp, get 2 free. After the first 12, you will receive 1 free Scout for every additional 6 that attend camp. This discount will be processed after the 2025 Summer Camp season concludes.

### **Military**

Patriots' Path Council strongly believes in thanking our military for their service. In appreciation of their military service, we offer a summer camp discount to these Scouting families. Scouts of active-duty service personnel receive a 50% discount on one week of summer camp. Call our office at 973-765-9322 x 225 for details.

### **AOL's**

AOL's crossing over receive Early Bird Pricing at PPC Camps. Call our office at 973-765-9322 x 225 for details.

### **Payments**

Full payment for all Scouts and leaders attending summer camp must be received one week prior to your arrival at camp. This will allow time to order and prepare sufficient food and arrange for adequate supplies. It is extremely difficult to accommodate multiple additional Scouts and adults arriving at the last minute.

Payment may be made online in our reservation system through your unit camping coordinator. Payment may also be paid with a single troop check and submit a *Summer Camp Site Reservation and Payment Form* with each payment. Be sure to complete your unit information and the payment section. The form is available in the Kurland Family Scout Shop.

### **Refunds**

Individuals or groups that cancel a program reservation 30 days prior to the event date will receive a refund of fees paid less an administrative charge of 15% of the total paid. No refund will be made after the 30-day cancellation deadline. All cancellations and refund requests must be made in writing (mail or email) and sent to the council service center, Attn: Camping Department. This policy is strictly enforced – no exceptions. Site deposits are non-refundable.

### **Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarship**

Every Scout should be given the opportunity to take part in all Scouting activities. The Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarship program has been established so that Scout families will find these programs within reach. Thomas A. Pepe Camping Scholarships are open to all Patriots' Path Council youth. The application deadline for summer camp programs is April 1, 2025.

Visit our website at [www.ppcscouting.org/camping](http://www.ppcscouting.org/camping) for the scholarship application link.

### **Troop Trailers**

If possible, please bring your trailer to camp on **Saturday prior to camp, from 3 to 6 p.m.** You will be able to park it at your campsite and leave it there for the week. If you prefer you can drop your trailer in the parking lot with it clearly marked with your unit number, and we will put it in your site. This helps us minimize vehicle traffic on camp roads while Scouts are in camp. We can make accommodation for units arriving Sunday with a trailer, please call the camp office.

### **Pre-Camp Leaders' Meeting**

The 2025 Camp Winnebago summer camp kickoff meeting will be held **Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM** at the Winnebago Scout Reservation Dining Hall at 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, NJ 07866.

The 2025 Camp Somers summer camp kickoff meeting will be held **Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 12:00 PM** at the Camp Somers – Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation Dining Hall at 750 Waterloo Road, Stanhope, NJ 07874.

Please arrive 10 minutes before the start time to sign in.

One adult from your troop must attend this meeting. The camp directors and staff will be there to highlight this year's exciting activities, help you customize your experience with us, and answer your questions. If you cannot attend, most of the handouts will be posted to [ppcscouting.org/camping/camps](http://ppcscouting.org/camping/camps) after the meeting.

### **E-Z Check-In**

We would like to make your Sunday check-in more efficient and less time-consuming. By taking advantage of our pre-camp E-Z Check-In, you can spend less time waiting and more time at your campsite.

***Each camper must complete the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, parts A, B, and C. Patriots' Path Council is using CampDoc, a digital medical record, to collect this information. This record is required for all Scouts and adults in camp. Forms are good for one year.***

***You will receive information via email regarding creating a CampDoc profile upon completing your summer camp registration. You will complete the Annual Health and Medical Record in CampDoc. If you plan to attend multiple sessions, your medical form is valid for the whole summer.***

***For assistance with CampDoc, please see the CampDoc FAQ at [www.PPCScouting.org/camping](http://www.PPCScouting.org/camping), or contact Dave Kopsa at [David.Kopsa@scouting.org](mailto:David.Kopsa@scouting.org).***



Pre-camp E-Z Check-In is held **the Tuesday prior to the week you are attending camp**, at 7:00 pm in the Camp Somers Office. All units are strongly encouraged to have one adult attend E-Z Check-In. E-Z Check-In will review the following:

- **Camp Roster** - The roster must be printed from Black Pug. It must include all Scouts and adults staying at camp, including those staying only one night. Please include all the cell phone numbers of the adults listed on the roster in case of emergency. Rosters can be downloaded from your reservation by selecting the Reports Tab located above the Registration Contact area.
- **Annual Health and Medical Records** - Required for all Scouts and leaders. Parts A, B, and C must be completed and signed in CampDoc.
- **My.Scouting Roster & Youth Protection Training** - A unit roster downloaded from My.Scouting in PDF form only with a date generated within a week of the unit's arrival must be presented at check-in. All adults attending with the unit, no matter the length of time, must be on that roster and must have a current Youth Protection Certificate expiring no sooner than August 15, 2025. This roster is different from the camp roster.
- **Reasonable Accommodations** - Please inform us of any Scout or leader with special needs and let us know the specifics: i.e., behavioral, physical, medical, dietary, food allergies, etc. Special requests and needs should be submitted as soon as possible in order to prepare accordingly. Feel free to call camp at any time prior to E-Z Check-In to discuss any special needs.
- **ATV Waiver for Camp Somers** - Provide copies of signed ATV permission forms and certificate of completion for required online course for any Scouts participating in the ATV program – 14 and older. Visit [www.CampSomers.org](http://www.CampSomers.org) to download the forms. These forms can also be turned in at check-in.

## More Summer Camping Opportunities for Individual Scouts

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- **Provisional Camp**- Enjoy an exciting week of resident camp at Camp Winnebago or Camp Somers without your troop. Get a chance to meet new Scouts while visiting your favorite program areas, completing merit badge partials, working on more merit badges/advancement, or just having fun at camp. Scouts who attend camp without their home troop are **expected to arrive at camp with a signed blue card** from their Scoutmaster for each merit badge they plan to work on during the week.

### At Winnebago Scout Reservation

- **Graphic Arts Camp** - Week 3- July 20-July 26 - Scouts at this one-week resident camp will earn four merit badges- Graphic Design, Composite Materials (3D Printing), Drafting, and Game Design.
- **Skills and Trades** - Week 4 - July 27 - August 2 - Scouts at this resident camp will earn the Automotive Maintenance, Electricity, Plumbing, and Welding merit badges. All materials will be provided for this program. Must be 14 years old plus to participate.

### At Camp Somers, Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation

- **Trailblazer Day Camp** - Scouts are also welcome for a week of day camp. Trailblazer Day Camp runs from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday for four weeks. Bus transportation is provided from many locations throughout Morris, Sussex, and NW Somerset counties. Scouts can try or continue the Dan Beard program, or they may work on merit badges and enjoy some of the open programs.
- **Fishing Camp**- Week 3 - July 20 - July 26 - Scouts will earn Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management merit badges at this resident camp. Scouts will be trained in the Angling Educator Program. This week will include fishing at camp, a deep-sea fishing field trip, tour of the Pequest Trout Hatchery with trout fishing, and more. See Camp Somers website for pricing.
- **Film and Art Camp** - Week 4 - July 27 - August 2 – Earn Moviemaking, Animation, Art, and Photography merit badges. Spend the week learning about a variety of film, art, and making a movie with Peter Basler. This specialty camp is a resident camp.
- **Camp COLEY** - August 3- 9 - Celebrating the Outdoors with Laughter and Excitement for all Youth! Camp COLEY is a weeklong resident camp. Girls and boys in grades 3-12 and their families experience age-appropriate versions of the programs offered to Scouts BSA members. Campers and their leaders rotate through program areas such as aquatics, outdoor skills, ecology, and Range and Target Sports. Outdoor fun for all—plus memories and friendships for a lifetime!

Visit our website at [www.ppcscouting.org/camping](http://www.ppcscouting.org/camping) to register, or to find out more information on all our camps for individual Scouts.

## Equipment Lists

### Personal Equipment

#### Recommended Gear

- Pack/duffle bag/footlocker
- Sleeping bag
- Official Scout uniform
- T-shirts (6 Days)
- Bathing suit
- Fleece (preferred) or sweatshirt
- Hat
- Hiking boots (waterproof)
- Jacket
- Pants or zip-offs
- Rain gear
- Shorts or zip-offs
- Shoes that can get wet (required for boating)
- Sneakers or moccasins
- Socks (6 days)
- Underwear (6 days)
- Comb or brush
- Flashlight or LED headlamp
- Handkerchief or tissues
- Insect repellent (no aerosol)
- Medications properly labeled (all must be listed on the medical form)
- Merit badge prerequisites
- Pen/pencil/notebook
- Personal first aid kit
- Plastic bags - 1 and 2 gallon
- Scout Handbook
- Soap/shampoo/deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Towels

#### Optional Gear

- Alarm clock
- Backpack (outpost camping)
- Bible/prayer book
- Camera/film/memory cards
- Compass
- Cord/clothesline
- Day pack
- Fishing tackle
- Ground cloth (Outposts, Camping/Wilderness Survival merit badges)
- Hangars
- Laundry bag
- Long sleeve shirt
- Long pants
- Mattress/foam pad
- Merit badge pamphlets
- Mosquito netting
- Musical instrument
- Pillow
- Pocketknife (no sheath knives)
- Tent (outpost camping)
- Watch
- Water bottle/hydration bladder

**A good rule is:** If you don't want it lost, damaged, or destroyed, consider leaving it at home.

## Troop Equipment

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American flag   | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of medical forms for leaders   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop flag  | <input type="checkbox"/> Magic marker pens (red, blue, black, green)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol flags  | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit badge pamphlets (there will be a limited number of pamphlets at the trading post) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addresses and phone numbers of parents on vacation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit badge blue cards (available for purchase at the trading post)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm clock (battery operated)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Polyethylene sheets (for numerous uses)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp leaders' guide   | <input type="checkbox"/> Propane lantern with fuel   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash box  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler and extra thumbtacks for the bulletin board                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal (if desired) and cooking equipment for in-site steak dinner                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted hand and woods tools   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch oven for dessert competition  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for camp projects   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes marking pen (for those who forgot)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Troop record book (for advancement and Scout record)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape – always a good idea  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your advancement objectives   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop first aid kit   | <input type="checkbox"/> Your troop program idea   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matches / lighter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Props for your favorite skits and stunts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your best troop spirit and enthusiasm   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful books from your troop library: handbook, field book, Scout songbook, nature books, etc. |  |

## Equipment Available at Camp

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### Items Provided at Each Campsite

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Latrine with washstand and supplies | ▪ Fire pit  |
| ▪ Pavilion or dining fly              | ▪ Split firewood  |
| ▪ Picnic tables                       | ▪ Cooking grate   |
| ▪ Water spigot                        | ▪ Two-person wall tents with wooden platforms and canvas cots or four person lean-tos with bunks and mattresses |
| ▪ Fire buckets                        |   |
| ▪ Bulletin board                      |   |
| ▪ Flagpole                            |   |

### Equipment for Conservation and Camp Improvement Projects

**Please see your commissioner for any tools you may need to complete a camp project. Supplies are limited, so please help us out by returning them when you are done.**

## At Camp

### Administration Building/Camp Office

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The Winnebago camp office is staffed from 7 a.m. until midnight and is in the same building as the Health Lodge. If you need assistance outside of those hours, emergency contact information is posted on the office door.

The Camp Somers office is staffed during business hours. If you need assistance outside of those hours, emergency contact information is posted on the office door.

### Adult Leader and Senior Patrol Leader Meetings

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Leader meetings will be held throughout the week. Please see camp specific information in the camp guide.

### Camp Evaluation Forms

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We value your opinion! At the end of your camp stay, we ask that you evaluate how we did – be as honest as possible, we are looking for true feedback as we continue to provide the best program possible. Comments are especially helpful. Please submit two evaluations per troop, one completed by the adults and one by the Scouts.

If you have any issues or concerns during your stay, please talk with your commissioner or the camp director. We will do our best to rectify any issues immediately. If we do not hear about an issue until we see it on an evaluation form, it is hard to correct it.

### Camp Uniform

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Scouts and adults should be in full Scout uniform when they arrive at camp. Full uniform should also be worn to evening retreat, dinner in the dining hall and to the opening and closing campfires. A uniform is not a requirement to come to camp. If someone does not have a uniform, please dress appropriately.

During other times, including breakfast and lunch, uniforms are not required. Troop T-shirts are encouraged. Other Scouting, plain and appropriate T-shirts are always welcome.

### Commissioner Service

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The camp commissioner's job is to ensure units obtain the maximum benefit from their summer camp experience, maintain regular contact with leaders, counsel leaders on resources available, and assist units in fulfilling their program needs. Your commissioner will visit your site daily. During the visit, a health and safety check will take place. The health and safety check is used to check tents, overall site cleanliness, latrines, etc. Tent flaps should be rolled up during the day (weather permitting) to help prevent the tent and the Scouts' gear from getting musty. Your daily scores are used as one of the requirements in the Baden-Powell Honor Troop Award. The site inspection form is included here.

## Daily Campsite Visitation Form

Daily Campsite Visitation Form Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Site: \_\_\_\_\_

INSPECTION ITEM:	MAX. POINTS	POINTS AWARDED				
		M	Tu	W	Th	F
<b>SITE CLEANLINESS:</b> Garbage is disposed of properly Site is clear of litter All unit equipment is in order Natural groundcover is left on all site trails	20					
<b>TENTS:</b> All tents (camp and unit) are set up tightly "No Flames in Tent" posted on each tent Flaps are rolled (weather permitting) Gear is stored neatly Tents are free of litter	20					
<b>CAMPSITE SAFETY:</b> Emergency procedures are posted All clotheslines away from paths and at a safe height Axe yard is properly marked 2 filled fire buckets Fireguard plan is posted and followed	20					
<b>LATRINE and WASHSTAND:</b> Disinfected daily Cleaned and swept daily Seats closed after use Water is off	20					
<b>GENERAL ITEMS:</b> Campfire area in order and clear of burnt trash Wood is neatly stacked American flag is displayed Patrol flags are displayed	20					
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>					
<b>CAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</b>	<b>5</b>					
<b>ADULT LEADER VOLUNTEER IN PROGRAM AREA</b>	<b>5</b>					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>					
<b>COMMISSIONER SIGNATURE:</b>						
<b>UNIT REPRESENTATIVE:</b>						

## Dining Hall

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Our dining halls serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Be sure to attend the Sunday afternoon orientation for detailed dining hall procedures. Here is a summary:

### Special Dietary Needs

If you have any campers with food allergies, or special dietary needs, please contact the camp office at least two weeks prior to arrival. This is important even if you have discussed this with the council office or as part of E-Z Check-In. We apologize for any redundancy, but we want to do our best to provide a great dining experience for all our guests.

### Tables and Waiters

Each troop will be assigned one or more tables in the dining hall based on the number of campers and adults. Space will also be allocated for one or more staff members. The troop number and number of staff will be printed on a card on each table. Meals are served family style.

Each table is responsible for providing one waiter for each meal. Waiters should arrive 15 minutes before mealtimes to set the tables. The waiters will be directed by the dining hall steward on when they should pick up food from the kitchen and return the leftovers. The waiters are the only Scouts who should be getting up during meals. Waiters will need to remain for approximately 15 minutes after the meal.

### Salad Bar and More

The tables in the center of the dining hall have additional items for every meal. At lunch and dinner, we always have a salad bar. At all meals, we have extra food items from the current meal or perhaps leftovers from a previous meal. For the safety of all, only adults are allowed to visit the center table. Adults may take food for anyone at their table to enjoy.

## Firewood

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We provide split firewood. Speak to your commissioner about obtaining firewood and scheduling a service project to split wood using our hydraulic splitter and help replenish the wood piles.

## Fires at Camp

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Each campsite has a fire ring for troop/unit use. No fire may be left unattended at any time. Only pre-existing fire rings or campfire areas may be used. All fires must be completely out before the last adult leader in the site retires for the night. Fires must be extinguished before you leave. Please use *Leave No Trace* practices when disposing of campfire ashes or partially burned wood. Fire buckets are provided at every campsite; the water in them needs to be changed daily and they must be full at all times.

## Health Lodge/Emergency Services

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Our health officer is available 24 hours a day for emergencies. The health officer has early morning office hours at the Health Lodge. They are available at the dining hall during mealtimes to administer medications, and available at either the Health Lodge or the camp office to administer evening medications. The location will be posted on the door of both buildings. In an emergency, please contact the camp office during normal office hours. After hours, knock loudly on the door of the Health Lodge.

## Morning and Evening Colors

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Flag raising and flag lowering ceremonies are held daily in the parade field before breakfast and before dinner. Friday evening colors are held before the campfire at Winnebago. At Camp Somers colors are before dinner every day. Senior patrol leaders are asked to report the status of their units to the camp leadership as part of the ceremony. The full Scout field uniform is expected for evening colors.

## Order of the Arrow

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The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's National Honor Society. The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

- To recognize Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives,
- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit,
- To promote Scout camping, and
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Woapalanne Lodge 43 is well represented at camp. If your troop is interested in having an OA election or a Brotherhood conversion, contact the Order of the Arrow camp chief. Please wear your OA sash on OA Day at camp. We will have a cracker barrel at night and offer opportunities to strengthen our fellowship throughout the week. **Tuesday is OA day at Camp Somers. Thursday is OA Day at Camp Winnebago.**

## Showers, Bathrooms, and Laundry

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### Camp Winnebago

Two shower houses with individual stalls are available at camp. The main shower house is located between the Kiwanis and Little Mahee cabins across from the Ecology Lodge. The other showers are in the dining hall addition, facing the main camp road.

Flush toilets are available in the dining hall addition. These bathrooms all have several stalls and electric hand dryers. There are also two toilets in the trading post building, accessible from the outside of the building.

We have one coin-operated washer and one dryer located at the main shower house. Please obtain a key to the laundry room from the camp office.

### Camp Somers

Our centrally located bath and shower house is available 24/7. The facility contains men's and women's bathrooms with flush toilets, sinks, and electric hand dryers. The showers all have individual stalls with lockable doors. The showers are located on two sides of the facility. There are also bathrooms located in Turkey Lodge outside the dining hall and outside the camp office.

**Please help keep these facilities clean for all campers.**

## Trading Post

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The trading post operates as a service to the camp community. Stock includes handicraft items, snacks, soft drinks, slush puppies, ice cream, popcorn, stamps, merit badge pamphlets and other Scouting literature, T-shirts, uniform parts, various items from the Scouting America Supply Catalog, and souvenirs. The hours of operation are posted at the trading post.



## Visitors

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To ensure the safety of our Scouts, we require all visitors to check in at the camp office. If an emergency arises and a parent/guardian needs access to their child, the parent must contact the troop leadership prior to arrival. Visitors must remain near the camp office/Trading Post and are not permitted to walk around camp without permission from the camp administration. All visitors, including parents, alumni, and volunteers that are granted permission to walk through camp, must ensure one or more of the following:

- Current Youth Protection Training certificate and proof of current Scouting America registration must be submitted to the camp office and approved by camp administration.
- Escorted, supervised, and directly in the company of a unit leader for the duration of the visit.
- Accompanied by a Patriots' Path Council camp staff or professional staff member.

## Health Information

### Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record

Patriots' Path Council is now using CampDoc to collect Annual Health and Medical Records. Required for all Scouts and leaders - parts A & B must be completed in your CampDoc profile, and part C must be completed and signed by a doctor, then uploaded to CampDoc. Troops should bring copies to camp for their own use if desired. Learn more about CampDoc at [www.ppscouting.org/camping](http://www.ppscouting.org/camping).

### Medication Administration (prescription and over the counter)

#### Policies

- All medication(s) currently being taken must be noted on part B of the Annual Health and Medical Record. The medications section in part B should be filled out at the time of the annual medical evaluation.
- Medications must be kept in the original (pharmacy or over the counter) container.
- Medications are administered by the health officer as directed by the label.
- The Scouting America routine drug administration record will be filled out by the health officer during check-in.
- Each Scout will be observed to ensure that the medication is taken.
- If a Scout fails to take the medication, camp staff will notify the leader and camp director, who will then notify the parents or guardians immediately.

#### Administration

- The health officer will bring medications to the dining hall for Scouts who take medications at mealtimes.
- At other times, the health officer and the medications will be at the Health Lodge or at the administration building/camp office. Locations will be posted on the door of both buildings and announcements will be made in the dining hall.

## Camp Safety

### Safety Enhancements at our Properties

Patriots' Path Council has made numerous safety enhancements at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation and Winnebago Scout Reservation to protect our Scouts, leaders, and staff. Our goal is to raise awareness of safety and to safeguard our campers and families so that they feel comfortable participating in Scouting activities

at our properties. Our council has been nationally recognized for our proactive approach and will continue to add safety enhancements as ideas are presented by industry experts as well as Scouters. These ideas will be reviewed and if appropriate, implemented by our volunteer and professional leadership along with security experts.



#### Phase 1 - Completed

- Security cameras in public areas of our camps
- Safety and electronic surveillance assessments by law enforcement agencies
- License plate reader / movement detector at Winnebago Scout Reservation
- Established hotline to report YP incidents - local number direct to Scout executive
- Wrist band systems for year-round usage to help identify different groups in our camps
- Safety posters in public areas and campsites at our camps
- Guard shacks at both of our camps

#### Phase 2 - Completed

- Expert training provided to our camp ranger's dog to detect electronic equipment
- License plate reader / movement detector at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation
- Winnebago security gate (arm barrier) and signage installed

#### Phase 3 - Winter / Spring 2025

- Mt Allamuchy security gate (arm barrier) speed bumps and signage installed
- Fortify internal communications through a new fiber optic solution at Mt. Allamuchy
- Enhanced lighting at camp entrances
- Cellular connected trail cameras at strategic camp remote perimeter sites
- Security cameras and access control system at council service center

## Guide to Safe Scouting

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Scouting America's **Scouting Safely** prepares members to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through over 100 years of experience.

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Scouting America policies and guidelines. The guide provides an overview of Scouting policies and procedures rather than comprehensive, stand-alone documentation. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

Patriots' Path Council camps follow policies and procedures in the guide, so please use it as your primary reference source. You can find it online at <https://ppcscouting.org/scoutingsafely>.

## Youth Protection Policy

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The Patriots' Path Council and Scouting America believe protecting the safety of children is a critical priority. In order to achieve this goal, all adults staying overnight at any Patriots' Path Council summer camp program must have proof of current Youth Protection Training and background check.

If you are not currently Youth Protection trained, visit [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) to take the free online course. Certificates are valid for two years.

## Buddy System

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The buddy system is an important requirement for the safety of our Scouts and leaders while at camp. The Patriots' Path Council always requires the use of the buddy system throughout camp at all times. Please emphasize to your Scouts the importance of always traveling with a buddy and to always remain in sight of your buddy. If you do not have a buddy, you can often find a Scout from another troop who is heading in the same direction. This is a great way of finding a new buddy. Please remember the no one-on-one adult-to-Scout contact requirement when pairing up with buddies.

## Wristbands

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All campers (Scouts and leaders) are required to wear a camp issued wristband while in camp. One wristband is provided for each person upon check-in. Replacements are available for a nominal fee. Wristbands are required for dining hall meals. This will ensure that all Scouts and leaders have checked in with the camp office. Any camper or leader who is not wearing a wristband will be directed to report to the office to check-in or receive a replacement wristband. **Please return your wristbands to the office prior to your departure.**

## Leaving Camp

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Scouts are under the supervision of their unit leaders. Should a camper need to leave camp (family obligations, sports, etc.) they will be released to a parent/guardian, or other adult authorized in writing by the parent/guardian. The Patriots' Path Council will not release a Scout to an unauthorized adult. A sign-out/sign-in log is kept in the camp office and must be used by all adults or Scouts entering or leaving

camp outside of the normal Sunday arrival or Saturday departure schedule. Patriots' Path Council requires parents/guardians taking Scouts out of camp to have a state issued photo ID.

## Troop Fireguard Plan

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A blank troop fireguard plan is in every campsite. Please fill out the plan on Sunday when you arrive at your site. The fireguard plan will help prevent fires so we can enjoy our camp for many years to come. The plan will be discussed along with our emergency procedures and other topics at the unit leader meeting on the day your unit arrives in camp.

Remember to check with your commissioner before holding a campfire in your campsite. He will know if the ranger has instituted any fire restrictions during dry spells. As always, in camp and on your own, **no flames in tents**. This includes candles, matches, propane lanterns, and stoves.

## Emergency Alerts

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**Winnebago** has an emergency alert system (horn, siren) in place to notify campers of an emergency. **When an alert is sounded, the entire camp should proceed to the dining hall**, where we will conduct a headcount.

**Camp Somers** has an emergency alert system (horn, siren) in place to notify our guests of an emergency. **When an alert is sounded, the entire camp must proceed to the camp office parking lot or shelter in place depending on the alert.** The different alerts will be explained at the beginning of camp.

Further directions will be given depending on the type of emergency. We may have to initiate the emergency plan for a variety of situations including fire, thunderstorms, earthquakes, tornados/high winds, lost bather, or a missing person.

## Missing Person

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Unit leaders should make regular headcounts. If you think a Scout has gone missing, check the individual's tent, the latrine, and surrounding areas. Report any absence to a staff member. The staff will alert the camp director and follow protocols regarding missing Scouts. **Please emphasize to your Scouts the importance of the buddy system.**

## Animals

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### Animal Bites/Insect Bites

Immediately notify the health officer.

### Bears

Bears have been a part of the woods surrounding our camps for thousands of years. They feed off wild berries and fruits as part of the ecological process and help scavenge edible refuse from the area. Our camp and tent sites are a part of the bear's natural habitat. Bears will generally avoid contact with humans, but have the need to eat, like all living things.

Please – Keep a clean campsite and **no food or smellables in tents or lean-tos**. Keep these items stowed away in a safe place. A bear information page is posted in each campsite. Please read it and discuss with your Scouts.

If you encounter a bear, remain calm and do not run. Make sure the bear has an escape route. Avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak with a low, assertive voice. Notify a staff member.

### Bats

Bats are inherent at any camp. At no time is anyone to ever touch a bat. If you come in contact or even suspect contact with a bat, see the health officer and/or camp director immediately. Every bat is considered to be rabid. If anyone comes into contact with a bat and it isn't captured, the person will go for rabies shots. Please take this concern seriously.

### Tick Treatment

The health officer should perform all tick removals at camp. Please discuss ticks with your Scouts.

### Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are a part of the environment here at camp. Use of dark clothes and bug repellent, such as Skin So Soft, Deep Woods, and DEET are encouraged. Please do not apply "bug spray" directly on or in the tents as it damages the canvas.

## Accountability/Unauthorized Person in Camp

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If you see anyone who appears to be an unauthorized person, or anyone without a wristband, please notify a staff member immediately.

## Camp Policies

### Unit Leadership

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Each unit is required to have a minimum of two adult leaders per Scouting America's **Scouting Safely**. If your unit cannot meet this standard, please contact camp well ahead of time to work out a solution. We recognize that all our leaders have very busy schedules, and a rotating unit leader(s) is acceptable (always keeping the minimum of two adults in camp). Please include all leader names on the roster and note when they will be in camp. Patriots' Path Council recommends a 1:10 ratio of leaders to Scouts.

Any adult accompanying a Scout unit to a residence camp or other Scouting event **must** be registered as a leader, including completion of a Criminal Background Check (CBC) and Youth Protection Training (YPT), even if they are the parent of a youth on the trip.

### Campsite Reservation Policy

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Units camping with us this summer may reserve their current campsite for the same camping week the following year. The *Summer Camp Site Reservation and Payment Form* and site deposit must be submitted to the business manager prior to departing camp. If a unit departs camp without making a reservation for next summer, the site will be made available to all units on a first-come-first-served basis. Units that do not meet the published site minimum may be asked to share their site with another unit.

## Swim Classification Test

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All campers, youth, and adults, who desire to participate in aquatic activities (swimming, boating, etc.), must take a swim classification test **at Winnebago Scout Reservation/Camp Somers** to determine their swimming ability. A buddy tag will be issued to indicate the appropriate classification.

The classifications are as follows:

**Swimmer – Blue tag** The Scout has successfully completed the swimmer's test:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

**Beginner – Red tag** The Scout has successfully completed the beginner's test:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, and return to the starting place.

### Non-Swimmer/Learner

Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a non-swimmer.

## Camp Facilities Policies

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- There is a \$50 per hour maintenance repair fee for malicious damage to camp facilities or equipment.
- There is only one (1) campfire (must use a fire ring) per site, if allowed by camp ranger.
- Please be environmentally conscious and pick up any trash you find in camp.
- Be aware of ticks, bees, bats and bears. Notify camp staff members of any strange acting nocturnal animals.
- Keep shower houses and bathrooms clean.

## Leave No Trace

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"Leave No Trace" is a nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics education program. Scouting America is committed to this program. The principles of Leave No Trace are not rules; they are guidelines to follow at all times.

The Leave No Trace principles might not seem important at first glance, but their value is apparent when considering the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors. One poorly located campsite or campfire is of little significance, but thousands of such instances seriously degrade the outdoor experience for all. Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility.

## Pets in Camp

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Scouting America does not permit pets at camp. Please leave them at home with a caregiver. Individuals bringing pets will be asked to remove them from camp property.

## Private and Off-Limits Areas

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Some of our buildings and camp areas are off limits to Scouts and leaders. Please respect the privacy of our staff and avoid their living quarters. Please do not enter any program areas without staff present.

### Winnebago

Off limits areas include:

- Behind the rifle, shotgun and archery ranges
- Ranger's residence
- Staff living quarters
- Camp Marcella (located west of camp)

### Somers

Off limits areas include:

- Behind the rifle, shotgun, and archery ranges.
- Swamp across from handicraft pavilion.
- Ranger's residence.
- Staff living quarters.
- Behind the OA lodge.
- Cabin and Chalets behind Voller's Field.

## Prohibited Items

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Scouting America or Patriots' Path Council policies prohibit the following in camp:

- Motorcycles
- Generators
- Pets
- Fireworks
- Firearms
- Bows and arrows
- Chain saws
- Hunting
- Gambling
- SCUBA tanks and wetsuits (snorkeling equipment may only be used during Snorkeling instruction).
- Personal Climbing Equipment (exceptions: climbing shoes, gloves).
- Tobacco - Use of tobacco products is prohibited in view of Scouts.
- Alcohol – Scouting America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving the participation of youth members. This includes offsite locations before or during the activity.
- Heaters – Kerosene, electric and propane heaters are prohibited in our camps.

Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the property and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## Vehicle Policy

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All our camps are designed for rustic camping. The campsites are in the woods and are a 5-to-10 minute walk from the parking lot. They are designed with Scout camping methods in mind; therefore, the following vehicle policies are established for camping at all our camps.

- Park in the parking lot only.
- The posted speed limit in camps, parking lots, council properties, etc. is 15 mph.
- Please observe the posted speed limit in camp. No vehicles are allowed in restricted areas. Please keep them in designated parking lots.
- There will be no unauthorized vehicles on camp roads.



- Camp vehicles, and those personal vehicles authorized by the camp director, will transport gear to the campsites both at the beginning and the end of the camping period.
- All pick-up and drop off Scouts and their equipment will be made from the parking lot.
- Do not drive vehicles past barriers.
- A temporary waiver of the non-personal vehicles policy may be considered for health or other reasons, at the discretion of the camp director.
- Trailers will be allowed to be towed to sites and left there during unit stay. They will be allowed to be retrieved at the end of the week.
- The camp director will notify the unit leader of any infraction of the vehicle policy.

### Wood Tools Use

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- Scouts will not cut or mark trees, buildings, or any other camp equipment with any sharpened tool. Proper use of knife, axe, and saw must be demonstrated at all times, if used unwisely, they become dangerous. There is no need for non-folding sheath knives in camp. Please leave them at home.

### Parking

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The parking lot at camp is too small for all Scouts and their parents to arrive separately. Please help us by carpooling when transporting Scouts and equipment to and from camp. This will benefit both your experience and help the environment. All vehicles must remain in the parking lot while at camp.

## Merit Badges and Advancement

### Overview

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The purpose of merit badges in the Scouting program is to provide Scouts with experience in an area of interest to them and to teach them valuable skills. The experience gained through merit badges often leads to careers and lifelong hobbies for Scouts. We want all Scouts to experience success with their merit badges. It is important for Scouts to begin their preparations at home. They need to select the merit badges they want to try at camp, look at the requirements and information in the merit badge pamphlets, and determine if there are prerequisites for the badges, they choose that must be done first. Camp Somers and Camp Winnebago use the most up to date requirements for our merit badge programs. Current requirements can be found at [Scouting.org](http://Scouting.org).

Very few merit badges have prerequisites that must be completed before a Scout can begin working on the badge. However, some merit badges have requirements that cannot be completed at camp. To complete the badge at camp, the Scout must complete these requirements before attending camp and bring a blue card with those requirements signed off by a registered merit badge counselor. These requirements are commonly referred to as prerequisites. Scouts who have not completed the prerequisites or did not have time to finish all requirements at camp can still earn a partial completion and finish the badge at a later date, with any merit badge counselor approved by your Scoutmaster.

To help Scouts prepare, we offer the following suggestions that you may wish to include in your camp planning, perhaps enabling a larger number of merit badge completions.

- **Do not over-schedule.** We set no limit on the number of badges a Scout can attempt, but sometimes their desires are bigger than their time limit or abilities allow.
- **Enjoy all camp programs.** Scouts come to camp for more than merit badges and should not miss other opportunities. Please do not allow your Scouts to plan for failure and to be consumed with merit badge requirements.
- **Scheduling conflicts should not discourage a Scout from taking a merit badge.** All times are flexible, and most conflicts can be worked out with a counselor. If a Scout comes to camp prepared to pass the merit badge, he or she may ask a counselor for a review without waiting until the end of the week. Your Scout should be able to plan their day based on the sessions offered.
- **Merit badges offered through the Trail to Eagle or Eagle Academy** have age and rank requirements set by the PPC Advancement Committee. **You must be 13 years old and Star rank to take these merit badges.**

There will be a limited quantity of merit badge pamphlets available for purchase in the trading post. Be sure to bring all merit badge pamphlets needed with you to camp. Scouts need to arrive at their merit badge classes on Monday with properly filled out blue cards. If a blue card is not presented to the staff teaching the class, they cannot record the requirements that are completed for the Scout. Scoutmasters need to bring enough blue cards with them to camp for each Scout, a limited number of blue cards will be available at the trading post for purchase.

### **Application for Merit Badge/Blue Cards**

An Application for Merit Badge, commonly called a *blue card*, is required for each Scout, for each merit badge he or she is attempting. Please bring sufficient blue cards for your Scouts. Extras will be available for purchase in the trading post.

The Scout should complete all the required information on the blue card legibly in ink. The Scoutmaster's approval is evidenced by the Scoutmaster's signature on the front section of the blue card. Because there might be more than one troop "5" in camp, we ask that the Scout put their campsite on the blue card. This will increase the probability that the Scout gets their card back on Saturday morning.

Scouts who attend camp without their home troop are expected to arrive at camp with a signed blue card from their Scoutmaster for each merit badge they plan to work on during the week.

### **Partials**

Not all requirements can be completed at camp. Some require a visit to a specific location, cooking meals for a Scout's family, observations for a prolonged period, or tests. Some Scouts, for a variety of reasons do not finish all requirements for a specific badge at camp. Only those who fulfill all the requirements for a merit badge will get a completed signed blue card back. Those who are not able to complete the requirements, for whatever reason, are issued partials. A partial may be finished with a qualified merit badge counselor at home, or the Scout may sign up to return to camp for an additional week as a Provisional Camp Troop. Of course, a Scout may also bring the partial blue card back to camp next year to complete the requirements. The only expiration on a partial blue card is the Scout's 18th birthday!

### **Online Merit Badge Sign Up**

Online merit badge sign up is available for all Scouts. Scouts can enroll in merit badge classes through the online Parent Portal. The online registration system helps Scouts select the exact badges they want, to maximize their time in camp. Please visit the Camp Somers or Camp Winnebago website for information on how to sign up for merit badges and selected activities. Advance sign-ups allow us to prepare for sessions and ensure we have the resources in place prior to your week at camp.

## Meet & Greet

Please note that Scouts are not locked into their online choices and can make the changes they would like upon arrival at camp if there is room in the classes they want. A Sunday evening merit badge Meet and Greet will be held so Scouts can make changes to their schedules and meet our staff.

## Registration for Camp

The 24/7 Scouting system (BlackPug) allows unit leaders and trip coordinators to access and alter the unit registration. This gives the unit the ability to add participants and attendees to a registration, make payments for the unit, complete attendee information, print BlackPug roster, and register participants for merit badge sessions and programs.

To edit or complete an attendee's information, begin by logging into your unit's registration.

- Visit <https://scoutingevent.com/358-CampWinnebago> or <https://scoutingevent.com/358-CampSomers>. If you know your log in information, use the "Sign In" tab.
- If you do not have an account, you can either create one or click on the Lookup tab at the top right of the page.
- Select "Lookup Registration" from the dropdown menu, enter your registration contact email, then "send email." You will receive an email shortly after with your registration link.
- If you do not know your registration information, please contact Stephanie LaFontaine at [stephanie.lafontaine@scouting.org](mailto:stephanie.lafontaine@scouting.org).

By accessing your unit's registration, you will have access to your **Unit Contact** information, **Participant** information, **Unit Payment** information, **Parent Portal** settings, and **Unit Reporting**.

To navigate from page to page, simply select the desired tab, or heading:

- The **Participants** section lets you edit the attendees in your registration.
  - A **Youth** registration will be available for each participant. Each participant can be viewed and updated by clicking on the "Update Information" button.
  - You will see the option to add merit badges here when **Merit badge and program sign-up opens on May 21, 2025 at 5:00**. In the Merit badge Sign Up section, begin by selecting the blue button "View All Classes." This gives the entire list of available options. In the box "Available Classes," you can scroll through the list and select any class you would like to register for by clicking anywhere in that box. This will add the class to the participant's schedule. As you continue selecting classes, all classes that overlap will disappear from this box. Scouts cannot be registered for classes that overlap.
- The **Payment** tab gives you access to make a payment for your registration. You can view the total balance for the registration here.
- The **Reports** tab has Unit Rosters, Payment Allocations, and Class Schedules. **"Unit Roster" will provide a report of your unit roster that you will need for check in.** "Payment Allocations" shows individual payment status. "Class Schedule" shows an attendee report showing each Scout's class or merit badge schedule on a separate page.

## Using the Parent Portal

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The **Parent Portal** is located in the Registration Contact box. Select the “Additional Actions” button to access the Parent Portal. This is an optional feature that allows you (the registration contact) to provide your parents with access to just their Scout's part of the registration, to make payments and complete data entry. To better understand the Parent Portal, please read the “Parent Portal FAQ” and the “Here is how it works” link in the

To enable the **Parent Portal** for your unit, do the following:

- Start by clicking on the **Parent Portal** link.
- Print **parent login credentials** using one of the two buttons (credentials or credentials EXCEL)
- Give parents one login credential for each of their participants (including themselves if they're one of the participants).
- Parents use this link to make payments and update data entry fields such as name, rank, dietary requirements, etc.
- Parents with multiple **cards (participants)** can link their participants together once they log in.
- Selecting “**Prevents parents from making payments or seeing event fees**” blocks parents from making payments. This option is good for units where parents pay the unit and then the unit pays the council.
- “**Allow Parent Portal class selection**” lets parents choose or change class and merit badge selections. When unchecked, parents will only be able to view class and merit badge selections.
- If the previous box is checked, optionally check “**Email me when classes are changed through Parent Portal**” to receive an email when parents make or change their selections.
- **Optionally** check one or more days to receive a unit summary email showing payment and data entry status for each participant.

Units may choose to use the **Parent Portal**, allowing Scouts and their families to fill in their own information, and even submit payment for camp online. If enabled, your unit leader or trip coordinator will distribute individual login usernames and passwords to registered participants.

The information cards contain specific instructions on how to access your individual participant information. Once logged in, complete all required fields, register for merit badge sessions, and submit payment for your participant.





**Scouting**  **America**<sup>TM</sup>

**Patriots' Path Council**