

PROGRAM GUIDE



PROGRAM DIRECTOR: NICK SWEET

History of Camp Gorton

Camp Gorton is located on Waneta Lake nestled in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. Camp started in 1922 on the property of Dr. William Gorton across the lake before Dr. Gorton and several other local leaders came together to purchase the property where camp sits today. Starting in 1924 and continuing to this day, Camp Gorton has allowed thousands of Scouts of the Steuben Area Council, Five Rivers Council, and from all throughout the country and world come to experience the magic of summer camp and the solace of year-round camping.



Then and Now...

From the Program Director:

Summer camp can truly change lives. I say that from personal experience as someone who grew up here for 10+ summers. From first experiencing the amazing program as a Webelos Scout, then moving to Scouts BSA, and finally as a member of Staff, this camp has seen me develop into the person I am today.

Camp may offer merit badges on the surface, but it truly offers experiences, friendships, and skills that will stick with Scouts for life. I'm proud to be Program Director of such an amazing staff and am excited to try to offer more than we ever have- merit badges, special events, and fun like never before. Something I am big on is accommodations. Our staff is here to make your experience great, and we will do whatever we can to fulfill that. Whether that means setting up time for an extra merit badge, or finding alternative ways to teach requirements, we want to make this week great for you!

We offer a large variety of merit badges, focusing in on creating fun classes that focus in the activities that these badges enable Scouts to do. Requirements are completed as written, but we go above and beyond. The entire staff is excited to teach and mentor Scouts in their journeys.

Summer camp can be scary for many Scouts, but is a terrific place for growth. As you go through your week, push your Scouts into accepting new challenges, bettering themselves, and learning new skills. We can't wait to see you!

*Yours in Scouting,
Nicholas Sweet*

CONTACT GORTON INFORMATION

CAMP FEES

Early Bird Fee
(by May 27, 2024)
\$550.00

Regular Fee
(by June 13, 2024)
\$580.00

Late Fee
(after June 13, 2024)
\$630.00

**Additional Week
of Camp**
\$500.00

Three Weeks of Camp
\$1,500.00 (total)

Leader's Fee
\$190.00

Daily Leader's Fee
\$30

Unit Deposit
\$100

Scout Deposit
\$50

CAMP GORTON

Address
4241 County Route 25
Dundee, NY 14837

Camp Office Phone
607-292-3220

(seasonal)

Website
<http://fiveriversbsa.org/>

Camp Director
Ian Walruth
campgortondirector@gmail.com

Camp Ranger
Joe Fountain
joseph.fountain@scouting.org

IMPORTANT DATES

**Scouts BSA
Resident Camp**

Session 1: July 14-20
Session 2: July 21-27
Session 3: July 28 - Aug. 3

Campership Application Deadline
March 15, 2024

Early Bird Registration Deadline
May 27, 2024

Pre-Camp Leaders' Meetings
In Person: July 10, 2024
Zoom: July 11, 2024
(attend one of your choice)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

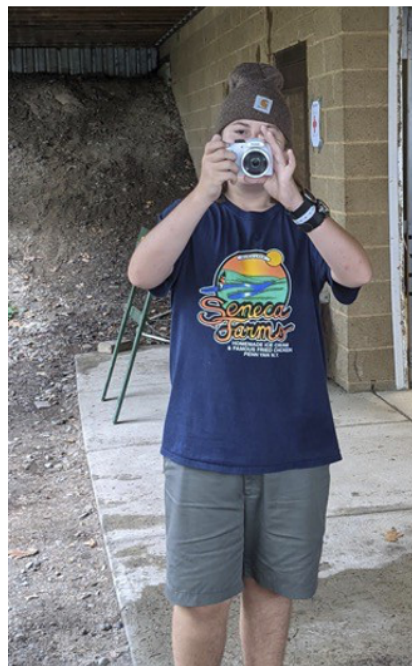
Pre-Camp Leaders Meeting **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 AT 7 PM** at Camp Gorton or on Zoom
on **Thursday, JULY 11, 2024 AT 7 PM**

Please have one representative from the leadership of your unit attend.



New Scouts Discount

Webelos / Arrow of Light and other new Scouts who join a Scouts BSA unit during the spring will qualify for the discounted fee up to June 13th.



Camp Program

While every bit of information in this guide is important, camp is where the magic happens. Camp Gorton prides itself on the top-notch program that we deliver to each and every Scout, parent, and adult leader. Our staff truly believes that we are America's Finest Scout Camp and that is reflected in our program. This program guide is simply an introduction to the phenomenal program we offer.

Check the [Five Rivers Council](#) website and all of our social media sites to stay updated with the newest additions and developments to our 2024 program.

Things to Keep in Mind

- The camp program is limited only by a unit's participation
- Planning before arrival helps a unit get the most of their experience
- The staff can only help when we know what you need. Please ask about extra programming. We are always willing to do whatever possible to help you meet the needs of your Troop, patrols, and individual Scouts.
- Summer camp is a great place for Scouts to fully lead their program. Encourage your SPL and Patrol

Campfires

We have two campfires throughout the week at Camp Gorton: Opening and Closing.

Opening - Our staff will delight you with songs, skits, stories, and cheers galore in the Council Fire Ring. We welcome you to America's Finest Scout Camp with a campfire packed full of Scouting fun and comradery.

Closing - On Friday night, our Closing Campfire and Recognition Ceremony will take place in the Council Fire Ring. This campfire is composed primarily of Scout songs, skits, and cheers. The staff loves to see Scout material, so bring your A game and blow us away.

Open Area

There will be designated times each day for Scouts to move freely through camp. Scouts can use this time to visit their favorite program area, work on extra merit badges, develop skills, and work on various camp awards. Scouts must have a buddy as they move through camp.

Camp-Wide Activities

Monday through Thursday there will be a campwide activity. Scouts are encouraged to work on awards or participate in games on the parade field. Past games have included Capture the Flag, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, and Scavenger Hunts. Each day's camp-wide game is decided by the Senior Patrol Leaders at their meeting after lunch. This includes our Gaga and Volleyball pit between the main bathrooms and the Camp Health Office!

Morning and Evening Colors

Scouts are encouraged to participate in our flag ceremonies each day. Interested Scouts should talk to a staff member prior to the ceremony in which they would like to help. Morning Colors will occur at 7:45 AM and Evening Colors will occur at 5:40 PM. Field Uniforms are required for Evening colors.

Happy Hour

Immediately after breakfast, Scouts will be sent to a different area of camp for small maintenance and cleaning projects. Campsites will be assigned a different job at breakfast each day. Happy Hour accounts for 10 points on your Troops' daily campsite inspection, so make sure Scouts are present and actively involved!

Second Cup of Coffee

Each day after breakfast, there will be a leaders' meeting at the Chapel. One leader from each unit should attend, as important information and updates will be distributed at this meeting. The camp administrative staff will be there to run the meeting and answer any questions or issues you have.

Siesta

1:00 PM to 1:50 PM is the designated siesta time for the entire camp. Troops are encouraged to stay in their campsite and relax to regain energy for the remainder of the day. Card games, reading, and naps are highly encouraged.

Senior Patrol Leader Meeting

After lunch, there will be a brief 5 minute meeting between the Senior Patrol Leaders and the Program Director. This is when the next day's camp-wide activity will be decided and important information will be distributed. SPLs should come prepared with any questions they or their Scouts may have.

Hilltop Outpost

Camp Gorton has a beautiful outpost area at the top of our hill on the far side of the road. Scouts in our First Year Resident Experience program, Camping Merit Badge, Wilderness Survival Merit Badge and the Gorton Seals program will leave at 4 PM on Thursday to cook dinner and spend the night on the hill.

Program Highlights

Expanded Merit Badge Offering

Camp Gorton strives to offer a vast selection of merit badges. This summer we have added a few additional merit badges, also this year we will be grouping some badges together throughout camp. This is to provide a cross-curricular experience for your Scouts, and we also are willing to curate a plan for your Scout to ensure their camp experience is beneficial and fun.

Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule allows for the most merit badge time while still leaving ample time to travel between program areas. We want to be flexible with our daily scheduling, during SPL Meetings we can decide whether to have Open Area or a Campwide Activity, to allow for open area opportunities, as well as a fun experience.

Daily Activity Schedule (subject to change based on weather)

Sunday

- Check-in
- Leaders Meeting
- Round-Robin (Meet the Areas and Staff)
- Opening Campfire Program

Monday

- Merit Badge Sessions Begin
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

Tuesday

- Merit Badge Sessions Begin
- Order of the Arrow Day
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

Wednesday

- Merit Badge Sessions Continue
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

Thursday

- Merit Badge Sessions Begin
- Open Area / Campwide Activity
- Hilltop Night

Friday

- Merit Badge Sessions End
- Closing Campfire
- BBQ Dinner

Saturday

Even though programming has ended, Troops are more than welcome to stay Friday evening to ensure safe travels back and home during daylight hours.



Introduction to Merit Badges

While merit badges and advancements are only a portion of the overall summer camp experience, we want to ensure that each Scout is prepared to succeed in earning the badges they set out for and get the most out of these exciting programs. Our ultimate goal is to provide a fun program full of meaningful learning to all Scouts. Be prepared! Scouts should review the requirements for each badge that they intend on taking before their week at camp.



Scouts should be sure to complete any necessary prerequisite requirements before coming to camp. Due to the nature of some requirements, and the limitations of the summer camp setting, the listed requirements cannot be completed in the merit badge class. In many cases a signed note from a Scout leader is sufficient to show proof of a prerequisite; or bringing a copy of the written requirement (such as a report, letter, or menu). Please be sure to complete all prerequisites prior to coming to camp to ensure a completed merit badge at the end of the week. In some cases, Scouts will not be able to work on or complete other requirements without having completed the prerequisite requirements first. To help ensure that all Scouts have a meaningful and worthwhile merit badge experience, Scouts who have not completed the prerequisites prior to camp may be encouraged by the councilor to find another merit badge to take at that time (especially in the cases of Eagle-required merit badges).

Scoutmasters and unit leaders should guide Scouts in their merit badge selections.

This year we will once again be using Black Pug to record Scouts merit badge information, but an Application for Merit Badge (aka "blue card"), will be provided upon request.

Merit Badges

Scouts will have many opportunities to earn merit badges throughout the week. There are FIVE hours each day dedicated to merit badge instruction, additionally some of our program areas also offer open area merit badges.

Many badges are well suited for first or second year campers who are still new to the Scouting program. Other badges tailor themselves to older Scouts who may have many Eagle required badges and are looking for a challenge. Please follow these suggestions as much as possible to ensure that all Scouts are in badges that match their ability level.

Open Area Badges

Scouts may go to program areas during the open area time to work on select merit badges.

Registrations, Waitlists, and Conflicts

Your unit will be sent information regarding online Merit Badge sign-ups that opens on May 15 at 6 PM. Please ensure all Scouts select a first and second choice for each merit badge instruction period.

Some badges have class limits due to space, time or equipment restrictions. Waitlists will be generated for each of these classes, but Scouts should be prepared with other class choices should too many Scouts sign up for a specific badge. Class spaces for these classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you arrive at camp, you will be given a list of your Scouts and the badges they are signed up for. If there are any issues or conflicts, or if any of your Scouts would like to change any of their badges, there will be a merit badge roundtable in the Dining Hall, with area directors immediately following dinner on Sunday night. Please send one leader and any Scouts with class conflicts and issues to this meeting. We will do our best to ensure that all Scouts and leaders are satisfied with merit badge selections.

Extra Camp Programs

Gorton Trail Hiker - Camp Gorton may have gorgeous program areas, but we are also home to a huge network of trails that cut across our hillside. The Gorton Trail Hiker Award is a program dedicated to getting Scouts and Scouters out on the trails and building an appreciation for the camp as a whole. This program has three tiers: [Bronze](#), [Silver](#), and [Gold](#).

[Gorton Nature Award](#) - A summer camp award aimed at developing a passion in Scouts for the world around them. Leave No Trace awareness sessions will be offered during the week as well.

[Gorton Frontiersman Award](#) - This newer award is designed to develop pioneering, wilderness survival, and outdoor cooking skills. Information on this can be acquired from the Scoutcraft Director at camp.

Gorton SEALS program - During the summer of 1998, the Gorton Seals were formed. It was formed by a group of 7 Gorton Staff Members seeking greater physical, mental and moral development through intense team-oriented training. We are looking for motivated Scouts and Adult Scouters to join the ranks of the Gorton SEALS. We only ask that you are a swimmer and at least 14 years old. Activities include daily physical training and daily swimming to develop your endurance. Thursday night includes an overnight adventure on Hilltop. And the week concludes with the mile swim on Friday morning.

Top Shot - This program is a challenging program designed to further improve a Scout's shooting skills in archery, rifle shooting, and shotgun shooting. We also have requirements for leaders and Venturers.

[Mile Swim](#) - To encourage swimming skills and recognize Scouts who swim one mile or more.

[Gorton Honor Patrol](#) - Designed to promote and strengthen the patrol method in camp. An Honor Patrol is an exemplary group of Scouts who are committed to the patrol method, understand its benefits, and apply it in their daily lives. This program is designed to allow patrol members to explore all aspects of Camp Gorton. Those patrols that complete the Honor Patrol program in their week at camp will receive a Gorton Honor Patrol neckerchief.

[Scoutmaster Merit Badge](#) - This program is designed to engage adult leaders in the program areas of camp, promote camp improvement projects, and boost that good ol' Gorton Spirit. All adult leaders are encouraged to participate in this fun and rewarding program. This year there will be an element of daily training added as well.

Adult Leader Trainings - Many different adult leader trainings will be made available over the course of your stay at Camp Gorton. Past courses have included Safe Swim Defense, Merit Badge Counselor Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, and many others.

Order of the Arrow

TKäen DöD is the Order of the Arrow lodge associated with the Five Rivers Council. The Order is known as "Scouting's National Honor Society" and works hard to promote Scout camping, encourage leadership, and provide service to Scouting. Many members of the staff are Arrowmen and are dedicated to the Scouting program. There are numerous service projects that the lodge has conducted that are a definite improvement to camp.

TKäen DöD Lodge provides Order of the Arrow Unit Election opportunities in the Spring. By National policy Unit Elections are not permitted at summer camp.

The Order of the Arrow Recognition Ceremony will be included in the weekly program. This is a public recognition of the newly elected members in the presence of their friends and families. Questions regarding their upcoming induction at an Ordeal weekend will be answered after the ceremony. More information and people to contact can be found at the [TKäen DöD Lodge portion of the council website](#).

Out of Council units desiring their Scouts to be Recognized need to coordinate with the Camp Commissioner.

Order of the Arrow Day

Tuesday is Order of the Arrow Day at camp. We will have a recognition of members who have been elected or who have completed their Ordeal. There will also be special programming for the day and an opportunity for lodge members to seal their membership in the Brotherhood. All OA members are asked to wear their OA sash to evening colors and dinner.

