



CAMP GORTON'S LEADERS GUIDE 2025



SCOUTS BSA SUMMER CAMP



GFCScouting.org





CAMP DIRECTOR

Welcome from the Camp Director:

Greetings, my friends! I am excited to welcome you all to Camp Gorton!

Whether you are returning or this is your first time, 2025 is going to be a great summer to be at Camp Gorton! This will be our 101st year and our camp staff is excited and looking forward to helping your Scouts have a safe and fun time at camp this summer. Please spend some time reading through the Leader's Guide, as some things have changed this year.

Please, feel free to email me at campgortondirector@gmail.com with any questions you may have. This document is your guide to everything for Camp Gorton 2025.

Welcome to our summer home. Welcome to Camp Gorton!

Yours in Scouting,
Ian Walruth
Camp Director



CAMP GORTON CHAIRMAN

Welcome from the Camp Gorton Resident Camp Chairman:

Greetings! Camp Gorton has always been one of my favorite places to be. I first attended Camp Gorton in the 1980s and it continues to be a source of joy for my family and me. Ask anyone who's attended Camp Gorton as a Scout or a Scouter (or both) and they'll tell you that there is a kind of Scouting magic here that is unique. Our goal for camp this summer is to provide an experience for Scouts that aides in their training and advancement, while creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our staff take pride in our work, providing exceptional Scouting experiences and a wide variety of Merit Badge opportunities to Scouts. Requirements are completed as written, with no changes or substitutions. Completing a Merit Badge is a rewarding accomplishment, but we want to stress to Scouts, Scouters, and parents that partially completing a Merit Badge is not a bad thing. We look for Scouts to develop a love for learning and Scouting. If, over the course of their week, a Scout cannot complete a badge it does not mean that the Scout, leader, or counselor has failed. It simply means that a Scout has made progress in their learning journey, but more work is required to finish the requirements. We are more than happy to assist any Scout with a partially completed badge when they return another week or summer. We can also assist in completing partially completed Merit Badges from previous summers and other places this year if proper documentation and time is available.

At Camp we will have the same program areas open as we have in years past: Handicraft, Nature, S.T.E.M., Scoutcraft, Range and Target Activities (formerly Shooting Sports), and Waterfront. We also provide an excellent First Year Resident Experience (FYRE). This area and its staff are organized as part of Scoutcraft, and throughout the week Scouts new to summer camp/Scouting will work on requirements in different areas to jump-start Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class advancement.

Your Camp Staff is working hard to be ready to provide the best experience any Scout Camp has to offer. I look forward to seeing you this summer at Camp.

Yours in Scouting,
Jesse Kernan
Chairman

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LIKE AND FOLLOW US TO MAKE SURE YOU GET
PROGRAM UPDATES, CAMP INFO, AND PICTURES AS SOON
AS THEY ARE POSTED!

Camp Planning in Four Easy Steps

- Step 1:** This guide is intended to be a reference guide for Scout leaders attending Camp Gorton. It is written for the leader who is potentially coming for the first time. While we recommend that all leaders review this guide entirely, as each year there are program and procedural changes, experienced leaders may skim certain sections. This guide provides all the latest information.
- Step 2:** Get Organized. Start the planning process with your unit **now** so you can get the information you need in advance of deadlines.
- Step 3:** Ask questions. If you are unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. Parents' questions should be directed to Unit Leaders to streamline communications with Council.
- Camp Director E-mail: campgortondirector@gmail.com
 - Telephone: (607) 732-9047 (Elmira Office).
(607) 292-3220 (Camp Gorton Office) [seasonal: June 25th to Aug. 4th]
- Step 4:** Help us help you. Should there be anything that arises, or somehow we can make your stay at Camp Gorton better, please let us know. We take our reputation as "America's Finest Scout Camp" seriously. Most times, we can address any concerns immediately.

Summer Camp Backdated or Checklist:

Task:	By Date or Time Frame:
• site reserved	ASAP
• schedule summer camp promotion	Early-Winter Troop Meeting
• Troop leaders who will be attending camp identified	Mid-Winter
• enter contact information and birthdates for all Scouts and leaders into reservation system	February
• Campership Applications (if any) submitted	March 15 th
• Scouts and leaders registered and paid online to take advantage of early registration discounts	before May 1st
• attend Pre-Camp Leaders Meeting	May 1st
• Scouts select Merit Badges choices	April Troop Meeting
• online merit badge and activity registration starts for registered Scouts	May 15 th
Scouts must have paid at least 50% of the camp fee to sign-up for Merit Badges	
• final payments made to avoid late fees	before June 1st
• finalize plans including: departure time, Scout schedules, pick-up, etc.	June
• all plans shared with families and leaders	June
• Two Weeks Prior to Arriving at Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BSA Medical Form (parts A, B, and C) collected for ALL participants staying over 24 hours ○ Ensure all leaders' dates of birth are accurate in the online registration system. ○ Special Needs Accommodation information correct in the online registration system ○ any food allergies and dietary needs are correct in the online registration system ○ all Scouts have signed up for merit badges in the online registration system ○ any early release forms are signed and collected ○ Please note: Summer Camp Forms can be downloaded from our website at https://gfcscouting.org/camping/scouts-bsa-summer-camp/. PLEASE make certain parents sign all Scout forms. 	
• One Week Prior: Final Check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all forms are collected and submitted (paper copies or online) ○ all special Troop activities and advancement registrations are complete online and double checked ○ all families know about transportation plans and equipment needs ○ all supplies are ready 	

CAMP GORTON INFORMATION

CAMP FEES

Early Bird Fee (by May 15, 2025)
\$580.00
Regular Fee (by June 1, 2025)
\$610.00
Late Fee (after June 1, 2025)
\$690.00
New Scout/Crossover
\$580 by June 1st
\$610 after June 1st
Additional Week of Camp
\$410.00
Three Weeks of Camp
\$1,400.00 (total)
Leader's Fee
\$200.00 (week)
\$250 after June 1st
\$30 (per day)
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://gfcscouting.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 13-19
Session 2: July 20-26
Session 3: July 27 - Aug. 2
Campership Application Deadline
March 15, 2025
Early Bird Registration Deadline
May 15, 2025
Pre-Camp Leaders' Meetings
In Person: June 7, 2025
Zoom: May 1, 2025
(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.

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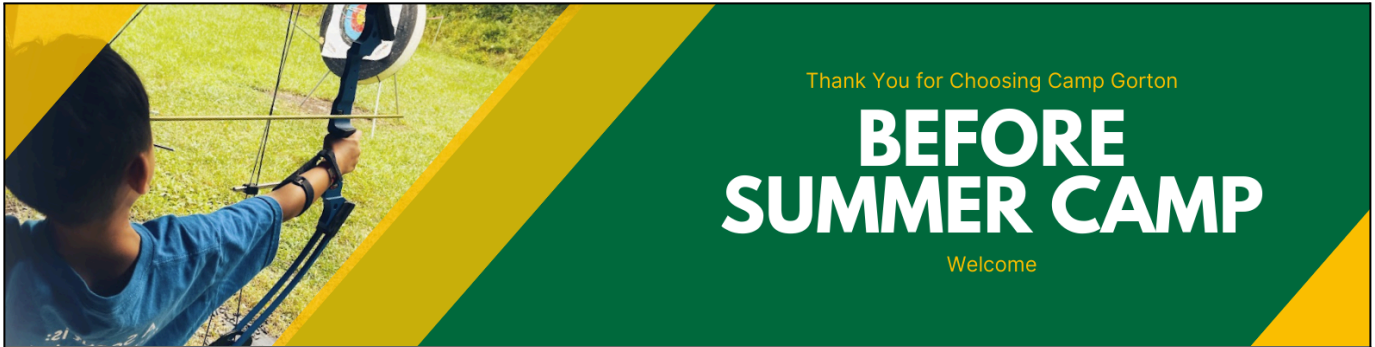
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UPDATES SINCE LAST YEAR'S GUIDE

2025 Updates as of January 1, 2025

- **Updated Sections:**
 - [AED Located at Waterfront](#)
 - [Each Scout Must Have at Least 50% of Registration Paid to Enroll for Classes](#)
 - [Buddy System Changes](#)
- **New Sections:**
 - [Photography and Video](#)
 - [Drones](#)
 - [Updates to Process of Recording Advancement](#)
 - [Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs](#)
 - [Swim Attire](#)



Thank You for Choosing Camp Gorton

BEFORE SUMMER CAMP

Welcome

About Camp Gorton:

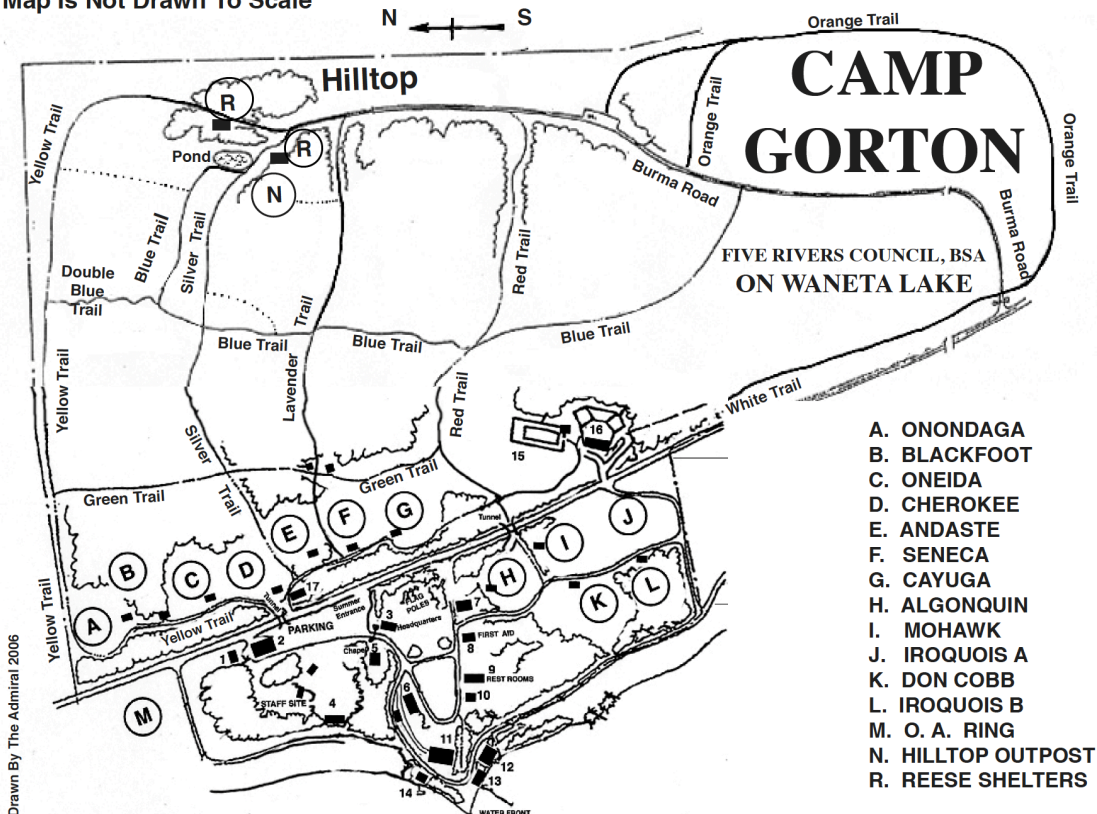
America's Finest Scout Camp:

Camp Gorton is located on Waneta Lake nestled in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. In 1922, Scouts began camping on Waneta Lake at the property of Dr. William Gorton. This area can be seen from our Waterfront by looking across the lake and slightly to the south. After two years of successful summer experiences, Dr. Gorton and several other local leaders came together to purchase the first section of land which would grow into the Camp Gorton we know and love today. Starting in 1924 and continuing to this day, Camp Gorton has allowed thousands of Scouts of the Steuben Area Council, Great Falls Council, and from all throughout the country and world come to experience the magic of summer camp and the solace of year-round camping.

Camp Gorton provides a year-round camping program that is well-suited for Scouts of all ages. During the summer season, Camp Gorton is recognized as a leader in excellent programming in outdoor skills, aquatics, shooting sports, nature, STEM, and crafts. Each year, the summer programs receive national accreditation, and its leadership team is certified by the National Camping School. Welcome to the Camp Gorton Family.

Camp Gorton Map:

Map Is Not Drawn To Scale





CAMP PROGRAM AREAS

Program Areas:

FYRE (First Year Resident Experience):

First year campers are welcomed into the Scouting world at Camp Gorton through our First Year Resident Experience (FYRE) program. This program is designed to introduce new Scouts to basic Scouting skills, inspire a love for Scouting in them, and prepare them for the Scouting journey ahead of them. FYRE Scouts will spend two hours each day with other first-year Scouts and our FYRE staff working on many Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements, as well as their Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit, among other basic Scouting fundamentals.



This program is designed to bring the fun to the Scout and give each new Scout a reason to stay active in Scouting and come back to Camp Gorton for years to come.

FYRE Scouts will spend Thursday night on an overnight outpost at our Hilltop location. They will hike up the hill, cook dinner, and have a campfire while putting all of their new skills to work.

A suggested packing list for FYRE Scouts is included in our Individual Equipment Checklist.

Handicraft:

Our handicraft lodge offers a variety of arts, crafts, and personal skills merit badges for Scouts to complete. Badges such as Leatherwork, Indian Lore, Space Exploration, and Home Repairs will introduce Scouts to different skills and crafts. Please see the Handicraft Director to set up any patrol or Troop activities.



Nature:

The Houghton Nature Lodge is the oldest building at Sunny Camp Gorton. This beautiful area is on the shores of the lake, north of our Waterfront. The Nature staff does its best to fully immerse Scouts in the world around them and hope to spark a passion for ecology and conservation in each Scout in camp. Many ecology and conservation based merit badges are offered throughout the week at camp. Fishing is available during most open areas, as well as an assortment of activities, games, and hikes.



We will continue to offer the [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.

Polar Fishing is Monday through Friday at 7:00 AM. Poles and bait are provided for those who need them.

The Nature Lodge also offers an Ecology Skills class during a merit badge session. This class is aimed at developing Scouts' ecology skills and knowledge, as well as working towards their Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award. Scouts will also learn leadership skills in developing and implementing nature-based activities and games.

Scoutcraft:

Basic outdoor skills are a central part of the Scouting program. Our Scoutcraft area offers Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chit, pioneering skills, the Paul Bunyan Award and many other Scouting skill programs.

This summer we will continue to offer the [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.



Eagles Nest:

Eagles Nest, located at the Chapel, is the landing spot for many of the Eagle required merit badges that we offer, such as many of the Citizenship merit badges, Personal Fitness and Personal Management. Most of these merit badges have several prerequisites that must be completed prior to arriving at camp if you want to finish them this year. We also offer most of our sports related badges here.

Target Ranges

Our target ranges offer Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting merit badges. All materials for these badges are provided. Scouts and leaders MAY NOT bring bows, arrows, guns, or ammunition for use at camp. Please see the Shooting Sports Director to schedule a Troop or patrol shoot for the week. Extra supervision from Scoutmasters on the ranges is always appreciated. Please see the target ranges staff to discuss any help you may be able to offer.

We offer Open Shotgun one night each week for Scouts and leaders not participating in the merit badge. Individuals, not taking the merit badge, may pay for their shells at the Trading Post. Please note, Scouts taking the merit badge will have shooting priority, and do not have to pay for the open area shells. Additionally, we offer special programming including Muzzleloader Night (additional \$5), Cowboy Action Shooting (additional \$5), Skeet Shooting (additional \$10), open shotgun (\$10/box), and Ariel Archery (free).



Scouts that have completed Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting merit badges can face a new challenge by attempting the Gorton 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.

STEM:

The STEM program area will spark imaginations, inspire curiosity and help Scouts build essential STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills through collaboration and problem solving. Scouts will explore hands-on challenges and open-ended adventures designed to unlock creativity! Our STEM area includes computers, robots, equipment for still and video imaging and much more to inspire future engineers, musicians and actors! We offer more than 10 merit badges in STEM fields of study.



Waterfront:

Our waterfront consists of an exceptional staff of trained lifeguards. They offer an assortment of badges and awards, as well as a renowned Instructional Swimming program. Any Scouts who do not complete their BSA test at the beginning of the week are HIGHLY encouraged to take Instructional Swim.



Our waterfront offers open swim, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, and other activities during their open areas. Please talk to the Waterfront Director upon arriving at camp if you would like to set up any Troop boating activities.

We will continue to offer the BSA Paddleboard program this year and offer Motorboating and Water Sports merit badges to Scouts at no additional cost.

Polar Swimming is Monday through Thursday at 7:00 AM. On Friday morning, Scouts can complete the Mile Swim across the lake and back. Any campers interested in completing the [Mile Swim](#) must go to the Waterfront and show a lap progression each day.

SEALS:

Are you looking for a bit of a challenge this year at camp? Do you like working out and being physical outdoors? Are you ready to be a part of a team and build great relationships? If so, join us for the SEALS program at Camp Gorton. During the summer of 1998, the Gorton Seals were 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.



CAMP FACILITIES

Facilities:

Restroom and Shower Facilities

Camp Gorton has central male and female restrooms with Youth/Adult designations with individual warm shower facilities. Shower facilities exist on both sides of the road. The main shower house is located between the dining hall and the first aid lodge. An updated, secondary shower house is located across the road just above the main tunnel.

Campsites:

Scouts staying at Camp Gorton are welcome to use our two-person platform tents. These canvas tents are staples to the Scout Camp experience. Each tent contains two bunks with camping mattresses, and room for gear. The tents are weather resistant, and nearly every Scout has room to stand within the tent. Scouts and leaders are welcome to bring their own tent to camp, too. Tents must be made with a flame retardant material.



JOIN THE GORTON STAFF FAMILY

Join The Camp Gorton Summer Staff Family:

Camp Gorton Staff Members:

Camp Gorton takes exceptional pride in the quality of its camp staff. We hire exceptional teachers, leaders, and Scouters to provide the best summer camp experience possible. We employ roughly 50 Scouts and Scouters. They work tirelessly throughout the year to assemble an exceptional program for each summer. Many of the senior staff (18+) attend training at the Boy Scouts of America's National Camping School in order to further expand the camp program. We promise that our staff will make every effort to ensure that your week is phenomenal and memorable.



Interested in joining the summer camp staff?



In addition to your salary, housing, and meals, members of Camp Gorton's Staff join a family of current and former staff members who share this life changing experience. Many Scouters credit Camp Gorton for skills they use each day in school and their careers. Anyone interested in applying to work at Sunny Camp Gorton should fill out the staff application online at:

<https://gfcscouting.org/camping/scouts-bsa-resident-camp/>. Scouting experience

is recommended, but not required. You must be at least 16 years of age by June 15th.

Counselors-in-Training (CITs):

Each summer, our Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program prepares young scouts to become the next generation of camp staff. CITs are Scouts interested in becoming staff members at Camp Gorton that are 15 years old by June 15th. Each CIT participates in delivering the program with the staff. They will rotate between each program area and begin to get a sense of what it takes to become a staff member.

CITs do not need to be available for each week of program, but are expected to participate in staff week, our Cub Scout session, at least 2 Scouts BSA sessions, and taking down camp at the end of the summer. The CITs schedule can be discussed with the camp director and program director at the time of their interview.

Those interested in becoming a Counselor-in-Training should fill out the staff application online at: <https://gfcscouting.org/camping/scouts-bsa-resident-camp/>. CITs will be interviewed, as would any potential staff member.



Registration Information:

2025 Summer Camp Deposit and Fees:

Reservations for the 2025 season require a \$100 deposit for the Unit. The form and deposit must be received and receipted to hold a reservation. If a reservation for a campsite is made without a deposit, it will be held tentatively for two weeks. After that time is up and no deposit made, the unit will then be notified and removed from that campsite. Since site deposits are applied to each year's camp fees, a new deposit is required to reserve a week every year. Camp leadership reserves the right to change campsites based on camp needs.

The 2025 Scouts BSA Camp fees are:

\$580.00 – paid in full by May 15, 2025

\$610.00 – paid in full by June 1, 2025

\$690.00 – paid after June 1, 2025

New Scouts:

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 1, 2025. Great Falls Council office must be contacted to have the discount applied.

Leader Fees:

The Leader Fee is \$200.00 per adult per week, \$250 after June 1st. If a leader is not attending for the entire week of camp, but sharing leadership on a day-to-day basis, each will be charged \$30.00 per 24-hour period. If a unit has a parent or leader visiting camp for less than 24 hours, they can pay for their meals at the camp Trading Post. As a reminder all adult leadership must be currently registered in the BSA and be current in Youth Protection Training. All Units require 2 deep leadership throughout the entire week.

Deposit Phase:

After February 1, 2025, the deposit phase ends. At this time all registrations will require names. You can also go into your registration and confirm your numbers and add names. For those that paid the \$100 Deposit you will need to allocate that money to attendees. You can either apply the full \$100 to one person or spread it across attendees. It is important to do this part as the system handles each person and their amount due/paid separately. In other words if a Scout had all but \$100 paid, and you had \$100 to allocate, that Scout will incur a late fee. After February 2nd a \$50 deposit is required for each Scout.

CAMPSITE CAPACITIES	
Lakeside Campsites	
Algonquin	30
Don Cobb	30
Mohawk	30
Iroquois A	40
Iroquois B	20
Hillside Campsites	
Onondaga	40
Blackfoot	30
Oneida	26
Cherokee	28
Andaste	24
Cayuga	32

Campsites:**How Campsites are Requested and Assigned:**

Camp Gorton provides the opportunity for as many Scouts as possible to come to camp. This means that there are times that we must place two (or more) units into one campsite to use available space and ensure proper leadership. This serves the interests of all Scouts and allows for greater opportunities for more campers. Units that do not fill at least 80 percent of the rated campsite capacity may have another unit assigned to share their campsite. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Camp Gorton meets or exceeds each BSA National Camping Standards, along with State and Federal regulations. If permitting agencies have overlapping requirements, we meet the stricter standards. Units can make specific campsite requests, but final placement is at the discretion of camp management. All questions regarding summer camp procedures and policies should be directed to the [Camp Director or Camp Staff Advisor](#).

Campsite Capacity:

A camper is defined as either a Scout or adult leader. Per New York State requirements, campsite capacity cannot be exceeded to accommodate more than what is listed. Overflow units in two sites must make arrangements for at least two additional leaders to attend camp. Extra tents cannot be made available to exceed site capacity without pre-approval.

Provisional Camping (Scouts Attending Without Their Troops):

Scouts can attend Camp Gorton without their home unit and be part of a group who will function as a Troop for the week under the direction of a provisional Scoutmaster in camp. If the number of campers is too low to form a Troop, Scouts will be added to another Troop in camp for the duration of their time in camp. Rest assured, these Troops are specifically chosen to ensure your Scout will have a great week! This would also include units coming to camp who only have one leader.

Scouts may choose to come back for additional weeks before or after their Troop has already attended camp. Any Scout may attend an additional week at Camp Gorton for a reduced fee of \$500.00. Scouts wishing to attend provisional camping experience should pay their fees individually. Provisional Scouts pay the same fees under the same timeline as Scouts attending camp with their Troop. For even more fun, a Scout can attend all 3 weeks of camp for a reduced rate of \$1,500.00.

Camperships:

Any Scouting unit with Scouts in need of financial assistance in order to attend summer camp may apply for a Great Falls Council Campership. The Campership application is part of the registration process. Once the Unit has named the Scouts the Campership application is part of their information. A Unit can enable [Parent Portal](#) so that a parent can log in and fill out the form and make the request.

Be advised, Camperships are not automatic. Scouts in need will typically receive 10%-50% of the Early Bird fee from the Council Campership Fund. Campership funding is partially dependent on Friends of Scouting and other fundraising successes. Individual accounts for each Scout should already be set up in your unit. The 9th point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Thrifty". Scouts are expected to earn some of their summer camp fees by participating in fundraising activities of the unit, as well as family and unit support.

The online completed Campership Application must be completed no later than March 15th. Notification of a Campership award will be sent to the parents and unit leader before April 1st with additional instructions. Once a campership is applied for, the price will adjust for the requested amount. Once given, the amount for the Scout will adjust and reflect the awarded amount. All payment deadlines still apply to Scouts who receive Camperships.

Campership requests will not be accepted after March 15th.

Unit Leadership and Required Supervision:

Units must maintain the minimum two-deep leadership at all times, and all leaders MUST be youth protection training certified. Each unit must have at least two adult leaders age 21 or over. All leaders staying overnight must be BSA registered in that Unit, and must be current in youth protection training. Anyone staying in camp for more than 24 hours must provide a medical form (A,B,C) to the Camp Medical Officer. Please note that adult leaders may not bring children other than their paid Scout to camp.

Linked Units (Boy & Girl Troop) must have two-deep leadership for each Unit.

For answers regarding BSA National Leadership policies refer to the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and/or [Youth Protections and Barriers to Abuse FAQ](#). If you still have questions please contact either the [Camp Staff Advisor](#) or [Camp Director](#).

Refund Policy:

To minimize the need for refunds, camp fee transfers are highly recommended and encouraged from within the unit. When a refund is approved, it will be refunded in the manner that it was paid and to who paid it. Requests for a refund received after the Early Bird payment deadline will be subject to a cancellation fee. Refund requests after the week of camp are not available, as the fee covers basic food purchasing costs for the week.

For Cub Scout Resident Camp, Family Camp, and Scouts BSA Resident Camp registrations, the cancellation fee is based on 15% of the total event registration fee and not the amount of fees paid at the time of cancellation (Site and Bunk Deposits are not Refundable).

Alternately fees paid for Cub Scout Resident Camp, Family Camp, and Scouts BSA Resident Camp may be transferred to another Scout or leader attending. No prorated fees will be given to Scouts wishing to attend a partial week of Cub Scout Resident Camp or Scouts BSA Resident Camp.

Refund requests can be mailed to the Great Falls Council Buffalo Office, 2860 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14225, or emailed to the [Camp Staff Advisor](#).

**Preparing for Camp:****Adult Leader Information:**

The New York State Health Department mandates that all adults over 18 who are around children at a children's camp in New York State must be processed through the NYS Department of Justice to ensure the safety of all Scouts in our camp. The NYS Health Department requires all adult leaders to provide us with their full name and ***date of birth at least two weeks*** ahead of your arrival at camp to ensure time for the check to go through. We have this through each adult leaders' registration on [Black Pug](#). If you have any questions, please email the [Camp Staff Advisor](#).

Pre-Camp Informational Meeting for Leaders:

Available for adult unit leaders and Troop Senior Patrol Leaders, this meeting will provide you with all the information your unit needs for final camp planning. Key Staff members will be on hand to answer your questions, and each unit should arrange to send at least one representative to the pre-camp meeting.

THE PRE-CAMP LEADERS' MEETING WILL BE

Saturday - June 7, 2025

at 3:00 PM

CAMP GORTON DINING HALL



OR

Thursday - May 1, 2025

at 7:00 PM

BY ZOOM



Please RSVP to the Camp Director on whether or not your unit plans to attend. The Leader's Meeting starts promptly at the times listed above. Please bring with you a list of any questions or concerns you might have.

Health Forms and Medical Requirements:

General Safety:

Please review the current "[Guide to Safe Scouting](#)" prior to coming to camp.

First Aid Building:

First aid services are available 24 hours a day by certified medical personnel during the summer camp season.

Health Forms:

It is BSA and NYSDOH policy that everyone, youth or adult, who stays overnight at Camp provide a completed Annual Health and Medical Form. Those staying overnight in a Children's Camp in New York State, but less than 24 consecutive hours, must provide Parts A and B completed and signed. Anyone spending more than 24 consecutive hours in camp must also provide a Medical Form with Part C completed and signed by a Physician (As defined on the current Medical form) dated within the last year of the date of the end of your session of camp. A family physician's form may be attached to the BSA Form but does not replace the information needed from the BSA form. All information on the form must be provided. BSA Medical forms are good for 1 year (adult and youth) and are valid through the month.

The current BSA Medical form can be found at:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

Unit Leaders should review these forms before turning them in. All immunization dates, insurance info and a copy of both sides of your insurance card, and emergency contact names and numbers are required. Please make a copy of all medical forms as they are kept on file in the Health Office during camp. Do not turn in originals! Medical forms are returned to the unit on checkout day, except for Part A. **Part A will be retained by Camp as a part of necessary records.** Please check for the following signatures on each Scouts' Health Form:

- Parent Signature Part A
- Parent and Doctor Signature Part B Page 2 (if bringing medication)
- Examiner's Signature Part C

Prescription Medication

All prescribed medication must be listed on Part B page 2 of 2 on each health form. All prescribed medications must be in their original container with the legible prescription label of dosage, name, doctor and pharmacy. All medication must be brought to the Health Lodge during check-in. During the check in process you will be provided direction and material about the [prescription medication in your site](#). Scouts may not possess or administer any over the counter medication without a doctor's order and signature on their Health Form. Treatment of ailments is available at the Health Lodge as per our Standing Orders. Over the counter medications must be listed on the Health Form Part B page 2 of 2 to be administered. Scouts and Leaders may carry inhalers and epi-pens.

Special Needs, Allergies and Dietary Restrictions:

Scouts or adults who have special needs due to a physical or mental disability, or special diets due to **medical or religious requirements will be accommodated to the best of our ability**. Special needs not specified on-line need to be addressed to the Great Falls Council office or the [Camp Director](#). The sooner this information is available, the better your needs can be met. Please provide special food needs in the online registration. Should a need arise after registration, please contact camp at least two weeks prior to your arrival.

Medical Procedures:

A certified medical officer is available 24 hours a day. Any injuries or illnesses occurring at camp, no matter how minor, must be reported to the health lodge to be logged. In the event of a medical emergency, the health lodge and medical officer can be contacted at any time. Radio contact is available from all program areas, the dining hall, trading post, and camp office.

The health lodge is prepared to handle all illness and injury, with a licensed medical doctor under agreement and on call. Adult leadership should be aware of Scouts medical needs and observant of their activities, realizing that camp activities may affect Scouts differently than routine home life. **All injuries**, including those treated by the unit leadership, must be reported to the Health Officer and logged. In the event of serious injuries or illnesses, do not move the victim. If you are trained in first aid, begin treatment and have someone contact the nearest staff member, they are trained to handle the situation.

AED's are located in the Health Lodge, Waterfront and Dining Hall.

Merit Badge Information:

Online Merit Badge Registration:

We offer online merit badge pre-registration for selection of merit badges for your Scouts at Camp Gorton. Your Troop's primary summer camp leader will receive an email with your Troop's necessary materials to pre-register each Scout attending camp in [Black Pug](#) in April. On or before May 1st, we ask each unit to enter all your Scouts names into the [Black Pug](#) system to ensure MB registration goes smoothly. The merit badge registration opens on May 15th at 6 PM, Eastern Standard Time. Please remember that each Scout must have at least 50% of their camp fee paid in order to register for Merit Badges. It is recommended that each youth review the merit badge schedule with their Scoutmaster and set up their preferred schedule, and then one person within the Unit enters their selections. New youth may be entered or changes may be made online until registration closes, approximately 2 weeks prior to your arrival at camp. **A Scout must have at least \$305 paid to register for classes.**

Waitlists and Conflicts:

Some badges may have a limit on the number allotted per timeslot, so a wait list option may be available if your Scout is determined to try to get into a specific badge at a specific time slot. Directions on the use of Waitlists is in the [Using Black Pug](#) section. If you have any questions or are having access trouble please contact the [Camp Director](#).

Merit Badge Pre-Requisites and Advance Preparations:

Some merit badges offered at camp require advance preparation. Scouts should bring materials for completed requirements or partial cards to camp. Merit Badge Counselors will collect any completed written work during their first merit badge class. The course catalog, found under attachments on the registration page & emailed to all registration contacts, contains a schedule of all classes, class size and prerequisites. You can also access a report for prerequisites by Scout (for classes enrolled in), see the [Using Black Pug](#) section for details.



2025 Merit Badge Schedule (Draft):

(Note: Changes sometimes occur. Please refer to the online schedule for the most current updates.)

9:00-9:30	9:30-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:15-1:00	1:00-2:00
Shooting Sports							
Archery			Archery				
Rifle			Rifle				
Waterfront							
Water Sports			Water Sports				
Motorboating*			Motorboating*				
Kayaking			Kayaking				
Canoeing			Rowing				
Paddleboarding			Paddleboarding				
Nature							
Fish and Wildlife		Forestry		Nature/ Mammal Study			
Fly Fishing		Reptile/Amphibian Study		Fly Fishing			
Environmental Science Pt 1		Insect Study		Astronomy			
STEM							
Communication*		Programming		Journalism			
Inventing		Photography		Theater			
Electronics		Entrepreneur		Animation			
HandiCraft							
Home Repairs/ Plumbing			Model Design				
Painting			Wood Carving				
Art/ Sculpture			Pottery				
Scoutcraft							
E Prep*		Metalwork					
Wilderness Survival*		First Aid*		Exploration			
Camping*		Pioneering		Cooking*			
Eagle's Nest							
Personal Fitness*			Disc Golf		Personal Mgmt*		
FYRE							

Bold Type are Eagle required

Yellow= Open Area

* = pr

1:00-2:00	2:00-2:30	2:30-3:00	3:00-3:30	3:30-4:00	4:00-4:30	4:30-5:00
Shooting Sports						
Archery			Archery			
Shotgun			Shotgun			
Waterfront						
Lifesaving						
Small Boat Sailing						
Swimming			Swimming			Open Swim
Instr. Swim						
Nature						
Fishing		Weather		Fishing		
Environmental Science Pt 2		Bird Study				
STEM						
Communication*		Space Exploration				
Robotics		Graphic Arts				
Engineering		Movie Making				
HandiCraft						
Game Design			Basketry			
Textiles			Electricity*			
Wood Carving			Leatherworking			
Scoutcraft						
E Prep*		Search and Rescue				
Orienteering		Signs, Signals, Codes				
Metalwork			First Aid			
Eagle's Nest						
Cit. in the World			Cit. in Comm.*			
Indian Lore			Golf*			
			Adult Training			

* = prerequisites to complete



During Summer Camp:

Check-In and Day One:

Day One Schedule:

Check in will open at 1:00 PM for Scouts BSA Summer Camp. Our staff will not be available to check units in before that time. If you have arranged to share a campsite with another unit, it is helpful if both units plan to arrive together. Check in begins at the table located inside of the gateway next to the Headquarters Building.

Getting ready for check-in:

- Look for your campsite name
- Have all Scouts and Leaders lineup by campsite name
- Once everyone is present, go to the next steps.

The Scoutmaster and the [Camp Director](#) will verify the following items:

- Finalize Scout and leader counts and set up a time on Monday to review all finances
- The names of all Scouts and leaders in camp. Each one will be given a wrist band for identification purposes.
- Any birthdates and full names of any additional adult leaders attending that week (NYS Department of Health Mandate) that have not been registered at this point.
- Your campsite guide for the week
- Information about the Leader's Meeting at 4:00 PM

Following check in, your campsite guide will take you to your campsite to drop off personal and Troop equipment using wagons/carts provided by camp. Troops are welcome to bring equipment trailers, to leave and use in the parking lot. Then, have your Scouts change into their bathing suits. You will then be taken to the Dining Hall for table assignments and the Health Office for medical checks. Please make sure your Scouts have all paperwork completed, including their immunization months and dates, parent and health provider signature, as well as the rest of the form completely filled out. Both have to be completed before your unit can have their swim tests at the Waterfront. As a reminder, youth or adults cannot participate in Waterfront activities nor can they stay in camp more than 24 hours without a completed medical form.

Following the swim tests your unit will be taken on a brief tour of camp (Cook's Tour). Even if you have attended camp here before, we ask that you go on the tour, as new Scouts will be unfamiliar with camp. From there, you will go back to your campsite to finish setting up tents, as well as a 4:00 PM Troop Meeting that will be conducted by your site guide. This meeting is for the Scouts and leaders, except for the one attending the Leaders' Meeting.

Leaders' Meeting (4:00 PM):

At least one adult leader from each campsite is asked to attend a Leader's Meeting in the Memorial Lodge (by the Waterfront Area). If your unit only has two adult leaders, the camp will provide adult leadership to ensure each unit's participation. At this meeting, key staff personnel (Camp Director, Program Director, Camp Ranger, Commissioner, and Health Officer) will provide important information to ensure a safe and fun summer camp experience.

Visiting the Health Lodge:

The Health Lodge Building:

Our First Aid facility is staffed 24 hours a day by certified medical personnel during the summer camp season.

Medication Lock Boxes:

At camp, each unit will be issued a cable and lock box for use in its campsite as needed. All medication brought to camp by Scouts and Leaders of a non-refrigerated and non-injection type, must be collected, stored, issued and logged by the unit leader in their campsite. All medications must first be brought to the Health Lodge. At the Leader's meeting, following training; you will receive your lock box and cable. The cable must be used to secure the box to the floor of the unit leader's platform. One unit leader is responsible for the daily logging and supervision of medication for Scouts and leaders according to the medication time schedule on the prescription bottle. The lock box, cable and log are to be returned to the Health Lodge on the last day of camp in exchange for the unit's medical forms.

Visiting the Dining Hall:

Camp Gorton uses the family style of distributing and eating food. This consists of tables of eight where the "waiter system" is used in preparation of each meal, to deliver food to table during the meal, and clean up after the meal. Seating arrangements are assigned with your unit during check-in. Plan to have at least one staff member be a guest at each of your tables every meal. Unit leaders are responsible for the supervision of their tables to ensure the host/waiter system is being correctly used. You may need to share a table with another unit in order to prevent food waste. The Dining Hall Steward will run each meal and ensure that everyone has a quality dining experience.

Meal Times - are: Breakfast: 8:00 AM, Lunch: 12:15 PM, Dinner: 6:00 PM

Waiters will be selected for each meal by the unit. A duty roster will be made available, during check in, for your Troop's planning purposes. Waiters will report to the Dining Hall 15 minutes before the meal.

Special Meals - Requests for special meals to meet medically necessary dietary or religious needs must be requested **prior to arrival at camp**. This can be done in the online registration when asked about dietary restrictions, allergies, and medical concerns.

EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE ARRIVING FOR EACH MEAL.

ALCOHOL BASED HAND SANITIZER PROVIDED AT ENTRANCE

Swim Checks:

All Scouts and unit leaders are highly encouraged to take the BSA swim test upon arrival at camp. It is very important that everyone take this test in order for the waterfront staff to be aware of each camper's swimming ability. Furthermore, Scouts must earn the Swimmer rating (nonswimmer, beginner, swimmer) in order to take any Waterfront merit badge. Any Scout that does not complete the swim test is highly encouraged to sign up for Instructional Swim. Swimming is an essential Scouting skill and our schedule has been revised to accommodate all instructional swimmers.

What is the swim test?:

All persons participating in BSA aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The classification tests and test procedures have been developed and structured to demonstrate a skill level consistent with the individual's circumstances in the water. There are three ratings (nonswimmer, beginner, and swimmer). For more information regarding swim tests please refer to the [BSA Aquatics Supervision Guide](#).

SWIMMER'S TEST:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side stroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting back stroke. The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

BEGINNER'S TEST:

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

Anyone who has not completed the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a nonswimmer.

Swim Attire:

Swimsuits must be modest. For males, tight fitting swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure are not allowed. For females, bikinis are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate

Cook's Tour (A Tour of Camp):

As part of the check-in and welcome process, each Troop will tour camp. This "Cook's Tour" will include each program area, and other important locations in camp (bathrooms, showers, parade field, etc.). At each program area, Scouts will learn about the merit badges offered at that area, as well as program extras. Leaders can learn about program opportunities for them, and ways to help support the program area. Be sure to inquire about special programs that units can register for during the week (skeet shooting, Troop boat trips, etc.)

Quartermaster Supplies:

Basic campsite tools and equipment are available for loan to units. Equipment must be returned in the same condition it is lent out. Respecting the equipment means longer use and enjoyment for future Scouts. The Quartermaster is located in the Equipment Building at the entrance to camp.

Supplies available:

- American Flag
- Bow Saw
- Hand tools

Photography and Videos:

The taking of photographs and videos is strongly encouraged. It is a great way for our Scouts to remember all the fun they had at camp this summer. Scout Oath and Law is your guidelines for taking photos and videos.

Some things to remember:

- Do not let it interfere with program.
- Do not get in anyone's way of seeing or participating
- Delete photos and/or videos when asked
- Do not take close ups of Scouts without permission
- Do not get name tags of Scouts
- No private areas (ie bathrooms, showers, etc)

Please share the photos and videos with your family and friends. We would also like your photos and videos. We use a google shared drive and post a QR code for the drive in various places in camp.

Drones:

The use of drones at Camp Gorton is strictly prohibited without the written approval of the Scout Executive.

If approved, the following rules are in effect:

- Drone use must follow all State, Federal, and FAA rules and laws, when applicable.
- Fly at operators' own risk. The Great Falls Council, camp staff, campers and guests are not responsible or liable for any damage done to the drone.
- Operator is responsible and liable for any damage done by the drone
- Use of the drone will not interfere with any camp operations



CAMP GORTON'S PROGRAM

Camp Gorton Program:

While every bit of information in this leader's guide is important, this 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 leader's guide is simply an introduction to the phenomenal program we offer.

Check the Great Falls Council website, www.gfscouting.org, and all of our social media sites to stay updated with the newest additions and developments to this year's program.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- The camp program is limited only by a unit's or Scout'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 Leaders to take charge of program planning.

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 and different areas may be able to accommodate extra merit badge work during open areas.

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.

Some badges may have requirements that simply cannot be done at camp and that's ok! These requirements can be completed prior to arriving at camp and given to the pertinent merit badge instructor or they can be completed after the Scout returns home.

Camp Gorton uses [Black Pug](#) to track advancement. With this we can update all the advancement earned for Units in the Great Falls Council. If you are an out of Council unit, we will send the file to the appropriate contact in your Council. You will be able to download: Troop Master import, Blue Card printout, and/or Advancement form.

Pre-Registration, Waitlists, and Conflicts

Your unit will be sent information regarding online merit badge sign ups in April. Please ensure all Scouts select a first and second choice for each merit badge instruction period. Click here for a [Unit Merit Badge Planning Sheet](#) to help make merit badge sign up easier.

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 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.

Some Thoughts on Summer Camp Programming

Summer camp is about more than merit badges. We understand that your Scouts are looking forward to this opportunity to work on badges they may not have a chance to complete anywhere else. We work as hard as we can to ensure that Scouts who want to complete a badge, do just that. This does not mean that we will cut corners and lessen requirements in order to do so. We ensure that ALL Scouts complete ALL requirements before we sign a completed merit badge application.

Completing a merit badge is an awesome thing, but we would like to stress to you (and hope that you will pass this on to your Scouts) that partials are not a bad thing. We want Scouts to discover a love for learning and Scouting. If, over the course of their week, a Scout cannot complete a badge, it does not mean that the Scout, leader, or counselor failed. It simply means that a little more work is required and we would be more than happy to assist that Scout when they return for a second week or a subsequent summer. Partial Merit Badges may be completed at any time prior to the Scout ages out of the program.

Summer camp is an adventure and merit badges are just a small part of that. Please push your Scouts to better themselves, their patrols, and the Troop as a whole with their summer camp experience.

Extra Camp Programs:

Links to the forms are included. These are for your reference. Printed copies for use during camp are available at Headquarters.

Gorton Honor Patrol:

The Gorton Honor Patrol Award is 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.

[Requirements can be found here](#)

Early Morning Adventure:

Those attending 3 or more early morning adventures (Polar Swim, Polar Fishing) will earn an Early Morning Adventure patch.

The Gorton Trail Hiker Award:

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. One award may be earned annually, with each level consisting of hikes, a service project, and a journal reflection. Please see the Camp Ranger upon arrival to camp for more information.

Requirements can be found here:

- [Bronze Gorton Trail Hiker Award](#)
- [Silver Gorton Trail Hiker Award](#)
- [Gold Gorton Trail Hiker Award](#)

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.



[Requirements can be found here.](#)

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.

As the summer approaches, the trainings we will be able to offer will be announced through the council website and social media sites. If you or any leaders in your unit have any training that you would like to see offered while you are at camp, please email the [Camp Director or Program Director](#).

Open Areas:

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 for fun, to work on extra merit badges, further develop skills, and work on various camp awards. Scouts must have a buddy as they move through camp. This includes our Gaga Ball, with adult/staff supervision, and Horseshoe pits between the main bathrooms and the Camp Health Office!

Camp-wide Activities:

Monday through Thursday there will be a camp-wide activity period. This is not an open area, but 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 the day before by the Senior Patrol Leaders at their meeting after lunch.

Senior Patrol Leaders' Meeting:

After lunch, there will be a brief five-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. Another Scout will need to go, for the buddy system.

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 (FYRE), 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. Not only is this open to adults, but adult leaders are needed to participate, particularly female leaders, if female Scouts want to participate. If you are able and willing to participate in this activity please let the [Camp Director](#) know. A suggested packing list for this outpost can be found as a part of the [Individual Equipment List](#).

Campfires:

We have two main 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 comprised primarily of Scout songs, skits, and cheers. The staff loves to see Scout material, so bring your A game and blow us away.

Morning and Evening Colors (Flag Ceremonies):

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. Uniforms are only required for evening colors. Units are highly encouraged to bring the Unit Flag. These can be proudly displayed on the Parade Field during the day.

Happy Hour:

Immediately after breakfast, Scouts will be sent to a different area of camp for small maintenance and cleaning projects. This not only helps maintain a clean environment around Camp for all Scouts and Scouters, but it also helps instill ownership of Camp Gorton. This special place belongs to all of us. Campsites will be assigned a different job at breakfast each day. Happy Hour accounts for 10 points on your [daily campsite inspection scoresheet](#), so make sure Scouts are present and actively involved! Please see the [Campsite Inspection](#) section below for more information.

Siesta:

Each day, following lunch, Troops will return to their campsite for siesta. This resting period runs from 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM, and no camp activities are open during this time. Troops are expected to remain in their campsites and relax to regain energy for the remainder of the day. Quiet, restful activities such as card games, reading, and naps are highly encouraged.

Vesper Services:

A Scout is Reverent. An organized non-denominational vesper service is conducted daily following evening colors. All program and business areas of camp will be closed during these services. The chapel is also available for units, patrols, or individuals who wish to provide their own services during the week. While attendance is not mandatory, all Scouts and Scouters are welcome and encouraged to attend. Once during the camping session, a voluntary collection will be taken to support The [World Friendship Fund](#), an organization that supports the Scouting movement around the world.



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.



Camp Gorton Logistics:

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. This is the ideal time to share your thoughts on the session so far. What is going well? How could we make your experience better? Your feedback is welcome and important. This, also, is the time the camp leadership will share important information with you.

The Buddy System:

Scouts should never travel alone in camp! Not only is it a NYS Department of Health and BSA requirement that each Scout have a buddy while moving around camp, it is also a really good idea. Scouts don't have to have the same buddy each time, in fact a buddy can change many times during the day. It is just important that Scouts are not alone. Please keep this in mind when scheduling merit badge sessions. It might be a good idea for Scouts to register together, so they have a built-in buddy. Buddies must be of the same gender, unless it is a group of three. It is every unit leader's responsibility to ensure that everyone in your unit is using the buddy system at all times.

Please see the latest updates to Scouting America's Buddy System as found in the Guide to Safe Scouting (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a>).

Camp Phone Number and Mail at Camp:

Are there family members who want to send mail to camp?

Camp Gorton
Scout Name
Unit Number and Campsite
4241 County Route 25
Dundee, NY 14837

Phone Number: 607-292-3220 (seasonal)

Visiting or Leaving Camp:

Visitors are always welcome at camp; however, unit leaders and parents must coordinate their visits to camp, prior to arrival. Anytime a visitor, leader, or camper, enters or leaves camp, they MUST sign in or out at the Camp Office, 24 hours a day. Visitors must wear a Visitors Badge while on camp property. Visitor meal charges are per person and must be pre-paid in the Trading Post.

Scouts Leaving Camp:

The parent or guardian who signed the Medical form is the only adult allowed to take their Scout from camp unless there is a completed [Early Release Form](#) completed by the parent / guardian who signed the physical. The Scout Early Release Form is located on our website and in the forms section of this guide.

Camp Emergency Procedures:

The best defense against any emergency is preparedness. As an adult leader, be prepared by understanding camp policies and practices. The health and safety of everyone in camp is our primary concern. Each leader must know what to do in an emergency. Please become very familiar with the contents of this section.

In an emergency, please follow these steps:

- Notify the nearest staff member immediately.
- Do not make any premature decisions or give any instructions or information unless relayed to you by the Camp Director or designee.
- Remain Calm. Set the proper frame of mind to avoid panic.

At camp, a "siren" emergency is only initiated or ended by the Camp Director or designee. Not all emergencies are camp-wide. Only the Camp Director can determine that.

Unless it is a life threatening emergency, the Camp Director must be consulted before an ambulance may be called.

When reporting an emergency:

- Take all steps to ensure that further injury or potentially dangerous situations have been addressed.
- Find the nearest staff member.
- Give a very clear and calm report of who, what, where, when, how, etc.

If any Scout or leader is not accounted for, their name and last known location must be noted and reported to the staff member in charge.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIND A LOST INDIVIDUAL ON YOUR OWN!

WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS

Daytime: 7:30 AM – 8:30 PM

report to the Parade Field quickly and safely and assemble in formation behind your campsite sign.

Nighttime: 8:30 PM – 7:30 AM

report to your campsite and wait for a staff member

Bloodborne Pathogens:

All units are encouraged to take precautions when it comes to blood borne pathogens. When treating a wound, the first aid responder should wear protective gloves. All contaminated materials (gauze pads, clothing, etc.) should be set aside so the Camp Health Officer can properly dispose of them. Surfaces that have been contaminated (tables, cots, etc.) will need to be disinfected by the Health Officer. For more information and training in blood borne pathogens, please talk to the Health Officer when you arrive in camp.

Poison Ivy:

Camp Gorton has poison ivy, though we work hard to manage it. Scouts who stay on the camp trails and open areas will easily avoid contact. Should they be exposed, have the individual shower with soap to remove the oils. The contaminated clothing should be placed in a plastic bag to avoid spreading the oils. Please make sure to work with your Scouts so they can identify poison ivy and know how to avoid it. If you would like, a member of the Nature Staff would be glad to work with your unit regarding this matter.

Ticks:

Ticks are becoming more common each year. We highly encourage unit leaders to have their Scouts and leaders complete multiple tick checks throughout the day. Information on ticks is located at the Camp Health Office.

Campsite Visitations:

Several times throughout your stay, campsites will be visited by a member of the camp commissioner staff. In addition to checking in with Scouts and leaders, the commissioner will be making sure the campsite is safe and clean. Specifically, the commissioners will be looking for items such as:

- Latrine cleanliness
- Sleeping area cleanliness and orderliness
- Eating area cleanliness and orderliness
- General campsite cleanliness
- Fireguard plan
- Campcraft - campsite gadgets and activities in camp supporting the Scouting program such as proper ax yards and following Leave No Trace guidelines where able.

Preparing for commissioner visits encourages units to take pride in their campsites. Scouts will need to communicate, plan, and make decisions on how they want their campsite to look. In sites with multiple units, those units will need to work together.

Campsite Inspections:

In an effort to help teach Scouts good camping habits, and to provide for the health and safety of camp, daily [campsite inspections](#) will occur. A copy of the [inspection scorecard](#) can be found later in the guide.

Garbage and Recycling:

Campsite trash must be brought down to the dumpster every night. Units are not allowed to keep food or beverages other than water in their campsite. This helps keep unwanted animals out of campsites. Also, please separate the items that can be recycled from your trash (Metal, Plastic, and Aluminum) and place them in the proper bins located by the dining hall.

Fuel Safety:

Most units have completely switched to LED lights and lanterns. However, should you bring fuel-based equipment, while at camp, liquid fuels must be used with care and only by adults. No flames in tents is a BSA national policy. Only battery-operated lights or glow sticks are allowed in tents. Lanterns and Stoves must be accompanied by a fire extinguisher. We encourage units to bring a fire extinguisher for each lantern you bring.

Lost and Found:

Lost and found articles can be left at, or picked up from, the Camp Office during normal program hours. At the end of the camping season, unclaimed items are left in the camp office. If they are not claimed by the end of the summer camp season they will no longer be available. The camp will not take responsibility for lost or stolen items. Please be sure to check the lost and found for any items that look familiar.

Taps and Lights Out:

Days at Camp Gorton are wonderfully full. There are program activities from sunrise to sunset (and beyond). To be considerate of other campers, observe the camp policy of being in your campsite by 10:00 PM and lights out by 10:30 PM.

The Trading Post:

The Trading Post, or camp store, is a popular destination for Scout and Scouters alike. Families may want to consider sending along a reasonable amount of spending money. From hundreds of merchandise selections, to snacks and drinks for all tastes, to Camp Gorton merchandise for every season, a National BSA supply selection, uniform parts, patches, insignia, pocket knives, essential Scouting gear, and the ever-popular Slushies, the Trading Post has it all. The Trading Post accepts cash and credit cards.

"large camp selection, outstanding customer service"

Maintenance Issues:

While we strive to keep Camp Gorton in tip top shape, issues do occur. If you find anything that needs to be repaired or supplies to be restocked, please notify our Camp Office.

Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs:

An important way adult leaders can model healthy living is by following the policies on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youths, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

As outlined in the [Scouter Code of Conduct](#), Scouting activities are not a place to possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies: alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana.

In addition, the Code of Conduct specifies that if you are taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing any functioning or judgment, you will not engage in activities that would put youth at risk, including driving or operating equipment.



FORMS AND CHECKLISTS

Camp Gorton Forms and Checklists:

[Early Release Form](#)

[Unit Merit Badge Planning Sheet](#)

[Individual Equipment Checklist](#)

[Camp Checklist](#)

[BSA Health Record and Medical Form](#)

Contact Information:

Camp Director: Ian Walruth - campgortondirector@gmail.com

Staff Advisor: Karl Ziegenfus - karl.ziegenfus@scouting.org

Camp Clerk: Crystal VanZile - campgortonclerk@gmail.com

Tech Support: Marc McGrain - mdmcgrain@gmail.com

Kimberly Hedden - kimberly.hedden@scouting.org

Using Black Pug:

We use an event registration software called Black Pug to manage Summer Camp. This covers everything from registrations, payments, camperships, site assignments, and advancement. If you are from out of Council, and your Council uses Black Pug, your login and rosters will work here. You should not create another login.

It is strongly encouraged to login and not sign in as a guest. Logging in will give you easy access to your registration as opposed to using the link emailed as a part of the receipt. If you are a Unit in the Great Falls Council, you will have access to your Unit's roster and be able to autofill names and select data. This access is default for Committee Chair and Scoutmaster, but can be expanded to other members of the unit. If you need/want the access, have either the Committee Chair or Scoutmaster email Marc McGrain to request it mdmcgrain@gmail.com. If you are an out of Council Unit and your Council uses Black Pug, the login credentials you use there will work here. There is no need to create a new login. If you need access to your unit's roster you will need to contact your Council.

On the [Great Falls Council Home page](#) you will find quick links to:

- [Account Log In](#) - quick access to your account and all registrations done under it
- [Parent Portal](#) - access for parents to make payments, submit camperships, etc (MUST be enabled by the Unit)
- [Registration Look Up](#) - access to registration when you don't have the receipt and signed up as a guest.

Sections:

- [Registration/Deposit Phase](#)
- [Registration/Naming attendees](#)
 - [Accessing YPT records](#)
- [Parent Portal](#)
- [Campership](#)
- [Payments](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Merit Badge selection](#)
- [Merit Badge Advancement records](#)

Registration/Deposit Phase:

If registering for camp before mid February you will need to give an approximate number of youth and adult attendees and pay \$100 deposit to secure your spot. You will also be able to make a campsite selection request. You can log back in at any time and update the numbers, without having to make a deposit.

After February 2nd, each named Scout will require a \$50 deposit.

Registration/Naming attendees:

If registering for camp after early February you will need to give the actual number and names of attendees.

If your Unit has a roster in the system:

- Upper right, where your name is listed
- Select your Unit
- For each participant there is an Update Information or Autofill
- Select Autofill, then select the person who is attending
- Repeat for each participant
- Select Update Information for each participant and fill in any missing information
- When all done, click green Continue button and check out.
 - You must apply payments to each person
 - If you paid a deposit you need to allocate that money to one or spread it out
- Registration is not confirmed until you have checked out.
- You can go back to registration and complete, if you don't have all the information
- You can always add people. To remove a participant please contact [Tech Support or Camp Director](#)

Accessing Youth Protection Records:

Prior to naming adults you will need their date of birth, date Youth Protection Training was completed and a pdf of the certificate to upload. To obtain the certificate you can have them get it from their my.scouting.org account or you can download it yourself. To download you must be a Key 3 or Key 3 delegate in the Unit.

To access Youth Protection Training certificate:

- Go to my.scouting.org
- Log in
- Upper left, the three lines labeled Menu, select it
- Under Organization make sure the correct Unit is selected
- Select Training Manager
- Left hand side, select Add/Search
- In the middle select Search Training, near top
- Find the name and put a check in the box to the left of the name
- Select View Training, near top
- Find Youth Protection Training Certification, select it
- Click on Certificate, it is near top
- You now have a pdf of the YPT certificate with date taken on it to upload in registration.

Parent Portal:

Parent Portal allows a parent/guardian to update information, make payments, apply for camperships and select merit badges (if allowed by the Unit). This must be turned on by the person creating the registration. Once turned on, the access information needs to be shared with the parent/guardian.

Enable Parent Portal:

- Go to your registration
- Under the Registration Contact (first name listed)
- Select the drop down of Additional Actions
- Go to Parent Portal
- Select the options you want
- Export the Credentials
- Share with Parent/Guardian

Using Parent Portal

- Goto Parent Portal (on the [Council Home](#) page or <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA375&reservationFromEmail=true&parentPortal>)
- Enter your credentials (provided by the Unit)
- You can manage multiple Scouts. The system will ask if you want to add more.
- For your Scout select Update Information.
- Fill in any blanks.
- Goto Check Out and make any amount of payment that you want.

Campership:

- Log into registration (main contact or Parent Portal)
- Find the Scout and select update information
- There is an option about Campership
- Select it and fill out the application
- Close the application and recheck the box, then the requested amount will be reflected in the box.
- Check out. You will see the requested amount has adjusted the balance owed.
- Once the Campership has been awarded the amount owed will reflect the awarded amount and not the requested amount.

Payments:

- [Log into registration](#) (main contact or Parent Portal)
- Go straight to check out
- Enter the amount you want to pay on each person
- Complete check out
- Full payment not made on any Scout by deadlines will result in the next price rate. Price rates are based on completed payments, not registered by date.

For Cash, Check, or Unit Account provide payment to the Main Office along with the Registration Number (it is found on your receipt) and how much to who and we will apply payments.

Merit Badge selection: (Scout will need at least \$305 paid to do this)

- [Log into registration](#) (main contact or Parent Portal-if enabled by Unit)
- Find the Scout and select update information
- Select the button - Select Classes
- Select the classes that you want. You will see on the right hand side all classes in order of period and available spots.
- As you select classes they will move to the left column.
- If you make a mistake, select the class from the left column and it will remove it.
- Waitlist
 - If a class is full and a waitlist is available
 - Sign up for the class
 - Select another class during that period
 - If the class is opened up, the Scout will be moved into it and an email to notify you will be generated.
 - The Scout will be automatically removed from the other class.
- Complete Check Out to lock in classes. No payment is required to lock in classes

Reports:

Black Pug provides a variety of reports to help manage your Unit at Summer Camp and after. To access these reports:

- Log in to your registration
- Goto Tab labeled Reports
- Select the report you want

Some reports:

- Roster
- Class schedule (by Scout, by period- this is for the leaders to know where all Scouts are)
- Prerequisite Report - this can be run by Scout or for all attendees

Merit Badge Advancement records:

After the advancement records are finalized, we will update Scoutbook records for all Units in the Great Falls Council. The main contact will be notified when this is complete. We will reach out to the Councils for our visiting Units and send them the file to upload. To view/download the reports all payments must have been made. Any balance owed will prevent advancement records from being seen.

- Log in to your registration
- Goto Tab labeled reports
- Download the report(s) that you want
 - Troopmaster Export - includes direction on how to upload
 - Blue Cards - print on Blue Card stock or regular paper
 - Advancement Report
 - Partial Completion report

Great Falls Council Summer Camp
SCOUT EARLY RELEASE FORM

This form is used in the event a Scout will need to leave camp, for any reason, prior to the scheduled end of their session. This should be completed prior to expected pickup date and turned in by your Unit Leader to the Camp Director at Check in.

The below named Scout is authorized to depart camp earlier than scheduled by their Pack or Troop. Additionally, the below named individual is the person authorized to pick up my Scout.

Date and Time of Release: _____

Name of Scout: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Telephone No: _____ Troop: _____ Council: _____

Authorized Release to - Individuals Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Telephone No: _____ Work Telephone No: _____

Parent's (Or Legal Guardian's) Printed Name: _____

Parent's (Or Legal Guardian's) Signature: _____

Parent's (Or Legal Guardian's) Work or Cell Phone: _____

Comments: _____

***** On Site Verification *****

Before leaving Camp, Scouts must check-out with their unit leader and the camp office.

Signature of Unit Leader _____ Date _____

Unit# _____

Signature of Camp Director _____ Date _____

(Keep original for use at time of release. Give authorized individual a photocopy if requested.)

Individual Equipment Checklist

*****BE PREPARED. CAMP IS A 7-DAY EXPERIENCE, AND EACH SCOUT AND ADULT LEADER SHOULD PACK ACCORDINGLY. *****

Clothing

- Complete Scout Uniform
- Scout Shorts
- Scout Socks
- Scout Belt
- OA Sash (if applicable)
- Scout appropriate T-Shirts
- Shorts
- Long Pants
- Extra Socks and Underwear
- Sleepwear
- Shoes/Boots (extra pair suggested)
- Raincoat/Poncho
- Hat
- Sweatshirt/Jacket
- Swim trunks or one-piece swimsuit
- Water Shoes*

*Closed Toe Water Shoes are required in Waneta Lake per NYS Health Department Policies.

Electronic Devices

We ask that Scouts use electronics at appropriate times when at camp. While Camp Gorton does not discourage their use, please ensure that you are fully participating in the program!

Bedding

- Pillow
- Sheets and Blankets or a Sleeping Bag

FYRE/ Camping MB Scouts

In addition to regular gear, Scouts will need these items for the Hilltop Experience

- Camping Backpack
- Mess Kit
- Ground Pad
- Tent[@]
- Sleeping Bag

@ We encourage Scouts to bring one of their troop's tents that they are familiar with.

Optional Items

Fishing Gear
Alarm Clock
Camera
Compass
Religious Literature
Musical Instrument
Notebook
Writing Utensils
Mosquito Netting
Clothesline
Hangers (Must be Plastic)
Day Pack/Bag

Personal Items

- Completed BSA Medical Form – Parts A, B and C
- Footlocker or plastic tote
- Flashlight
- Extra Batteries
- Water Bottle
- Non-aerosol Sunscreen
- Non-aerosol Insect Repellent
- Toiletries
 - Shampoo
 - Soap
 - Towel/Washcloth
 - Toothbrush
 - Toothpaste
 - Comb/Brush
- Medication *in original container*
- Merit Badge Prerequisites
- Pocketknife (must have Totin Chip or earning it at camp)
- Spending Money

Items to Leave at Home

Candles, Radios, Valuable Items, Fireworks, Aerosol Cans, Guns, Ammunition, Bows, Military Clothing, Bicycles, Pets, Open-toed Shoes, Lighters, Sheath Knives

CAMP CHECKLIST

Pre-Camp

- Pay reservation deposit of **\$100** to reserve a camp session
 - Apply for Campership online if needed
 - Distribute BSA Health Forms
 - Inform families that you will be attending camp from _____ - _____
 - Arrange for two adult leaders to be in camp at all times
 - Arrange for adequate transportation of Scouts, adults, and gear to and from camp
 - Pay camp registration fees.
- Early Bird Fee Deadline: **5/27/2024**
 - Collect completed BSA Health Forms and make second copies to be submitted to camp
 - Collect any completed and signed Early Release Forms
 - Have copies of all camp related receipts and forms organized for arrival at camp
- AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE ARRIVAL**

Check-In

- Arrive at camp as a unit to begin check-in between 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM
- The camp staff is not in a position to handle early arrivals
- Check-in with Camp Director and meet your Site Guide
- Check-in at the camp office and Be Prepared with the following items:
- **Final Scout and Leader counts**
- Follow your Site Guide to your campsite to drop off Troop materials and personal gear
- Complete site check-in inspection form before anyone moves into tents
- Have ALL Scouts and leaders change into their swimsuits
- Go to the Health Lodge for medical review
- Have your med forms and prescription medications ready
- Report to the Dining Hall for table assignments and orientation
- Report to Waterfront and have ALL Scouts and leaders take the swim test
- Send one leader to the 4:00 PM Leader's Meeting in Memorial Lodge
- Conduct a 4:00 PM Troop Meeting with your site guide

Before You Leave

- Check unit advancement records
- Resolve issues with the appropriate area director
- Attend the Closing Ceremony
- Pack all Troop gear and be prepared to leave Saturday morning
- Meet your Site Guide and check your unit out of your site
- Clean latrines, picnic tables, and police for trash in your site
- Return all camp tools and items to the Quartermaster
- Submit unit evaluations to the Trading Post and pick up your unit patches and leader gifts
- Check out at Health Office and pick up all Health Forms and return medication boxes
- Reserve your Unit's 2025 campsite online or in headquarters
- Units staying until Saturday must be off campgrounds by 10:30 AM.