



2026

“War of 1812 Camporee”



Fort Niagara State Park

May 15-17, 2026

- sponsored by -

**North Star District and
Great Falls Council, Scouting America**

Version 2

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Welcome

Thank you for registering for the **2026 War of 1812 Camporee!** We're excited to welcome you—and your Scouts—for the day packed with adventure, camaraderie, and fun. Camporees are one of our district's most beloved traditions, bringing together Scouts, leaders, and volunteers from across the district and council for an unforgettable experience. Whether this is your very first District Camporee or you're a seasoned Scouter, we're thrilled to have you as part of the North Star District family.

Safety remains our top priority at every Scouting event, and the North Star Camporee is no exception. Our staff and volunteers are extensively trained to ensure that all activities adhere to the highest standards of safety and youth protection. As leaders and volunteers, you play an essential role in modeling the Scout Oath and Scout Law throughout the weekend. Your commitment helps create an environment where every Scout feels welcomed, respected, and supported as they engage in activities that promote growth and learning.

We encourage you to fully embrace your time at Fort Niagara. Take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the experience, participate in the various events, and capture moments with photos that will serve as lasting memories of this unique experience. For many of our newer Scouts, this will be their first experience with overnight camping, and your guidance and encouragement will set the foundation for a lifetime of adventure in Scouting.

On behalf of the North Star District and the Great Falls Council, we extend our deepest gratitude for your participation and the vital role you play in supporting your Scout's journey. Your leadership, dedication, and passion make events like this Camporee possible and continue to enrich the Scouting experience for all.

Events

Camporee fee includes admission to Old Fort Niagara. Old Fort Niagara brings history to life through preservation, authentic presentation, and engaging programs. Every visit offers a chance to step back in time, explore the historic grounds, and connect with the past in a meaningful way. Whether you're watching musket demonstrations, walking through centuries-old buildings, or engaging with our knowledgeable staff, you'll experience history in a way that's immersive, hands-on, and truly memorable.

Our Camporee will also feature special activities from the National Guard, Army, Navy, & Marines as well as local Scouter demonstrations.

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 15

- 5:00-8:30 pm Registration & Setup
- 9:00 pm SM/SPL Meeting & Cracker Barrel
- 11:00 pm Taps

Saturday, May 16

- 7:00 am Reveille and Unit In-Site Breakfast
- 8:00 am Non-Camping Units Registration
- 9:15 am Opening Flags
- 10:00 am Patrol Events
- 10:00 am Fort Tour (Morning Group)
- 12:30 pm Unit In-Site Lunch
- 2:00 pm Patrol Events Resume
- 2:00 pm Fort Tour (Afternoon Group)
- 4:45 pm Closing Flags
- 5:00 pm Unit In-Site Dinner
- 7:00 Religious Service
- 8:00 Campfire & Cracker Barrel (*please bring a snack to share*)
- 11:00 pm Taps

Sunday, May 17

- 7:00 am Reveille and Unit In-Site Breakfast
- 9:00 am Check Out

Event Safety & Emergency Information

Contact Information

Camporee Chair: Aaron Swanson: (716) 249-9155; cricket119swanson@gmail.com

Staff Advisor: Brandon Blatz: (716) 445-3350; brandon.blatz@scouting.org

Emergencies

For emergencies, please dial 911 immediately, then notify the Professional Staff Advisor.

Event Emergency Procedures

The Staff have undergone extensive training to prepare for emergency situations that might arise in camp. The camp has a written agreement with the local emergency service providers; fire equipment and first aid material and a working relationship with the local law enforcement and the fire department. If you have any questions about procedures after reading this section of the manual, please ask. During an emergency your responsibility is for your unit.

First Aid

All medical injuries/illnesses must be reported to the Camporee Health Warden. The Health Warden and contact information will be announced at Flags.



If the individual has a serious injury, do NOT move them and **call 911 then the** Camporee Health Warden. Medical personnel will be dispatched to the site of the medical emergency as needed.

Medications & Health Forms

Each unit attending the Camporee should have individual medical histories for each scout and adult. Health forms should be kept by the unit leader and made available to our medical staff as needed. Download the BSA form at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Medications should be handled per unit policy. From the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting: The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. A leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a youth takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA does not mandate or necessarily encourage the leader to do so. Read the full BSA medication guidelines at

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/SAFE_USE_OF_MEDICATION_IN_SCOUTING.pdf

Be Prepared

- Training—
 - All Adults must have current YPT Training
 - One adult from each unit must complete Weather Hazards training at my.scouting.org (current within two years).
- Each Unit MUST have a minimum of two (2) registered adults over 21 with an adult / youth ratio of at least 1 adult for every 10 youths.
- All Adult's staying overnight must be currently registered in an adult fee required position or listed as an adult program participant.

- Hydration—Remind Scouts to drink enough liquids throughout the day. Everyone should bring their own water bottle for the weekend. More information: <http://www.riskmanagementinscouting.com/proper-hydration-are-you-paying-attention/>
- Cold Weather-Related Health Issues—Review the symptoms of cold weather health conditions with your unit and report any instances to the closest medical tent for observation and treatment.
- Potable Water—Any unit camping at the Camporee should bring water jugs to carry at least 10 gallons. Water spigots will be available.
- Toilet Facilities—Latrines are available throughout the Camporee

Safety (Campsite and Cabin)

- All Units should follow the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- Youth Protection—All adults must have current BSA Youth Protection Training (see my.scouting.org.)
- Buddy System—Scouts should utilize the buddy system at all times. Unit leadership should know where each group of buddies are in case of emergency.
- Fires—No ground fires are allowed at this event. Units may cook with propane or white gas stoves. Liquid fuels should be stored appropriately. For more information, please refer to <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-013WB.pdf>. It is also recommended that all units provide fire extinguishers, appropriate for the fuel being used in case of cooking area fires. No flames are allowed in tents. In no case, should youth or adults try to fight fires that are out of control. Fire emergencies should be reported to the Camporee Staff.
- Inclement Weather—In the event of unforeseen severe weather, (thunderstorms/high winds/flooding/snow/sleet/ice) units will be notified. All leaders should congregate with their units, ensure that all members are present (take a head count), and proceed to the nearest permanent shelter. Further details to be discussed at the Friday evening leader’s meeting.

Staffing

Equipment for the events will be provided by the Camporee staff and distributed at the Morning Flag’s (or left at the Game Site), along with specific rules and scoring information.

Fire

1. Mobilize your unit in a safe area. Send an adult leader to the Camporee Event Chair to report the location of the fire.
2. Under no circumstances shall staff/participants attempt to fight a fire that has passed the incipient stage (that which can be put out with a single fire extinguisher), nor shall staff/participants attempt to enter a burning building to conduct search and rescue. These actions shall be left to emergency services professionals who have the necessary training, equipment, and experience (such as the fire department or emergency medical professionals). Untrained individuals may endanger themselves and/or those they are trying to rescue.

Flooding

1. Mobilize your unit in a safe area.
2. When advised, proceed to emergency assembly area; take attendance; send an adult leader to staff member at the flagpole with a two-way radio, report unit status; further instructions will follow.
3. Event chair should check with local government for road closures before advising units as to the best route to evacuate camp (if necessary).

4. For up-to-date traffic information and travel conditions please visit the 511NY website.

Lost Camper

1. Report the situation to the Camporee Event Chair immediately.
2. The Professional Staff Advisor will provide further instructions.

Personal Accident

1. Give immediate first aid.
2. Report accident to Health Officer.
3. Event Health Officer will administer further first aid and complete the Incident Report.

Severe Weather/Storm

In the event of extreme weather, the Camporee Event Chair will evaluate conditions and determine the safest appropriate response. Actions could include performing an accountability check, sheltering in place, moving campers and staff into durable shelter, or in rare instances, evacuation.

Limitations to activities due to extreme weather

Always notify the event staff if you wish to cancel a program activity your unit is scheduled for, we will create a safe alternative for you.

Chemical or Unknown Substance Leak/ Spill

Care should be taken when confronted with any unknown material, and they should be taken very seriously. Typical hazard areas could include but not limited to kitchens, roadways and parking lots.

If you discover an unknown substance (leak, spill or container), gasoline leaking from a vehicle, the odor of LP gas leaking from a tank:

1. Clear the area for at least 100 feet in all directions, moving people to the leeward side of the material. Keep all people away.
2. Send two runners to advise the Camporee Event Chair.
3. The Camporee Event Chair will alert local emergency response personnel.

If you discover gas leaking from a pressurized cylinder:

1. Clear the area for at least 1,000 feet, evacuating any adjacent structures.
2. Send two runners to alert the Camporee Event Chair about the LP gas leak.
3. Assure that the area remains clear until help arrives.
4. The event staff will alert the Camporee Event Chair and emergency response personnel.

Intrusion of Unauthorized Persons

All event staff and participants receive color wristbands upon your unit's check-in.

Home Sickness

Studies have shown that 83% of campers between the ages of 8 and 16 will become homesick during some point of their stay at camp. Homesickness can take many forms including headaches, sore throats, not eating or crying. It is important for adult leaders to be prepared for the possibility of one of their Scouts becoming homesick. Please consider the following:

Before Camp

- First year scouts are the most likely to become homesick during camp.
- Provide time during meetings for Scouts to discuss what camp is like with peers and leaders.
- Encourage parents to calmly reassure their child and to discuss camp with them ahead of time.
- Remind parents not to offer sentiments like, "Honey, if you don't like camp, you can always call us and we'll come get you."

During Camp

- Our event leadership is trained to deal with homesickness. We are happy to help.
- Try to determine what is bothering the Scout. Children can get homesick for various reasons including missing their parents, not liking the food, being picked on or not sleeping well. Once you discover exactly what is bothering the Scout you can work to fix it. The solution most often does not involve giving them what they want. Consult the event leadership for assistance/advice. Remember, they came to camp to have an amazing Scouting experience.
- Slow times can be the toughest for homesick campers. They tend to focus on being homesick and this can make things worse. Try to keep your Scouts busy.
- Don't make promises that you can't keep. This will only compound the problem. Don't offer bribes to Scouts for staying in camp, this sends the wrong message to children. The real reward should be the pride and confidence of surviving the weekend. Also, please consult the event leadership before using the phone for any homesick emergency.
- Be sure not berate or tease Scouts for feeling homesick. These are legitimate emotions and must be respected as such.

Event Policies

Prohibited Items

- Alcohol possession
- Firearms, weapons
- Fireworks, loud noisemakers, canons
- Drug possession
- Unauthorized generators
- Unauthorized vehicles of any kind
- Bicycles, E-Bikes, Scooters
- Chainsaws
- Logos, slogans, designs that conflict with Scouting ideals
- Pets of any kind (excluding service animals with appropriate paperwork)
- Open-toed footwear

Event Knife Policy

Folding knives with a blade length not exceeding 3 ½" are appropriate for legal and practical uses at this event if age-appropriate based on the Guide to Safe Scouting.

Sheath knives, knives with fixed blades of any length, machetes, bayonets, swords, cleavers, death stars, stiletos and switchblades are not allowed for youth or adult use at Great Falls Council functions. The only exception to this rule is the use of a chef's knife for the sole purpose of food preparation.

Stoves, Lanterns and Fuels

Due to the extreme danger involving storage of fuels used in camping lanterns/stoves, you must make arrangements with the event staff to store liquid/gas fuels in a safe place. Lanterns may not be hung in tents. Use of lanterns and stoves must be used under adult supervision and in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting.

NO FLAMES IN TENTS.

Smoking/Vaping Devices

Scouting has a strict no-smoking policy for all activities, which includes all forms of tobacco and e-cigarettes. All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities must be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with designated smoking areas located away from youth participants. Adults are expected to model healthy living and to not smoke or vape around young people, especially at camps.

Buddy System

We always use the buddy system at Great Falls Council events. This is a great chance to make new friends and stay safe. Please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Scouting.org Youth Protection website for information on how to implement the Buddy System with your unit.

Lost & Found

Please label all of your gear with name and Unit number. The camporee is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Lost and found items are collected by the Camporee Event Chair. When the event ends, items are sent to the Council Service Center in Buffalo.

Quiet Hours

A Scout is courteous. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm – 6:00 am. Leaders are responsible for their unit's conduct.

General Information

Fort Niagara Address: Route 18F Youngstown, NY

Fees and Registration

Preregistration is required. The participation fee for this Camporee is \$25.00 per person (youth or adult).

Register online at: www.gfscouting.org. Registration for The War of 1812 Camporee opens April 3rd and ends May 14th.

2026 North Star Camporee – War of 1812

Each youth must be a registered Scout, Venturer, or Explorer to attend. Webelos may attend during the day if sponsored by a host troop.

Check In

Check in will be from 5:00-8:30 PM Friday OR 8:00-9:00 AM on Saturday. A unit roster must be provided to the Camporee Staff at check-in. The Unit Roster can be found at the end of this guide.

Camping Information

Units must pre-register online in the Council registration system.

Leaders Meeting - Cracker Barrel

Our Saturday Campfire will feature a Camp Wide Cracker Barrel. **ALL UNITS ARE ASKED TO BRING A SNACK TO SHARE AT FOR THE CRACKER BARREL**

Uniforms & Colors

The BSA Field Uniform should be worn throughout for opening/closing flags (weather permitting) and the religious services. Activity Uniforms may be worn Saturday during the rest of the day. Please bring flags to the opening flag ceremony.

Meals

Units are responsible for all meals. Please make sure you have enough time to serve your meals and clean-up properly. A Camp Wide Cracker Barrel will be held after the Closing Campfire/Awards on Saturday. **NO GROUND FIRES ARE TO BE USED FOR COOKING.**

Awards & Recognition

All youth and adult participants will receive a Camporee patch.

Sustainability

The Camporee has set a goal to be a zero-impact event. Units will be encouraged to follow Leave No Trace guidelines. Please plan your weekend to help minimize our impact.



NORTH STAR CAMPOREE 2026

MAY 15-17, 2026

Unit Roster

Troop # _____ District: _____

This form must be turned in at registration

Adults

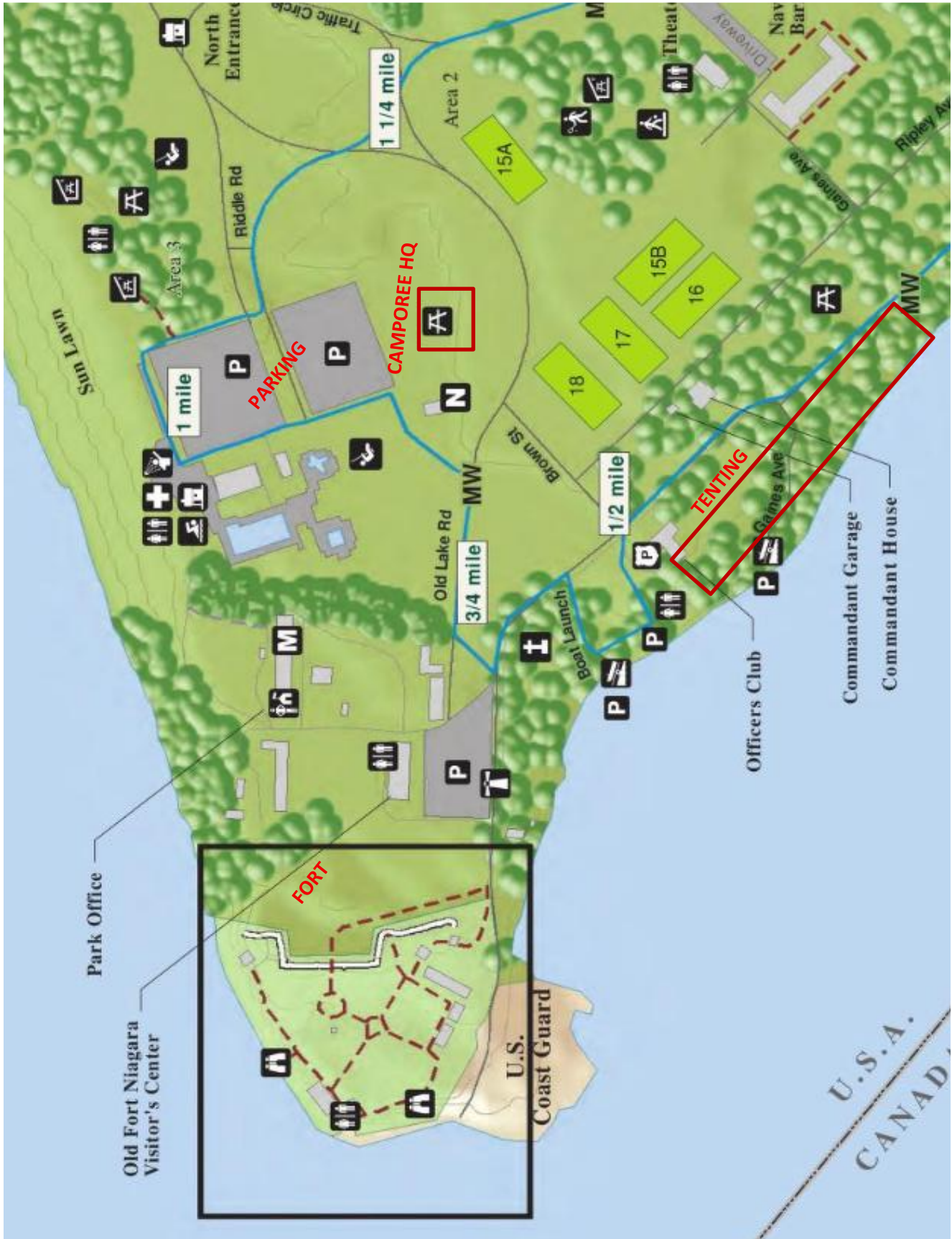
Position

Youth:

Senior Patrol Leader: _____

Patrol:	Patrol:	Patrol:
PL:	PL:	PL:

Fort Niagara Map



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