

Allegheny Highlands Council Scouts BSA Summer Camp 2024

Scouts BSA Week 1 - 7/7 - 7/12

Scouts BSA Week 2 - 7/14 - 7/19

Scouts BSA Week 3 - 7/21 - 7/26



Camp Merz Scouts BSA SUMMER CAMP 2024

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

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CAMP MERZ

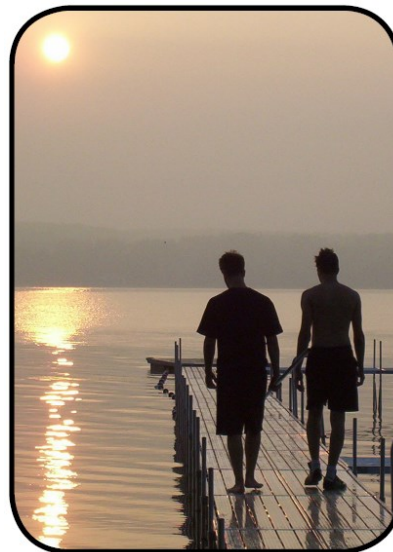
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The Allegheny Highlands Council offers 3 weeks of 6-day Resident Camp programs for Scouts BSA at Camp Merz. There is a central dining hall with delicious food & plenty of it; modern warm water private showers, and a Trading Post with BSA supplies, souvenirs, snacks, slushies & more. All the traditional program areas you expect in a scout camp, and some other features that make us special. Customer Service is number 1 at Camp Merz, and our camp is manned with a well-trained and enthusiastic staff that stands ready to make your vacation with your scouts a memorable experience.

About Camp Merz

We are 90+ years young, and located just south of the Village of Mayville on Lake Chautauqua. 350 acres of beautiful hardwood forest and evergreens welcome your scouting experience. The 1000 feet of our waterfront on the lake provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, rowing, canoeing, motor-boating, sailing, water-sports, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding.



Our shooting sports ranges offer skeet shooting in addition to 22's and black powder.

The scenic views around the lake & along the Portage Trail are just great. We are about two miles away from the Chautauqua Institution, & 20 minutes from the new National Comedy Center in James-town, as well as many other attractions around the Chautauqua Region.

Check out our website for more information: www.campmerz.org

Allegheny Highlands Council



Camp Merz, BSA 2024

All hands on deck!

Swashbucklers are converging on the Allegheny Highlands in a race for gold and glory! The scrappy crew of Camp Merz is scrambling to safeguard the key, unite the map fragments and locate the treasure chest, but it may not be enough! Put your scout skills to work helping Camp Merz's pirates and claim the treasure before the other scallywags have a chance!

CAMP FEE
525.00

Twice as Nice

Fee: \$400 (on second week)

If your scout or scouts want to attend a second week of camp you can do so at a discounted price!

Don't have a Troop or leader to come with them? See below about provisional camping.

Provisional Camping

Have a scout who can't attend with your Troop? That's OK!

Provisional camping is a program for those scouts who would like to attend camp whether or not their own Troop is attending. These scouts will either form a provisional Troop and a provisional scoutmaster and assistant will be assigned to them or be assigned to another Troop that has adequate leadership. If the scouts are returning for an extra week at the "Twice as Nice Price" from a previous week they will be provisional their second week, so it's not a problem for a scout to attend one week with his Troop and stay another week as a provisional camper.

Discount Incentives

There is a \$30 discount for ALL Troops paying before 4/1.
Merit badge registration open 4/15 for all paid in full



What Will Your Scouts Do at Camp?

In addition to working on Merit Badges, our camp offers a wide variety of Troop, patrol and individual activities to make your week an adventure your scouts won't soon forget. You will have options for Troop swims, patrol shoots, patrol vs. patrol competitions and camp wide events. Various hikes, treks, and outposts will be offered within and out of camp. Your scouts may want to take advantage of our beautiful surroundings on an individual basis with a buddy through activities like walking our nature trails or watching the wildlife around camp.

Pre-Camp Leaders Meeting and Parent Orientation

There will be pre-camp leaders' meetings on **Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm and Saturday, May 11th at 10AM** at camp to give leaders a chance to get all the up to date information about camp programs, look at schedules, and review important information to make your stay at camp a comfortable and enjoyable experience. It is highly recommended that at least one Troop leader attends.

Resident Camp Leadership

The preferred method of camping in the BSA is that the individual Troop camp under its own leadership. It is BSA policy that 2 adults must attend every Troop activity. Free leaders are based on 1:10 adults to youth ratio (1 leader free with every 10 scouts in the Troop). **Additional leaders are welcome to attend at a cost of \$225 for the week**; if you have additional leaders who will only be at camp for a portion of the week, they are asked to pay for their meals: \$8 breakfast, \$9 lunch, and \$10 for supper. ALL adults attending with the Scouts must be a registered member of the BSA. All adults attending camp are required to complete the BSA's Youth Protection Training program prior to arrival.

Anyone staying at camp more than 72 hours needs to have parts A, B & C completed health form.

OUR PROGRAM FEATURES

Polaris: (First-Year Camper Program) The Polaris area is tucked into the woods along the road to the waterfront. Polaris is set-up as a model campsite. Our First Year Program is designed to help new scouts develop basic camping skills as well as earn various requirements for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class ranks. Our Polaris staff has designed a program that fits the needs of our younger scouts, combining games, hands on activities, and demonstrations to peak their interest and provide them with opportunities to practice skills they can then bring back to their Troop.

Shooting Sports Complex

We are very proud of our Shooting Sports program at Camp Merz. Over the years we have been upgrading all of our ranges in order to better serve scouts interested in shooting sports. An additional change we have made to all our shooting sports merit badges, is to require interested scouts to complete sections of the merit badges before camp, which frees them up for more Range time during each session.



Rifle / Shotgun: The Rifle/Shotgun Range is located further up the hill past Scoutcraft, tucked into the woods by the road leading up to East Hill. We have upgraded our classroom pavilion by adding solar powered electricity, making it easier to use through the summer season.



Archery: At the end of the nature trail you can find our Archery Range. In addition to our camp ranger creating new, easier to move targets, and we have created a separate classroom building near the range. This allows our archery staff to safely conduct two activities simultaneously during a given session.

Trail to Eagle Center:

Our Trail to Eagle program was established to offer scouts (ranked Star or higher) a chance to earn several Eagle required merit badges. While we will continue to reserve some merit badges for scouts who have earned at least Star rank, we are expanding our program to offer more merit badges for all scouts. This camping season we will have Citizenship in the community, Citizenship in the nation, Citizenship in Society, Citizenship in the World, Communication and Personal Management.

Nature / Ecology:

Located near Jamboree Field the Nature/Ecology Lodge offers a wide variety of nature related badges from Astronomy, Bird Study, Energy, Environmental Science, Forestry, Geology, Mammal Study, and Reptile & Amphibian Study. Scouts who want to learn more about the natural world will find plenty to do at our Nature Lodge. During merit badge sessions the lodge itself often looks empty, since our nature staff rarely teaches inside!



Handicraft:

Our Handicraft Lodge is also located in the middle of main camp. Scouts wishing to be creative can take Wood Carving, Leatherworking and other hand crafting merit badges. During the 2024 camp season the Handicraft staff will also be offering Inventing and 2asingle day merit badge sessions offering Fingerprinting.



Scoutcraft:

NEW!! This year ScoutCraft has moved to a more convenient space on the road to Waterfront, in front of Polaris. Scoutcraft is still all things outdoors, from merit badges that offer practical skills scouts will need throughout their lives both in and out of scouting, such as First Aid & Camping, to ones that introduce additional outdoor related activities, Wilderness Survival & Pioneering. Back by popular demand is the COOKING Merit Badge. Our staff will also introduce scouts to easy leave no trace practices that will help them responsibly use outdoor recreational areas. MOOSE: Our older scout program will be offered by Scoutcraft staff.

NEW FOR THE 2024 CAMPING SEASON!

We are thrilled to announce that the Cooking Merit Badge is back! This year we are offering two extended merit badge sessions for scouts interested in earning the cooking merit badge. How will this work, you ask?

The basic layout for each day includes an extended teaching session combined with a hands-on cooking session. The first program session will start at 10:00 am and will continue throughout the lunch/siesta block. The first two blocks (10:00 am -11:45 am) will consist of teaching followed by a hands-on cooking session (12:00 pm- 2:00 pm). The second program session will start at noon when scouts will join the morning crew cooking, then they will stay until 3:45 for their two teaching blocks (2:00 pm - 3:45 pm).

Outpost Camps

These programs allow Scouts to take an overnight excursion to remote areas of the camp property or even off camp property! Some are required for Merit Badges and they are all fun and open to every Scout. These outposts are the highlight of the week at camp, providing some of the most exciting experiences that a could dream of. Outposts will be required for Wilderness Survival MB, Cooking MB, Camping MB, Canoeing/Kayaking MB (**must be 14 or older**), and suggested for the Polaris First-Year Program There is a possible Astronomy field trip or outpost.

Please see the Camp Merz Guide for a list of materials to bring for outpost, ALL SCOUTS MUST COME PREPARED! As part of our Green Initiative each scout is





Technology Center

Right near the Handicraft Lodge sits the Technology Center. Our Technology lodge also serves as a computer lab, allowing scouts to work on research for their merit badge requirements. Merit Badge offerings include Electronics to Game Design and Robotics. Scouts interested in exploring various forms of technology will find that our tech merit badges will peak their interest.

Aquatics Center

Being on the beautiful shore of Lake Chautauqua, our waterfront can offer a wide variety of water related merit badges. Again this year we will offer our popular Water Sports merit badges along with Swimming, Lifesaving, Motor Boating, Small Boat Sailing, Stand Up Paddleboard and Snorkling BSA..



****CLOSED-TOED WATER SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ANY AQUATICS ACTIVITY - NO EXCEPTIONS****



Chapel

The Brennan Chapel, named after Franciscan Friar Father Brennan who drowned in the Allegheny before his time, was a great scouter in our council who led by example, and missed by those who knew him. He helped build the chapel and it is a wonderful quiet spot in camp to sit and reflect, and be with our maker, as we practice the 12th point of the Scout Law.



Camp Merz Program Dates 2024

Week 1 – July 07 – July 12

Week 2 – July 14 – July 19

Week 3 – July 21 – July 26

Merit Badges Offered at Camp Merz 2024 (subject to change | www.campmerz.org)

Handicraft

Art
Basketry
Fingerprinting
Indian Lore
Inventing
Leatherwork
*Music
*Painting
Photography
Theater
Wood Carving

Nature

Astronomy
*Bird Study
Energy
Environmental Science
Forestry
Geology
Mammal Study
*Reptile & Amphibian Study

Scoutcraft

Camping
*Cooking
Emergency Preparedness
First Aid
Orienteering
Pioneering
Wilderness Survival
Fire Safety
Signs Signals & Codes
MOOSE
Electricity

Polaris

First-Year Program
Paul Bunyan Award



Shooting Sports

Archery
Shotgun Shooting
Rifle Shooting
NRA Marksmanship

Technology

Digital Electronics
Electronics
Game Design
Space Exploration
Robotics
Radio

Trail to Eagle

Cit. in the Community
Cit. in the Nation
Citizenship in Society
Cit. in the World
Communications

Waterfront

Canoeing
Fishing
Kayaking
Life Saving
Motorboating
Rowing
Small-Boat Sailing
Swimming
Watersports
SUP Award
Snorkeling BSA

Ranger Craft

Safety
Plumbing
Auto Maintenance
Home Repair
Electricity
*Welding

* indicates new for 2024!



MORE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

Pre-Camp Meetings

These are held on a Thursday May 9th at 6:30pm and Saturday , May 11th at 10am at camp. It is VERY important that a representative of your Troop attend one of these meetings. Program materials, final schedules, etc. will be distributed.

Check In / Out

Check in time is 1pm on Sunday. Please have your all your troops completed Health Forms available. Early arrival is possible if arrangements are made in advance. Check out is after the closing campfire on Friday night. Troops may stay over Friday night at no charge. Breakfast consisting of cereal, milk and fruit can be provided for a nominal fee if arranged in advance.

Accommodations

Each campsite has tents on platforms with metal spring cots. We will do our best to provide mattresses for leaders, but we cannot guarantee that there will be enough. We DO NOT provide mattresses for Scouts, it's recommended to bring cardboard or a foam pad. **Each site also has at least one picnic table and one pavilion.** Each site has a latrine building and running water. **We cannot guarantee all leaders will get individual tents or mattresses.**



Note: Apache, Evergreen, Howard, Jubilee, Mead, Rupert and Yahn have power in site for your medical needs. Please be sure to bring you own extension cords when using in site power.

Additional Fees

Some programs require the scouts to purchase additional materials. Water Skiing, Motor Boating, Shotgun, Rifle, Basketry and Electronics are some of the classes that may require additional materials. Details will be given at the pre-camp meetings in the camp guide provided at that time. All materials and program fees paid in advance on Black Pug registration.



In-site Cooking

Your Troop will be preparing one dinner and one lunch in your site. Please be prepared with the proper cooking and eating utensils, etc. Staff members will join you at these meals to assist. There will also be a dessert competition so come with supplies to prepare your choice of dessert. As part of our Green Initiative Troops are required to supply their own reusable materials for cooking and eating on. We recommend that all scouts bring their own mess kit which is also required if they go on outpost.



Merit Badge pre-requisites and partials



Please be aware if your Scouts are taking classes with pre-requisites they must turn them in on the first day of class or turn in a note from the scoutmaster taking responsibility for the pre-reqs. **PLEASE NOTE: we are unable to accept a scoutmaster note for Shooting Sports pre-requisites.** All pre-reqs or notes must be turned in at 1st class or they will be dropped from the class. Scouts may NOT take classes without turning in the pre-reqs prior to starting. NO EXCEPTIONS!! NO PARTIALS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A SCOUTMASTER NOTE.

All pre-requisites for Merit Badges can be found at www.campmerz.org

Age & Rank Restrictions

We have set age and rank limitations for various classes and programs. We base these limitations on state regulations, the scout's safety, and size restrictions.

We cannot make acceptations to these limits.

Leader Programs

Camp Merz provides a variety of leader activities during the week such as trainings, the Scoutmaster Merit Badge and Staff vs. Leader events. Leaders are also encouraged to help teach classes and do camp projects. If you would like to do a camp service project and we love when that happens, please contact us in advance if possible so we can be sure to have any materials you may need.





Medical Forms

Personal Health and Medical Record must be turned in at camp. Sections A, B and C must be completed by all Scouts and Adults attending camp. This form **MUST** be signed by a parent and a physician ANNUALLY. The new BSA policy requires an ANNUAL physical for all Scouts and Adults attending camp. All immunization dates need to be included for both youth and adults.

Medication Permission Form

This **MUST** be completed for all scouts attending camp and signed by the parent and physician. This includes all prescription and over the counter medications to be used while at camp.

**DO NOT MAIL MEDICAL FORMS.
THEY MUST BE TURNED IN AT CAMP DIRECTLY**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / CAMPERSHIPS

Our council raises funds annually, through local sources to help scouts attend summer camp. A limited amount of financial assistance is available for all Scouts registered in the Allegheny Highlands Council, based on financial need. It is expected that both the Scout's family & Troop will contribute toward their camp fee. The Council only grants partial camperships in order to help as many youth as possible. This is expected by our campership donors.

If applying for campership assistance, please send your Campership Application (that is enclosed) **March 1st** to the Council Service Center:

Allegheny Highlands Council 50 Hough Hill Rd.
PO Box 0261 Falconer, NY 14733-0261

Balance of payments can be made with cash, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Applicants are reviewed by our committee the first week in March.

Special dietary and medical needs

Our goal is to accommodate everyone's special needs. If you have special dietary or medical needs please complete a Special Needs Form and return it to the council office no later than July 1st. If we do not receive the form on time we may not be able to accommodate your need. All special needs forms **MUST be signed by a parent and a physician.** Certain extreme dietary needs may require you to provide food to supplement our menu.

Refund Policy

All Camp Fees are refundable and are subject to a \$25.00 handling fee per scout. A written request providing a legitimate reason must be received by the Scout Service Center no later than September 1. Refunds will only be made to the person who paid the fees. The only legitimate reasons are summer school, medical excuse, or death in the family.

Forms Section



BSA Personal Health and Medical Record

- ⇒ Parts A, B and C MUST be completed by anyone (youth & adults) attending summer camp. **Including immunizations dates.**
- ⇒ Bring it to camp with you.
- ⇒ **DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

Medication Permission Form

- ⇒ For use by all members that are attending summer camp with prescription or over the counter medication.
- ⇒ Bring to camp with you.
- ⇒ **DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

Financial Need Campership Application (AHC Units Only)

- ⇒ For use by Allegheny Highlands Council scouts who need financial assistance to attend camp at Camp Merz. Mail to Scout Service Center by May 1st.

Scout Provisional Application

- ⇒ Form used by Scouts who cannot attend with their unit, or are going for 'Twice As Nice'.

Summer Camp Special Needs Application Form

- ⇒ Form to be used for individuals who have special dietary, health, mobility, or disability needs.
Must be received no later than July 1 signed by a parent and a physician.

