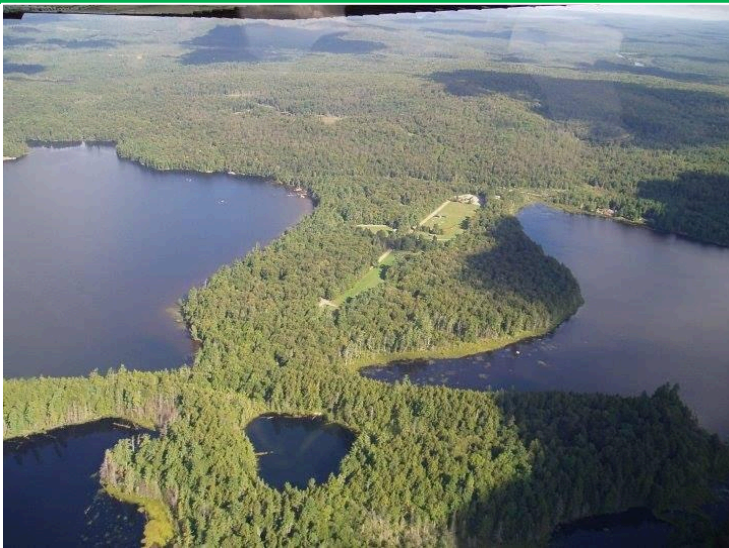


# Massawepie Scout Camps Program Guide

## Summer 2025

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



### Seneca Waterways Council

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### Contacts

The "2025 Program Guide" and all forms are available online at the Seneca Waterways Massawepie 2025 Registration Page:

<https://scoutingevent.com/397-Mass2025>

### Massawepie Scout Camps

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### Mission Statement

*It is the mission of the Seneca Waterways Council summer camping program to provide each Scout with an outdoor experience through which he has opportunities to be challenged; work toward advancement; be active with his troop, patrol and others; achieve while learning; develop as a person; enjoy the Adirondack forest; and have fun.*

**Scouting America**  
**Seneca Waterways Council**

## Introduction

Welcome to the Massawepie Scout Camp Summer Camp Program Guide. I can't believe that in a few short months, we will be back up in our home at the Adirondacks having the greatest weeks of our lives. I'm so excited to begin planning for Camp Pioneer with you. For 72 years, Massawepie has put on a highly recognized program that our scouts enjoy year after year. This year, not only are our favorite programs coming back, we also are gearing up for some new merit badges and running pilots for two new program areas that you can take advantage of. This program guide will be able to answer all of your questions all about what program has to offer this summer. If you have more questions, feel free to contact us to talk about how we can make the Massawepie program experience the best for you.

Check out the 2025 Leader's Guide for further information on other aspects of the camp. On behalf of the entire 2025 Massawepie Scout Camp staff, we'd like to thank you for choosing your summer camp experience at Camp Pioneer. We look forward to sharing a memorable summer with you and your entire unit.

Yours in Scouting,



*Matt Thurston*

Camp Director

Matt.Thurston@scouting.org

# Program Overview

Camp Pioneer has a wide variety of program offerings designed to engage campers in a diversity of experiences in outdoor education, recreation, and adventure. Program at Massawepie is primarily offered through our various program areas, where teams of staff develop and deliver our program. Most program time at camp fits into two main categories of merit badge class instruction and open program activities.

*\*\*Please note that some program offerings may be subject to change as our team comes together for the summer\*\**

## Merit Badges & Other Classes

Merit badges are tools through which scouts can explore different interests and skills while working along the advancement trail. We offer nearly fifty merit badges at Massawepie and have designed our merit badge program to offer opportunities that make full use of the camp's outdoor and wilderness setting, especially merit badges that are not commonly offered in troop settings. While scouts are encouraged to get the most out of summer camp, Massawepie has more to offer than advancement – camp is about having fun and constructive experiences in a new, stimulating outdoor environment. Keep that in mind when scheduling merit badges – strike a balance between advancement and other opportunities at camp. It can sometimes be tempting for leaders and parents to pack their scouts' schedules with eagle-required merit badges, without considering their scouts age or background in the subject. We do not enforce strict age/rank requirements for these higher level badges, but Please give some consideration to scouts' interests and maturity level when filling their schedule. Our number 1 priority is that your scout has a ton of fun at camp, and this is best accomplished when they participate in classes that can interest/engage them.

Most merit badges are scheduled during three blocks, 9:00-10:30 AM, 10:45 AM-12:15 PM, and 2:00-3:30 PM. Merit badges are either taught for an entire block or half a block depending on their requirements; see the Merit Badge Schedule in the Appendices for a complete schedule. When scheduling merit badges for your scouts, keep the **physical layout of the camp** in mind, especially for the half-block classes, as there is no travel time. See the camp map in the Appendices for help.

Some merit badges are offered outside of the standard class time blocks, either in scheduled open program time (see below) or by appointment with the merit badge counselor. More information will be available at the beginning of camp for these badges. Some non-merit badge activities and classes are also offered during merit badge class time such as COPE; see the program area descriptions for these listings.

## **Open Program**

Massawepie offers two sessions of open program: 3:45-5:00 PM and 7:00-8:30 PM. During open program time, each and every program area is open to everyone (with some age restrictions) and offers a special event or activity relevant to their area. We will be using the ScoutingEvent registration system for open program registration this summer. Open program open-enrollment will be 8-10am each day, and we will have add-drop support at the leaders meeting before closing the registration system each day. Open program is an opportunity to experience all that our program areas and our property have to offer. There are also “BarkEater” open program events throughout the week that are required for earning your token; please see the Barkeater event schedule for more information. Open program events change every year, as our staff meet to generate new and innovative ideas at the beginning of the summer; but here are some previous highlights that you can expect back this year:

*The Sailing Regatta – Waterfront*  
*Cowboy Action Shooting – Rifle*  
*PYRO NIGHT! – Scoutcraft*  
*“Massawepie Masters” Disc Golf*  
*Tournament-Sports*

*Variable Distance Shoot – Archery Range*  
*The Fishing Derby– ECON*  
*Dungeons and Dragons Night- HandiCraft*  
*Gaga Tournament-sports*  
***And So Much More!***

## **Trainings and Awards**

Massawepie offers a variety of Adult and Youth training/award programs during both our Merit badge and open program times. We are offering the following trainings at camp this summer:

- **Stand-Up-Paddleboarding, BSA** award will be offered as an open program offering to scouts who wish to develop Paddle-boarding skills.
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)** training program provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank. Along with Scoutmaster Specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Scouts BSA Troops in order to be considered “trained”.
- **Den Chief Training** is for any scouts that are currently or are considering becoming a den chief in their troop. The training identifies den chief responsibilities and tasks and describes the den chief’s relationship to the adult den leaders and how that relates to the den chief’s activities with the den. This will be offered during open program time at Trailblazers. In our current scouting membership environment; the Den Chief role can be a critical component of Troop-level recruitment and support for Pack operations; and this is a great first step to implementing a den-chief program with your troop.

**CPR/First Aid-** We are investigating the feasibility of offering either CPR or First aid training weekly throughout the summer. Availability of this program is contingent on instructor availability.

# What's New in 2025?

We are always working on new ways to utilize our facilities and staff at Massawepie to keep our programs fresh and innovative. Here is a summary of the highlights of our new programs this summer:

## **New Program Offerings**

These are some of the new program offerings we have at camp this year!

Golf Merit Badge- In 2025, we will for the first time be offering the Golf merit badge at Sports, via the new Disc Golf option for the merit badge. This will be offered in a 45 minute session, and will include classroom elements, and active disc golf play throughout the week.

Ha-De-Ron-Dah Village- In the works for some time, the Ha-De-Ron-Dah village area will open for the first time in camp this year as a living history village at the voyageur lean to. This will be the new home base for the Bark-Eater program, and scouts will have the opportunity to attend merit badge classes with characters from various eras of Adirondack history. More information is available below under the program area summaries.

STEM- By Popular demand, Massawepie will for the first time be pioneering a Stem Area in camp, open for both Merit Badge sessions and Open program. More information is available below under the area summary.

BarkEater Day- In 2025, all BarkEater events will be offered between the afternoon and evening open programs on Wednesday. This should make it easier for Troops to participate in the program, and allow the Camp staff to better support our trails based programs, provide trail meals, and allow enough time to offer the programs at a high level. Besides the Barkeater program, most program areas will not operate during Wednesday evening's open program.

Den Chief Training- Den Chief training in 2025 will be offered as a scheduled 45 minute class at scoutcraft. Scouts will be able to select Den Chief training while setting up their merit badge schedule.

# Program Areas

## Waterfront

The Pioneer Waterfront offers a base for aquatics activities across Massawepie Lake, The Waterfront offers a variety of swimming and boating activities that make full use of this pristine, private Adirondack water body. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- Canoeing
  - Kayaking
  - Lifesaving
  - Small Boat Sailing
  - Swimming
  - Rowing (By Appointment)

- Trainings/Awards:*
- BSA Stand-Up Paddleboarding (Youth)

- Activity Highlights:*
- Instructional Swim (Available during 1 open program period during the week)
  - Open Boating & Open Swim- (Every open program)
  - Polar Bear Swim (Every Morning at 6:15am)
  - Sailing Regatta
  - The Luau
  - The Mile Swim
  - The Great Canooooooooo Race

## ECON

Massawepie's Ecology/Conservation area is the center for campers to learn about and experience the Adirondack wilderness and develop skills to be stewards and interpreters of the natural world. ECON also offers scouts and leaders the chance to borrow fishing equipment for another way of enjoying our lakes and ponds. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- Astronomy
  - Environmental Science
  - Exploration
  - Fishing
  - Forestry
  - Fish & Wildlife Mgmt.
  - Geology
  - Mammal Study
  - Nature
  - Oceanography
  - Weather
  - Soil & Water Conservation (By Appointment)
  - Bird Study (By Appointment)
  - Sustainability (By Appointment)

- Activity Highlights:*
- Fishing Derby
  - Alien Awareness night

## **C.O.P.E. & Climbing**

C.O.P.E. & Climbing offers a range of adventure activities which challenge scouts and give them an unforgettable summer experience. The area features a 30-foot climbing and rappelling tower, a natural rock face area, and high and low ropes challenge courses used in Project C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience), a national BSA program offered at Massawepie. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climbing</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Other classes:</i>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C.O.P.E 14+</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Natural Rock face Climbing</li> <li>● Open High and Low Ropes</li> <li>● Open Climbing</li> <li>● High ropes games</li> <li>● Zipline</li> </ul> |

## **Handicraft**

Handicraft offers scouts a variety of arts, crafts, and skill programs that aid scouts in exercising their creative abilities in fun and engaging ways. This year the Handicraft will be operating the Craft Lodge, as well as August Lodge as HAC, which will teach classes related to History and Citizenship. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Animation</li> <li>● Architecture</li> <li>● Art</li> <li>● Basketry</li> <li>● Chess</li> <li>● Leatherwork</li> <li>● Painting</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Space Exploration</li> <li>● Woodcarving</li> <li>● Fingerprinting (Open Program)</li> <li>● Collections (By Appointment)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Role-playing Games</li> <li>● Chess Tournament</li> <li>● Open arts and crafts</li> <li>● Euchre Tournament</li> <li>● Origami Night</li> </ul> |   |

## Trailblazers

Trailblazers is Massawepie's first year camper program. Scouts who have recently crossed-over or joined your unit will have the opportunity to learn some essential Scout skills while getting acclimated to the new atmosphere at camp. Trailblazers is currently offered in three one and a half hour sections. Each section is identical in program offering. The program focuses on Tenderfoot-First Class requirements but we feel it is important to balance the quality of learning as the quantity of requirements that we cover. Trailblazers will learn a knot of the day, earn their firem'n and totin' chit/chip, and focus on working together in groups using the patrol method. Trailblazers staff also help host several open program events in other areas such as "Aquatics requirements" during open program. This summer we will be bringing back the five-mile hike as a first year Barkeater requirement but it will be offered during open program instead of during the schedule Trailblazers program time

### *Requirements*

#### *Covered:*

### Summary of Requirements

Monday: Scout- 3a, 5; TF 3d; 2nd 2a-c

Tuesday: Scout- 4a & TF 3a(Square Knot); TF 5a-c; 2nd 1b, 3c; 1st 1b

Wednesday: Scout- 4a & TF 3b(2 ½ hitches); TF 4a-c; 2nd Class- 6a-e; First Class- 7a-c

Thursday: 2nd Class- 2f-g, 4b; 1st Class- 3a-c

Friday: Scout- 4a & TF 3c(Taut Line Hitch); 2nd Class- 3a; 1st Class 3d (make-up)

\*\*Every day (flags reqs)\*\*: TF 7a, 2nd 8a-b

### *Class-time*

#### *Highlights:*

- Firem'n Chit/Toten Chip Makeups
- Teaming up with other areas/BE Events to complete requirements
  - o Plant/Animal Hike
  - o 5-mile hike w/map and compass
    - (hikes are either/or)
  - o Waterfront- Aquatics Requirements



## **Sports and Mountain Biking**

Fitness is one of the four aims of Scouting, and scouts have the chance to develop their physical fitness at our Sports and Mountain Biking area. Massawepie has a wide variety of field sports equipment and activities for scouts and leaders to utilize. Our biking programs include mountain bikes, for use on the many miles of trails in and around Massawepie. Camp Pioneer also offers a BMX course with BMX bikes and safety equipment. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Athletics &amp; Sports (offered concurrently)</li> <li>● Golf Merit Badge</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personal Fitness Starter (Sched. Open Program), No Completions.</li> </ul>          |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baseball</li> <li>● Basketball</li> <li>● Frisbee Golf</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Soccer</li> <li>● Horseshoes &amp; Lawn Games</li> <li>● Mountain Biking</li> </ul> |

## **Scoutcraft**

Scoutcraft is where scouts can grow, develop, and test their fundamental scouting and outdoors skills. Massawepie is the perfect place to work on survival, woodcraft, and outdoor skills because of its Adirondack setting. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Camping</li> <li>● Cooking</li> <li>● Emergency Preparedness</li> <li>● First Aid</li> <li>● Orienteering</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Search and Rescue</li> <li>● Hiking (By Appointment)</li> <li>● Geocaching (By Appointment)</li> <li>● Signs, Signals, &amp; Codes (By Appointment)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tomahawk Throwing Range</li> <li>● Survivor Fire Building Competitions</li> <li>● Massawepie Lumberjack Games(B.E Yr. 3)</li> <li>● Iron Chef Competition</li> <li>● Lashing Relays</li> <li>● Leave No Trace/Outdoor Ethics Training</li> </ul> |   |

## **Range and Target Activities**

Massawepie offers a wide variety of shooting sports opportunities to all ages of scouts and adults alike. Camp Pioneer has three shooting ranges – Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery. With each range offering its own merit badge and a range of open programs, there are plenty of opportunities for safe shooting fun under the supervision of trained instructors. Program opportunities include:

*Merit Badges:*

- Archery
- Rifle Shooting
- Shotgun Shooting

*Trainings/Awards:*

- NRA Rifle Marksmanship Program

*Activity*

*Highlights:*

- Cowboy Action Shoot
- Golf Ball Shoot, Rifle
- Adult Leader Shoots
- Variable Distance Archery
- Aerial Archery
- Open Shoots (All Ranges)
  - Open Shoots often reserved for Merit Badge Participants on Thursday Evening and Friday afternoons- *dependent on Merit badge class progress during the week.*

## **Ha-De-Ron-Dah Village**

We are piloting this brand new program area as a “Living History” village in 2025; Staff members will teach merit badge classes in regalia as various historical adirondack characters originating from the late 18th-early 20th centuries. The Ha-De-Ron-Dah village will be based out of the Voyager Lean-To and operate during only 1 of the hour and a half merit badge block each day. It will also offer a few open program activities throughout the week.

*Merit Badges:*

- Pioneering
- Wilderness Survival
- Scouting Heritage
- Archaeology

*Activity Highlights: Open program at the HDRD Village will include various activities in “experimental archaeology”; this means activities like making, using, or experimenting with historical tools, clothing, food or technology; for example starting a fire without modern methods or fire-starter technology.*

## **STEM**

After hearing lots of interest over the past few years; we are piloting a brand new Stem area in 2025. The new Stem area will teach classes during one of the hour and a half class periods, and offer a couple of open program activities throughout the week. Open program activities for stem in 2025 are in development.

*Merit Badges:*

- *Game Design*
- *Electricity*
- *Chemistry*

## **Specialty Programs**

**BarkEater-** The word Adirondack comes from the old Mohawk Iriquoian term, Ha-De-Ron-Dah, meaning “Eater of Bark”. Introduced in 2005, BarkEater is a five-year recognition program for campers at Massawepie that encourages both scouts and leaders to see all that the camp property has to offer, consider personal leadership development over their years at camp, and learn a bit about the history and natural ecology of camp and the Adirondacks as a whole. Each year that campers come to camp, they will be able to complete the next level, earn a new BarkEater token, and participate in a unique BarkEater ceremony for their year. The first through fourth year ceremonies are held on Friday night, while the fifth-year ceremony is held during dinner on Thursday. The requirements include sections for Massawepie experience (wednesday open program activity), Massawepie and Adirondack lore, service in camp, and scout spirit. This summer we have made some structural changes to the program, in that every experience requirement will be offered on Wednesday. This should help units coordinate participation in the program, and allow the camp team to better support and staff our Barkeater events. Requirements are expected to be the same in 2025, but some events may get some changes and improvements in our planning for BE day in 2025.

**Mountain Fox-** Mountain Fox is a program offered by Massawepie’s Adirondack Trek Center, for campers to get a taste of Adirondack high adventure. Scouts and Venturers age 14 or older from a variety of troops and crews form their own group and plan your activities with the help of a certified Voyageur Guide. A typical mountain fox class starts with an overall orientation and initiative games to get everyone acquainted and to set the week’s goals. Options include day trips and overnight trips, by foot or afloat, taking place on our 3800 acre reservation’s trails and ponds. Generally, we meet after breakfast each day and return back to base camp in time for supper at the dining hall. Choices of activities include, mountain biking, hiking, sailing, overnight mini-treks, or even going off our property and summiting one of the High Peaks. Mountain fox participate in a White Water Rafting trip each week.

Scouts and venturers participating in Mountain Fox need to achieve a blue swim level and should bring proper equipment with them to camp that will allow them to “Be prepared” for these activities. There is an additional Fee of \$99 per scout due at the time of Class registration. The program also will require an adult to accompany each group on their daily activities. This does not have to be the same adult for each activity and the duty may be shared between participating units.

**Outpost Program**- Massawepie’s unique property offers the opportunity for campers to get out of base camp and participate in the best two syllables of Scouting.....Outing! Massawepie has nearly 20 remote campsites around our 3800 acre property, connected by over 20 miles of trails. With so much variety, groups are free to create their own unique adventures! Whether you want to spend an overnight or just take a day trip, our staff and program are flexible enough to allow you to go on an outpost adventure without impacting your experience of classes or other programs.

Our Trek and Trail Staff are prepared to help your group create a plan and can provide some support equipment; including trail food, trail stoves, bear cans, and water sanitation. Troops need to provide their own tents if they plan to outpost. At least two leaders in the outpost camp must have American Red Cross (ARC) Standard First Aid, Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) First Aid or equivalent, and ARC Adult CPR/AED training or equivalent. Leaders will need to provide documentation of these trainings and complete an outpost trip-plan at the trek lodge prior to outposting. If a group plans to canoe to their outpost; they will also need to have leadership with Safety Afloat Training, and complete a float plan with the waterfront team.

### **Work Opportunities at Camp**

**Staff:** We are still working on hiring a full staff for Camp Pioneer this summer! Anyone 15+ is welcome to apply, and we have availability in almost ALL of our Major program areas. We have already interviewed people for many of our Area director positions, but still have needs for senior staff and Managers! If you have any questions about whether staff may be a good fit for you or your child, reach out to the Camp Director to learn more about the staff experience! We will be running more interviews over the next few months, and you can apply anytime at:

Apply Today: [SWC-Massawepie Seasonal Camp Staff Application 2025](#)



**CIT Program:** Not quite old enough, or don’t feel ready for a full summer on Staff? Try out the CIT program! It is a 3-week leadership training program and this year it will cost \$75 to participate. CITs will spend a week as a patrol participating in activities planned by the CIT director, out-posting, and getting training about our operations all around camp. CITs will also have a chance to rotate around different areas, shadow counselors and work

and teach in an area that interests them for a full week. Interested in the CIT program, or have a scout who'd like to sign-up? Have them fill out the application today!

- CIT's must be at least 14, and no older than 15 for the duration of the Camp Session
- Fees for the 2025 season are 75\$ and cover room and board for the duration of their camp session

Apply Today: <https://247scouting.com/forms/397-MassCIT25>



### Questions or Interest in Staff/CIT?

Contact:

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(585)-241-8547

### More Camping at Massawepie

This guide is an overview of the program at Camp Pioneer, Massawepie's Scout Resident Camp. However, Massawepie has so much more to offer during the summer and year-round, for those who enjoy their summers at Camp Pioneer:

- **Massawepie Adirondack Trek Center** – Sharing a base camp with Pioneer, the Adirondack Trek Center offers groups the opportunity to travel routes we've created throughout the 2.6-million-acre Adirondack Forest preserve, or a customized adventure of their own. Groups can participate in 3-day or 6-day backpacking, canoeing, or combination treks during the same summer season as Camp Pioneer. Troops can even split – with some attending Camp Pioneer while another group participates in a trek, while sharing the same base camp, to experience a variety of adventure and challenge available to the scouts in your troop. Groups can also add a 3 day experience to the start or end of their week in resident camp. Scouts must be at least 14 years old to participate in Trek; Contingents can range from 4-7 people including adult leaders.
- **Family Camping** – During the summer months, Massawepie offers facilities rentals for family groups in the Camp Mountaineer area across the lake from Camp Pioneer. This is a perfect opportunity for parents and families to visit their scouts during summer camp, and offers cabin, tent, and RV camping opportunities. The 2025 Mountaineer Camping Season will run from July 3- Aug 8. After the summer season, Camp Pioneer facilities are open to rent for families, units, and organizations; with Campsites, Cabins, Lean-tos RV sites, and Lodges all available for camping. Pioneer family camp in 2025 opens after Aug 23, and facilities will remain available until Columbus day weekend. Several winter lodges and cabins are available throughout the off-season at camp as well.