

2026 Pioneer Program Guide

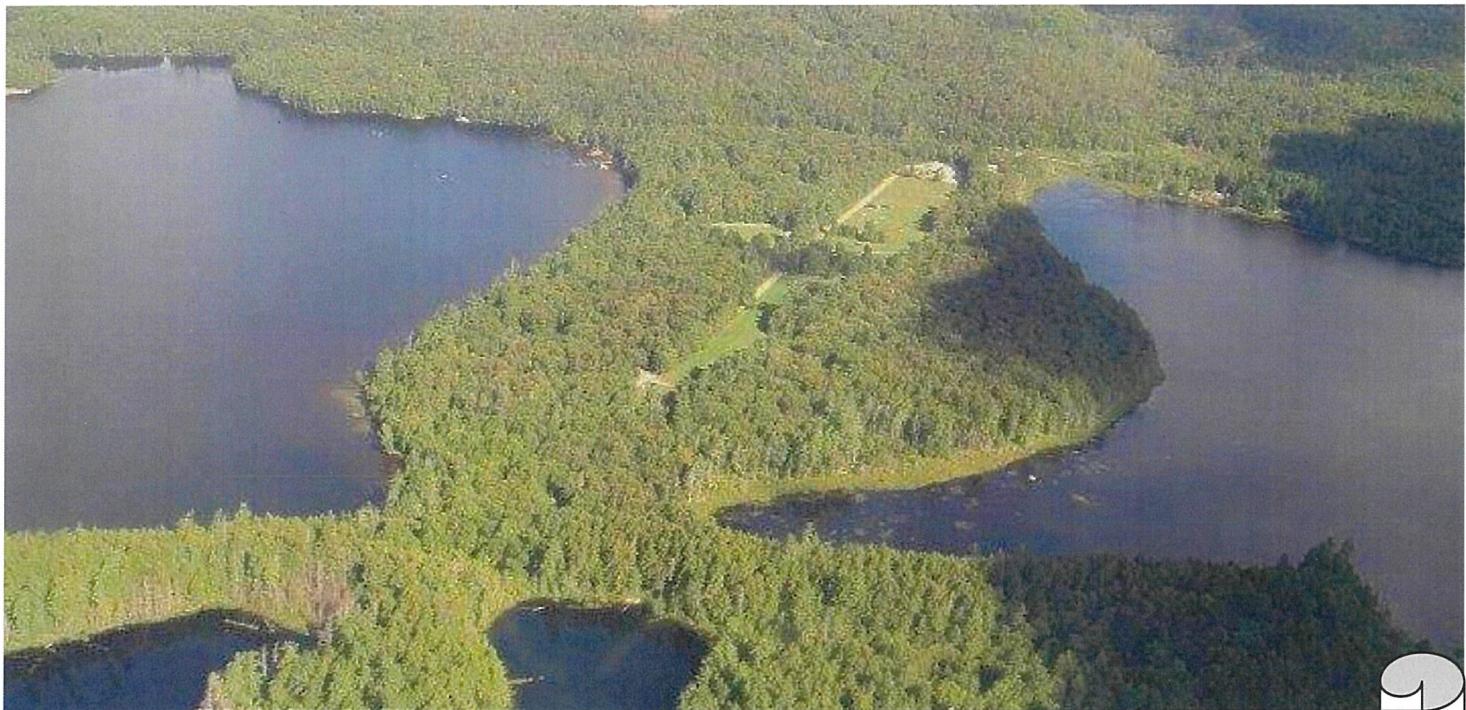
Massawepie Scout Camps

Seneca Waterways Council

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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 they have the opportunity to be challenged; work toward advancement; be active with their troop, patrol and others; achieve while learning; develop as a person; enjoy the Adirondack forest; and have fun.



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 74 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 2026 Leader's Guide for further information on other aspects of the camp. On behalf of the entire 2026 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,

Parker Hebert,

Program Director, Massawepie Scout Camps



Program Overview

Camp Pioneer has a wide variety of program offerings designed to engage campers in a diversity of experiences in outdoor education, recreation, academics, 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 over 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 most merit 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. 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 online for help with this process.

Some merit badges are offered outside of the standard class time blocks, either in scheduled open program time or by appointment with the camp staff. 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, Trailblazers, and Mountain Fox see the program area descriptions for these listings.





2026 Merit Badge List

Merit Badge offerings may still be subject to change

Climbing

- Climbing
- COPE

Ecology and Conservation

- Astronomy
- Environmental Science
- Fishing
- Forestry
- Geology
- Oceanography
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Sustainability
- Weather

Ha-De-Ron-Dah

- American Heritage
- Citizenship In the Nation
- Pottery
- Wilderness Survival

HandiCraft

- Archaeology
- Art
- Basketry
- Chess
- Leatherworking
- Movie Making
- Theater
- Wood Carving

Trailblazers

- Trailblazers (1st year Camper Program)

Scoutcraft

- Camping
- Cooking
- Emergency Preparedness
- First Aid
- Fire Safety
- Pioneering

Shooting Sports

- Archery
- Rifle
- Shotgun

Sports

- Multisport
- Golf
- Sports/Athletics

STEM

- Artificial Intelligence
- Chemistry
- Electricity
- Electronics
- Energy-
- Game Design
- Space Exploration

Waterfront

- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Lifesaving
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Swimming



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. An 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/shotgun
Open Shoot-Rifle, Shotgun, Archery
PYRO NIGHT! – Scoutcraft
World Cup Soccer (Sports)*

*The Fishing Derby- ECON
Dungeons and Dragons Night- HandiCraft
Open Swim/Boating- Waterfront
Codebreakers Challenge- STEM
Tomahawk Throwing*

And So Much More!

Open Program Registration

Per DOH Requirements, Massawepie has developed a system to have scouts sign-up for their open program activities at the start of each week of camp, and edit them each day as their interests may change throughout the week. Each area takes attendance at the start of each open program session, and must account for all scouts registered for a given activity. If scouts are not signed up for any activity, it shall be assumed that the unit is taking responsibility for accounting for their whereabouts/safety. This year, a preliminary open program schedule shall be provided after merit badge registration, but before the start of camp. This will give scouts a good outline to plan their signups off-of but more additions may be made to the schedule units receive upon their arrival to camp.

Leader Training

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" In 2026 there will be a \$10 fee for participating in IOLS at camp.

Registration for IOLS will be done at the same time as merit badge registration.



What's New in 2026?

We are always working on new ways to utilize our facilities and staff at Massawepie to keep our programs fresh and innovative. Our team has made it a special priority in 2026 to bring new merit badges to our campers, including some of the newest badges being rolled out by scouting America! Here is a summary of the highlights of what's New and exciting in program this summer:

Pottery MB

- Brand New to Massawepie in 2026, Pottery MB will be taught at Ha-De-Ron-Dah by an experienced staff member, and full time Ceramics Student

American Heritage & Cit in the Nation

- In Honor of **America 250**, Cit. in the Nation and American Heritage will be taught together as a 1.5 hour block at Ha-de-ron-dah

Moviemaking Merit Badge

- Brand New in 2026, Moviemaking is an exciting trial badge rotating into Handi-Craft!

Multi-Sport Merit Badge

- One of the newest badges in Scouting America, Multisport will be taught via the Triathlon option in 2026. Scouts participating in Multisport will need to be able to earn a Blue tag swimmer level, to have already earned the Swimming Merit Badge, and should be 13+. Scouts doing Multisport will need to attend a pre-camp meeting in Late May/Early June to receive direction and begin 4-week training requirements.

Electronics & Electricity

- Electricity Was new to the New STEM area in 2025, but in 2026, we will also be adding Electronics, and teaching them together as 1.5 hour block

Energy

- Scouts in Energy Merit Badge will learn about types of energy, more efficient use of energy, and how energy moves through and works in a system.

Artificial Intelligence

- One of the Newest badges in Scouting America, scouts in the AI Merit badge, will learn about what AI is, how to use AI effectively, hazards and challenges using AI, and engage with ethical issues related to the rise of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives.

Sustainability

- Being offered for the first time as a scheduled class at Econ, Sustainability will present scouts with another option for Eagle Required "ecology" badges at camp

Fire Safety

- Taking the usual place of "Search and Rescue", Scoutcraft will teach Fire Safety for the first time in 2026. Scouts in Fire safety will learn about hazards related to fire in the home and at camp, different types of fire and how they differ in hazard, and how to mitigate and respond to fire related emergencies

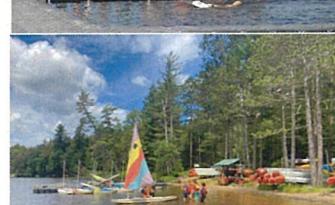
Provisional Troop Week 6

- We have always offered the option to pair lone scouts with existing troops as "provisionals", but for the first time in 2026 we are hosting a full provisional troop during week 6 of camp, facilitated by our staff and volunteers. Campers will sign up individually via week 6 on the camp registration page, sign up for their own badges, and work with a whole new "Family" provo troop run by camp staff and volunteers serving as "Scoutmasters for the week". Scouts will be able to participate in all the same programs and patrol cook some of their meals. Scouts will attend at the same rate, and must comply with the same policies (Medical Guide), but will be eligible for camperships, and for the **Two-Camp Discount of \$150** if also attending with their troop.

Our 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 Lake.



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:



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.

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:

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 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 scheduled 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 1/2 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
 - Plant/Animal Hike
 - 5-mile hike w/map and compass
 - (hikes are either/or)
 - 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:



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:



Range and Target Activities

Massawepie offers a wide variety of Range activities 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 and experienced instructors.



Ha-De-Ron-Dah Village

First opened as a brand new “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.

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 opened STEM as a brand area in 2025. In 2026 stem will be expanding to two of the Merit badge periods in camp each day and has a whole slate of new badges being offered, including badges brand new to scouting!



Specialty Programs

BarkEater- The word Adirondack comes from the old Mohawk Iroquoian 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 Barkeater Day 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 2026, but some events may get some changes and improvements in our planning for BE day in 2026



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 ages 14 or older from a variety of troops and crews form their own group and plan their 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 property and throughout the ADK Park. Scouts are still able to eat breakfast and supper with their troop 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.



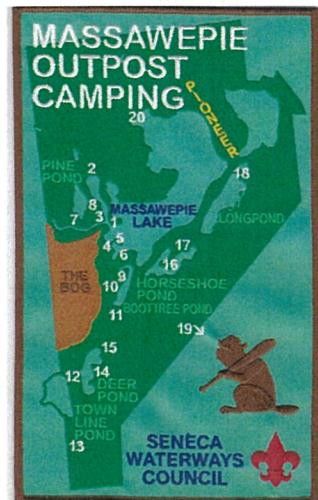
Scouts and venturers participating in Mountain Fox need to achieve a blue swim level and should bring proper equipment with them to camp that will allow them to "Be prepared" for these activities. There is an additional Fee of \$99 per scout due at the time of Class registration. The program also will 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. 15 Year old Staff are generally accepted only if they have participated in the CIT program, 16+ youth are always eligible for camp staff. 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.

Apply Today!



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!



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 2026 Mountaineer Camping Season will run from July 2- Aug 6. 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 2026 opens after Aug 22, and facilities will remain available until Columbus day weekend. Several winter lodges and cabins are available throughout the off-season at camp as well including Gannett, which houses up to 48 throughout the winter, and Keymel which houses up to 15!
- **Arctic Challenge, and October Odyssey**- Massawepie Hosts two big events in the off season, including the October Odyssey which takes place Columbus/Indigenous peoples weekend every year, and The Arctic Challenge which happens during MLK weekend every year. These weekends are great opportunities to visit camp and participate in everything from target and range activities to ADK mountain climbs, and more seasonal activities like Snow-Shoeing, sledding, XC skiing and Ice fishing. More information is released about these events throughout the year, and information is always available at Summer Camp.

Any Questions about the Contents of this Program Guide? Please Contact the Camp Director, Matt Thurston