MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS



MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

PROGRAM GUIDE

Massawepie75.org

Scouting America
Greater Finger Lakes Council

MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS

Camp: 65 Massawepie Rd., Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Council: 2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd., Rochester, NY 14623

Director of Support Services	Tracy Jones
Phone	585-241-8543
Email	TracyG.Jones@Scouting.org

MSC Camp/Reservation Director	Matthew Thurston
Phone	585-241-8547
Email	Matthew.Thurston@Scouting.org

It is the mission of Massawepie Scout Camps 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 an individual; enjoy the Adirondack forest; and have fun while doing it.

Introduction:

Since Massawepie welcomed its first Scouts in 1952 at Camp Pioneer, it has grown and changed considerably; Pioneer was joined by Mountaineer in 1953, and later by Voyageur, and Forester, each in their own way providing generations of Scouts and Leaders with opportunities to explore, learn, and challenge themselves in the forests of the Adirondack Mountains. Over these past 75 years, Massawepie has gone through various stages of change. For about thirty years, Mountaineer and Forester operated as the primary resident camps, but with the 50th Anniversary Pioneer took over as the primary resident camp, and Mountaineer was gradually developed into a family campground; leading to the Massawepie that the scouts and leaders of today know and love.

In 2027, for just the third summer in our long history, Massawepie will host major operations at all four historic camps in honor of the 75th Anniversary. Mountaineer will continue to operate as our Family and Alumni Campground, Camp Voyageur will host our Treks and High adventure programs, Forester will operate a provisional weeklong experience for just 40 scouts each week, and Pioneer will continue to operate as our flagship resident camp program with some special one-time program offerings, new additions, and celebrations based around this historic anniversary; all culminating with a weekend celebration for scouting adults and Alumni hosted at the end of Week Six.

This guide is meant to get you oriented and excited for everything you should expect from camp in 2027. We can't wait until you're back at Massawepie with us for this historic summer at camp!

Matt Thurston, Camp Director

MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS

FOUR CAMPS. ONE SUMMER. 75 YEARS OF SCOUTING.

2027 SUMMER DATES:

WEEK 1 — JULY 4-10
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER, MOUNTAINEER)

WEEK 2 — JULY 11-17
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER, MOUNTAINEER)

WEEK 3 — JULY 18-24
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER, MOUNTAINEER)

WEEK 4 — JULY 25-31
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER, MOUNTAINEER)

WEEK 5 — AUG 1-7
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER, MOUNTAINEER)

WEEK 6 — AUG 8-14
(PIONEER, VOYAGEUR, FORESTER)

STAFF SEASON- JUN 27 - AUG 18

CIT- SESSION 1 - JULY 4 -24

CIT- SESSION 2 - JULY 25 -AUG 14

75TH CELEBRATION WEEKEND- AUG 14

PRE-SEASON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

PRE-SKILLS WEEKEND: MAY 7-9

SKILLS WEEKEND: MAY 14-16

BEAVER WEEKEND: JUNE 4-6

APPLY FOR STAFF

REGISTER FOR PIONEER, FORESTER, OR VOYAGER

SIGN UP TO BE AN ADULT VOLUNTEER

APPLY TO CIT

Scouting America
Greater Finger Lakes Council

CAMP PIONEER

Overview:
Since re-opening in 2000, Pioneer has been the destination for a premier resident camping experience at Massawepie. Resident Camp in 2027 will continue this legacy by offering all of the flagship programs that campers have come to expect, with some brand new program and facilities developments and one-time program experiences for the 75th Anniversary.

Whether a Scout is coming to summer camp for the first time or returning for another summer, Pioneer offers the chance to try new things, challenge themselves, and spend a week immersed in Scouting with their troop and friends in the Adirondacks.

Massawepie's program centers around scheduled Merit Badge Programming available in the morning and early afternoon, elective program activities available in two periods in the late afternoon, and evening, and several major campwide activities such as our Campfires. Advancement is of course a major focus for our scouts, their leaders and parents; Pioneer offers a balanced program designed to give major opportunities for advancement, while leaving time for scouts to have fun in the outdoors and pursue adventure with their troop.

Camp Pioneer 75th Anniversary - Master Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:10		Mile Swim Qualifiers					
6:20		Polar Bear					
7:00		Patrol Cooking Food Pick Up					
7:40		Flags					
8:00		Breakfast					
9:00-9:40		Merit Badge Block 1					See You Next Year!
9:50-10:30		Merit Badge Block 2					
10:45-11:25		Merit Badge Block 3					
11:35-12:15		Merit Badge Block 4					
12:00		Patrol Cooking Food Pick Up					
12:30		Lunch					
1:00	Arrival & Check-in Procedures	Siesta					
2:00-2:40		Merit Badge Block 5					
2:50-3:30		Merit Badge Block 6					
3:45-5:00		Open Program				Friday Fun!	
5:00	Patrol Cooking Food Pick Up						
5:40	Flags						
6:00	Dinner						
7:00-8:15	Orientation, Drop/Add, SPL/Leaders Meeting	Open Program				Closing Campfire	
8:50		Opening Campfire	Unit Time/Outpost Night	Barkeater Ice Cream Social	Vespers/OA Ice Cream Social	Barkeater Ceremonies	
10:00	Lights out					Merit Badge Reconciliation	

CAMP PIONEER - MERIT BADGES & CLASSES

Merit badges are central to the ScoutsBSA advancement program and allow scouts to explore and develop new interests and skills. Camp Pioneer offers over fifty merit badges during scheduled program time and has designed its merit badge program to make full use of the camp's outdoor and wilderness setting. 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. There are also various merit badges offered during elective program, or on a by appointment basis. 2027 will see some new by appointment and elective program badges, and new built in time and structure for scouts to work on badges before camp, and complete them during elective program time. There are also some "non badge" programs offered during merit badge class time such as COPE and Trailblazers

The Merit Badge Schedules and pre-requisite guide will be released in early 2027 and will be the primary resource for all information related to merit badge program this year.

2027 Class Offerings:

Climbing
Climbing, COPE (Award/Challenge)

Ecology and Conservation
Astronomy, Environmental Science, Fishing, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Geology, Nature, Oceanography, Soil and Water Conservation, Sustainability, Weather

HandiCraft
Archaeology, Art, Basketry, Chess, Leatherworking, Movie Making, Photography, Pottery, Theater, Wood Carving, Cit. in the World

Scoutcraft
Camping Cooking Wilderness Survival Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Fire Safety, Pioneering, Search and Rescue

Target/Range Activities
Archery, Rifle, Shotgun

Trailblazers
Trailblazers (1st year Camper Program)

Sports
Sports & Athletics, (disc) Golf, Multi-Sport Merit Badge

Stem
Animation, Artificial Intelligence, Chemistry, Digital Technology, Electricity, Electronics, Energy, Game Design, Space Exploration, Engineering, Robotics

Waterfront
Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Rowing, Sailing, Swimming

By Appointment/ Complete @ Camp:
Scouting Heritage, Collections, Coin Collecting, Traffic Safety, American Indian Cultures, Genealogy, Pets, Reading, Scholarship, Safety, Personal Fitness, Bird Study, Bugling, Finger Printing

****Merit Badge list subject to change****

Massawepie75.org

CAMP PIONEER- ELECTIVE PROGRAM

Massawepie's elective programming is a chance to get out, try new things, and experience more of what camp has to offer. Two sessions are offered each day, from 3:45–5:00 PM and 7:00–8:15 PM, with each program offering unique activities each session, as well as "everyday" activities like open swim, and open sports. Activities can range from open boating and swimming to fishing, special nature programs, climbing activities, shooting sports, creative projects, camp-wide games, and other one-of-a-kind events developed by our staff each summer. With our 75th Anniversary we are bringing in various special activities such as the "Great Canoe Race".

Elective time can also be used by units to work on advancement, do their service project, outpost, go off-camp, and plan their own adventure. Scouts register for electives through ScoutingEvent, with registration open until about 1pm each day and add/drop support available at the Leaders' Meeting. A preliminary schedule will be provided after merit badge registration, with additional activities potentially added once camp begins. Attendance is taken at each program area, and Scouts not registered for an elective remain the responsibility of their unit. Special BarkEater elective events are also offered on Wednesday week for scouts and leaders looking to earn their "BarkEater" for that year.

The Fishing Derby - Dungeons and Dragons Night - Open Swim/Boating

Open Inflatables - 1st/2nd Class Aquatics Requirements - Tomahawk Throwing

Fingerprinting Merit Badge - Ga-Ga Tournament - Capture the Flag

"Alien Awareness Night" - Origami Night - Mini-Fig Pottery -

Lawn Games - The Great Canoe Race!! - Cowboy Action Shooting

Open Shoot-Rifle, Shotgun, Archery - PYRO NIGHT! - Outdoor Cooking

World Cup Soccer - The "Bog Bike"- Yr. 4 BE - Natural Rock Face Climbing

Zip-Line - Chess Tournament - Aerial Archery

AND SO MUCH MORE







PIONEER - WHAT'S NEW IN 2027?

We are always working on new ways to keep our programs fresh and innovative. Our team has made it a special priority in 2027 to bring new and unique programs to our campers. Here is a brief snapshot of what's New and exciting this summer!

The Great Canoe Race Returns!

In honor of Massawepie Scout Camps' 75th anniversary, one of camp's classic traditions is making its return. Scouts and Leaders will be encouraged to tackle this challenging multi-carry loop course traversing Massawepie Lake, Long Pond, and Horseshoe pond, and weekly winners will be recognized for their achievement as 75th Anniversary Race Winners.The Great Canoe Race is a mountain-top camp experience that will be a highlight of the 75th anniversary summer for those who participate.

Aquatics Additions:

Massawepie's waterfront is getting even more exciting. Look forward to a new inflatable challenge course at the waterfront for a new way to enjoy the lake, and cool off at camp.

Legacy Barkeater Program:

For the 75th Anniversary, there will be a once-only opportunity for scouts and leaders who have completed their 5th year Barkeater to participate in a "legacy" program to honor those who have spent 6 or more years at camp with a new experience, ceremony and recognition token.

Themed Activities & Time Capsule:

In 2027, there will be a variety of themed activities based around recognizing the 75th anniversary during elective, and full-camp program time, including an opportunity for every scout in camp to participate in making and interring a time capsule to be opened by future MSC Campers.

Outposting:

We are fronting a special initiative to get at least one troop to camp and leave a mark at each of our nearly 20 outpost sites on the camp property for the 75th Anniversary. Outposting is for Pioneer campers, but supported by Camp Voyageur; see more about Outposting in the Voyageur section of this guide.

STEM:

In 2027 STEM will move to the "Turner Trek Center" and act as a full-fledged program area, adding badges such as "Digital Technology", and "Engineering" to their schedule.

Open Program Badges:

In our efforts to continue offering new and exciting programs for your scouts; the 75th will see more badges offered in scheduled open program slots, and new opportunities for scouts to work on badges during the off-season and bring completed workbooks for review to get badges signed off at camp.

Dining and Commissary:

We know that your dining experience is central to your experience at camp. As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the scout and leader experience, Camp will continue it's investments into enhancing service and facilities in the Dining Hall and Commissary.

CAMP VOYAGEUR

The 75th Anniversary at Massawepie will mark the official re-opening of "Camp Voyageur", as your destination for Treks and High Adventure program in the Adirondacks. The Voyageur Staff are available to work with your troop or crew to plan and execute mountain-top adventures, hiking, paddling, cycling, and climbing in the Adirondack backcountry, and to support in-camp troops with their outpost and adventure programming during their week at Pioneer.

Massawepie Adirondack Treks:

Massawepie Treks offers weeklong and 4 day trek experiences for groups of up to five scouts two leaders during every week of camp. We have pre-planned routes and trip plans for scouts at various skill levels to canoe, hike, bike, or even climb some high peaks, across the nearly 3 million acres of state wilderness and recreation land in the ADK Park. Every group is accompanied by a trained Voyageur Guide with additional Wilderness First Aid and Paddlecraft Safety training. Units will be provided with their canoe/bike, and associated equipment, their stoves, cooking equipment, and food. They are obligated to provide their own tents/hammocks, personal gear, and packs, and to provide two registered leaders 21+ to go on the trip. Units can choose one of our pre-planned routes or work with Trek leadership to design a trip that meets their priorities as a unit. Many groups on Trek are looking to complete their 50 Miles afoot/afloat award, and they even have the chance to work towards requirements for several merit badges including: **canoeing, cycling, hiking, backpacking, wilderness survival, cooking & more!**

Look At Routes/More Information

Sign up for a Trek Today





Massawepie75.org

MORE FROM CAMP VOYAGEUR

Outpost Program

For the 75th Anniversary, camp has a special goal to get scouts camping on every single one of our nearly 20 outpost campsites on property. Troops in resident camp at Camp Pioneer may choose to outpost during any day at camp, but the best time is usually Tuesday evening, as it interferes least with other camp-wide program. The Camp Voyageur staff is available to your troop to assist with outposting plans by providing support for trip plans, handling outpost site booking, and even providing trail food and select equipment. Troops who are outposting must have at least two leaders with them with CPR/First Aid training, and if they plan to canoe to the outpost, at least one with paddlecraft safety and safety afloat training. There is no age restriction on which scouts may outpost, but many troops will plan for only a portion of their troop constituting older scouts to go on their outpost trips.

Massawepie Outfitters

If your troop is interested and able to run your own high adventure programs in the off season, Massawepie is available to support your plans with housing and equipment. Massawepie has a variety of camping/bunking facilities available throughout the year for you to stay at during, or at the start/end of your adventure. We also have canoes, PFDs, and paddles available for rental by units for high adventure program. With associated mileage fees, we can even help with canoe pick-up drop-off if your group would like.

Winter Experiences

The “Camp Voyageur” Complex of buildings around Gannett are winterized and used for rentals throughout the winter months. The Trek Staff are currently piloting new winter programs to support the “Winter Sports Merit Badge” through cross country skiing, snow-shoeing, downhill skiing, and snowboarding. If you are interested in visiting camp in the winter and trialing one of these new programs, contact the Camp Director for more information

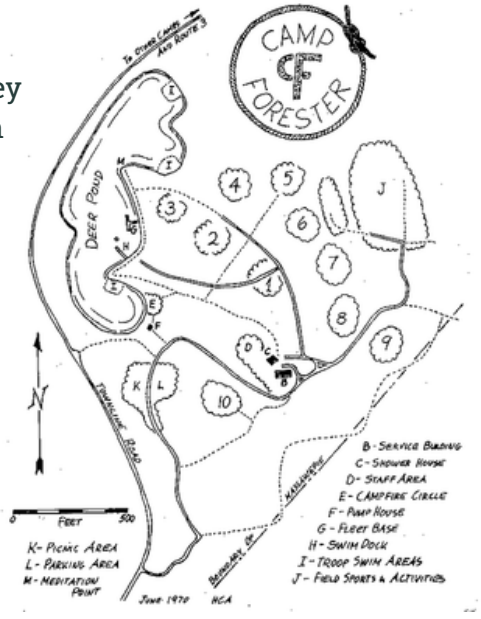
Mountain Fox

The Mountain Fox program is an older scout program that gives scouts an opportunity for exposure to high adventure program while staying with their troop for Resident Camp in Pioneer. Scouts still camp with their troop, and have the chance to participate in Elective Programming, but instead of merit badges, they spend their week hiking, mountain climbing, biking, canoeing, and even white water rafting at sites around camp and off property. Mountain Fox will not operate in 2027 as that program niche will be occupied by the “Four Nights at Forester” program for the 75th Anniversary. Mountain Fox will be back and better than ever for camp in 2028.

CAMP FORESTER

For the 75th Anniversary, we are offering a once in a lifetime opportunity for the scouts of today, and even Forester alumni to return to Camp Forester for a weeklong summer camp experience. The “Four Nights at Forester” program” will be a resident camp experience, in a provisional, weeklong outpost environment; where scouts will patrol cook, work on merit badges and participate in guided adventure activities and elective programming.

Overview:



This is a provisional program for older Scouts, meaning Scouts may sign up individually or in small groups if they are at least 14 years old, or are 13 and have graduated 8th grade. Troops sending four or more scouts will be obligated to send a registered leader with the group as well. Scouts will arrive, check-in and camp with their troops on Sunday night, canoe and hike to Forester on Monday, get their campsites set-up, participate in activities and camp throughout the week and journey back to base camp on Friday to participate in closing ceremonies at Camp Pioneer. Scouts will need to bring their own Tent/Hammock, pack, and personal gear. All basic needs will be provided for, but scouts will not have access to electricity or running water for the duration of their stay at Forester. Forester will have a variety of boating available, but will not allow for any swimming. Scouts participating will need to be at least red-tag (beginner) swimmers, and be prepared for as much as 10 miles of hiking, or 20 miles of cycling in a day. Scouts at forester will still be able to participate in some of the specialized 75th programming at Pioneer, including; the time capsule, The Great Canoe Race, and Barkeater Program. Forester will be limited to 40 Scouts per week plus leaders, so be sure to get your spots booked now!

Merit Badge Programming:

The Forester Merit Badge program will have the Motorboating, Surveying, and brand new, “Wildland Fire Management” merit badges as fixed parts of the program for all scouts participating. Scouts will also have the opportunities to work towards Archaeology, Cooking, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, Fishing and some of the same “By Appointment” badges available at Pioneer

Other Activities:

Off-Camp Day Trips - Sailing - Canoeing
BMX Biking on Forester Trails - Bushwack Hiking - Fishing
Great Canoe Race - BarkEater - So Much More!
*** More Information To Come on Program and Scheduling! ***

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SUMMER CAMP FEES AND REGISTRATION

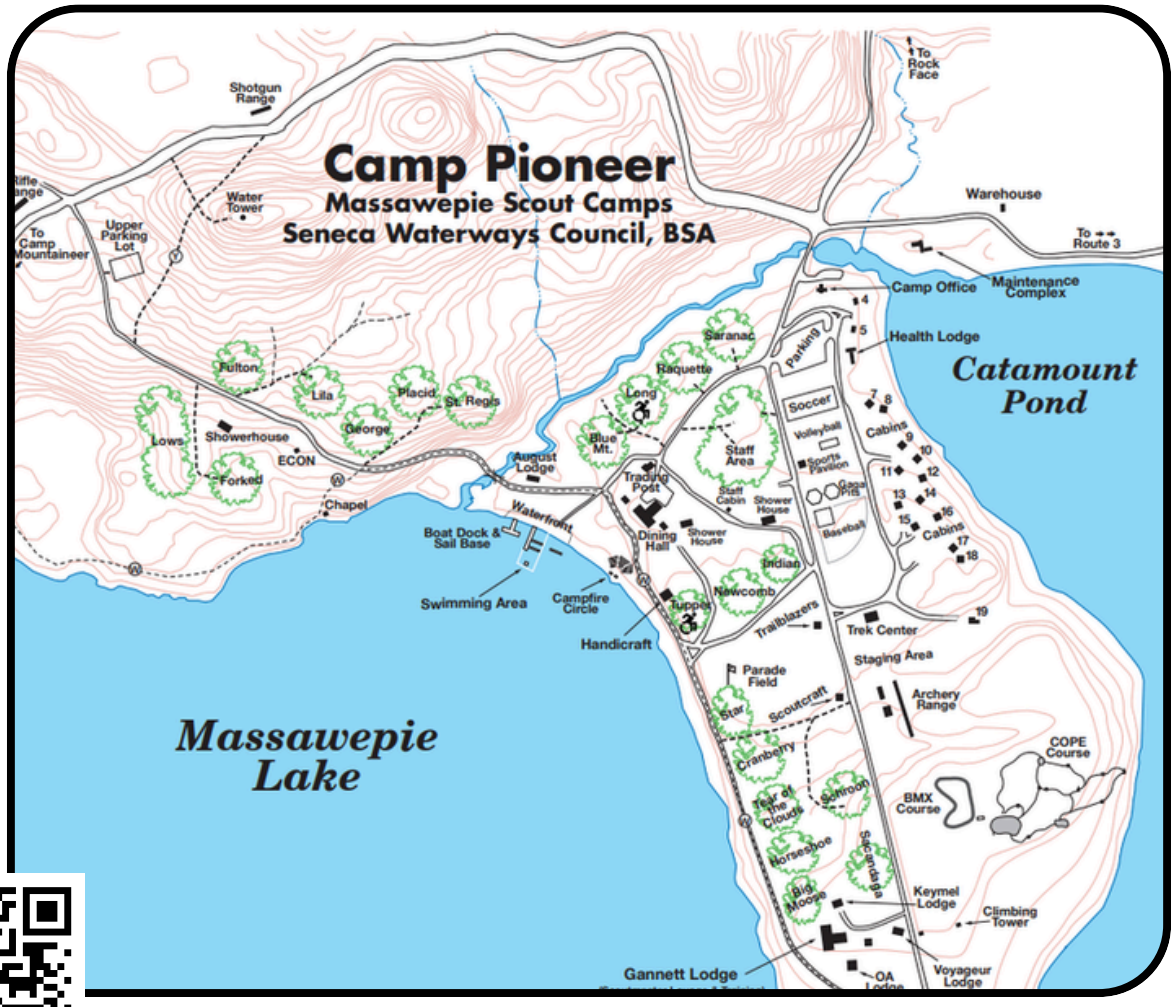
Getting Registered:

Registration for all three summer camp programs can be done on the ScoutingEvent site linked via the QR. code below. Unless you are attending provisionally, you should register through your troop by working with your unit leader/camping coordinator. Pioneer and Forester bookings should be managed on the same registration for the whole troop. Any Voyageur bookings must be managed on their own registration. Registrations will stay in the "estimated" status until the Camping Kick-Off in January. At the time of making your booking, there is a $100 reservation deposit that locks in your troops spot for that session at camp. The first per-scout deposits are due in mid-march at which time estimated reservations become more firm.

Youth Early Bird Fees: Pioneer-$620 - Voyageur- $620 - Forester- $700

Adult Fees: Pioneer-$220 - Voyageur-$450 - Forester- $220

GFLX Council offers camperships, as well as discounts for scouts attending multiple in-council camp programs/weeks, and families with multiple scouts attending camp. These are applied for online via links that will be released in the 2027 leaders guide. Application deadline for campership will be early march, and deadline for discounts will be early April. Camperships and discounts are available to our "out of council" troops.



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CAMP MOUNTAINEER

FAMILY AND ALUMNI CAMPGROUND

First opened in 1953, Camp Mountaineer was the primary resident dining hall camp at Massawepie for most of our history until 1999. Today, it operates as a campground for Scout Families, Units, Alumni, and the general public to visit camp and enjoy the Adirondack Mountains. Mountaineer offers cabin, tent, and RV camping with various amenities and creature comforts, a game room in the historic dining hall, swimming, boating, and hiking available for recreation. All summer reservations are managed through the online booking platform "HipCamp" linked at the QR code below. Facilities are available at a range of affordable price points depending on type, size, location, and available amenities, with our most affordable tent sites starting at $25/night. No scout membership or trainings are required to book at Mountaineer. Mountaineer campers may utilize the trails system and check in at the central office to visit base-camp at Pioneer. Mountaineer sees frequent Pack/Troop rentals and rentals by unregistered parents who would like to visit their scout while at camp We have a growing number of campers from the general public and hope to see more camp Alumni visit us at Mountaineer for the 75th Anniversary.



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WORK OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP

Massawepie's summer program is powered by a dedicated team of seasonal staff who bring their knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm to camp each summer, and Volunteers who put countless hours into improving the camp's programs and facilities. From area directors and program staff to camp leadership, dining services, and support staff, our team works together to create a safe, welcoming, and memorable experience for every Scout and Leader. Staff members are selected for their skills, character, and ability to work with young people, and are trained to deliver the high-quality programs and experiences that make Massawepie special. Massawepie Staff are offered competitive seasonal camp salaries, room and board for the duration of their term. If you are looking for a summer job where you can build skills, make lasting friendships, spend your summer outdoors, have a real impact on Scouts, and be a more active part of this historic summer at camp, apply to the 75th Anniversary Staff!



CIT Program

Not quite old enough, or don't feel ready for a full summer on Staff? Try out the Counselor in Training Program! This is a 3 week program meant to prepare YOU to be a great MSC staffer. 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. Apply today, or share the link with a scout you think would be interested!

- Scouts must be at least 14, and no older than 15 for the duration of their session
- Fees for the 2027 Season will be $75

Volunteering At Camp

Countless volunteers provide thousands of hours annually to improve and maintain camp facilities, and support the camp's operations and program. Camp has three major work weekends between May and June, and two major work weekends in October; contact the council camping department to get on the distribution lists for those events. Camp is also seeking more volunteers, and staff alumni to volunteer and support the summer program in 2027. If you're interested in volunteering during the summer camp season fill out the survey at the QR. Code below to give us some of your information and get added to the list.

CIT

APPLY FOR CAMP STAFF

VOLUNTEER

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MORE FROM MASSAWEPIE

75th End Of Season Event

Our 75th Anniversary season will culminate with a special celebratory event planned and hosted by the Massawepie Alumni Association on August 14th. This event will include a lunch and dinner, tours of all of the historic camps, activities at some of our program areas, and a closing campfire to end the event. Tent camping will be available on property, and attendees may also choose to find lodging for the night at one of the hotels/motels/campgrounds in the surrounding towns. Besides some of our full-time staff this will be an adult only event, intended for camp alumni, unit leaders and other adults with a connection to camp to have a chance to visit and celebrate the anniversary with us.

Alumni Association

If you want to stay up to date on the latest news at camp, opportunities to get involved, and especially news about the 75th, consider joining the Massawepie Alumni Association. Alumni members receive a monthly e-blast prepared by the association chair, and two mailed newsletters annually bringing you camp stories, and information about events and major developments before anyone else. We even host a couple of fellowship events each year. Association membership is intended for adults and costs $15/year, or $25 for two years. all funds collected and raised by the association are put towards support of projects at camp, or association events and operations. Online registration now available!

Pioneer "Family Camp"

After camp closes for the season, all of the cabins and sites in Camp Pioneer come online for "Fall Family Camp". These facilities are available at affordable rates from late August until early October every year. Fall rentals in Pioneer, and Winter rentals in Camp Voyageur are managed through the council's "Camp Reservation" site available through the camp's page on the council site, or you can make reservations by contacting the camp director.

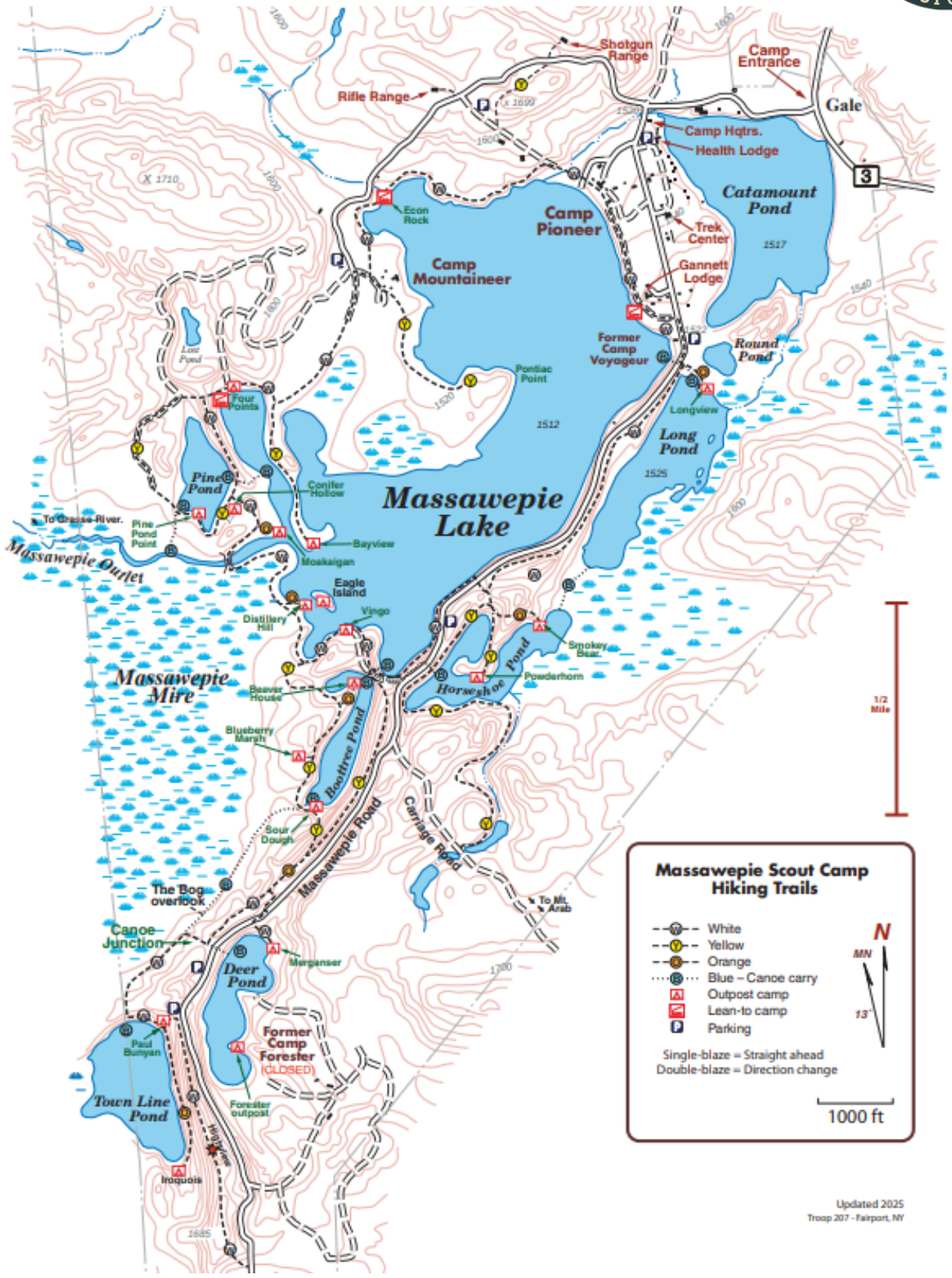
October Odyssey

Massawepie hosts an annual fall event the weekend of Columbus/Indigenous peoples day. Activities rotate year over year, but include a firetower mountain climbing challenge, hiking challenges, and an across-the-park adirondack scavenger hunt with activities in and out of camp. This weekend always has opportunites to participate in Range/Target activities, utilize sports equipment, and bikes, participate in unit service, and participate in other activities at our program areas around camp. If you're interested in seeing the fall colors at camp, there is no better time to visit than during the October Odyssey.

Arctic Challenge

The Arctic challenge is by far our more popular off-season event, happening annually during the weekend of Martin Luther King Day. Participants stay in the Gannett bunkrooms, or one of our other winterized buildings and participate in a variety of educational, adventure based, and fun winter activities, including Ice-Fishing, Snowshoeing, XC Skiing, Sledding and more! Attendees also recieve tickets and a private animal show at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, and meals for the whole weekend. Registration generally opens in early October, and the event always fills quickly.

RESERVATION/TRAILS MAP



Massawepie75.org



MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS

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Any Questions about the Contents of this Program Guide? Please Contact the Camp Director, Matt Thurston
Matthew.Thurston@scouting.org
(585)-241-8547