– Greater Finger Lakes Council, Scouting America –

SUMMER CAMP 2027

TUSCARORA
SCOUT RESERVATION

Camp Leaders Guide

Every Summer Has a Story....

GREATER FINGER LAKES COUNCIL

SCOUTING AMERICA

Revised August 2026

Welcome to Camp Tuscarora!

Dear Unit Leaders -

It is hard to believe it's time to start thinking about summer camp!

We are extremely excited to begin the planning process with you. Our 2027 sumer camp theme is **Tusky Tales** where fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and beloved classic stories come to life! Step into a world of imagination as Scouts embark on magical adventures, meet legendary characters, conquer storybook-inspired challenges, and write their own unforgettable camp tale.

This leader's guide is your first resource to answering many of your basic summer camp questions. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. We are always open to your input, suggestions and ideas.

Our 2027 Summer Camp Program Guide for Scouts will be available on our website in the early part of the new year and merit badge class registration will open online in April. The program guide will include all of the merit badge class information, program schedules, and specifics on the other activities happening during your week of summer camp.

On behalf of the entire Tuscarora staff, we'd like to thank you for choosing Camp Tusky. We look forward to sharing a memorable summer with you and your unit.

Yours in Scouting,

Lisa Empfield
Camp Director

Greg Larson
Assistant Camp Director

Jacob Hausman
Program Director

Mike Gebhard
Camp Ranger

John Babbage
Council Program Director

Tusky T. Mammoth
Camp Mascot

Contact Us:

Greater Finger Lakes Council
Southern Tier Office
2150 NYS Route 12
Binghamton, NY 13901

607-648-7888
(Council Office)

Tuscarora Scout Reservation
205 Summit Lake Road
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2027 Camp Fees and Payment Schedule

Early Bird Discounted Fee
$620 per Scout – Discount Fee
For registrations with a $100 per Scout deposit made prior to April 1. Payment in full due by June 1.

General Camp Fee
$670 per Scout – Full Fee
Must be paid in full by June 1.

Late Registration Fee
$700 per Scout – Late Fee
For those registered after June 15. Must be paid in full by time of check-in.

Second Week Return Fee
$365 per Scout – Return Fee
For any Scout who registers for a second week of camp at Camp Tuscarora during the 2027 season.

Note: Fees are all-inclusive, there are no additional costs required for individual merit badges (such as craft kits or shooting tickets).

2027 Adult Leader Fees

- 5-16 Scouts, 2 free leaders
- 17-24 Scouts, 3 free leaders
- 25+ Scouts, 4 free leaders

Additional leaders: $220.00 per adult

For leaders visiting or attending for a short amount of time, there is a meal fee option of $12 for each breakfast or lunch and $16 per dinner (or $40 per day).

To Qualify for the Early Bird Discounted Fee: Units must pay a $100 deposit per Scout registered in the BlackPug system by April 1 (crossovers and new Scouts who join a unit after April 1 are also eligible for the discounted fee if they are paid in full by June 1). Additional Scouts added after April 1 will be charged the full fee. Scouts who register or pay after June 15 will be charged a late fee.

Registration & Payments
Units can pick their week and register online via the Greater Finger Lakes Council's BlackPug system. Units must pay a $250 deposit at time of registration to reserve a site for their troop (this is applied towards your final camp balance and is not an additional fee). All payments must be made in accordance with the payment schedule, with all final payments settled prior to camp. Fees can be paid at the Greater Finger Lakes Council Service Centers by cash, check or credit card. Any Credit/Debit Card Payments made at the Council Service Center will be charged an additional 3% for Card Processing Fees. Please contact us with any questions at 607-648-7888.

Registration Portal: https://scoutingevent.com/368-Tusky2027

Refund Policy
To prepare for summer camp, there is extensive planning, purchasing, and contractual agreements set in place. Due to these fixed costs, it is not practical to give full refunds. All refunds will be assessed a minimum $175 cancellation/service fee per Scout for previously incurred costs. All refund requests must be filed prior to the unit's departure from camp. No refund requests will be accepted or granted after a unit has left their camping session.

Refunds will only be granted in the case of injury, illness or family emergency when requested in writing to the Greater Finger Lakes Council Camping Department. All refunds must have supporting documentation from either a doctor, in the case of injury or illness, or a parent/guardian, in the case of a family emergency. Refunds will not be allowed to be carried over to the following summer.

Refunds will not be granted for a Scout who decides not to attend camp, nor for a scout who leaves camp early for whatever reason. To prevent a unit from losing money in these instances, the unit should not cover camp costs for a Scout but should require payment from the Scout to the unit in advance of attending camp. Refund checks will be returned to the unit only.

General Notes for Unit Leaders

Alcohol, Drugs, Fireworks
These items are prohibited in camp. There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding these items. Breaking this rule could result in the entire unit being sent home. Offenders will be turned over to the local authorities. Additionally, New York State Laws and Scouting America have designated youth camps as a smoke-free environment; smoking is not allowed in any central camp areas.

Bikes in Camp
Camp Tuscarora allows the use of bicycles within camp. Safety is a must. Helmets and proper attire must be worn at all times when riding. The buddy system is still in effect when riding. Bikes are only to be used on marked trails. Camp Tuscarora is not responsible for lost or damaged bikes. Please enforce safe biking and courtesy to pedestrians when riding in camp.

Annual Health & Medical Record Form
All participants (adults and youth) attending a Scouting America summer camp need to complete parts A, B, and C of the Annual Health and Medical Record (which includes a pre-participation physical). This form needs to be updated annually.

Buddy System
Tuscarora Scout Reservation follows the Buddy System for Scouts at all times while in camp.

Bullying
The Scout Oath and Law are expected to be followed throughout your entire visit at camp. Camp Tuscarora has a no tolerance policy for bullying. Bullying is grounds for immediate dismissal from camp at the discretion of the Camp Director. Any form of verbal abuse, physical abuse, or threats will result in immediate dismissal from camp; authorities may be contacted at the Camp Director's discretion.

Campfires
Camp-wide campfires are held on Sunday and Friday evenings. These are held at Council Point. If you have campfires in your sites, please follow safety guidelines which include water buckets nearby, clearing of the area, etc. Fires are at the discretion of the Camp Ranger who serves as Camp Fire Warden. Units are expected to follow the unit fireguard plan as set forth by Scouting America. Each unit will need to appoint a unit fire warden, who will review procedures with the troop. In accordance with Scouting policy, liquid fuels may only be used under adult supervision. The use of open flames in tents is prohibited.

Camp Service Weekend - *Tusky Home Days*
The set-up of our camp facilities is a tremendous task. We have scheduled a service weekend where you can help us get ready on **Saturday, May 22, 2027**. Weekend camping for this event is free of charge and the council will provide lunch to all participants on Saturday as well.

Please register online for the Tusky Home Days event as soon as possible to ensure camping arrangements and so we can be prepared with adequate food and work supplies. If you would like to schedule an alternative work day or want to find other ways to support our property, please contact the Camp Ranger, Mike Gebhard at 607-467-2721 or TuskyRanger@gmail.com.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices
Scouts should be encouraged to leave all electronics at home. These devices take away from the summer camp experience. They can promote home-sickness and often lead to other problems. Staff members will discourage the use of cell phones or other electronics by Scouts in program areas. Camp Tuscarora is not responsible for the lost or damaged electronics.

Colors and Retreat
Colors are held each morning at 7:40 AM and retreat is held every evening at 5:40 PM in the parade field. Attendance is required, and the field uniform is expected for evening colors.

Damage to Camp Property
Units are responsible for any damages that occur to camp sites and property beyond normal wear and tear. Sites will be assessed by camp staff upon check-in and check-out.

Emergency Notification
For camp-wide emergencies involving Severe Weather (tornado, hail, etc.), Missing Camper, or Fire, the siren on the Dining Hall will be sounded. There will also be a text-alert messaging system from the Camp Administration. Information on how to sign up for this during your week at camp will be available at the Sunday night Leader's meeting.

Firearms & Bows
Personal firearms, bows, and any other weapons are strictly prohibited at camp. All range and target equipment used at camp are provided by the council and managed by trained staff in designated ranges. Do not bring any personal firearms, archery equipment, or weapons to camp under any circumstances.

Firewood
Due to the threat of invasive species and insects, units are prohibited from bringing their own firewood to camp. There is adequate downed wood on the reservation to provide for campfires.

Food Allergies and Dietary Restrictions
Our kitchen and dining hall staff understands the importance of accommodating special dietary needs. If you have any food allergies or other dietary restrictions, please complete the pre-camp *Food Allergy and Special Accommodation* form and return the form at least two weeks prior to your week at camp.

Garbage and Recycling
Keep camp free of litter. Units should separate trash and recycling. All campsite trash should be brought to the Dining Hall prior to 7:00 PM each day so the Ranger can take it to the dumpsters.

Mail
Mail can be sent to Camp Tuscarora anytime. Mail is delivered to unit leaders at meals. It takes about 3-4 days for mail to reach a Scout once it is mailed (so plan accordingly). Please be sure to include the name and the troop number of the Scout on any mail. Mail can be sent to:

Scout's Name - Troop #
c/o Tuscarora Scout Reservation
205 Summit Lake Road
Windsor, NY 13865

Medications
All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be stored under lock while at camp. An adult leader within your unit or the camp health officer (when applicable) will need to manage the securing of the individual medications and documentation of the individuals taking medications. Units will manage this at their site as long as medications are properly stored and logs are kept; the camp will provide a lockable storage box. Medications must be in their original containers, with labels affixed including doctor's name, patient's name, date and name of medication contained. If there has been a dosage change, it must be noted by a doctor.

Parking and Vehicle Use
For safety reasons, camp policy does not allow vehicle parking in camp's main areas or campsites. All vehicles must be parked in the camp parking lots during the week. Special consideration may be given to persons with disabilities. Only those vehicles authorized by the Camp Director will be permitted to park in the campsites.

Each Troop can use one troop vehicle to carry equipment between the parking lot and your campsite during check-in and check-out times, at the discretion of the Camp Ranger and Camp Director. Troop trailers can be left at campsites with authorization from the Camp Ranger. All trailers and vehicles need to be parked on hard surfaces. Please do not park on grass anywhere in camp. Tuscarora Scout Reservation has a speed limit of 10 MPH throughout camp.

Pets
Pets can pose a distraction and safety hazard to others at camp. Therefore, the council prohibits participants and guests from bringing pets to camp. Service animals are, of course, welcome.

Reporting Injuries or Illnesses
Any type of injury or illness, regardless of the severity, MUST be reported to and treated at the Camp Health Lodge immediately when it occurs. This applies to ALL campers, youth and adults. The Camp Health Officer is required to document all injuries or illnesses in the Camp Health Log in compliance with state guidelines, Scouting National Health & Safety Standards, and insurance regulations.

The Health Officer will help facilitate contact with parents by Unit Leaders based on the nature of the injury or illness and what level of care is required. Treatment decisions will be made with parental, leader, Camp Director, and Health Officer input.

Site Accommodations
Each unit campsite is equipped with standard Scouting canvas tents on raised wooden platforms with internal frames. Tents hold two cots for a Scout and their buddy. Each site also includes a latrine and running water. A central canopy or pavilion, picnic tables, and fire circle provide communal areas for Scouts as well. Campsite capacities are calculated with each tent housing two campers for the week – as such, leaders are not guaranteed single tents.

Site Visitations
Each day a commissioner will visit and inspect your campsite. These visitations check for any overall health or safety concerns. If anything is broken or needs attention, please report it to the Camp Commissioner or Ranger.

Storms and Lightning
Bring rain gear - *be prepared*! In the event of precipitation, camp-wide activities will proceed as normal and the staff will make appropriate changes if necessary. In the case of a severe weather situation, Scouts will be moved to a safe structure and given further instructions from the staff.

Stoves and Lanterns
Stoves and lanterns are allowed in camp. For safety reasons, knowledgeable adult supervision must be provided when Scouts are involved in the use, handling, lighting, or storage of chemical fuels (liquids, jellies, or gasses). All fuels must be stored in a locked container. The fuel storage area is designated by Camp Ranger. Battery operated lanterns and flashlights should be used by all Scouts in camping activities, particularly around or in tents. No chemically fueled lanterns or stoves are to be used inside tents or center lodges.

Trading Post
Camp Tuscarora's Trading Post is open most of the day and includes many items that Scouts will want to purchase. Scouts will find a wide variety of items including camping supplies, Camp Tuscarora T-shirts and apparel, snacks, slushies, and much more. The trading post is an excellent opportunity for Scouts to practice real-world financial and personal management while at camp. Please be sure Scouts have spending money so they don’t feel left out. We recommend $30 to $60 for the week.

Two-deep Leadership
As with any Scouting event, each unit must provide two-deep leadership. Adult leaders attending camp with a unit must be registered as a leader in that specific chartered organization’s unit and must hold a current Safeguarding Youth training certificate.

Uniform and Attire
The Scout field uniform and appropriate activity uniforms are expected attire at any Scout functions. Scouts should have most, if not all of the uniform for camp. The field uniform is required at evening retreat, dinner, and other formal programs.

Swimwear must be family-friendly at all times. Male campers and leaders should wear trunks or shorts (no speedos, bikini briefs or other revealing suits). Female campers and leaders should wear one-piece bathing suits (no bikinis or revealing suits; tankinis are acceptable.) We also strongly recommend water shoes for boating and other activities.

Visitors in Camp
Visitors are welcome in camp as long as they have been invited by a unit and have been approved by the unit leader. Visitors must sign-in at the camp security building and pick-up a visitor's pass (which must be displayed at all times) immediately upon their arrival in camp. If a Scout needs to leave camp for any reason during the week, they must have documented permission from their parent/guardian and verification from a unit leader. If a visitor plans on staying for any meals, they must purchase a meal ticket at the Trading Post before going to the Dining Hall.

Wildlife in Camp
Tuscarora offers a wide range of exciting adventures including the opportunity to observe many types of birds, fish, and local wildlife. These include mice, chipmunks, skunks, foxes, squirrels, porcupines, birds, fisher-cats, bear, deer, elk, beavers, otters, and we’ve even hosted a peacock. They are year-round residents of Tuscarora; we are only guests. Throughout camp you will see numerous animals. Food should not be kept in campsites or tents; and all trash should be removed from sites at night. Treat wildlife with respect, give them enough space so they’ll not feel threatened.

Check-in Procedures

Be prepared! We strive to provide an organized and efficient start to your troop's summer camp experience. A staff member will guide your unit through the check-in processes which includes office check-in, medical checks, a dining hall orientation, and swimmers test at Waterfront.

Pre-Camp Leaders' Essentials:

- Please make sure your BlackPug registration is up to date with a current roster and that all payments have been made prior to your arrival.
- Leaders should come prepared with a copy of a unit roster, permission forms, and medical forms.
- Ensure that special dietary requests were submitted at least two weeks prior to camp.

Check-in Time:

- The main gates to camp open at 1:00PM. Check-in starts at 1:15PM from the parking lot. Plan for your troop to arrive as a group between 1:00 PM and 2:30PM.
- Assemble in the parking lot with swimsuits worn under uniforms and towels in hand. Ensure gear is in the designated staging area. One vehicle per unit will be allowed to drive back to your site to unload gear. Troop trailers can be parked at campsites in a spot designated by the Camp Ranger.

Initial Steps:

- The Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster should report to the Camp Commissioner stationed in the Parking Lot Pavilion when the entire troop is present and ready.
- Collect the Leaders' Packet and receive updated information on the check-in process.
- A Staff Guide will be assigned to escort the unit, ensuring a smooth transition through various check-in procedures.

Office Check-In:

- While on the check-in trail, stop by the Camp Office to update any fees and verify information.
- Leaders should have a copy of the unit roster with only those attending camp, and all necessary security permission forms and medical forms.

Medical Checks:

- All Scouts and leaders staying in camp must have a medical form on file with the health lodge.
- Leaders should have all medical forms collected and organized before check-in.
- All medications must be checked by the camp health officer during this stage.
- Scouts' and leaders' medical forms will be reviewed, and buddy tags will be issued.
- The Unit Roster will be checked to ensure all Scouts listed are present at camp.

Swim Checks at Waterfront:

- As part of the check-in process, Swim Tests will be conducted for all Scouts and leaders planning to participate in aquatics activities during their stay.
- Outside pre-camp swim tests are acceptable if they are recorded on the Swim Classification Record, have been completed within 6 months of attending camp, and have been conducted by a council-approved test administrator. Please note that the Aquatics Director and Waterfront Staff may, at their discretion, require any person to retake their Swim test.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **1:00 PM to 4:30 PM** - Arrival and Check-In
- **5:40 PM** - Colors in the Parade Field
- **6:00 PM** - Outdoor Picnic Barbeque at the Dining Hall
- **7:00 PM** - Adult Leaders Meeting at the Shower House Pavilion
- **8:20 PM** - Campwide Campfire, meet in the Parade Field
- **10:00 PM** - Taps

schedule subject to change

Check-out Procedures

At the end of the week the Camp Ranger will conduct a final inspection of your campsite to ensure cleanliness and address any damages or issues. If any damage surpasses regular wear and tear, the Camp Director and Ranger will assess the situation, and the unit may incur charges accordingly. All trash, rope, personal site modifications, and personal belongings must be removed from the site.

Before leaving camp, it is essential for the unit leader to:

- Ensure the campsite is clean and checked by the Camp Commissioner or Ranger before departure.
- Pick up all health forms and camp patches from the Health Lodge.
- Return medication lockbox to the Health Lodge and any tools to the Quartermaster.
- Submit a completed camp evaluation (can be dropped at the Health Lodge or Admin Building).
- If not already done, make reservations for the next year.

The designated check-out time extends from the conclusion of the Friday night campfire up until 10:00 AM on Saturday. Should the troop desire an earlier departure, special arrangements can be coordinated through the Camp Commissioner. An open grab-and-go continental breakfast is available from the Dining Hall on Saturday morning.

2027 Program Guide

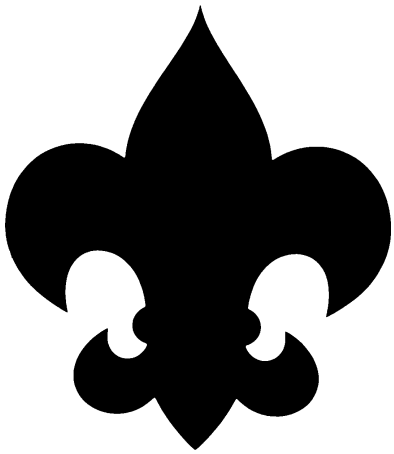
Tuscarora is the perfect destination for Scouts or all ages with more than 50 merit badge classes, a top-notch first-year-camper program, thrilling aquatic activities on Summit Lake, and hands-on learning opportunities at Nature, Handicraft, Scoutcraft, Shooting Sports, Music & Arts, Climbing, and more!

We will issue a separate program guide that outlines the entire summer camp program in full detail - including daily program schedules, merit badge offerings, evening programs, and other activities for Scouts. This full guide will be posted to the camp website in **February 2027**.

Our 2027 theme is ***Tusky Tales,*** where fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and beloved classic stories come to life! Step into a world of imagination as Scouts embark on magical adventures, meet legendary characters, conquer storybook-inspired challenges, uncover enchanted mysteries, and write their own unforgettable camp tale. From castles to cottages, dragons to daring heroes, every day is a new chapter waiting to be explored. Turn the page and discover the magic of summer at Camp Tuscarora in 2027!

Appendix & Forms

- Scouting America Annual Health & Medical Record Form
- Tuscarora Special Dietary Needs Form
- Tuscarora Permission Form
- What to Bring to Camp List
- Camp Tuscarora Map

Connect with Us

- Website: https://www.bpcouncil.org/camping/tuscarora
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TuscaroraSR
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bpccamptuscarora
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@CampTuscarora