NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL • SCOUTING AMERICA

2027 WINTER CAMP SEASON

LEADERS GUIDE

CAMP WILDERNESS SCOUT CAMP

WELCOME TO WINTER CAMP!

DATES

Winter Camp begins January 8, 2027 and runs every weekend through February 28, 2027. Groups are encouraged to spend the night at camp, but day trips are always welcome on ROMP and Polar Cub Weekends.

WILDERNESS ROMP

Scheduled for the weekend of January 15-17, ROMP is a weekend filled with scheduled program activities for Scouts BSA aged youth. You may pay the weekend fee which includes housing, or the day only fee for $45 per person.

POLAR CUB CAMP

Polar Cub is February 19-21 and is open to Cub Scout families only. The weekend is filled with activities for Cub Scout age youth. You may pay the weekend fee which includes housing, or the day only fee for $45 per person.

If your unit would like to make other arrangements, please contact Marten at Marten.Schrage@Scouting.org

LOCATION

Camp Wilderness is located 17 miles north of Park Rapids, Minnesota. We feature over 2,400 acres of largely underdeveloped forest area with many pine and birch trees. Camp Wilderness borders two lakes and has eleven more within its boundaries. The camp is home to abundant wildlife such as ospreys, loons, bears, wolves, deer, and bald eagles.

NEW ICE RINK

New for 2027: Main Camp Ice Rink!

No more long snowy treks to the lake for ice time! We're launching a brand-new, fully lit ice rink right in main camp next to the Health Lodge. Whether you're up for daytime curling or a nighttime skate under the lights, winter action is now just steps away from your cabin.

DATES & PROGRAMS

2027 WINTER CAMP DATES

Session 1: January 8-10
Session 2: January 15-18**
Session 3: January 22-24 (ROMP) *
Cosmic Sledding: January 23
Session 4: January 29-31
Session 5: February 5-7
Session 6: February 12-15**
Session 7: February 19-21 (Polar Cub) *
Cosmic Sledding: January 23
Session 8: February 26-28

*** denotes food service is included**
**** extra day may be reserved for the Monday holiday.**

PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

(1) Food Service Weekends
Although meals are provided, there are no scheduled program activities. Create your own program and choose from the miles of cross-country ski trails, snow-shoe, play broom ball, and much more! All of the equipment is available for use throughout the weekend in the Adult Leader Study.
**January 18 & February 15 can be reserved for an extra day for only $35 per person, which inlcudes an extra night and 3 meals.

(2) Non-Food Service Weekends
There is no food or program provided by Camp Wilderness during these weekends. Units will be on their own for planning activities. Create your own program and choose from the miles of cross-country ski trails, snowshoe, play broom ball, and much more! All of the equipment is available for use throughout the weekend in the Adult Leader Study. Each unit will prepare their own meals!

(3) Wilderness ROMP Weekend (Scouts BSA & Venturers only)
The main event of the weekend takes place from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, January 23rd. Includes four meals, equipment usage, and patch. Program consists of Scout skill outdoor challenges, cardboard sled races, broomball tournament, and more! Cabins are available for the weekend and run for the normal charge of winter camp. The day-only price is $45 per person and includes lunch & dinner.

"Winter SurTHRIVEal" is for Scouts ages 13+. This outdoor camping experience is like no other! Scouts will learn to eat, sleep, and survive in the cold Minnesota winter. This begins Friday night and ends Saturday morning. Camp will provide a sleeping bag, over boots, and sleeping pad. Everything else must be brought with.

(4) Polar Cub Weekends (Cub Scouts only)
The main event takes place on February 27th from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The fee covers four meals, equipment usage, and patch. Program consists of Scout skill outdoor challenges, cardboard sled races, broomball tournament, and more! Cabins are available for the weekend and run for the normal charge of winter camp.
The day only price is $45 per person and includes lunch and dinner.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CHANGES AND REMINDERS

Winter Camp includes everything you need!
The cabin fee covers lodging and equipment, while food-service weekends include a per-person meal package for the entire stay.

Decisions to cancel winter camp will be made **no later than noon** on the Friday camp is supposed to start. We want to make sure we have the best weather info available to make sure you are safe! If camp is cancelled, you will be able to switch to a different weekend without penalty.

Check in is from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday night. Check-in will be at the Health Lodge. Make sure you have parts A & B ready for all participants (youth and adult). If you are not able to make it to camp for any reason on Friday evening, please contact camp at 218.732.4674 or Marten at 701.405.2993.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations for the upcoming winter camping season are open online at **nlcbsa.org** starting September 1, 2026. A $100 deposit is required for each cabin reserved, the remaining balance must be paid online 30 days prior to your arrival. Payment in full is due 30 days before you arrive. Payments can be made online!

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation of your reservation must be made 30 days prior to your reservation date or the unit will be charged the full rental fee for the cabin. Fees are transferable to another weekend. In the event of a cancellation by the council, fees will be refunded or transferable. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the Council Camping Committee.

FOOD SERVICE

Food Service is only offered during select weekends and the cost includes 4 meals for the weekend. The ROMP and Polar Cub Weekend day-only fee is $45 and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. You will need to have an exact count, along with any special dietary needs (peanut allergy, gluten free, etc.) entered into your online registration to make sure we have enough food available for all.

TRADING POST

The Wanzek Trading Post will be open on Saturdays from 12:00 to 6:00 PM.
*dependent on staff availability.

LODGING

All cabins have **electric heat**. The Fox Building's primary heat source is gas.

- **Cabins 1-8**: 9 bunks in one room, with room for sleeping on the floor or cots.

Camp and BSA regulations require separate accommodations for male and female participants. The following cabins help accommodate those needs without needing to rent multiple cabins:

- **Cabin 9:** One bed is separated by a dividing
- wall from the others
- **Cabins 10 – 12:** There are five beds on each side of a dividing wall
- **Cabin 16:** Four beds are located in a separate room in the back of the cabin.
- **Fox Building:** There are two separate rooms from the main living area, each containing three beds
- **Nature Lodge:** Each floor has a separate room that can easily accommodate multiple people

Water is provided at the Dining Hall, Nature Lodge, and both Youth and Adult Shower Buildings. Mattresses or cots are provided. Firewood is not provided, but can be gathered from the surrounding woods. Plan to bag your garbage and leave it in the dumpster prior to leaving camp. **Dishwashing is not allowed in the sinks in any of the buildings!** This does not apply to the Nature Lodge which has a full kitchen on each level. Units coming on non-food weekends must bring their own wash bins to wash dishes.

There is an electric 4-burner stove with an oven in the Fox Building and each level of the Nature Lodge. The Nature Lodge also has a fridge on each level. You need to bring your own stoves for any other cabin. Electricity is available in all cabins for electric stoves, crock pots, etc. Propane stoves must be used outside cabins.

We will try our best to have the heat on before your arrival. However, depending on the amount of snow that may need to be removed to clear roads and parking lots, the staff may not have time to turn on all the cabin heat.

FEES

LODGING FEES FOR 2027:

BUILDING	CAPACITY	WEEKEND FEE	CO-ED ACCOMMODATIONS
Cabins 1-8	8	**$400**	Single Gender
Cabin 9	7	**$400**	Co-ed
Cabins 10-12	10	**$400**	Co-ed
Cabin 16	11	**$500**	Co-ed
Fox Building	20	**$800**	Co-ed
Nature Lodge (Upper)	25	**$900**	Co-ed
Nature Lodge (Lower)	25	**$900**	Co-ed
Upper Jones Tower	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Upper Setter	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Lower Setter	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Upper Starion	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Lower Starion	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Upper Scheels	25	**$850**	Co-ed
Lower Scheels	25	**$850**	Co-ed

$100 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

REMAINING BALANCE IS DUE 30 DAYS PRIOR ARRIVAL

FACILITY CLEANING FEES:
(For facilities not left clean after rentals)

Fox Building	**$45**
Dining Hall	**$150**
Nature Lodge	**$150**
All Other	**$45**
Graffiti Min.	**$75**

FOOD SERVICE FEES FOR 2027:

MEALS	FEE
INDIVIDUAL	$10
FOOD SERVICE WEEKEND (4 meals)	$35
ROMP & POLAR CUB	Included in Event Fee
Holiday Weekend Extension. Includes an additional night and 3 meals.	$35

WEEKEND EVENT FEES FOR 2027:

EVENT	FEE
ROMP or Polar Cub Registration	$75
Day Only Particpant	$45
COSMIC SLEDDING (inlcuded in ROMP & Polar Cub Registrations)	$10

CHECK-IN & PACKING LIST

CHECK-IN

Check-in starts at 7:00 PM on Friday night and goes until 9:00 PM. If you are arriving at a different time, please call the camp to let us know when you will be arriving. Check-in and check-out will be handled by a volunteer Campmaster, Health Officer, Camp Ranger, or the Camp Director. When you arrive in camp, proceed to the Health Lodge. All cabins will be locked when you arrive. If the Campmaster is not present, he or she is checking in another group. Please wait for them to return to assist with your check-in. The Campmaster will open your cabin and will complete a checklist with you that indicates the condition of the cabin and the equipment in it. You will need to sign this checklist upon check-in.

Each participant (youth and adult) needs parts A & B of their health form and the Assumption of Risk Form.

CHECK-OUT

The Campmaster will go through the same checklist when you check-out. Your group will be charged for leaving the cabin dirty and for any damage. **Graffiti will result in a minimum charge of $75!**

Failure to check-out with the Campmaster will make your unit liable for any damage found in your cabin. The Campmaster must inspect your cabin and complete the checklist before you leave camp. Check-out of equipment will be done by the Campmaster.

POTENTIAL PACKING LIST

- Coolers for food/snack
- Camp stove
- Dutch ovens
- Wash bins for washing dishes
- Dish Soap
- Sleeping bag/bedding for each Scout
- Sleds
- Skis
- Snow shoes
- Small pack for day hikes
- Winter fishing equipment & ice auger
- Fishing license and bait
- Canteens or water bottles
- Extra mittens/gloves
- Extra boots/shoes
- Extra Socks
- Winter hat
- Winter Coat
- Snow pants
- Hand and foot warmers
- Scarf
- Pocket knife
- Compass
- Scout handbook

CAMP STAFF

CAMP FULL TIME STAFF

The Northern Lights Council employs a full-time Ranger (Andy Kietzman) and Camping Director (Marten Schrage). They keep the roads and parking lot clear of snow in the winter, run programming, and provide meal service. **They have the responsibility and authority to enforce and carry out all Council policies pertaining to camp.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Wilderness has numerous volunteer opportunities to help our campers have a fun and enjoyable time! Those positions include Campmaster, helping in the kitchen, running program areas, medical staff or helping to plan and coordinate event weekends. Those who volunteer are not charged for their weekend at camp. If interested, contact Marten Schrage at **Marten.Schrage@Scouting.org** to learn more.

Volunteers can pick one or more weekends to help with various roles at camp.

- **Medical Staff:** Certified medical personnel on site. They will check in all participants at the Health Lodge on Friday evenings, and check them out on Sunday mornings. Must have one of the following certifications and be licensed in the state of Minnesota: Licensed Physician, Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Nurse (RN, LPN, or LVN), Licensed Physician Assistant, Paramedic, EMT, or EMR.

- **Campmaster:** Acts as the person checking people in and out, is a point of contact for leaders, and helps check equipment in and out (skis, snow shoes, etc.)

- **Kitchen Help:** We are always looking for cooks, stewards and dishwashers! We are currently looking for additional help on food service weekends.

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

Winter Camp includes all the facilities and equipment needed for your experience. Camp provides snowshoes, skis, and sleds. There is broom ball equipment available for use too! This equipment is on a first come, first serve basis. If your unit has access to their own equipment, feel free to bring it along. Damage (other than normal wear) to rented equipment will be charged to your unit.

- **Skis and Snowshoes:** A variety of youth and adult sizes available.
- **Sit-Ski:** two sit-skis available for those
- with mobility issues.
- **Sleds:** A variety available for use.
- **Broom Ball:** Equipment is available in the Adult Leader Study. You may bring it down to the overflow parking lot by the Ranger's house. Please return it to the Adult Leader Study after use.
- **Build an Igloo:** A Polar Dome is like an igloo and it can be used to sleep in. It holds 2 to 3 Scouts.
- **Yurt:** A Yurt will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The Yurt will be setup in the Trailblazer's area and is a steel framed structure covered in a canvas tarp. Once snow is on top of the canvas this becomes a well-insulated structure to winter camp in!

Scouts can earn their Zero Hero, 100 Below, or 200 Below patch by staying overnight outside when the temperature is below zero degrees. These patches are available for purchase at camp for $2.75 a piece in the Trading Post.

All equipment must be returned to the Adult Leader Study by 8:30 AM on Sunday!
Equipment Damage Charges:

- Ski damage (per ski) $25
- Broken binding (per binding) $5
- Ski poles damage (per pole) $5
- Use of fire extinguisher w/o cause ..... Actual cost