

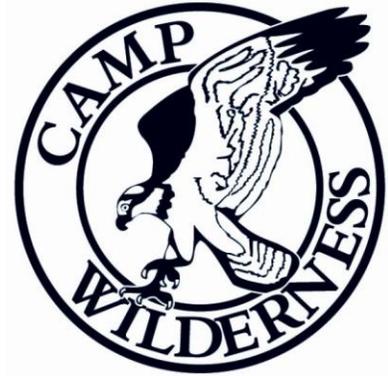
## Scouts BSA Summer Camp

# 2021

## LEADERS GUIDE

*"The Adventure Begins Where the Road Ends"*

Nestled in the heart of the Paul Bunyan State Forest in central Minnesota, this 2,400-acre camp is one of America's premier camps. The camp is nationally recognized and fully accredited by the Boy Scouts of America. Our programs have been featured in both *Boys Life* and *Scouting Magazines*. In operation since 1946, this beautiful camp has met the needs of Scouts and Leaders for over 70 years. Camp Wilderness is a big-time camp with a small camp feel.



Opportunities are plentiful for the newest Scout to the oldest Scout. Quality advancement, nature study, swimming, climbing, fishing, shooting sports and SCUBA are just a few of the exciting programs offered at Wilderness.

This guide is designed to help you and your Troop BE PREPARED for a great summer camp experience. The fun and adventure of camping for a week with friends is a priceless experience for a Scout. We look forward to seeing you on the trail this summer at Camp Wilderness!

A message from our Staff:

*On our honor we promise to provide memories to last a lifetime while upholding a safe and positive outdoor experience. We strive to recognize every individual's uniqueness and potential to grow. Let's have a great summer!*

*-CW Staff*



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Greetings from Camp Wilderness!

We are very excited about the 2021 camping season at Camp Wilderness and hope you and your Scouts are too!

We have made many changes to our summer program this year! After coming off a tough year with the pandemic, we know this summer will be one not like any other. We have combined old and new summer programming and created something magical. This new schedule allows Scouts to one Merit Badge per program area.

**New for 2021!!**  
Block Scheduling  
ROAR  
Adventure Days  
Offsite Merit Badges

We have officially changed to block scheduling! This was a big hit the summer of 2020 and would like to continue to offer it.

It is important to discuss these upgrades with your Scouts. Scouts who participate in activities of their choosing and have fun at camp will stay in Scouting longer and return to camp the following year.

We also offer patrol style cooking again this year. Scouts will be able to cook all but three of their meals in the campsite. This will give Scouts the opportunity to practice the patrol method. Please contact us if you would like to customize your patrol cooking schedule and eat some meals in the dining hall. We would need to know of any changes before your arrival to ensure we have proper food quantities on hand.

You can sign up anytime for a campsite on our website. We continue to make frequent updates to our website and Facebook page in preparation not only for summer camp, but all our year-round programs.

If you have any questions about Camp Wilderness, our summer programs, or year-round programs, please feel free to contact us at the Fargo Center for Scouting toll free at 1-877-293-5011. We look forward to seeing you and your Scouts on the trails of Camp Wilderness!

Yours in Scouting,

*Missy Hendrickx*

Missy Hendrickx  
Camping Director  
Northern Lights Council, BSA



## COVID 19 Pandemic

There are over 420 Scout camps in the United states, in 2020, Camp Wilderness was 1 of 65 that successfully ran with 0 cases of COVID 19. Our staff have the experience of running a camp during the middle of a pandemic, and we are confident in our ability to do it again. Please note that everything in this guide is subject to change, as this pandemic is constantly changing.

It is our policy that if any person in a unit fails the pre-camp screenings, they are not allowed to come into camp. If one person in a vehicle fails the screening, that entire unit will not be allowed in. If anyone is feeling sick or having symptoms of COVID 19, please stay home.

We will be taking extra steps in cleaning and the sanitation of everything at camp. This includes extra cleaning during mealtimes, shower times, and during program activities. Our staff is trained in these cleaning protocols.

We will be monitoring the local and state health department guidelines as summer nears. We will keep units up to date with changes that we make to our summer program. It is our goal to provide a quality program to all our units, while staying safe. Please refer to our website, [www.nlcbsa.org](http://www.nlcbsa.org) and our social media pages for news and up to date information on our COVID updates.



## Planning Your Adventure

### Planning Checklist

**Register Troop** - Choose campsite and pay \$50 deposit online at [www.nlcbsa.org](http://www.nlcbsa.org)

**Read the Leader's Guide!** - Review information on Troop leadership, health forms & Troop insurance

**Recruit** – A minimum of two leaders for camp. Two leaders must be 21 years of age and both must be a registered member of the BSA.

### March

- Begin reviewing program activities with your Patrol Leader's Council and the Troop
- Have a personal growth agreement conference with each Scout who will be attending summer camp. Help Scouts select activities that are appropriate to their age, skills, and advancement.
- Have a parent's information night to inform parents about summer camp opportunities and Troop goals including: completed health forms, packing list, adults who will be at camp, camp address and phone & drivers



### May

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Early Bird Payment is due *in full* for each Scout and adult
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sign-up for a campsite for the 2022 camping season online at [www.nlcbsa.org](http://www.nlcbsa.org)
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> - SCUBA registrations due
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - Potential Merit Badge Sign up
- Confirm the following with your Troop: Secure adequate leadership, plan transportation, have a Patrol Leader's Council to make decisions, plan Troop activities, work on pre-camp merit badge requirements, make sure the Troop has unit accident insurance.

### Two Weeks Before Camp

- Does Troop have adequate leadership?
- Make sure parents have information on departure time, return time, and telephone number for emergencies
- Make sure Scouts have necessary equipment
- Each Scout and Leader should have filled out a proper health history/physical exam form
- Notify camp of any dietary restrictions
- Fees collected, if not already paid
- Transportation arrangements completed
- ***All Scouts and adults are officially registered in your unit before you leave for camp***
- Double check each Scout's merit badge schedule and print off what each Scout is doing before arrival
- Call camp or the Center for Scouting at least a week in advance if you expect any problems

### The Day You Leave

- Bring receipts for fees already paid with you
- Have adequate money to pay additional and unpaid fees at Camp secured
- We recommend that you bring at least two blank Unit checks. You may need to pay for additional program fees, merit badge and other trading post supplies. Be prepared!
- Troop equipment packed including cooking gear
- Bring along copies of each Scout's merit badge class schedule
- Bring along a **copy** of medical forms for each Scout and adult attending camp, even if attending for just 1 day
- Bring along any partials or merit badge pre-requisites that have been completed
- Have Troop accident insurance certificate and claim packed with you if you are not a Northern Lights Council unit
- Plan your transportation route to Camp Wilderness

### Getting Scouts Excited for Camp

Promotional information should be shared with Scouts, leaders, and parents in your troop. This can be accomplished in many ways. Some ideas for promotion include, but are not limited to:

- Review the camp goals of each Scout and show how they can meet these goals and still have fun at camp
- Handout information sheets to Scouts' parents
- Show photos or videos of previous summer camps at meetings
- Invite Scouts to share their favorite parts of camp to the younger Scouts
- Invite former and current staff members to visit your troop to talk about camp
- Request a formal camp presentation from camp leadership or the Order of the Arrow
- Talk about the different merit badges, programs, and adventures offered to Scouts at camp



## **How to Register**

Registration is still open! You can head to our website to find a full list of available weeks.

## **Informing Parents**

Holding an informational meeting for parents before camp is a great way to put parents at ease. This can be done during an already scheduled meeting or as a stand-alone meeting. Some topics you could cover include: Travel Information, What to Bring and What Not to Bring, Camp Schedule, How to Reach us at Camp, Medications, Extra Expenses, Prescription Medications, and Q & A.

## **Refund Policy**

Staffing levels, food and program supplies are purchased in advance based upon the projected numbers registered for camp. Below is the refund policy for Camp Wilderness:

- There is a \$100 non-refundable fee for a Scout cancellation and \$25 non-refundable fee for a paid adult cancellation.
- Refunds must be submitted in writing before the camp session begins.
- Scouts sent home because of misbehavior, Scouts who choose not to attend camp of their own free will, or Scouts leaving camp for non-emergency reasons will have no fees refunded.

## **Financial Assistance**

We believe every Scout should have the opportunity to attend summer camp. If there is a scout that needs assistance

Camperships are assistance for Northern Lights Council Scouts who would otherwise be financially unable to attend summer camp. Camperships are available for up to one half of the total camp fee. The campership may only be used to attend Northern Lights Council Summer Camps. Financial need must be demonstrated before a campership is awarded. If you are out of council, check with your council to see what assistance might be available. On-line applications received by April 15 will receive priority. For more information please visit [www.nlcbsa.org/assistance](http://www.nlcbsa.org/assistance)

## **Custom T-shirt Order**

Your Troop will have the opportunity to order customized camp shirts with your Troop number. These shirts are only available in the pre-camp order. This is a great way for your Troop to show off its camp spirit! The shirt orders will be due by May 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow time for printing. The shirts will be mailed directly to your troop before camp. Order your shirts here:

<https://northernlightscampshirts2021.itemorder.com/sale>



## What to Bring

we recommend that you check the forecast before packing to make sure you are prepared for the week and make changes to this list as necessary.

- Scout Handbook
- BSA Health form, with parts A, B & C fully completed and signed by a physician
- Class A Uniform Shirt
- Sneakers or Hiking Shoes (2 pairs total)
- T-Shirts (5-7)
- Socks & Underwear (Enough for a week!)
- Long Pants or Jeans (2-3 Pairs)
- Short Pants (2-3 pairs)
- Long-Sleeve Shirt (1)
- Sweatshirt or Jacket (1)
- Work Gloves
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Sleeping Bag & Pad
- Pillow
- Hat
- Watch
- Camping chair (optional)
- Notebook, pencils or pens
- Personal Hygiene items
  - Toothbrush
  - Toothpaste
  - Soap
  - Shampoo
  - Deodorant
  - Comb
  - Prescribed Medications
- Pocketknife & Totin' Chit
- Matches in a waterproof container & Fireman Chit
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Rain Gear
- Non-Aerosol Insect Repellent
- Flashlight and batteries
- Canteen or Water Bottle
- Spending Money (at least \$25-\$30)
- Fishing Gear (optional)
- Tent (if not provided by Troop)
- Mess Kit
- Small backpack or daypack
- Personal 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit



## Arrival and Departure

### Forms to Bring

It is important to remember to bring all the necessary forms for the members of your troop. It can be difficult to keep track of everything that is necessary. To help, please plan on the following:

- Health Forms, parts A, B, and C for all participants
- Printed troop roster of those ATTENDING camp. We will base our billing off this roster, please do not submit names of people not in camp
- Swim Classification Form – if completed before arriving at camp
- Proof of Unit Accident and Sickness Insurance, if not from NLC
- Assumption of Risk Waiver. Signed by every person (youth and adults) attending camp. One must be filled out per year.

### Check in Day and Procedures

*The only early arrivals this year will be for units traveling over 300 miles to get to camp. If you are one of those units and would like to check in on Saturday, please note there is a \$50 early arrival fee, program areas will not be open, and staff will not be available. Please contact us to schedule your early arrival!*

Normal check-in for Troops begins at **11:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM Sunday**. **Please check our email ahead of time for your designated arrival time.** Please arrive at your assigned time. If your group is not traveling together, please plan on meeting at a location before arriving to camp. Everyone must arrive at the same time.

Our check in team will meet you and your unit at the Welcome Center on the main road. This is where your medical checks will take place. Once all medical checks are complete you will be sent to your campsite. Once you get to your campsite you may start unpacking your items. Please first take out your swimsuits and towels if swim tests were not done prior to your arrival. A staff member will greet you at your campsite and walk you through the rest of the check in process.

The staff member will first take you to the Black Building, make sure you have your roster completed! After that you will take a walk by the storm shelter, and then off to take your troop picture. Once your picture is taken you will go to the Waterfront for swim checks. Even if you completed ahead of time, you still need to go down!



### Checkout and Final Payment Process

Starting as early as Tuesday, unit leaders will have the opportunity to schedule an appointment with the Business Manager to settle any outstanding registration fees or begin the refund process if the troop overpaid. This must be completed before the troop leaves Friday night or Saturday morning.

Starting on Friday afternoon unit leaders can settle their troop accounts at the Trading Post with any of the Trading Post staff.

Before leaving Friday evening or Saturday morning a unit leader must check-out with a member of the administration team in the Black Building. They will make sure you have the to go breakfast, patches, leader appreciation gift, health forms, and advancement paperwork. You are good to go once you are cleared by a staff member in the Black Building.

## Health and Safety

### Health Forms / Check-in

Troops are welcome to submit their health forms 21+ days in advance by mailing them to:

Camp Wilderness  
Attn: Camp Health Officer  
29984 Journey Trail  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Submitting the forms in advance will speed up your check in process and allow our staff to identify any corrections that may be needed before you arrive.

When you arrive at the Welcome Center, you will go through medical checks. Please make sure each vehicle has the medical forms for those in that vehicle.

\*\* If any person fails the screening, that entire vehicle will be sent home.

### Prescription Medications

Prescription drugs must be under the control of a responsible adult and stored in a secured manner (locked box, locked vehicle, etc.). The only exception is for emergency medications such as epi-pens, rescue inhalers, and nitroglycerin. All medications must be in its original container with clearly marked labeling.

Troop leaders are encouraged to store and manage the medications for their troop. Health Lodge staff can assist if necessary. Locked storage, including refrigeration, is available at the Health Lodge for medications.

### Health Lodge

A qualified Health Officer is available to manage minor injuries that may occur during your stay at Camp. In the event of a serious injury, arrangements have been made with the local hospital and clinic in Park Rapids to provide needed medical care. The Camp medical officer is available 24 hours a day for emergency medical services. Please make arrangements with the Health Officer for any daily medical needs.



## Adult Leaders

### Activity Badge

We want leaders to have fun and participate! You can earn an activity badge while at Camp. Requirements include making new friends, teaching a new Scout a skill, and many other fun activities around Camp.

### Training Opportunities

We offer the following adult training sessions during the week you are at Camp: Scoutmaster Specific and Nap on Safely! Adults may also sign up for the SCUBA course Weeks 4-5 to earn their PADI dive certification.



### Unit Leadership

It is the policy of the Northern Lights Council that each troop must be under the leadership of at least two registered leaders. Both leaders must be at least 21 years old. Both male and female adults can provide this leadership. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present if female youth are attending. Troops who will be short on leaders should contact the Camp Administration at 218-732-4674 one week before arriving at camp. We can provide you with the contact information for another troop in camp to help share the two deep leadership requirement.



Camp Wilderness requires that all adult leaders spending one or more nights at a weeklong summer camp program be a currently registered adult leader with their unit, district, or council, and complete Youth Protection Training before arriving at camp. This policy will help us keep all Scouts in camp safe and will ensure that all adults in camp are covered under the BSA Accident and Sickness insurance program.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Camp Wilderness offers volunteers numerous opportunities to work at camp for one or more weeks as a volunteer staff member. Opportunities include campsite commissioner, chaplain, and health lodge assistant. Some positions may require specific certifications, like the chaplain or health lodge assistant. Those volunteering for a full week will receive a staff t-shirt and do not need to pay a participant fee. However, as a staff volunteer, they will not count towards their troop's two deep leadership. Contact Missy Hendrickx at [missy.hendrickx@scouting.org](mailto:missy.hendrickx@scouting.org) for more information.

## Camp Services

### What is Provided?

Each campsite has drinking water, picnic tables, flagpoles, bulletin board, pavilion shelter, and access to a latrine. Troops must bring their own tents, camping gear, and other personal supplies.

### 85% Club

If you bring 85% of the registered Scouts in your unit, we will provide a special appreciation goody delivered to your campsite. If you qualify for this club, please make sure to bring an official unit roster with you (this includes Northern Lights Council and non-Northern Lights Council units).

### Commissioners

Your Troop will be assisted by seasoned Scout leaders when you attend camp. Commissioners will visit your campsite and work with your SPL on the patrol method as well as assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Volunteer Commissioners stay in camp for free during the week they serve as a Camp Commissioner and receive free meals and a staff t-shirt. Commissioners who return for a second year will receive a free jacket in addition to the other perks. If you are interested in joining our commissioner staff, please contact the Council Camping Director, Missy Hendrickx at [missy.hendrickx@scouting.org](mailto:missy.hendrickx@scouting.org) to receive an application.



### Quartermaster

Camp Wilderness has a supply of camping gear and hand tools which you may check-out during your stay. This equipment is in the Quartermaster Shop. The Quartermaster also maintains a workshop for repair work on equipment and tools that are damaged during Camp use, stores all bulk fuel containers that are not in use in your campsite, and can help transport equipment to and from your campsite. Hours of operation will be posted at the Quartermaster Shop. Also, the Quartermaster oversees all conservation projects at Camp, so talk to them about setting up a Troop project.



### Chaplain

The Camp Chaplain can provide a variety of valuable services to you and your Troop in addition to formal religious programs. The Chaplain is available to help you with homesick Scouts, conflicts, and other situations that warrant counseling. Be sure to enlist the Chaplain's support if you are feeling frustrated or if you would like a second opinion on how to handle an issue with one of your Scouts.

### Trading Post

The Camp Trading Post stocks a wide variety of Camp memorabilia, Scouting literature and supplies, sundries, program supplies, and refreshments such as ice cream, candy, and pop. Troop leaders may charge items to a Troop account.

## **Mail and Package Services**

Camp Wilderness does have daily mail delivery service. Incoming mail to Scouts should be sent no later than Wednesday or it will not arrive in time. Each troop will have a mailbox in the Black Building where they can pick up any mail, packages, or tidbits from the camp. Mail should be addressed to:

***Scout or Leader Name***

***Troop ###***

***Camp Wilderness***

***29984 Journey Trail***

***Park Rapids, MN 56470***

There is an outgoing mailbox located on the north porch of the Black Building and it is checked daily.

## **RV / Family Camping**

There are a limited number of tent sites and RV hook-ups for families to use. The Camp Wilderness Family Camp connects to many of the camp's great hiking trails. A popular attraction to visit is Itasca State Park. In addition, there are many craft stores, resorts, and public lake accesses near the Camp. The fees to stay in the Family camp are same as the Leader, Part Time Leader, and Sibling fees at the Scouts BSA Camp. If you prefer RV camping over tenting, there is an additional \$25 / night hookup fee. The camp has water and electrical hookups but does not have a dumping station. Drinking water and an outdoor latrine are centrally located in the Family Camp.

## **Laundry Services**

Camp Wilderness has two-coin operated washing machines and two-coin operated dryers. The Laundry room is in the same building as the adult showers / health lodge, with the entrance immediately to the left of the shower house entrance.



## **Showers / Toilet Facilities**

Separate shower facilities are provided in the main camp area for use by leaders and Scouts. Leaders share shower facilities with the adult Camp Staff. Leaders and Scouts as well as males and females must have separate shower facilities in accordance with BSA Youth Protection policies.

We do ask that you arrange for your Troop to shower at the same time whenever possible. When your Scouts are showering, leaders are required to be close-by to provide a degree of supervision.

The Youth Shower facilities also have an indoor section with flush toilets and sinks.

## Meal Services

### Dining Hall Service

Most meals will be served split-shift, buffet style. Sunday and Friday night suppers will be served outside as a picnic — as is our Camp’s tradition. Scouts and adults should proceed to the Dining Hall as a Unit. Each unit will be assigned to a door to enter in. The opportunity for Scouts and Scouters to acquire second helpings of food will be available after all units have been served in each meal session.



During your week at camp, two meals will be prepared in the campsite. The meals will be simple for your Scouts to be able to prepare and get back to activities around Camp. Both meals will be served on Wednesday! Breakfast will be pancakes and sausage, lunch will consist of hotdogs, baked beans, and chips. Troop will need to bring cooking equipment to prepare these meals. The camp has limited amounts of cooking utensils for campsite cooking, so please make sure you bring the proper cooking kits with you when you come to Camp.

### Patrol Style Meal Service

New in 2020 was the opportunity for Patrol Style cooking for troops who would like to do their own cooking in the campsite. The Sunday and Friday night supper will be served out of the dining hall picnic style – as is our Camp’s tradition. Saturday morning breakfast of cinnamon rolls will be served at check-out in the Black Building. All other meals will be cooked by patrols in the campsite.

Raw food and ingredients will be pre-packaged by the staff and can be collected prior to each meal at the designated location. The menu for the week can be found in the Appendix of this Leader’s Guide and will also be provided at the beginning of each week. All food found on the menu will be provided, the troop will be responsible for supplying any alterations to the menu.

Leftover food is not allowed in the campsite overnight unless it is properly stored and locked up in a way to prevent access from wild animals. If you are unable to properly secure the food, you can return it to the commissary staff. All perishables and uncooked food can also be brought back to the commissary staff. All garbage and food waste must be deposited into one of the camp dumpsters before nightfall to prevent unwanted wild animals in your campsite.

Camp Wilderness will provide the following for each troop doing patrol style cooking:

Menu with cooking instructions	3 wash basins for cleaning dishes
All food stated on the menu	5-gallon bucket and filter for dirty water
Food thermometers	Cleaning detergents
Instructions on safe handling of food	

Troops are expected to bring their own cooking equipment and utensils. A limited number of Dutch ovens, pots, pans, plates, and bowls may be available. Please contact camp before arrival to guarantee their availability.

## Merit Badges

### Classes Offered

<u>Scoutcrafts</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Fishing/Health Lodge</u>	<u>Waterfront</u>	<u>Shooting Sports/Trailblazers</u>	<u>Pumphouse/Trailblazers</u>	<u>High Adventure</u>
Camping	Environmental Science	Fishing	Paddle Boarding	Rifle	Citizenship in the Nation	COPE
Indian Lore	Bird Study	Motorboating	Swimming	Archery	Citizenship in the World	Climbing
Metalwork	Fish & Wildlife Management	Emergency Preparedness	Canoeing	Shotgun	Electricity	
Wood Carving	Weather	First Aid	Kayaking	Communications		
			Leatherwork			

### Block Scheduling

This year we will be offering block scheduling! Classes will be Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Some classes require more time, so please check out the sperate PDF document with the schedule.

COPE and Climbing will be offered in 2 sessions! The morning and afternoon! Morning class will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays starting at 8am. The afternoon class will start at 3pm. If you have Scouts that want to do COPE or Climbing, please let us know ahead of time. We will be putting all those units in one bubble together.

### Bubbles

Each unit will be pre-assigned to a Bubble. Each Bubble will travel around camp together from area to area. Once the Bubble gets to a program area, they will be able to choose from the above merit badges. Units will also travel to meals, Trading Post, and showers together.

Units that have scouts that want to do High Adventure activities must contact the Camp Director at [camp.director@nlcbsa.org](mailto:camp.director@nlcbsa.org) to reserve your spots. High Adventure units will be placed in either Bubble A or Bubble B. Your unit will have the option to participate in High Adventure Activities or the normal scheduled activities.

## **Adventure Days**

Each Troop will have the opportunity to sign up for Adventure Day Activities on Sunday night after the adult leader meeting. Adventure Days are Wednesday's and Fridays. These activities will include Troop Activities, Open Time Activities, and more Merit Badges! After the initial signup, provided there are still openings, you can sign up for additional activities.

## **Troop Activities**

Troops can sign up for the following activities if they would like! Sign-ups will be Sunday during Merit Badge Sign up in the pines!

## **Herman Stern Award**

The Honor Troop program is our way to recognize Troops who show excellent camping methods and Scouting Spirit. In this program any Troop can be recognized for exceptional achievement. There is a list of mandatory and optional requirements that Troops may work on throughout the week. A Camp Commissioner will help you with this process! Sign-ups are in the Black Building but see the Quartermaster for a Service Project!

## **R.O.A.R**

Head on over to R.O.A.R. (Relaxing Outdoor Artistic Respite) during the Adventure Activity Days! Have your unit sign up for ROAR and they can earn Basketry, Sculpture or Textiles.

## **Additional Activities**

Units will be able to choose from the following to do as a pod or unit:

- ROAR
- Forge
- Tomahawk Throwing
- Pontoon
- Archery
- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Cyber Chip
- Trailblazer Hike
- Climbing
- Service Project
- Open Waterfront
- Carpetball
- Gaga Ball
- Frisbee Golf
- Cast Iron Chef Competition

## Program Areas

### Program Fees

Some programs require additional fees to cover the costs of specific program supplies.

Scoutcraft Kits	\$7-\$15 various kits available
Rifle or Shotgun MB	\$20 separate fee for each of these classes
<u>Troop Shoot Prices:</u>	
.22 cal. Rifles	50¢ for 5 rounds of ammunition
Shotgun	50¢ for 1 round of ammunition



### Trailblazers

This program is designed to give the first-year camper an introduction to Camp Wilderness and the Scouts BSA Program. The Trailblazer staff has a fun, creative and exciting program designed to give your younger scouts practice in basic Scouting skills while helping them on the trail towards First Class. A list of requirements that can be earned is available under Resources on the summer camp website.

There are 2 classes of Trailblazers offered! Scouts need to go during Shooting Sports and Pumphouse times.

**Trailblazer Hike will be Friday morning at 9am! All Trailblazers must attend!**

### Fishing

Our Fishing Program at Camp Wilderness has gained recognition throughout the area. This program takes pride in the art of catching “The Big One”. This area includes a huge dock, motorboats, rods, reels, tackle, and bait — everything needed for a beginning angler! Experienced anglers will provide instruction and coaching.

A large fishing dock and motorboats are available at no additional charge! Scouts and leaders can use 14' Lund boats on Bad Axe Lake. National Camp standards require that an adult who has passed the BSA swim test must accompany youth operating a motorboat.

If you are under 16, you can fish at camp without a license. If you are over 16, you will need to purchase a license. You can purchase them in Emmaville, MN, which is 5 miles from camp.



## Pumphouse

With the ever increase use of technology in our day to day lives its important the Scouts learn how to safely navigate the web, practice hands out tech skills, and career opportunities. The Pumphouse is home to many of our tech related merit badges, Cyber Chip classes, and a computer lab.



## Waterfront

On those hot and humid days, nothing beats a trip to the waterfront. Here, Scouts can learn to be skilled, safe swimmers and boaters. For those Scouts who are not adept at swimming, our excellent Waterfront staff can provide them with quality instruction to improve their swimming ability in the *Learn to Swim* program. The staff can also provide knowledgeable instruction in *Swimming and Canoeing* Merit Badges. For those older, more experienced Scouts, *Kayaking*, and *Paddle Boarding*, are great classes to earn during their stay. Of course, we can't forget the ever-popular open waterfront, offered on Adventure Days.



**Some badges require a swimmer classification. Those Scouts not classified as *swimmer* by Sunday's swim tests should register for a different merit badge on Sunday evening.**

**-Swim tests may be taken as many times as is needed to reach the swimmer classification.**

## Nature

As members of Scouting, you and your Troop are ecology-conscious individuals. Scouts involved in the Nature Program have a wide variety of merit badges from which to choose. While earning these badges, they'll learn many intriguing things about Mother Nature. But learning is a two-way venture. Scouts can give back to the environment what they have learned. You and your Troop can work with the Nature Area Staff in planning and carrying out important conservation projects. You can go for a hike along the Nature Trail and see nature in both its unaltered form and in ways people have influenced it. Our Camp abounds in nature, and we encourage you to take it to the limits and explore it. The Nature Staff can help you arrange nature hikes, environmental awareness games, and activities.



## Scoutcrafts

What week of summer camp is complete without a visit to the Scoutcraft Area? At the Scoutcraft Area, Scouts will get the opportunity to have hands-on experiences in Pioneering, Woodcarving, Wilderness Survival, Metalworking, Leatherwork, and Camping.



Our Camping Merit Badge instructors will teach your Scouts the basics of living in the great outdoors. Our Wilderness Survival counselors will teach you the priorities of survival and how to signal for help. Forge your own implements and decorations from scrap metal in the Metalwork Merit Badge program. The Pioneering Merit Badge program is known for engineering camp gadgets beyond your wildest imagination. Your Scouts may find an adventure on our cross-country orienteering course. Nothing can beat a hand-crafted souvenir that your Scouts can make with Leatherwork, and Woodcarving instructions.

If you have some extra time in the afternoon, stop by the Scoutcrafts Area and see what they offer.

## Shooting Sports

Camp Wilderness offers three different Shooting Sports Merit Badges: Archery, Shotgun, and Rifle. Please keep in mind the following items:

1. No personal firearms or ammunition.
2. Personal archery equipment is discouraged unless the Scout is enrolled in the merit badge. You may bring your own equipment if you leave it with the Archery Director while you are at Camp.
3. It is recommended that 1<sup>st</sup> year Scouts not take archery since it takes a fair amount of upper arm strength to complete all the shooting required for the Archery Merit Badge.
4. Troop shoots are available by on Adventure Days



## Climbing

The Climbing Merit Badge is an exciting class that challenges a Scout's mind, body, and teamwork skills. Throughout the class, Scouts will learn how to safely enjoy many aspects of climbing, such as climbing, belaying and rappelling, as well as learning a wide variety of all-purpose knots. Scouts taking this merit badge need to be 13 years old (or older).

With the new tower, Scouts and Scouters have a multitude of climbing routes to choose from with varying levels of difficulty. Whether this is your first time climbing or you are a very experienced climber, we have a challenge for you.

The merit badge class is not the end of the fun available at the Climbing Tower! During Troop climbs, Scouts and adults alike can challenge their personal limitations and demonstrate their climbing skills to their friends, family, and Troop leaders. During Troop climbs, all Scouts will have the opportunity to climb as there is no age or rank restriction. You can also compete with others in the Milk Crate challenge!

## Older Scouts Programs

### COPE

This High Adventure program is the perfect opportunity for Scouts 13 years of age or older to experience all-out thrills and excitement. Scouts will learn the importance of trust, teamwork, communication, and teambuilding.

Improve your leadership and problem-solving skills during this challenging week at Scouts BSA Camp.

C.O.P.E. crews consist of 12 members. Space is limited, so sign up prior to your arrival at Camp.

The flight down the 425' Zip line will be an experience you will never forget.



Adult leaders interested in participating in Project C.O.P.E. will have the opportunity to on Adventure Activity Days. Look for more information at camp from the C.O.P.E. staff!

### Northern Tier



Camp Wilderness has partnered with Northern Tier High Adventure Base to offer a week-long canoe trip to the Boundary Waters each week of summer camp. Scouts and adults must be at least 14 years old *OR* completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and be 13 years old by the time of arrival at Northern Tier. All participants must be classified as a “swimmer”. We need a minimum of 4 Scouts and 1 adult registered by April 1<sup>st</sup> for the trip to proceed. The registration for this is directly through Northern Tier. You can find the link to the registration on our website [www.nlcbsa.org/summercamp](http://www.nlcbsa.org/summercamp), under

Attachments.

*For those Scouts that are attending the Boundary Waters Canoe Trip this summer, they need to be in camp by 9am Sunday to check-in, as they will be leaving for Northern Tier promptly at 10am on Sunday.*

### SCUBA

The SCUBA merit badge program is offered Weeks 4 and 5 of summer camp (*please note the May 1, 2021 registration deadline*). Scouts must be 14 by the start of class. **Adults may also sign up for this class and earn their PADI dive certification.** The cost for this class is \$700 and will include the online portion of PADI, diving equipment for the week, oxygen tanks, diving instructors, and your camp experience. To sign up for SCUBA, please register as a “SCUBA Participant” at time of registration instead of as a “Scout” or “Adult”. The on-line class portion must be completed before arriving at Camp.

## Camp Policies

### Bikes

It is the policy of the Northern Lights Council that bikes are not allowed in camp unless it is an organized staffed program.

### Sandals

It is the policy of the Northern Lights Council that closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times at camp, except while at the waterfront area and shower house.

### Weapons / Knives

It is the policy of the Northern Lights Council that personal knives at camp are to have no longer than a 3-inch blade. No sheath knives are allowed at Camp Wilderness. No personal firearms are allowed at Camp Wilderness. Personal archery equipment may be brought but must be checked in with the Archery Director and stored at the Archery Range.



### Vehicles

When operating one of your private vehicles in Camp, please remember the following:

- **The Camp speed limit is 15 mph.**
- **No passengers will be permitted in the beds of trucks or in trailers.** All passengers must be seated inside the vehicle. Seatbelt use is required in Camp in accordance with National policies.
- **You may drive your personal vehicles to your campsite to unload when you arrive and to load when you leave.** We request that you keep your vehicle in the designated parking areas at all other times. Limiting the amount of driving that goes on in Camp makes the trails safer for all of us.
- **Vehicles may not be kept in campsites and must be out of your campsite before opening campfire.**
- **Your Troop trailer may remain in the campsite.**

***A vehicle permit may be obtained from the Health Officer for the physically challenged.***



### Smoking

A designated smoking area is provided behind the dining hall on the Scouts BSA side. Camp policy requires all smoking to take place in this designated area.

### Alcohol / Drugs

Alcohol and federally declared illegal drugs / substances are not allowed at Camp Wilderness.

### Staff Housing

Staff Cabins are reserved for staff only. Scouts and adult leaders cannot enter the cabins.

## **Drones**

Camp Wilderness requires all use of drones to be in compliance with FAA regulations, including keeping it within line of site, flying no higher than 400 feet, and not to be flown directly over large gatherings of people.

## **Visitors in Camp**

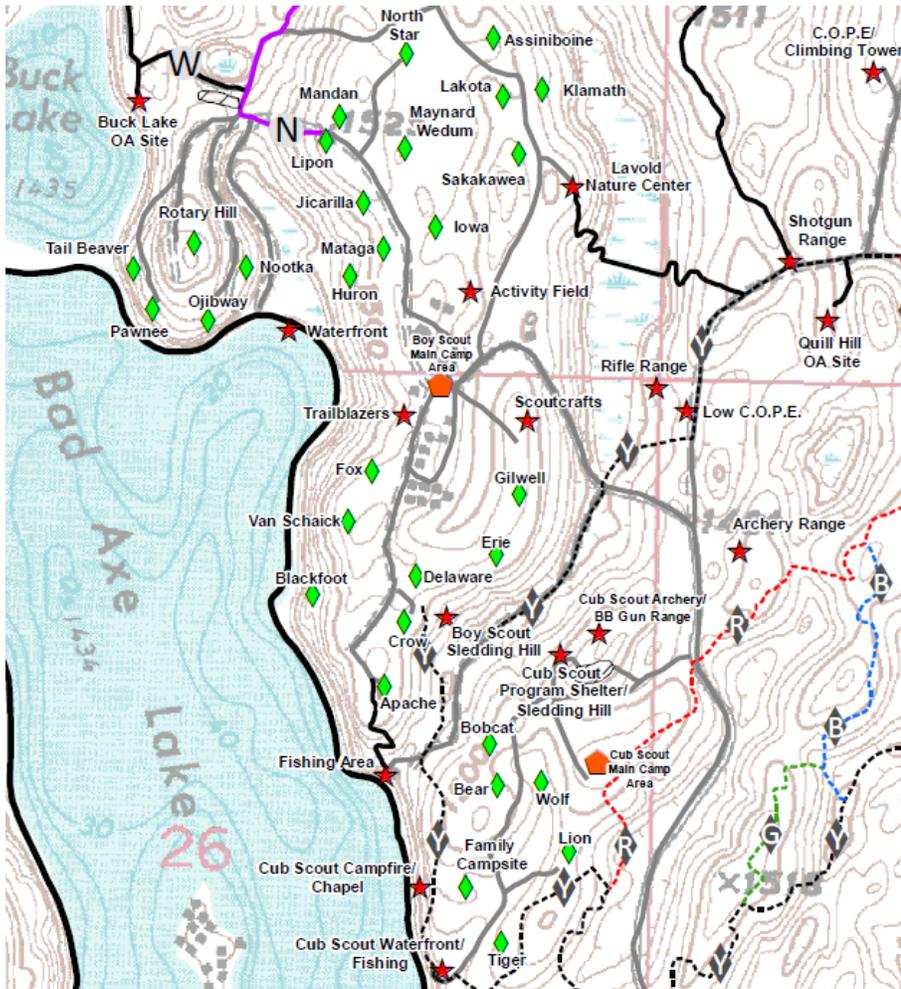
Visitors are always welcome at Camp Wilderness. If you know parents of your Scouts will be visiting you at camp, please remind them that all visitors must check-in at the Black Building upon their arrival where they will receive their wrist band, and check-out upon their departure. Your cooperation in this matter will help us track our camp usage. In addition, we encourage you to have a representative of your Troop meet your visitors at the Black Building upon their arrival.

If visitors would like to join in at a meal. They may purchase meal tickets at the Trading Post

If visitors plan to stay in camp overnight, they must be registered with the BSA and have a medical form with parts A, B & C on file with the camp health office.



## Campsite and Program Area Map



### Camp Contact Info and Social Media

29984 Journey Trail  
 Park Rapids, MN 56470  
 Phone: **218-732-4674**  
 Fax: **218-732-1535**  
 Facebook @ Camp Wilderness Scout Camp  
 Instagram @ campwildernessbsa



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