



## PROGRAM UPDATES (04/15/24)

### Merit Badge Schedule

The staff of Camp Manatoc is dedicated to quality instruction for your Scouts. According to the **BSA Guide to Advancement**, *“everything done to advance—to earn ranks and other awards and recognition—is designed to educate or to otherwise expand horizons. Camps should not have a reputation of ‘Just show up and get the badge.’”* In structuring our merit badge schedule for 2024, we are guided by Section 5.0.1.0 Advancement in Camp Settings and Section 7.0.0.0 The Merit Badge Program. You can find the **BSA Guide to Advancement** by clicking [HERE](#).

Our new merit badge schedule was generated to ensure that our staff members consistently deliver quality instruction by adhering to all staff-to-camper requirements designated for Aquatics, Target and Range Sports and Climbing related merit badges as defined in the **Guide to Safe Scouting** and what we feel are the most effective staff-to-camper ratios for effective learning for all other merit badges. Some items to note:

1. We now have longer classes for more complex merit badges to allow them to be taught fully, with integrity, and allow Scouts to complete requirements during class time without having to return in the evenings. This allows them to enjoy the other evening offerings at camp (additional merit badges, Mile Swim, open climb, the pool party, Movie Night, Cowboy Action Shooting, etc.).
2. More walking time between classes allows Scouts adequate time to move between program areas and gives merit badge instructors time to reset/swap materials or change locations before the next class.

3. Merit badge classes that need more support or supervision now have additional staff to ensure Scouts in those classes have additional resources to successfully learn the skills they must demonstrate in order to complete the merit badge successfully.
4. While we are not offering the complete Camping merit badge, participation in the scheduled kayak out trip fulfills requirement 9(b)(4). Participation in the scheduled cycling out trip fulfills requirement 9(b)(3). Additionally, participants in the cycling out trip will complete conservation work for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park thus fulfilling requirement 9(c). A Scout may also complete requirement 9(b)(6) by attending any open climb at our Climbing Tower.
5. Our number of merit badge offerings has not changed. This year we have chosen merit badges that we feel most Scouts can complete while at camp and thus reducing the number of partials which are challenging for both camp staff and unit leaders.
6. New this year are evening merit badges. Scouts may elect to take a merit badge on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Collections merit badge is offered on Monday. Sculpture and Scouting Heritage merit badges are offered on Tuesday. Fingerprinting is offered on Thursday.

## **Meal Schedule and Siesta Period**

The daily master schedule has changed to accommodate the change in the merit badge schedule. Breakfast is earlier than last year in order to start the morning merit badge schedule at 9:00 AM and conclude at 1:00 PM. Although lunch is listed at 1:00 PM, Grab-and-Go will be available from 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM. This will allow for less congestion when picking up lunch. We have included a “siesta period” from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM that allows our staff to recharge and be ready to deliver the afternoon programming with as much energy and enthusiasm as they did in the morning. This is also time for you and your Scouts to work on gateways for the annual gateway competition, visit the Manatoc Museum, hike to Minnehaha Falls or the Old Camp, spend time in quiet contemplation in the Basa Chapel or just explore our 600-acre property. With the addition of the siesta period, we are able to offer more robust evening programming for your Scouts. Dinner is at 5:45 PM with Evening Retreat

following at 6:15 PM with the hope that Scouts will rehydrate during the meal thus reducing the number of heat-related medical emergencies that occur during Retreat.

## **Swimwear Policy and Swimming Checks**

As a reminder, swimwear worn by campers must be modest. For males, any type of tight-fitting swim briefs or pants or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure are not allowed. For females, bikinis or two-piece swimwear are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits that are not cut high on the sides or cut low on the front or back are appropriate. Shorts over the swimwear for males or females are also appropriate.

You may get your swimming tests done early at camp before the season begins. The Manatoc pool will be available for swimming tests provided by our staff on June 9, 2024, from 1-4pm. Please bring each Scout's medical form. The staff will stay until all swimming tests are completed. Online registration for the event is required. Click [here](#) to register.