

2026 Pre-Camp Leader's Meeting Summary

Seven Mountains Scout Camp

Key Outcomes

Seven Mountain Scout Camp outlined the complete 2026 summer schedule running June 27 – July 22, introduced a new consolidated format combining Cub Day Camp, Family Camp, and Resident Camp, and previewed a 2027 merit badge expansion program with off-site specialty offerings.

Camp Schedule & Registration

2026 Summer Sessions:

- Cub Resident Program: Saturday, June 27 check-in.
- Cub Scout Day Camp: Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 1.
- Family Camp: Sunday – Tuesday (first 3 days of day camp).
- Scouts BSA Week 1: July 5-11.
- Scouts BSA Week 2: July 12-18.
- Specialty Day Camp (Week 3): Monday-Wednesday, July 20-22.

Registration & Check-in:

- All registrations completed in Black Pug system, open until one week before camp starts.
- Check-in allowed anytime after 1:00 PM on arrival day (no designated time slots).
- Out-of-council units should email camp director to coordinate commissioner assistance.
- Two vehicles permitted per site for drop-off only, then returned to parking lot.

Health Forms & Special Diets

Medical Form Requirements:

- Day camp: Parts A and B required.
- Resident camp (72+ hours): Parts A, B, and C (doctor signature) required.
- Forms valid through end of month one year from physical date.
- Submit resident camp forms two weeks before arrival for review.
- Complete Section A on page 1 (photo release, BB gun use, authorized pickup).
- Include troop/pack number in top right corner for organization.

Special Diet Protocol:

- Submit special diet forms two weeks in advance even if allergies listed on health form.
- New forms required annually regardless of previous year attendance.
- Chris Harklerode contacts families directly to coordinate meal preparation for special diets. Meals paralleled to standard menu when possible.

Cub Scout Program

New Consolidated Format:

- Day camp, family camp, and resident camp run concurrently with shared programming.
- Scouts split into age-appropriate stations (Tiger through Arrow of Light).
- Resident campers join day campers for unified opening ceremony at 8:45 AM campfire circle after breakfast.

Daily Schedule:

- Arrival/registration: 7:45-8:45 AM
- Opening ceremony: 8:45 AM
- Four 1-hour program periods (two morning, two afternoon)
- 16 total stations over 4 days (8 stations repeated twice)
- Grab-and-go lunch with reusable lunch bags provided (donation-funded)
- Closing campfire: 3:30 PM for day camp departure

Theme & Activities:

- 2026 theme: Dinosaurs
- Resident Camp Cub Master Cook-Off: Sunday evening, theme is "America 250" with no ingredient constraints

Family Camp Details:

- Using Moyer and Elk campsites with canvas tents or personal tents allowed.
- Swim tests available Saturday 1-5 PM for evening program participation.
- Evening program: 7-9 PM following 6 PM dinner.
- Breakfast at 7:30 AM, day camp registration by 8:15 AM.
- Registration includes breakfast and dinner for scout plus one parent.

Scouts BSA Program

Merit Badge Structure:

- Block programming: two slots Monday-Tuesday, two different slots Wednesday-Thursday.
- All blue cards processed through Black Pug (no paper copies).
- Merit badge pamphlets available online for prerequisite work.
- Rimmey Lodge configured as commissioner/program ambassador workstation with Wi-Fi.

Natami (First-Year Camper) Program:

- Classes in periods 1, 3, and 4 Monday-Thursday.
- Scouts register for one additional merit badge in period 2.
- Morning sessions: 9:00-11:30 AM.
- Afternoon sessions: 1:30-4:00 PM with 1.5-hour open program area.

Special Offerings:

- Physics test lab patch (converts to merit badge if approved).
- Aquatics awards (non-merit badge activities at waterfront and pool).
- Trail to Eagle one-on-one sessions with Council Advancement Committee.

Weekly Events:

- SPL meetings: 12:45 PM
- Wednesday: OA Day with tailgate dinner at dining hall.
- Wednesday evening: Scoutmaster Cook-Off (8:00 PM tentative).
- Friday: Closing campfire with OA call-out ceremonies, families welcome.
- Polar bear swim scheduled one morning during week (specific day TBD).

Week 3 Specialty Day Camp (July 20-22)**Format:**

- Day camp structure, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
- \$70 per day includes lunch and program supplies.
- Individual day registration available.

Activities Offered:

- Monday: Cowboy action shooting, Swimming merit badge.
- Tuesday: Lake activities (stand-up paddleboard, board sailing, kayaking patches) OR Golf Merit Badge off-site at Mountain View Country Club.
- Wednesday: Motor Boating Merit Badge OR partial completion cleanup for scouts with incomplete merit badges.

Partial Completion Opportunity:

- Scouts can register to complete unfinished merit badges from current or previous years.
- Camp will arrange counselors based on submitted merit badge requests.
- Open to scouts not attending regular summer camp sessions.

Camp Operations

Equipment & Facilities:

- Canvas cots issued to units (no old metal cots).
- Email camp with headcount for pre-pulled cot preparation.
- Units may decline cots if bringing own sleeping arrangements.
- Bikes permitted with helmets for Scouts BSA (proper trail etiquette required).

Adult Requirements:

- All resident camp adults must be registered leaders with criminal background checks and YPT.

Meal Service:

- Gill Grilling catering with camp staff assistance.
- Volunteer help requested for serving and cleanup to free staff for program.
- Wednesday tailgate meal at dining hall (outside if weather permits).

Safety:

- Use designated crosswalks on paved camp road.
- Closed-toed shoes required, including at lake.
- Health checks at separate tent during check-in.

2027 Planning

Schedule Set:

- 2027 dates finalized and posted for early planning.
- Site reservations available during 2026 camp sessions.

Program Expansion:

- Full rollout of specialty merit badge program with off-site tours and hands-on activities.
- 12-person class maximum, provisional camping structure.
- Planned offerings: Golf, Horsemanship, Landscape Architecture (Penn State), Nuclear Science (reactor tour), Railroading, and more.
- Designed for merit badges not typically offered at summer camps.

Pending Confirmation

- Specific day for polar bear swim during Scouts BSA weeks.
- Cub resident camp closing campfire timing (may extend beyond 4:00 PM to allow adequate checkout time).

Action Items

- **All Leaders:** Submit health forms two weeks before camp arrival for resident camp.
- **Special Diet Families:** Submit special diet forms two weeks in advance to Chris Harklerode.
- **Units:** Email camp with cot count or decline notification.
- **Family Camp Participants:** Arrive Saturday 1-5 PM for swim tests if participating in evening water activities.
- **All Leaders:** Pick up finalized camp awards and honor system documents at registration desk (updated from Leader's Guide drafts).
- **Leaders with Training Requests:** Contact Jay or camp office with specific training needs for Week 2.
- **SPLs:** Plan additional morning activities (polar bear swim, antelope run) during SPL meetings if desired.

Contact Information

- General questions: jvcinfo@scouting.org.
- Camp Director (Charlie Harklerode): 717-363-6664.
- Program Directors: Joshua Gurtner, Chris Harklerode (Day Camp)
- Camp office has relocated to camp for summer season.

Additional Notes

- Presentation will be posted on Black Pug site.
- Leader meeting held first day of resident camp for updates and questions.
- Sunday afternoon merit badge registration verification for Scouts BSA.
- Feedback requested on new consolidated Cub format for future planning.

Q&A Session

Question: Are packs going to be broken up each morning into different age groups?

Response: Tiger/Wolf/Bear will be together in a den. The Webelos and AOL will all be together in dens.

Question: Will the Day Campers be getting their own swim test time on Sunday if they can't come out Saturday?

Response: Day campers do not need a swim test. Only ones staying for family camp that want to participate in lake evening activities.

Question: Isn't the closing campfire on Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday?

Response: Yes, it is Wednesday

Question: Swimming - is there a morning, polar bear swim planned?

Response: It is being considered by the aquatics director. More details will be provided at camp.

Question: Does emailing the office with information mean sending email to Angela or someone else?

Response: Use the general email jvcinfo@scouting.org.

Question: What is the email address to email about check in time and cots?

Response: Use the general email jvcinfo@scouting.org.

Question: Tents - if they are not set up, will they be in the camp site or will we need to get these with the cots?

Response: Camp staff will deliver and set as needed.

Question: Open times - will there be sign ups for high interest areas (like rifle) or first come first serve?

Response: These are generally first come first serve with rotating participants.

Question: Dutch oven mystery item?

Response: There is not a mystery item this year.

Question: Not sure if I missed it. What are the secret ingredients for scoutmaster cookoff

Response: No secret ingredients. Theme is Americana 250. Anything prepared within the theme can be prepared. All ingredients should be provided by the scoutmaster.

Question: Can scouts bring bikes?

Response: Yes, to BSA camps but helmets are required. Please be courteous of trail.

Question: Week 2 Leader Training at camp contact person

Response: Please reach out to the commissioner staff, Jay Zimmerman, to coordinate or request training.

Question: When are SPL meetings?

Response: Daily at 12:45 pm

Question: The timing between end of Program Area and closing campfire for Cub Camp seems very tight. The Leader's Guide says have the whole process done before closing?

Response: This will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.