



# Scouts BSA Family Quick Reference

## Star-Spangled Safari • Summer 2026

This covers only the Scouts BSA program (Weeks 1, 2, and 4). For Cub Scouts, see the separate reference.

### Your Week at a Glance

**Arrive:** Sunday at 1:00 PM | **Depart:** Friday evening after closing campfire or Saturday morning after continental breakfast

Eat lunch before arriving Sunday — none served. Bring swimsuit under clothes for swim tests.

New for 2026: Themed weeks — Week 1 is Eagle Week (Eagle-required MBs, Trail to Eagle presentation), Week 2 is Trades & STEM (Plumbing, Welding, AI, Robotics, Engineering, and more), Week 4 is Splash Aquatics & Emergency Services (Watersports, Motorboating, Search & Rescue). Atlatl dart throwing returns to the archery range.

### Typical Day

- 6:30 AM — Polar Bear / Early Bird challenge
- 7:40 AM — Flag ceremony
- 7:55–8:45 AM — Breakfast
- 9:00–12:15 — Two 90-min merit badge sessions
- 12:30–1:00 PM — Grab-and-go lunch
- 1:00–2:00 PM — Siesta
- 2:00–3:30 PM — Afternoon merit badge session
- 3:45–5:30 PM — Open areas & activities
- 5:45 PM — Flag ceremony
- 6:00 PM — Dinner
- 7:00–9:00 PM — Evening activities
- 9:00 PM — Personal hygiene
- 10:00 PM — Taps

### Program Areas

- Aquatics:** Swimming, lifeguarding, canoeing, kayaking, motorboating (Wk 4)
- Shooting Sports:** Rifle, shotgun, archery
- Climbing:** Climbing wall and rappelling
- Scoutcraft:** Outdoor skills, first aid, pioneering
- Nature/Conservation:** Environmental science, fish & wildlife, forestry
- STEM & Trades:** New 2026 offerings in Wk 2
- Handicraft:** Leatherwork, woodcarving, basketry

Friday: Camp-wide games in the afternoon

### Evening Activities

- Sunday:** Opening campfire + leader meeting
  - Monday:** Staff visits; Karaoke (SBSA)
  - Tuesday:** Staff Hunt; Game Night; FCA campfire
  - Wednesday:** Vespers + Ice Cream Social; OA service project & cracker barrel
  - Thursday:** Campsite cooking dinner + breakfast; Vermontopoly
  - Friday:** Closing campfire (your Troop performs!)
- Also: Sunset cruises, Movie Night (Hatari!), game nights

### Merit Badges

- Green:** Core badges offered every year (Rifle, Archery, Camping, Cooking, Swimming)
- Blue:** Specialty week offerings (Citizenship in Community, Search & Rescue, Watersports, Motorboating)
- Red:** Limited-availability badges offered select weeks (Fly Fishing, Chemistry)

Portal opens May 30 for selection.

Complete prerequisites at home! Especially written reports, research, visits.

Note: Motorboating MB requires a Vermont boat license BEFORE camp.

MB books: \$6 at the Trading Post.

### First Class Adventure (First-Year Scouts)

A structured program teaching Tenderfoot through First Class skills. Daily themes:

**Mon:** Citizenship & Patrol Method | **Tue:** Orienteering + FCA campfire overnight | **Wed:** Waterfront rescue skills | **Thu:** Totin' Chip & Firem'n Chit | **Fri:** Optional 5-mile Mt. Norris hike (demanding but staff helps all who try)

### SBSA-Specific Details

**Departure:** Friday evening after campfire, or Saturday morning after Grab-and-Go breakfast.

**Outpost camping:** Starting Tuesday, sign up for a GPS-guided overnight on Mt. Norris property. Contact the PD by Sunday night.



**Provisional Troops:** Solo Scouts welcome. Groups of 10+ get their own site; smaller groups join a Host Troop.

**Campsite cooking:** All Troops cook one dinner + next morning breakfast in their site. Camp provides food.

**Youth Leadership Council:** Each Troop needs an SPL or youth rep to meet with the PD during the week.

**Venturing:** Crews welcome during SBSA weeks. First Class Venturers may earn MBs until age 18.

### Traditions & Awards

Mt. Norris Patch (summit hike), Cub Scout to Scout Patch (first year after crossover), Bull's Eye Award (Rifle + Shotgun + Archery MBs at MNSR), Outpost Overnight Patch, Environmental Steward Patch, Belvidere Mountain Climbing Patch, Campsite Loyalty Beads. The Norris Cup returns in 2026 as a point-based award for Troop excellence.

### Key Contacts

**SBSA PD Shannon McCullen:** 802-922-8792 | [miss.muckles@gmail.com](mailto:miss.muckles@gmail.com)

**Camp Director Randy Gates:** 802-373-3340 | [randall.k.gates@gmail.com](mailto:randall.k.gates@gmail.com)

**Council (Waterbury):** 802-244-5189 | After hours: 802-495-1120

**Camp:** 242 Boy Scout Camp Rd, Eden Mills, VT 05653

**Camp Guide & Resources:** [scoutingvermont.org/mtnorris.html](https://scoutingvermont.org/mtnorris.html)

**Interested in joining our camp staff? Scouts 16+ can apply!**



[scoutingvermont.org/camp-staff.html](https://scoutingvermont.org/camp-staff.html) | CIT program for ages 14–15