



Scout Program Guide

Camp Tamarack - 2026

Wood Lake Scout Reservation
LaSalle Council, Scouting America

A Welcome Letter to Scouts

Welcome to Camp Tamarack!

Camp is a place for adventure, challenge, and trying something new. The 2026 Camp Tamarack experience is designed to help every Scout find opportunities that are fun, engaging, and rewarding—whether that means learning a new skill, stepping into a leadership role, or simply making new friends along the way.

This summer's program features a transition to block-based scheduling that makes getting around camp easier and gives you more time to enjoy the activities you choose. The schedule is designed to help Scouts focus on programs, spend less time moving between areas, and make the most of each day at camp—especially for younger Scouts who are still getting comfortable in a camp setting.

For Scouts looking for bigger challenges and new opportunities, Camp Tamarack offers the Leadership and Training Center, a leadership-focused camp experience designed for older Scouts. This camp experience provides a designated home for Scouts who want to push themselves, build confidence, and grow as leaders through hands-on experiences.

Evenings and camp-wide activities are a big part of what makes camp memorable. Throughout the week, you'll have opportunities to compete, collaborate, and connect with Scouts from other troops through evening programs, initiative games, and shared activities. These moments are designed to bring the camp together and help friendships grow beyond your own unit. This summer's evening programs also include special celebrations in honor of Camp Tamarack's 70th anniversary.

Whether this is your first summer at Camp Tamarack or you're returning for another year, our goal is simple: to make sure there's something here for everyone to enjoy. Try something new, get involved, support one another, and make the most of your time at camp.

Do Your Best, Be Prepared, and Lead the Adventure!

- *Ms. Tink*

Ms. Tinkerbell Coddens
Director of Leadership and Program Development, Camp Tamarack
LaSalle Council, Scouting America

Understanding the Program Guide

How to Use This Guide

This guide is for all Scouts attending Camp Tamarack. Use it to explore programs, understand what a typical week looks like, and decide what you may want to sign up for through Blackpug.

This Program Guide is organized to help you explore the program offerings available at Camp Tamarack—including merit badges, leadership and training opportunities, and other skill-based programs—and to understand how a typical week at camp is structured. It also includes basic planning information, such as a packing list and a map of camp, to help you prepare for your week.

Some Open Program opportunities vary from week to week and will be shared by camp staff during your time at camp. Information about policies, procedures, medical requirements, fees, and camp operations is provided separately in the 2026 Leader Guide.

What is Block Scheduling?

Camp Tamarack’s program is built around a block-based daily schedule designed to reduce travel across camp, increase time in program areas, and support Scouts of all ages. This structure allows for a balance of advancement, skill development, leadership opportunities, and time to enjoy camp with your troop.

- Block-based schedule allows Scouts to focus on fewer program areas at a time
- Program choice and flexibility help Scouts shape their own camp experience
- Balance of structure and open time supports advancement, leadership, and fun

A Week at Camp Tamarack

Welcome to Camp Tamarack!

Camp Tamarack follows a daily rhythm that blends program time, open activities, and time to enjoy camp with your troop. Each day includes a mix of scheduled programs and camp-wide activities, giving Scouts structure while still leaving room for choice and flexibility.

Daily Schedule Overview

The schedule below shows a typical week at Camp Tamarack. Camp staff will share details and updates throughout the week.

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Monday (Red, White & Blue)</i>	<i>Tuesday (Crazy Socks)</i>	<i>Wednesday (Tye Dye)</i>	<i>Thursday (Scout Throwback)</i>	<i>Friday (Hawaiian Shirt)</i>	
MORNING	7:45-8:00	<i>Morning Flags</i>					
	8:00-8:45	<i>Breakfast</i>					
	9:00-10:30	<i>Session 1</i>		<i>Open Program</i>		<i>Session 4</i>	
	10:45-12:15	<i>Session 2</i>		<i>Open Program</i>		<i>Session 5</i>	
AFTERNOON	12:30-1:15	<i>Lunch</i>					
	1:15-2:15	<i>Midday Break</i>					
	2:15-3:45	<i>Session 3</i>		<i>Open Program Cowboy Action Shoot</i>		<i>Session 6</i>	
	4:00-5:00	<i>Open Program / Troop Service Projects</i>		<i>Open Program Cowboy Action Shoot</i>	<i>Open Program / Troop and OA Service Projects</i>		
EVENING	5:00-5:45	<i>Evening Rest</i>					
	5:45-6:00	<i>Evening Flags</i>					
	6:00-6:45	<i>Dinner</i>				<i>Dinner</i>	
	7:15-9:00	<i>The Amazing Race- Tamarack</i>	<i>Capture the Flag 9:30 Star Hike</i>	<i>70's Disco and Tamarack Cookout/ Camp Olympics</i>	<i>Great Tamarack Canoe Race</i>	<i>Closing Celebration/ Campfire</i>	
	11:00	<i>Lights Out</i>					

Sunday Evening- Arrival & Welcome: Sunday evening kicks off the week with an All-Camp Hike and Opening Campfire, welcoming everyone to camp.

Camp-Wide Activities & Events

Evening Programs

Evening programs bring the entire camp together this year for games, challenges, and celebrations. Each night offers something different, with a mix of camp-wide activities and special events designed to be fun, inclusive, and memorable.

Sunday – All-Camp Hike & Opening Campfire

Kick off the week by exploring camp together during the All-Camp Hike, followed by an opening campfire to welcome everyone to Camp Tamarack.

Monday – The Amazing Race: Tamarack

Scouts take part in an Amazing Race–style competition that sends teams across camp to complete challenges, solve problems, and work together.

Tuesday – Capture the Flag & Star Hike

Scouts compete in a large-scale, camp-wide game of Capture the Flag. If weather allows, the evening also includes a Star Hike, giving Scouts the chance to explore camp under the night sky.

Wednesday – Open Program & 70's Party Cookout

Wednesday features Open Program opportunities throughout the day, including specialty activities such as the Cowboy Action Shoot. The evening wraps up with a 70's–themed party and cookout, featuring camp Olympic–style games and activities.

Thursday – The Great Tamarack Canoe Race

A longtime camp favorite, the Great Tamarack Canoe Race brings Scouts together for a fun and spirited race on the water.

Friday – Camp Celebration & Closing Campfire / OA Call Out

The week concludes with a camp-wide celebration, closing campfire, and OA call outs. This year, we'll also be celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States, making for a memorable end to the week.

Camp-Wide Activities & Events

Religious Services

Scouting recognizes a Scout's duty to God as expressed in the twelfth point of the Scout Law: **A Scout is Reverent**. Camp Tamarack offers opportunities for Scouts to reflect on this value through optional religious services during the week.

Catholic Mass- Tuesday Evening Rest (if available)

Scouts' Own Service- Thursday Evening Rest

This non-sectarian service offers time for reflection that focuses on shared values from the Scout Oath and Law. Services may include readings, short reflections, music, and moments of quiet thought, and are inclusive of Scouts of all faiths and backgrounds.

Service locations will be announced during the week and posted at camp.

Camp Tamarack Religious Award



The Camp Tamarack Religious Award encourages Scouts to reflect on the twelfth point of the Scout Law- A Scout is Reverent- and to thoughtfully engage with their faith while at camp. Through participation in camp religious services, unit devotionals, and moments of reflection, Scouts are challenged to consider how their beliefs guide their actions and service to others.

Chaplain's Aids will attend a meeting at the start of the week and are responsible for tracking participation of the Camp Tamarack Religious Award within their unit.

Camp-Wide Activities & Events

Theme Days: What to Wear

Theme days are an optional way for Scouts and staff to add a little extra camp spirit throughout the week. Participation is always optional, and regular camp attire is perfectly fine every day.

Monday – Red, White & Blue



Tuesday – Crazy Socks



Wednesday – Tie-Dye (70th Anniversary Celebration)



Thursday – Scout Throwback



Something vintage or anything that represents your Scouting past or journey.

Friday – Hawaiian Shirts



*Theme days are meant to be fun and low-pressure—no special purchases are required.

Open Program Opportunities

Throughout the week, Open Program time offers Scouts the chance to explore additional activities outside their regular program sessions. Some Open Program offerings may include specialty activities or opportunities to work on merit badge requirements. Open Programs offerings vary day by day and may take place alongside scheduled programs.

Details will be shared by staff throughout the week, and some activities may require daily sign-up due to space or equipment limits.

Camp Experiences

Scout Camp

Scout Camp provides the traditional summer camp experience at Camp Tamarack, centered on merit badge programs, skill development, and scheduled program sessions. Scouts spend their program time learning new skills, working toward advancement, and exploring a variety of subject areas, balanced with open activities and time to enjoy camp with their troop.

Most Scouts will spend the majority of their week participating in Scout Camp programs while building confidence, developing skills, and becoming more confident in a camp setting.

Leadership & Training Center

The Leadership & Training Center offers an additional, leadership-focused camp experience designed to provide a dedicated home for Older Scouts at Camp Tamarack. It creates space for older Scouts to continue growing, explore new programs, and develop leadership skills while remaining fully connected to the broader Camp Tamarack program.

Through a mix of training opportunities, leadership challenges, and service, participants build confidence, take on increased responsibility, and practice leadership in meaningful, hands-on ways. Engagement is flexible throughout the week, allowing Scouts to participate alongside Scout Camp programs.

Scouts will have opportunities to participate in Scout Camp, the Leadership & Training Center, or a combination of both throughout the week, depending on interests and goals.

Scout Camp

Welcome

Scout Camp provides the traditional summer camp experience at Camp Tamarack, focused on merit badges, skill development, and structured program sessions. Throughout the week, Scouts will work toward advancement, explore a variety of program areas, and learn new skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our staff is committed to helping each Scout grow in confidence, responsibility, and appreciation for the Scouting experience.

Yours in Scouting,

Jason Emmons

Jason Emmons
Program Director

What we offer

Scout Camp includes a wide range of traditional and expanded program opportunities designed to support advancement, skill development, and fun at camp including:

- **Scout Camp Program Areas**
Merit badge programs offered within Camp Tamarack's established program areas, focused on skill development, advancement, and hands-on learning.
- **Advanced Merit Badge Programs**
Expanded and immersive programs that go beyond a single merit badge. These programs feature less commonly offered badges, higher skill complexity, or integrated multi-badge experiences for Scouts ready for deeper challenges.
- **Pathfinder Program**
A structured program for newer Scouts that supports Tenderfoot through First Class advancement through hands-on activities across camp. Pathfinder helps Scouts build foundational skills while enjoying the broader Scout Camp experience.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Scout Camp is organized into program areas, each offering a focused set of merit badges and activities designed to support advancement and skill development throughout the week.

Aquatics

Aquatics offers Scouts the opportunity to build confidence and skills on the water while working toward advancement in a safe, supervised environment. Programs focus on swimming proficiency, boating skills, and water safety through structured instruction and hands-on practice. Aquatics activities emphasize personal responsibility, teamwork, and confidence in and around the water.

Aquatics Badges



Canoeing

Scouts learn basic canoe handling, paddling techniques, and water safety while building teamwork and confidence on the water. Instruction focuses on control, communication, and safe travel by canoe.



Kayaking

Kayaking introduces Scouts to paddle control, maneuvering, and balance through hands-on instruction. Scouts develop confidence and independence while learning safe kayaking techniques.



Rowing

Scouts explore traditional rowing skills, learning proper stroke technique, boat handling, and water safety. The program emphasizes coordination, rhythm, and teamwork.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Small Boat Sailing

Scouts learn the fundamentals of sailing, including wind awareness, sail control, and basic navigation. Instruction focuses on teamwork, problem-solving, and safe operation of small sailboats.



Swimming*

Swimming focuses on improving stroke technique, endurance, and water safety skills. Scouts work toward increased confidence and proficiency in the water through structured practice and instruction.



Lifesaving*

Lifesaving teaches Scouts how to prevent aquatic emergencies and respond safely when they occur. Instruction emphasizes rescue techniques, decision-making, and responsibility around water.

** Badges require strong swimming ability and may have prerequisites.*

Aquatics Awards



Snorkeling

Snorkeling introduces Scouts to surface diving and underwater observation using mask, fins, and snorkel. Scouts build comfort in the water while exploring aquatic environments and practicing safe snorkeling technique.



Stand Up Paddleboarding

Stand Up Paddleboarding teaches balance, paddle control, and maneuvering on a stable board. Scouts develop core strength and confidence while learning safe paddling techniques on the water.



Mile Swim

The Mile Swim is a challenging open-water endurance swim designed for strong swimmers. Scouts demonstrate stamina, while completing a continuous one-mile swim under supervision.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Open Aquatics & Recreation

- **Instructional Swim**
Guided practice for Scouts looking to improve swimming skills, build confidence, or prepare for aquatic merit badges
- **Open Swim**
Supervised recreational swim time available during designated Open Program periods.
- **Open Boating**
Open access to canoes, kayaks, or rowboats during scheduled Open Program times.
- **Open Fishing**
Casual fishing opportunities for Scouts to enjoy the waterfront outside of scheduled merit badge sessions.

Eagles and Beyond

Eagles and Beyond offers Scouts the opportunity to work on merit badges commonly required for Eagle Scout rank through structured instruction and guided activities. Programs focus on building essential skills, understanding core Scouting principles, and supporting advancement toward rank requirements. This program area emphasizes preparation, responsibility, and steady progress.

Eagle Required Badges



Citizenship In the Nation

Learn about the structure of the U.S. government, national symbols, and civic responsibilities. Scouts explore how laws are made and how citizens can participate in their government.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Citizenship in the World

Examine global citizenship through the study of international relations, world cultures, and shared challenges. Scouts explore how individuals and nations work together to address issues that affect the global community.



Communication

Develop skills in public speaking, writing, and effective listening. Scouts practice clear communication and learn how ideas are shared in personal, group, and public settings.



* Introduction to Personal Fitness & Personal Management

Eagles & Beyond offers introductory sessions for Personal Fitness and Personal Management to help Scouts explore these Eagle-required merit badges. These sessions introduce key concepts and requirements, providing a starting point for Scouts who plan to complete the badges with their merit badge counselors at home.



Eagles and Beyond Badges



American Business

Explore how businesses are created, organized, and operated in the United States. Scouts learn about entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, ethics, and how businesses interact with consumers and their communities.



Artificial Intelligence

Learn how artificial intelligence is used to solve problems and influence daily life. Scouts explore basic AI concepts, applications, and ethical considerations.



Chess

Develop strategic thinking, planning, and problem-solving skills through the game of chess. Scouts learn rules, tactics, and sportsmanship while improving focus and concentration.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Engineering

Explore how engineers design solutions to real-world problems. Scouts learn about the engineering process through examples, discussion, and hands-on activities.



Entrepreneurship

Explore how new businesses are created and managed. Scouts learn about ideas, planning, and the skills needed to turn a concept into a successful venture.



Space Exploration

Discover how humans explore space and study the universe. Scouts learn about spacecraft, astronomy, and the science behind space missions.



Traffic Safety

Learn how to stay safe on roads as a pedestrian, cyclist, and driver. Scouts explore traffic laws, safe practices, and responsible decision-making related to transportation.

Beyond Program

The Beyond Program features advanced merit badge experiences for Scouts who want an extra challenge. These programs go deeper than a typical merit badge and focus on hands-on learning and real-world application of skills.



Signs, Signals, and Codes

Scouts are challenged to crack codes, explore signaling methods, basic cryptography, and message systems through interactive games and hands-on challenges. This advanced experience emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving, and thinking like a communicator in the real world.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Surveying

Surveying challenges Scouts to measure, map, and understand the land around them using practical, hands-on skills. Scouts put what they learn into action by applying surveying techniques to real situations around camp, solving problems that require accuracy and teamwork. This advanced experience emphasizes precision, planning, and seeing how math and mapping come together in the real world.

Ecology

The Ecology program area invites Scouts to explore the natural world and better understand their role within it. Through observation, discussion, and hands-on activities, Scouts learn about environmental systems while working toward advancement. Programs emphasize stewardship, curiosity, and respect for the outdoors.

Ecology Badges



Astronomy

Discover stars, planets, and celestial movement through observation and guided instruction. Scouts learn to identify constellations, understand basic astronomy concepts, and observe the night sky when conditions allow. This badge is ideal for Scouts interested in space and science.



Environmental Science

Explore how natural systems function and how human activity affects the environment. Scouts conduct observations, participate in hands-on activities, and discuss real-world environmental challenges.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Forestry

Learn how forests grow, change, and are managed over time. Scouts explore forest ecology, identify tree species, and discuss conservation and land-use practices.



Geology

Explore the science behind rocks, minerals, and the forces that shape the Earth. Scouts examine geological materials, learn how landscapes form, and connect geology concepts to natural features around camp.



Mammal Study

Study mammals and their roles in ecosystems through observation, discussion, and research. Scouts learn about behavior, habitats, and conservation while identifying signs of mammals found in the area.



Nature

Sharpen observation skills by studying plants, animals, and ecosystems found at camp. Scouts spend time outdoors identifying species and learning how living things interact in natural environments.



Oceanography

Explore the physical and biological features of the world's oceans. Scouts learn about ocean zones, currents, tides, and marine ecosystems, and how the ocean influences weather and climate. Activities emphasize observation, discussion, and understanding the ocean's role in life on Earth.



Soil and Water Conservation

Learn how soil and water resources are used, protected, and managed. Scouts explore conservation practices through demonstrations, site observations, and hands-on activities around camp.



Weather

Discover how weather forms and how meteorologists observe and predict conditions. Scouts learn to identify weather patterns, use basic instruments, and track daily conditions throughout the week.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Ecology Activities

- **Conservation Projects (Offered Throughout the Week)**
Hands-on service projects focused on caring for Camp Tamarack's natural spaces.
- **Ecology All-Star Program Award**
Scouts who participate in ecology activities and conservation projects throughout the week may earn Eco Points, with recognition for involvement and effort.
- **Star Hike (Astronomy Merit Badge)**
A guided evening hike that combines outdoor exploration with night-sky observation. Scouts practice identifying stars and constellations while exploring basic astronomy concepts.

Fishing

The Fishing program area gives Scouts the opportunity to learn and practice a variety of angling skills while working toward advancement. Programs focus on technique, safety, conservation, and understanding aquatic ecosystems through hands-on instruction and time on the water. This area supports Scouts interested in casual fishing as well as those pursuing more advanced angling knowledge.

Fishing Badges



Fishing

Learn the fundamentals of fishing, including equipment use, casting techniques, and basic fish identification. Scouts practice safe and responsible angling while developing patience, focus, and an understanding of ethical fishing practices.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Fly Fishing

Explore the specialized skills of fly fishing, including fly casting, knot tying, and understanding water conditions. Scouts learn how technique, timing, and observation come together in this traditional and challenging form of angling.



Fish & Wildlife Management

Study how fish populations and aquatic habitats are managed and protected. Scouts learn about conservation practices, ecosystems, and the role anglers play in maintaining healthy fisheries through observation, discussion, and applied activities.

Complete Angler Award



Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish & Wildlife Management

The Complete Angler Award recognizes Scouts who want to take their fishing skills to the next level by completing Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish & Wildlife Management merit badges. This advanced angling experience challenges Scouts to build a broad understanding of fishing techniques, aquatic ecosystems, and conservation practices. Scouts pursuing the Complete Angler Award gain a deeper appreciation for responsible angling while developing skills across multiple styles of fishing.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Handicraft

Handicraft offers Scouts hands-on opportunities to build, design, and create through guided projects. Scouts learn practical techniques while working with tools and materials in a structured setting. The program encourages careful work, problem-solving, and attention to detail.

Handicraft Badges



Art

Explore creativity through drawing, painting, and design projects guided by basic artistic techniques. Scouts experiment with different materials and styles while learning how art can express ideas, stories, and observations.



Basketry

Learn traditional weaving techniques to create functional baskets and woven items. Scouts work with natural and prepared materials, developing patience, coordination, and an understanding of how structure and pattern work together.



Leatherwork

Discover how leather is prepared, cut, and shaped into useful items. Scouts practice stamping, tooling, and finishing techniques while creating projects that emphasize craftsmanship, precision, and safe tool use.



Sculpture

Work with a variety of materials to design and build three-dimensional art pieces. Scouts learn basic sculpting techniques while developing spatial awareness, creativity, and problem-solving skills through hands-on projects.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Woodcarving

Learn how to safely use carving tools to shape and decorate wood projects. Scouts practice carving techniques while building patience, focus, and respect for tools as they turn simple blocks of wood into finished creations.

Trades Program

The Trades Program is offered as a multi-day, immersive experience and runs twice during the week: once on Monday–Tuesday and again on Thursday–Friday. This structure allows Scouts to engage more deeply with the material while working across multiple merit badges.

Plumbing, Drafting, and Composite Materials

This year's Trades Program combines Drafting, Plumbing, and Composite Materials into a single, integrated learning experience. Scouts begin by developing design ideas and plans, then move into hands-on skill building as they explore how systems are created, installed, and connected. Throughout the program, Scouts also learn how composite materials are used to strengthen, improve, and support real-world designs, helping them see how planning, materials, and construction work together in practical applications.



Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Outdoor Skills

Outdoor Skills provides Scouts with hands-on experience in the essential skills needed for life at camp and in the outdoors. Scouts practice camping, cooking, navigation, and wilderness skills through guided instruction while working toward advancement. This program area helps Scouts build confidence, independence, and practical outdoor knowledge.

Outdoor Skills Badges



Cooking

Scouts learn how to plan, prepare, and safely cook meals in camp and outdoor settings. Instruction focuses on food safety, nutrition, and practical cooking techniques while building confidence and responsibility.



Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness teaches Scouts how to plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Scouts learn how preparation, communication, and calm decision-making play a key role in keeping people safe.



Fire Safety

Scouts learn how fires start, how they spread, and how to prevent and respond to fire emergencies. Using demonstrations and a fire safety simulation, Scouts practice recognizing hazards and making safe choices around fire.



First Aid

First Aid introduces Scouts to responding to common injuries and medical situations. Scouts practice basic treatment skills and learn how preparedness and quick action can make a difference in emergencies.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Geocaching

Geocaching combines navigation skills with technology as Scouts use GPS devices to locate hidden caches. This badge emphasizes problem-solving, teamwork, and applying navigation skills in the outdoors.



Golf (*Disc Golf Option*)

Scouts learn the fundamentals of golf, including rules, etiquette, and basic techniques. Instruction may include a disc golf option, allowing Scouts to practice skills in an accessible and engaging way.



Orienteering

Orienteering teaches Scouts how to navigate using maps, compasses, and terrain features. Scouts develop confidence in finding their way while practicing decision-making and spatial awareness.



Pioneering

Pioneering focuses on building structures using ropes, knots, and spars. Scouts learn lashing techniques and work together to design and construct projects that emphasize teamwork and problem-solving.

Pathfinder Program

The Pathfinder Program is a first-year Scout experience centered on building foundational outdoor skills while working toward Tenderfoot through First Class requirements. Scouts participate in Pathfinder during morning program sessions throughout the week, focusing on camping basics, safety, navigation, and core Scouting skills through hands-on instruction and guided practice. During Wednesday Open Program and afternoon sessions, Pathfinder Scouts are encouraged to explore other areas of camp, try new activities, and begin discovering the broader Camp Tamarack experience.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas

Outdoor Skills Awards & Certifications

- **Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award**
A weeklong award focused on safe woods tool use, teaching Totin' Chip skills, and completing a simple outdoor project. Open to scouts ages 14+ and adults.
- **Totin' Chip**
Introduces Scouts to the safe handling and use of wood tools. Completion allows Scouts to carry and use approved tools while following Totin' Chip guidelines.
- **Firem'n Chit**
Covers fire safety, fire building, and responsible fire use in camp settings. Scouts learn proper techniques and safety practices related to campfires and cooking fires.

Range & Target Activities

Range & Target Activities provide Scouts with the opportunity to learn focus, discipline, and safe equipment handling through structured shooting sports programs. Under close supervision, Scouts practice marksmanship skills while learning range procedures, safety rules, and personal responsibility. This program area emphasizes concentration, respect for equipment, and following instructions in a controlled environment.

Range & Target Activities Badges



Archery

Scouts learn proper archery form, range safety procedures, and shooting techniques through supervised practice. Instruction focuses on focus, consistency, and safely handling equipment on the range.

Scout Camp

Scout Camp Program Areas



Rifle Shooting

Rifle Shooting teaches Scouts the fundamentals of marksmanship, including safe handling, range procedures, and basic shooting skills. Scouts develop concentration and discipline while practicing accuracy.



Shotgun Shooting

Shotgun Shooting introduces Scouts to shotgun safety and shooting fundamentals through controlled, supervised instruction. Scouts learn how to track targets and follow proper range procedures while emphasizing safety and responsibility.

Cowboy Action Shoot

A special range event where Scouts and leaders can test their skills using a variety of historical shooting and throwing disciplines. Participants rotate through stations featuring different tools in a supervised, safety-focused setting. Open to youth and adults of all skill levels.

**Offered Wednesday afternoon.*

Range & Target Activities Competitions

- **Grand Archery Tournament**
The archery range hosts an annual tournament during the week, offering Scouts a chance to test their skills in a fun, competitive setting. Throughout the week, Scouts and leaders can participate in a friendly rifle marks.
- **Marksmanship Contest**
Throughout the week, Scouts and leaders can participate in a friendly rifle marksmanship contest during open shooting times.

Leadership & Training Center

Welcome!

The Leadership & Training Center provides older Scouts with opportunities to explore leadership, training, and service while remaining fully engaged in the broader Camp Tamarack experience. Designed for Scouts who are ready for greater responsibility and challenge, this experience offers hands-on learning, leadership development, and opportunities to grow through new and evolving programs. Throughout the week, participants will find structured trainings alongside Open Program opportunities — with a few surprises along the way. 😊

Do Your Best, Be Prepared, and Lead the Adventure!

- *Ms. Tink*

Ms. Tinkerbell Coddens
Director, Leadership & Training Center

What we offer

The Leadership & Training Center includes a variety of leadership-focused program opportunities, including:

- **Leadership & Team Initiative Course**
Initiative games and group challenges designed to build teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills through hands-on participation.
- **Leadership & Skill Development Trainings**
Scheduled leadership and safety trainings offered throughout the week, including official BSA trainings and skill-based leadership development opportunities.
- **Service Projects**
Afternoon service opportunities that allow Scouts to give back to Camp Tamarack while practicing leadership, responsibility, and teamwork.

Leadership & Training Center

Leadership · Training · Service

Leadership & Team Initiative Course

The Leadership & Team Initiative Course offers all Scouts the opportunity to build confidence, communication, and problem-solving skills through hands-on leadership challenges. Activities focus on teamwork, decision-making, and trust as Scouts work together to overcome group initiatives in a supportive, supervised environment. These experiences emphasize personal responsibility, collaboration, and leadership in action.

What are Initiative Games?

Initiative games are interactive group challenges that focus on cooperation rather than competition. Scouts work together to solve problems, complete tasks, and overcome obstacles using communication, creativity, and teamwork. These activities are designed to be accessible and engaging, and are similar to initiative games Scouts may have experienced during leadership trainings such as ILST or NYLT. Initiative games are also commonly used by schools, camps, and other organizations as a way to help groups connect and work together.

What to Expect During the Course

During an Initiative Course, Scouts will work together to take on a 1.5-hour group challenge that includes brain teasers, physical challenges, and communication-based obstacles. Scouts may sign up with friends or be grouped with Scouts from other troops. Working with friends allows teams to build on existing trust, while working with new Scouts brings fresh ideas and new ways of thinking. Together, these challenges encourage creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving while building confidence through shared experience.

Leadership & Training Center

Leadership · Training · Service

Leadership & Skill Development Trainings

Leadership & Skill Development Trainings are designed specifically for older Scouts who are ready for advanced leadership learning beyond a traditional Scout Camp experience. These trainings support Scouts participating in older-scout programs such as **Venturing**, **Sea Scouts**, and the **Order of the Arrow**, while remaining open to Scouts who are preparing for increased responsibility within their units.

Skill Development Trainings



Venturing Crew Officer Orientation

This training is designed for Venturers preparing to serve as officers within their crew. Participants explore leadership roles, responsibilities, and effective team leadership while learning how crew leadership supports a successful Venturing program. *Required for Venturing advancement



Goal Setting & Time Management

This workshop helps Scouts develop practical skills for setting goals, managing responsibilities, and balancing commitments. Participants explore strategies for planning, prioritizing tasks, and staying organized—skills that support leadership both at camp and at home. *Required for Venturing advancement



Media & Communications Workshop

This specialty workshop helps Scouts develop practical communication skills that support unit and program success. Participants learn basic photography skills and how to responsibly use social media to communicate within their units and support recruitment efforts. The workshop emphasizes clear, positive communication and is taught by an experienced older-scout participant from the Order of the Arrow, Venturing, or Sea Scouts program.

Leadership & Training Center

Leadership · Training · Service



High-Adventure Planning & Risk Awareness

Scouts prepare for high-adventure activities by focusing on planning, risk awareness, and decision-making. Participants learn how to identify potential hazards, assess risk, plan contingencies, and make responsible choices during challenging outdoor activities. The training emphasizes youth-led planning, situational awareness, and shared responsibility, helping Scouts build confidence and leadership skills for adventures both at camp and beyond.

Safety Trainings



Safe Swim Defense

Safe Swim Defense introduces Scouts to key principles of safe swimming activities. This training covers supervision, planning, and risk awareness to help Scouts understand how to promote safety during aquatic activities.

*Required for Sea Scout Advancement



Safety Afloat

Safety Afloat focuses on the principles of safe boating and watercraft activities. Scouts learn about preparation, responsibility, and decision-making related to on-the-water activities, helping reinforce a culture of safety and awareness. *Required for Sea Scout Advancement.



Hazardous Weather Training

This training helps Scouts recognize and respond to weather-related risks commonly encountered during outdoor activities. Participants learn how to identify potential hazards, make informed decisions, and take appropriate action to help keep themselves and others safe. *Required for Sea Scout Advancement

Leadership & Training Center

Leadership • Training • Service

Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS) Trainings

Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS) Trainings provide a foundational leadership experience for Scouts preparing to take on youth leadership roles within their units. Offered through the Leadership & Training Center, these trainings move beyond unit-level instruction by combining interactive activities, guided discussion, and reflection to help participants build a shared understanding of leadership expectations and responsibilities.

ILS trainings emphasize teamwork, communication, ethical decision-making, and youth-led leadership in a structured environment designed specifically for older Scouts. Separate program-specific sessions ensure that each training aligns with the leadership models used in Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships, while shared activities reinforce common leadership principles across programs.



ILST

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ILSC

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ILSS

Leadership & Training Center

Leadership · Training · Service

Service Projects

Service Projects provide Scouts with opportunities to give back to Camp Tamarack while practicing leadership, responsibility, and teamwork. These projects focus on meaningful work that supports camp operations, conservation efforts, and the broader camp community.

What to Expect

Each unit will sign up for **one designated afternoon** during the week to participate in service projects during Open Program time.



OA Friday Service Hour

Friday afternoon will include an OA Friday Service Hour, providing Order of the Arrow members with an additional hour of service following their earlier unit service experience. This time may involve continuing work on an existing service project or supporting broader, camp-focused efforts. The OA Service Hour allows Arrowmen to work together while contributing to the Camp Tamarack community.

Camp staff will also participate in service projects throughout the week, working alongside Scouts to support the Camp Tamarack community.

Leadership Through Service

Service projects allow Scouts to experience leadership by taking responsibility, supporting their team, and contributing to the Camp Tamarack community. By working together with other units and camp staff, Scouts strengthen teamwork, develop a shared sense of ownership, and see how leadership is expressed through commitment, effort, and caring for the camp that brings us together.

Map of Camp Tamarack

This map is provided to help Scouts and leaders become familiar with Camp Tamarack and the locations of key program areas, facilities, and landmarks.

*Personal maps will be provided to all Scouts upon arrival at camp for easy reference throughout the week.



What to Bring to Camp

Recommended Packing List All Scouts

Clothing

- Scout uniform: 1-2
- Scout activity shirts: 5-7
- Shorts and/or pants: 3-4
- Sleepwear: 2
- Swimsuit: 1-2
- Underwear: 7-10
- Sweatshirt or light jacket: 1
- Rain gear: 1
- Hat or Bandana: 1-2

Footwear

- Hiking shoes: 1 pair
- Activity / close toed shoes: 1 pair
- Socks: 7-10 pairs
- Shower shoes or sandals: 1 set

Optional Items

- Camera
- Watch
- Spending money (if desired)

Bedding & Bath

- Sleeping bag or bedding: 1
- Pillow: 1
- Towel (aquatics & shower): 1-2
- Toiletries (deodorant): 1 set

Personal Gear

- Refillable water bottle: 1
- Flashlight or headlamp: 1
- Daypack: 1
- Sunscreen: 1-2
- Insect repellent: 1-2
- Notebook and pen: 1-2

Please Do Not Bring

- Weapons or fireworks
- Alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products
- Valuable or irreplaceable items

Additional Packing Items

Female Scouts

- Menstrual products: full week
- Extra underwear: 2-3 additional
- Bra (regular and sport bras): 2-3
- Hair ties or accessories
- Personal hygiene or hair-care items

Male Scouts

- Shaving supplies (if used)
- Extra underwear: 2-3 additional
- Personal hygiene or hair-care item

Please avoid heavily scented products, as strong smells may attract insects and wildlife to tents and campsites.

Next Steps

Questions Before Camp?

Please start by asking your unit leader, who can help answer most questions.

Program Questions

Ms. Tinkerbell Coddens

Director of Leadership and Program Development

Camp Tamarack

Council & Administrative Questions

Jason Yoder

Council Program Director

LaSalle Council, Scouting America

Both contacts are based at the LaSalle Council Scout Office and can be reached through the Scout Office.

Arrival, check-in, and unit logistics can be found in the **2026 Leader Guide**.

See you at Camp!

We're excited to welcome you to Camp Tamarack and look forward to a week filled with adventure, learning, and community. Whether you're exploring Scout Camp programs, taking on leadership challenges through the Leadership & Training Center, or giving back through service, we hope this guide helps you feel prepared and excited for the experience ahead. Come ready to try new things, support one another, and make the most of your time at camp.

*This Program Guide reflects information current as of January 31, 2026 and is subject to change.
Last updated 2/10/26.*