OWASIPPE

2026 LEADER'S GUIDE
SCOUTS BSA CAMP

WELCOME
MESSAGE

Welcome to Owasippe Scout Reservation!

At all of the camps on property we pride ourselves in being more than just another destination for summer camp programming. Every experience we provide is an adventure!

Since 1911 we have set our sights on being the finest example of outdoor education in Scouting America, and we look forward to an exciting and engaging camp program for our campers in 2026. At the end of your week of camp, we are confident you will be ready to lock in your site reservation for next season.

In 2026 we are excited to be welcoming back so many returning campers from 2025 who have now seen the rich history of our reservation and can now consider themselves a part of the Owasippe family.

Our admin team is already hard at work developing new and exciting programs with a focus on safety, outdoor education, and of course - having fun.

We look forward to debuting Owasippe MAXED as well as new features in the Scouts BSA program, Family Camp program, and Cub / AOL program.

DALTON DEVRIES

Reservation Director &
PTAC Camping Director

**Clearly enjoying delicious deserts served at a Scoutmaster Dutch Oven Cookoff*

As always, in addition to new programs, we are building on last year's success by focusing on improved logistics, safety, and continuing to recruit and train the best camp staff in the country.

Thank you for taking the time to review this guide. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Our goal is to provide you, our customers and fellow Scouters, a great summer camp experience that you will never forget.

As Scouting continues to develop, we are proud to be the nation's oldest and most historic scout camp in the history of Scouting America. We look forward to continuing that legacy in 2026 and beyond. Thank you for choosing Owasippe, we are confident you will be happy with your choice!

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Contact	Phone	Email
Pathway to Adventure Council Office	(312) 421-8800	ptac.camping@scouting.org
Reservation Director & PTAC Camping Director Dalton DeVries	(312) 668-0243	dalton.devries@scouting.org

SCOUT MAIL ADDRESS

Your Scout's Name, Troop Number
Name of sub-camp (Blackhawk, Wolverine), Site Number
Owasippe Scout Reservation
9900 Russell Road
Twin Lake, MI 49457

RESERVATION CONTACT INFO

OSR Administration Center Phone: (231) 894-4061
Owasippe answers our seasonal phone line from the day staff arrives (mid-June) until the last Scout goes home. (early-August).

Emergency phone messages can be received at the number above. Callers should be prepared to leave details such as Scout's name, unit number, and campsite. Due to the reservation's size, it may take up to several hours for a message to reach the recipient.

OUR HISTORY

1911

Owasippe Scout Reservation was created in 1911 as Camp White, with 40 acres of land on Crystal Lake in Whitehall, Michigan. It all began in the summer of 1910, as a group of visionary businessmen from Chicago headed to Whitehall, Michigan to investigate the possibility of acquiring property for the purpose of building a Boy Scout Camp. The group, led by A. Stamford White, Chicago Council President, met with the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce who agreed to donate 40 acres of land on Crystal Lake, with the agreement that the Scout group would purchase an additional 80 acres. In 1911, a group of Scouts and adult workers went to Crystal Lake, cleared campsites, dug a well and erected the first mess tent.

In 1912 the summer camp operation started with over 800 Scouts traveling by steam ship from Chicago, crossing Lake Michigan to Whitehall. They then hiked the last few miles to camp with their gear. Most of the Scouts who attended, stayed for two weeks, enjoying the primitive facility. Over the years Scouts modes of transportation varied, coming by boat, train, bus, and car, making Owasippe a favorite destination for Scout camping.

TODAY

Over time, our reservation has changed. At one point the property grew to 12,000 acres, reaching it’s largest campership in the 1970's. Camps have come and gone but the spirit of scouting, first kindled in the United States here at Owasippe, is still alive and strong. At Owasippe you will find and enjoy all the wealth of earth and heaven, and on quiet nights when all is sill, those spirits have been known to answer when called.

Currently we operate 4 camps on 4,800 acres. This guide will provide further detail on each of their operations.

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide is meant to assist your unit, especially the Summer Camp Coordinator, to prepare for your trip to Owasippe Scout Reservation. Please review each page carefully, even if you are a veteran Owasippe camper. This will ensure that you and your unit are completely prepared for your trip to camp.

Although this leader's guide is current and accurate at the time of publication, things do change as we solidify our planning. For the most up-to-date information, visit https://pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/resources.

Once finalized, all forms, registrations, and schedules will be located on our website. Notification will be sent to each troop's contact email when important information is posted and/or revised.

This guide focuses on the fundamentals of Owasippe's Scouts BSA summer camp. A **Program Guide** will be published with details of specific badges and activities scouts can partake in. **Separate guides for Owasippe MAXED, Family Camp Programs, and Cub / AOL Programs are published.**

2026 OWASIPPE LEADER MEETINGS

All units attending camp must have at least one adult attend a pre-camp leader meeting to obtain key information prior to camp. All unit leaders are welcome, but please ensure a leader that is attending camp with your unit participates in one of our pre-camp meetings.

Pre-Camp Meeting dates will be announced in January 2026, and details can be found on the camping resources page! There will be two regular meetings and one specifically designed for first time units. You only have to attend one!

These meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and recorded for publication. Login information will be shared via email and social media.

PROMOTING CAMP

OWASIPPEADVENTURE.COM

An Owasippe promotion-focused site that is loaded with great images and videos that highlight everything that makes Owasippe great!

OWASIPPE ON FACEBOOK

We have a very active Facebook page with lots of pictures and videos from previous summers. We encourage units to use these to show their Scouts what Owasippe is all about!

PTAC CAMPING RESOURCES

The official page for all things Owasippe. This will have the most up-to-date forms and notifications.

OWASIPPE ON INSTAGRAM

Find pictures and videos from previous summers and watch for daily posts while your scouts are at camp.

WORD OF MOUTH

Some units will have older Scouts share stories during the unit meeting of their adventures from last summer. This is an easy way to make it "personal" for your Scouts.

OWASIPPE CIT PROGRAM

Owasippe offers a Counselor in Training (CIT) program that runs for eight weeks. We're very proud of our top-notch Camp Staff and it all begins with our CIT program. Scouts spend eight weeks living and working among our staff which gives them the chance to learn necessary life skills, get supervised practice, and have a lot of fun. The first week is a training week where CITs learn how to teach a merit badge, lead songs, and learn Owasippe traditions. Scouts that will be at least 14 years old by June 6, 2026, can interview to be a CIT.

Apply at
www.PathwayToAdventure.org/camping/campstaff

CAMPS

CAMP BLACKHAWK

Nestled on the shores of Big Blue Lake, Blackhawk offers 21 campsites on 3 different hills. Campers enjoy centrally located program areas, a historic dining hall, and a beautiful lakeside fire ring. All meals are served in the dining hall and campers enjoy a lake view from there. Blackhawk is also home to our very popular lake tubing, sail base, and water sports programs on Big Blue Lake.

CAMP WOLVERINE

Wolverine offers 21 sites from which to choose, whether it be a site on Lake Wolverine's attractive shoreline or on the surrounding hills. Most campsites are set apart from one another, creating a more private experience and allowing room to stretch. The dining experience is the cornerstone of Wolverine. Troops have the flexibility of eating hot packed meals delivered to their campsite, or communally in the dining tent. Wolverine offers a pool for aquatics merit badges and beautiful Lake Wolverine for boating activities.

HIGH ADVENTURE

Our High Adventure staff operates program around the reservation that participants from the other 3 camps can enjoy. The outstanding program offered by the Hi-Ad staff includes our horse ranch, ATV course, COPE and Climbing area, Ultimate Owasippe Adventure, off property canoe trips, and mountain biking on some of the best trails in Michigan. Be sure to explore the offerings from High Adventure and accept the challenge!

CAMPS

CAMP RENEKER (FAMILY CAMP)

Opportunities and Facilities

Have your family camp at the same time as your troop! For over five decades, Reneker Family Camp has provided outdoor recreation programs for individuals of all ages, from toddlers to grandparents. Led by an enthusiastic and caring staff, the camp call is “GO FOR IT” and campers are encouraged to do just that.

Experience all that Camp Reneker has to offer by taking advantage of the camp’s planned program activities each day, while being able to participate in the outposts and open activities across the reservation. In the morning, campers aged four through adults are invited to join an age group program led by Reneker’s experienced staff. In the afternoon and evening, Reneker offers an open and family-oriented program, including guided hikes, craft projects, shooting sports, recreational swimming, ice cream socials, potluck dinners, and a closing campfire.

Nestled at the south end of Owasippe, Camp Reneker provides quality camping experiences to Scout and non-Scout families. Reneker has 40 five-person cabins available for rent as well as centrally located bathrooms on each side of camp, complete with showers and flush toilets.

So, have your family enjoy Owasippe alongside you! There is no end to the adventure your family will experience together, while trying new things at Camp Reneker- GO FOR IT!

Registration Process

Head to https://pathwaytoadventure.org/reneker/ for availability and registration procedures.
You can view the Reneker parent guide for more information.

You can also contact the Reneker Camp Director at renekerfamilycamp@gmail.com
More information available at www.owasippeadventure.com/reneker

PROGRAMS

The Owasippe Program Guide will be posted on our website in early 2026. All merit badge and activity schedules, pre-requisite requirements, and fees will be available on our website as part of the Program Guide.

PATHFINDER (FIRST YEAR CAMPER) PROGRAM

Scouts learn by example, and from experience! Our Pathfinder program is designed around these principles. In just one week, Scouts will practice first aid, swimming, and outdoor skills; participate in flag ceremonies; and earn one or more merit badges. They will also go on a five-mile hike to complete their second class requirement! Scouts will complete nearly all of the outdoor requirements for Scout through First Class ranks.

HIGH ADVENTURE AND OUTPOST PROGRAMS

Owasippe is proud to offer a wide variety of activities beyond the typical merit badge offerings. Examples include horse trail rides, ziplining, COPE/climbing, river/lake tubing, ATVs, and mountain biking!

Some of these programs have limited space and certain activities have additional fees. It is important to register online for these activities ahead of your arrival at camp. A complete list of available high adventure activities will be included in our Program Guide. Notification will be sent to each troop's email contact when this is posted.

ULTIMATE OWASIPPE ADVENTURE

Open to campers 14 years and older who are First Class Rank and above, this program challenges Scouts in an exciting week-long adventure with something new each day! Scouts will participate in numerous High Adventure activities across Owasippe Scout Reservation! A complete schedule will be available in the Program Guide.

NEW! NEW! NEW!

OWASIPPE MAXED

Special programing at Owasippe June 28 to July 4th, 2026. Participate in high adventure, activities, badges, and awards not available during the rest of the summer camp season.

Owasippe's 4800 Acres, 150 Staff, and multiple high adventure program areas are capable of advanced program's that logistically can not be provided as a part of the standard Scouts BSA Summer Camp program all summer BUT CAN be pulled off once a year - you don't want to miss Owasippe MAXED. A flyer with more details is available on the camping resources page, and the program guide will soon follow this guide. More information coming soon!

PROGRAMS

BADGE COMPLETIONS, PARTIALS, AND PREREQUISITES

The Owasippe Program Guide will provide a list of all merit badges offered, as well as any work that Scouts will need to complete before arriving at camp. Please make sure Scouts review this list. It is recommended that unit leaders provide their Scouts with a copy of the Program Guide and instruct scouts to review the prerequisites for any badges they wish to take.

At the end of the week, leaders will be given a digital report of their scouts' completed and partial badges. Owasippe Camp Staff does not require any “blue cards” from scouts as all requirement tracking is done online. Units wishing to utilize the traditional merit badge records have the ability to print their own from the online registration system once the week is over. They will print out from the system pre-filled with the necessary information.

Our online registration system will also give the Unit Registration Contact the option to run a “ScoutBook Export” report that will give you a .CSV file that is formatted to be uploaded directly into your Troop’s ScoutBook records.

VENTURING ADVANCEMENT

For this upcoming camping year at Owasippe, the merit badge staff will have a listing of Scouting America rank requirements and merit badge requirements that correspond to the Venturing Ranger Award Core requirements (first-aid, communications, cooking, emergency preparedness, land navigation, leave no trace, wilderness survival, & conservation) and Elective requirements (backpacking, cave exploration, cycling/mountain biking, ecology, equestrian, first-aid, fishing, hunting, lifesaving, mountaineering, outdoor living history, physical fitness, plants and wildlife, Project COPE, scuba, shooting sports, watercraft, & winter sports). Area Directors will have the authority to sign off on said requirements in the Youth's Venturing Awards and Requirements book. **More information will be available in the program guide!**

ADULT LEADER TRAININGS

Scout Camp isn't just for the youth! Adult leaders have the chance to use their time at camp to complete a variety of trainings in order to better serve their unit. This summer, OSR is offering additional opportunities for unit leaders to earn trainings at camp! If you have a request, just let the camp staff know and we may be able to schedule a training for the time you are in camp.

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS

This unit leader training is a must-do for all leaders. You can complete this training while your Scouts are all busy at merit badges. This training is required to be considered fully trained as a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster.
We are seeking IOLS trainers. Please reach out if you have lead this program at OSR in previous summers, or are interested in supporting this program for the first time in 2026, so that we can ensure that each week has adequate leadership to provide this training prior to each session.

NEW IN 2026

PTAC's Council Training Committee is partnering with OSR Camp Staff to provide several new training opportunities at Owasippe throughout the summer. These trainings will only be available during select camping sessions and further details will be provided on the camping resources page and in the Program Guide. On select weeks these could include BALOO training for Cub Scout leaders, Wilderness First Aid, and resources to help complete Hazardous Weather, Climb on Safely, and Range Activity Safety.

AQUATICS TRAININGS

BSA Aquatics Supervision, Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat are all available upon request.

Training for Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue provides Scouting America leaders with information and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies during unit swimming activities. It expands the awareness instruction provided by Safe Swim Defense training. Persons completing the training should be better able to assess their preparation to supervise unit swimming events. Scouting America recommends that at least one person with this training is present to assist with supervision whenever a unit swims at a location that does not provide lifeguards. This training is open to any registered adult leader, Scout, Venturer, or Explorer who is age 15 or older.

Safe Swim Defense: All swimming activity must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of those in his or her care, and who is trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of Scouting America Safe Swim Defense.

Safety Afloat has been developed to promote boating and boating safety and to set standards for safe unit activity afloat. All supervisors must complete Scouting America Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training and rescue training for the type of watercraft to be used in the activity, and at least one must be trained in CPR.

SUGGESTED GEAR LIST

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN EACH SITE

- Picnic tables
- KYBO (latrine)
- Bulletin Board
- Drinking water access

Note to Units Providing their Own Tents

Troop tents must meet the minimum standard of 30 sq ft of floor space per camper. Personal tents must be clearly marked “NO FLAME IN TENTS”.

Troops can request to use the following additional OSR provided gear...

- **2-Person Canvas Wall Tents (9'6" x 7'6")**
- **Canvas Cots**
- **Tent Floorboards**

Troops are provided 1 tent for every 2 scouts and 1 tent for 1-2 adults.
The Unit Registration Contact will be contacted by their Camp Commissioner before their stay at camp to confirm equipment needs. **Tents, cots, and floorboards will not be provided by default. This additional gear must be requested with the camp commissioner.** If the commissioner can not get in contact via the information provided upon registration, OSR will not have equipment prepared in the campsite for troop arrival.

Upon arrival, a supply tent will contain all requested equipment and staff members will be ready to assist troops with equipment set up. Early arrival troops will discuss set up logistics with their camp commissioner.

SUGGESTED UNIT EQUIPMENT

- First Aid Kit / Unit Medical Log
- Lockable Medication Storage
- US, Troop, and Patrol Flags
- Lanterns
- Axes / Saws
- Tarps / Dining Flys
- Rope
- Advancement Records
- Thumb Tacks
- Dish Cleaning Equipment

TROOP COOKING

- Units should come equipped to prepare a meal in their campsite.
- For more information, be sure to attend a leaders meeting.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Personal Firearms / Ammunition
- Bows / Arrows
- Fireworks, Alcohol, Illegal Drugs
- Pets
- Items Prohibited by Scouting America or your unit

PERSONAL GEAR

A suggested packing list for personal gear is available on the camping resources page.

SWIM TESTS

All persons participating in Scouting America aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The classification tests and procedures have been developed and structured to demonstrate a skill level consistent with the circumstances in which the individual will be in the water. All participants must re-test annually. This includes adults and youth. “Swim checks” are a part of the check-in process when you arrive or can be done prior to arrival.

SWIM TESTS AT OWASIPPE UPON ARRIVAL

Most units do their swim qualifications upon arrival to camp. This works great! This will be part of the check-in process when you arrive at your sub-camp. Be sure a towel and swimsuit are easily accessible in your scouts’ gear. All adults wishing to participate in aquatics activities must also take a swim test.

SWIM TESTS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

This test can be done at the unit level if desired. First year campers will be required to test upon arrival at camp but returning campers can pre-test. It needs to be conducted by one of the following approved people-

1. Scouting America Aquatics Instructor
2. Scouting America Aquatics Supervisor
3. Scouting America Lifeguard
4. Certified Lifeguard
5. Swimming instructor
6. Swim Coach

The form can be found online at https://www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/resources

Owasippe Aquatics staff may ask any camp participant to re-test at any time if they feel it is necessary. Pre-testing does not guarantee that a Scout will not need to take the test at camp.

*First year campers MUST take the test at camp. No pre-test will be accepted.

HIGH ADVENTURE WAIVERS

Scouts participating in the ATV program or any horsemanship/wrangler are required to have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Units are strongly encouraged to collect these waivers BEFORE they leave for camp. Waivers must be turned in during the check-in process on Sunday.

*Scouts will NOT be allowed to participate in the Horse or ATV programs without the appropriate waiver.

Waivers are available on the camping resources page and will be included in the Program Guide.

FOOD SERVICE

A normal week of camp consists of 17 meals, beginning with Sunday dinner and ending with Saturday breakfast. The camp's menu is designed by a licensed dietician and is intended to meet the dietary requirements of active scouts and leaders. The menu will be available on our website. Menu changes can occur during the summer, when required for supply chain issues.

Supplemental food is available. This includes:

- Milk at each breakfast and dinner
- Cereal at breakfast
- Peanut butter and jelly at lunch and dinner
- Salad bar or other side options at lunch and dinner

*Units eating in campsite may pick up supplemental items at the Dining Tent.

FOOD SERVICE AT THE SUB-CAMPS

Camp Blackhawk includes a central dining hall for all meals. Troops eat together, with meals served cafeteria style. Depending on which week of camp you attend, there may be one or two shifts per meal. See the camp schedule for more information on meal schedule. Field uniform (commonly referred to as "Class A") is highly encouraged for dinner.

Camp Wolverine offers a choice:

- A "hot pack" eat-in-campsite option. Our food service prepares and delivers hot, ready-to-eat meals to your campsite. Your unit is responsible for providing all personal meal utensils, plates, etc.
- An outdoor dining tent offering a cafeteria-style meal service with the comradery of a dining hall.

ALLERGIES AND DIETARY NEEDS

Any special food needs or requests must be submitted in advance of your stay at camp using the OSR Dietary Needs form. It is unreasonable to arrive at camp and expect to be accommodated without pre-camp communication of dietary needs. We are happy to accommodate medical and religious dietary needs, as well as vegetarians. We cannot accommodate dietary preferences. Some campers with dietary needs and preferences find it easier to supplement meals by providing their own food, which they bring to camp. We're happy to provide storage (and/or possibly prepare) required personal foods.

While we attempt to accommodate dietary needs, extreme situations or specialty items may incur additional cost. In these situations, the cost would be passed along to the unit. All questions regarding dietary needs should be directed to our food service provider. Their contact information and the dietary request form can be found on at **PTAC Camping Resources Page**.

LEADER LUNCH

All adult leaders are invited to a special Leader Lunch/cookout on Thursday of your week at camp. During this time, Blackhawk Scouts will eat in the dining hall in one shift and Wolverine Scouts will have staff members eat with them in their campsite. Staff will supervise and entertain Scouts while the leader lunch is occurring.

CAMP FEES AND FINANCIAL INFO

SESSION DATES

Session 1	June 14 - June 20
Session 2	June 21 - June 27
Session 3 Owasippe MAXED	June 28 - July 4
Session 4	July 5 - July 11
Session 5	July 13 - July 19
Session 6	July 20 - July 26
Session 7	July 27 - August 2

SITE RESERVATION FEE

- $100 Site Deposit fee is due at registration.
- This deposit is non-refundable after 12/31/2025. The deposit will be applied to a troop's balance due.
- Site reservation is due per site and per week.

SCOUTS BSA CAMP	Early Bird	Standard
Scouts	$425	$450
Adults	$200	$200

Early Bird - Paid in Full BY May 15th, 2026
Standard - Paid in Full AFTER May 15th, 2026

- Newly registered and cross-over Scouts who join after January 1st, 2026, pay the early bird fee if paid by June 15th, 2026
- Daily adult visitor / leader fee: $30
- Saturday early arrival fee: $100
- Each troop is responsible for collecting fees from their Scouts and making in-person or online payments to the council.
- Some units will increase the cost beyond the fee from OSR for travel meals, gas, and to supplement troop supplies. You should have a conversation as a unit to determine what these costs are and how they'll be covered.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A $75 payment will be due for each participant at the time of their registration. Participants currently registered that have not yet made a payment have until April 1st to complete this.

Merit badge and activity selection (opening April 18th 9AM) will not be accessible to participants without this payment.

Troops can decide to collect money, or set up Parent Portal for families to individually submit payments through our registration system. More information on payment options can be found on the camping resources page.

Payment Type	Amount	Payment Deadline
Campsite Deposit	$100 per Unit	Due upon Unit Registration
Payment 1 April 1, 2026	**$75 per Participant**	**Due upon Participant Registration**
Payment 2	Remaining Balance	All payments are due 10 days prior to camp.

RENEKER FEES

- $50 deposit fee is due at registration.
- This deposit is non-refundable after 12/31/2025. The deposit will be applied to the campers balance due.
- A reservation deposit is due per cabin and per week.

FAMILY CAMP	Standard	BSA Family Discount
Cabin Price (Weekly)	$525	$425
Cabin Price (Nightly)	$100	$100

OTHER ACTIVITY FEES

Some activities and badges at camp have additional program fees to participate. Please see program guide and merit badge information for a complete list of fees.

CAMPERSHIPS

Pathway to Adventure Council is committed to providing opportunities for all PTAC Scouts to attend a PTAC summer camp. Through the generosity of donors, camperships are available and distributed on a financial need-basis.

The Campership Application will be available starting January 1, 2026. Please visit www.pathwaytoadventure.org/campresources for details and the campership application.

Due date for campership application: April 15th, 2026

REFUNDS

The Pathway to Adventure Council will refund all but 15% of fees paid per participant for those who request a refund no later than 30 days prior to arrival at camp. You may replace the name and information on a registration at no additional fee, but they must be of the same participant type (youth for youth and adult adult). This policy excludes payments labeled as “nonrefundable.”

No refunds will be given after the 30-day cancellation deadline, except in cases of personal medical reasons as determined by the Council Director of Camping. All but 15% of fees paid for the participant may be refunded. In order to be considered for reimbursement, a refund must be requested by the unit leadership within two weeks after the first day of your camp session. A doctor's note is required for refund requests.

Refund will not include the 3% credit card fee.

Refund requests must be made in writing to ptac.camping@scouting.org.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

State of Michigan and the BSA require several documents of ALL adults in camp (staff, leaders, parents, volunteers). If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact our Camping Help Desk ptac.camping@scouting.org or 312-421-8800 x 300. Forms on camping resources page: https://pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/resources

Summary of Required Documents	
Items	**Note**
Scouting America Registration	Provided at arrival via my.scouting report
Current SYT Training	Provided at arrival via Safeguarding Youth aging report
Criminal Background Check	Documented as part of BSA registration
State of Michigan Central Registry Clearance	Form submitted to home state and results sent to PTAC and verified upon arrival OR results provided upon arrival
State of Michigan Req. Rules and Items (Reference Form)	State of Michigan form signed by each adult in camp provided upon arrival

*Please see the following page for additional information on each of the above.

ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

All registration for PTAC summer camps is conducted online. Deposits and payments are also handled through our online registration system.

Merit badge and high adventure activity registration can be completed online by unit leaders, or through the online "parent portal" if your unit chooses to provide parents access to activity and badge registration. This will be covered in detail, with instructions, at the leader's meetings.

REQUIRED DOCS

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH TRAINING AND REGISTRATION

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant.

All adult (18 years of age or older) must be current in Scouting America Safeguarding Youth Training and provide documentation of current training.

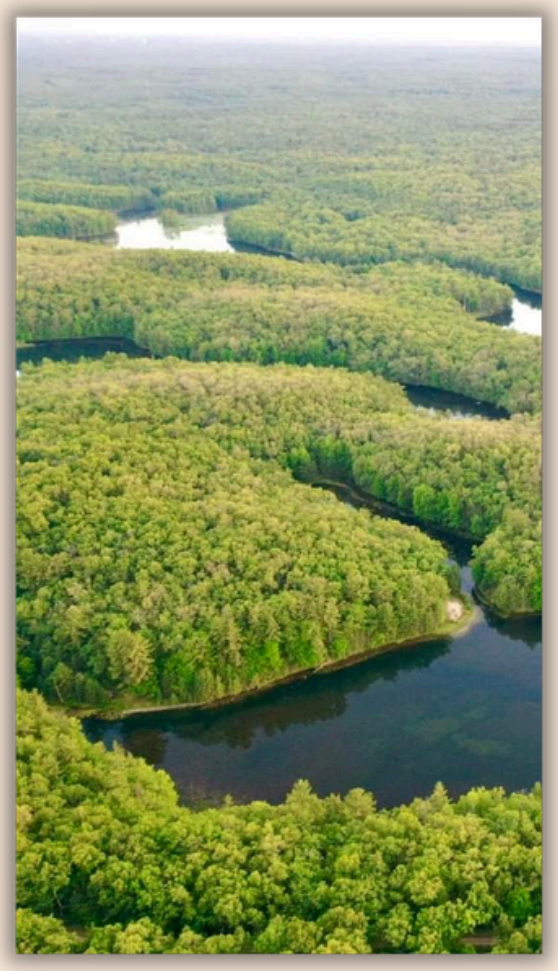
STATE OF MICHIGAN PAPERWORK

Criminal Background Check

State of Michigan law requires that each adult (18 years of age or older) undergo a criminal background check. If an adult is a currently registered Scouting America member, that process for background check is sufficient. Adults must have documentation showing they are currently registered Scouting America members. An adult membership report from the troop's my.scouting is adequate for this requirement.

Central Registry Check

State of Michigan law requires that each adult (21 years of age or older) undergo a check against their state of residency's child abuse and neglect registry. The camp must have proof that this check has been completed and that the adult is not found to have been deemed a perpetrator of abuse or neglect. Forms can be found on the camping resources page. This check may take several weeks, so please submit the form several weeks before your scheduled arrival. This check must be submitted each year you attend camp.



State of Michigan Req. Rules and Items (Reference Form)

All adult (21 years of age or older) participants must provide an annually completed State of Michigan Youth Protection acknowledgement and positive reference form. This form can be found on the camping resources page.

RULES AND POLICIES

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SMOKING

The possession, consumption, or use of alcohol, drugs (including marijuana), or illegal substances while participating in the Scouting program or on Scout property is prohibited. Violations of laws will be reported. Violators will not be allowed to remain on camp property.

Adult leaders are asked to refrain from smoking, electronic devices, other tobacco use when in proximity of Scouts.

BICYCLES IN CAMP

Bicycle use by campers is restricted to camp-sponsored cycling activities, such as Cycling Merit Badge. A helmet must be worn during cycling activities. Bicycles may not be used on hiking trails. Personal bikes are allowed.

BOATS IN CAMP

Privately owned boats are not permitted in camp, nor on camp-owned docks or shoreline.

BUDDY SYSTEM

It is expected that Scouts always utilize the buddy system. Unit leaders are responsible for promoting the use of buddy system.

CHECK-IN, CHECK-OUT, EARLY RELEASE

All campers must properly check in and check out of camp. A log is in each sub-camp office for this purpose.

An “Early Release of Scout” form must be submitted for any youth leaving camp and/or the supervision of their Scoutmaster prior to the end of the camp week. This form should be turned in when the unit arrives in camp. The form is available on our website.

CAMPER SECURITY

Any person without proper identification (staff name tag, camper wristband, visitor tag) should be reported to the camp office. Trespassers will be escorted off camp property and the authorities will be notified.

- Wristbands: Each registered camper (youth and adult) will be issued a wristband (or similar item) that they must wear at all times. Campers will not be permitted to access activities without this wristband. Replacement bands will be available in the sub-camp office.
- Staff Identification: Camp Staff and volunteers are issued an Owasippe name tag (or similar item) and staff wristband to be worn at all times.
- Visitors: Visitors must check-in and check-out at the sub-camp office. Visitors are issued a visitor wristband or tag at the time of check-in.

CAMPER DISCIPLINE

Michigan State Law indicates: “A camper shall not be deprived of food or sleep, shall not be placed alone without staff supervision, observation, and interaction, or shall not be subjected to hazing, ridicule, threat, corporal punishment, excessive physical exercise, or excessive restraints,” either by staff leaders or another camper.

Unit leaders are responsible for behavior of the scouts in their units. If there are concerns regarding scout behavior, they should be directed to the Camp Director or unit’s Scoutmaster. Discipline must be constructive.

- Discipline must reflect Scouting’s values.
- Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are also prohibited.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

It is mandatory that any staff or adult leader/volunteer report any suspected or actual child abuse or neglect immediately. Suspected or actual abuse or neglect should be reported to the camp director and to local authorities, such as the police and/or Department of Social Services and to the Michigan Centralized Intake (855-444-3911)

SCOUTS FIRST HELPLINE

As part of its “Scouts First” approach to the protection and safety of youth, the BSA has established a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.

1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871)

When to use it:

- Anytime you believe a youth has been harmed or their safety and wellbeing is at risk, and you cannot immediately reach your Scout executive or local council.
- If a youth is bullied because of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, and local help is unable to resolve the problem.

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, always call 911.

RULES AND POLICIES

DAMAGE TO CAMP PROPERTY

Units are responsible for any damage to camp property which occurs in their site or as a result of behavior of the unit's participants. Units are not permitted to cut down trees (living or dead), construct, paint, or modify structures, or otherwise deface camp property. A unit interested in completing a service project or campsite improvement must gain the permission of the camp director before beginning any project. When damage or unauthorized projects occur, a unit is financially responsible for its repair or replacement.

DOGS AND OTHER PETS

Pets are not allowed on Owasippe Scout Reservation.

FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, FIREWORKS, BOWS & ARROWS

No firearms, ammunition, fireworks, bows, or arrows of any kind may be kept in the possession of any camper or unit. Owasippe Scout Reservation does not permit personal firearms or archery equipment to be utilized on camp property.

FIRES AND FUELS

Campsite campfires must follow Scouting America Fireguard policies and be in an approved fire ring. Creation of new fire rings is not permitted. Liquid or propane devices should only be used under adult supervision. Absolutely NO FLAMES are permitted in tents.

FLOAT PLANS

Units interested in checking out canoes, kayaks, or rowboats to be used outside of the designated boating areas and/or outside of program hours must submit a float plan and follow the Scouting America's Safety Afloat guidelines. These activities must be approved by the aquatics director. Float plan forms are available on our website.

HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY

Pathway to Adventure Council and the BSA do not tolerate harassment of any kind towards our youth members, adult volunteers, employees, members of the public, or suppliers. Any form of harassment that violates federal, state, or local law is a violation of this policy. This includes, but is not limited to, harassment related to race, religion, creed, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, marital status, pregnancy, age, medical condition, physical or emotional disability, or status with regard to public assistance.

Definition

The term "harassment and bullying" includes slurs and any other offensive remarks, jokes, and other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion to an individual because of any of these characteristics, and that has a purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or of unreasonable interfering with an individual's Scouting participation. One type of harassment that is prohibited by this policy is sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, or other offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

If you believe that you have been harassed, or you become aware of an incident of harassment of someone else which affects Scouting in any way, you are responsible for reporting the incident immediately to the Camp Director, Reservation Director, or Scout Executive. An accusation of harassment will be investigated quickly and firmly, and in connection with legal counsel or other investigator, if appropriate. A substantiated violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. Reporting harassment will not result in any form of retaliation.

CERTIFIED SERVICE DOGS

With prior written approval, Certified Service Dogs are allowed. A Service Animal Agreement is required to be signed prior to arrival.

GOLF CARTS

With prior written approval, Personal Golf Carts are allowed for those with limited mobility. For our full Golf Cart Policy and approval process, email ptac.camping@scouting.org.

MICHIGAN SUPERVISION REGULATIONS

For campers 13 years of age or older, there shall be 1 adult staff member for every 14 campers or a fraction thereof beyond the first 14. Campers 10 or older should be at a ratio of 1:10.

Please ensure your unit plans to bring the appropriate number of adult leaders to meet the size of your unit. If you have questions, please check with camp administration. Adult leaders from units constitute adult staff.

RULES AND POLICIES

VEHICLES IN CAMP

- After dinner on Sunday, units are permitted only trailers and 1 vehicle in their camp site. **This will be strictly enforced.**
- Units wishing to provide transportation for scouts traveling around the reservation are required to meet in designated parking lots.
- Vehicle passes: All vehicles in camp must display an Owasippe vehicle pass. These passes are available at check-in and from the camp offices.
- Parking: All vehicles must be parked in designated parking lots. Vehicles may not remain in campsites after unloading is complete. **ACCESS TO CAMPSITES MAY BE RESTRICTED BY GATES DURING THE WEEK.**
- Speed Limit: The speed limit on all camp roads is 10 MPH.
- Vehicle usage must adhere to Scouting America guidelines. Some relevant components of these Vehicle policies are:
  - Seatbelts must be worn at all times
  - Drivers must be over 18 and possess a valid driver's license
  - Riding in truck beds or out of a seated and belted position is expressly prohibited

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH POLICIES

Documentation of current Safeguarding Youth Training is required of all participants age 18 and above. It is expected that unit leaders be familiar with, follow, and enforce Scouting America policies regarding Safeguarding Youth. Any violation of Safeguarding Youth Policies must be reported.

Some relevant components of Scouting America's Safeguarding Youth are:

- The Buddy System: Scouts should travel about camp with a buddy
- Two-Deep Leadership: A minimum of two adults (21 or over) are required to attend camp for each troop
- Privacy and separate facilities: Adults and youth never share a tent.
- Toilet and shower facilities usage are to be scheduled to allow youth and adults separate times and privacy. This must also accommodate for gender.
- No one-on-one contact: interactions between youth and adults must take place within plain sight of others. At no time may an adult be alone (one-on-one) with a Scout, other than their own child
- The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.
- All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- Scouting America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program.
- Hazing and initiations are prohibited and have no part during any Scouting activity.
- All forms of bullying and harassment including verbal, physical, and cyber bullying are prohibited.
- Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.
- Sexual activity is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required for all activities.

Allegations and investigations follow the procedures of the Scouting America Safeguarding Youth policies, including immediate removal of alleged perpetrators.

CURFEW AND QUIET HOURS

Scouts must be in their campsites by 10:00 PM. Exceptions to this rule are limited to approved camp programs and emergency or medical situations. A Scout is Courteous. Campsite quiet hours are from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM. Unit leaders are expected to enforce this rule with their Scouts and adults.

ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE

Units camping at Owasippe are required to have accident and sickness insurance. Pathway to Adventure Council units are provided this coverage by the council. Units from other councils must bring proof of accident and sickness insurance (which their councils may provide for them) to camp. This could be a copy of the policy or a letter from their council stating the council carries this insurance for units.

CONFIRMING YOUR RESERVATION

PTAC uses on online management system for reservations, merit badge tracking, and activity sign ups. This system is called BlackPug. If you have any questions about your reservation you can log into your unit's BlackPug account and review information listed.

Go to the website below to start:

Scouts BSA Camp Reservations: https://scoutingevent.com/456-OSR2024
Reneker Reservations: https://scoutingevent.com/456-73002

You can find your troop and week listed on the front page of those sites. If you'd like more information, you will need the email address that was used to make the original reservation.

Click on the "Lookup Registration" link on the top right corner of the screen. If you have any questions about your reservation, please email PTAC.Camping@Scouting.org.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

FINALIZE ONLINE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Owasippe closes online adjustments on the Sunday before your week at camp. Please make sure all of your information is accurate before this time. We continually check our numbers to prepare for each week of camp appropriately.

*There is always more room for scouts. Please do not turn any scout away from camp, no matter how late the registration.

SCOUT SCHEDULES

MISSING / INCORRECT MERIT BADGE INFORMATION?

While we strive to enter the most accurate information we can into our system, sometimes errors do occur. We suggest unit leaders review the records they are given before they leave camp on Saturday, but we also understand that things can be hectic during the breaking of camp. If you find an error in your records, please contact us right away so that we can correct it.

Please send an email to PTAC.Camping@Scouting.org and include your sub-camp, week, troop number, scout's name, and badge.

The earlier we are notified of any errors, the easier it will be to speak with the counselor and make any needed corrections. It is unreasonable to expect an easy solution if you do not contact us until several weeks after your stay.

HIGH ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Please try sign your Scouts up for things like Lake Tubing, Trail Rides, and Fishing Outposts before leaving for camp. That not only guarantees your spots but also helps us to prepare.

*Once registration is closed (the Sunday before your week) the fees associated with these opportunities will be non-refundable. Please do not book spots for events that you do not plan to use. This takes away opportunities from other units and Scouts.

SHARE TRAVEL PLANS WITH FAMILIES

A smooth departure from home is the key to starting off a great week at camp. Make sure you communicate with your unit what your plans are. Whether it's meeting together in one spot or everyone making their own way, it's important to keep everyone on the same page. Caravan travel can be dangerous and is discouraged. While we do ask that the unit try to arrive reasonably close together, we suggest each driver travels on their own.

Some units communicate with parents via social media or unit websites their safe arrival and throughout the week. This greatly helps parents who are "child-sick" from worrying about their child.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

MEDICAL FORMS

All participants (youth and adult) at Scout Summer Camps must submit a complete Scouting America Medical Form upon arrival at camp. Medical Form parts A, B, and C must be complete and current (no older than 12 months prior to your stay at camp). A photocopy of both sides of participant's health insurance card is also required.

Scouting America Medical Form Parts A and B: Are to be completed and signed annually by parent or guardian (or participant if over 18 years old). This includes health history, informed consent, talent release, and hold harmless/release agreement.

Scouting America Medical Form Part C: Is a required physical exam for any participant (youth or adult) for events lasting longer than 72 hours. Part C must be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider. Part C must be current, no older than 12 months prior to your stay at camp.

Medical Records Retention

The State of Michigan requires that the camp retain a copy of Scouting America's Medical Form for each camper for up to three years after attending camp. Campers are required to submit a copy of the medical form during check-in. This medical form will not be returned to the unit.

Medication at Camp

The administration of medication is the responsibility of the individual prescribed the medication, or that individual's parent or guardian. A unit leader can agree to accept responsibility to administer medication to a Scout, but the BSA does not mandate or require a unit leader to do so.

Medication Storage

Each unit is required to provide secure storage for all medication. **Camp staff will not store or administer medication to Scout campers or adults. Medical refrigeration is available if needed.**

Medication must be in its original container.

Medical Screening Policy

The State of Michigan requires that every camper (youth and adult) undergo a medical screening as part of the check-in process. Campers who arrive late must report to the camp office to complete a medical screening upon arrival.

Medication Administration Record

The State of Michigan requires that a record of medication administration is utilized by each unit, including prescription and over-the-counter medication. The log form will be provided for each unit, but unit leadership is expected to utilize and maintain this log. Michigan also requires that the camp medical staff have access to this medication log information throughout a unit's stay at camp. This log must be turned in, properly completed, at the end of your week per Michigan law.

DAY ONE AT CAMP

Check-In begins at noon (Eastern time). **Please do not arrive before noon.** Units should also plan to arrive no later than 4 PM. Owasippe is in the Eastern Time Zone (one hour ahead of Chicago). Please take this into account when planning your departure.

When you arrive at camp, proceed directly to your sub-camp (Blackhawk, Wolverine, Reneker). If you are uncertain of your camp's entrance, stop by the Administration Center and our staff will assist you.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON SUNDAY

- Units DO NOT need to check in at the Administration Center! Check in will occur in each sub-camp.
- Units will be greeted by camp staff, who will direct them to their campsite. Each subcamp has a process a staff member will guide troops through that includes...
  - campsite setup, medical checks, swim checks, paperwork submission, badge and schedule conformation, OA orientation, dining orientation, and any other important information that is important for your stay with us at OSR

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES FOR UNIT LEADERS

Unit leaders will check in with camp leadership to:

- Confirm accurate attendance of all participants
- Submit required paperwork and forms (listed below)
- Confirm meal counts
- Review unit's previously submitted dietary need forms
- Review unit's high adventure and activity registration

NECESSARY PAPERWORK FOR CHECK-IN

- Completed Scouting America Medical form and photocopy of health insurance card for each adult and youth participant
- Completed Michigan Youth protection and positive reference form for each adult.
- Proof of completion of Youth Protection training by all adults in camp
- Central Registry Clearance forms (must be submitted each year)
- Proof of current Scouting America membership for all adults.

SATURDAY EARLY ARRIVAL

Units who wish to arrive on Saturday to begin their stay at camp (instead of Sunday) will be assessed a $100 Early Arrival Fee. Early arrival is only permitted with the consent of the Reservation Director. Abuse of this permission may cause a unit to not be granted an early arrival in the future. Units who have permission for Saturday arrival should arrive no earlier than 1 PM on Saturday. Scouts must remain in their campsites unless accompanied by an adult. There is no food service provided for early arrivals, and staff assistance is limited to emergencies during this time.

If you arrive early, you will still participate in the standard check-in process. Staff will coordinate with you on Sunday afternoon regarding time for your official check in. Early arrival troops using OSR provided tents, cots, and floorboards can request set up assistance from their camp commissioner prior to their arrival.

YOUR WEEK AT CAMP

Every day is different at camp! A complete schedule of daily activities will be distributed upon your arrival at camp.

TRAVEL AROUND OSR

Owasippe is a very large Scout camp – nearly 5000 acres. Many activities and even some badges are not walking distance for Scouts. Scouts can travel to these locations using our Adventure Bus (see information in our Program Guide) or by unit leader vehicle.

It is important that leaders and Scouts take travel time into account when planning their schedule. For instance, Horsemanship Merit Badge ends at 10:30 at the Diamond O Ranch, so a Scout would not be able to take a 10:30 badge in a sub-camp and should instead plan on their next badge starting at 11.

Find the full transportation map, as well as hiking, biking, and sub-camp specific maps on the camping resources page.

PIZZA NIGHT

An Owasippe tradition is Pizza Night! Units often use pizza night as a special treat for their Scouts. Pizza night does not replace dinner; it is in addition to the meal. Each sub-camp has a process for units to order and pay for pizza (which comes from a local pizzeria). Pizzas arrive around 9pm. In Blackhawk, Pizza Night is on Thursday. In Wolverine, Pizza Night is on Friday after the Closing Campfire. This is an optional activity.

SITE NIGHT

Instead of the traditional dining options for Scouts BSA campers, the ingredients for Thursday dinner will provided for troops to cook independently in their campsite.

GARBAGE SERVICE

Blackhawk: All garbage must be brought to the camp office. There is a dumpster near the dining hall loading dock. To avoid critters in the campsite, garbage should be taken to the garbage receptacle daily.

Wolverine: All garbage must be brought to your hot pack delivery stand each day after lunch. To avoid critters in the campsite, garbage should be taken to the garbage receptacle daily.

INTERNET SERVICE

Public Wi-Fi is available at each sub-camp office, as well as at the Main Trading Post. We offer this service for adults only and ask that they do not share the password with their Scouts. Please understand that internet service is not guaranteed to be reliable and can experience outages. In addition, there is no public Wi-Fi on check in days (Sundays).

FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

On Friday of your stay at camp, the unit leader will need to complete a financial settlement with the Reservation Administration staff. Units will be given the opportunity to schedule a time for this. Financial settlement includes outstanding camper fees, payments for additional scouts/leaders, fees for additional activities, and other charges incurred during the week. Units will also have an opportunity to reserve their campsite for the following summer.

EVALUATIONS

Feedback from our units is vital to the continued improvement of our camps and program. We value all feedback and ask each unit leader to fill out an evaluation of their week. We also ask for evaluations reflecting an appropriate “sampling” of your scouts; for smaller units that might mean the SPL gathers all of the Scouts and they fill out one evaluation together, while larger units may have each Patrol Leader fill out a form.

SATURDAY CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

We request that all units depart camp by 10:00 AM. Each sub-camp will review check out procedures with adults at the daily adult leader’s meeting.

Upon departure, you must:

- Turn in your properly completed troop medication logs at this time.
- Turn in week evaluations

TWO-WEEK "STAY OVER" UNITS

Units attending Owasippe for two consecutive weeks are permitted to remain in camp. Program areas are closed on the weekend, and units are responsible for supervising Scouts at all times. Scouts are not permitted to leave their sites without adult supervision during the weekends.

SOLIDIFY PLANS FOR NEXT SUMMER

Each unit camping at Owasippe is given priority reservations to secure their campsite for the following year. On your last day of camp, you will be asked if you would like to reserve your site for 2027. Beginning in September of each year, campsites become first come, first served for reservations.

A $100 non-refundable deposit is due upon registration to secure your campsite. Your reservation from the previous year will not carry over, as it is used toward your balance due.

MISCELLANEOUS *INFORMATION*

Lost & Found

During the summer, please contact Owasippe directly if you have any missing items. During the school year, contact the PTAC Camping Desk at PTAC.Camping@Scouting.org. Include your sub-camp, week, troop number, scout's name and as many details as possible about the item (size, color, brand, make, model, etc.)

At the end of each session, we cannot guarantee that items will be located or shipped. Units must check in the camp office prior to leaving the property for lost items!

*After the end of the summer season, all remaining lost and found is donated to a local charity.

Accessibility at Camp

Please reach out prior to your stay at OSR if your unit requires any accessibility assistance. Specific accommodations can be made, for example Camp Wolverine has a campsite with paved paths and accessible bathrooms, but please note that Michigan's hilly and sandy terrain can be difficult to traverse in some parts of camp, and vehicle use is not permitted in all parts of camp. We are more than happy to work with your unit to ensure everyone can experience all we have to offer prior to your arrival.

Support Owasippe Scout Reservation

OSR is proudly supported by various groups, including the Takhone Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, and the Owasippe Staff Association. These groups support camp with donations and volunteer labor force. All skill levels are needed at annual fall and spring work weekends at camp, and the hundreds of individuals, families, and troops in attendance make a large impact on the property. Look for registration and event information on the council website calendar, council newsletter, and OSR social media.

Off-Season Camping at Owasippe

Owasippe is open to campers almost the entire year! While many troops choose to camp for a weekend and plan their own activities, you can also utilize Owasippe's supplies for a bigger adventure. For a small fee, Troops can rent canoes, kayaks, and rowboats from camp to use during their stay (with prior notification). In the winter, plan a trip to stay in one of our heated cabins!

OWASIPPE SCOUT RESERVATION

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PTAC - BSA

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