

SCOUTS BSA PROGRAM GUIDE

OWASIPPE 2026



SCOUTS
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DEAR SCOUTER,

Welcome to Owasippe Scout Reservation! As we mentioned in our 2026 Leader Guide introduction letter, we look forward to providing an exciting and engaging summer camp program for your Scouts this summer. This guide is intended to give you specifics related to the program this summer and we hope you will find it useful and informative.

Our entire reservation staff is deeply committed to the values of the Scouting movement and are excited to be your summer camp for summer 2026. Each year we spend countless hours refining and improving our program so that your scouts experience a high quality and safe program. We are honored that you chose us to be your summer camp and look forward to serving you this summer.

Please review this guide carefully and we look forward to seeing many of you at our pre-camp leader meetings and this summer when you set foot on the property.

Please know, you can always contact us with questions. We also look forward to seeing many of you virtually at our Leader's Meeting scheduled this spring.

Yours in Scouting,



Dalton DeVries
Reservation Director



Ken McCann
Asst. Reservation Director



Kyle Peters
Blackhawk Camp Director



Joe Vitti
Wolverine Camp Director



Alex Steinhaus
High Adventure Director



Sophia Finley
Reneker Camp Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS



| | |
|-------|--|
| 04 | <u>WHAT'S NEW IN 2026?</u> |
| 05 | <u>OWASIPPE MAXED</u> |
| 06 | <u>SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM</u> |
| 07-08 | <u>BUILDING THE PERFECT SCHEDULE</u> |
| 09-12 | <u>SUB-CAMP PROGRAM AREAS</u> |
| 13-14 | <u>FIRST YEAR CAMPER PROGRAM</u> |
| 15-21 | <u>HIGH ADVENTURE</u> |
| 22-23 | <u>TROOP PROGRAMS</u> |
| 24 | <u>MERIT BADGES</u> |
| 25 | <u>RESERVATION WIDE PROGRAMS</u> |
| 26-27 | <u>SUB-CAMP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS</u> |
| 28 | <u>ADULT LEADER PROGRAMS</u> |
| 29 | <u>ORDER OF THE ARROW @ CAMP</u> |
| 30 | <u>TRADING POST</u> |
| 31 | <u>CONTACTS</u> |
| 32 | <u>APPENDIX (MERIT BADGE & OUTPOST SCHEDULES, PREREQUISITES, MAPS)</u> |

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026?

OVERVIEW

- Look forward to new and revised merit badge schedules. Each year we revise our schedule to include more and better offerings.
- A new program building at Flintlock Village, featuring a traditional printing press, and post office operations
- FriYAY Funday at Blackhawk with more activities for campers looking for something new.
- Expanded walk-in merit badges at Blackhawk & Wolverine to offer more flexibility for scouts.
- Expanded adult leader training opportunities
- Owasippe MAXED - A full week of brand new programming taking place June 28th - July 4th (Session 3)



IMPORTANT DATES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Leader Meetings | Saturday March 7th @10AM | Monday March 9th @7PM |
| New to OSR Leader Meeting | Tuesday March 10th @7PM | |
| Reneker Interest Meeting | Sunday March 22nd @1pm Learn about our cabin camping opportunity for scouting families! | |
| Merit Badge Selection Opens | Saturday, April 18th @ 9AM | |
| Early Bird Pricing Ends | May 15th, 2026 | |

OWASIPPE MAXED

MAXED is special programming at Owasippe taking place from June 28 to July 4th, 2026. Participate in high adventure, activities, badges, and awards not available during the rest of the summer camp season.

3 DAY MAXED CAMPS

SUNDAY JUNE 28TH - THURSDAY JULY 2ND, 2026

As a part of **MAXED Three Day Camp Programs** individuals or troops participate in multi-day overnight High Adventure activities.

- **Multisport Merit Badge (NEW BADGE!)**
 - The Owasippe Triathlon
- Ecology Camp
- BSA Angler Camp
- BSA Trek Camp
- Diamond 'O' Ranch Equestrian Camp
- River Canoe Camp



SCAN ME

**MAXED
PROGRAM
GUIDE!**

- **MAXED WEEK pricing is \$20 cheaper than 2026 summer camp pricing per participant!**

- **3 Day only pricing available! Return home in time for 4th of July weekend.**

- **No late fees! Same price after May 15th, 2026**

SUMMER CAMP MAXED PROGRAMS

SUNDAY JUNE 28TH - SATURDAY JULY 4TH, 2026

As a part of the traditional **Scouts BSA Summer Camp Schedule** during Wolverine Session 3, participate in exclusive merit badges, activities and awards.

- **Golf Merit Badge** (with NEW Disc-golf requirements)
- **Wilderness First Aid Training**
- **World Conservation Award**
- **Advanced River Trips**
- **ATV Overnighter**

- Additional programs like the OSR Fishing Derby, Run Club, Night Zip Lining, Blacklight Range & Target Activities, and more will be available for sign up at camp!

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Summer camp program is intended to supplement the year-round program of local Scouting. As such, summer camp is a place where the Scouting program comes to life. As you review this guide, it is our hope that you and your Scouts will make the most of your time at Owasippe Scout Reservation.



OWASIPPE'S PROGRAM

Owasippe's merit badge instructors are selected for their passion and skills in the subjects of their program areas. Many of whom are leaders in the BSA away from the summer program as well - SPL's, troop leaders, OA lodge leadership, and eagle scouts. Each area is led up by an area director who is proficient in their skills and leadership ability after attending National Camp School. These teams start preparing in January to build the best program we can possibly offer to our campers.

Each area offers a selection of badges throughout the day as well as some variety of open programs in the afternoon and special programs in the evenings. Scouts can go to these areas to shoot/swim/climb to their heart's content! Make sure you leave some open time in your schedule to enjoy all that we have to offer and be sure to check your daily schedule when you arrive at camp so that you don't miss out!

BUILDING THE PERFECT SCHEDULE

Owasippe's program schedule is built to engage campers for 5 summers of returning camp, not just 1! We pride ourselves in the fact that returning campers will never run out of new experiences. We encourage you to pace yourself at camp - you won't be able to do and see everything, and that's okay! We will help you build the perfect schedule year after year.

AS A FIRST YEAR CAMPER

First year campers are our favorite. Welcome to OSR! There is so much to explore in your first summer at camp. We encourage all first year campers to start their day with Pathfinder Program, we have dedicated time set aside for First Year campers who then wish to take Swimming Merit Badge next. Scouts can then select merit badge classes to round out their afternoon. It's never a bad idea to give yourself a break with a buddy. There is lots to explore in your free time at walk in badges, open programs like swimming, paddle craft, fishing , or planning a hike on our scenic trails. Flintlock is a must see at Wolverine, and Lake Tubing at Blackhawk is unforgettable for Swimmers. Don't overbook your schedule, we promise you'll never run out of things to do in the moment.

AS AN EXPERIENCED CAMPER

Returning campers have the opportunity to build a more advanced schedule. Campers can take the Adventure Bus across property to High Adventure Programs and areas in other sub-camps, like Flintlock at Wolverine, Motorboating at Blackhawk, etc. If you are traveling beyond your section camp you must consider travel time. If you are in Blackhawk until 10:30, do not schedule your next activity at 10:30 in Wolverine. Look for a badge that starts at 11, or try to arrange your schedule to stay in specific parts of the reservation for an entire afternoon or morning to maximize your time. Do you want to do everything and are unsure what to choose? Consider taking the Ultimate Owasippe Adventure! More details in this guide.





AS AN ENTIRE UNIT

Merit Badges, Open Activities, and Evening Programs are all important aspects of camp, but many of the memories made this summer will be with your unit around the campfire in the evening. Different troops have their own traditions, and it can be difficult to schedule troop time throughout the busy week. The best time for troops to make their own plans is Thursday after 5pm. This evening troops cook dinner in their own campsite and evening programs are more laid back if a troop would like to plan a hike, schedule a float plan to use paddle craft as a group, or engage in their own activities. For a full list of troop based programs at camp view the section on Troop Programs at OSR on page 18.

AS AN ADULT LEADER

Unit leaders can enjoy camp just as much as the scouts, but there are also some responsibilities to consider that may be unique at OSR.

The distance between the campsite, dining, and various activities can be a challenge for scouts if not scheduled accordingly. Scouts can take the adventure bus to MOST High Adventure programs, but some may require a unit leader to drive them (with three deep leadership). If this is difficult for your unit the daily leaders meeting is a perfect opportunity to plan a carpool with other leaders who may be making the same trip.

At 9:30 each morning, after leaders have a chance to make sure their scouts are set in their 9 am activities, each camp hosts a brief leaders meeting to go over details for the day. Each unit should send one leader to these meetings when crucial information is shared.

In addition to these routine items, there are plenty of daily activities for unit leaders to participate in. Find out more on Page 23.

Each of Owasippe's sub-camps have a variety of different program areas where scouts can complete merit badges, hone their scout skills, and have fun. Blackhawk and Wolverine share common areas as well as both specialize in specific areas that scouts from across reservations can visit!

SUB-CAMP PROGRAM AREAS

CAMP BLACKHAWK



- Aquatics
 - Lake Swimming & inflatables
 - Boating & Paddlecraft
 - Fosset Sail Base & Motorboating
- Scoutcraft
- Ranges and Targets
(Formerly Shooting Sports)
- Nature
- Handicraft & STEM
- Pathfinder (First-Year Campers)

CAMP WOLVERINE



- Aquatics
 - Pool Swimming
 - Paddlecraft & Sailing
- Scoutcraft
- Ranges and Targets
(Formerly Shooting Sports)
- Ecology and Conservation
- The STEM South Lodge
- Flintlock Village
- Pathfinder (First-Year Campers)

AQUATICS

Owasippe offers aquatic opportunities for every skill set! Whether you're a beginner or an olympic athlete, you're sure to find something to challenge you at either camp. Scouts are able to earn **swimming/lifesaving** merit badge, along with **kayaking, canoeing, or rowing** merit badges at either camp. Outside of merit badges, both camps offer **instructional swim classes**, along with **open swimming and boating periods**. Each sub-camp offers individual changing areas, space to store belongings, and a spot to rinse off.

Camp Blackhawk boasts an incredible beachfront on **370-acre Big Blue Lake** where Scouts can swim, paddle, or cruise in a variety of boats! **The Fosset Sail Base & Motor Boating Dock** hosts a fleet including sunfish, a catamaran, a pontoon and multiple speed boats. In addition to the merit badges listed above, Scouts can earn **motorboating, small boat sailing, and water sports merit badges** at Camp Blackhawk. Swimmers can enjoy climbing inflatables during open swim. Scouts can earn the Mile Swim Award and attempt a challenging 2.5-mile swim in Big Blue Lake!

Camp Wolverine has options for any swimmer / boater! Between the 40 yard **pool** and **Lake Wolverine**, Scouts are sure to find something to keep them cool all week long. Wolverine campers can earn the Snorkeling BSA award or tour Lake Wolverine in all kinds of paddlecraft.

Special notes for Scouts to consider when planning their schedules / arriving to camp:

- "Non-swimmers" can ride in a rowboat or canoe with two 18+ year old "swimmers"
- "Beginners" can ride in a rowboat or canoe with two "swimmers"
- Scouts must have "swimmer" certification to climb the Iceberg at Camp Blackhawk

NATURE / ECO-CON

Part of our duties as Scouts is to be good stewards of the environment. Owasippe boasts **nearly 5,000 acres of beautifully wooded land** and it's our job to preserve it. Nature merit badges teach Scouts many different aspects of caring for our planet and everything on it. Each year this area has a docket of badges that rotate - so don't miss out on an opportunity to learn something unique!

One of the largest draws to this program area is the offering of the **Eagle-required Environmental Science merit badge**. Other highlights include an Adventure Bus field trip to the Diamond 'O' Horse Ranch for the **Animal Science Merit Badge** and a **late night star hike** to one of OSR's open valleys for Astronomy merit badge.

Walk-in **Fishing merit badge** provides Scouts as much or as little time as needed to catch a fish. Each **sub-camp has equipment available** as well as a **dedicated fishing dock** to use right in the lakeside program area.

SCOUTCRAFT



The Scoutcraft area is the cornerstone of outdoor & scout skills at summer camp. Anyone hoping to become an Eagle Scout can surely tell you about the amount of time spent perfecting their knots and building pioneering projects. While all Owasippe staffers are proficient in outdoor & Scout skills, the Scoutcraft staff members are the Scout skills experts.

Highlights include an Adventure Bus field trip to Blue Lake Fire Department for **Fire Safety Merit Badge**, discovering the beauty of OSR's 4,800 acres in **Exploration Merit Badge**, building & sleeping in a shelter for **Wilderness Survival Merit Badge**, and several Orienteering / geocache surprises throughout the reservation. Scouts can also earn the **Paul Bunyan Award** at either sub-camp.



A good Ranges and Targets (formally Shooting Sports) area is important for all Scout camps. At Owasippe, we are proud of our R&T program and hope that every scout and leader take the time to visit!

At either sub-camp, Scouts can earn the triple crown of target-related merit badges. These badges include **Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting**. Those looking to take their experience to a new level can show off their marksmanship by competing in one of our Archery, Rifle, and Shotgun challenges for both Scouts and adults.

NOTE: *Some Scouts may need more time to shoot than is allotted during the Merit Badge time. These Scouts will be given preference during open shoot times.*

Shooting at summer camp is not only for merit badges! Both sub-camps offer an **open shoot period each day**. Scouts and adults wishing to attend open shoot at the Rifle or Shotgun ranges will be required to buy ammo tickets at the Trading Post before going to the range.

NOTE: *Scouts qualifying for the Rifle or Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge do not need tickets.*

RANGES & TARGETS



HANDICRAFT / STEAM

At Handicraft, scouts have the opportunity to get creative using STEAM - whether it is honing in their craftsmanship or developing new ideas and conducting experiments. Scouts learn the science behind the art of cameras, game design, construction, and leave with a hand-made project they can be proud of! Scouts are encouraged to embrace their talents as we bring art and science to life in the outdoors.

Many of these badges are skill based and will take Scouts differing amounts of time to complete. To give each scout one-on-one assistance, specific badges are self-paced and offered on a "walk-in" basis. Scouts are required to work with their instructors to ensure all of the non-project-based requirements are completed during their time in the area. To ensure a Scout can fully complete the badge we recommend that they start no later than the Wednesday of your week of camp.

For all Handicraft / STEM merit badges, please review the prerequisite list in this guide to ensure Scouts are prepared for their week.



FLINTLOCK VILLAGE

The Flintlock area is a must-visit area for any camper with downtime. Be transported back to the 1870s and participate in the way of life of the pioneers! Take part in pioneering activities and learn long forgotten skills. This area will feature a working forge, candle making, real life settlers, and **new this year - a printing press and printing press building!**

Leatherwork, Basketry, Pulp and paper, Chess, Textiles, & Woodcarving are all "Walk-in" badges, meaning Scouts can come and go as needed to complete the badge. These program hours can be double booked with another badge as much of the work can be done outside of the classroom setting in a Scout's free time.

PATHFINDER AREA

Whether you are a first-year or a seasoned scout, Pathfinder is the area catered to growing your leadership and scout skills. A Scout's first summer at camp is an important one. The Owasippe Pathfinder program is designed to make your Scout's first year an amazing experience. Trends show that Scouts who complete their first week at summer camp are considerably more likely to continue with the Scouting program than those who do not.



In the morning, Pathfinder is home to Owasippe's first-year camper program. Every afternoon, first year campers can partake in activities and badges around camp while the Pathfinder area offers a variety of merit badges devoted to skills in citizenship for all scouts to partake in.

First Year Camper Program **9AM-12PM @ BLACKHAWK** **9AM-11AM @ WOLVERINE**
- *Details on the next page*

NOTE: Owasippe will provide a list of all requirements completed with each unit's check-out materials. At that point, it is up to the Scoutmaster to certify each Scout's satisfactory completion of the material. Owasippe staff **WILL NOT** physically sign off on any requirement in a Scout's handbook. While we pride ourselves on the quality and rigor of the Pathfinder program, rank advancement is subject to the satisfaction of the unit leader. Unit leaders are invited and encouraged to visit the Pathfinder troop while in session to observe!

Badges in the Pathfinder Area **2PM-5PM @ BLACKHAWK** **11AM-5PM @ WOLVERINE**
Pathfinder merit badges are open to all scouts. In particular, the eagle-required badges offered at Pathfinder are recommended for older scouts. Those scouts participating in the first-year camper program are welcome to take any merit badge on the reservation in the afternoon.

Additionally, Scouts can walk into the Pathfinder area in the afternoon to work on earning Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chit, or receive further assistance with rank requirements.

PATHFINDER FIRST YEAR CAMPER PROGRAM

First Year Camper Program

Pathfinder program provides scouts with a fun, exciting week that instills in them the Ideals of Scouting, prepares them to be an active member of their troop and patrol, and gives them the opportunity to advance in rank, all while introducing first year campers to the variety of program and beautiful land Owasippe has to share.

9AM-12PM @ BLACKHAWK

9AM-11AM @ WOLVERINE

Scouts are placed in a model troop and divided into patrols, where they will spend the week rotating between sessions in various scout skills on daily adventures that include hikes and cooking that complete rank requirements.

Pathfinder Swimming Activities

Scouts at both Blackhawk and Wolverine have the opportunity to sign up for Swimming Merit Badge or take instructional swim lessons (with the goal of advancing Scouts into the merit badge class!). They are not automatically enrolled, so check your camps schedule to sign up for a preferred Swimming Merit Badge time.

Pathfinder Breakfast

Scouts in the Pathfinder program will be working towards their 2nd Class cooking requirements by preparing one of their breakfasts while at camp. Pathfinders will not join their troop, yet gain experience lighting camp stoves and preparing food outdoors as they cook their own meal!

Pathfinder Hike

The Pathfinders (and any other scout or leader who wants to join) will take a 5 mile adventure guided by the pathfinder staff while completing key requirements. Scouts will get to explore some of the oldest parts of OSR property while learning lots from their guides!

Scheduled Rank Requirements

Scout Rank

Requirements 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5

Tenderfoot

Scout skills and first aid requirements 2a, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 7a, and 8

Second Class

Scout skills, swimming, first aid requirements 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4, **5a***, **5b***, **5c***, **5d***, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b

First Class

Scout skills, swimming, and first aid requirements 1b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 6a, **6b***, 6c, 6d, **6e***, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7f, and 9a

* These requirements are earned in Pathfinder Swimming

Please view the note on the previous page regarding advancement sign off



HIGH ADVENTURE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Owasippe is proud to offer an extensive set of High Adventure and Outpost programs. Spread across the property are several program areas that provide unique experiences for everyone - youth or adult - whether it is their first year or 112th! Some of these programs have limited space and additional cost, so it is important to pre-register online.

OFFERINGS

- Diamond 'O' Horse Ranch (*)^(^)
- Mountain Biking Center (*)
- Cope (%) and Climbing Facilities
- E. Urner Goodman Scouting Museum
- ATV Training Course (+)
- Aquatics Adventures
- Manistee River Trips (#)
- Ultimate Owasippe Adventure

Note, see the 2026 Owasippe Activities Prerequisites & Fees document for full details about each activity before registering

- (*) Waiver form required
- (^) Participants must be at least 12 years old. Long pants and closed-toe shoes required.
- (+) ATV Participants must be at least 14 years old. Participants must wear long pants, a long sleeve shirt, and over the ankle boots. Extra fee.
- (#) All participants must pass the BSA Swimmer's test. Must wear shoes on the river.
- (%) COPE participants must be at least 13 years old. Long pants and closed-toe shoes required. Extra fee.
- (\$) Participants must be at least 14 years old and have the Horsemanship Merit Badge. Extra fee.

TRIPS AND COPE NOTES

- All tubing and canoeing trips will leave from the Ad Center Bus Stop. Please arrive early so these trips can leave on time.
- Our COPE program is structured differently. There are separate times for High COPE and Low COPE throughout the week.



DIAMOND O HORSE RANCH

HORSEMANSHIP MERIT BADGE

One of the highlights of the OSR program! Scouts learn about caring for horses and take part in different activities at the ranch. Scouts must be at least 12 years old to participate in the badge.

WRANGLER OVERNIGHT

An overnight where scouts (age 13 and up) and leaders alike will have the opportunity to spend the night at the ranch in a Teepee. After a long trail ride, participants will enjoy dinner over an open fire, play games, learn about horses, swap campfire stories and more. Leaders will be required to pick scouts up the following morning.



HORSEBACK TRAIL RIDES

Campers 12 years of age and older have an exciting opportunity to see the deserts and forests of Owasippe via horseback on an awesome trail ride. This program caters to everyone from participants who have never seen a horse before to professional riders. Trail rides are intended to be an introduction to riding, as well as an opportunity to see parts of the camp you can only see on horseback!



JUNIOR WRANGLER PROGRAM (\$)

Spend your afternoons at the ranch with the staff of the Diamond O! This new program is for scouts who are interested in horses and what working on the ranch is like. Get to know the staff, both human and horse and strengthen the skills you learned through the Horsemanship Merit Badge.

This program is for campers 14 years and older who have already earned the Horsemanship MB.

This high adventure program gives scouts the opportunity to spend the most amount of time possible with the horses at the Diamond O Ranch. Scouts will learn advanced horsemanship skills through guided trail rides and small sessions with the Ranch staff. They will be able to improve on their horsemanship and leadership skills by helping younger scouts complete the merit badge. An evening enjoying the ranch on the Wrangler Outpost is included.

MOUNTAIN BIKE SHOP (*)(+)

CYCLING MERIT BADGE

In this mountain biking option of the cycling merit badge, Scouts develop mountain biking skills and trail riding experience. Scouts will meet at the snack bar every day for this class. Note that Cycling is a physically demanding merit badge, requiring a total of 52 miles of trail riding. Scouts need to be active to fully complete the badge in one week.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL RIDES

Join us in an afternoon or evening of biking on single track! Owasippe provides what is rated as one of the top ten trail systems in Michigan, now it's your chance to give it a go. Mountain bikes are provided for all participants. Rides leave from the Ad Center. Previous biking experience recommended.



22 MILE TRAIL RIDE

*Scouts in the cycling merit badge **must** attend this event to complete the merit badge requirements, or will be leaving with a partial.*

Test your mountain bike and endurance skills on this adventure! This Thursday one-time event is a fun way to see new areas of Owasippe as you travel our top-rated trails. This event does go from 3-9 PM. The group leaves from Ad Center. Dinner will also take place with the High Adventure staff at the Ad Center.

MOUNTAIN BIKE IOI SKILLS COURSE

Want to get into mountain biking but aren't sure where to start? Do you already like mountain biking but want to improve your technical skills? Join us on Tuesday afternoon from 2-5. The session will consist of two hours of lessons and exercises, followed by a trail ride to put your new skills into practice.

*Scouts must know how to ride, this class improves technique and strengthens ability



AQUATIC ADVENTURES

LAKE TUBING

One hour of tubing fun on Big Blue Lake! Request a comfortable ride for beginners or a bumpier ride for experts. Max 5 participants per boat per hour.



FISHING OUTPOST

Go out on the lake with an experienced Staff Member to a prime fishing spot! You'll have the opportunity to cast your lines in some of the best areas of the lake to pull in that trophy catch!

From the Wolverine boat docks, you will have the opportunity to use a rowboat fitted with a trolling motor out onto the scenic Lake Wolverine with a buddy. Staff will boat alongside you to assist, but enjoy the freedom of your own boat at the most reliable fishing spots on property.

At Blackhawk, board the pontoon boat for an unforgettable ride on Big Blue Lake with 8 other campers. Test your luck at catching a fish on the largest lake on property and potentially spot a perched eagle or beautiful sunset.

While there is fishing gear in each of the camps, you are welcome to bring your own!

MANISTEE RIVER TRIPS (#)

RIVER TUBING / CANOEING

Both the canoeing trips and river tubing provide opportunities to see the natural splendor that is Owasippe and the Manistee National Forest from a completely different perspective. These trips are taken down the White River. Tubing provides some time off your feet and an opportunity to just drift along. Trips vary in length from 1 to 3 hours.



COPE AND CLIMBING

CLIMBING MERIT BADGE

This is a chance to learn the ropes! Scouts gain knowledge in climbing techniques, safety, and wall time.

OPEN CLIMBING

Come and scale the climbing wall with your friends out at our climbing tower. Test our routes and do some time trials!

Scouts can register for open climbing through BlackPug.

RAPPELLING (CAMPING MB)

Scouts taking the Camping Merit Badge can sign up to complete this requirement (one of 6 options for requirement 9b) at camp.

SCOUTS MUST REGISTER BEFOREHAND THROUGH BLACK PUG.

Offered Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Climbing tour.

ZIPLINE

We are excited to offer ziplining as a stand-alone program this summer! Have you always wanted to experience Owassipe's 250FT zip line but traversing the High Ropes course wasn't your thing? We have added a staircase for easy access to the zipline. Come fly with the COPE team this summer! Minimum age is 11.

CRATE STACKING & GIANT'S LADDER

This challenging activity involves stacking and scaling crates as high as you can. It is a unique challenge that requires a blend of concentration, balance, cooperation, communication and boldness. For an additional challenge, grab a partner and take a spin at our Giant's Ladder. This fun and exciting element not only helps build communication skills, but shows how proper teamwork can help achieve even the tallest of obstacles

COPE (%)

The Owassipe Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience offers an opportunity to challenge your troop to develop problem solving skills, build trust with one another, and learn to work together as a team while also challenging the individual scout to traverse a series of rope and cable elements suspended 30 feet over the ground. This is open to campers age 13 and over.

High COPE is offered for Scouts on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as a one time event. Leaders COPE is offered Friday afternoons as a one time event. Low COPE is offered twice on Monday afternoons as a one time event.



ATV TRAINING COURSE

ATV TRAINING CLASS (\$)

Using a controlled environment and a hands-on approach, our staff will teach care of an ATV and the importance of safe riding practices. At the end of the week, participants will have the opportunity to *enjoy a guided ride off the training course and into the woods!* Participants **MUST** present an ATV waiver and complete an online safety course prior to participation to receive their certification and be eligible for the final ride.

ATV Safety Institute “S-Course”: Participants age 14 and up can sign up for a single morning (9am-12pm) or afternoon (2-5pm) class (Monday - Thursday) where they will receive their hands-on training. The class will end with a guided trail ride into the backcountry of Owasippe. Participants will then be able to sign up for any trail ride once they complete their class.

WHAT TO BRING:

- **Paperwork:** Printed certificates and waivers will need to be presented at check-ins, or can be submitted through email to the High Adventure Director prior to the start of camp.
 - **ASI E-Course Certificate:** The course must be completed prior to camp and consists approximately 2 hours of online learning. The E-Course Training can be found at <https://atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/> (the “state course” is not required) – participants only need to complete the free course and print their completion certificate. Printed certificate will need to be presented at check-ins, or can be submitted through email to the High Adventure Director
 - **Safety Waiver:** Waivers must be signed by the participant and their guardian prior to camp
- **Gear:**
 - **Long pants, long sleeve shirt, and over the ankle boots.** Failure to wear any of these will disqualify the participant from the class.
 - Helmets (DOT certified), goggles, and gloves will be provided, but youth may bring their own. Helmets will need to be approved by the instructor before use.



ATV TRAIL RIDES (+)

Certified riders can enjoy an extended ride and see less traveled parts of the reservation, including some of the older section camps no longer in use. Participants **MUST** have proof of completion for an ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Rider Safety Course.

NOTE: Due to the overwhelming interest in ATV classes and trail rides, refunds will not be given to participants who do not have completed waiver forms or certificates of E-Course completion.

ULTIMATE OWASIPPE ADVENTURE

Experience the Reservation and many of its High Adventure programs in a completely unique manner. Hike the trails, fish the lakes, horseback riding, a special canoe trip, and much more awaits you. Fill your week with exciting new opportunities developed for older Scouts.

This program is for campers 14 years and older who are First Class Rank or above, and who have already attended a summer camp.

This high adventure program challenges Scouts in an exciting week-long adventure with something new each day. Scouts will have the opportunity to experience many of Owasippe's adventures all in one place! COPE, Mountain Bike Rides, Horseback Trail Ride, Lake Tubing, Hiking, Fishing on Lake Wolverine, knife throwing and more!!

E. URNER GOODMAN SCOUTING MUSEUM

Owasippe Scout Reservation is the oldest continuously run scout camp in America. Our own history crosses paths with the history of Scouting with it's foundation in Chicago to pivotal parts of Order of the Arrow history. Established in 1970, the E. Urner Goodman Owasippe Museum has been home to a unique archive of Scouting history dating back over 100 years!

The Museum is a popular attraction at the Owasippe County Fair, but also has regular hours all week, or you can talk to a commissioner to schedule a trip any time of day.

The Museum is happy to continue offering Scouting Heritage Merit Badge for Scouts to add to their Schedules!



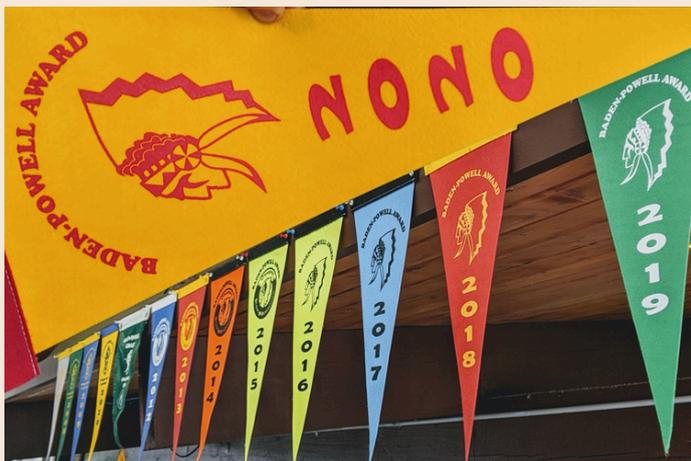
DIGITAL FOREST STEM CHALLENGE

- As you hike the trails of Owasippe, be sure to bring your compass and smartphone with you, or ask to borrow one of our tablets.
- Scan the light green QR codes on the trail distance markers. After you scan a STEM Trail Challenge code, read the question and calculate the answer (You may need a protractor app calculator to solve problems). Using your phone, submit your answer along with your camp name, site and patrol name. If your answer is the first correct answer submitted for that week, your entire patrol will win pins (10 pins max), which will be awarded at the end of the week.
- There is 1 challenge per trail (Blue, Orange and Red trails) and 1 patrol can win each challenge per week. The challenges change every Saturday morning.

TROOP PROGRAMS @ OSR

TROOP PHOTOS

Commemorate your Owasippe experience with a professional photograph of your entire troop! Troops will have the opportunity to sign up for their troop photo when they check in at camp. Photos are \$6 each and will be available before you leave camp. Don't miss out!



BADEN POWELL AWARD

Does your Troop have what it takes to earn the Baden Powell Award? Troops will be graded throughout the week on things like cleanliness of the campsite, use of the Patrol Method, and sanitation. Check with your Camp Commissioner when you arrive at camp to get the most up-to-date inspection sheet.

FLOAT PLANS

Troops interested in a group trip out on the water can coordinate with their Aquatics Director or the High Adventure Staff upon arrival at camp. Paddlecraft, sailboats and trolling motors are all available for use with an approved float plan and adequate supervision on Big Blue Lake, Lake Wolverine, or the White River.

Availability dependent on equipment usage, staff, and weather.





SERVICE PROJECTS

During the week, many Troops will make time to do a service project around camp. This may be a campsite project, assisting the OSR Ranger staff with campwide projects, or maybe even an environmental project to preserve the reservation for many future Scouts to come! Coordinate with your sub-camp's Commissioner to plan and get materials for your project!

- Baden Powel Award Projects
- Purchase a picnic table kit from the trading post to build and donate to OSR
- OA Cheerful Service Friday project

BLUE LAKE CRUISE

Step away from the daily routine for a relaxing trip on Big Blue. 4 to 10 participants can join one of our boat drivers to see camp from a different perspective. Tour the shoreline in our pontoon boat to spot the firebowl, program areas, Hiawatha Beach, and the eagles nest. Perfect experience for a small troop or as a rewarded patrol activity.

PIZZA NIGHT

An Owasippe tradition! Gather your Troop around on Thursday @ Blackhawk or Friday @ Wolverine to celebrate a successful week with pizza. Sub-camp leadership will coordinate pizza orders early in the week at leader meetings

WEEKEND CANOE TRIPS

Troops staying in camp for more than one week are offered a unique opportunity to fill some of that extra time at camp. Trailers packed with canoes, paddles, and PFDs will be waiting for you to begin your excursion down the White River. Contact the High Adventure Director during check-in on Sunday or via email to arrange a trip or get more information.



TROOP PROGRAMS @ OSR

MERIT BADGES

Most badges can be started and completed at camp, but the completion of requirements is subject to many factors, including unforeseen weather, attendance in class, effort outside of class, and the satisfactory completion of merit badge requirements.

Some badges require that the scout have certain requirements completed before they arrive at camp. If you don't see a badge listed on the prerequisite list, then it should be assumed that all requirements can be completed while at camp.

Merit Badges are a very large part of what camp is all about. But more important than earning merit badges is having fun! We encourage all scouts to take as many badges as they would like, but also to leave some free time to enjoy all that Owasippe has to offer. Many of our program areas offer open time in the afternoons; Scouts can climb, swim, shoot, or just hang out at the Trading Post and play gaga ball! Summer camp is more than just Merit Badges, make sure you get the full Owasippe experience!



In order to save time and stress for our unit leaders, signing up for all Merit Badges and High Adventure programs is done through the Pathway To Adventure online registration system. Once you've registered your troop and entered in all of your camper information, you can start signing up your scouts for their classes! You can even assign your scouts their own login information so that they can sign themselves up!

As you sign up your scouts, the programs that have additional fees will be automatically added to your unit's final total. It is up to the unit to collect any fees from individual scouts.



RESERVATION WIDE

OWASIPPE COUNTY FAIR - WEDNESDAY EVENING

Wednesday evenings, after afternoon program, OSR has a tradition of bringing together all of the campers from across reservation to join together at the Ad Center Complex for evening festivities you can not experience at any other summer camp! Some weeks up to 1,000 scouts are present for our flag ceremony and OA call out, a barbeque meal, the opportunity to visit the Scouting Museum, Main Trading Post, and partake in Owasippe County Fair.

We are always excited to show new attractions at the County Fair and we can't wait for another fun evening!

CAMPSITE MEAL - THURSDAY EVENING

As we mentioned earlier in the guide, we are here to support your Troop's year-round programming. As such, we are allotting some time in the weekly schedule to allow Troops to gather for an evening in their campsite. OSR will provide food to be cooked in the campsite so that Scouts can gain experience cooking at camp.

BLOOD DRIVE - NOW AT OWASIPPE COUNTY FAIR!

Help save lives and help make Owasippe better! Each Wednesday during the summer camp season, Scouts and Leaders who are at least 16 years old will have the opportunity to donate blood through Michigan Blood. For each person that donates, Michigan Blood will donate \$10 back to Owasippe to be used to help us continue to improve our programs and facilities! 16 & 17 year-old Scouts will need to have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian and ALL donors will need to have a photo ID. Permission slip is on the PTAC camp resources page. There will be an online signup for donations, that link will be sent to unit leaders once it becomes available. You can also sign up to donate once you arrive at camp.

***NOTABLE
PROGRAMS***

CAMP BLACKHAWK

CAMP CUP COMPETITION

Throughout the week troops will compete for the famous camp cup title awarded at closing campfire. One competition will take place a day in a different area of camp focusing on a different skill. The challenge might be for one scout, a patrol, or your whole troop. Announced in the daily newspaper, dining hall, and at SPL meetings, troops will have time to elect representatives to compete.



DAILY HAWK NEWSPAPER

Each breakfast the daily newspaper is delivered fresh off the press with updates on everything from the day's activities, advertisements, the weather, the sports section and more!

CHECK YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Be sure to pick up your Daily Schedule when you arrive at camp. It is your go to guide for the entire week at Blackhawk. Inside you will find where to be and when for all your activities and open programs. Each day also features special events you will not want to miss, from the Camp Cup to evening activities and unique one time programs happening across camp. Keep your schedule handy so you can make the most of every moment.



GO! UNIVERSITY

Unit leaders can earn this honorary degree by completing a percentage of tasks provided by the Camp Commissioner. Difficulty varies from taking a nap to volunteering in our dining hall.

EVENING PROGRAMS

Evenings at Blackhawk bring the whole camp together for fun and tradition. We kick off every Monday with our camp wide party, and throughout the week you will find scouting awards and activities across the different program areas. Check your Daily Schedule and listen to announcements so you do not miss any of the night's festivities.

FRIYAY FUNDAY

New this summer at Blackhawk, Fridays are getting an upgrade with FriYAY Funday. This day is designed for Scouts who have completed their merit badges or are ready to experience something new around camp. There will be special activities happening in each program area, along with expanded crafts, guided hikes, fishing trips, conservation projects, and extended boating and swimming times.

Fridays wraps up your week in style as the camp comes together for our Closing Campfire, followed by a Trading Post party to celebrate an unforgettable week at Blackhawk.

CAMP WOLVERINE

MAUI MONDAY

Join together as a camp with food and fun on Monday night! Highlights of this event include the Scoutmaster Bellyflop and the Dutch Oven Cook-off among many other activities for Scouts to enjoy. Get your Maui on!



EVENING PROGRAMS

Throughout the week, every program area at Wolverine will host at least one evening program. Some programs require troops to work in teams while other programs are set up for individuals, creating an immersive experience. Be sure to look in the Zaxie Times and attend leadership meetings to stay in the loop on what is being offered each day!

CAMP CUP

Compete in various challenges throughout the week to put your Troop's teamwork and leadership abilities to the test! Every year we bring new challenges to the Camp Cup, and the challenges we have this year are some of the best ones yet. Troops will score points in various competitions and one troop will have the honor of hoisting the prestigious CAMP CUP! A scoreboard on the North Lodge will be updated daily, and the winner will be announced at Firebowl on Friday evening.

LOGGERS CAMP

Once again this year, Wolverine campers will get the opportunity to attend a wilderness overnigher at Deuce's Wild filled with the experience of being a logger. Weather permitting, scouts and leaders will learn logging techniques, tell stories over the fire, and sleep overnight in a hammock! Information on signing up will take place once you get to camp!

THE ZAXIE TIMES NEWSPAPER

The Zaxie Times newspaper will be available at leaders meetings and at SPL meetings, and will contain updates on everything from the daily reminders, special events, the weather, the sports section with camp cup scores, and more! This will be provided at leaders meetings and SPL meetings.

NEW THIS YEAR: TEST LAB BADGES

We are very excited to announce that Wolverine scouts will get the opportunity to participate in up to 3 Test Lab badges this summer: Physics, Dance, and Sewing & Needlework! Each of these badges take place at different times in the afternoon, allowing you to maximize your experience in the Test Lab! For each Test Lab Badge scouts complete, they will receive special recognition. Scouts will complete the requirements and take the survey associated with the badge they are working on. Upon completion of the survey, a certificate of completion will be sent to you via Scouting America. If you complete a Test Lab badge and it becomes an official merit badge, you will be credited with having earned that badge! For more information on test lab badges within the Scouting America program, visit the official Scouting America website. Some test lab badges have pre-requisites, so make sure to check the list before coming to camp!

ADULT LEADER *PROGRAMS*

HOW CAN I HELP?

Adult Leader participation at camp is the key to a successful and memorable experience for our Scouts! Every adult has special skills or abilities that may be helpful at camp.

Some suggested ways to help:

- Volunteer at the waterfront to be an “observer”
- Stop by the Pathfinder area and offer to help teach Scout Skills
- Offer to assist the kitchen staff clean up after a meal in the Dining Hall or tent

Each camp has it’s own additional programs and needs that will be shared at our 9:30 leaders meetings!

ADULT LEADER TRAINING

In addition to IOLS there are many opportunities throughout the week for leaders in camp to receive official BSA training. The training schedule is still being prepared and offerings vary each session. Safety Afloat, Wilderness First Aid, Hazardous Weather, BALOO Training are all offered this summer in limited sessions. Be sure to check in with your Commissioner to find out what’s available!

LEADERS LUNCH

Thursday lunch adult leaders are invited to BBQ with camp management, while the camp staff supervise the scouts. It is a perfect opportunity to check in with area directors on scouts merit badge progress, provide feedback, and enjoy some self-prepared food! The camp commissioner will be looking for assistance and good company behind the grill and additional sides are always welcome.

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS (IOLS)

IOLS is a required training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters, but is valuable for giving any adult leader the confidence and skills to take youth into the outdoors. Leaders will learn how to build a fire, use an axe, cook outdoors, use a map and compass, responsibly care for the outdoors, and much more. Even if you weren’t a Scout as a kid, you’ll come out of this course looking and acting like a seasoned camper, able to teach these skills to your own unit.

PARTICIPANTS

Unit Leaders can Sign up for IOLS alongside Merit Badge Registration via Black Pug. This course takes place from Tuesday - Thursday 10:30am-12 and 2-4pm.
- All sessions must be attended.

TRAINERS

For trainers who have experience with this course at OSR, there are a few changes this summer.

- **To register to be an IOLS Trainer please email ptac.camping@scouting.org and the PTAC training committee will approve and coordinate trainers. We are always seeking additional trainers!**
- Training location and times are standard each week to assist units and leaders with planning troop logistics prior to camp.
- All resources needed to provide IOLS Training will be provided by PTAC and will be ready on site for the course.
- Training lesson plans and schedule will be provided prior to camp and should remain consistent for all courses provided throughout the summer sessions.

LEADERS HIGH ADVENTURE

Our High Adventure programs aren’t just for youth! Adults can sign up for most of our single-event High Adventure programs, and even have the opportunity for “Adults-only” High Ropes or Zipline. See the program schedules for times. Youth are given preference to all events; adults will only be able to sign up for open spots once they arrive at camp.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

@ CAMP

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national honor society, composed of those individuals dedicated to the highest ideals of the Scouting movement. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend scouting to America's youth.

OSR is proud to partner with **Takhone Lodge** to bring those ideals to our summer camp. OSR, in conjunction with Takhone Lodge, offers a Callout Ceremony to recognize your Scouts that were elected to become members along with many other OA programs over the week at camp.

OA SOCIAL

All OA members (regardless of lodge) are invited to join Takhone Lodge for an OA social. Members can learn how they can get more involved with the OA at every level, including troop, lodge, and at camp and have lots of fun with other like-minded Arrowmen.

CHEERFUL SERVICE

Each week, the OA offers service opportunities that any scout can participate in. Troop leaders will receive a report of these service hours that can be valid towards rank advancement.



CALLOUT CEREMONY

The Callout Ceremony, on Wednesday evening, at the closing of the Owasippe Fair, is the highlight of the day. All Scouts and leaders are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony as candidates for induction into the Order are called out before their peers. This ceremony is the public highlight of the Order at camp, and we encourage all to attend.

****UNITS FROM OTHER OA LODGES WILL NEED TO BRING A LETTER FROM THEIR LOCAL LODGE TO CAMP TO HAVE THEIR SCOUTS CALLED OUT****

BROTHERHOOD CONVERSION

Takhone Lodge hosts a Brotherhood conversion opportunity each week at camp. If any scouts have been an Ordeal member of Takhone Lodge for 6 months or more and paid their dues, OSR is a great place for them to complete their Brotherhood. Check www.OA7.org for more information.



TRADING POST

WHAT DOES THE TRADING POST CARRY?

The trading post carries all kinds of goodies to improve their summer camp experience. From ice cream on those hot summer days, to Owasippe-branded jackets for the chilly nights, you and your Scouts are bound to find something for them!

The trading post at your sub-camp will carry snacks, beverages, gear, hygiene products, and so much more. Be sure to stop by during your week at camp!

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026?

We always strive to carry new products and memorabilia for Scouts and adults to enjoy. Along with freshly designed and a wide variety of apparel, the trading posts will carry:

- New Owasippe-branded gear
- New graphics and old favorites are back!
- New variations of the fan-favorite Hawaiian shirt!
- Look forward to the return of pre-ordered custom OSR Troop Shirts
- And more!

The perfect (and easy) way to surprise your scout with a special care package! You can even include a personalized note to your Scout! A wonderful way for parents or grandparents to send their love. Campers receive their Owasipack midweek.

Available in limited quantities, the Owasi-Pack is a draw-string backpack care package filled with some treats that your scout is going to love!

- Candy
- Chips & Pretzels
- Cookies
- Fruit Snacks
- FREE Slushie coupon
- FREE Ice Cream Bar coupon

Will also include:

- Owasippe Frisbee, Football, or other camp toy
- A deck of playing cards



OWASI-PACKS

COUNCIL / RESERVATION LEADERSHIP

Pathway to Adventure
Council Office

(312) 421-8800
x 300

ptac.camping@scouting.org

Reservation Director
PTAC Camping Director
Dalton DeVries

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CAMP BLACKHAWK

Camp Director Kyle Peters
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Program Director Emma Case
Camp Commissioner Patrick Kornowske

CAMP WOLVERINE

Camp Director Joe Vitti
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Program Director Katie Hogan
Camp Commissioner David Stephen

HIGH ADVENTURE

Director Alex Steinhaus
OSR.hiad@gmail.com

Asst. Director Julie Bachman
Asst. Director Sean Willuweit

CAMP RENEKER (FAMILY CAMP & CABIN RENTAL)

Director Sophia Finley
renerfamilycamp@gmail.com

Program Director Reneah Mosher
Camp Commissioner Clara Fitzer

CONTACTS

APPENDIX

PLEASE VISIT OUR CAMPING RESOURCES PAGE FOR A FULL APPENDIX OF ADDITIONAL MATERIALS INCLUDING...

BLACKHAWK MERIT BADGE SCHEDULE

WOLVERINE MERIT BADGE SCHEDULE

OUTPOST & ONE-TIME EVENT SCHEDULE

PREREQUISITES, FEES, & PROGRAM INFO

MAPS, FORMS, PAPERWORK AND MORE

[HTTPS://PATHWAYTOADVENTURE.ORG/CAMPRESOURCES/](https://pathwaytoadventure.org/campresources/)



SCAN ME

