

2026 Owasippe Participants - September Update

Sent 8/31/26

Good afternoon, 2026 Owasippe Campers!

As our camping season comes to a close, and a new year is on the horizon, I have a few items to share.

2027 Campsite registration opens tomorrow, September 1st, 2026, at noon central time!

- You have until noon tomorrow to retain 'dibs' on the campsite you used in 2026. After noon other units will have the opportunity to reserve that site, and it may not be available to you next season. If you have not put the \$100 deposit down on your campsite for 2027 and still wish to keep your site, please do this as soon as possible. For assistance you can email or call our PTAC Camp Helpdesk between 8:30 am and 5 pm central time. **ptac.camping@scouting.org - 224-324-4956**
- The 4th of July traditionally falls during our camper session 3. In 2025, the 4th was a Friday, 2026 it was Saturday. **In 2027, the 4th is the Sunday of Week 4**, and in 2028 Tuesday of week 4. Owasippe's camper sessions are bookended by the Chicago Public School District calendar. Many Chicagoland school districts are aligned with this schedule, as well as our camping seasons. This calendar is released until 2028. There is yet no indicator if in 2029 the school calendar will 'jump back a week' to 'reset' the shifting schedule and realign our camper week 3 with the 4th of July. This may affect your unit's decision on what session to attend summer camp at Owasippe. Please take this into consideration when booking. If you need assistance with shifting weeks, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Camping Helpdesk.
- **We are excited for Owasippe MAXED to return in week three of 2027** (June 27 – July 3), and you don't want to miss out! In 2026 we launched a new slate of exclusive programming to our Week 3 campers, called 'Owasippe MAXED'. You can view the [program guide here](#). Participants went on advanced overnights on ATVs, Canoes, and Horseback, earned one-time merit badges, partook in fishing expeditions, earned Wilderness First Aid, and more.
- Ways to participate:
 - Camp your entire unit at Owasippe week 2 or week 4 and then have older scouts arrive before/after the rest of the unit to partake in MAXED.
 - Send individual older scouts to do MAXED activities in week 3 without your unit (**No adult leadership is required to attend!**)
 - Switch weeks your unit is attending summer camp to week 3

2026 Records, Photos, Patches

- Feel free to reach out with any questions, or if you need assistance with viewing or understanding merit badge records in Blackpug.

- Troop photos taken by our camp photographer are **now available online for purchase** at: <https://250203101312.proofingphotos.com/owasippe/owasippe-scout-reservation-2026/> Please share this link with parents of scouts, and they can have a photo delivered directly home!
- The fan favorite 2026 Owasippe Council Shoulder Patch celebrating 115 years of Owasippe and 250 years of America is also **now available for online purchase** until sold out. Get your while they last! <https://scoutingevent.com/456-119753>

2027 Camp Staff Applications

- We are seeking 2027 Camp Staff and Camp Management! To learn more and apply visit <https://pathwaytoadventure.org/owasippecampstaff/>
- **Congratulations** to the Wolverine Camp Director, Joe Vitti, on a successful camp career as he enters 'camp staff retirement' after 10 seasons on camp staff at Owasippe and Napowan. Don't worry, Joe will still be around scouting wearing several different hats, and you'll likely spot him at the next big PTAC event. Do you have what it takes to be the next Wolverine Director? Apply today!
- View the 2026 Camp Staff Members of the year, and congratulate them here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Hj1uVbsVJ/>

Off Season Camping

- Owasippe is open for fall camping! Book a campsite before October 1st or rent a cabin throughout the winter. Owasippe is the perfect place for your next unit level hiking adventure, canoe trip, or home base for a visit to a local attraction - especially for fall colors! For more information, visit: <https://pathwaytoadventure.org/owasippe/> or contact the PTAC Camp Helpdesk.

Stay In Touch

- Other than email updates or the council newsletter, the best way to see what is going on around Owasippe is through social media! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for information on year-round events, camp improvement being made, and other announcements!

A Moment of Reflection

- A tragic incident that occurred on Thursday, July 23, 2026, when Andrew, an 11-year-old Scout, was fatally struck by a falling tree while on a trail near his campsite. The loss of any child is tragic, but this incident hits particularly close to home for the Owasippe community, as Andrew's family and troop have close ties to the Owasippe staff. His family has asked for support through donation to a memorial fund. Gifts will honor Andrew's memory by supporting parks and camp maintenance, scouts' pursuit of leadership & service, and related charitable causes. I hope you'll consider making a contribution in his memory.

- Memorial Fund:

https://oprfcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1696&fbclid=IwcGRvZgVleHRuA2FlbQlxMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeUqipMfCgPnEWJMsIBHlcUKxb-uChXnbKyZ5Sfb4WVQCDckcRrKSCvPateEQ_aem_Aom-UzxqnTt8CMxr62sBAg

We know you have many options for attending summer camp, and we appreciate your choice to visit Owasippe in 2026. There is nothing that makes me more excited for 2027 than seeing the number of positive evaluations from this year and the incredible number of units already registered to return to camp with us next year. PTAC and OSR leadership are already hard at work on the next phase of improvements and program design and cannot wait to see you again.

PTAC Camp Help Desk: ptac.camping@scouting.org - 224-324-4956



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