The Gateway Area Council welcomes you to our premier camping facility in Western Wisconsin.

The camp is nestled along the banks of the scenic Black River, only a few miles upstream from the mighty Mississippi River. The hills of the area coulees provide breathtaking hikes and panoramas of the area.

We hope you enjoy your stay and invite you to discover Camp Decorah!
More Cabins-Camp Decorah continues to improve the facilities and is increasing our sleeping options with 2 and 4 person cabins in various sites.

Improved Water Front-Camp Decorah along with Brennan Marine have teamed up to improve and expanding the waterfront that includes improved access to the area along with improved accessibility for all ability people.


Less Traditional Programs: 3-day Brownsea Camp featuring Star-First Class requirements and swimming and 1st Aid merit badges; one-day merit badge camps; Peak of Adventure canoe trip.
CAMP DECORAH

Camp Decorah uniquely blends a 90-year history with modern features and facilities.

Camp Decorah is 330 beautiful acres of wooded hills overlooking the Black River, within miles of the mighty Mississippi, providing a North-woods atmosphere located within 15 miles of La Crosse Wisconsin.

Camp Decorah is a Nationally Accredited BSA Camping Facility and Program.

Facilities and features include a full service dining hall, shooting ranges, swimming pool and large waterfront area including a stocked fishing pond, a four-sided climbing tower, COPE elements, handicraft facilities, nature center, nature trail network, climbing feature and zipline and much more.

Friday night is Family Night, families are encouraged to join their scout for family night. Enjoy dinner (meal ticket available) with your scout, take a tour of camp, shop in the Trading Post, and enjoy the closing campfire together.

Many of Camp Decorah's program offerings take advantage of unique natural features of the Driftless Region, this includes the Mississippi River and its tributaries, countless bluffs and hiking trails, along with an abundance of wildlife.

CAMP DECORAH—DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Rochester
US-52 South
Merge onto I-90 East toward La Crosse
Take Exit 4, US-53N/WI-157 toward La Crosse/Onalaska
Turn left onto US-53 North
Turn right on Council Bay Road
(1/2 mile beyond County T)

From Eau Claire (via WI-93) /Winona (via WI-54)
Proceed to Galesville, follow US-53 South
Turn left on Council Bay Road (just beyond the Black River “Hunter’s” Bridge)

From La Crosse and South
WI-35 North through La Crosse and Onalaska.
Turn Left, merge onto US-53 North
Turn right on Council Bay Road
(1/2 mile beyond County T)

From Madison and Southeast
I-90 W/I-94 W towards Wisconsin Dells
Merge onto I-90 at Exit 45 toward La Crosse
Take Exit 4, US-53N/WI-157W
Turn right onto US-53 North
Turn right on Council Bay Road
(1/2 mile beyond County T)
There's no better way to spend your summer! If you enjoy working with kids, believe in the Scouting program, and love camp, then Camp Decorah is a great place to work and play. Each summer we hire 20 men and women to serve as part of our camp staff. This life-changing opportunity is a great, fun, and rewarding place to be.

Imagine living at a camp for the summer and working, playing, and learning in the outdoors. You'll meet plenty of new friends, some that may stick with you for the rest of your life. You'll get some great new experiences too as you challenge yourself…

Camp Staff members are given room and board for the summer in a cabin with electricity shared with other camp staff. Staff members over the age of 14 are compensated competitively compared to other camps. Three meals a day are provided, as are many of the amenities of life such as laundry facilities. Camp staff gives leadership to activities, plans programs, and instructs the hundreds of campers that come through our summer camp. Staff at Camp Decorah provide support to a variety of programs.

A Camp staff in Training (CIT) program will be offered to give younger Scouts a chance to be a part of staff and growing their skills.
Welcome to the 2020 camping season at Camp Decorah. We continue to strive to fulfill our obligation of offering an excellent summer camp program for Scouts. We look forward to providing your Troop the program and service they deserve and for which Camp Decorah is known. We hope this Leader’s Guide will be helpful to you and your troop in planning your summer camp experience. Whether your Scouts are new to your Troop or experienced Eagle Scouts, we offer a program for all, including our first-year camper program, “Brownsea”, our traditional merit badge program or a High Adventure program titled “Peak of Adventure” for older Scouts and Venturers.

Please begin preparing now for your 2020 camping experience. This guide is designed to assist you and your Senior Patrol Leader, in your efforts to plan the best outdoor camping experience possible at Camp Decorah. There are important changes to this guide from past years, so please be sure to review it carefully. If you have a question, or cannot find answers, feel free to contact the Gateway Area Council Service Center at (608) 784-4040.


Program enhancements for 2020 include: volunteer commissioner and campmaster program with polo shirt and hat recognition; and Scoutmaster merit badge.

**An emphasis for 2020 preparations include merit badge instruction. We know that getting this right is critical to your Troop’s experience. Plans for 2020 include: new camp leadership, required merit badge instructor training for staff before staff week, merit badge syllabi that are developed and reviewed by Scouter/community experts.**

Our goal is to combine exceptional customer service with quality merit badge instruction.

The parents of the Scouts in your troop have put their trust in you and the other leaders in your troop to take their children away for a week of Scout camp. There are expectations of a fun, safe and wholesome experience that will provide the opportunity for accomplishment and growth. Thank you for placing your trust in the Gateway Area Council and the Camp Decorah staff to deliver on those expectations.

*The 2019 Camp Decorah staff are looking forward to see you!*  
*See you this Summer!*
**CAMP DECORAH—CAMP SESSIONS / FEES**

**WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp Session 1</td>
<td>June 21—27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp Session 2</td>
<td>July 5—11, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp Session 3</td>
<td>July 19—25, 2020</td>
</tr>
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**Summer Camp Fees**

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scouts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Scouts</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Adventure</td>
<td>$365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Leaders</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CAMP DECORAH—RESERVATION**

Reservations are done through the Gateway Area Council scout office. To reserve a campsite a $100 non-refundable campsite deposit is required at registration. Troops may be combined in a campsite with another troop if they are unable to fill the entire campsite.

Send all payments to the Gateway Area Council Office (2600 Quarry Rd, La Crosse, WI 54601). Credit Card payments can be made by calling 608-784-4040 during business hours. Please do not send payments to Camp Decorah.

**CAMP DECORAH—CAMPERSHIPS**

Camperships Assistance is available for scout families in need. Please contact the Council Office.

Camperships may be awarded for up to 50% of camp fees. Camp scholarships cannot be used to cover initial deposits. Campership applications are due May 1st. Campership forms are available from the Camp Decorah website (www.campdecorah.org) and the Gateway Area Council Office.

**CAMP DECORAH—REFUNDS**

Camp fees are non-refundable, but are transferable (within the same summer camp season) within the troop. In the event of emergency you may submit a refund request in writing to the Gateway Area Council Scout Executive.

Scout or leader’s fee will be transferable (within the same summer camp season) only under one of the following circumstances:

- Individual illness or injury with physician’s note
- Death or serious illness in the immediate family
- Relocation of the family outside of Gateway Area Council or outside of home Council.
CAMP DECORAH—PREPARATION TIMELINE

Right Now

- If you haven’t already, submit your unit reservation and deposit to secure a space.
- Inform all Scouts, Arrow of Light Scouts that will be crossing over from the Pack, and their parents about your unit’s summer camp plans.
- Recruit at least two adult leaders (one at least 21 or older) to be in camp at all times during your stay. Recruit more leaders if you will have 20 or more Scouts (Maintaining a 1 Adult for every 10 youth ratio).
- Schedule a promotional presentation for your troop or crew though the Scout Center (608-784-4040).
- Take note of the payment plan and be sure to stay on target with the due dates.

January / February

- Contact your District Camping Committee or District Camping Chair to schedule a Camp Promotion Presentation. This will help generate excitement about attending camp. Contact the Gateway Area Council for information.
- Information regarding online merit badge registration will be sent out, prior to March 1, 2020.

March

- Collect deposit payments due by April 1st ($100.00 per Scout).
- Begin registering your Scout for their merit badge classes. No need to wait for every youth in your troop, we will take your requests as you receive them from your Scouts. Register via the council website gatewayscouting.org (Online platform for scheduling camp activities) requires deposits to be made before access is granted. A deposit allows one scout to be registered.
- Discuss Merit Badge prerequisites with your Scouts. Make every effort to complete those prior to arriving at camp.

April

- Collect balance of camping fee from each Scout to deposit in Troop account for final payment.
- Continue to collect advancement information from scout and leader training from adults.
- Hold a pre-camp preparation parent meeting.
- Complete Campership (Financial Assistance) Applications for those scouts in need. Submit to the Gateway Area Council office by May 1st for review and approval.
- Submit Final Roster and Final Payment by May 1st.

May

- Send out final camp preparation notices to all parents and Scouts including a list of what to bring.
- Encourage youth who are not attending camp with your unit to attend a Provisional Unit week of camp.
- Work with each Scout in planning an advancement schedule and getting them started on the pre-camp work.
- Ensure that all Scouts and leaders complete their required Medical Forms before arriving at camp.
- Complete special dietary requests for all Scouts with dietary need and/or food allergies. Submit in 30 days prior to arrival.

Two Weeks Before Camp

- Collect all medical forms.
- Review each Scout’s pre-camp advancement work.
- Hold an inspection of personal packs and equipment. Also prepare unit equipment for camp.
- Invite Parents for the Friday Family Night, dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Meal ticket can be pre-purchased for $9.
Internet Access
Wireless Internet access is available in the Dining Hall and Trading Post for leaders who may need to catch up on work while at camp.

Phone Policy:
Cell phones are permitted on camp premises, with the expectation that they will be used appropriately. We also recommend that any scout with a cell phone shall have The Cyber Chip as well. It is each Troop’s responsibility to enforce their own safety rules regarding electronic devices. The Gateway Area Council is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen devices.

Spending Money:
It is suggested that scouts bring personal spending money to make appropriate purchases in the well stocked Trading Post. We recommend that Troops encourage discussion amongst parents and scouts to determine individual spending amounts. Items available include shirts, jackets, hats, knives, camping supplies, beverages, snacks and candy. Prices range from .50 cents to $45 approximately.

Receiving & Sending Mail:
In order to assure that mail sent to campers is received, use the following mailing address. Outgoing mail can be dropped off at the Camp Office. First Class Stamps will be available for purchase in the Trading Post.

Mailing Address:
(Camper’s Name), (Unit Number)
Camp Decorah
W7520 Council Bay Rd
Holmen, WI 54636

Chemical Fuel Storage:
The use of chemical fuel lanterns and stoves is permitted in Troop sites provided that BSA rules for safe use as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting are followed. Only small amounts of extra fuel (e.g. GAS cartridges, 1 lb. propane bottles, MSR fuel bottles) may be stored in your campsite. Large amounts of fuel or large containers must be locked away, either in a unit’s trailer or the camp’s flammable storage area. Contact the Ranger for more information.

Showers and Laundry Services:
The Pool House is a multi-purpose building centrally located in camp. It houses shower facilities with private facilities separated by youth / adult and male / female. Laundry facilities are also available.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THESE FACILITIES IN WORKING ORDER. A SCOUT IS CLEAN!
CAMP DECORAH—SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT

**Personal Equipment**
- Scout Uniform(s)
- Hiking Shoes/Sneakers
- Underwear & Socks
- Jeans & Shorts
- Pajamas
- Long-Sleeve Shirt
- T-Shirts
- Sweatshirt or Jacket
- Rain Gear
- Towel—Quick Dry
- Small pillow
- Swimsuit
- Scout Handbook
- Merit Badge Pamphlets
- Backpack
- Watch
- Pocket Knife
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
  - (non-aerosol)
- Flashlight
- Spending Money
- Fishing Gear
- Camera
- Compass
- Sleeping Bag
- Notebook, pencils
- Hat or cap
- Water bottle/Canteen
- Work Gloves

**Camp Equipment Provided**
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage Bags
- Flagpole
- Running Water
- Latrine
- Latrine Cleaning Supplies
- Toilet Paper

**Unit Equipment**
- Dutch Ovens
- Wood Tools (axes, bow saw, etc.)
- First Aid Kit
- US Flag
- Lantern (s)
- Troop Library
- Troop/Crew & Patrol Flags

**Forbidden Items**
- All tobacco items including electronic cigarettes
- Fireworks
- Alcoholic beverages
- Clothing depicting alcohol, tobacco, vulgar language, and / or images
- Tasers, stun guns, etc.
- Paintball guns

**Firewood**
We abide by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource’s firewood transportation rules.
If your campsite doesn’t have enough down wood nearby, contact the commissioner or Ranger for an approved source on camp.

**Personal Shooting Sports**
Personal firearm requests must be made through the Camp Director.
All firearms brought to camp must meet the minimum safety requirements of the range and will be stored at the Shooting Sports facility.
No personal archery equipment may be used at Camp Decorah as it damages the archery targets and safety devices.
CAMP DECORAH—CAMP RULES

The principles of the Scout Oath and Law as well as the Policies and Procedures of the Boy Scouts of America are the foundation of the Gateway Area Council Camp Program. This includes,

- **Firearm Restriction**: Under no circumstances should firearms be brought to camp.
- **Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs**: are not permitted anywhere at Camp Decorah. Possession or use of any of these substances on camp property will be cause for immediate removal from camp.
- **Smoking and other tobacco (including E-cigarettes)** use is not allowed anywhere at Camp Decorah or off-site activities.
- **Any flammable fuels**, including propane and other liquid fuels, must be stored under lock and key and used only under strict supervision of leaders.
- **Fireworks are not permitted.**
- **Safety Afloat guidelines** must be followed while boating. This includes wearing life jackets. The presence of an adult with Safety Afloat training maintaining visual contact with youth boaters. Safety Afloat training will be offered during camp.
- **The speed limit at camp is 10 mph at all times.**
- **Only official camp vehicles** are allowed on roads beyond the central camp parking lot. No personal vehicles are allowed to stay in campsites. Troop trailers are permitted. Those who require use of a vehicle for medical reasons must obtain a vehicle permit from the Medical Officer.
- **Scout leaders, Scouts, and visitors must check in or out at the camp office in the Dahl Dinning Center upon arriving and departing from camp.**
- **Scouts choosing to leave camp early** must check out at the camp office. Before the Scout is allowed to leave, a release form must be filled out and signed by the unit leader and the person picking up the Scout.
- **Shoes must be worn at all times**, except in the pool, on the waterfront, in the shower, and in personal housing.
- **The buddy system shall be used by Scouts at all times.**
- **Each troop shall make a visual check for attendance at all meals, flag ceremonies, and other group events.**
- **All visitors, including scout family members are required to follow all camp rules and guidelines.**
- **Scouts and Scouters should leave valuables at home.** Spending money, watches, etc. should not be left unattended. Scoutmasters should provide a lockable container to store and protect valuables.
- **Per Wisconsin State Law, no outside firewood is permitted at Camp Decorah. Firewood will be provided.**
- **Scouts should be mindful of their technology use** while at camp. To maximize the outdoor experience, please limit cell phone and electronics to emergency only use. Scouts must have or obtain their Cyber Chip.

**Statement of Non-Discrimination**

The Gateway Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America comply with all Federal and State legislation and regulations regarding the treatment of persons and employees in the United States of America. It adheres to the guidelines as related to employment practices, programs and activities. No employee or prospective employee shall be denied the benefits of employment of otherwise subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Furthermore, the programs and activities offered by the GAC/BSA at Camp Decorah are nondiscriminatory in that they are open to all registered Scouts regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, or handicap. Some programming is also open to non-Scouts, girls, and adults of both genders. This is also without discrimination. Camp Decorah is owned and operated by the Gateway Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.
CAMP DECORAH—POLICIES

Cost of Campsite Damage:
As part of the check-in procedures, an adult leader, Senior Patrol Leader and the campsite host will check the condition of all equipment and shelters including screening, canvas, mattresses, etc. A Check-in Log must be signed to verify the existing condition of the campsite. Damage to property will be assessed according to the value of the item, the severity of the damage, and the cost to repair or replace it.

Adult Leadership:
In accordance with the policy of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2-deep leadership is required at all times at Camp Decorah. The Camp Scoutmaster must be at least 21 years of age or older. Assistants must be 18 years of age or older. Two troops sharing the same site can use one adult from each troop to fulfill this requirement with prior unit agreement. Contact the Camp Director if two-deep leadership cannot be obtained by the unit. It is important that the regular leadership of the troop make every effort to attend summer camp with their troop. On average a scout at camp participates in more hours of scouting than a whole year of troop meetings. Make it the best!

Swim Check Policy:
All swimmers who wish to swim or boat at camp will be required to take a swim check at camp. Any leader wishing to swim, boat, or participate in certain aquatic activities during the week must also take a swim check. You will have the opportunity to take swim checks at the pool Sunday afternoon. It is vital that Leaders, Scouts, and staff are all aware of swimming abilities during the camp week. Swim checks can be done prior to camp with appropriate paperwork, (Swim test in Appendix) with the discretion of the Aquatics Director. Scout may be randomly rechecked by the Director.

Uniform:
At Camp Decorah, the official Scout uniform is appropriate but not required during the week. However, we would like all Scouts and Scouters to be in Field uniform (Scout shirt, Scout shorts or pants, Scout socks, and a scout hat if a hat is worn) for all evening meals and flag retreats, and encourage that they be worn to chapel services.

Bicycles:
Troops may bring bikes to camp for transportation purposes. Helmets are required for anyone riding a bike. Each troop is responsible for teaching bike safety. Prohibited bike used areas are clearly marked. This includes the hill behind the pool house. Bike privileges will be revoked if the Scout is not abiding by the rules of the road. Camp staff will report any unsafe behaviors to the Program or Camp Director who will take further action. Bikes are a great way to get around Camp Decorah; load ‘em up!

Trash & Recyclables Disposal:
Campsite trash pick-up will be made daily around 6:00pm. If you wish to have trash removed, simply place your trash bags by the road. We encourage all units to have their trash picked up every day. Trash cans and campsite waste that have been dispersed by furry critters are the responsibility of the Troop to clean up. Please separate recyclables and trash.
Medical Policies:

- Every participant must provide a copy of their BSA Annual Health and Medical Form (Form A, B, and C). This form will be kept on file for 3 years after they leave; this is to comply with Wisconsin State law for Summer Camps. After 3 years they will be shredded. Participants should keep their original medical form at home for their records and bring a copy to camp.
- State law requires all medication to be in the original labeled prescription container.
- Medication can be secured in the campsite in a Troop-provided lockbox or lockboxes can be provided upon request at the Medical Lodge.
- Bee sting medication, inhalers, an insulin syringe, or other medications or devices used in the event of life-threatening situations may be carried by a Scout but should be brought to medical checks. All individual medical/special/dietary needs should be noted on the Health Exam Form. The Health Office at Dahl Center has a qualified Health Officer on call 24 hours a day.
- The above requirements are those of the State of Wisconsin and the Boy Scouts of America.

Health & Medical Record Form:

Parts A, B & C are to be completed annually and signed by a licensed physician. Scouts staying less than 72 consecutive hours can omit part C. This form will not be returned at the end of the week to comply with State and BSA regulations.

Insurance:

Minor injuries are handled by the Health Officer. If the medical incident requires further medical attention, the Scout will be taken to the nearest hospital in La Crosse. An adult from the unit should accompany the Scout. The second leader and a staff member will stay with the unit. Parents will be notified immediately. The Scout’s parents and/or the troop may be responsible for all associated costs related to the incident.

Avoiding Risk:

Everyone should be prepared for potential risk situations that may be beyond the control of camp leadership. This includes but not limited to natural hazards, such as rocks, roots, and branches that may cause injury if not cautious. Scouts can avoid visits from animals by not allowing any food, drinks, or scented items in or near their tents. To avoid lost or stolen items, leave your valuables at home or have them stored securely in vehicles. Please follow camp leadership directions during all inclement weather conditions when warnings are issued.

CPAP Machines:

Option 1: Places to charge batteries during the day - If your CPAP is equipped to run off battery power, there are several buildings that you can plug in a charger and charge batteries. These include the following locations: Health Office, Handicraft, Dining Hall, and the Trading Post. Staff will be on-hand to assist you.

Option 2: Pitch a personal tent - You may also bring a personal tent and camp outside the Handicraft Building. This location would require an extension cord to get power to your tent. Staff will be on-hand to assist you.

Option 3: Campsites near power - If your troop is staying in Iroquois, power can be run via the use of an extension cord to these campsites from a nearby outlet. Distances are available upon request.
Medication Administration:
Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, or a parent/guardians of a Scout may distribute medication at the campsite.
This is beneficial for the following reasons:

- The individual leader administering the medication has prior knowledge of the Scout’s needs and is generally familiar with the parents’ or guardians’ wishes and instructions. The unit leader knows how to contact the parent or guardian should concerns or special instructions be required.
- The Scout Leader is generally the individual insuring that the Scout follows up on taking their required medication during weekend campouts prior to coming to the weeklong residential camp.
- Providing medication administration at the camp site reduces the confusion of scheduling and aids in the process of making sure all medication has been administered according to physician and parental instruction. It also allows for the Scout to not feel singled out as much as having to travel daily to the Reservation Health Office does.
- Prescribed medication required to be kept in a temperature controlled environment may be retained at the Reservation Health Office as long as it is in the original prescribed container, and is correctly labeled with the Scout’s name, date of prescription, doctor’s name and contact information, and proper dosage. Arrangements may be made with the Reservation Health Officer to assure scheduling and administration of such medication.
- The Health Officer may meet with a unit leader upon request and discuss medication administration on an individual basis should the leader have questions or concerns about the administration of medications.

Ticks:
Check for ticks regularly when hiking through the woods you may pick up an unwanted hitchhiker. Bug spray can be helpful in repelling ticks, but there are other easy ways to prevent this disease.

- Check yourself daily for ticks. Give yourself a once-over each night before going to bed.
- Scouts are encouraged to TAKE DAILY SHOWERS! Besides making your camp experience better for you and your tent mates, showering is the easiest way to check for ticks.

Emergency Procedures:
Camp Decorah has written emergency procedures in place for emergency situations. Leaders will be presented with the information at the Leaders Meeting immediately following the Sunday night dinner on the first day of camp.

Discipline:
Scout leaders bear the primary responsibility of discipline within there troop. In cases where the Camp Director determines that further disciplinary action is warranted, he/she will work in cooperation with the Scoutmaster to resolve the issue.
In some situations, the scout may be asked to leave camp. Serious acts of vandalism, physical assault, or other illegal acts will be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Fire Prevention:
A copy of the BSA campsite fireguard chart is posted on the bulletin board at each campsite. A copy of this chart will be handed out during the check in process. ‘No flames in tents’ will be strictly enforced. New regulations including smoke detectors and fire extinguishing equipment will be utilized in all cabins. The camp will adhere to all Government-issued fire bans.
Dining Hall Procedures:
Camp Decorah prides itself on delicious food and consistently receives rave reviews from leaders and campers. Meals are served in the Dahl Family Scouting Center (Dining Hall). Troops will be assigned tables during check-in. We encourage all Scouts and Scouters to be in uniform for all evening meals. Scouts will observe proper etiquette during meals and remain seated until dismissed.

Mess Cranks:
Mess cranks will report to the Dining Hall fifteen minutes before each meal. They are to set the table as instructed by the Steward. The mess cranks are assigned to get refills of beverages as needed for their individual tables. After each meal the mess cranks remain for a short time to clean up until dismissed by the dining hall steward. Scouts will be rotated as mess cranks throughout the camp week.

Campsite Cooking:
Let us know ahead of time if you have any plans to cook in your campsite. Please call the Camp Director to discuss the options available for your unit.

Dietary Restrictions:
We will do our best to provide for special dietary requirements. Our food service staff can meet many restricted dietary needs, if given advance notice. A medical form can be found in the appendix to allow you to communicate special needs to us. Please fill out this form for all restrictions (allergies, medical, religious, etc.) for each scout. We require 30 days prior to your arrival to meet all dietary needs.

If you have questions, please call the scout office at 608-784-4040. Menu will be provided prior to camp—We follow all USDA Guidelines.
CAMP DECORAH—CHECK-IN

**Day of Arrival at Camp (Sunday):**

*Troops MUST inspect the screens, mattresses, canvas, and overall condition of your campsite with the campsite host:*

- Check-in on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Training Center. (Please note staff will not be available until 1pm. For special arrangements, please contact the Camp Director.)
- Vehicle parking is available in the parking lot near the Training Center. A troop trailer is permitted in the campsite for the week but all other vehicles must park in the lot.
- A staff member will be assigned as your campsite host. Your host will guide your unit through medical re-check, a dining hall presentation, campsite check-in, Shooting Sports orientation, and swim checks (see below). As part of the campsite check-in, an adult leader and the campsite host will inspect the condition of all equipment and cabins including screening, canvas, mattresses, etc. A Check-in Log must be signed to verify the existing condition of the campsite. Once your unit has completed all of the check-in activities, you are free to unpack and start the improvements which will make your campsite your unique home for the week.
- Bring ALL original Health Forms to camp and copies of those forms. We keep the copies, you keep the originals. If your Scout has allergies, please be sure to include an **Allergy Fact Sheet**.
- Bring a copy of your final roster to turn in to the office at check-in.

CAMP DECORAH—VISITORS

Visitors are welcome! For safety please check-in at the Camp Administration Office immediately upon arrival. Camp facilities are primarily for the use of the campers and leaders.

Meal tickets may be purchased at the Camp Office.

CAMP DECORAH—CHECK-OUT

*Troops MUST inspect the screens, mattresses, canvas, and overall condition of your campsite with the campsite host:*

- Return CLEAN Dutch ovens and other borrowed equipment to the quartermaster by noon on Friday.
- Sweep floors and walls in all tent cabins, the wash stand, pavilion, and latrine.
- scrub and clean urinal, toilet seats and wash basin.
- Wash and rinse picnic tables.
- Store broom, shovel, and rake on the back of bulletin board.
- Pick up all litter along the road as you leave your campsite
- Return all evaluation forms to the camp office
- If you checked out a medication lock box, please return it to the Medical Office.
- Reserve a campsite for next year & pay the deposit at the camp office!

After checking the condition of the campsite with the campsite host:

- Camp Packets with blue cards and paperwork will be handed out at the office at 7:00pm on Friday night.
Campsite Visits
Invite a staff member or two to visit your campsite and hang out for the evening. Cooking campfire snacks always seems to gather a crowd. Extend an invitation to a neighboring troop to combine the fun.

Open Areas
Most areas will be open for scouts to experience camp. Listen for daily announcements on what will be open in the evenings.

Scout/Staff Challenge
Take on the staff, or challenge another troop to a game of kickball, softball, or gaga ball.

Throwback Thursday!
Join the Camp Decorah Staff in showing off some old Scouting gear or some vintage BSA Uniforms. All uniform policies should be enforced by unit leaders, but let’s have some fun with it!

Pool Party
The Pool Party is everyone’s favorite! We have awesome music and fun competitions. Come have fun at the pool, meet the lifeguards, and splash around!

Dutch Oven Dessert Fest
Bring your secret ingredients and pit your best dessert against the camp. Dessert basics will be provided, including: Chocolate, white, and yellow cake mix, apple, cherry, and peach pie filling, butter, aluminum foil and Dutch ovens if necessary. Bring your own ingredients.

Closing Campfire
The Closing Campfire on Friday night is a time for all troops in camp to shine! Includes awards, songs and skits, our staff always looks forward to this memorable evening. Make sure to sign up with the Program Director to reserve a spot for your troop to perform.
Please note starting requirements and prerequisites required for each merit badge / activity below.

Starting Requirements (SR) (Mastery of a skill):
These are requirements that the Scout needs to complete before taking the merit badge/activity. For example, a Scout must be classified as a swimmer before starting Swimming Merit Badge. If the Scout has not completed these Starting Requirements before starting that advancement, they will not be able to attend the merit badge/activity.

Prerequisites (Required activity or task):
These are requirements that the Scout needs to complete before camp if they want to complete the merit badge/activity while at camp. Prerequisites are shown without the (SR) noting under the Prerequisite column.

Referenced requirements are from the 2018 Boy Scout Requirements book. Merit badge pamphlets may be outdated so please use this book when inquiring about requirement specifics. The following merit badges have significant revisions for 2018 ( * )

Levels of Difficulty:
Listed in parentheses after each merit badge/activity is a letter that indicates its difficulty.

A - Difficult merit badge/activity, appropriate for older scouts with 3 or more years in Scouting.
B - Appropriate for advancing Scouts with 2 or more years in Scouting.
C - Easy merit badge/activity, appropriate for beginning Scouts.

Merit Badges Requiring CPR Knowledge:
First Aid, Swimming, Lifesaving, Personal Fitness, Sports, Athletics, Climbing

Comments:
Comments listed for each merit badge/activity provide additional details that will help you in your planning and preparations.

Completing Requirements After Camp:
Sometimes it's not possible to complete all of the merit badge requirements at camp due to time requirements, weather, approvals and/or proper instruction. As a result, Scouts will receive a partial at camp and are encouraged to find an approved Troop or district counselor to finish at home.

Off-Camp Merit Badges:
Some merit badges require the Scouts to travel off of Camp Decorah. The merit badge instructor will provide information during class times and during meal times. Some Merit Badges may require adult drivers to help get all the Scouts to each event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merit Badge</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archery (B)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art (C)</td>
<td>Reg. 6 and 7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviation (B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scouts must fill out the proper permission slip, found on our website, and pay the fee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketry (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Scouts will need to purchase the proper kits from the trading post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Study (C)</td>
<td>No prerequisites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Badge</td>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPING (B)</td>
<td>Req. 4b, 5e, 8c, 8d, 9a, 9b</td>
<td>Most of the written work can be done at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing (B)</td>
<td>Be a swimmer (SR)</td>
<td>Scouts must pass the swimmers test to complete this merit badge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY (B)</td>
<td>Prerequisites 2a, b, or c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOKING (B)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMERGENCY PREP</td>
<td>First Aid Merit Badge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (B)</td>
<td>Req. 3e</td>
<td>Recommend Req. 4. 6d may not be completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST AID (B)</td>
<td>Req. 1, 2d</td>
<td>Scouts must bring a First Aid kit, and should be at least the First Class rank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing (C)</td>
<td>Req. 9</td>
<td>Bring your gear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry (B)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Req. 7 can be completed at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching (B)</td>
<td>Req. 7, 8</td>
<td>Bring in notes of completion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>May not be able to complete requirement 8 (Golfing 2 nine-hole rounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Lore (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Extra Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Study (C)</td>
<td>Req. 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Scouts will be visiting a radio or television studio. That will be arranged that week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking (C)</td>
<td>Be a swimmer (SR)</td>
<td>Scouts must pass the swimmers test to complete this merit badge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherwork (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Extra Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFESAVING (B)</td>
<td>Be a swimmer (SR), Req. 1a (SR), Swimming MB (Recommended)</td>
<td>Scout must be at least the rank of First Class and have prior, basic CPR knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model Design and Building (A)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceanography</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>May not be able to complete requirement 8b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering (B)</td>
<td>Req. 7, 9, and 10</td>
<td>Req. 7 can be started at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Scouts can bring their own camera . If they have Cyber Chip– it will suffice one of the requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneering (B)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Practice knots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rifle Shooting (A)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Practice, Extra Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowing (C)</td>
<td>Be a swimmer (SR)</td>
<td>Scouts must pass the swimmers test before completing this merit badge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotgun Shooting (A)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Practice, Extra Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs, Signals, and Codes (B)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Understanding of American Sign Language, Morse Code, and Braille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil and Water Conservation (B)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Req. 7 can be started at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Exploration (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Scouts will have to obtain a rocket kit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWIMMING (B)</td>
<td>Be a Swimmer (SR)</td>
<td>Have stamina to complete requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather (B)</td>
<td>Req. 9</td>
<td>Req. 10 can be started at home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you had a magic wand, would you use it to make the Scouting program better and more fun for youth so they stayed in Scouting longer, so it had a larger impact on their lives? What if the same magic wand made leadership roles easier, more rewarding, and led to better retention among adult leaders? Would using that magic wand be a top priority?

Well, such a magic wand does exist—in the form of the learning programs for leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

Common sense tells us that training is important, and research shows the importance of trained leaders. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety, and a whole lot more. A trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program all it can be!

These pages contain many of the “magic wands” and resources. Scout them out!

**Training Activities**

- Climb on Safely
- Safe Swim Defense
- Range Safety Officer
- Concealed Carry
- BB Gun / Archery Training
- Youth Protection Training
- Scoutmaster Essentials
- Eagle Project Process
- Life to Eagle
- Eagle Board of Review

* Per online registration*
Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge and Camp Decorah have programs dedicated to the Order of the Arrow. The Summer Lodge Chief is responsible for all O.A. ceremonies, elections and promotions. If your troop or individual Scouts are members of the Order of the Arrow, we encourage them to participate in ceremonies while at camp, interested scouts can coordinate with our summer staff chief.

Friday family dinner is O.A. Sash Night, please wear your sash for dinner. The Order of the Arrow will conduct a “call-out” ceremony at the closing Campfire. All newly elected O.A. candidates will be “called-out”, and candidates who have recently been called-out may be recognized at the ceremony.

Troops from councils outside of the Gateway Area Council must have a letter from their lodge stating the names of Scouts and Scouters from their troop who have been elected into the Order of the Arrow.

**Program Activities:**

- Monday — OA Ice Cream Social 8:30pm
- Tuesday — Brotherhood Talks
- Thursday — Unit Elections (If Needed)
- Friday — OA Call-Out Ceremony
Scouts Only:

**Camp Decorah ‘Iron Man’ Challenge**
A great test of a Scouts strength and endurance is the Iron Man Challenge. Scouts must:
1. Swim—.5 mile
2. Run—1 mile
3. Canoe—2 mile

See Aquatics/Waterfront staff for the half mile swim and 2 mile canoe then the Athletics instructor for the one-mile run. Open to all scouts and adult leaders.

Schedule times with aquatics and athletics staff!

**Outdoors Man Award**
1. Build a fire and boil water.
2. Complete the Orienteering Course
3. Use three different lashes to make a camp tool.
4. Tie 10 different knots correctly

See the Scoutcraft staff for details.

**Wall Rat**
1. Climb—all 4 walls
2. Repels—4 times

See the Climbing staff for details.

Scouts & Leaders:

**Mile Swim**
See the Aquatics Staff for details.

**Polar Bear Swim**
Participation in the swim at the Waterfront three of the four mornings during camp.
These are GREAT activities for whole troops to participate in during camp. See the Aquatics Staff for details.

**Marksman Award**
- Rifle – 25 yards, 8 out of 10 within a quarter.
- Archery – 70 points with 10 arrows on a standard NFAA target.
- Shotgun – 6 out of 10 targets in one round.

See the Shooting Sports Staff for details.

**Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award**
This award recognizes advanced axemanship and is offered by the Scoutcraft staff. A minimum of 2-hour commitment is required for this award, in addition to troop instructional time. Contact Scoutcraft Director to arrange a time.

Leaders only:

**Scoutmaster Merit Badge**
Earn the award by completing the following requirements:
1. Assist minimum of 2 days in a program area
2. Participate in 3 polar bear swims as a swimmer
3. Complete the Scoutmaster Merit Badge form
4. Participate in the Iron Man, Rusty Man, or Outdoors Man
5. Explain what the “Scout Spirit” means to you during lunch.

**Camp Decorah ‘Rusty Man’ Award**
A great opportunity for leaders who would like to earn the Iron Man Award but just aren't quite there. Leaders must complete:
1. Swim—.25 mile
2. Run—.5 mile
3. Canoe—1 mile

See Aquatics/Waterfront staff for the .25 mile swim and 1 mile canoe then the Athletics instructor for the .5 mile run. Open to all adult leaders. Schedule times with aquatics and athletics staff!