

NORTHERN STAR SCOUTING

TOMAHAWK SCOUT CAMP



PARENTS GUIDE



NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



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WHY SEND YOUR CHILD TO CAMP

Sending your child to camp for the first time can evoke a mix of excitement and apprehension for both parents and Scouts. Understanding the profound benefits of the camp experience can help alleviate concerns and highlight the value of this adventure.

PERSONAL GROWTH AND INDEPENDENCE

Attending camp fosters self-confidence and independence in children. A study by the American Camp Association (ACA) revealed that 70% of parents observed increased self-confidence in their children post-camp. Additionally, 63% noted that their child continued to engage in new activities learned at camp. This environment encourages Scouts to step out of their comfort zones, make decisions, and develop resilience.

SOCIAL SKILLS AND FRIENDSHIP

Camp provides a unique setting for Scouts to build meaningful relationships. The ACA study found that 96% of campers reported making new friends, and 93% appreciated getting to know peers different from themselves. These interactions enhance social skills and promote inclusivity.

CONNECTION WITH NATURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Immersion in the outdoors at Tomahawk Scout Camp allows Scouts to engage in physical activities like hiking, canoeing, and archery. These experiences not only promote a healthy lifestyle but also instill an appreciation for nature and environmental stewardship.

HOMESICKNESS

It's natural for both parents and Scouts to feel some anxiety about time apart. Homesickness is a normal part of growing up—and a valuable part of the camp experience. At Tomahawk Scout Camp, Scouts are surrounded by familiar troopmates, trusted adult leaders, and exciting activities, making it an ideal setting to work through those feelings in a healthy, supportive environment.

Overcoming homesickness helps Scouts develop resilience, confidence, and coping skills that serve them well beyond camp. Troop leaders are experienced in supporting Scouts through this transition, helping them stay engaged and connected.

While it may be tempting to bring a Scout home early, doing so can be a disruptive and even traumatic experience. It may undermine their sense of accomplishment, limit shared memories with their troop, and affect their enthusiasm for future participation. By approaching homesickness with patience and encouragement, families and leaders can help Scouts build a stronger, lasting connection to the Scouting program.

Sending your child to Tomahawk Scout Camp is an investment in their personal development, offering opportunities to build independence, forge new friendships, and connect with nature. While it's natural to feel some apprehension, the structured and supportive environment at camp ensures that Scouts have a safe and enriching experience.

DON'T MISS OUT

The key takeaway is that attending summer camp is crucial for Scouts, especially in their first year. It's not just about outdoor experiences, but also the bonding and shared memories that solidify friendships within the troop. Missing out can make it tough for a Scout to keep pace with peers. Though it may be daunting for first-year Scouts and their parents to spend a week apart, the benefits in terms of personal growth, camaraderie, and memories are invaluable.





SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Tomahawk Scout Camp prioritizes the safety and well-being of all participants. The camp adheres to strict youth protection policies, including the requirement of two registered adult leaders aged 21 or over at all Scouting activities. Additionally, the buddy system is enforced to ensure Scouts are not alone when exploring camp. Staff receive safety training and the camp is accredited every year to ensure it is meeting facility, staff and process standards. Camp employs an EMT and hosts volunteer onsite physicians to manage medical care needs.

SAFETY VS. COMFORT

At Tomahawk Scout Camp, we ensure a safe environment through rigorous accreditations, trained staff, and strict procedures. However, Scouting isn't about comfort. Activities like sleeping in tents, hiking, and being outdoors help Scouts build resilience. These challenges prepare them for life's future stresses. While parents may want to alleviate discomfort, it's crucial to let Scouts face and overcome these experiences, fostering growth and leadership.

SEVERE WEATHER

Concrete severe weather shelters are located throughout Tomahawk and emergency procedures are posted on the bulletin boards in each campsite.

We encourage troops to have an eye on the weather, but the Administration Staff consistently monitor weather conditions using information from the National Weather Service and subscription based services.

In the event of a weather emergency, staff will notify units and direct them to the appropriate locations. Shelters remain unlocked so that Scouts may utilize the buildings at any time.

A severe weather drill will be done within the first 24 hours of camp.



TRADING POST AT CAMP

Tomahawk has five camp trading posts on the property. There is a trading post conveniently available in each camp as well as at the Berglund Center.

We take cash, check, or card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover).

Scouts will spend \$50-\$100 in the trading post. Here are some example prices:

- Hats \$20-\$25
- T-Shirt \$10-\$20
- Sweatshirt \$40-\$55
- Belts \$15-55
- Nalgene \$17
- Brandable Mug \$13
- Tie Dye Shirt \$10-12
- Pocket Knives \$10-\$20

SNACK PACK

Camp offers a pre-ordered snack package for \$20. This snack pack includes a slushie souvenir mug, 5 slushies, 2 candy bars and 2 ice cream treats. Troops must pre-order these for their Scouts before June 15th. Vouchers are picked up at check-in.





GETTING YOUR SCOUT EXCITED FOR CAMP

As soon as you can, review the program catalog and other camp promotional materials to both learn about camp and get excited for the summer. We have some amazing videos that show what you can expect and highlights our fun adventures. There's more at Tomahawk than you can complete in several summers.

PROGRAM CATALOG

Download this PDF and review all the amazing programs awaiting your Scout this summer.



VIDEOS

See the fun and adventure through over a dozen videos of Tomahawk Scout Camp



FORMS PAGE ON WEBSITE:

- **Health Form**
- **Program Planning Worksheet**
- **Program Waivers**
- **Food Menus**



GETTING YOUR SCOUT READY FOR CAMP

Sit down with your Scout and have a conversation about summer camp. Talk about what they are excited about and what worries them about camp. Talk through the goals of summer camp and address their concerns. As you get closer to camp have them lay out items to get ready, following the packing list. Do not pack for them—let them do it. Every item they pack helps them be mentally and physically ready to go to camp.

CELL PHONE USE POLICY AT CAMP AND COMMUNICATION

To ensure Scouts fully embrace the camp experience, we strongly encourage leaving cell phones at home. Continuous communication between parents and Scouts through cell phones can intensify feelings of homesickness, as hearing a familiar voice can heighten the longing for home. By disconnecting, Scouts have the opportunity to develop independence, resilience, and deeper bonds with their peers.

For any emergencies, leaders and staff have reliable communication methods to ensure parents can be reached if needed. This policy supports a more immersive, enriching camp experience.

MAIL AND PACKAGES

On weekdays, we accept daily deliveries from the USPS, UPS, FedEx, and other carrier services.

Sending care packages or letters can be a great way to send your encouragement or other items. Mail takes three to four days to reach Tomahawk, so write early.

Follow this format when addressing letters/packages to Scouts at camp.

Scout's Name
Campsite—Troop #
N1910 Scout Road
Birchwood, WI 54817

We sell postcards and stamps at camp. A great Monday night activity is to fill out postcards to send home. Drop these in the outgoing mail.



PARTICIPANT FEES

Youth Fee: \$400

Adult Full Week \$140

Adult Partial Week

- Sunday \$16
- Monday-Friday \$28/day
- Saturday \$6

In addition to camp fees, your troop may charge additional costs to cover travel, meals, or other expenses outside the standard camp experience. Every troop is different, so please check with your troop for details on how they collect fees and any additional costs that may apply.

Bringing your own food?

Troops/Scouts bringing their own food pay \$45 less per person.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For Scouts who are not able to afford the full fee of camp, there is financial support available. This assistance is like a scholarship for camp. We call these camperships. The funds to provide camperships are supplied by donors in Northern Star Council and are ear-marked for Northern Star Scouts only.

To apply, go online or scan the QR Code. Applications are due by June 1st.



PAYMENT TIMELINE

April—Before Program Sign Up

\$50 deposit (non-refundable and non-transferable) per Scout. The deposit is required before you can sign a Scout for any individual programs. These are due on or before April 15th.

June 1st: Full fee payment is due on June 1st, prior to camp. An additional \$25 charge is added to each youth not paid in full by June 1st at 11:59 pm.

End of week at camp: Any incidentals fees (patch sales, charges to trading post, troop program charges) accumulated at camp will be due upon check-out.

PROGRAM FEES

Some programs have an additional charge for supplies provided or specialty staff/equipment. Review the Program Catalog for details.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

The policy, outlined below, is applicable to **camp program registrations only** and includes Scouts BSA overnight summer camp.

- All programs collect and retain a deposit that is **non-refundable** and **non-transferable**.
- Requests for refunds/cancellations need to be made in writing (preferably via email).
- Cancellation Timeline:
 - 30 days prior to program session = full refund less the deposit.
 - 29 to 8 days prior to program session = full credit less the deposit.
 - 7 days prior to program session = full forfeit of fees paid.
- Credits will be available for 365 days and can be used for any facility rental or program operated by the Northern Star Camping Department.

Exceptions due to Illness or Death in the Family

- If cancellation is necessary, the individual will receive a full refund less the deposit if notification is received prior to the end of the first day of the session.
- Rescheduling to a new session in the same season is possible without loss of deposit.

ALL-STAR

Scouts who can't attend with your unit can still come to camp as part of our All-Star program. Learn more in the Program Catalog and online.

DISCOUNT FOR CAMPING TWICE

Scouts that attend Tomahawk or Many Point twice in a summer will receive \$50 off their second week.



CAMPING WITH WILDLIFE

Tomahawk is home to many different animals native to the Midwest region. White-tailed deer, beavers, porcupines, black bears, snakes, turtles, and many others are commonly seen all throughout the summer. They all enrich the outdoor camping experience and will create memories of your week at Tomahawk. However, they are all wild animals. For your protection and theirs, we require adherence to our wildlife policies. It is mandatory that all troops, crews, visitors, and staff read and follow the information in the Black Bear Education Manual. It provides information on campsite precautions when camping with wildlife, how to act in an encounter with wildlife, and ways to ensure you have a safe week at camp.

BEARS

Seeing a bear at camp can be very exciting, and it's important to be prepared for this encounter. Please review the information on bears in the Black Bear Manual.

The training in the Black Bear Manual is mandatory. Groups will not be allowed past check-in until we have received a signed copy stating that you have completed the training.

Tomahawk provides a "Bear Box" in each campsite for units to store smell-ables. The "Bear Boxes" are old stoplight electrical boxes that stand about 6 feet tall, 3 feet wide, and about two feet deep. It is recommended that each Scout brings a small plastic tote (approx. 6"x5"x9") to store personal hygiene items and snacks. While they will keep the large critters out, the "Bear Boxes" will not always keep the small critters, such as mice and insects, out.

TICKS

The forests of Tomahawk are home to many animals including Ticks. It's important to know how to camp in areas that have ticks, as ticks are known carriers of various diseases. Make sure to review [the Tick Borne Illness page](#), found on the Planning for Camp page, with your Unit

MOSQUITOES

Wetlands and other bodies of water, which are a breeding ground for Mosquitoes, surround Tomahawk. Tomahawk does treat the areas of camp, but we would encourage units to bring mosquito netting as well as bug spray.

OTHER ANIMALS

It's important to remember to Respect Wildlife, a key point in Leave no Trace. When you see an animal in the wild, do not chase after them, feed them, or try to lure them. This is for their safety as well as your own. Its important to remember you may be up for a week, but Tomahawk is home to these animals year round.



Scan the QR code above to see the Bear Manual for Northern Star Scouting or go to:

CampTomahawk.org/Forms



Each campsite has a bear box. These metal cabinets can fit 40 shoebox-sized plastic totes. The bear boxes are bear proof, but are not mouse proof.



HEALTH & MEDICAL RECORDS

All youth and adults attending Tomahawk must have a completed Long Term BSA Health and Medical Record (Health Form) on file with the Health Director. These are due to the troop 2 weeks before going to camp.

Anyone at camp for 72 hours or more will need to have Part C of the health form completed. Anyone at camp, regardless of the length of the stay, need to have completed Parts A and B.

HOW LONG ARE HEALTH FORMS GOOD FOR?

Health forms are valid through the end of the 12th month from the date it was administered by your medical provider. For example, a physical administered December 3, 2024, would be valid until December 31, 2025.

WHERE TO GET A CAMP PHYSICAL?

Check with your primary medical provider about setting up a physical for camp. Other quick clinics such as Minute Clinic and Walgreens Health Services also provide services for Camp Physicals. Be sure to bring the proper Long Term BSA Health and Medical Record for them to fill out.

Free Physical Day. Every May Northern Star offers a Free Physical Day at Base Camp. A crew of volunteer doctors come out to help perform physicals for those who need them. Check the "Planning for Camp" page on the Tomahawk website for more information.

MEDICATIONS

All non-emergency medications that need to be taken by any Scout at camp must be administered by a designated adult leader. This must be a leader in the unit. Emergency medication like an inhaler or Epi-Pen should be with a camper at all times. We can store most medications that need refrigeration.

Medications must be in their original container with the camper's name, the name of the medication, dose, and frequency. Please send a supply for 8 days, not the whole bottle.

Medications will be stored in a secure area and out of reach of Scouts.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Minor first aid will be handled using your unit's first aid kit. Other injuries or illnesses can be referred to the camp staff. We have a doctor on the property every week and all summer long we have our Health Director, who is an EMT.

Parents or guardians will be notified of a camper illness or injury if it requires a trip to town. There is no charge for medical services performed in camp for Scouts and leaders.

All campers needing services performed in town at the hospital/clinic are required to handle payments through the unit or family insurance policy.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Camp can provide substitutes or alternative menus for participants with some dietary restrictions:

- Peanut or Tree Nut Free
- Gluten Free
- Lactose Free
- Pork Free (Religious)
- Vegetarian (not Vegan)

We are not able to provide alternate food for other restrictions or if a participant has multiple of the restrictions above. However, we will store and serve all food that is brought for participants who have additional dietary restrictions.

Though our alternative menus won't include or won't contain the ingredients of issue, the meals will be prepared in the same kitchen as all other meals.

If you have severe reactions to trace amounts of any ingredient, please contact camp to make arrangements to bring your own food.

For questions email:
Tomahawk@NorthernStar.org





NORTHERN STAR SCOUTING
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SCOUT CAMP

FAMILY ISLAND

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Family Island is your fun-filled, affordable vacation destination for Families. We offer programs and facilities for families so that you can see what your Scouts are enjoying here at Tomahawk Scout Camp. We offer cabins for rent, camper trailer sites, and wonderful tent camping.

We encourage all families to come and enjoy a week at Tomahawk while your troop is in camp, or when the entire family can enjoy a vacation.

Cabins have a kitchenette and bathroom, as well as two bunk beds (one full sized-bed and three single beds). Cabins do not include bedding, dish towels, turn-down service, or food service.

ACTIVITIES WITH FAMILY ISLAND:

- Aquatics
- Horseback Riding
- Climbing Tower
- Crafts
- Archery
- BB gun shooting

TO REGISTER:

For more specific information or to register, please go online to www.camptomahawk.org > Programs > Family Island and follow the prompts to register. Registration is open to all families.

FEES (PER WEEK):

- Cabin: \$465
- Camper (RV) Site: \$215
- Tent Site: \$100





Name: _____ Age as of 8/31/25: _____ Grade Next Year: _____

Scout Rank: _____ Dietary Restrictions: _____ Snack Pack: Y / N

Review the Program Catalog for Merit Badge and High Adventure schedules, including age requirements, costs, and notes. List your chosen programs in the grid below, ensuring you account for each day they occur. Examples, directly below, show schedules for a first-year Scout (left) and a Scout aged 14+(right).

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Session 1	Brownsea	Brownsea	Brownsea	Brownsea	Brownsea
Morning Session 2	Swimming MB	Leatherwork MB	Swimming MB	Leatherwork MB	Swimming MB
Afternoon Session 1-3	Troop Activities	Troop Activities	Troop Activities	Troop Activities	Troop Activities

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Session 1	ATV Tier 1 Bundle	Chess MB	ATV Tier 1 Bundle	Chess MB	ATV Tier 1 Bundle
Morning Session 2	↓	Kayaking MB	↓	Kayaking MB	↓
Afternoon Session 1-3	Small Boat Sailing MB	—————→			Onsite Biking

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Session 1 8:45 - 10:25					
Morning Session 2 10:35 - 12:15					
Afternoon Session 2:00 - 5:00					

LIST SECONDARY OPTIONS

If the activities you choose fill up what are the alternative programs you'd like?

INDEPENDENT STUDY (OPTIONAL)

What independent study badges would you like to do?

RANK YOUR TROOP ACTIVITIES

Most Scouts spend their afternoons at camp doing activities with their troop around camp.

Review the available troop activities on pages 4-6 of the Program Catalog. There are more activities offered for troop activities than you will have time for at camp—that's why it is important to come back to camp year after year to experience all the fun Tomahawk has to offer. Rank your top 10 choices to the right (1 is the top choice).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



CLOTHES

- Underwear (6)
- Pair of socks (6)
- Pants (2)
- Shorts (2)
- T-Shirts (5)
- Sweatshirt, fleece or sweater (2)
- Swim suit
- Towels (2)
- Scout uniform (bring a hanger to keep it accessible and free of wrinkles)
- Light jacket
- Hat
- Pajamas
- Extra shoes
- Hiking boots
- Bag for dirty laundry
- Sunglasses
- Rain gear/Poncho

TOILETRIES

We recommend packing these into a shoe-box sized plastic tote for easy storage. The tote helps keep these items dry and away from mice.

- Small Storage Tote
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo & soap
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Wash cloth
- Comb/brush
- Hand mirror
- Deodorant
- Sun screen
- Bug repellent
- Prescription medication (in original container)

TENTING/SLEEPING

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Mosquito netting
- Bed sheet (optional)
- Foam pad (optional)
- Tent (optional)

GEAR

- Mess kit (utensils, bowl, cup, plate, and mesh bag)
- Scout Handbook
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Pencil & notebook
- Watch
- Totin' Chip
- Scout knife
- Water bottles (2)
- Wallet/Spending Money
- Backpack
- Camp chair

GEAR (OPTIONAL)

- Bike & Helmet
- Fishing gear
- Postage stamps
- Camera
- Playing cards
- Life Jacket
- Hammock with straps

SUGGESTED SCOUTMASTER OR LEADER ITEMS:

- Alarm clock
- Scout Master handbook
- Scout handbook
- Cell phone
- Weather radio
- Scout parent contact information
- Clipboard
- Coffee & Coffeepot

LEAVE THESE ITEMS AT HOME

The following will not be allowed at Tomahawk:

- Electronic Games
- Fireworks of any kind
- Pets
- Personal firearms (e.g. rifles, hand guns, bows, sling shots, ammo)
- Alcohol or Illegal Drugs
- ATVs or Jet Skis

OTHER ITEMS

-
-
-
-
-
-