

CAMP MINSI

Summer 2023



MERIT BADGE AND PROGRAM GUIDE



www.campminsi.org

Last Updated 5/30/2023



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL

About Camp Minsi

Camp Minsi is located on the shores of Stillwater Lake atop the beautiful Pocono Mountains in Pocono Summit, Pennsylvania. Donated to the Boy Scouts of America in 1949, Camp Minsi encompasses more than 1,200 acres of Pennsylvania woodlands while the 314-acre Stillwater Lake provides Scouts with sailing, swimming, fishing and other aquatic activities. Summer camp is the pinnacle of Scouting's outdoor program. With many unique program areas, Scouts have the opportunity to experience a variety of exciting activities at Camp Minsi. This summer is filled with new programs and activities designed to peak the interests of every camper - from newest campers to the seasoned veterans. This guide, in addition to the summer camp website (www.campminsi.org), has been assembled to help Scouts and leaders be prepared for their summer camp experience.



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An Introduction to Merit Badges

This directory outlines details for all of the various merit badge programs available to Scouts this summer at Camp Minsi. While merit badges and advancements are only a portion of the overall summer camp experience, we want to ensure that each Scout is prepared to succeed in earning the badges they set out for and get the most out of these exciting programs. Our ultimate goal is to provide a fun program full of meaningful learning to all Scouts. **Be prepared!** Scouts should review the requirements for each badge that they intend on taking before their week at camp.

Scouts should be sure to complete any necessary **pre-requisite requirements** before coming to camp. Due to the nature of some requirements, and the limitations of the summer camp setting, the listed requirements cannot be completed in the merit badge class at camp. In many cases a signed note from a Scout leader is sufficient to show proof of a pre-requisite; or bringing a copy of the written requirement (such as a report, letter or menu). Be sure to complete the pre-requisites prior to coming to camp to ensure a completed merit badge at the end of the week. In some cases, Scouts will not be able to work on or complete other requirements without having completed the pre-requisite requirements first. To help ensure that all Scouts have a meaningful and worthwhile merit badge experience, Scouts who have not completed the pre-requisites prior to camp may be encouraged by the councilor to find another merit badge to take at that time (especially in the cases of Eagle-required merit badges).

Some badges, particularly those in the Handicraft and Shooting Sports areas, have **additional costs** associated with the class. Craft kits, shooting tickets, or other necessary items needed to complete specific requirements are sold in the trading post. Approximate costs for the materials needed for each badge are listed in this guide. Please be prepared for these purchases. Other badges may require that Scouts bring certain items with them to camp – such fishing gear for Fishing – please review the badge descriptions in order to be prepared.

To help Scouts make appropriate badge selections, each badge has been assigned a difficulty rating. One star denotes an easier badge, while three stars denote more challenging ones. Scoutmasters and unit leaders should guide Scouts in their merit badge selections. An *Application for Merit Badge* (aka “blue card”), signed by an approved Scout leader, is required for each merit badge a Scout takes.



CAMP MINSI MERIT BADGE PREREQUISITES 2023

Merit Badge	Prerequisites	Notes	Location
Animation	None		Wilcox Lodge
Archery	None	\$	Ranges
Art	6	\$\$	Wilcox Lodge
Athletics (with Sports)	2A, 3A, 3B & 5		Sports Field
Aviation	4	L \$\$	Sports Field
Basketry	None	\$\$	Wilcox Lodge
Bird Study	5, 8		ECON
Camping	7, 8d, 9	E	Scoutcraft
Canoeing	Pass Swimmer Test		Waterfront
Citizenship in the Nation	7, 8	E	Ad Pad
Citizenship in the World	7	E	Ad Pad
Cooking	4, 5, 6	E	Scoutcraft
Emergency Preparedness	1, 2b, 2c, 8b	E	Scoutcraft
Environmental Science	3e, 3f	E	ECON
Exploration	4, 5		Scoutcraft
First Aid	1, 5	E	Scoutcraft
Fish & Wildlife Management	5		ECON
Fishing	None		Scoutcraft
Forestry	None		ECON
Game Design	None		Wilcox Lodge
Geocaching	7		ECON
Insect Study	5, 9, 10		ECON
Kayaking	Pass Swimmer Test		Waterfront
Lifesaving	2a, 16b, Pass Swimmer Test	E	Waterfront
Mammal Study	None		ECON
Mile Swim	Pass Swimmer Test	Not a Merit Badge	
Music	3 (must do two of the options)		Wilcox Lodge
Personal Fitness	6, 7, 8	E	Sports Field
Pioneering	None		Scoutcraft
Radio	None		Wilcox Lodge
Reptile & Amphibian Study	8		ECON
Rifle Shooting	1f	\$\$\$	Ranges
Robotics	None	L	Wilcox Lodge
Rowing	Pass Swimmer Test		Waterfront
Shotgun Shooting	1f	\$\$\$\$	Ranges
Small Boat Sailing	Pass Swimmer Test		Waterfront
Space Exploration	None		Wilcox Lodge
Sports (with Athletics)	4, 5		Sports Field
Stand Up Paddleboarding	Pass Swimmer Test	Not a Merit Badge	Waterfront
Swimming	7, Pass Swimmer Test	E	Waterfront
Theater	1		Sports Field
Wilderness Survival	5		Scoutcraft
Woodcarving	2a	\$	Wilcox Lodge

Approximate Cost (\$-Less than \$10; \$\$- Less than \$20; \$\$\$ - Less than \$30, \$\$\$\$ - Less than \$40)

E – Eagle Required L – Limited Space

CAMP MINSI MERIT BADGE SCHEDULE 2023

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:00-11:50	2:00-2:50	3:00-3:50	4:00-4:50
Athletics & Adventure	Sports & Athletics	Theater	Personal Fitness	<i>Afternoon Adventures (Different Week 2)</i> <i>M: Horseback Riding T: Tree-top Course W: Whitewater Rafting</i> <i>W: Muck Hike T: Biking F: Rock Climbing</i>		
Aquatics	Kayaking	Lifesaving	Kayaking	Kayaking	<i>Open Boating</i> <i>Open Swim</i> <i>Mile Swim</i>	
	Rowing	Canoeing	Canoeing	<i>Instructional Swim</i>		
		<i>Stand Up Paddleboarding</i>	Swimming	Swimming		
	Small Boat Sailing		<i>Instructional Swim</i>	Small Boat Sailing		
Citizenship				Citizenship in the Nation	Citizenship in the World	
ECON			Mammal Study	Geocaching	Mammal Study	Reptile Study
	Forestry	Bird Study	Bird Study	Insect Study	Geocaching	
	Environmental Science	Fish & Wildlife Management			Environmental Science	Environmental Science
Handicraft & STEM	Robotics	Aviation & Camp Minsi Flight School		Robotics	Radio	
	Art	Woodcarving		Art	Woodcarving	
	Music	Basketry	Music	Basketry	Space Exploration	
	Animation		Game Design	Animation		
Scoutcraft	Camping	First Aid	Fishing	Wilderness Survival	Fishing	Camping
	Emergency Preparedness	Exploration	Pioneering	Cooking	Pioneering	Emergency Preparedness
Shooting Sports	Archery		<i>Open Archery</i>	Archery		<i>Open Archery</i>
	Rifle Shooting		<i>Open Shooting</i>	Shotgun Shooting <i>*Tuesdays – Cowboy Action Shoot*</i>		<i>Open Shooting</i>
Trail to Adventure	<i>First Year Camper Program</i>			<i>First Year Camper Program</i>		

Updated 3/26/2023

Programs that do not earn a Merit Badge are in *italics*.

Eagle Required Badges are in **bold**.

Please review the Camp Program Guide for Merit Badge pre-requisites, any additional costs and more information about the program.

The schedule for Afternoon Adventures will be modified during week 2 since some activities are closed for the Fourth of July Holiday.



The Trail to Adventure

The Trail to Adventure (TTA) is Camp Minsi's first-year camper program. The daily 3-hour program runs a mirror schedule, meaning that the same program is offered in both the morning and the afternoon, allowing the other half of a Scout's day for merit badges and other programs throughout camp. During the course of the week, Scouts will build many of the skills necessary to earn the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class while building teamwork, leadership, and other Scout skills. Scouts will be placed into patrols and will function as a troop during their program with an opening and closing, activities and inter-patrol competitions each day. Scouts will complete these activities as a patrol, so each day each patrol may be covering a different one of these topics unless the day is listed in the description.



Scouting, Flags and Knives

The Trail to Adventure program utilizes the patrol method. The week starts with Scouts being divided into patrols and choosing a patrol name and cheer. Scouts will learn the history of the American flag, as well as how to fold, raise, lower, and care for the American flag. Scouts will visit several program areas in camp as they complete various requirements and get an introduction to Scouts BSA and summer camp. Additionally, Scouts will review the rules and guidelines of safe knife, axe and saw use in order to earn their BSA Totin' Chip cards.



Monday Evening – TTA Super Shooter (Rifles, Bows and Arrows)

On Monday evening, all first-year Scouts in camp are invited to the shooting ranges for the TTA Super Shooter. This special program allows new Scouts to get special shooting experiences at both the rifle range and the archery range.



Knots, Rope and Fire

Scouts will demonstrate their fire-building skills and review the rules and guidelines of fire safety in order to earn their BSA Firem'n Chit cards. Scouts will learn how to tie basic Scout knots: including the square knot, bowline, two half hitches, taut-line hitch, and the clove hitch. Scouts will also learn how to care for and whip and fuse rope.



Hiking, Nature and Leave-No-Trace

The center of the week features a special backcountry hike in the backwoods of Camp Minsi. Before departing, Scouts will review important hiking safety tips and basic map and compass skills. Scouts are expected to bring proper footwear for this hike along with at least one full water bottle.



Thursday - Aquatics, Boating and Swimming

On Thursday, all Scouts in TTA will travel to Waterfront for a variety of aquatic-based activities. While at Waterfront, Scouts will learn the principles of the BSA's Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. Additionally, Scouts will learn and demonstrate various water rescues, boating skills, and have an opportunity for some free swimming in Stillwater Lake.



First Aid, Safety and Being Prepared

Scouts will learn and demonstrate first aid skills and how to be prepared in emergency situations. Scouts will depart on Camp Minsi's interactive First Aid Trail! They will come across various stations throughout camp featuring real-world first aid scenarios and will be asked to apply their first aid knowledge and skills.

Camp Minsi Afternoon Adventures

If you are a thrill-seeker looking for new outdoor challenges and fun, then look no further than Camp Minsi's exciting Afternoon Adventures. These special programs provide a variety of unique outdoor adventures for Scouts in the heart of the Poconos!

Scouts must be at least 14-years-old (or 13-years-old and have completed the 8th grade) to participate in all of the off-site adventures; additional fees are required to cover transportation and equipment rentals for off-site adventures. Pre-registration is required for all Afternoon Activities. Please register and pay by June 1st.

Horseback Riding at the Ranch – Monday



Saddle up for a beginner-friendly riding experience as you take a guided ride through gently sloping hills and wooded trails on horseback.

Pre-registration price: \$60.00 per person

Must be at least 14-years-old (or 13-years-old and have completed the 8th grade)

Treetop Adventures at Gorilla Grove – Tuesday



The Gorilla Grove Treetop Ropes Course will challenge you with tightropes, rope net climbs, swinging logs, moving tunnels, platforms, quad-racing, zip lines, and more!

Pre-registration price: \$60.00 per person

Must be at least 14-years-old (or 13-years-old and have completed the 8th grade)

Whitewater Rafting on the Lehigh River – Wednesday



Enjoy a fun-filled rafting trip on the Lehigh River. The eight-mile trek gives Scouts and leaders an afternoon of fun on the river interspersed with a touch of Class III rapids.

Pre-registration price: \$60.00 per person

Open to all ages, must qualify as a "Swimmer" to participate.

Mountain Biking in the Lehigh Gorge – Thursday



Ride through the Lehigh Gorge. As you pedal the 25-mile trail, you'll see cool rock formations, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. Bicycle and helmet rental included.

Pre-registration price: \$60.00 per person

Must be at least 14-years-old (or 13-years-old and have completed the 8th grade)

Natural Face Rock Climbing at Eagle Point – Friday



Reach great heights as you ascend to the summit. Develop belaying, climbing and repelling skills to conquer the 50-foot cliffs overlooking Tobyhanna Creek.

Pre-registration price: \$60.00 per person

Must be at least 14-years-old (or 13-years-old and have completed the 8th grade)

Special Camp-wide Programs

Evening Programs

Special evening programs and presentations will be announced throughout the week. Evening activities include: open swimming and boating, special shooting sports opportunities, exciting sports and games, troop competitions, advancement workshops, astronomy observations, crafts, special presentations, service projects, and more.

Thursday Evening Site Cook-In Night

On Thursday evening, the dining hall will not provide a cooked meal; instead, units will be provided with ingredients to cook their own dinner. Each unit will choose a dinner option and are encouraged to bring their own cooking equipment and mess kits to prepare and eat the meal in their campsite.

Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony

On Thursday evening the Order of the Arrow will perform their public recognition ceremony, known as the call-out. Arrangements for those who will be called out should be confirmed with the OA coordinator prior to the ceremony.

The Muck Hike

Here's is an experience you will never forget! This Wednesday afternoon (2pm-5pm) hike takes Scouts and leaders through the muddy swamps on the western edge of camp as they hike (and swim) through thick mud. The event concludes with a mob of muddy Scout descending upon the waterfront to cleanse in the lake. The hike is open to all Scouts and leaders. Bring clothing (and footwear) that can get extremely wet and dirty (and most likely thrown away afterwards). A special patch is available in the Trading Post to commemorate the experience.

Friggid Froggie

Take an early morning dip in the lake at Frigid Froggy, at 6:30AM. Check this week's schedule while you are at camp.

Camp-Wide Whitewater Rafting

Enjoy a fun-filled whitewater rafting trip on the Lehigh River on Wednesday afternoon. The eight-mile trek gives Scouts and leaders an afternoon of fun on the river interspersed with a touch of Class III rapids. This activity is open to all ages, participants must qualify as a "Swimmer" to participate. An additional fee is required.

Camp Minsi Honor Troop Award

The Camp Minsi Honor Troop Award is awarded to units that exemplify the aims and methods the Scouting program. The Honor Troop Award encourages Scout spirit, teamwork, and participation during your week at camp. Honor Troop tracking sheets can be picked up in the Ad-Pad throughout the week.

Special Shooting Opportunities

Camp Minsi offers several special shooting opportunities. Cowboy Action Shoot is held in place of Shotgun Merit Badge Class on Tuesdays (must be 14 or older or completed 8th grade to participate). Scouts have the chance to try Sporting Arrows on Tuesday Evening at Archery. Our "History with a Bang" demonstration is held on Wednesday evenings.

Adult Leader Trainings & Programs

Training helps adult leaders deliver quality Scouting experiences to their youth. While at camp this summer, leaders can utilize their time to get trained (and have fun) with a variety of adult leader training opportunities. This is a great opportunity for leaders to get these essential trainings completed.



BSA Safe Swim Defense

Time: Monday @ 1PM @ the Ad-Pad

Description: Safe Swim Defense training teaches the basic principles necessary for conducting a safe swimming activity. Adult leaders supervising a swimming activity must have completed the BSA Safe Swim Defense training within the previous 2 years.



BSA Safety Afloat

Time: Tuesday @ 1PM @ the Ad-Pad

Description: Safety Afloat training has been developed to promote boating and boating safety and to set standards for safe unit activity afloat. Adult leaders supervising activities afloat must have completed Safety Afloat training within the previous 2 years.



BSA Swimming & Water Rescue

Time: Tuesday-Friday at Waterfront with the Lifesaving merit badge class.

Description: Training for BSA Swim & Water Rescue provides BSA leaders with information and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies. It expands upon the awareness instruction provided by Safe Swim Defense training.



BSA Paddle Craft Safety

Time: Tuesday-Friday at Waterfront with any Canoeing or Kayaking merit badge class.

Description: BSA Paddle Craft Safety expands Safety Afloat training to include the skills and knowledge needed for a unit leader to confidently supervise safe boating activities. Training can be completed in kayak or canoe.



Scout Leader Merit Badge

Time: On your own, open all week.

Description: Camp Minsi's Scout Leader Merit Badge is a progressive award for adult leaders. The program encourages leaders to get out of the campsite and participate in a variety of fun and challenging activities throughout camp. Scout Leader Merit Badge requirement sheets can be picked up in the Ad-Pad and completed throughout the week.

Camp Minsi Weekly Schedule

TIME	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:45 am	<i>Camp Closed</i>	Morning Colors					Continental Breakfast
8:00 am		Breakfast					
9:00 am	Early Arrival	Morning Program <i>Merit Badges, TTA</i>					Closing Ceremony
12:00 noon		Lunch					
1:00 pm	Check-In	Siesta					<i>Camp Closed</i>
2:00 pm		Afternoon Program <i>Merit Badges, TTA, Afternoon Adventures (Pre-registration required)</i> <i>Muck Hike (Wednesday Most Week)</i>					
5:00 pm							
5:45 pm	Evening Colors						
6:00 pm	Dinner				Cook in Your Site Night!	Dinner	
7:00 pm	Camp Tours Q&A Session	Evening Programs TTA Super Shooter Open Handicraft	Evening Programs Sporting Arrows Civil War Demo	Evening Programs TTA In-Post History with a Bang (7:30)		Blue Card Party <i>Merit Badge Reconciliation</i>	
8:45 pm	Opening Campfire	Campwide Kickball Deep Fry Night	Open Handicraft Fishing Derby		OA Callout	Closing Campfire	
10:00 pm	Taps						

Evening Programs may vary by week. A Copy of changes for the week will be available to units on Sunday

