

# PROGRAM GUIDE



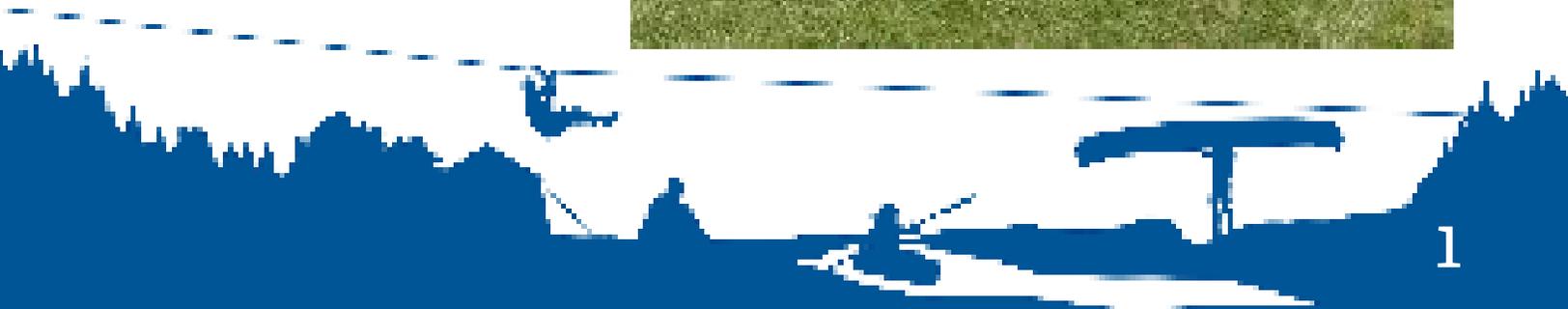
Program Director: Maxwell Hamilton

# History of Camp Gorton

Camp Gorton is located on Waneta Lake nestled in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. Camp started in 1922 on the property of Dr. William Gorton across the lake before Dr. Gorton and several other local leaders came together to purchase the property where camp sits today. Starting in 1924 and continuing to this day, Camp Gorton has allowed thousands of Scouts of the Steuben Area Council, Five Rivers Council, and from all throughout the country and world come to experience the magic of summer camp and the solace of year-round camping.



Then and Now.....



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# From the Program Director

Summer Camp has and always will be one of my favorite places, specifically Camp Gorton. I have been working at Camp since 2016, and have been apart of areas like Waterfront and FYRE. My goals for camp this summer are to provide an experience Scouts cannot find anywhere else, while also building fun memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

We as a staff take pride in our work and the Merit Badges we offer to Scouts. Requirements are completed as written with no changes. Completing a merit badge is an awesome thing, but I would like to stress to you (and hope that you will pass this on to your Scouts) that partials are not a bad thing. We want Scouts to discover a love for learning and Scouting. If, over the course of their week, a Scout cannot complete a badge, it does not mean that the Scout, leader, or counselor failed. It simply means that a little more work is required and we would be more than happy to assist that Scout when they return for a second week or a subsequent summer.

At Camp we will have every area open as we have in years past:

- Handi-Craft
- Nature
- S.T.E.M.
- Scoutcraft
- Shooting Sports
- Waterfront

While still providing a First Year Resident Experience that area and staff are under the umbrella of Scoutcraft, and throughout the week will work on requirements around camp for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.

**Yours in Scouting,**



**Maxwell Hamilton**



# Dates and Fees

## Pre-Camp Leaders Meeting June 28, 7:00PM at Camp Gorton

Please have one representative from the leadership of your unit attend.



## New Scouts Discount

Webelos / Arrow of Light and other new Scouts who join a Scouts BSA unit during the spring will qualify for the discounted fee up to June 15th. You will need to contact the Five Rivers Council office to have the discount applied.



# Camp Program

While every bit of information in this guide is important, camp is where the magic happens. Camp Gorton prides itself on the top-notch program that we deliver to each and every Scout, parent, and adult leader. Our staff truly believes that we are America's Finest Scout Camp and that is reflected in our program. This program guide is simply an introduction to the phenomenal program we offer.

Check the Five Rivers Council website and all of our social media sites to stay updated with the newest additions and developments to our 2023 program.

## Things to Keep in Mind

- The camp program is limited only by a unit's participation
- Planning before arrival helps a unit get the most of their experience
- The staff can only help when we know what you need. Please ask about extra programming. We are always willing to do whatever possible to help you meet the needs of your Troop, patrols, and individual Scouts.
- Summer camp is a great place for Scouts to fully lead their program. Encourage your SPL and Patrol

## Campfires

**We have two campfires throughout the week at Camp Gorton: Opening and Closing.**

**Opening** – Our staff will delight you with songs, skits, stories, and cheers galore in the Council Fire Ring. We welcome you to America's Finest Scout Camp with a campfire packed full of Scouting fun and comradery.

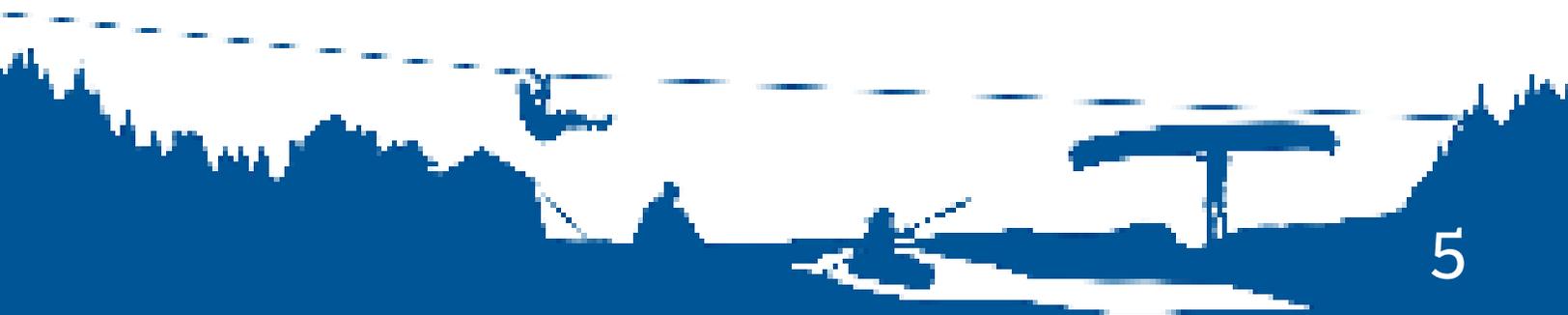
**Closing** – On Friday night, our Closing Campfire and Recognition Ceremony will take place in the Council Fire Ring. This campfire is composed entirely of Scout songs, skits, and cheers. The staff loves to see Scout material, so bring your A game and blow us away.

## Open Area

There will be designated times each day for Scouts to move freely through camp. Scouts can use this time to visit their favorite program area, work on extra merit badges, develop skills, and work on various camp awards. Scouts must have a buddy as they move through camp.

## Camp-wide Activities

Monday through Thursday there will be a campwide activity. Scouts are encouraged to work on awards or participate in games on the parade field. Past games have included Capture the Flag, Soccer, Staff Hunts, Ultimate Frisbee, and Scavenger Hunts. Each day's camp-wide game is decided by the Senior Patrol Leaders at their meeting after lunch. This includes our Gaga and Volleyball pit between the main bathrooms and the Camp Health Office!



## Morning and Evening Colors

Scouts are encouraged to participate in our flag ceremonies each day. Interested Scouts should talk to a staff member prior to the ceremony in which they would like to help. Morning Colors will occur at **7:45 AM** and Evening Colors will occur at **5:45 PM**. Field Uniforms are required for Evening colors.

## Happy Hour

Immediately after breakfast, scouts will be sent to a different area of camp for small maintenance and cleaning projects. Campsites will be assigned a different job at breakfast each day. Happy Hour accounts for 10 points on your Troops' daily campsite inspection, so make sure Scouts are present and actively involved!

## Second Cup of Coffee

Each day after breakfast, there will be a leaders' meeting at the Chapel. One leader from each unit should attend, as important information and updates will be distributed at this meeting. The camp administrative staff will be there to run the meeting and answer any questions or issues you have.

## Siesta

**1:00 PM to 1:50 PM** is the designated siesta time for the entire camp. Troops are encouraged to stay in their campsite and relax to regain energy for the remainder of the day. Card games, reading, and naps are highly encouraged.

## Senior Patrol Leader Meeting

After lunch, there will be a brief 5 minute meeting between the Senior Patrol Leaders and the Program Director. This is when the next day's camp-wide activity will be decided and important information will be distributed. SPLs should come prepared with any questions they or their Scouts may have.

## Hilltop Outpost

Camp Gorton has a beautiful outpost area at the top of our hill on the far side of the road. Scouts in our First Year Resident Experience program, Camping Merit Badge, and Wilderness Survival Merit Badge will leave at 4 PM on Thursday to cook dinner and spend the night on the hill.



# Program Highlights

## Expanded Merit Badge Offering:

Camp Gorton strives to offer a vast selection of merit badges. This summer we have added a few additional merit badges, also this year we will be grouping some badges together throughout camp. This is to provide a cross-curricular experience for your Scouts, and we also are willing to curate a plan for your Scout to ensure their camp experience is beneficial and fun.

## New Merit Badges:

This summer we have brought on a few new Merit Badges to our program; Journalism and Weather. More information about these badge will come when the Merit badge schedule is released.

## Daily Schedule:

Our daily schedule allows for the most merit badge time while still leaving ample time to travel between program areas. We want to be flexible with our daily scheduling, during **SPL Meetings** we can decide whether to have Open Area or a Campwide Activity, to allow for open area opportunities, as well as a fun experience.

## Wednesday Programming

This year we will be following a different daily schedule for Wednesday. Due to extending our normal Merit Badge sessions by 30 minutes, we believe we can eliminate Wednesday from normal programming, to allow a more inclusive, and troop run day, there will be more information about what we will offer during the **Leaders Meeting**.



# Daily Activity Schedule: (subject to change based on weather)

## Sunday

- Check-in
- Leaders Meeting
- Round-Robin (Meet the Areas and Staff)
- Opening Campfire Program

## Monday

- Merit Badge Sessions Begin
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

## Tuesday

- Merit Badge Sessions Continue
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

## Wednesday

- After breakfast Troops can create their own programming, in or out of camp, let us know what you want to do, so we can help your troop be successful.
- Order of the Arrow Day
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

## Thursday

- Merit Badge Sessions Continue
- Hilltop Night
- Open Area / Campwide Activity

## Friday

- Merit Badge Sessions End
- Closing Campfire
- BBQ Dinner

## Saturday

- Even though programming has ended, Troops are more than welcome to stay Friday evening to ensure safe travels back home during daylight hours.



# An Introduction to Merit Badges

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. 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). Please be sure to complete all 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).

Scoutmasters and unit leaders should guide Scouts in their merit badge selections.

This year we will once again be using Black Pug to record Scouts merit badge information, but an Application for Merit Badge (aka “blue card”), will be provided upon request.



## Merit Badges

Scouts will have many opportunities to earn merit badges throughout the week. There are SIX hours each day dedicated to merit badge instruction, additionally some of our program areas also offer open area merit badges.

Many badges are well suited for first or second year campers who are still new to the Scouting program. Other badges tailor themselves to older Scouts who may have many Eagle required badges and are looking for a challenge. Please follow these suggestions as much as possible to ensure that all Scouts are in badges that match their ability level.

## Open area badges

Scouts may go to program areas during the open area time to work on select merit badges.

## Registration, Waitlists, and Conflicts

Your unit will be sent information regarding online Merit Badge sign-ups **May 15**. Please ensure all Scouts select a first and second choice for each merit badge instruction period.

Some badges have class limits due to space, time or equipment restrictions. Waitlists will be generated for each of these classes, but Scouts should be prepared with other class choices should too many Scouts sign up for a specific badge. Class spaces for these classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you arrive at camp, you will be given a list of your Scouts and the badges they are signed up for. If there are any issues or conflicts, or if any of your Scouts would like to change any of their badges, there will be a merit badge roundtable in the Dining Hall, with area directors immediately following dinner on Sunday night. Please send one leader and any Scouts with class conflicts and issues to this meeting. We will do our best to ensure that all Scouts and leaders are satisfied with merit badge selections.



# EXTRA CAMP PROGRAMS

## Gorton Trail Hiker

Camp Gorton may have gorgeous program areas, but we are also home to a huge network of trails that cut across our hillside. The Gorton Trail Hiker Award is a program dedicated to getting Scouts and Scouters out on the trails and building an appreciation for the camp as a whole. This program has three tiers: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. One award may be earned annually, with each level consisting of hikes, a service project, and a journal reflection. Please see the Camp Ranger upon arrival to camp for more information.

## Scoutmaster Merit Badge

In 2022, we revised our Scoutmaster Merit Badge program. This program is designed to engage adult leaders in the program areas of camp, promote camp improvement projects, and boost that good ol' Gorton Spirit. All adult leaders are encouraged to participate in this fun and rewarding program.

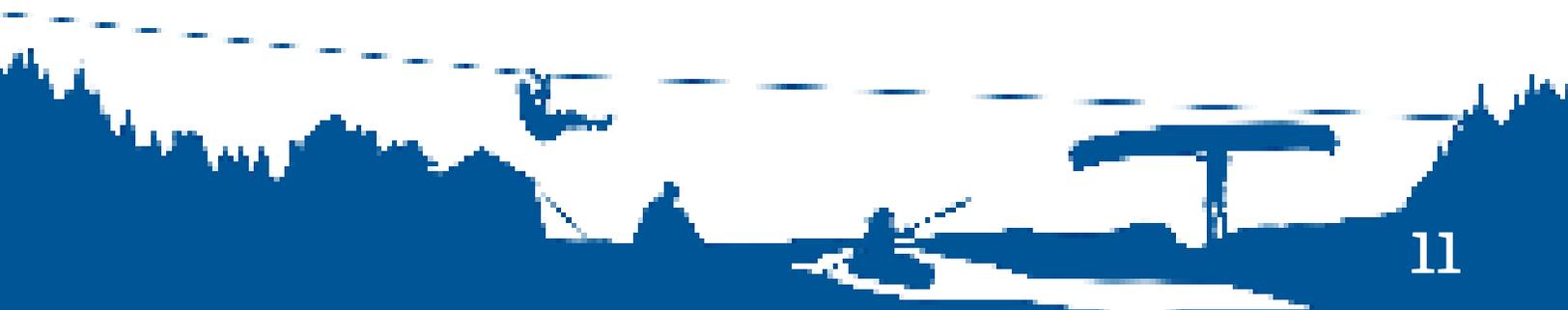
## Gorton Honor Patrol

In 2022 we be revised the Gorton Honor Patrol Program. The Gorton Honor Patrol Award is designed to promote and strengthen the patrol method in camp. An Honor Patrol is an exemplary group of Scouts who are committed to the patrol method, understand its benefits, and apply it in their daily lives. This program is designed to allow patrol members to explore all aspects of Camp Gorton.

Those patrols that complete the Honor Patrol program in their week at camp will receive a banner for their Troop flag and each member of the patrol will receive a Gorton Honor Patrol neckerchief.

## Adult Leader Trainings

Many different adult leader trainings will be made available over the course of your stay at Camp Gorton. Past courses have included Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Youth Protection Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, and many others.



# Order of the Arrow

**TKäen DōD** is the Order of the Arrow lodge associated with the Five Rivers Council. The Order is known as “Scouting’s National Honor Society” and works hard to promote Scout camping, encourage leadership, and provide service to Scouting. Many members of the staff are Arrowmen and are dedicated to the Scouting program. There are numerous service projects that the lodge has conducted that are a definite improvement to camp.

TKäen DōD Lodge provides Order of the Arrow Unit Election opportunities in the Spring. By National policy Unit Elections are not permitted at summer camp.

**The Order of the Arrow Recognition Ceremony** will be included in the weekly program. This is a public recognition of the newly elected members in the presence of their friends and families. Questions regarding their upcoming induction at an Ordeal weekend will be answered after the ceremony. More information and people to contact can be found at the TKäen DōD Lodge portion of the council website.

Out of Council units desiring their Scouts to be **Recognized** need to coordinate with the Camp Commissioner.

## Order of the Arrow Day

Wednesday is Order of the Arrow Day at camp. We will have a recognition of members who have been elected or who have completed their Ordeal. There will also be special programming for the day and an opportunity for lodge members to seal their membership in the Brotherhood. All OA members are asked to wear their OA sash to evening colors and dinner.



# 2023 Camp Gorton Merit Badge List

Below is a list of merit badges we plan to offer at Camp Gorton this summer  
(subject to change based on staffing)

## Handi-Craft:

Art  
Leatherworking  
Metalwork  
Model Design and Building  
Sculpture  
Textiles  
Wood Carving  
Game Design  
Indian Lore  
Theater

## Waterfront:

Motorboating  
Kayaking  
Canoeing  
Paddleboard Award  
Rowing  
Swimming  
Lifesaving  
Sailing

## Snorkeling Award

## Scout-Craft:

Camping  
Emergency Preparedness  
First Aid  
Orienteering  
Pioneering  
Search and Rescue  
Signs, Signals and Codes  
Wilderness Survival

## Shooting Sports:

Archery  
Rifle  
Shotgun

## Nature:

Weather  
Astronomy  
Environmental Science  
Fishing  
Fly Fishing  
Mammal Study  
Nature  
Oceanography  
Plant Science  
Soil and Water Conservation

## S.T.E.M:

Journalism  
Citizens of the Nation  
Communication  
Digital Technology  
Engineering  
Exploration  
Graphic Arts  
Moviemaking  
Music  
Photography  
Public Speaking  
Robotics  
Space Exploration

## F.Y.R.E. (First Year Resident Experience):

After FYRE, Scouts will have been taught and or have demonstrated the skills needed to complete the following requirements:

Scout:	Tenderfoot:	Second Class:	First Class:
(1a, b, c, e), f 3a, b 4a, b 5	1a, b, c 2a, c 3a, b, c, d 4a, b, c 5a, b, c 7a 8 9	1b partial 1c partial 2a, b, c, f, g 3a, c, (d) 4 6a, (b), c, d 8 (a), b 10	3a, b, c (4a) 5a, b (7 a, b) 11