

MATTATUCK SCOUT RESERVATION

Parent's Guide 2026

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Scouting America
Connecticut Rivers Council

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED
SCOUTING AMERICA PROGRAMS

MATTATUCK
SCOUT RESERVATION

Parents,

Welcome to Mattatuck! First, I want to thank you for your interest in Mattatuck Scout Reservation, and more importantly for allowing your child to participate in Scouting programs. You will look back on the decision to register them as one of the greatest you've ever made. Scouting is a program that changed my life, and is now changing the lives of my own three children for the better. Summer camp is a flagship part of the program that allows us to fulfill Scouting's aims and deliver on the mission that we promised you when you signed your child up as a Scout. As our movement's founder, Robert Baden-Powell, said, "a week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room".

This guide is meant to prepare you for the awesome fun that your Scout is going to have this summer 'neath the summit of Mt. Tobe, as well as ease any concerns you might have about our program and camp.

I look forward to meeting you and your child at summer camp this year! My contact information is on the next page; please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you might have.

Warmly,



Jeromy Nelson
Reservation Director

Contact and Key Leadership



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Mark Switzer
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Peter Gati
Reservation Commissioner

For registration questions, please contact your unit leadership or Connecticut Rivers Council Program Executive Michele Soboslai: michele.soboslai@scouting.org



Camperships

The Connecticut Rivers Council is pleased to offer camperships to all Scouts in need of assistance, both inside and outside of the council. The application for camperships can be found at t.ly/B8Ck1, and they must be submitted no later than May 15th, 2026.

Once all applications are received, a committee of volunteers and professionals will review them and decide to whom camperships will be awarded and in what amount.

Camperships are made possible largely through individual donations through the council's Camp4All campaign, plus some important corporate partners.

Thank you to all donors! To contribute, please visit t.ly/MgRBP.

Health & Safety

Our number one priority is the safety of all participants. For that reason, we strive to ensure the highest quality health lodge. There is always a health officer in camp whenever any youth are present.

In addition to the health officer, who is always a nurse, EMT, paramedic, doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, there is a doctor on call 24/7 during the camp season. Dr. Peter Jacoby, MD is board certified in emergency medicine and has been our physician for many years. Plymouth EMS is just 10 minutes away. We have three AEDs: one at each of the health lodge, dining hall, and waterfront. Each department area also has a full first aid kit.

We also care for mental health. A staff member, Noah, who is a school counselor, leads our mental, emotional, and social health team. We make sure that all participants feel comfortable while at camp.

If your Scout requires the regular administration of medication, please bring the required amount with clear dosage instructions signed by a licensed health care provider, in their original containers, and noted on the medical form (see page 7 for more details). For Scouts who use epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) and/or asthma inhalers, we ask that at least two are brought. When possible, one will be carried on your Scout's person, and the other(s) will be stored in the health lodge. Medication is typically distributed immediately after breakfast and dinner, as well as at midday, though other arrangements can be made if necessary.



Forms

Before you arrive at camp, make sure you have filled out parts A, B1, B2 and C of Scouting America's Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR), as well as the Connecticut Rivers Council-specific addendum, "Part D". All of these forms can be found at campmattatuck.org/ahmr. Please note that part C of the AHMR is required to be filled out and signed by a licensed health care provider. As a reminder, for those with health insurance, a copy of both sides of your insurance card must be attached to the AHMR. Additionally, please understand that we cannot accept any other form of physical examination in place of part C of the AHMR. **Again, only the official Scouting America form is accepted, not a school or sport physical or any other type of exam.**

When signing up for camp, whoever is registering the child will have to enter some basic information, like a Scout's address, emergency contact information, and more. If coming with a troop, this will likely be handled by your unit leader. Additionally, merit badges are handled exclusively online. There will be an option beginning around April to sign up for merit badges within the online portal at scoutingevent.com.



Check In

Every Scout's week at Mattatuck begins on Sunday afternoon in the pine grove, which is a cluster of pine trees directly adjacent to our main parking lot. As you pull in, volunteers will direct you as to where to park your car and there will be a staff member in field uniform standing with a sign with your troop number on it. (For Trailblazers, the sign will say "Trailblazers" or "TB".) If your Scout has gear with them, they should take it with them to that staff member (your "guide") and join the rest of the group. Note that specific arrival times will be communicated to unit leadership the Tuesday before your week at camp, and they will distribute it for you. For Trailblazers, an email will be sent the prior to your week at camp with your arrival time. Arrival times are almost always between 12:30 and 2:00.

Once your full group is present, your guide will take you on a mini-tour of camp on the way to your campsite. Once at your campsite, you'll be able to help set up your Scout's gear and also undergo medical check-in. For medical check-in, each Scout will need to have their full Annual Health and Medical Record (see page 7 for more details) and any medications they'll be taking in camp. Some of our staff members and a health officer will be on hand to review these documents and ask and answer any pertinent questions.

Once medical check in is complete, Scouts will proceed as a group to the waterfront. First, they'll head to the boating side, where some of our waterfront staff members will explain procedures for using our boats.

(Continued on next page)

After the boating orientation, the Scouts will head over to the swimming side of Lake Kenosha. Our lake is fully private and ours to use. Kenosha is one of two major bodies of water on our reservation; the other is Brophy Pond, or "Lost Lake", which is in the northernmost part of our property and partially lies in Mattatuck State Forest. Lake Kenosha receives frequent water tests; it additionally has excess metals removed from it continuously. After a waterfront staff members gets the Scouts oriented to the swimming side, they will undergo swim tests. There are three levels of aquatics classification in Scouting America: swimmer, beginner, and nonswimmer. Swimmers can access all aquatics features at camp, beginners can access many features, and nonswimmers can only participate in limited ways. To become a swimmer, a Scout must successfully pass the following test:

> Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Beginners pass this test:

> Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, and return to the starting place.

Nonswimmers are those unable to pass either test. Additionally, Scouts may work with our staff throughout the week in order to try to become a swimmer.

Accreditation & Licensing



Mattatuck Scout Reservation undergoes multiple, in-depth licensing and accreditation processes as part of our goal to run as strong and safe of a program as possible. Firstly, we are fully licensed by the State of Connecticut as a day and resident youth camp, and comply with all relevant regulations. Relevant parts of the law and regulations may be found at t.ly/9hpRW. As part of this state licensing, we receive an unannounced inspection at least once annually.

We are also additionally certified as a Nationally Accredited Scouting America camp, meaning that we meet or exceed 350 specific requirements across 94 different standards that ensure camp success and safety. These standards cover areas such as program design, health & safety, facilities, and more. You may read the full text of the National Camp Standards at t.ly/D5ap6.



Staff

We always strive to ensure that our staff is as qualified and as helpful as it possibly can be. Our staff is rigorously trained, with each staff member receiving at least 28 hours of training before camp begins. Our key directors are each trained at National Camping School, an exacting, week-long session designed to ensure that camp leaders are highly qualified. Several of our staff members have taught at National Camping School.

Many of our staff members are educators, with the large majority of our older adult staff working in schools during the school year and staffing at Mattatuck during the summer. 100% of our staff are background checked, and each and every one of them takes both Safeguarding Youth Training and Peer on Peer Abuse prevention training. Whenever any youth are in camp, we always have at least one individual licensed by the state of Connecticut as a youth camp director.



A Typical Day

6:30 AM - 7:00 AM - Wake Up
6:45 AM - 7:15 AM - Polar Bear Swim or Sunrise Bike Ride (if desired)
7:45 AM - Walk to Dining Hall for Breakfast
7:55 AM - Morning Colors on the Deacon Flag Pole
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM - Breakfast in Rotary Dining Hall
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - Troop/Patrol Program (Example: Archery)
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Troop/Patrol Program (Example: Instructional Swimming)
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Troop/Patrol Program (if desired)
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Merit Badges
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Rolling Lunch (Scouts stop by Dining Hall at some point during this time to eat)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Open Program or Merit Badge
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM - Colors in campsite, change into "Class A"
5:45 PM - Walk to Dining Hall for Dinner
5:55 PM - Evening Colors on Deacon Flag Pole
6:00 PM - 6:45 PM - Dinner in Rotary Dining Hall
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Troop/Patrol Program, Merit Badge or Open Program
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM: Troop-Led Activities
9:30 PM - "Prayer Bell"
9:45 PM - Taps

Dining

All meals at Mattatuck Scout Reservation are cooked and served at the Rotary Dining Hall. All menus are reviewed and approved by a dietitian. Additionally, we can accommodate many health and religious dietary needs. See page 18 for more details.

Breakfast

Breakfast is served family style at 8:00 AM each morning, following flag at 7:55. Common menu items include eggs, waffles, and more. Each morning, fresh fruit, cereal, milk, yogurt, and oatmeal are available.





Lunch

Lunch rolls, buffet style, from 11:30-1:00 daily. Scouts will grab food like tacos, sandwiches, or pasta and eat in or around the dining hall with a buddy or a group of friends. Salad is available daily!

Dinner

Dinner is served family style most days of the week, with buffet options on certain days to accommodate pictures and Visitor Night. Scouts eat things like ham, chicken, pork, or pasta in "Class A" uniform. Like lunch, a salad bar is always available!



Accommodations

Mattatuck campers, generally, will stay in standard issue two-person canvas wall tents, like the one shown below, for their week at camp. Leaders will generally stay in four-person canvas tents with a canvas tarp attached. There are some nylon tents in camp as well, particularly for four-person tents.

In each tent, there will be Coleman camping cots with stretched canvas. Note that fitted sheets will not fit on these bunks, but a non-fitted sheet may work. We recommend a pillow and a blanket/sleeping bag!





All campsites will have at least one metal carport/canopy. The reservation has nine sites available for Scouts BSA unit use during the summer, plus one site for our Trailblazer program and one site for Cub Scouts.

Every Scouts BSA site except for Hawthorne, Polaris, and Cougar has its own showers, and there are latrines available in each site except for Polaris and Cougar. Polaris and Cougar share one set of showers and latrines.



Reservation Office

The office is located in Lovett Lodge, which is the closer of two stone buildings to the main parking lot. The office is where all Scouts should sign in and out of camp (except for initial check-in). The office staff is happy to answer any questions you may have about camp, the information in this guide, or anything else. Stop by or call during any of the hours listed!

Office Hours (Beginning Week 1):

Sunday: 12:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Monday: 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Office Phone Number: (860) 283-9577

Trading Post

Tuttle Lodge serves as the reservation's trading post. In addition to hosting our lost and found, the Trading Post has plenty to satisfy any food and drink needs, with ice cream, snacks, Avery soda, popcorn, as well as healthy options. It also stocks uniforms, merit badges, other insignia, and other pieces from the National office. There are lawn games outside, like giant chess, giant Jenga, and cornhole. The Trading Post accepts cash, personal check, all major credit and debit cards, mobile payments (like Apple Pay and Google Pay), and Cash App.

We estimate that most Scouts spend $40-$50 in a week.

Trading Post Hours:

Sunday:
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM, 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Monday - Thursday:
8:45 AM - 5:00 PM, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Friday:
8:00 AM - 7:45 PM, 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Saturday:
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM



Mail/Packages

We receive mail and packages daily, except for federal holidays and Sundays. To send a package or letter to camp, please address it in the following manner:

[Recipient Name]
[Unit Type and Number]
Mattatuck Scout Reservation
221 Mt. Tobe Rd.
Plymouth, CT 06782

Generally, mail is delivered in the afternoon, and packages are delivered sporadically throughout the day. Mail and packages will be available for pickup to leaders in the office.

If you wish to guarantee your package or letter arrives with plenty of time, feel free to mail it early or drop it in the office on Sunday. Staff members can arrange for it to be delivered to your Scout on a specific day of your choosing. If you are mailing in a package/letter for this reason, please call the office when it is open with details.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if my child doesn't want to participate in a particular program? Would they have to?
A: No. A unit may choose troop-based programs that your child is not comfortable in, but they do not have to participate. There are a wide variety of open programs, and your Scout will be sure to find something they enjoy.

Q: What happens if my child falls ill or gets seriously hurt?
A: The Scout may go to the health lodge and receive assessment from the health officer there. Then, the camp may call to the contacts listed on the Annual Health and Medical Record and assess what is best to do next, possibly including bringing the child for outside medical treatment or having you come to camp to bring your child home.

Q: What is the adult supervision like? Could my child get lost?
A: Adult supervision is an important part of Scouting, and is mostly handled on the troop level while at camp. For Trailblazers, we provide adult supervision. Additionally, the central area of camp is well marked and Scouts will always be with at least one buddy.

Q: My child can't eat a particular food. Will the dining hall accommodate them?
A: We strive to be as accommodating as possible in food service. We can serve individuals with a wide variety of food needs. Just make sure that we know in advance!

Packing List

This is a suggested list.

- Complete Scouting America Field Uniform ("Class A")
- Hiking shoes
- Sneakers
- Sandals/flip-flops/clogs
- Bug spray/insect repellent
- Clothes for 7 days, plus spares:
  - Shorts
  - Shirts
  - Underwear
  - Socks
- Sweatshirt/hoodie/jacket
- Pants
- Swimsuits (2)
- Warm blankets/sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Towels (2)
- Water bottle
- Fishing gear (if desired)
- Raincoat
- Flashlight
- *Scouts BSA Handbook*
- Pen/writing implement
- Paper/notebook
- Necessary materials for merit badges (as noted in the 2026 Program Guide)
- Money for Trading Post
- Sunscreen
- Bug net and poles for tent
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Soap/shampoo
- Other necessary toiletries

