

Parents's Guide
2026

MA-KA-JA-WAN

Scout Reservation



2026 PARENT GUIDE
MA-KA-JA-WAN
SCOUT RESERVATION

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CAMP MAIL INFORMATION

For mailing to camp, please use the following address:

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation

“Scout Name”

Troop #____, Week #____

W6500 Spring Lake Road,

Pearson, WI 54462

Send mail no later than the Friday before your Unit's arrival date at camp. Double-check package arrival dates to camp before ordering or mailing. Some items may take 1-2 weeks longer to get to camp.

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MA-KA-JA-WAN AT A GLANCE

Established in 1929, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation has incredible facilities, is located in the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin, and delivers unforgettable summer camp program like no other.

50

Merit Badges &
Special
Programs
Available

80

Staff Members
Delivering
Unforgettable
Experiences

97

Years of
Operation

FACILITIES

1500+	Acres in the cool Northwoods of Wisconsin
2	Sub-Camps
22	Campsites
High 70s	Typical daytime high temperature with nighttime lows in the 50s
1	Dining hall meal shift in each sub-camp



**Scouting
America**
Northeast Illinois Council



AMERICA
250

TYPICAL DAY AT SUMMER CAMP

7:20AM	Flag Assembly, then breakfast
8:30AM	Four merit badge sessions, chosen by Scouts before/at camp
12:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Siesta
2:30PM	Afternoon Programs: “Drop-in” merit badges, open areas, special activities, rafting trips, and more!
5:30PM	Flag Assembly, then dinner
7:00PM	Evening Programs: (Sample) Sunday: Opening Campfire Monday: Water Carnival and East Luau Tuesday: West Fest and Star Party Wednesday: OA Ceremonial Fire Thursday: Spoof Merit Badge and Movie Night Friday: Closing Campfire
10:00PM	Scouts in Campsites
11:00PM	Taps



FAVORITE THINGS

Country Store Pizza
Pontoon Fishing
The Ranges
Zipline
White Water Rafting
Cross-Camp Games
Free Time with Friends!!

WHAT TO BRING: SCOUTS

You'll never forget your time at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan! All Scouts know the key to the most fun is being prepared.

PLEASE LABEL YOUR BELONGINGS WITH YOUR NAME!

- Personal footlocker/duffle bag/tote
- Day pack or small tote bag
- Complete Field Uniform ("Class A") and a hanger
- 6-7 Shorts or pants
- 6-7 T-shirts
- 6-7 Underwear and Socks
- Pajamas
- 1-2 Swim suits
- Closed-toed shoes and/or boots
- Shower Shoes
- Jacket or sweater - It gets cool at night!
- Raingear (not a poncho) - We still have fun in the rain!
- Sleeping bag or other bedding. You will have a cot.
- 2 Water bottles
- Toiletries (Soap, shampoo, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, and other personal items like feminine hygiene products)
- 1-2 Towels (bath and beach)
- Sunblock and insect repellent
- Flashlight/Headlamp + batteries,
- Pocket knife, paracord, and other camping items
- Money for gear and snacks at the Trading Post (\$100 is the average spent)
- Scouts BSA Handbook, pens, pencils, and notebooks
- Medical form and insurance information signed by a parent or guardian (with your adult leader)
- Waiver forms for river and horseback riding trips (with your adult leader)

RECOMMENDED/OPTIONAL

- Mosquito/Bug Net for cot
- Book of Faith
- Camera
- Sewing Kit
- Fishing Gear
- Bike and Helmet
- Extra Clothing
- Comfort items: shower caddy, battery/solar-powered lights, cards, games.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Shooting Equipment
- Fireworks
- Alcohol
- Valuables
- Inappropriate T-Shirts
- Tobacco products
- Drugs of any kind
- Excessive jewelry
- Sheath or fixed-blade knives or any knives over 3.5"
- Aerosol cans
- Laser pointers
- Firewood

WHAT TO WEAR

When choosing clothes for any Scouting activity, please follow these guidelines:

- Wear clothing and footwear that are safe for the activity.
- Be respectful. Avoid clothing with words, images, or symbols that could be offensive, including anything political, violent, sexual, or promoting disrespect toward any group.
- Scouts may wear alternative headgear or clothing for religious, cultural, or medical reasons if it's safe to do so.

FIELD UNIFORMS (CLASS A)

Recommending for arrival at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, dinner, opening and closing campfires, chapel, and OA Ceremonial Fire.

ACTIVITY UNIFORM (CLASS B)

During the day and after dinner, shorts and Scout-related or Scout-appropriate t-shirt are recommended.

SWIMWEAR

Swimwear should be secure, clean, and designated specifically for swimming. T-shirts or a cover up and shoes must be worn by both males and females outside of the swim areas.

RAFTING TRIPS

On white water rafting trips, footwear must be close-toe and close-heeled. Crocs are not permitted. If you use a carabiner for your water bottle, it must be the locking type.

HORSEMANSHIP AND RANGE ACTIVITIES

Scouts that are taking the Horsemanship Merit Badge off-site should wear long pants and preferably boots. For Scouts that wish to participate in range and target merit badges or open shoot, please wear sturdy shoes like tennis shoes or boots. We do not allow sandals, crocs, or other open-toed/open-heeled shoes at the range.



MA-KA-JA-WAN IS COOL

In more ways than one!

Nights can be chilly in the Northwoods! In June, expect nighttime temps around low 50s. Daily highs range from low 70s to high 80s (rarely). Bring enough clothes and sleeping gear to stay warm at night and on cool mornings.

Average Weather High/Low

June

74° / 51°

9 days of rain

July

79° / 55°

8 days of rain

PACKING TIPS

CAMP TRUNKS

We recommend packing in a camp trunk or large duffle bag. Most have wheels for easy moving and fit under the camp cots. Be sure to label with Scout's name. It is common to collect camp stickers for trunks.

Remember the SCOUTS are responsible for packing with your help - they won't remember what they have if you're the one to pack it!

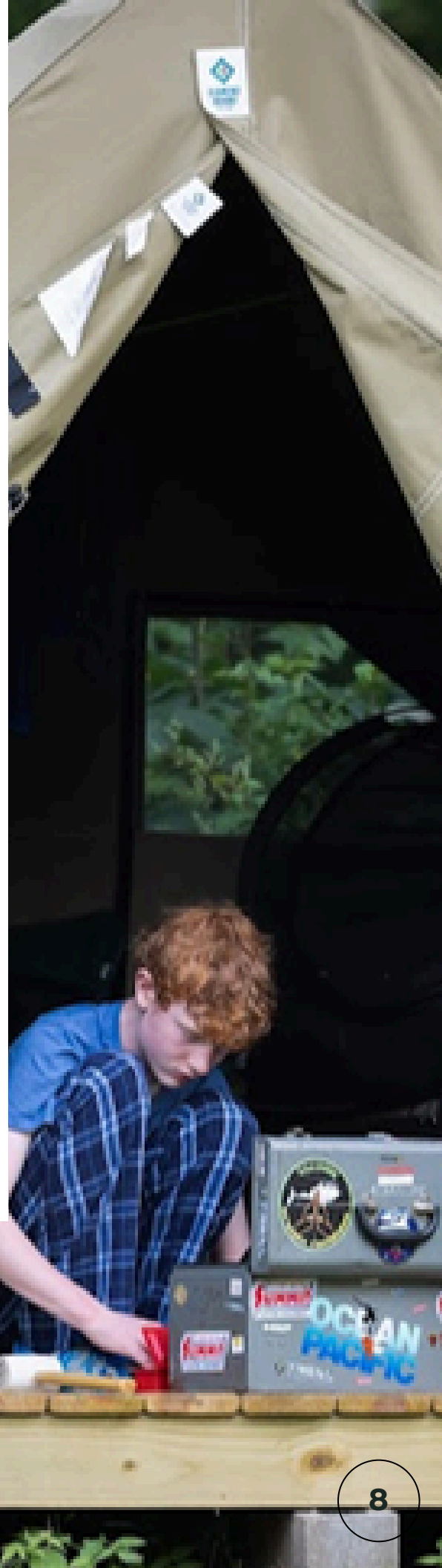
Look over the packing list carefully. Please have your Scout pack everything on the list – they will be glad!

LABEL EVERYTHING, especially things that will leave the campsite like day packs, water bottles, hats, etc. We are not worried about items being stolen, just being left behind.

CAMPSITE ACCOMMODATIONS

All campers and adults are housed in 9' x 7' canvas wall tents set on permanent wood platforms with tubular steel frames. Each tent is equipped with two folding cots to house two people. Youth sharing tents must be no more than 2 years apart in age. Usually, tents are arranged in pods of four tents with a patrol tarp and table in each pod.

Hammocks may be used as an alternative to tent camping. Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan requires the use of a "tree strap" or other band wider than 2 inches for securing your hammock to trees.



PAPERWORK

Before you arrive at camp, please have the following paperwork complete for your Scout:

1

ANNUAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL FORMS

All campers and adults attending camp must submit an Annual Health and Medical Record - Parts A, B, and C completed prior to camp. Part C must be signed by a licensed health care provider such as an MD or PA.

- [Please complete health forms before coming to camp.](#) Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan does not have provisions to provide physical exams on site.
- Health forms must be dated within the last 12 months.
- Anyone who does not have a current and properly signed health form may not participate in any camp activities or remain on camp property.
- All Coureur des Bois and Whitewater Rafting participants must meet the height/ weight requirements as noted on the form.
- Do not send original copies! We recommend bringing two copies. At the end of the week, health forms will be retained per Wisconsin State Law.

2

SPECIAL DIET REQUEST FORM

If your Scout has specific food restrictions or needs, please submit the [Special Diet Request Form](#) online prior to arrival at camp and review with our Dining Hall Staff during Dining Hall Orientation.

3

WAIVER FORMS FOR OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES

All Scouts and adults participating in an off-site activity need a signed waiver form. This waiver will be their ticket to get on the bus the day of their activity. Download the form from our website. One waiver per off-site activity is required.



Give special attention to...

- Dated within last year
- Allergies
- Prescribed medications
- Parent's signature for over-the-counter medications
- Emergency contact info
- Physician's signature
- Tetanus Shot date

We are able to accommodate many typical food allergies, such as gluten, nuts, dairy, soy, or eggs and any special/religious diets. Forms must be submitted at least 2-weeks prior to the start of your session

PAPERWORK

4

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION DOSING FORMS (NEW/REQUIRED)

Each troop should complete a Prescription Medication Dosing Form prior to arrival at camp for each troop member taking any prescription drugs.

- Use one form/sheet for each camper with a prescription.
- Up to 5 prescriptions can be listed. Use extra pages as needed.
- Please show these completed forms to the Health Officer at Check-In., then keep them updated throughout your week at camp.
- Turn in these forms to the Health Lodge on Friday before leaving camp.

NOTES ABOUT MEDICATIONS AT CAMP:

All medication must be in a container issued by the pharmacist with the medication name, strength, dose, and dose frequency clearly marked. Generally, medication will be dispensed in the troop campsite by a responsible adult.

Medication requiring refrigeration or injection may be kept either at the Health Lodge or at the troop campsite. These medications must be dispensed by a troop adult. It is the troop adult's responsibility to assure the Scout is present at the appropriate times to receive their medication.

Medications must be kept in a locked box.

If an Annual Health and Medical Form indicates that an individual must have an inhaler, EpiPen® or similar medical device, the Camp Health Officer must confirm that the individual has the required item(s) in their possession. If the camper or adult doesn't have the item(s), the individual will be restricted from camp activities until the items indicated on the form are obtained.



SWIM CHECKS

Swim checks will be conducted at the waterfront on Sunday afternoon. All Scouts and adults are designated as swimmers, beginners or non-swimmers based on standardized Scouting America swim classification tests:

- **Swimmer Test**

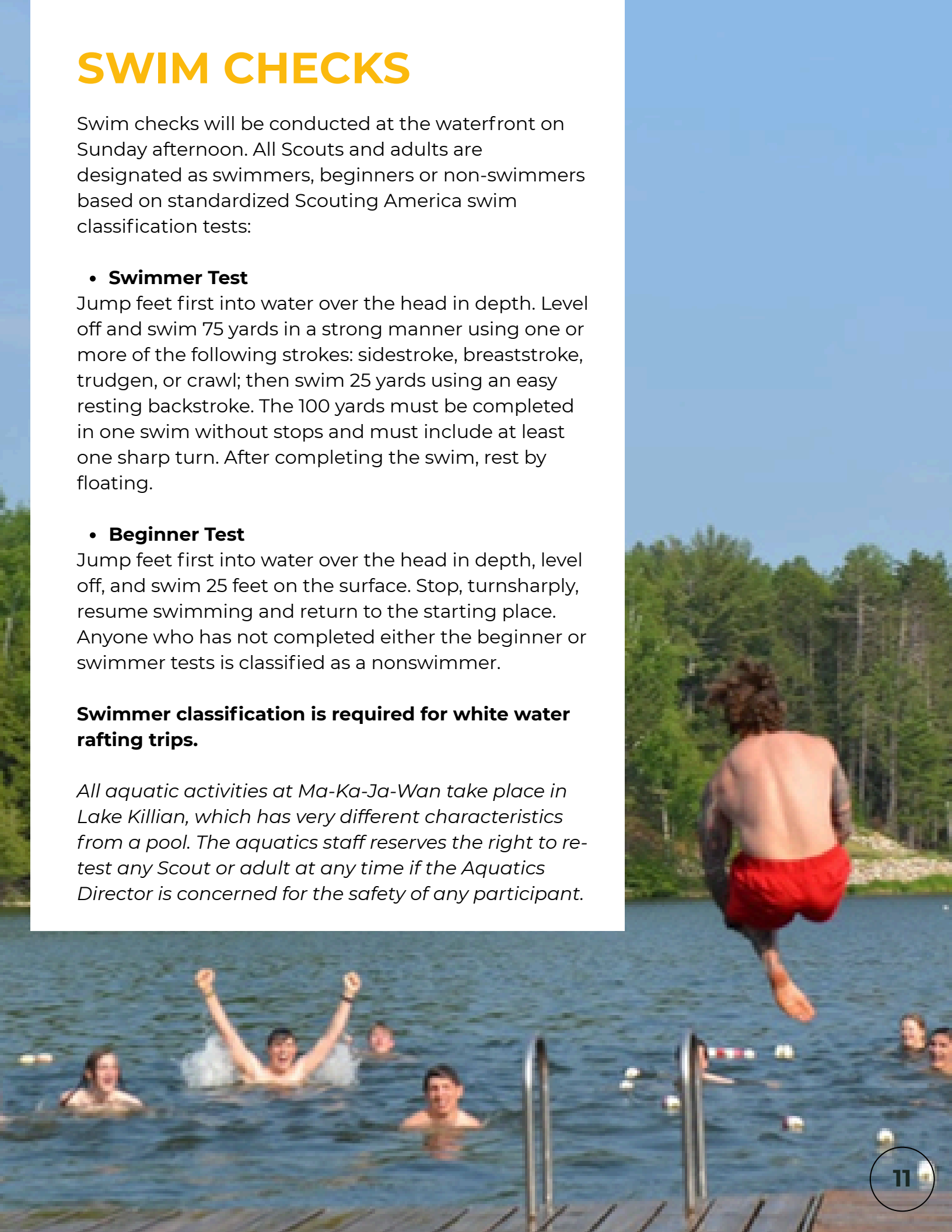
Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and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

- **Beginner 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. Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a nonswimmer.

Swimmer classification is required for white water rafting trips.

All aquatic activities at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan take place in Lake Killian, which has very different characteristics from a pool. The aquatics staff reserves the right to re-test any Scout or adult at any time if the Aquatics Director is concerned for the safety of any participant.



MERIT BADGES

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation offers 55 merit badges, mostly held in the mornings. Afternoons are filled with a few drop-in merit badges, but mostly just free time in our amazing program areas, like aquatics (open swim and boating), handicraft, Scoutcraft, the Ranges and our ranch.

Your Scout has pre-registered for merit badges, but there is always the opportunity to make changes on the first day of camp. Your troop adults can help your Scout with this!

Check out the MSR Program Guide and Merit Badge Schedule for more details on merit badges and other programs offered at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan!

[Program Guide](#)

[Program Schedule](#)



FOOD SERVICE

NUTRITION & VARIETY

We serve our camp participants three well-balanced, dietician approved meals each day. There is also variety and options provided at each meal to ensure Scouts never leave hungry. We eat cafeteria-style and include a breakfast buffet bar in the mornings and a salad bar during the afternoon and evening. We as a camp provide these choices and expect that by sending your Scout to camp, you are asserting that your child has the necessary knowledge of their diet and can manage their own food choices. We will never force a Scout to choose specific food items and encourage parents to have a conversation before camp with their Scout about their needs.

ALLERGEN AND SPECIAL DIET REQUESTS

People with special dietary needs or food allergies must submit a [Special Dietary Request Form](#) no more than two weeks before their arrival at camp. Allergies and special diets are a common source of potential anxiety for a first-time camper. 'Will I be able to eat without feeling sick?' We take our obligation to feed all of our Scouts, leaders, and staff seriously and with pride. Our food service staff are very experienced with accommodating most diets, including food allergies, religious restrictions, and other health-related diets. We are happy to accommodate any diet with religious, medical, or allergy needs. However, please be advised that MSR cannot guarantee a clinically separate environment and your Scouts and adults may be in the vicinity or might come in contact with foods they may be allergic to, or to other allergens. If they have a severe allergy or dietary restriction, contact the Reservation Director and Business Manager in advance to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Due to the sourcing of special ingredients and preparation, we cannot guarantee meeting dietary needs for any form completed less than two weeks before your camp arrival.



TRADING POSTS

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation offers three Trading Post's throughout camp, located at the Country Store and one trading post in each sub-camp. The Trading Posts carries a large variety of shirts, memorabilia, personal & camp equipment, handicrafts, gift items, MSR logo items, and more.

Each Trading Post also offer a full line of snack items, Slushies, fountain drinks, ice cream, candy and more.

The average camper spends \$100 at the Trading Post and Country Store while at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan.

We accept cash, credit cards, debit cards, and most cash pay apps.

Our recommendation is for Scouts to bring a reloadable payment card with them. Parents can load the card with money & view the balance of the card. You can also add more money to the card throughout the week if your Scout is running low.



MAIL

We welcome parents, family, and friends to send mail to Scouts during the week. All mail and packages arrive at our office and are then distributed to the mailbox at each unit's campsite.

Scouts are also welcome to mail a letter from camp; postcards and stamps are available in the Trading Post.

Please address your letter/package using the following format:

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation
"Scout Name"
Troop #____, Week #____
W6500 Spring Lake Road,
Pearson, WI 54462

IMPORTANT NOTES!

Mail takes a couple of days to arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, so plan accordingly!

It is best to send packages a week before your Scout attends camp to make sure they get here on time.

If you are sending a package from Amazon, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan will usually receive those packages within several days. FedEx, UPS, & USPS make daily deliveries to camp.

It is best to not send chocolate in care packages!

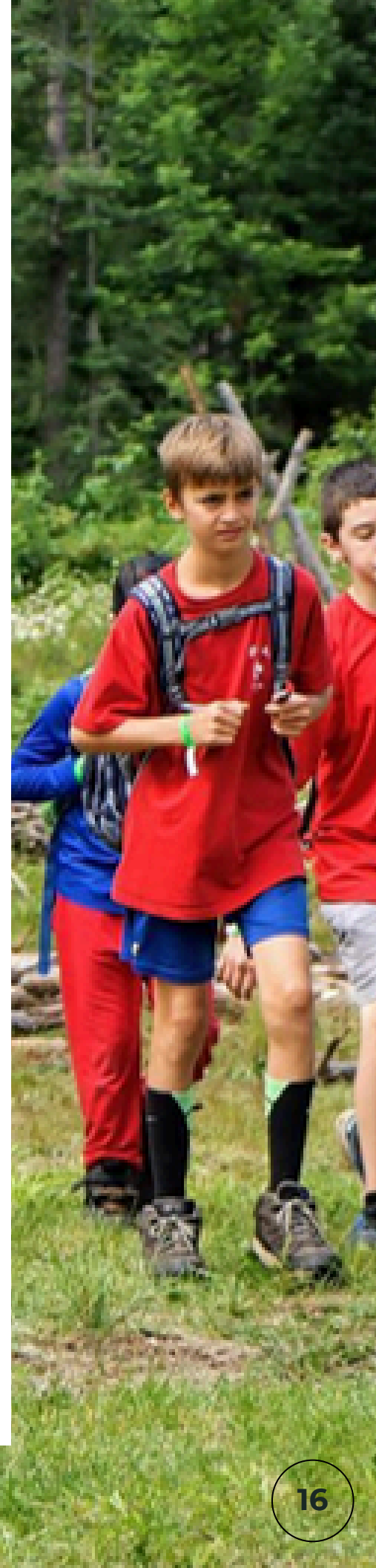


HOMESICKNESS

One fear that many new camp parents face is the fear that their Scout will be miserably homesick while at camp. It's an understandable concern, but in the vast majority of cases, Scouts are able to manage and overcome homesickness (and have the time of their lives)! Believe in your Scout's resiliency. Your Scout can read you like a book, and if your facial expressions or tone of voice show that you are worried about their time at camp, it will cause them to doubt themselves and their ability to manage their emotions without you. Before camp, talk to your Scout about homesickness with these goals: • to normalize it (EVERYONE misses home, and that's okay) • to let them know you have confidence that they can overcome it • to give them some strategies to employ if they are feeling homesick. (Stay active! Talk to friends!) Please do not tell your Scout you will pick them up from camp if they are unhappy!

SAFETY

At Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, safety is our top priority for all guests. Everything we do is planned and carried out in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting and Scouting America safety policies. From program activities to camp operations, we emphasize proper supervision, trained leadership, and age-appropriate activities to ensure a safe and positive experience for every Scout. Risk management, health and wellness checks, emergency preparedness, and clear communication are built into our daily routines so all participants can focus on learning, adventure, and fun in a secure environment.



TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan's location can make cell service a challenge at times. AT&T has consistently been the best cell network in the area, and there is 4G service in most places at camp.

Counterintuitively, Scouts are often less homesick when they disconnect from their cell phones and are not talking to their family and friends every day. They will become more immersed in their activities and camp life. We encourage all Scouts to use their phones in emergency situations or as needed for their camp experiences. We defer to each unit to decide how you would like to organize any electronics policies and review appropriate technology use with their troop.

Technology use is not discouraged at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation. Scouts are encouraged to appropriately document and share their experiences during their stay. Using the bathroom facilities for charging devices is not allowed.

VALUABLES

Please remember to safeguard your valuables while at camp. Use these tips to avoid unnecessary losses:

- Advise Scouts to bring as few valuables as possible.
- Before you arrive, designate an Adult to be responsible for valuables.
- The designated Adult should be able to lock valuables in a safe place. Bring a lockable foot locker or container for this use.
- Never leave Scouts at the campsite alone.
- Instruct your Scouts not to walk through another troop's campsite, the Staff areas or camp buildings that they have not received permission to enter.



CAMP RULES

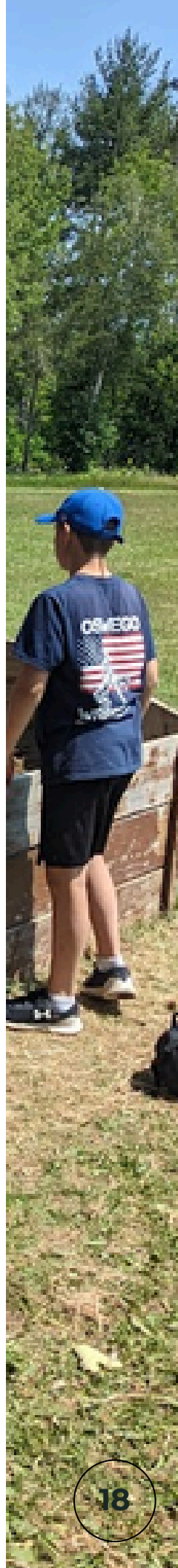
As a Scouting facility, the foremost rules for personal and group behavior are the ideals found in Scouting. Beyond the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law, and Outdoor Code, the following rules are enforced at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation:

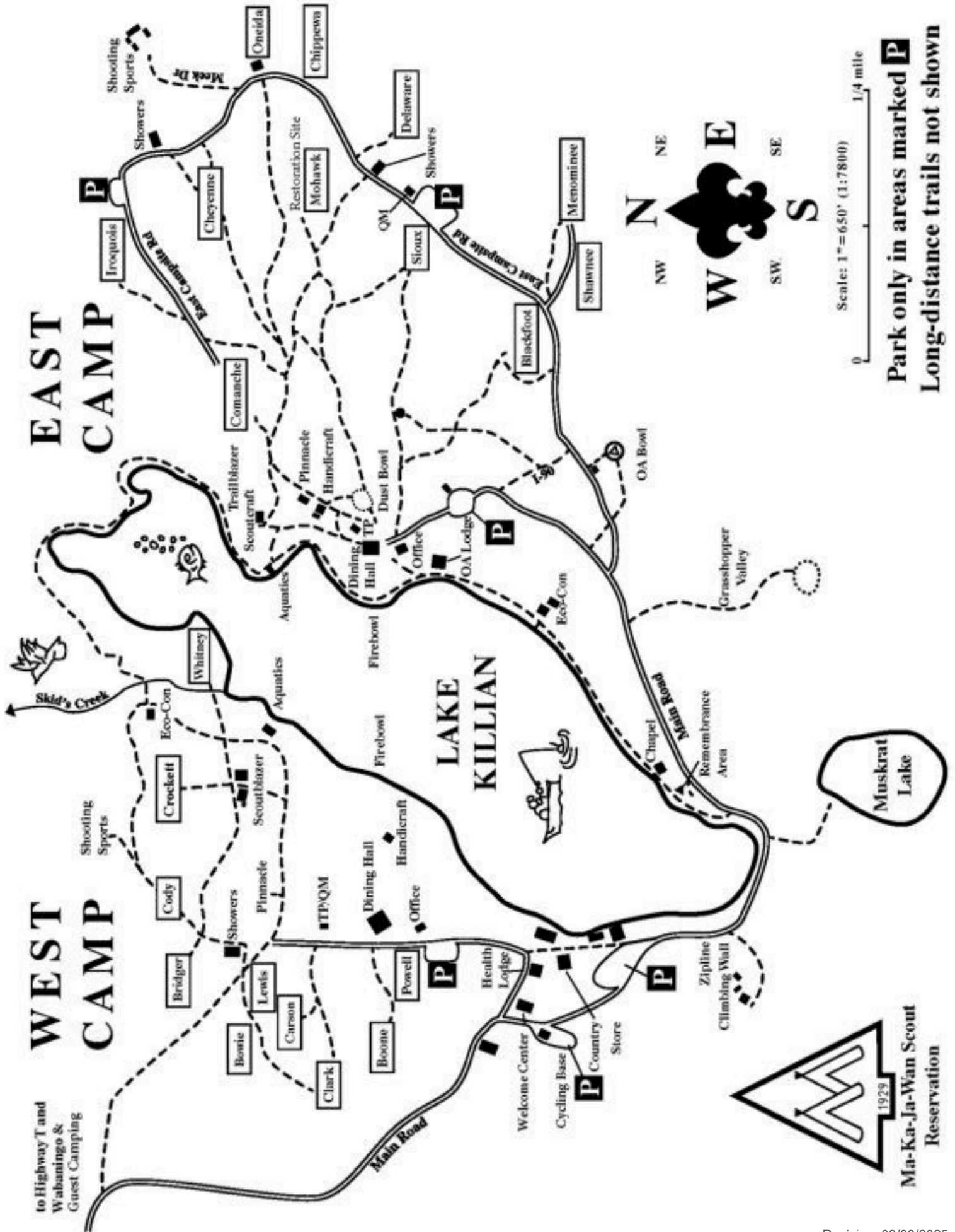
- All cars must be parked in designated parking areas. Only specially authorized vehicles are allowed in campsites or on the roads.
- No UTVs or ATVs are permitted.
- Closed-toed, closed-heel shoes must be worn at all times at camp. Sandals are allowed only at the showers and aquatic activities.
- Throwing rocks is strictly forbidden.
- No flames, fires, or fuels of any kind are permitted in tents.
- No personal skateboards, inline skates, or mountain boards are permitted.
- No gambling of any form.
- Personal firearms and bows are not permitted.
- Sheath knives are not permitted.
- No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed on camp property.
- No fireworks of any kind are permitted on camp property.
- All guests are required to check-in at the camp office upon arrival.
- No underage or non-registered youth are allowed in camp. Please do not bring younger siblings to camp.
- Keep all fires within the designated boundaries, maintaining control and supervision over them, and fully extinguishing them until the ash is cool to the touch.
- Keep tent and personal gear clean and neat and labeling all personal gear.
- No bullying, horseplay, fighting, stealing, off-color jokes, harassment of any kind, including sexual, religious, race, cultural, national origin, disability, etc., being in an off-limits area and/or repeated failure to follow instructions. Failure to comply will be grounds for expulsion.
- Obey the safety rules and instructions of all unit leaders and staff.
- Respect all safety procedures and learn to use equipment properly, asking questions if I am unsure.
- No running in camp.
- Please show RESPECT for others at bathhouses!

PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED!

No pets are allowed in camp at any time except service animals. Please make a note in your information online for individuals using a service animal so that we can plan accordingly. Please make sure any guests know about this policy!

If you see someone not following camp rules or safety guidelines, please report directly to your Camp Director or Reservation Director.





EAST CAMP

WEST CAMP



Scale: 1" = 650' (1:7800)
0 1/4 mile

P Park only in areas marked **P**
Long-distance trails not shown



**Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout
Reservation**