



**WWW.CAMPMERZ.ORG**  
**PROVIDING FUN AND ADVENTURE SINCE 1933**

## Summer Camp 2025

Scouts BSA Week 1 July 6- July 11  
Scouts BSA Week 2 July 13-July 18  
Scouts BSA Week 3 July 20- July 25



# Camp Merz Scouts BSA SUMMER CAMP 2025

## Allegheny Highland Council

50 Hough Hill Rd.

P.O.Box 261

Falconer NY 14733

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Servicecenter@alleghenyhighlands.org

The Allegheny Highlands Council offers 3 weeks of 6-day Resident Camp programs for Scouts at Camp Merz. There is a central dining hall with delicious food & plenty of it, modern warm water private showers, and a Trading Post with Scouting America supplies, souvenirs, snacks, slushies & more. All the traditional program areas you expect in a scout camp, and some other features that make us special. Customer Service is number 1 at Camp Merz, and our camp is manned with a well-trained and enthusiastic staff that stands ready to make your vacation with your scouts a memorable experience.

## Camp Merz

5297 West Lake Rd.

Mayville, NY 14757

PH 716.279.6379

We are 90+ years young, and located just south of the Village of Mayville on Lake Chautauqua. 350 acres of beautiful hardwood forest and evergreens welcome your scouting experience. The 1000 feet of our waterfront on the lake provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, rowing, canoeing, motor-boating, sailing, watersports, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding.

Our shooting sports ranges offer skeet shooting in addition to 22's and black powder. The scenic views around the lake & along the Portage Trail are just breathtaking. We are about two miles away from the Chautauqua Institution & 20 minutes from the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, as well as many other attractions around the Chautauqua Region. Check out our website for more information: [www.campmerz.org](http://www.campmerz.org)







# Camp Merz Highland Games

Welcome Scouts to the Camp Merz Highland Games!

Highland Games are thought to have originated from the great gatherings and fairs held by Scottish Highland clans since the medieval times, where the clans would compete against each other in feats of strength and skill.

Some say that Highland Games originated as a clan chieftain's way of choosing the best bodyguards and the fittest fighters. Not all the chief's requirements were warlike - musicians and dancers were important for the prestige of his household. Choosing staff and supporters was done by holding competitions - good runners for couriers, strong men for defense and a range of entertainers.

We encourage you to Join us on a summer adventure to host our own Camp Merz Highland Games. Full of traditional activities, Staff Vs. Leader events and many inspired ideas from the Scottish games.

We hope that all of our clans (troops) come inspired to join us for a summer of fun. Don't forget the kilt!



# Pricing and Incentives

**Camp fee 2025 \$585**

There is a \$20 discount per scout,  
for ALL Troops paying before 4/1.

**AHC Troops an extra \$20 per scout by 4/1**

**Merit badge registration open 4/15  
for all scouts paid in full**

Twice as Nice  
Stay for a  
second week for  
\$485

## Provisional Camping

Have a scout who can't attend with your Troop? That's OK!

Provisional camping is a program for those scouts who would like to attend camp whether or not their own Troop is attending. These scouts will either form a provisional Troop and a provisional scoutmaster and assistant will be assigned to them or be assigned to another Troop that has adequate leadership. If the scouts are returning for an extra week at the "Twice as Nice Price" from a previous week they will be provisional their second week, so it's not a problem for a scout to attend one week with his Troop and stay another week as a provisional camper.

## What Will Your Scouts Do at Camp?

In addition to working on Merit Badges, our camp offers a wide variety of Troop, patrol and individual activities to make your week an adventure your scouts won't soon forget. You will have options for Troop swims, patrol shoots, patrol vs. patrol competitions and camp wide events. Various hikes, treks, and outposts will be offered within and out of camp. Your scouts may want to take advantage of our beautiful surroundings on an individual basis with a buddy through activities like walking our nature trails or watching the wildlife around camp

## Pre-Camp Leaders Meeting and Parent Orientation.

There will be pre-camp leaders' meetings on Thursday, May 8th at 6:30 PM and Saturday, May 10th at 10 AM at camp to give leaders a chance to get all the up to date information about camp programs, look at schedules, and review important information to make your stay at camp a comfortable and enjoyable experience. It is highly recommended that at least one Troop leader attends.

## Resident Camp Leadership

The preferred method of camping in Scouts BSA is that the individual Troop camp under its own leadership. It is Scouting America's policy that 2 adults must attend every Troop activity. Free leaders are based on 1:10 adults to youth ratio (1 leader free with every 10 scouts in the Troop). Additional leaders are welcome to attend at a cost. If you have additional leaders who will only be at camp for a portion of the week, they are asked to pay for their meals. ALL adults attending with the Scouts must be a registered member of Scouting America. All adults attending camp are required to complete the Scouting America Youth Protection Training program prior to arrival. Anyone staying at camp more than 72 hours needs to have parts A, B & C completed health form.



# Program Features

## Polaris: (First-Year Camper Program)

The Polaris area is tucked into the woods along the road to the waterfront. Polaris is set-up as a model campsite. Our First Year Program is designed to help new scouts develop basic camping skills as well as earn various requirements for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class ranks. Our Polaris staff has designed a program that fits the needs of our younger scouts, combining games, hands on activities, and demonstrations to peak their interest and provide them with opportunities to practice skills they can then bring back to their Troop.



## Shooting Sports Complex

We are very proud of our Shooting Sports program at Camp Merz. Over the years we have been upgrading all of our ranges in order to better serve scouts interested in shooting sports. An additional change we have made to all our shooting sports merit badges, is to require interested scouts to complete sections of the merit badges before camp, which frees them up for more Range time during each session.

## Rifle / Shotgun:

The Rifle/Shotgun Range is located further up the hill past Scoutcraft, tucked into the woods by the road leading up to East Hill. We have upgraded our classroom pavilion by adding solar powered electricity, making it easier to use through the summer season.

## Archery:

At the end of the nature trail you can find our Archery Range. In addition our camp ranger created new, easier to move targets, and we have created a separate classroom building near the range. This allows our archery staff to safely conduct two activities simultaneously during a given session.

## Nature / Ecology:

Located near Jamboree Field the Nature/Ecology Lodge offers a wide variety of nature related badges from Astronomy, Bird Study, Energy, Environmental Science, Forestry, Geology, Mammal Study, and Reptile & Amphibian Study. Scouts who want to learn more about the natural world will find plenty to do at our Nature Lodge. During merit badge sessions the lodge itself often looks empty, since our nature staff rarely teaches inside!





### Handicraft:

Our Handicraft Lodge is also located in the middle of main camp. Scouts wishing to be creative can take Wood Carving, Leatherworking and other hand crafting merit badges. During the 2025 camp season the Handicraft staff will also be offering Inventing and a single day merit badge session offering Fingerprinting.



### Scoutcraft:

Our leaders in camping and all things knots. Scoutcraft is ready to teach all the basics and some major first aid.

### Life Skills:

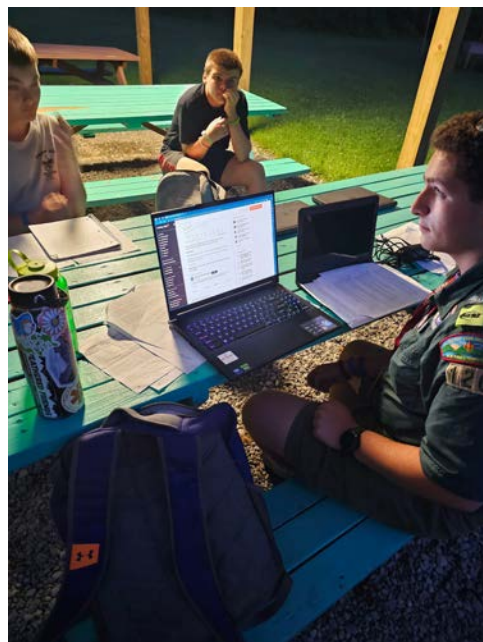
Our life skill center is a great place to learn some home repair. Plumbing and other great things needed for life.

### Ranger Craft:

Welding and automotive are done under the Ranger Craft pavilion.

### Trail to Eagle Center:

Our Trail to Eagle program was established to offer scouts (ranked Star or higher) a chance to earn several Eagle required merit badges. While we will continue to reserve some merit badges for scouts who have earned at least Star rank, we are expanding our program to offer more merit badges for all scouts. This camping season we will have Citizenship in the community, Citizenship in the nation, Citizenship in Society, Citizenship in the World, Communication and Personal Management.





## Technology Center

Our Technology lodge also serves as a computer lab, allowing scouts to work on research for their merit badge requirements. Merit Badge offerings include Electronics to Game Design and Robotics. Scouts interested in exploring various forms of technology will find that our tech merit badges will peak their interest.

## Aquatics Center

Being on the beautiful shore of Lake Chautauqua, our waterfront can offer a wide variety of water related merit badges. Again this year we will offer our popular Water Sports merit badges along with Swimming, Lifesaving, Motor Boating, Small Boat, Sailing, Stand Up Paddle Board and Snorkeling.



**\*\*CLOSED-TOED WATER SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ANY AQUATICS ACTIVITY - NO EXCEPTIONS\*\***



## The Brennan Chapel

The Brennan Chapel, named after Franciscan Friar Father Brennan who drowned in the Allegheny before his time, was a great scouter in our council who led by example, and is missed by those who knew him. He helped build the chapel and it is a wonderful quiet spot in camp to sit and reflect, and be with our maker, as we practice the 12th point of the Scout Law.



## MORE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Pre-Camp Meetings

These will be held on a Thursday May 8th at 6:30 pm and Saturday, May 10th at 10am at camp. It is VERY important that a representative of your Troop attend one of these meetings. Program materials, final schedules, etc. will be distributed.

### Check In / Out

Check in time is 1pm on Sunday. Please have your all your troops completed Health Forms available. Early arrival is possible if arrangements are made in advance. Check out is after the closing campfire on Friday night. Troops may stay over Friday night at no charge. Breakfast consisting of cereal, milk and fruit can be provided for a nominal fee if arranged in advance.

### Accommodations

Each campsite has tents on platforms with metal spring cots. We will do our best to provide mattresses for leaders, but we cannot guarantee that there will be enough. We DO NOT provide mattresses for Scouts, it's recommended to bring cardboard or a foam pad. Each site also has at least one picnic table and one pavilion. Each site has a latrine building and running water. We cannot guarantee all leaders will get individual tents or mattresses.

Note: Apache, Evergreen, Howard, Jubilee, Mead, Rupert and Yahn have power in site for your medical needs. Please be sure to bring you own extension cords when using in site power.



### Additional Fees

Some programs require the scouts to purchase additional materials. Water Skiing, Motor Boating, Shotgun, Rifle, Basketry and Electronics are some of the classes that may require additional materials. Details will be given at the pre-camp meetings in the camp guide provided at that time. All materials and program fees paid in advance through Black Pug registration.

### In-site Cooking

Your Troop will be preparing one dinner and one lunch in your site. Please be prepared with the proper cooking and eating utensils, etc. Staff members will join you at these meals to assist. There will also be a dessert competition so come with supplies to prepare your choice of dessert. As part of our Green Initiative Troops are required to supply their own reusable materials for cooking and eating on. We recommend that all scouts bring their own mess kit which is also required if they go on outpost.





# Merit Badges 2025

## Handicraft:

Wood Carving  
Animation\*  
Music  
Art  
Basketry  
Inventing  
Photography  
Leatherwork  
Painting  
Sculpture \*

## Nature:

Environmental Science  
Geology  
Bird Study  
Astronomy  
Weather\*  
Mammal Study  
Veterinary Medicine\*  
Reptile & Amphibian Study  
Energy  
Forestry  
Sustainability

## Scoutcraft:

Fire Safety & Emergency  
Preparedness  
Camping  
Pioneering  
Wilderness Survival  
Paul Bunyan Award  
Search and Rescue \*  
Orienteering  
Indian Lore  
Signs Signals and Codes  
Personal Fitness

## Polaris:

First Year Program  
First Aid



## LifeSkills:

Electricity  
Plumbing  
Cooking  
Drafting\*  
Public Speaking\*  
Safety  
Composite Materials\*

## Ranger Craft:

Welding  
Auto Maintenance  
American Labor

## Technology:

Game Design  
Digital Technology  
Space Exploration  
Robotics  
Electronics  
Tech Creation Lab \*

## Range and Target Sports:

Rifle  
Archery  
Shotgun

## Trail To Eagle:

Communication  
Citizenship in the Community  
Citizenship in the Nation  
Citizenship in the World  
Citizenship in Society  
Personal Management

## Waterfront

Canoeing  
Fishing  
Kayaking  
Life Saving  
Motorboating / Watersports  
Rowing  
Small-Boat Sailing  
Swimming

SUP Award  
Snorkeling BSA

## **Merit Badge prerequisites and partials**

**Please be aware if your Scouts are taking classes with prerequisites they must turn them in on the first day of class or turn in a note from the scoutmaster taking responsibility for the pre-reqs. PLEASE NOTE: we are unable to accept a scoutmaster note for Shooting Sports prerequisites. All pre-reqs or notes must be turned in at 1st class or they will be dropped from the class. Scouts may NOT take classes without turning in the pre-reqs at first class. NO EXCEPTIONS!! NO PARTIALS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A SCOUTMASTER NOTE.**

**All prerequisites for Merit Badges can be found at [www.campmerz.org](http://www.campmerz.org)**

## **Age & Rank Restrictions**

**We have set age and rank limitations for various classes and programs. We base these limitations on state regulations, the scout's safety, and size restrictions.**

**We cannot make acceptations to these limits.**

## **Leader Programs**

**Camp Merz provides a variety of leader activities during the week such as trainings, the Scoutmaster Merit Badge and Staff vs. Leader events. Leaders are also encouraged to help teach classes and do camp service projects. If you would like to do a camp service project and *we love when that happens*, please contact us in advance, if possible, so we can be sure to have any materials you may need.**





## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / CAMPERSHIPS

Our council raises funds annually, through local sources to help scouts attend summer camp. A limited amount of financial assistance is available for all Scouts registered in the Allegheny Highlands Council, based on financial need. It is expected that both the Scout's family & Troop will contribute toward their camp fee. The Council only grants partial camperships in order to help as many youth as possible. This is expected by our campership donors. If applying for campership assistance, please send your Campership Application (that is enclosed) March 1st to the Council Service Center:

Allegheny Highlands Council 50 Hough Hill Rd.  
PO Box 0261 Falconer, NY 14733-0261

Balance of payments can be made with cash, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

Applicants are reviewed by our committee the first week in March.

## Refund Policy

All Camp Fees are refundable and are subject to a \$100.00 handling fee per scout. A written request providing a legitimate reason must be received by the Scout Service Center no later than September 1. Refunds will only be made to the person who paid the fees. The only legitimate reasons are summer school, medical excuse, or death in the family.



## Medical Forms

Personal Health and Medical Record must be turned in at camp. Sections A, B and C must be completed by all Scouts and Adults attending camp. This form MUST be signed by a parent and a physician ANNUALLY. The Scouting America policy requires an ANNUAL physical for all Scouts and Adults attending camp.

All immunization dates need to be included for both youth and adults.

### Medication Permission Form

This MUST be completed for all scouts attending camp and signed by the parent and physician. This includes all prescription and over the counter medications to be used while at camp.

**DO NOT MAIL MEDICAL FORMS.  
THEY MUST BE TURNED IN AT CAMP  
DIRECTLY**

## Special dietary and Medical needs

Our goal is to accommodate everyone's special needs. If you have special dietary or medical needs please complete a Special Needs Form and return it to the council office no later than July 1st. If we do not receive the form on time we may not be able to accommodate your need. All special needs forms MUST be signed by a parent and a physician. Certain extreme dietary needs may require you to provide food to supplement our menu.



## **Forms Section**

### **Scouting America Personal Health and Medical Record**

Parts A, B and C **MUST** be completed by anyone (youth & adults) attending summer camp. Including immunizations dates.

Bring it to camp with you.

**DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

### **Medication Permission Form**

For use by all youth members that are attending summer camp with prescription or over the counter medication. We cannot give basic first aid medication without this form.

Bring to camp with you.

**DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

### **Summer Camp Special Needs Application Form**

Form to be used for individuals who have special dietary, health, mobility, or disability needs.

Must be received no later than July 1 signed by a parent and a physician.

### **PAYMENTS:**

**Camp Deposit of \$100 due at time of reservation to hold the site.**

**You can start paying for Scouts on 3/7/25.**

**You do not have to pay for everyone at once. You can pay as you go.**

**Scouts paid in full by 4/1 will receive a \$20 discount taking the fee from \$585 to \$565.**

**Merit badge class registration opens on 4/15 for all Scouts paid in full.**

**All balances must be paid at least 2 weeks prior to the camp session as follows.**

**Week 1 – 6/22/2025 5pm**

**Week 2 – 6/29/2025 5pm**

**Week 3 – 7/6/2025 5pm**

**No changes are permitted after these dates.**



**Softly falls the light of day  
As our campfire fades away  
Silently each scout should ask  
I have I done my daily task  
Have I kept my honor bright  
Can I guiltless sleep tonight**

