

# Massawepie Scout Camps Program Guide

## Summer 2023

[www.senecawaterways.org](http://www.senecawaterways.org)



### Contacts

The "2023 Program Guide" and all forms are available online at the Seneca Waterways Council website camping page at

[www.senecawaterways.org](http://www.senecawaterways.org)

### Massawepie Scout Camps

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### Seneca Waterways Council

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## Mission Statement

**It is the mission of the Seneca Waterways Council summer camping program to provide each Scout with an outdoor experience through which he has opportunities to: be challenged; work toward advancement; be active with his troop, patrol and others; achieve while learning; develop as a person; enjoy the Adirondack forest; and have fun.**

### Introduction

Hey ya'll! Welcome to the Massawepie Scout Camp Summer Camp Program Guide. I can't believe that in a few short months, we will be back up in our home at the Adirondacks having the greatest weeks of our lives. I'm so excited to begin planning for Camp Pioneer with you. For 71 years, Massawepie has put on a highly rated program that our scouts enjoy year after year. This year, not only are our favorite programs coming back, we also are gearing up for some new merit badges and other programs that you can take advantage of. This program guide will be able to answer all of your questions all about what program has to offer this summer. If you have more questions, feel free to contact us to talk about how we can make the Massawepie program experience the best for you.

Check out the 2022 Leader's Guide for further information on other aspects of the camp. Be sure to also check the website, [senecawaterways.org](http://senecawaterways.org) for updates as we get closer to the summer camping season. On behalf of the entire 2023 Massawepie Scout Camp staff, we'd like to thank you for choosing your summer camp experience at Camp Pioneer. We look forward to sharing a memorable summer with you and your entire unit.

Yours in Scouting,



*Peter Huber*

Program Director

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*Brendan Flaherty*

Reservation Director

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# Program Overview

Camp Pioneer has a wide variety of program offerings designed to engage campers in a diversity of experiences in outdoor education, recreation, and adventure. Program at Massawepie is primarily offered through our ten program areas, where teams of qualified staff develop and deliver our quality program. Most program time at camp fits into two main categories of merit badge class instruction and open program activities

## Merit Badges & Other Classes

Merit badges are tools through which scouts can explore different interests and skills while working along the advancement trail. We offer nearly fifty merit badges at Massawepie. We have designed our merit badge program to offer opportunities that make full use of the camp's outdoor and wilderness setting, especially merit badges that are not commonly offered in troop settings. While scouts are encouraged to get the most out of summer camp, Massawepie has more to offer than advancement – camp is about having fun and constructive experiences in a new, stimulating environment. Keep that in mind when scheduling merit badges – strike a balance between advancement and other opportunities at camp.

Most merit badges are scheduled during three blocks, 9:00-10:30 AM, 10:45 AM-12:15 PM, and 2:00-3:30 PM. Merit badges are either taught for an entire block or half a block depending on their requirements; see the Merit Badge Schedule in the Appendices for a complete schedule. When scheduling merit badges for your scouts, keep the **physical layout of the camp** in mind, especially for the half-block classes, as there is no travel time. See the camp map in the Appendices for help.

Some merit badges are offered outside of the standard class time blocks, either in scheduled open program time (see below) or by appointment with the merit badge counselor. More information will be available at the beginning of camp for these badges. Some non-merit badge activities and classes are also offered during merit badge class time such as COPE; see the program area descriptions for these listings.

## Open Program

Massawepie offers two sessions of open program: 3:45-5:00 PM and 7:00-8:30 PM. During open program time, each and every program area is open to everyone (with some age restrictions) and offers a special event or activity relevant to their area. Just like last summer, we will have a sign up system to track where your scouts are during open program time, but we are working on making the system a bit more user friendly for this upcoming summer. Open program is an opportunity to experience all that our program areas and our property have to offer. There are also “BarkEater” open program events throughout the week that are required for earning your token; please see the Barkeater event schedule for more information. Open program events change every year, as our staff

meet to generate new and innovative ideas at the beginning of the summer; but here are some previous highlights that you can expect back this year:

*The Sailing Regatta – Waterfront*  
*Adult Shoot – Rifle & Shotgun Ranges*  
*PYRO NIGHT! – Scoutcraft*  
*Sports Tournaments – Sports*  
*PIRATE NIGHT!- Trailblazers*

*Team Shoot – Archery Range*  
*Euchre Tournament – Handicraft*  
*The Fishing Derby- ECON*  
*Time Trials- COPE & Climbing*  
***And So Much More!***

## What's New in 2023?

We are always working on new ways to utilize our facilities and staff at Massawepie to keep our programs fresh and innovative. Here is a summary of the highlights of our new programs this summer:

### **Merit Badge Offerings**

These are some of our newest Merit badge offerings from the past few years at camp

- **Architecture-** Architecture is not just the special buildings like cathedrals, museums, or sports stadiums we read about or see on television; it is as normal as the homes, places of worship, schools, and shopping malls where we live, worship, work, learn, and play every day. However, architecture is more than just common shelter; building has always satisfied the human need to create something of meaning. Even the simplest form of architecture is a work of art that requires thought and planning. This year, your scout can learn what it takes to create these masterful pieces of art that have literally shaped our society over the course of human history!
- **Painting-** Can painting be for more than just a splash of color? Is there a technique in painting that works best for different situations? No matter the answer, painting has given artists and builders the tools to create the world we see today. This year, your scout can join in the fun!
- **Fishing** (as a scheduled merit badge)- This year, we have taken the ever popular Fishing merit badge and scheduled it during regular merit badge time so you can spend more time down by the lake! See if you have the know-how to catch some of the most common and wonderful fish species in Massawepie Lake and our nine ponds! Learn about fisherman gear, knots, and safety as well.

## **Trainings and Awards**

Massawepie offers a variety of Adult and Youth training/award programs during both our Merit badge and open program times. Over the past few years, we have been offering **Swimming & Water Rescue** and **Paddle Craft Safety** as a scheduled training course. These courses are more focused offerings for adults and older scouts (aged 15 or older) that convey the skills and knowledge to supervise different types of aquatics activities for their units. We hope these shorter, more focused courses will be more convenient offerings that will encourage adult and youth leaders to develop their aquatics skills and knowledge and apply them in their units.

In addition, we are offering the new **Stand-Up-Paddleboarding, BSA** award as an open program offering to scouts who wish to develop Paddle-boarding skills. We are also working with our Council Training Committee to set up an **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills** (IOLS) training program for this summer.

# Program Areas

## Waterfront

The Pioneer Waterfront offers a base for aquatics activities across Massawepie Lake, The Waterfront offers a variety of swimming and boating activities that make full use of this pristine, private Adirondack water body. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- Canoeing
  - Kayaking
  - Lifesaving
  - Small Boat Sailing
  - Swimming
  - Rowing (By Appointment)

- Trainings/Awards:*
- Swimming & Water Rescue (Adult & Youth)
  - Paddle Craft Safety (Adult & Youth)
  - BSA Stand-Up Paddleboarding (Youth)
  - Safety Afloat (Adult)
  - Safe Swim Defense (Adult)

- Activity Highlights:*
- Log Rolling
  - Instructional Swim (By Appointment)
  - Open Boating & Open Swim- (Every open program)
  - Polar Bear Swim (Every Morning at 6:15am)
  - Sailing Regatta
  - The Great Canoe Tour (B.E Yr. 3)
  - The Mile Swim
  - The Great Canooooooooo Race

## ECON

Massawepie's Ecology/Conservation area is the center for campers to learn about and experience the Adirondack wilderness and develop skills to be stewards and interpreters of the natural world. ECON also offers scouts and leaders the chance to borrow fishing equipment for another way of enjoying our lakes and ponds. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- Astronomy
  - Environmental Science
  - Exploration
  - Fishing
  - Forestry
  - Fish & Wildlife Mgmt.
  - Geology
  - Mammal Study
  - Nature
  - Oceanography
  - Weather
  - Soil & Water Conservation (By Appointment)
  - Bird Study (By Appointment)
  - Sustainability (By Appointment)

- Activity Highlights:*
- Loon Canoe and Dam Hike (B.E Yr. 2)
  - Fishing Derby
  - Plant and Animal Hike (Rank Advancement)
  - Alien Awareness Night
  - Order of the Panda

## **C.O.P.E. & Climbing**

C.O.P.E. & Climbing offers a range of adventure activities which challenge scouts and give them an unforgettable summer experience. The area features a 30-foot climbing and rappelling tower, a natural rock face area, and high and low ropes challenge courses used in Project C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience), a national BSA program offered at Massawepie. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- Climbing
- Other classes:*
- C.O.P.E
- Activity Highlights:*
- Natural Rockface Climbing
  - Open High and Low Ropes
  - Open Climbing
  - High ropes games
  - Zipline
  - Climb on Safely (Adults)

## **Handicraft**

Handicraft offers scouts a variety of arts, crafts, and skill programs that aid scouts in exercising their creative abilities in fun and engaging ways. This year the Handicraft will be operating the Craft Lodge, as well as August Lodge as HAC, which will teach classes related to History and Citizenship. Program opportunities include:

- Merit Badges:*
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Animation</li> <li>● Archaeology</li> <li>● Architecture</li> <li>● Art</li> <li>● Basketry</li> <li>● Chess</li> <li>● Leatherwork</li> <li>● Painting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Space Exploration</li> <li>● Woodcarving</li> <li>● Fingerprinting (Open Program)</li> <li>● Collections (By Appointment)</li> <li>● Photography (By Appointment)</li> </ul> |
|---|---|
- Activity Highlights:*
- Art Shows
  - Role-playing Games
  - Chess Tournament
  - **Open arts and crafts**

- Makers' workshops
- Euchre
- Patch Trading
- Plaque Design

## **Trailblazers**

Trailblazers is Massawepie's first year camper program. Scouts who have recently crossed-over or joined your unit will have the opportunity to learn some essential Scout skills while equilibrating to the new atmosphere at camp. Trailblazers is currently offered in three; one and a half hour sections. Each section is identical in program offering. The program focuses on Tenderfoot-First Class requirements but we feel it is important to balance the quality of learning as the quantity of requirements that we cover. Trailblazers will learn a knot of the day, earn their firem'n and totin' chit/chip, and focus on working together in groups using the patrol method. Trailblazers staff also help host several open program events in other areas such as "Aquatics requirements" during open program. This summer we will be bringing back the five-mile hike as a first year Barkeater requirement but it will be offered during open program instead of during the schedule Trailblazers program time

*Requirements  
Covered:*

*The exact requirements and scheduling for the area in 2023 is under review with the MSC program committee now based on surveys and conversations with Scoutmasters to decide which skill areas we should prioritize for the program*

*Class-time  
Highlights:*

- Firem'n Chit/Toten Chip Makeups
- Teaming up with other areas to complete requirements
  - ECON- Plant/Animal Hike
  - Waterfront- Aquatics Requirements



## **Sports and Mountain Biking**

Fitness is one of the three aims of Scouting, and scouts have the chance to develop their physical fitness at our Sports and Mountain Biking area. Massawepie has a wide variety of field sports equipment and activities for scouts and leaders to utilize. Our biking programs include mountain bikes, for use on the many miles of trails in and around Massawepie. Camp Pioneer also offers a BMX course with BMX bikes and safety equipment. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Athletics</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personal Fitness</li> <li>● Sports</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Open BMX Biking</li> <li>● Baseball</li> <li>● Basketball</li> <li>● Frisbee Golf Course</li> <li>● Pond Tour, (BE Yr. 4)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Soccer</li> <li>● Property Bike Tours</li> <li>● Horseshoes</li> <li>● Lawn Games</li> <li>● Bog Bike(B.E Yr. 4)</li> </ul> |

## **Scoutcraft**

Scoutcraft is where scouts can grow, develop, and test their fundamental scouting skills. Massawepie is the perfect place to work on survival, woodcraft, and outdoor skills because of its Adirondack setting. Program opportunities include:

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Merit Badges:</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Camping</li> <li>● Cooking</li> <li>● Emergency Preparedness</li> <li>● First Aid</li> <li>● Orienteering</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pioneering</li> <li>● Search and Rescue</li> <li>● Wilderness Survival</li> <li>● Hiking (By Appointment)</li> <li>● Geocaching (By Appointment)</li> <li>● Signs, Signals, &amp; Codes (By Appointment)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Activity Highlights:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tomahawk Throwing Range</li> <li>● Survivor Fire Building Competitions</li> <li>● Massawepie Lumberjack Games(B.E Yr. 3)</li> <li>● Iron Chef Competition</li> <li>● Lashing Relays</li> <li>● Leave No Trace/Outdoor Ethics Training</li> </ul> |  |

## **Shooting Sports**

Massawepie offers a wide variety of shooting sports opportunities to all ages of scouts and adults alike. Camp Pioneer has three shooting ranges – Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery. With each range offering its own merit badge and a range of open programs, there are plenty of opportunities for safe shooting fun under the supervision of trained instructors. Program opportunities include:

*Merit Badges:*

- Archery
- Rifle Shooting
- Shotgun Shooting

*Trainings/Awards:*

- NRA Rifle Marksmanship Program

*Activity*

*Highlights:*

- Rifle Biathlon
- Team Shotgun Shooting
- Golf Ball Shoot, Rifle
- Adult Leader Shoots
- Action Archery
- Moving Target, Archery
- Open Shoots (All Ranges)
  - Open Shoots often reserved for Merit Badge Participants on Thursday Evening and Friday afternoons

# Special Programs

## BarkEater

Introduced in 2005, BarkEater is a five-year recognition program for campers at Massawepie. The program allows both scouts and leaders to experience all that Massawepie has to offer. Each year that campers come to camp, they will be able to complete the next level. Campers complete a set of requirements during their stay at Massawepie and at the end of the week are rewarded with a special BarkEater token, presented at the respective BarkEater ceremony. The first through fourth year ceremonies are held on Friday night, while the fifth-year ceremony is uniquely held during dinner on Thursday. The requirements include sections for Massawepie experience, Massawepie and Adirondack lore, service in camp, and scout spirit. This summer we have made some changes to the requirements and ceremonies, meaning that there will be new Massawepie experience requirements and alternatives for each year of the program. We are still working on changes to some of the lore and Ceremonies for this summer, but this is our planned 2021 BarkEater event and required "Massawepie Experience" Schedule.

## **BarkEater Program Schedule**

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
<b>Lunch Time</b> <i>Yr.4Req:</i> BarkEater Mentorship Lunch	<b>Afternoon</b> <b>Open Program:</b> <i>Yr.1Req;</i> 5 Mile Hike- <i>1<sup>st</sup> Offering</i> <i>Yr.2 Req:</i> Loon Canoe  <b>Evening</b> <b>Open Program:</b> <i>Yr.3Req;</i> Great Canoe Tour <i>Yr. 4Req;</i> Bog Bike	<b>Afternoon</b> <b>Open Program:</b> <i>Yr. 5Req;</i> BE-Service Project	<b>Afternoon</b> <b>Open Program:</b> <i>Yr.1Req:</i> 5 Mile Hike- <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Offering</i> <i>Yr.2Req:</i> Dam Hike <i>Yr.3Req:</i> LumberJack Games <i>Yr.4Req:</i> Pond Tour  <b>Dinner &amp; Evening</b> <b>Open Program:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Yr. Ceremony <i>1<sup>st</sup> Yr. Req</i>  <b>Evening Program:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Yr. BarkEater Ice Cream Social	<b>After</b> <b>Closing Campfire:</b> <i>Yr. 1-4 Ceremonies,</i> Tokens Awarded

*\*Schedule Subject to Change*

**\*\*Please note that for each year requirement, you only need to attend ONE of the two offered open programs.  
 See the Barkeater Leader Guide for more information\*\***

## **Mountain Fox**

Mountain Fox is a program offered by Massawepie's Adirondack Trek Center, for campers to get a taste of Adirondack high adventure. Scouts and venturers age 14 or older from a variety of troops and crews form their own group and plan your activities with the help of a certified Voyageur Guide. A typical stay starts with an overall orientation and initiative games to get everyone acquainted and to set the week's goals. Options include day trips and overnight trips, by foot or afloat, taking place on our 3800 acre reservation's trails and ponds. Generally, we meet after breakfast each day and return back to base camp in time for supper at the dining hall. Choices of activities include, mountain biking, hiking, sailing, overnight mini-treks, or even going off our property and summiting one of the High Peaks.

Scouts and venturers participating in Mountain Fox need to pass the BSA Swimmers test and should bring proper equipment with them to camp that will allow them to "Be prepared" for these activities. There is an additional Fee of \$99 per scout due at the time of Class registration. The program also will require an adult to accompany each group on their daily activities. This does not have to be the same adult for each activity and the duty may be shared between participating units.

## **Outpost Program**

Massawepie's unique property offers the opportunity for campers to get out of base camp and participate in the best two syllables of Scouting.....Outing! Massawepie has nearly 20 remote campsites around our 3800 acre property, connected by over 20 miles of trails. With so much variety, groups are free to create their own unique adventures! Our Trek and Trail Staff are prepared to help your group create a plan and provide you with everything you need (meals, tents cooking gear, or other equipment), Whether you want to spend an overnight or just take a day trip, our staff and program are flexible enough to allow you to go on an outpost adventure without impacting your experience of classes or other programs.

## **Opportunities for YOUR Scout at Camp**

**Staff:** We are still working on hiring a full staff for Camp Pioneer this summer! Anyone 16+ is welcome to apply, and we have availabilities in almost ALL of our Major program areas. We have already interviewed people for most of our Area director and Manager positions, but still have needs for senior staff and Managers! If you have any questions about if staff is a good fit for you or your child, reach out to the program director to learn more about the staff experience! We will be running more interviews over the next few months, and you can apply anytime at:

<https://247scouting.com/forms/397-2023CampStaff>

**CIT Program:** Not quite old enough, or don't feel ready for a full summer on Staff? Try out the CIT program; it is a 3-week leadership training program and this year it will cost 75\$ to participate (this will include a Green Venturing field uniform and a staff uniform basics pack) CITs will spend a week as a patrol participating in activities planned by the CIT director, out-posting, and getting trainings about our operations all around camp. CITs will also have a chance to rotate around different areas, shadow counselors and work and teach in an area that interests for at least. Interested in the CIT program, or have a 14-15 year old scout who would like to sign up? Contact the CIT director Peter Huber to learn more.

### **Questions or Interest in Staff?**

Contact:

Brendan Flaherty: 2023 Reservation Director

[Brendan.flaherty@scouting.org](mailto:Brendan.flaherty@scouting.org)

### **Questions or Interest in the CIT Program?**

Contact:

Dominic Mruzek: 2023 CIT Director

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## **More Camping at Massawepie**

This guide is an overview of the program at Camp Pioneer, Massawepie's Summer Scouts BSA Resident Camp. However, Massawepie has so much more to offer during the summer and year-round, for those who enjoy their summers at Camp Pioneer:

- **Massawepie Adirondack Trek Center** – Sharing a base camp with Pioneer, the Adirondack Trek Center offers groups the opportunity to travel routes we've created throughout the 2.6-million-acre Adirondack Forest preserve, or a customized adventure of their own. Groups can participate in 3-day or 6-day backpacking, canoeing, or combination treks during the same summer season as Camp Pioneer. Troops can even split – with some attending Camp Pioneer while another group participates in a trek, while sharing the same base camp, to experience a variety of adventure and challenge. Starting last year, Massawepie is also offering provisional treks to youth and adults who do not have a group to participate with.
- **Family Camping** – During the summer months, Massawepie offers facilities rentals for family groups in the Camp Mountaineer area across the lake from Camp Pioneer. This is a perfect opportunity for parents and families to visit their scouts during summer camp while enjoying some of the comforts of home. After the summer season through Labor Day Weekend, Camp Pioneer facilities

- are open to rent for family and other groups. Both sessions offer cabins, tent site, and RV site rentals. Let Massawepie be the base for your family's adventure!
- **Massawepie October Outdoor Challenge** – Each Columbus Day Weekend, Massawepie reopens Camp Mountaineer for a camping experience like no other. Each year offers a unique program, all focusing on giving campers a taste of high adventure at Massawepie and around the Adirondacks – from hiking to biking to mountain climbing to historical attractions, the Adirondacks has so much more to offer than anyone can experience at summer camp.
  - **Massawepie Arctic Challenge** – During Martin Luther King Weekend, stay at Massawepie and experience the Adirondacks in the winter! Winter in the Adirondacks offers many unique opportunities that you can't get any other time or place. Some of the activities include: down-hill skiing, tubing, ice skating, broom ball, tours of the Wild Center (the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks), ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Stay in a heated lodge or bring your cold-weather gear to brave the winter conditions.

This is just a sample of everything Massawepie has to offer. To learn more about these and other opportunities, contact the Seneca Waterways Camping Department (contact information at the beginning of this guide) or visit [www.senecawaterways.org/outdoors](http://www.senecawaterways.org/outdoors).