

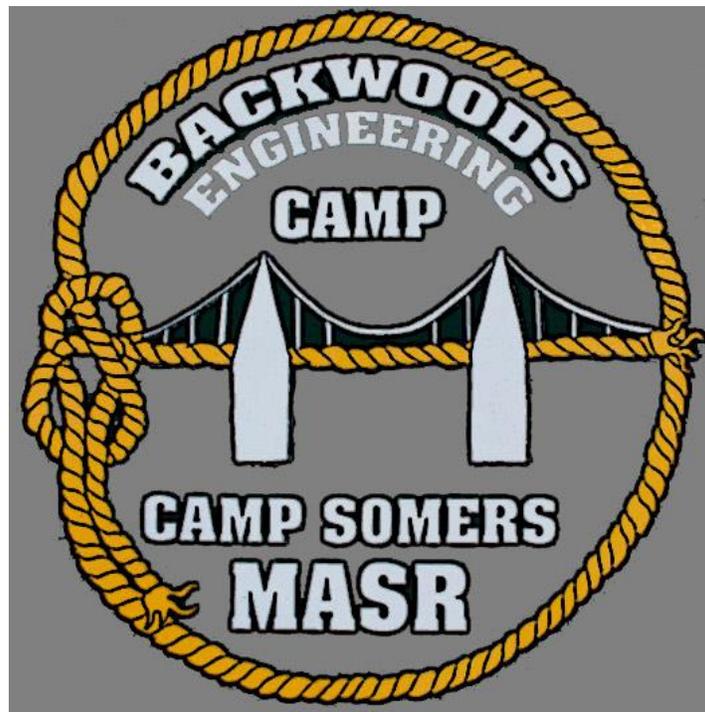


BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

# Camp Somers

Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation  
Stanhope, New Jersey

## 2015 Backwoods Engineering Camp Scout and Parent Guide



Patriots' Path Council, BSA  
1 Saddle Road  
Cedar Knolls NJ 07927  
973-765-9322  
June 4, 2015

[www.camps.ppbsa.org](http://www.camps.ppbsa.org)

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## MOUNT ALLAMUCHY SCOUT RESERVATION

Welcome to Camp Somers at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation!

Outdoor activity is the most appealing feature of the Scouting program. Boys are drawn to it because it offers opportunities for fun in hiking, camping, swimming, boating, canoeing, high adventure experiences and touring. This appeal is woven into the program from Cub Scouting through Scouting and Venturing.

Underlying the appeal of fun and adventure in the outdoors are the serious purposes of Scouting. Outdoor activities provide a vehicle for the achievement of Scouting's primary goals.

Scouting's outdoor program is tailored to meet the needs and desires of youth and their families. Activities are planned to match the desires and abilities of their age level. For Boy Scouts, hiking, campouts, extended camping trips, tours and expeditions are a vital part of the Scouting experience. The lure of these adventures is the reason most boys join. These experiences come to the Scout through the troop he joins and with the patrol in which he finds his identity.

The simple skills essential to living in a primitive setting are inherent in the Scouting program. The boy learns to respect and conserve the blessings of God in his natural surroundings. When disaster strikes, he can cope with it. He uses his head, heart and hands when he provides for himself and others in the outdoors. Learning and using these skills in his patrol and troop are part of his adventure in Scouting as he progresses through the ranks.

This guide has been prepared so that you and your Scout will get the most from your summer at Camp Somers. Please take some time to look through this guide, as it will provide you with an in-depth understanding of camp.

Yours in the best of Scouting,

*Keith Dlugosz*

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MOUNT ALLAMUCHY SCOUT RESERVATION

Congratulations on joining us for the Backwoods Engineering Camp at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation! You are soon to embark on an opportunity that few Scouts ever get.

Pioneering is the aspect of Scouting's outdoor program that most sets our movement apart from the other opportunities that youths have to access the great outdoors. It is also, in my experience, the most fun. William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt was right on the money when he wrote:

"Pioneering is HE-MAN Scouting, one of the grandest activities in our whole outdoor program. Working with axes and timbers and lashing ropes – you can't beat it."

Unfortunately most Scouts no longer have access to the experience and materials necessary to undertake the large scale pioneering projects that were common in Green Bar Bill's day. Luckily for you, at the Backwoods Engineering Camp we are still serious about pioneering.

As a Backwoods Engineer, you will build challenging structures like catapults, paddlewheel rafts, 30' towers, and cranes that can lift more than a ton. You will do all of this using little more than ropes, wooden spars, and, most importantly, your brainpower. You will learn about the right way to tie knots and lashings, the engineering principles involved in your work, and how to use the six simple machines to work smart instead of work hard.

If you think that all of this sounds like great fun, then you're absolutely right. Even better than the fun, though, is the sense of accomplishment that you will get from turning a pile of raw materials into a completed structure. Your self-confidence will grow knowing that few Scouts outside the Backwoods Engineering Camp have ever even attempted the projects that you will have successfully completed.

The more that you put in to the Backwoods Engineering Camp, the more that you will get out. With that in mind, I ask you to please take a few minutes to review this participants' guide so that when the time comes you will Be Prepared.

I look forward to seeing you in August.

Yours in Scouting,

*Carl Zipper*

Carl Zipper  
Backwoods Engineering Camp Director  
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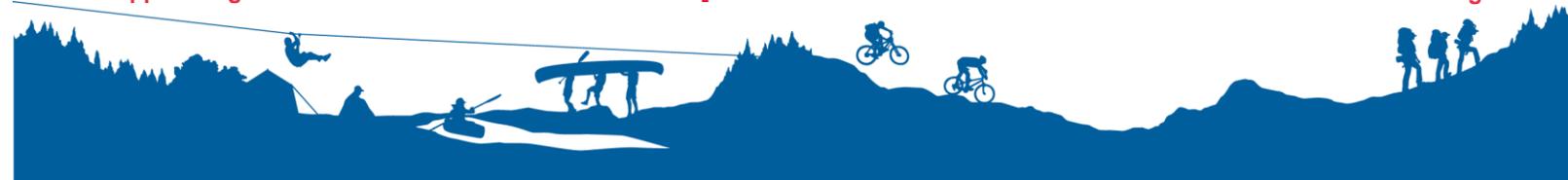


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## Preparing for Camp

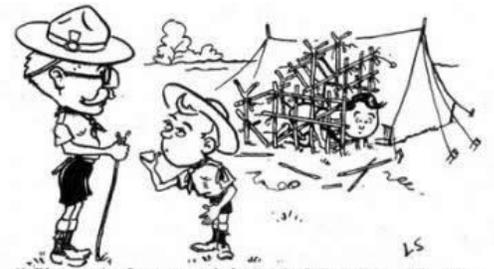
### Backwoods Engineering Camp Overview

Backwoods Engineering Camp is a one week resident camp for First Class Scouts and above who are interested in building and accomplishing tasks beyond the normal Scouting program. Scouts will learn a variety of techniques and principles that will enable them to engineer and construct large structures using ropes, lashings and wooden spars.

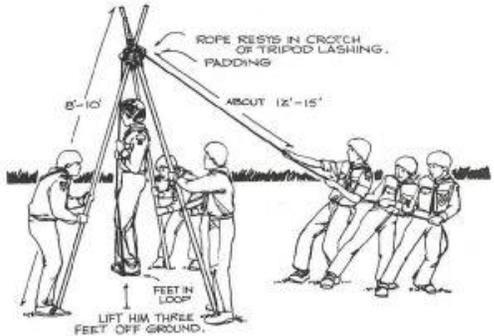
Over the course of the week, Scouts will learn ways to work smart instead of hard during backwoods construction, while learning techniques to design and build large pioneering projects. You will learn the principles of stable structures, stress, and load distribution.

The program is built around the construction of a series of challenging projects. Typical group projects include a trestle bridge, a signal tower, a catapult, a suspension bridge, and a raft using spars and ropes. Over the course of building the projects, participants will get the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned, practice teamwork and leadership, and have plenty of fun.

Scouts will form their own Backwoods Engineering Camp troop for the week and will also participate in other camp wide and fun activities at Camp Somers.



"Please, sir, Jones says he's finished the plate rack. Now how does he get out?"



### Full Leaders' Guide

A complete Camp Somers Troop Leaders' Guide is available on the Forms/Information page of the Camp Somers web site. Backwoods Engineering Camp parents and Scouts are always welcome to review that guide for more details about summer camp at Camp Somers.

### Contact Information

#### Patriots' Path Council

##### **Bob Morris**

Assistant Scout Executive  
[robert.morris@scouting.org](mailto:robert.morris@scouting.org)  
973-765-9322 x223

##### **John Dorn**

(Registration and payments)  
[campreservations@ppbsa.org](mailto:campreservations@ppbsa.org)  
973-765-9322 x238

#### Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation

Camp Somers  
750 Waterloo Road  
Stanhope, NJ 07874  
Year Round: 973-347-3266  
Summer Season: 973-347-2240  
Fax: 973-347-3710

##### **Carl Zipper**

Backwoods Engineering Camp Director  
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973-309-3350

##### **Keith Dlugosz**

Reservation Director  
[keith.dlugosz@scouting.org](mailto:keith.dlugosz@scouting.org)  
973-765-9322 x412



## Directions to Camp

---

### Address

Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation – 750 Waterloo Road, Stanhope, NJ 07874

### GPS or Google Maps

If using a GPS, the address 1 Camp Allamuchy Road, Stanhope NJ 07874 (or Andover NJ 07821) will take you to the Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation entrance.

### Turn by Turn Directions

Available on the Camp Somers web site [www.camps.ppbsa.org/camps/somers](http://www.camps.ppbsa.org/camps/somers)

### From I-80

Take Exit 25 (Route 206 North, Newton). Take the first ramp to the right. (Follow the Waterloo Village signs). Take the first right, just before the light, onto Continental Drive. Go to the end of Continental Drive and turn left onto Waterloo Road. The entrance to the camp is approximately one mile ahead on the right (it is opposite and a few hundred yards past the entrance to Waterloo Village). NOTE: If you miss the first right hand turn after exiting I-80, don't panic! Proceed on US-206 past the Black Forest Inn, to the second traffic light. Turn left at this light onto Waterloo Road, and continue to camp.

### From NJ - 10/US - 46

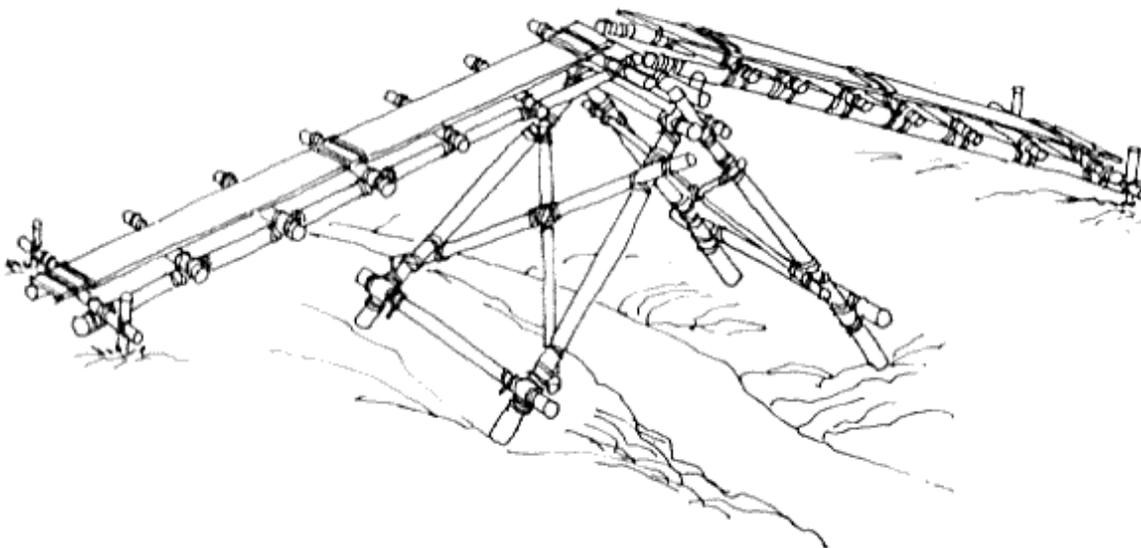
Follow NJ-10/ US-46 West to Ledgewood light. Continue West on US-46 approximately 1-1/2 miles up the hill, and take the exit for I-80 West. Continue on I-80 to Exit 25 and follow the directions from I -80 found above.

### From US-206

Follow US - 206 to Waterloo Road. At the intersection of Waterloo Road and US -206 there are signs to Allamuchy State Park and Waterloo Village. From the North turn right. From the South turn left. Follow Waterloo Road to the camp entrance on the right.

### Upon entering Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation

Continue straight ahead for Camp Somers and the main parking lot.





# Personal Equipment List

## Recommended Gear

- Pack/Duffle Bag/Footlocker
- Sleeping Bag
- Official Scout uniform
- T-Shirts (6 days)
- Bathing suit
- Fleece (preferred) or Sweatshirt
- Hat
- Hiking Boots (Waterproof)
- Jacket
- Pants or zip-offs
- Rain gear
- Shorts or zip-offs
- Shoes that can get wet
- Sneakers or moccasins
- Socks (6 days)
- Underwear (6 days)
- Comb or brush
- Flashlight or LED headlamp
- Handkerchief or tissues
- Insect Repellent (No aerosol)
- Medications properly labeled (all must be listed on the medical form)
- Pen/Pencil/Notebook
- Personal First Aid kit
- Plastic bags - 1 and 2 gallon
- Scout Handbook
- Soap/Shampoo/Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Towels and washcloths
- Wallet w/spending money
- Water bottle/Hydration bladder

## Backwoods Engineering Gear

- Hiking or Work boots (required during all construction activities – no sneakers)
- Work gloves (required during all construction activities)
- Long pants (recommended during all construction activities)
- Pocket knife (no sheath knives)

## Optional Gear

- Alarm Clock
- Bible/Prayer book
- Camera/Film/Memory cards
- Compass
- Cord/Clothesline
- Day pack
- Fishing tackle
- Hangars
- Laundry bag
- Mattress/Foam pad
- Pioneering merit badge pamphlet
- Mosquito netting
- Musical instrument
- Pillow
- Watch

**A good rule is:** If you don't want it lost, damaged or destroyed, consider leaving it at home.

## Completed and Signed Forms

- Medical form
- Three Strikes Rule
- Pioneering MB Blue Card signed by your home troop Scoutmaster. (If you do not have Pioneering merit badge)



## At Camp

### Sunday Arrival

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Please check-in at the camp office near the Camp Somers parking lot at 12:30 pm. Please arrive with swimsuits on. Everyone should bring a small bag with towel, T-shirt, and socks so they can dry off after the swim test. The first meal will be dinner, so please eat lunch before arriving. You will be taking a swimming classification test on Sunday afternoon. See page 8 for the requirements.

Backwoods Engineering Camp Scouts will be formed into a single troop, under the leadership of qualified adult staff members. The Scouts will be staying in canvas tents in one of Camp Somers' established campsites.

Please be sure to have the following completed and signed forms. They are available on our web site:

- **BSA Annual Health and Medical Record** - Required for all Scouts and leaders - Parts A, B and C must be completed and signed. Please bring photocopies and keep the originals.
- **Three Strikes Rule** – Parent must review and sign.
- **Completed Pioneering merit badge blue card signed by your Scoutmaster** – If you have not already earned the Pioneering merit badge.

### Sunday Schedule

---

12:30 pm	Check-In
1:00-5:00 pm	Meet site guide; move gear to campsite; swim checks; camp tour; begin program basic skills
5:45 pm	Colors
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:30 pm	Campfire
10:00 pm	Taps

### Some of What We'll Be Doing

---

Backwoods Engineering Camp is different from the regular summer camp program. Here are some of the things that you will be doing at camp:

- Build a variety of projects, including bridges, rafts, catapults, towers
- Learn several ways to move heavy objects with minimal effort
- Use the six simple machines to multiply our strength
- Learn to make slings for lifting heavy loads
- Learn advanced knots
- Learn to splice rope
- Use specialized pre-industrial pioneering tools including block and tackle, fibs (for splicing rope), mallets and sledges, drawknives, axes, two man crosscut saws
- Work as a team to complete challenging projects
- Have fun



## Backwoods Engineering Troop Photos

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Each camper will receive an 8" x 10" photo of the Backwoods Engineering troop. Our photographer will be in camp Monday evening at 5:00 pm at Vollers Field. This is a great souvenir of your week at camp.

## Health Lodge

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Our health officer is available 24 hours a day for emergencies. The health officer has early morning office hours at the health lodge. The health officer will also be available in the health lodge before and after flags, after meals, and in the evening to administer medications. If the health officer is not at the health lodge, the location will be posted on health lodge door. In an emergency, please contact the camp office during normal office hours. After hours, knock loudly on the door of the health lodge.

## Bath and Shower House

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Our centrally located bath and shower house is available 24x7. The facility contains men's and women's bathrooms with flush toilets, sinks and electric hand dryers. The showers all have individual stalls with lockable doors. The showers are located on two sides of the facility. There are also two toilets located at Turkey Lodge. These are accessible from the outside of the building.

Please help keep these facilities clean for all visitors.

## Trading Post

---

The Trading Post operates as a service to the camp community. Stock includes snacks, soft drinks, slush puppies, ice cream, popcorn, stamps, merit badge pamphlets and other Scouting literature, T-shirts, uniform parts, various items from the BSA Supply Catalog, and souvenirs. The hours of operation are posted at the Trading Post.

## Camp Uniform

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Scouts and adults should wear the full BSA uniform to evening retreat, dinner in the dining hall and to the opening and closing campfires. A uniform is not a requirement to come to camp. If someone does not have a uniform, please dress appropriately.

During other times, including breakfast and lunch, uniforms are not required. Troop tee shirts are encouraged. Other Scouting, plain and appropriate tee shirts are always welcome.

Hiking or work boots and work gloves are required for construction projects. Long pants are highly recommended.

## Visitors

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A week of camp goes by very quickly due to the myriad of projects and activities offered to each Scout. Scouts are in program from 9 am to 12 noon, 2 pm to 5 pm, and 7 pm to 9 pm – a very busy and rewarding experience. For this reason, the boy has little time for much else. Certainly, parents and friends are interested in what he is doing, and Scouts are encouraged to send postcards and letters telling of their experiences.

Camp Somers does not offer a specific visitors program. Visitors are welcome at camp subject to the above limitations. Parents should confirm with the Backwoods Engineering staff before coming to camp. Please stop at the camp office to check in, sign the log and receive a wristband which must be worn while at camp. Visitors are welcome to enjoy a meal in our dining hall. We will try our best to seat your guest at your table, but that is not always possible due to the number of people in the dining hall. Please give the camp office at least four hours notice for visitor meals. When checking in, please pay for any applicable meals. Due to the nature of the in-site cooking, no extra meals will be available for Wednesday dinner.

- Breakfast - \$6.00
- Lunch - \$8.00
- Dinner - \$10.00

Please check out at the office before departing camp.



## Mail Service

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### Incoming Mail

All incoming mail will be available in your unit's box in the camp office. If parents want to send letters or packages to their sons, be sure they mail early. If you send mail while your Scout is at camp it will not arrive in time. We recommend you send mail by the Friday before your Scout leaves for camp. The mailing address is:

Name, Backwoods Engineering Camp  
Camp Somers, MASR  
750 Waterloo Road  
Stanhope, NJ 07874

### Outgoing Mail

Bring any outgoing mail to the camp office and put it in the outgoing mailbox which is located underneath the troop mailboxes in the office.

## Telephone Service

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### Incoming Calls

Leaders, Scouts, and parents should be made aware that incoming calls to individuals are seldom practical due to the size of our camp.

### Emergency Calls

In case of emergency, the camp office telephone number is 973-347-2240. A message will be taken and delivered to the individual concerned as quickly as possible. Do not expect to talk to the person immediately.

### Cell Phones

There is no need for Scouts to use cell phones at Backwoods Engineering Camp. If a Scout needs to bring a cell phone to coordinate his arrival/departure it should be kept out of sight in his tent. Camp is not responsible for lost or damaged phones.

## Saturday Departure

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Parents should meet at the trading post at 9:00 am on Saturday. You will have an opportunity to take tour of the weeks activities and projects. Bring your camera. The tour lasts about two hours. It will end at the parking lot.

## Health and Safety Information and Camp Policies

### Guide to Safe Scouting

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BSA's **Guide to Safe Scouting** prepares members of the Boy Scouts of America to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through 100 years of experience.

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America policies and guidelines. The guide provides an overview of Scouting policies and procedures rather than comprehensive, standalone documentation. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

Patriots' Path Council camps follow policies and procedures in the guide, so please use it as your primary reference source. You can find it online at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

The remainder of this section is to remind you of some key information and to specify any local policies that may supersede or supplement information in the national publication.



## **Patriots' Path Council Camping Policies**

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The complete Patriots' Path Council Camping Policies document can be found on our web site at [http://www.camps.ppbsa.org/files/Camping\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.camps.ppbsa.org/files/Camping_Policies.pdf).

## **Annual Health and Medical Record**

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The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, parts A, B and C must be completed, and kept with the camp health officer while Scouts and leaders are in camp. This is required for all Scouts and leaders. Forms are good for one year. See the Forms/Information page of the Camp Somers web site for a current copy of the form. Please keep the original and submit a copy.

## **Medication Administration (prescription and over-the-counter)**

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### **Policies**

- All medication(s) currently being taken must be noted on part B of the Annual Health and Medical Record. The medications section in part B should be filled out at the time of the annual medical evaluation.
- Medication must be kept in the original (pharmacy or over the counter) container.
- Medications are administered by the health officer as directed by the label.
- The BSA routine drug administration record will be completely filled out by the health officer during check-in.
- Each Scout will be observed to ensure that the medication is being taken.
- If a Scout fails to take the medication, camp staff will notify the leader and camp director, who will then notify the parents or guardians immediately.

### **Administration**

The health officer is available at the health lodge before and after flags and meals to administer medications.

## **Youth Protection Policy**

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The Patriots' Path Council and the Boy Scouts of America believe protecting the safety of children is a critical priority. In order to achieve this goal, all adults staying overnight at any Patriots' Path Council summer camp program must have proof of current Youth Protection training.

## **Buddy System**

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The buddy system is an important requirement for the safety of our Scouts and leaders while at camp. The Patriots' Path Council requires the use of the buddy system throughout camp at all times. Please emphasize to your Scouts the importance of always traveling with a buddy and to remain in sight of your buddy at all times. If you do not have a buddy, you can often find a Scout from another troop that is heading in the same direction. This is a great way of finding a new buddy. Please remember the no one-on-one adult to Scout contact requirement when pairing up with buddies.

## **Wristbands**

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All campers (Scouts and leaders) are required to wear a camp issued wristband while in camp. One wristband is provided to each person upon check-in. Replacements are available for a nominal fee. Wristbands are required for dining hall meals. This will ensure that all Scouts and leaders have checked in with the camp office. Any camper or leader who is not wearing a wristband will be directed to report to the office to check-in or receive a replacement wristband.

## **Footwear**

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Close toed shoes must be worn at all times at camp. We do not permit open toed shoes, sandals, etc. outside the waterfront and camp shower areas. Backwoods Engineering Camp has stricter footwear requirements.



## Swim Classification Test

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All campers, youth and adults, who desire to participate in aquatic activities (swimming, boating, etc.), must take a swim classification test **at Camp Somers** to determine their swimming ability. A buddy tag will be issued to indicate the appropriate classification.

The classifications are as follows:

**Swimmer – Blue tag** The Scout has successfully completed the swimmers test:

Jump feetfirst 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 – Red tag** The Scout has successfully completed the beginner's test:

Jump feetfirst 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.

**Non-Swimmer/Learner**

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

## Leaving Camp

---

Should a camper need to leave camp (family obligations, sports, etc.) they will be released to a parent/guardian, or other adult authorized in writing by the parent/guardian. Identification and a signed release form is required. The Patriots' Path Council will not release a Scout to an unauthorized adult. A sign-out/sign-in log is kept in the camp office and must be used by all adults or Scouts entering or leaving camp outside of the normal arrival and departure schedule.

## Emergency Alerts

---

Camp Somers has an emergency alert system (horn, siren) in place to notify campers of an emergency. When an alert is sounded, the entire camp should **proceed to the parking lot in front of the office**, where we will conduct a head-count. Once your troop is assembled and present, check in with the director/designee. Further directions will be given at that time. We may have to initiate the emergency plan for a variety of situations including fire, thunderstorms, earthquakes, tornados/high winds, or a lost camper.

## Lost and Found

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All Patriots' Path Council camps will hold any items that are found in camp for a period one week. Medications, food, and perishables will be destroyed immediately. Articles may be retrieved by claiming the item in person at the camp office. Any item not claimed within the one week period will be discarded.