

BSA Troop 738 Summer Camp

Many Point Scout Camp

Each summer in July, both the boys and girls troops, attend summer camp at Many Point Scout Camp, about 4 ½ hours northwest near Lake Itasca State Park. This is a week-long camp, departing on a Sunday morning and returning the following Saturday afternoon. It is a great opportunity for new scouts in the troop to have focused hands-on learning around camping, cooking and the patrol method from older, more experienced scouts. Each scout will also be able to work on rank advancement related activities, as well as earning a merit badge or two.

For Many Point Scout Camp, as well as other troop activities, parents are not required to attend with their scout, unlike Cub Scouts. However, there will be at least 2 registered adult leaders on-site for the full week, aligning with youth protection. Adults are welcome to attend a portion or the entire week with the troop. For adults interested in joining the troop at camp for a longer period of time (>72 hours over the week), the following will need to be completed.

- Register as an adult leader with the troop
- Complete Youth Protection Training (renewed every 2 years)
- Complete Health Forms (Parts A, B, C)
- Take the Swim Classification Test

Depending on the number of scouts attending camp, additional adults may be needed to transport scouts to/from camp.

Something to keep in mind - camp is a whole week. For many scouts, this will be the first time they have been away from home and family for this long. They are busy and engaged pretty much from the time they wake up to the time they go to bed - but everybody gets homesick. For some scouts, having a parent come and visit at camp might not be a big deal, but for others, it could trigger homesickness. Previously, this has even happened when certain scouts have talked to their parents on the phone, resulting in scouts wanting to go home early and missing out on a portion of summer camp.

Personal Perspective about Many Point from a New Adult to the Troop

"I attended Many Point Scout Camp for the first time this summer as an Adult Leader with the troop. This is my son's first year in BSA Scouts - so this was a new experience for both of us. My purpose in writing this document is to share my experience with new scouts and families, as they join the troop, to give them an idea of what to expect from Summer Camp. All in all, it was a fantastic experience for both my son and myself, and I highly encourage all incoming, new Scouts to make an effort to attend summer camp."

What Does a Week at Many Point Scout Camp Look Like?

Travel to Camp

On Sunday morning, the troop will meet in SLP to finish loading personal and troop gear into vehicles and the troop trailer. As much as possible, the troop will carpool and travel together as a unit to Many Point, which is about a 4 ½ hour drive. This usually involves a stop for lunch in Park Rapids before making the last 45 minute push to Lake Many Point and the Camp.

Arrival at Camp

Upon arrival at camp, there are several things that take place:

- Unload cars and some gear from the trailer.
- Move emptied cars to the parking lot and move the trailer to its “permanent” resting spot for the week.
- Scouts begin setting up tents.
- Scoutmaster and some adult leaders meet with our campsite concierge.
 - Review registrations for individual activities
 - Review registrations for troop activities
 - Verify meal planning and head-count
 - Prepare parking tags for any/all cars
 - Check-in review of all camp amenities.
- The Troop will move picnic tables, etc. and set up the camp kitchen. The troop has a large canopy tent that can easily house 2 or 3 cooking stations. The troop also has folding tables and patrol boxes, standing cast-iron gas stoves, coolers, and a garbage can.



After camp is set up, dinner will arrive (more on meals and cooking below) - and then after dinner, the Troop will take a walk to the beach for Beach Orientation. Adult leaders will have an Adult Leader Orientation session.

There is an opening ceremonial campfire, hosted by staff, for all Troops that are in Attendance. This involves some skits and announcements, and after that, it's back to camp and off to sleep.

The next 5 days (M-F) follow the same schedule:

- Wake around 7AM, prepare breakfast, eat, clean up dishes.
 - One day during the week, the camp hosts “polar bear” at 6:15 AM where anyone who wants to attend can go to the beach and participate in a “polar” experience.
- Troop flag ceremony at 8:05AM.
- Camp opening flags (by staff) at 8:15AM. There is a “song”, announcements, etc.
- Individual merit badge session from 8:30 AM to 9:20 AM.
- Individual merit badge session from 9:30 AM to 10:20 AM.
- Individual merit badge session from 10:30 AM to 11:20 AM.
 - For 1st year scouts, the First Class Adventure session meets every day for 2 hours per day. Staff will lead the Scouts through many rank advancement requirements over the course of the week. The other 1-hour merit badge session can be chosen by each Scout, typically weeks before we arrive at camp. Depending on how many scouts from all troops register, some merit badge sessions may be canceled, so there may be a little jostling around on day 1. It is a good idea for the Scouts to sign up for these sessions in pairs (Buddy System).
- Prepare Lunch at 11:30, eat, and clean up dishes.
- Troop Activity session from 1PM to 2PM.
- Troop Activity session from 2PM to 3PM.
- Troop Activity session from 3PM to 4PM.
- Troop Activity session from 4PM to 5PM.
 - These activities are done with the whole troop. There are sessions like Team Building, Water Polo, Climbing Wall, Rifle Range, Archery Range, Loon Calls, Survivor Man, etc.
- Prepare Dinner at 5:30PM, eat, and clean up dishes
- Free Time is from 7PM - 9PM.
 - Scouts are allowed to go pretty much anywhere in camp (as long as they are with a buddy). So they can go to the rifle range, archery, climbing wall, the beach, etc.
- Try to get teeth brushed and Scouts in tents by about 10PM.
 - Sometimes, there are camp activities (like star gazing) after 10PM.
- Lights out and quiet after 11PM.

Friday after dinner, the adults will try to pack up as much of the camp kitchen and trailer as possible.

Saturday, we want to wake up, get all the tents taken down, get all of the gear in the trailer, and get our camp concierge to check us “out” of camp. Then it's a 4 1/2 hour drive home.

Meals and Cooking

Meal ingredients are delivered about 30 minutes before meal time. It is each patrol's responsibility to read the instructions and prepare the meal. Patrol leaders will write and post a duty roster for the week so that each Scout rotates through cooking, doing dishes, resupplying with water, etc.

For older scouts, or scouts that have been to Many Point several times, this is a mostly hands-off experience for adult leaders.

For 1st year scouts, it's a little more complicated. Many of these scouts have never cooked anything and even for those who have, a little more hand-holding is necessary, in my opinion. These scouts should still do the cooking, but they require a little more guidance, a little more teaching and coaching, and they need help maintaining focus on the job at hand.

My approach was to try to make sure that cooking and cleaning were not any of the 1st year scout's biggest memories from camp. Next year, they will require a bit less guidance.

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Some notes about the food program:

- If a scout has special dietary needs (allergies, etc.), the camp quartermasters will send special ingredients with each meal.
- A special crate of "standards" is delivered on Sunday night with the first dinner. This crate contains things like ketchup, mustard, syrup - those kinds of things. There are also some replacement foods like a loaf of bread and peanut butter, dry cereal, ramen, etc. These things are provided in case a Scout really doesn't want to eat the planned/prepared meal. They can always make themselves a peanut butter sandwich or have a bowl of cereal.
- We tried to return the unopened things that we did not use/need. For example, several of the meals had salsa as a component, and each meal, they delivered 2 large containers of Pace salsa (1 for each patrol). We keep the opened, leftover salsa in our cooler, and then until that is gone, we just send the new ones back after each meal. Milk, sour cream, fruit, eggs, tortillas, cheese - we kept some of this in our cooler, so we actually had alternatives that Scouts could eat.

Key Activities to Be Done in Advance

Registering to Attend Many Point

The troop committee handles campsite reservation each year for Many Point. Initial discussions with scouts regarding summer camp interest will start in late winter. However, there are a few key dates related to scout registration.

April 1st: Scouts confirm if they will be attending Many Point

April 1st-14th: Older scouts interested in participating in Tier 1 or 2 programs, which are age/grade restricted, rank their preferences in order of interest (*Note: these advanced programs usually incur an additional cost*)

April 15th: Youth deposits (\$50/scout), non-refundable, are submitted to Many Point by the troop and credited against scout accounts

June 1st: Final payment of remaining balance to Many Point by the troop

Each year, the troop will set a flat rate cost for attending summer camp, which covers Many Point registration fees (staff, programming and food for the scout), adult leader registration fees and allocated travel costs for gas. This cost will be allocated to scout accounts in TroopTrack. At this point, scout families can then provide payment to the troop treasurer for any costs not covered by funds in their scout's account.

Both the troop and Northern Star Council want to make sure ALL scouts have the opportunity to attend summer camp.

If the cost of summer camp is an issue, scout families can apply for financial assistance through the campership program at Northern Star Council at the website below.

<https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/what-are-camperships>

Applications for camperships must be completed by no later than June 1st with the troop unit leader informed of the request.

BSA Health Forms

June 30th: Complete health forms (parts A/B/C) and provide to the unit leader

All scouts, adult leaders and YPT trained adults attending Many Point MUST provide a fully completed BSA health form, parts A, B and C since the event is more than 72 hours long. Parts A & B are completed by the adult or parents of the scout, while part C is filled out and signed by your physician or nurse practitioner.

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf

Bring Part C with you if you or your scout have an upcoming scheduled exam with your primary care physician. If that has already occurred, you can simply provide your physician the form to fill out and send back to you.

Swimming Classification Test

Each Scout will need to participate in a swimming test prior to the start of camp. In the late spring, the troop will typically schedule a troop meeting for scouts and adults to complete the swim classification test. This swimming skills evaluation determines what you can and cannot do on the water at camp as part of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

- **“Swimmer”** - Jump feet first into the water over a head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side strokes, breast stroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting back stroke. The 100 yards must be swam continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.
- **“Beginner”** - Jump feet first into water over a head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before, and return to the starting place
- **“Non-Swimmer”**

Scouts (or adults) can also take the swim test at camp - and if they don't like their result, they can take it again and again. The biggest difference is that swimming in a lake, with wind and waves, can be more challenging than swimming in a pool.

Shooting Sports Waiver

Many Point Scout Camp has both a rifle and archery range, where the entire troop may be heading for an afternoon activity. Each range has a fully trained rangemaster, who provides instruction to scouts and ensures its safe operation. Parents will need to provide a signed BSA Shooting Sports waiver for their scouts, preferable by June 30th.

Selecting Merit Badges & Troop Activities

Each Scout will be able to select the merit badge(s) that they would like to work on during the merit badge sessions in the mornings.

- For 1st year scouts, it is recommended that they participate in First Class Adventure, which will take up 2 of these time slots
- Scouts should select merit badges with a “buddy”. Going to different areas/stations at camp requires the Scouts to travel in buddy pairs.
 - i.e. this year, 2 did Chess, 2 did Basket Weaving and Leatherwork, and 3 did Fish and Wildlife Management. All 7 did First Class Adventure.

Scouts will let the scoutmasters know their desired merit badges at a troop meeting in June, but do have the ability to change their selection up to a week before camp. Also, all scouts attending Many Point will collectively review, discuss and prioritize their options for afternoon troop activities.

Gear, Supplies & Packing

Many Point has a great packing list available on their website

(<http://manypoint.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/coordinator/Packing%20List.pdf>)

The troop provides tents for the scouts for the week. In the case of severe thunderstorms or other harsh weather, scouts and adult leaders are taken to a storm shelter facility. This can happen at any time, day or night.

Each scout should bring some cash with them. The troop will stop for lunch on the drive to and from camp - plus there is a "trading post" at camp where they sell t-shirts, hats, and other souvenirs, as well as candy and slushies.