

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL SCOUT SUMMER CAMP 2020



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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CAMP MERZ SCOUT SUMMER CAMP 2020

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

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CAMP MERZ

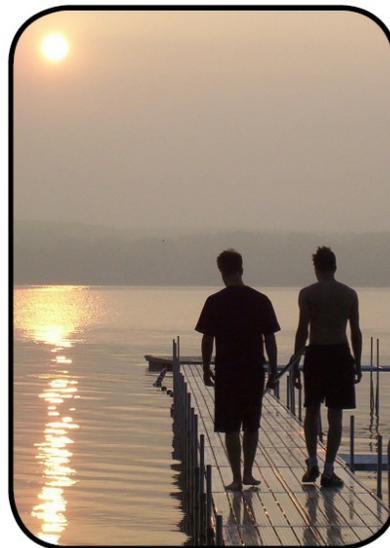
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MAYVILLE, NY 14757

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The Allegheny Highlands Council offers 5 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, & a Trading Post with BSA 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 s a memorable experience.

ABOUT CAMP MERZ

We're over 85 years young this year, and located to the south of Mayville on Chautauqua Lake. 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, water-skiing, kayaking and paddle boarding.



Our shooting sports ranges offer skeet shooting in addition to 22's and black powder on our Shooting Sports Ranges. Bowtrap is a feature at the Archery Center, it's kind of like skeet archery that is sure to challenge your Scouts. The scenic views around the lake & along the Portage Trail are just great. We are about two miles away from the Chautauqua Institution, & 20 minutes from the new 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

CAMP FEE

\$335.00

Twice as Nice

Fee: \$225 (on second week)

If your scout or scouts want to attend a second week of camp you can do so at a discounted price!

Don't have a Troop or leader to come with them? See below about provisional camping.

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 another 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 camps offer 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 twilight fishing, 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, April 30th at 7pm and Saturday, May 9th at 10AM** at camp to give leaders a chance to get 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 attend.

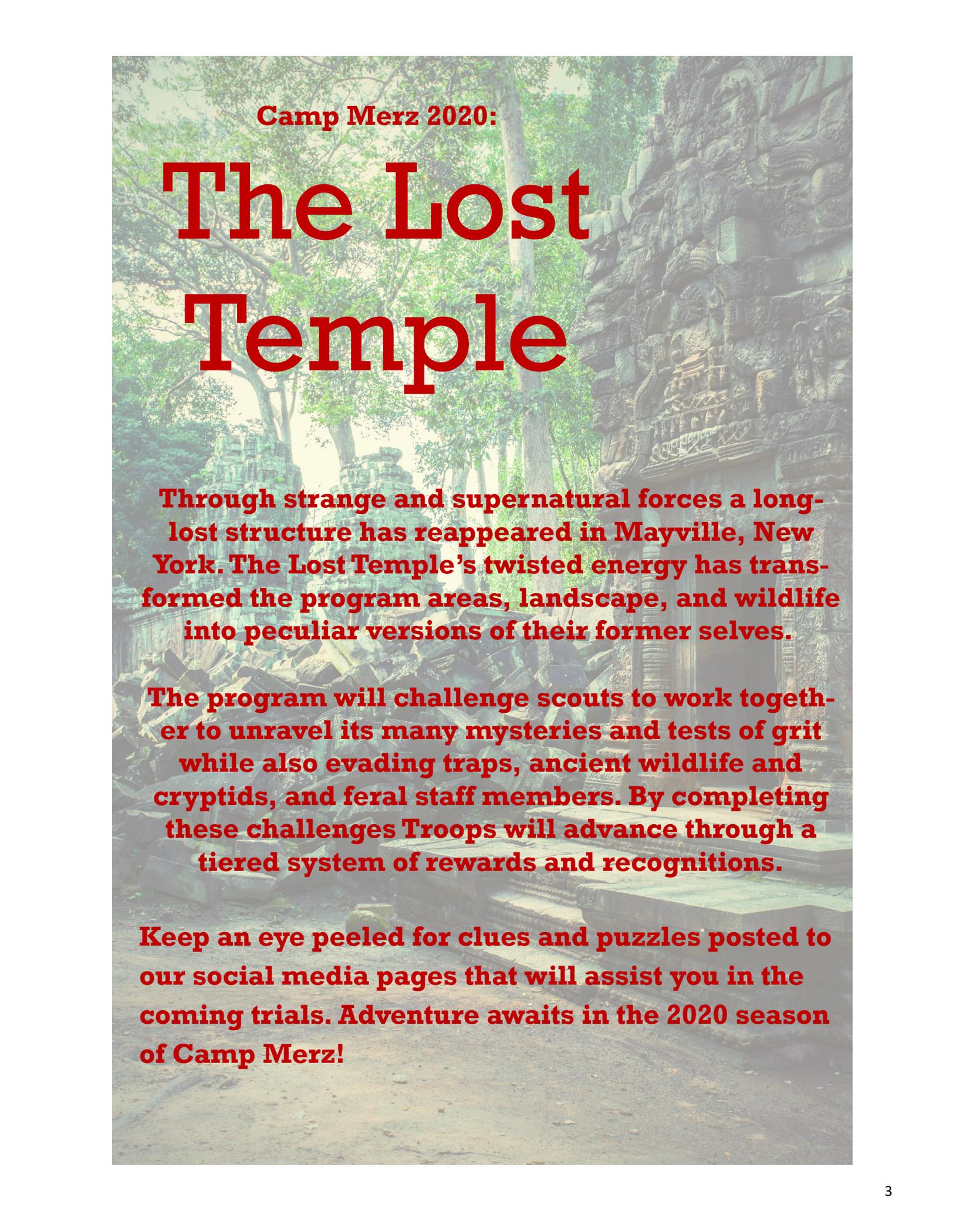
Resident Camp Leadership

The preferred method of camping in the BSA is that the individual Troop camp under its own leadership. It is BSA policy that 2 adults must attend every Troop activity. The Allegheny Highlands Council does not charge for the first leader, additional 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 of \$130 for the week**; 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: \$5 breakfast, \$6 lunch, and \$8 for supper. ALL adults attending with the Scouts must be a registered member of the BSA. All adults attending camp are required to complete the BSA's Youth Protection Training program prior to arrival.

Anyone staying at camp more than 72 hours needs to have completed health form.

DISCOUNT INCENTIVES

- ~ Receive \$20 discount if camp fees are paid in full by April 1st.
- ~ Receive a \$10 discount if camp fees are paid in full by June 1st.
- ~ There is an additional \$20 discount for Troops that recharter on time and submit their JTE Form. (Allegheny Highlands Council Troops)



Camp Merz 2020:

The Lost Temple

Through strange and supernatural forces a long-lost structure has reappeared in Mayville, New York. The Lost Temple's twisted energy has transformed the program areas, landscape, and wildlife into peculiar versions of their former selves.

The program will challenge scouts to work together to unravel its many mysteries and tests of grit while also evading traps, ancient wildlife and cryptids, and feral staff members. By completing these challenges Troops will advance through a tiered system of rewards and recognitions.

Keep an eye peeled for clues and puzzles posted to our social media pages that will assist you in the coming trials. Adventure awaits in the 2020 season of Camp Merz!

OUR PROGRAM FEATURES

Polaris (First-Year Camper Program) The Polaris area is tucked into the woods along the road to the waterfront. Polaris is setup 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 farther up the hill above 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 to our camp ranger creating new easier to move targets, we have created a separate classroom building near the range, which allows our archery staff to safely conduct two activities during a given session.

Bow Trap: We have added a brand new shooting activity area, thanks to a recent grant. To understand bow trapping, think of skeet shooting combined with archery, which equals fun! Leaders and scouts will be able to use their archery skills to shoot at flying reusable targets.

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. Starting in the 2019 camping season we will add Traffic Safety, Entrepreneurship, Indian Lore, Crime Prevention and Family Life.



Nature / Ecology

Located near Jamboree Field the Nature/Ecology Lodge offers a wide variety of nature related badges from Insect Study to Environmental Science. 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! Again this year we will be offering Woods Walk. This program is geared for both Leaders and scouts who are interested in learning more about the local flora and fauna of Camp Merz. Each day staff will offer a walk and talk based on a different topic, no prior knowledge needed.



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. Last year our creative staff even offered a theme related “outpost” alternative for scouts not interested in an overnight outpost adventure. During the 2019 camp season the Handicraft staff will also be offering Inventing and Textiles. Plus we are looking into the possibility of adding either Sculpture or Pottery.



Scoutcraft

Up the hill from main camp is Scoutcraft. Scoutcraft is all things outdoors- from merit badges that offer practical skills scouts will need throughout their lives both in and out of scouting, such as Cooking, First Aid & Camping, to ones that introduce additional outdoor related activities, Backpacking, Geocaching & Pioneering. Our staff will also introduce scouts to easy leave no trace practices that will help them responsibly use outdoor recreational areas.

Outpost Camps

These programs allow Scouts to take an overnight excursion to remote areas of the camp property or even off camp property! Some are required for Merit Badges and they are all fun and open to every Scout. These outposts are the highlight of the week at camp, providing some of the most exciting experiences that a scout could dream of. Outposts will be required for Wilderness Survival MB, Camping MB, Canoeing MB (**must be 14 or older**), Astronomy MB and suggested for the Polaris First-Year Program. We will also be offering Kayaking (must be 15 or older) and Skills which are open to all scouts. The Older Scout Program, for scouts 15 years or older, will also have their own outpost.



Please see the Camp Merz Guide for a list of materials to bring for outpost, **ALL SCOUTS MUST COME PREPARED!** As part of our Green Initiative each scout is required to bring a mess kit for Outpost.

Technology Center

Right near the Handicraft Lodge sits the 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 and Electricity to Music and Movie Making scouts interested in exploring various forms of technology will find that our tech merit badges will peak their interest.

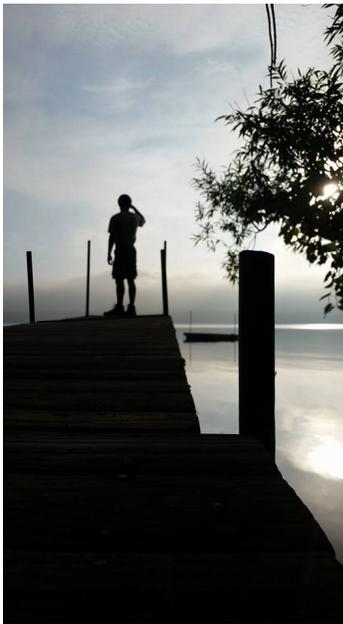


Aquatics Center

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 craft merit badges along with Swimming and Lifesaving. New this year our waterfront staff plans on offering additional programming for Leaders and older scouts (15 years and up) who are looking to expand their outdoor skills. This programming will include Swimming Safety, Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety. Scouts interested in Paddle Craft Safety must have earned either Canoeing or Kayaking merit badge.



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



Field Activities (M.O.O.S.E)

Biking; Hiking; Swimming; Kayaking; and more; Sound like blast! Come try out our program if you are a scout 15 years or older. Older Scout activities will be offered twice daily. They will have their own outpost as well.

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 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.



Camp Merz Program Dates 2020

Week 1 – July 5 – July 10

Week 2 – July 12 – July 17

Week 3 – July 19 – July 24

Week 4 – July 26– July 31

Week 5 – Aug 2 – August 7

Merit Badges Offered at Camp Merz 2020 (subject to change | www.campmerz.org)

Field Activities

MOOSE: our older scout program *

Handicraft

Graphic Arts
Indian Lore
Leatherwork
Pottery
Pulp and Paper
Theater
Wood Carving
Art *
Inventing*

Nature

Astronomy
Energy
Environmental Science
Fish & Wildlife Management
Forestry
Geology
Plant Science
Soil & Water
Space Exploration
Archeology*
Mammal Study *

Scoutcraft

Backpacking
Camping
Emergency Preparedness
First Aid
Geocaching
Orienteering
Pioneering
Wilderness Survival
Fire Safety *
Search & Rescue*

*New for 2020



Polaris

First-Year Program
Paul Bunyan Award

Shooting Sports

Archery
Shotgun Shooting
Rifle Shooting
Bow Trap
NRA Marksmanship

Technology

Chemistry
Chess
Drafting
Electricity
Electronics
Game Design
Music

Trail to Eagle

Cit. in the Community
Cit. in the Nation
Cit. in the World
Communications
Crime Prevention
Personal Management
Scouting Heritage
Traffic Safety*

Waterfront

Canoeing
Fishing
Kayaking
Life Saving
Motorboating
Rowing
Small-Boat Sailing
Swimming
Watersports
SUP Award
Snorkeling BSA



MORE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

Pre-Camp Meetings

These are held on a Thursday at 6:30pm and Saturday at 10am at camp. See the end of this document for the dates. It is VERY important that a representative of your Troop attend one of these meetings. Program materials, schedules, etc. will be distributed.

Check In / Out

Check in time is 1pm on Sunday. 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 that 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 or tickets. Water Skiing, Motor Boating, Shotgun, 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 tickets can be purchased at the Trading Post upon arrival.



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 Badge pre-requisites and partials



Please be aware if your Scouts are taking classes with pre-reqs 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. If they do not they will be dropped from the class. Scout may NOT take classes without turning in the pre-reqs prior to starting. NO EXCEPTIONS!! NO PARTIALS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A SCOUTMASTER NOTE.

All pre-requisites for Merit Badges can be found at 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 training, the Scoutmaster Merit Badge and Staff vs. Leader events. Leaders are also encouraged to help teach classes and do camp 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.





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 new BSA policy requires an **ANNUAL** physical for all Scouts and Adults attending camp.

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
TO THE HEALTH OFFICER!!!!**

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 0261Falconer, 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.

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.

Refund Policy

All Camp Fees are refundable and are subject to a \$25.00 handling fee per scout. A written request providing a legitimate reason must be received by the Scout Service Center no later than September 1, 2017. Refunds will only be made to the person who paid the fees. Legitimate reasons are summer school, medical excuse, or death in the family.



HOW TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP

Site Reservations

Site reservations must be made by completing a hold-a-space form online. This form must be filled out completely and your deposit sent to the council service center.



Payment and registration

We have made registering your Troop for camp a lot easier! Just complete a Troop registration form and a Troop roster. Send those in to the Council Service Center with a single check for payment. Scouts cannot register individually unless they are camping provisionally or 'Twice As Nice'. See below.

Once your roster and payment are received you will receive a confirmation by email.

Individual Scouts (Provisional)

All Scouts who are not camping with their Troop must register by completing a Provisional Scout Application Form, & send it along with payment to the Council Service Center. This includes 'Twice As Nice' scouts also. Once your form and payment are received you will receive your user name/password for online merit badge pre-registration by email.

Older Scout Activities



If any of your scouts are participating in the Older Scout Activities at camp, please place an X in the OSP box on the Troop roster. Be sure to total the form and check it over before sending.





Dress Code

The Scout uniform is a very important part of the BSA program. All Scouts are encouraged to bring their BSA Field Uniform (Class A shirt) to camp. Each Scout and leader are encouraged to wear a complete BSA Field Uniform for Flag Retreat Ceremonies, Dinner, Vespers and Campfires. Otherwise, the Activity Uniform (Class B) is recommended. When wearing a Class, A shirt, it should always be tucked in.

Swimwear must be "Scout -appropriate." I.e. board shorts/swim trunks for males and one-piece suits for females. No bikinis, "Speedos," etc. will be allowed. T-shirts or rash guards may be worn in the water.

Undergarments should be covered at all time. Women's shirts should have a modest neckline. Tank tops should have shoulder straps of 1" or wider. All shirts should have shoulder straps or sleeves.

Every Scout must wear shirt and shoes in the Dining Hall. Hats must be removed upon entering for meals. Wet items, such as swimming trunks, are not appropriate to wear during meals as all Scouts and adult leaders should be in dry clothes except while participating in aquatic activities.

Shirts or other clothing with explicit material, profane language, political statements or age- inappropriate activities (alcohol, tobacco etc....) are not permitted at Camp.

Open toed shoes are not permitted in camp. Water shoes or old sneakers must always be worn in the water.

CHECK US OUT
ONLINE

Allegheny Highlands Council
www.alleghenyhighlands.org

Camp Merz
www.campmerz.org



Mark your calendars with the following dates:

March 2nd -- Campership Application deadline. Applies to youth members of the Allegheny Highlands Council only.

April 1st -- Early Bird – have all fees paid in full and receive a \$20 discount on your summer camp fee.

Pre-Camp Meetings --The Pre-camp Leaders Meetings are scheduled for **Thursday, April 30th at 7:00PM** and **Saturday, May 9th at 10AM**.

June 1st -- Early Bird – have all fees paid in full and receive a \$10 discount on your summer camp fee.

July 1st -- Special needs forms submitted with parent and physicians signature.

FORMS SECTION



BSA Personal Health and Medical Record

- ⇒ Parts A, B and C MUST be completed by anyone attending summer camp.
- ⇒ Bring it to camp with you.
- ⇒ **DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

Medication Permission Form

- ⇒ For use by all members that are attending summer camp with prescription or over the counter medication.
- ⇒ Bring to camp with you.
- ⇒ **DO NOT MAIL TO SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

Financial Need Campership Application (AHC Units Only)

- ⇒ For use by Allegheny Highlands Council scouts who need financial assistance to attend camp at Camp Merz. Mail to Scout Service Center by May 1st.

Scout Provisional Application

- ⇒ Form used by Scouts who cannot attend with their unit, or are going for 'Twice As Nice'.

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.

Troop Registration Form

- ⇒ Form used by all Troop to attend summer camp. Must be sent to the Scout Service Center for registration and payment.

Troop Payment Roster

- ⇒ Must be sent to the Scout Service Center for registration.

