
MASSAWEPIE SCOUT CAMPS

TO: 2011 MASSAWEPIE TROOPS
FROM: STEVE WEISENREDER, CAMP DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: MERIT BADGE SCHEDULE
DATE: 3/22/2011



Enclosed are the 2010 Merit Badge Schedule and prerequisites. We have added several new merit badges for 2011. Here's some information on those badges:

- **Art:** We will provide enough basic supplies to complete the merit badge. However, higher quality paints, paper, and supplies will be available in the Trading Post for Scouts who wish to make higher quality projects.
- **Theater & Music:** These two merit badges will be offered together in one class. There are considerable prerequisites. Scouts will be actively involved in helping to produce the Friday evening campfire. The plan is for Theater to be taught by our theatrical Dining Hall Steward and Music by a staff member studying Music Education.
- **Geocaching:** Geocaching will be offered on an appointment basis. It will not be possible to complete this badge at camp. This is an opportunity to learn the skills and complete a few of the requirements, but the bulk of the requirements will need to be completed separately.

Here are some highlights of the 2011 Merit Badge Schedule:

- We will be continuing to use the scheduling format that we introduced in 2010. We will be running 45-minute sessions for some badges and 90-minute sessions for others. The 90-minute sessions will run 9:00 to 10:30, 10:45 to 12:15, and 2:00 to 3:30. There is 15 minutes of travel time between each session. 45-minute sessions will run 9:00 to 9:45, 9:45 to 10:30, 10:45 to 11:30, 11:30 to 12:15, 2:00 to 2:45, and 2:45 to 3:30. **There will be NOT be travel time at 9:45, 11:30, and 2:45. Scouts are encouraged to take two badges from the same area back to back.** Travel between areas will not be possible in most cases. This may seem confusing, but if you take a look at the attached schedule, you should find it easier to follow. This format makes more efficient use of the time available and will allow us to offer more opportunities to the Scouts without sacrificing the quality of instruction.
- **Muzzle Loading** option for **Shotgun Shooting** will be available again this summer. This is for experienced shooters only. Please make sure that Scouts have both shotgun shooting experience and enough size to handle recoil. Under qualified and undersized Scouts may not enjoy this experience.

- We have two first-year camper programs. **Trail Blazers** is the traditional program experience. They meet all morning and earn many requirements for Tenderfoot, 1st and 2nd Class. They are free to take any badges they choose in the afternoon. **Trail Blazers Advanced** (formerly Tenderfoot Trail Blazers) is designed for Scouts who have been in the troop a bit longer, but have not yet advanced to first class. They will meet for only 1½ hours and will cover some of the more advanced requirements for 2nd and 1st Class.
- We have listed a recommended age and rank for many of the merit badges. This is a recommendation. Badgetracker will not reject a registrant who does not meet the age/rank recommendation; that decision will be left to the troop. Please take these recommendations under consideration. If a Scout takes a badge that is too difficult for him, he may not have a pleasant experience. Age recommendations will be enforced as requirements for **Rifle, Shotgun, Mt. Fox, COPE, and BSA Lifeguard**.
- There is enough flexibility built into the schedule that we will be able to open up additional sessions of classes that fill up quickly. I have held back time slots in most areas so that extra classes can be added. We can't do that in every area for equipment and supervision reasons, but there are several areas where we have that ability. Please keep an eye open for notes about new class sessions. **Feel free to contact me if all sessions of a badge that your Scouts want are full.** I'll do my best.
- There are some badges for which completion is weather dependent. We'll do our best to get everybody through the badges, but have little control over the weather.
- There will be a place on Badgetracker for Scouts to indicate their intent to participate in the **Mt. Fox** Program. The official registration for Mt. Fox will be on the troop roster submitted on or before May 15th.

Badgetracker: We will be using Badgetracker for sign-ups again this summer. The volunteer who coordinates BT for us is working on entering all of the data to prepare for sign-ups. I do not have a timetable for when it will be ready. We will keep you posted. We will distribute login information as soon as the site is ready for use. Please keep an eye on your inboxes (and possibly spam folders) for that information.

To stay up to date on the latest information, please follow us on **Facebook and Twitter**. For parents and leaders, search Facebook for "**Massawepie Scout Camps**" and follow **@massawepie** on Twitter for the latest and greatest information. Scouts and friends of the camp, like "**Massawepie Beaver**" on Facebook and follow **@mscbeaver** on Twitter to stay in touch.

I look forward to working with all of you this summer. Please let me know if there is any thing that I can do for you. I can be reached at 585-241-8547 or steve.weisenreder@senecawaterways.org.