

Ockanickon Program Guide

Summer 2026



Last Updated 12/06/25

Please note that this is a Living Document and will change with more/updated information as we get closer to the start of the season



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Information Schedule

To help keep track of all information regarding our 2026 season, below we have a planned schedule for when we will release different parts.

August – Nov.. We will be keeping up our information from our 2025 season while we work on our 2026 program. This way you can get a strong idea of what our program looks like if you are new to camp!’

December : We will be posting the following...

- Eagle Merit Badge listing
- Preliminary Extra-curricular activities listing
- Preliminary schedules

March 1st: We will be posting the following...

- Official Merit Badge listing
- Pre-Reqs listing
- Updated Extra-curricular activities listing
- Updated schedules
- A guide to what updates occurred

May 1st: This will be our final update

- Final Merit Badge listing updates
- Final Pre-Reqs listing updates
- Final Extra-curricular activities listing
- Final schedules updates
- Final guide to what updates occurred

Themes

Summer Theme

Every season, Ockanickon follows a week-long theme to help keep the program new and exciting every year. In previous years we have traveled together to the beach, the wild west, and even amongst greek gods

In 2026, the United States turns 250 years old and we're throwing the ultimate birthday bash all summer long!

Join us for an unforgettable season packed with Americana-themed adventures.



Themed Days



Western Wednesday - In honor of our 2024 western summer, we dedicated Wednesdays to Cowboy hats, boots, and bandanas.

Wacky Sock Wednesday - A camp tradition here at OSR is to wear your wackiest socks on Wednesday, and they go especially well with your Western gear!

Tropical Thursday - An ode to our 2023 theme, toss on your most floral button-up and enjoy a tropical day at camp!

Departments

Ockanickon Scout Reservation prides itself on providing over 80 merit badges with the utmost quality. To ensure each badge gets the attention it deserves, we divide them into 10 program Departments!

Descriptions

Adventure Sports: This department is dedicated to high-adventure activities and badges tailored to more athletic-minded Scouts!



Arts: Developing the fine art skills of our campers!



Aquatics: Separated between two different locations, the Lake and the Pool, our Aquatics department is our biggest one!

- **Pool:** Utilizing the new pool, replaced in 2023, the Pool Staff provides a swimming program for Scouts of all ages.
- **Lake:** Known for its notorious SWAMP DAYYYY, it will easily be the best day of your week when you go to the lake.



Civics: This department focuses on the third aim of scouting, citizenship!

Dan Beard: Named after Daniel Carter Beard, this department focuses on providing a program for our first-year Scouts



Ecology: There is no better place to learn about the world around you than in our Ecology Lodge.

Maintenance and Trades: Operated by our Ranger's staff, Scouts will have the ability to get hands-on experience in a variety of Trades skills.

Range and Target Activities (RaTA): With Shotgun, Rifle, and Archery merit badges, our highly trained RaTA directors will teach Scouts how to safely utilize firearms in a controlled environment.



Scoutcraft: dedicated to helping Scouts hone their outdoors and wilderness skills.

S.T.E.M: Stationed in the first STEM center at a Scouting Summer Camp, this department allows each Scout to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math up close with hands-on activities.



Merit Badges

Merit Badge Listings

Ockanickon prides itself on providing over 80 merit badges with the utmost quality to encourage the growth and learning of all Scouts no matter their interests! Our 2026 Merit Badge Schedule is not finalized yet but here you can get an idea of what we offer by looking at [last year's list here](#).

To see the [2026 Eagle Scout Badge schedule, click here!](#)

Homework Requirements

You may be more familiar with the term “Pre-Req” from other camps but Ockanickon is looking to move away from this term. Though the requirements will not be covered during the class sessions, they do not necessarily need to be done before camp to be in the Merit Badge class. On our Merit Badge listing we will list “Out of Class Reqs” and “Reqs not done at Camp.”

Not Done in Class Reqs

These are requirements that will not be completed during class time but could be completed on a Scout's own time at camp. For Example...

Communication Merit Badge Requirement 1(a).

(a) For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to teachers, listening to the radio or podcasts, watching television, using social media, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communication skills.

While this requirement is unable to be met during their class time, this is something a Scout could complete and turn in throughout the week!



Not Done at Camp Reqs.

Unlike Out-of-Class requirements, this type of requirement cannot and will not be able to be completed during their week at camp. They will either...

A: Need to come with proof of completing it

Or

B: Complete it after camp is over with a new counselor.

For example...

Camping Merit Badge Requirement 9(a)

(a) Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your tent.

This is something that unfortunately is out of the realm of capabilities to complete during a week of camp.

Tentaroo and Blue Cards

Overview

As of the 2024 season, Ockanickon is officially Blue Card Free! All our Merit Badge Records are logged directly into Tentaroo! We have two mass updates a week, on Wednesday and Friday, so you can check each of your Scouts' progress throughout the week!

Please be sure you have access to your unit's Tentaroo account before you come to camp so you can access these upon arrival!

My Unit Still Uses Blue Cards...

Don't worry if you still use blue cards! Tentaroo will allow you to print off all their complete requirements and partial completions on blue cards through their system! Just click this [link to learn how](#).



My Unit Uses Scoutbook...

Through Tentaroo a unit can transfer all their completed Merit Badges and Partial Merit Badges directly into Scoutbook with only a few clicks! To learn how, [click this link!](#)

Partials from Other Camps

This is one of the few instances where a Blue Card might be used here at Ockanickon. If your Scout has a partially completed merit badge from another camp recorded on a Blue Card, have that Scout bring that Blue Card to our counselor. We will then transfer those completed requirements into Tentaroo along with the rest of their badges. The old Blue Card will now not be needed and their completion of the badge will be seen on Tentaroo

Badge Swapping

We ask that all Scouts register for their Merit Badges before coming to camp. Despite this, we do understand that Scouts can change their mind. If a Scout wants to swap a badge when they get to camp, and the badge they are swapping into has room, an easy transition can be made on Tentaroo!

Our Lottery System

Due to limited supplies and materials, some of our badges have a cap and therefore are drawn via a “lottery.” This is a system where all Scouts who apply for a lottery badge are put on a “waitlist.” From here, Scouts are randomly chosen (with priority given to Scouts who will be aging out soon) and notified 4 weeks before camp if they get in. These are the only badges that a Scout typically cannot swap into last-minute

Age Recommendations

Some of our badges come with “Age Recommendations.” These are not requirements, but rather a guide. Some badges are more physically demanding than some younger Scouts can handle, and we indicate it with this.



Schedule / Program Break Down

Overview

Ockanickon Scout Reservation has many events going on at a given time, so to help keep track of them all we provide several different schedules. To follow along using **LAST YEAR'S SCHEDULE** [click here](#).

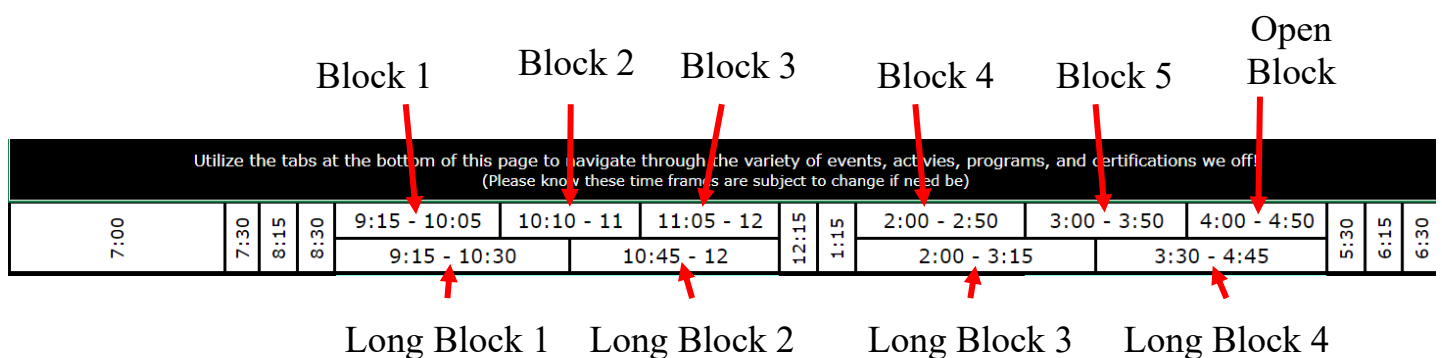
Each schedule will be under one of the tabs at the bottom of the page.

Day MB Schedule	Day MB Schedule (print)	Night MB Schedule	Night MB Schedule (Print)	Master Schedule	Master Schedule (Print)	Badge Events
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Badge Schedule (Using Last year's information)

The first and most critical schedule is our badge schedule. We operate on a “Block” Schedule with three short blocks two long blocks in the morning and two of each in the afternoon.

During what would be the 6th Block we offer an “Open Program.” This is an opportunity for Scouts to make up missed requirements, work on partials, experience new departments in camp, or do any of the open activities!



Our short blocks are 50 minutes long and our long blocks are 75 minutes long. There are a few exceptions that are more than 75 minutes or all morning but this is not the norm.

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The type of block the badge is in can be determined by the size of the badge on the schedule.

	9:15 - 10:05	10:10 - 11	11:05 - 12
	9:15 - 10:30		10:45 - 12
	Climbing Merit Badge		
Short Block	Art + Sculpture 1	Game Design	Music 1
	Basketry 1		Leatherwork 1
Long Block	Woodcarving 1		Woodcarving 2
	Pottery 1		Pottery 2
All Morning	Open Woodburning		

*2024 Season, not accurate to 2026

The breaks in between the morning and afternoon are our mealtimes. Due to the style of our dining hall, we provide two meal sessions. We also host our muster and retreat every day between the two breakfasts and dinners.

Muster

B-Fast

B-Fast

Lunch

Lunch

Retreat

Last Edited 6/21/24 CSG

Utilize the tabs at the bottom of this page to navigate through the variety of events, activities, programs, and certifications we offer!

(Please know these time frames are subject to change if need be)

Time:->

7:00

7:30

8:15

8:30

9:15 - 10:05

10:10 - 11

11:05 - 12

12:15

1:15

2:00 - 2:50

3:00 - 3:50

4:00 - 4:50

5:30

6:15

6:30

Dept: V

9:15 - 10:30

10:45 - 12

2:00 - 3:15

3:30 - 4:45

Adventure Sports

Climbing Merit Badge

Open Climbing Tower

Arts

Palmer Lodge

Art + Sculpture 1

Game Design

Music 1

Basketry 1

Leatherwork 1

Woodcarving 1

Woodcarving 2

Pottery 1

Pottery 2

Open Woodburning

</

*2024 Season, not accurate to 2026

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The only program that occurs during the 7 am block is our Polar Bear Plunge and Bird walk

Time:->	7:00	7:30	8:15	8:30	9:15 - 10:05	10:10 - 11	11:05 - 12
Dept: V					9:15 - 10:30	10:45 - 12	
Adventure Sports Climbing Tower					Climbing Merit Badge		
Arts Palmer Lodge					Art + Sculpture 1	Game Design	Music 1
					Basketry 1		Leatherwork 1
					Woodcarving 1	Woodcarving 2	
					Pottery 1	Pottery 2	
					Open Woodburning		
Civics Palmer A					American Business		Law
					Citizenship in the Nation 1	Personal Management 2	
					Personal Management 1		Citizenship in the World 1
					Communication 1		

Our Master Badge Schedule is broken down by Department and color-coded accordingly. Under each department is also the location of their office/main base of operations.

*2024 Season, not accurate to 2026

Night Program

The Ockanickon program does not stop at dinner! To see our night schedule, on the same document ([Night schedule](#)) as before, find the Night Program tab. This has NOT been updated for 2026 yet.

Day MB Schedule	Day MB Schedule (print)	Night MB Schedule	Night MB Schedule (Print)	Master Schedule	Master Schedule (Print)	Badge Events
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Unlike our day program, our night program only has 1 block so it is broken down by day! Nearly all of our night program starts at 7:30 pm and goes until 9 pm at the latest (though most events do not go this long)

		Badge Night				
		OSR Night Program Starting ~7:30pm				
Last Edited 6/21/24 CSG		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Day:->		* indicates a merit badge				
Dept: V						
Climbing Tower				Open Tower	Open Tower	
Arts Palmer Lodge		*Fingerprinting 1 (In Chapel)		*Fingerprinting 2 (In Chapel)		
		*Pulp and Paper		*Pulp and Paper		

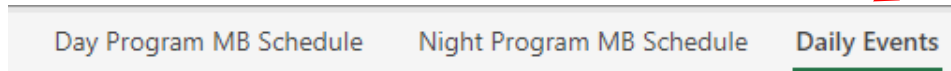
*Not Accurate to 2025

Mandatory Fun

Mandatory Fun

We break our night program into 2 nights of badges (with additional extracurricular activities) on Monday and Wednesday, and two nights of “Mandatory Fun” on Tuesday and Thursday. This allows Scouts to both work on advancement and participate in camp activities!

Daily Events

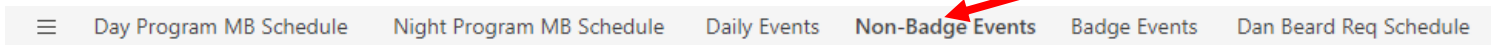


Our daily events tab stays consistent from year to year. It covers events such as Muster, Retreat, meals, and quiet hours.

Non-Badge Events

Overview:

Summer camp at Ockanickon is so much more than just merit badges! We provide an array of activities for Scouts of all ages and abilities. While we are constantly looking to add new programs and update old ones, there are still some Ockanickon classics!



Polar Bear Plunge

A quick dip in our new pool on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings! Nothing quite like a plunge to wake you up for the day! This is meant to be quick, so all Scouts get a chance to jump in. The plunge is not an open swim period but there will be an opportunity for that later in the day!



Home Run Derby

Get a team of your 3 best sluggers and compete against other units in a head-to-head challenge.



Triathlon

Swim, Run, Kayak! Get a team of 3 together to compete against Ockanickon's best athletes!



Ockanickon Carnival

Our Mandatory Fun nights consist of two big activities. On Tuesday night we have our Ockanickon Carnival! While the name changes every year depending on the theme the competitive spirit stays the same! (Western = Rodeo, Greek gods = 12 Labors of Hercules),

It is a patrol-based camp-wide competition! Stations will be set up around our camp where patrols compete to earn points in a Camporee-style event, and the patrol at the end of the night with the most points will be crowned the winner. The competitions range from Scout skills, and trivia, to feats of strength and skill!



Volleyball Tournament



On Thursday night we host our legendary Ockanickon Volleyball Tournament. Units compete head-to-head showing off their bump, set, and speaking skills. The winners of the tournament then get to face the infamous Staff Team. We also provide other exciting activities at night for those Scouts not interested in volleyball.



Opening Campfire

The opening ceremony for our camp! Watch as our staff puts on a great show to not only introduce you to the camp but to our different departments! Full of Scout spirit and enthusiasm, campfires are a never-dull moment!

Closing Campfire

A chance for the campers to put on their skits, songs, and cheers at the end of the week to close off an amazing summer!



4 pm-5 pm / Open Program

During what would be the 6th block we offer an “Open Program.” This is an opportunity for Scouts to make up missed requirements, work on partials, experience new departments in camp, or do any of the open activities!

First-Year Program (Dan Beard)

Here at Ockanickon, we provide an exciting first-year program for all new Scouts called Dan Beard! It is designed to introduce new Scouts to the Scouting America program and develop early scouting skills. While Scouts of all ages are welcome to attend, the target age bracket is for Scouts between 10 ½ to 12 and under the rank of First Class.



The program runs all 5 blocks and is released for the open 6th block. It also offers the option of Art Merit badge during the 6th block but is completely optional for those in the program. It primarily focuses on rank advancement for Scout, Tender Foot, Second Class, and a bit of First Class. Along with this, they will receive their Totin Chip and Firem'n Chit (there will be evening sessions for these for Scouts not in Dan Beard).



During the week they also earn Swimming Merit Badge and Fingerprinting Merit Badge. For Scouts who need assistance in their swimming skills, our Dan Beard and Aquatics staff will dedicate time to work with them during what is called “Instructional Swim.”

Scouts over 12 or First-Class rank and above are encouraged to take Merit Badges instead of doing this program, even if it's their first time at Summer Camp.

To see what was covered in Dan Beard in 2025 [click here!](#)

Adults Program

Overview

Camp isn't supposed to just be fun for Scouts but for our leaders too! We encourage adults to participate in the array of training we provide for them throughout the week. We also will have plenty of exciting competitions for them to participate in!

Honor Scouter Award

To encourage adults to participate in camp, we provide an 'Honor' where we recognize those adults who take part in trainings, competitions and Adult Merit Badges.

Leaders' Trainings



Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)

This course builds and expands on the concepts and themes introduced in Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training and provides Scouters with the confidence to take youth into the outdoors. Specifically, this hands-on program gives adult leaders a practical introduction to the patrol method of a Scout-led troop by teaching many of the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts out-of-doors. In

addition, the teaching methods, activities, and games model the variety of teaching used in effective and engaging Scouting programs. This is a week-long course that meets every day in our Scoutcraft Area!

Safety Afloat

Swimming, kayaking, or any aquatic activity will have potential hazards, even for advanced participants. Lives can be saved with proper supervision and training. Completing this training will allow Leaders to supervise any authorized boating activity! This is done as a one-night training in tandem with Safe Swim Defense!



Safe Swim Defense

Done in tandem with Safety Afloat as a one-night training, this allows Adult Leaders to supervise swimming activities!



Paddle Craft Safety

Paddle Craft Safety expands Safety Afloat training to include the skills and knowledge needed for a unit leader to confidently supervise canoeing or kayaking excursions on flat water. This is a week-long training that meets every day.

CPR Training

A training that comes with an additional cost is provided by a CPR training specialist. This is a one-night course!

Leaders' Activities

Open Leader Woodburning and Art Projects

A dedicated time each day for Leaders to get to participate in any of the art projects provided by our beloved Arts Department!



Ice Cream Social

Every Monday night, all the adult leaders get an opportunity to have an Ice Cream social all to themselves! Here they can sit inside and relax in the AC, meet with other unit Leaders, and even meet our Adult Staff!

Belly Flop Contest

Making its debut in 2024, this competition quickly made quite a splash. Adult Leaders compete head-to-head (or should I say belly to belly) in creating the most stunning belly flop!



Leader Awards/Competitions

Beyond our Program and activities, Ockanickon has countless awards and competitions for both youth and adults. Go to the “Awards/Competitions” section to get more details! A particular adult favorite is our “Golden Skillet” cooking competition!

Leaders’ Merit Badges

Brought back in 2025, we are continuing to provide our beloved adult Merit badge program. This will be an opportunity for adults to enjoy time together, explore more of camp, and learn something too! The badges will require no signups.

“Eagle Required” Adult Badges

These are the badges we have kept from previous years. They are the most important and contain information all scout leaders should know!

Coffee Drinking – Learn the history of coffee, its benefits, how to make it at camp, and most importantly, drink plenty of it to earn this!

Napping – Demonstrate your comprehensive knowledge of “strategic-unconsciousness”



Non-Eagle Adult Badges

These will be the badges that are new to this year to keep the program fresh and exciting! Stay tuned to see what they will be!

Asynchronous Adult Badges

These are the badges from years past! They won't have an official class time but will have requirements you can do at your own pace as throughout the week!

Dutch Oven – Prove you really do know how to use a camp cooking staple by cooking your own dish in camp! This is also easily combined with our “Golden Skillet” competition. You must bring your own equipment and ingredients.

AP Art – Short for “Adults Participating in Art,” take advantage of our amazing Arts department and demonstrate your creativity through different projects!

Awards and Competitions

These are all of our awards and competitions from our 2025 Season!

Honor Scouter Award

To encourage adults to participate in camp, we provide an 'Honor Award' where we recognize those adults who take part in trainings, competitions and Adult Merit Badges.

Ajapeu Award

An award named after our local Order of the Arrow Lodge (Ajapeu 2), the Ajapeu Award is a combination scavenger questionnaire that encourages campers to learn about the OA at camp.

Civics Award

An award to demonstrate your citizenship skills and to do a mini scavenger hunt around camp to find different civic based aspects of our property!

Clean Campsite Award

This award is given to units who display cleanliness and organization in their campsite throughout the week.

Ecology Award

An important aspect of scouting is following the "Outdoor Code" and the principles of Leave No Trace. To contribute to this goal, we invite you to complete our Ecology Award.

Golden Skillet

A cooking competition that is done at your leisure! Request a day and a time for judges to come in and taste your best meal based on taste, presentation, and "Do-ability" on a camping trip. There will be a youth and adult winner every week. You must bring your own equipment and ingredients.





Honor Camper

An award intended to recognize one camper from each unit in Camp who exemplifies Scouting's ideals. The Scout is selected by their unit and is honored at the closing retreat ceremony

Honor Patrol

An award that recognizes patrols that show exceptional success in the patrol method, leadership, program participation, and more.

Religious Award

A Scout is Reverent. Show your reverence to earn this award.

Photography Competition

Got a knack for photography? Submit your best photo of our camp and we will hang it up in our dining hall!

Cub Adventure Camp

Overview

Starting in 2024, Ockanickon Scout Reservation is proud to announce our Cub Adventure Camp! This is a 3-day, 2-night program that is full of fun, excitement and festivities!



What They Do

While at camp, they will get to experience a piece of summer camp to help prepare them for the Scouting adventure ahead! In 2025 they got to swim, fish, boat, climb the tower, and participate in archery, BB guns, slingshots and so much more!



Requirements Covered?

The primary goal of our Cub Adventure Camp is that the Cub Scouts have fun and leave camp fired up about Scouting! To accomplish this, we allow them to work on their elective adventures and have a tailored program to meet the needs of each rank.

Cub Carnival

Just like our Scouts BSA program, the Cub Scouts will get to participate in the great Ockanickon Carnival! In the past, the activities in this Camp-Wide event involved stomp rockets, designing their own leather patch, pool noodle javelins, and a whole lot more!

Sign-Ups

To sign up and to find out more information regarding our Cub Adventure Camp, you can [click this link!](#)

Please share this information with Packs near you!



How to Join Staff?

Here at Ockanickon, we depend on one of the best-trained and dedicated groups of Scouts and Scouters to run our camp and program every year. Being able to serve on this camp staff is the opportunity of a lifetime. It offers an unprecedented chance to lead, teach, and work with 1,800+ Scouts and to work towards a goal with a team that is just as excited to be here as you are.



This staff only operates with the help of the troops attending OSR. We hope that, as leaders, you will encourage any of your Scouts who you think will be a good fit to apply so that we can offer as good a program as you are used to seeing. Without you and your Scouts, Ockanickon would not be nearly as successful.

Camp Staff members **must be age 15 or older**, but those who are 14 can serve as Counselor-In-Training (CIT).

[Link to Apply 15+](#)

[Link to Apply for Counselor in Training \(14 year olds\)](#)

[Camp Staff Information](#)

