



Date: January 1, 2025
To: National Camping School Participant
From: Matthew Bull, NCS Course Director (Matthew.Bull@scouting.org)
Richard Stockton, NCS Council Liaison (Richard.Stockton@scouting.org)
Subject: Welcome to National Camping School (Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation)

Congratulations, your National Camping School application has been received! On behalf of the faculty, we look forward to serving you at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation this spring. The following information will help you prepare for NCS, please read carefully.

Critical information about your National Camping School participation

LOCATION:

Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation
1377 Palisades Road
Brant Lake, NY 12815

DATES:

June 14-20, 2024

CHECK-IN:

Upon arrival at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation main entrance, please follow signs to Camp Buckskin. All participants should plan to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (EST) on Saturday, June 14, 2024. A camp map and driving directions are attached to this letter. Any registration-related questions may be directed to the Scouting America National Office (ncs@scouting.org).

EARLY ARRIVALS:

If you need to arrive on Friday, June 13th due to travel arrangements, please select "Early Arrival" in the online registration system. The Early Arrival fee of \$55* includes dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. Early arrival check-in will be at Camp Buckskin.

Note: For those who are not registered as early arrivals, your first meal will be lunch on Saturday, June 14th.

AIRPORT/AMTRAK TRANSPORTATION (Additional Fee):

The most convenient airport for attending Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation NCS is Albany





International Airport [ALB]. We can also facilitate pick up at the Albany-Rensselaer Train Station for an additional fee, the host council will provide a pick-up shuttle:

1. Friday, June 13 at available up to 9:00 PM for early arrivals
2. Saturday, June 14 at 8:00 AM for all others

The return shuttle will arrive at Albany International Airport (ALB) by 1:00 pm on Friday, June 20. The fee for roundtrip shuttle service is \$75 and is payable to the Greater Hudson Valley Council. If you plan to use this service, you will need to reserve and pay for your seat by going online and reserving & purchasing a seat:

<https://mycouncil.ghvscouting.org/Store/NCSTransport>. If you have questions, please contact the Greater Hudson Valley Council – Sandy Owens at Sandra.Owens@scouting.org. *PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle reservations must be submitted by June 10th, 2024.*

BUS TRANSPORTATION (Additional Fee):

We will coordinate a shuttle to the Chestertown, Bus Station. Use this link:

<https://mycouncil.ghvscouting.org/Store/NCSTransport> to set up your Bus Shuttle. Bus Shuttle will be \$15 Roundtrip. If you have questions, please contact the Greater Hudson Valley Council – Sandy Owens at Sandra.Owens@scouting.org. *PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle reservations must be submitted by June 10th, 2024.*

ANNUAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RECORD:

Your camp health screening will take place at check-in. Please make sure Part C of your Annual Health & Medical Record has been signed by a Medical Doctor, Physician's Assistant (master's degree) or a Licensed Nurse Practitioner within 12 months of the last day of this NCS session. Those without a current Annual Health & Medical Record will be required to obtain one at their own expense before being allowed to remain in camp.

PREREQUISITES (Select Sections):

Please note that there are pre-requisite training courses which you **MUST** have before you attend specific NCS Sections. Please ensure you bring support materials (certificates) with you as proof. Those participants who arrive without their prerequisites completed may not be certified.

- **Range Activities Director:** NRA Basic (Rifle & Shotgun), NRA Instructor (Rifle & Shotgun), online portion of USA Archery Level 1 course
- **Aquatics Director:** Current Lifeguard certification (BSA Lifeguard, Red Cross Lifeguard, YMCA Lifeguard, Starfish Aquatics Institute Starguard, Ellis & Associates





International Lifeguard Training Program, or equivalent) Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training and proven swimming skills.

- **COPE Director:** COPE Level I Instructor
- **Climbing Director:** Climbing Level I Instructor
- **Long-term Camp Director and Long-term Camp Program Director:** Online NCAP and Unlawful Harassment Prevention training links are available on the NCS webpage at <https://www.scouting.org/ncs>
- ALL: Scouting America Youth Protection Training

WEATHER:

Some of the scheduled programming will take place outdoors. While daytime temperatures in June can be in the low to mid 70's, it will be chilly at night (5°-10°C).

Please bring suitable warm bedding, warm clothing, rain gear, and a hat.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Housing will be in Scouting America-style platform tents with foam mattresses.

Bedding/linens will not be provided. If you require devices such as a CPAP or other medical machine, please bring battery-style devices. There are plenty of locations where they can charge during the day.

DAY ONE CAMP-WIDE SCHEDULE (Saturday, June 14):

7:30 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am - 9:00am	Staff Preparation in Section Areas
9:00am - 11:30 am	Check-in, Registration, Section Interviews and Campsite Check-in
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Mealtime Presentation - Purposes of NCS
1:00pm - 5:00 pm	Course Instruction
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Personal Time
5:45 pm - 6:00 pm	Assembly & Retreat
6:00 pm - 6:45 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm - 6:45 pm	Mealtime Presentation – Aims & Methods of Scouting
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Course Instruction
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Welcome Campfire
9:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Cracker Barrel
10:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Personal Time/Study Time

DRESS CODE:

National Camping School graduates set the example when it comes to wearing the right uniform at the right time in camp. Scouting America Field Uniform will be required for meals,





formations and campfire. Scouting America Activity Uniform will be worn at all other times. Please be sure to bring enough activity uniform polos and t-shirts to get you through the week.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR NEEDED BY PARTICIPANTS:

Please see the attached document that lists the equipment and gear required during your week of National Camping School. Many sections require that you bring program items or copies of Council documents in addition to your personal camping gear.

NATIONAL CAMPING SCHOOL TRADING POST:

While BSA National Supply will not have a trading post at National Camping School, you can purchase lots of cool NCS items and have them sent directly to your home by visiting the following website: [NCS Trading Post](#).

VISITORS:

Please do not plan to have visitors or additional attendees such as spouses or children. Only participants and faculty are permitted on camp property while the course is in session.

DEPARTURE:

Departure will be after graduation on Friday, June 20th. Participants who are enrolled in any retraining sections will be able to depart after lunch on Tuesday, June 17th.

As a member of your council's long-term camping leadership team, you will be providing Scouts with an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you for making the decision to attend National Camping School.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew J. Bull".

Matthew J. Bull
NCS Course Director

** The early arrival fee is handled through the event registration system. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally (discuss with your local council). The fee includes lodging the night prior to the start of the course, dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff is busy with course preparations.*





Additional Information for your National Camping School Experience

Attachments:

Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Driving Directions & Map

Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation Camp Map

Links:

Annual Health & Medical Record: [AH&MR](#)

Unlawful Harassment Prevention Training: <https://www.scouting.org/ncs>

NCS Equipment/Gear Needed by Participants: [Equipment Needed for NCS.pdf](#)



Getting to Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation

The street address at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation is:
1377 Palisades Road, Brant Lake, NY 12815

Driving

Take the Northway (Interstate 87) North to exit 25.

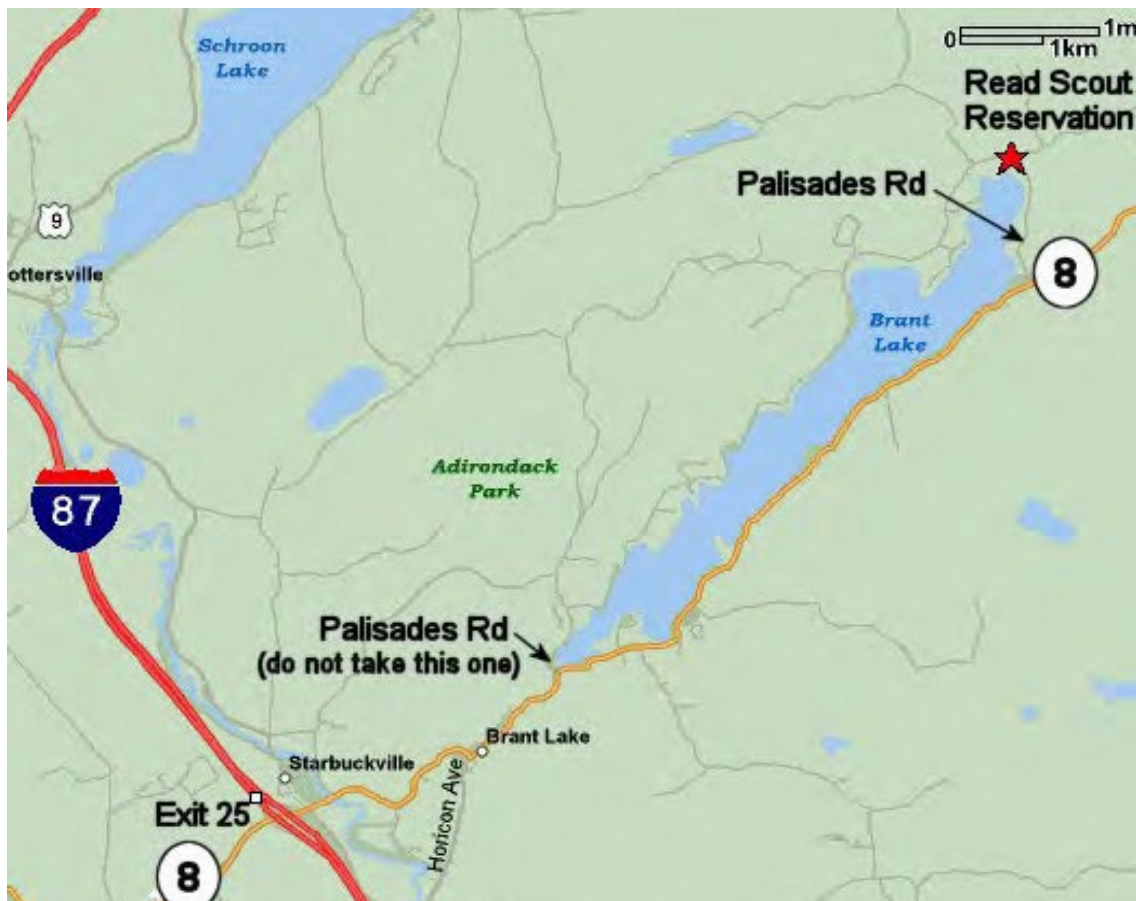
Make a RIGHT onto Route 8 to Brant Lake.

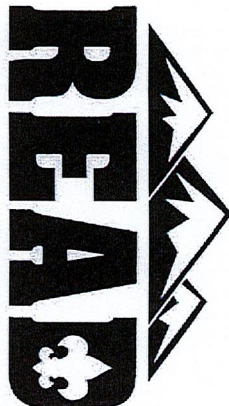
Go approximately 8 ½ miles.

Make a LEFT onto Palisades Rd.

Camp will be approximately 1 mile down on the right.

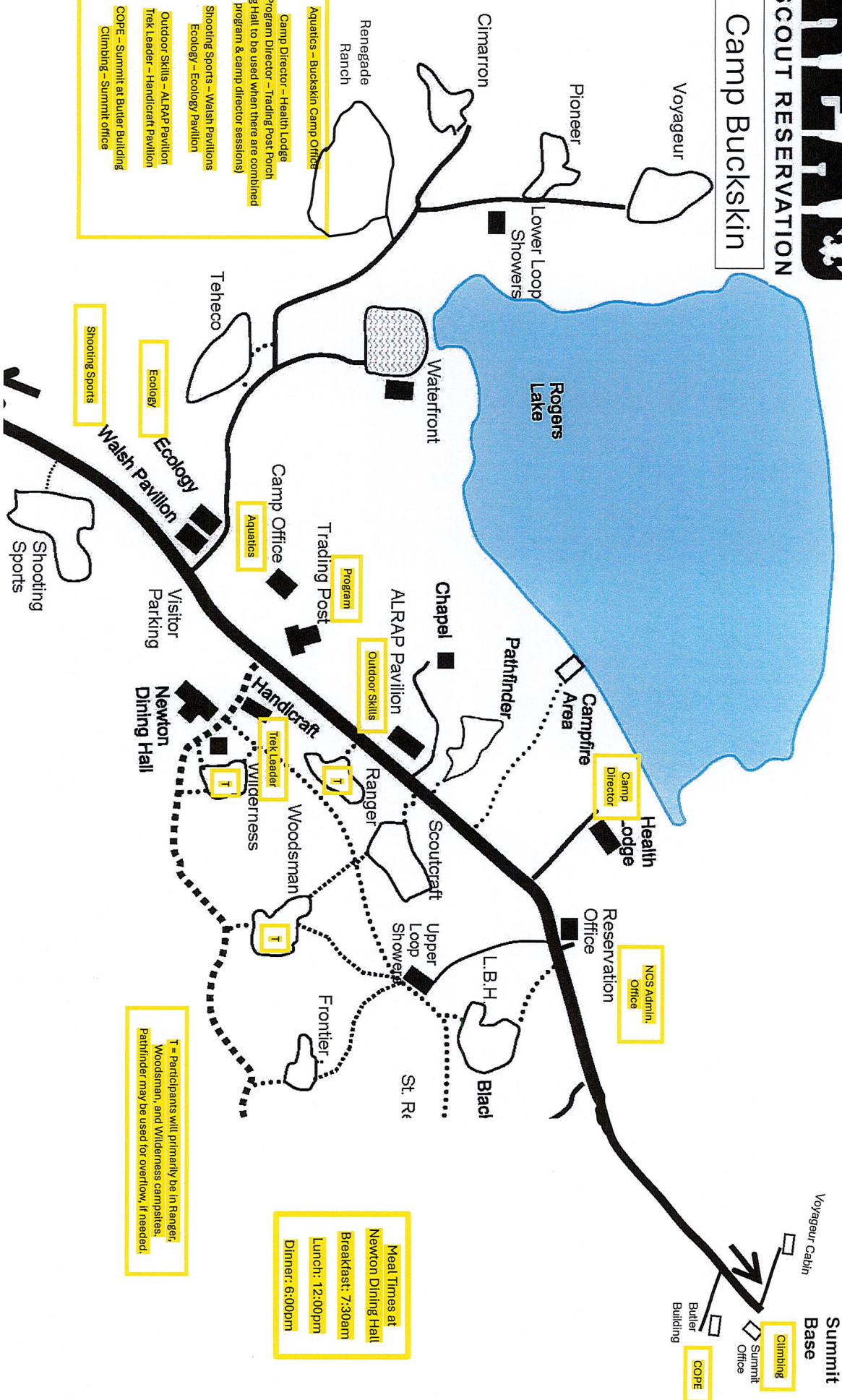
From the entrance, you will be driving more than a mile until you see the Camp Buckskin Dining Hall/Parking Lot on the right side of the road.





SCOUT RESERVATION

Camp Buckskin



- Aquatics - Buckskin Camp Office
- Camp Director - Health Lodge
- Program Director - Trading Post Porch
- (Dining Hall to be used when there are combined program & camp director sessions)
- Shooting Sports - Walsh Pavilions
- Ecology - Ecology Pavilion
- Outdoor Skills - ALRAP Pavilion
- Trek Leader - Handicraft Pavilion
- COPE - Summit at Butler Building
- Climbing - Summit office