



Welcome to National Camping School at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation!

COURSE DATES: June 13–19, 2026

Congratulations—your National Camping School application has been received! Whether this is your first time attending NCS or a return visit, we are excited to welcome you to **Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation** this June. This letter includes all the essential information you need to prepare for arrival, settle in smoothly, and begin a successful week of certification training.

Please read this carefully, as it is designed to answer the most common first-timer questions. Any registration-related questions need to be directed to the Scouting America National Office (ncs@scouting.org).

LOCATION

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

CHECK-IN INFORMATION

Saturday, June 13, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (EST)

Follow signs to **Camp Buckskin** upon entering the main gate.

Upon Arrival, You Will:

1. Park your vehicle in the designated lot near Camp Buckskin.
2. Check in with the registrar and verify your registration.
3. Complete your health screening (bring your forms!).
4. Visit your section area for a short check-in and interview.
5. Receive your housing assignment and move into your tent.
6. Change into the appropriate uniform for lunch and opening activities.

Your first scheduled activity is lunch at 12:00 p.m.

EARLY ARRIVAL (OPTIONAL)

If travel requires you to arrive earlier, select **Early Arrival** during online registration.

Early Arrival: *Friday, June 12, 2026*

- **Fee:** \$55*
- **Includes:** Friday dinner + Saturday breakfast
- Check-in at Camp Buckskin beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Your first formal activity is Saturday lunch, there is no programming prior to that.



AIRPORT AND TRAIN TRANSPORTATION (Additional Fee)

The nearest major airport is **Albany International Airport (ALB)**. We can provide a shuttle for you. A shuttle to & from camp is also available from **Albany–Rensselaer Amtrak Station**.

Shuttle Schedule (Additional Fee):

Arrival Shuttles:

- **Friday, June 12** – available up to 9:00 p.m. (For early arrivals)
- **Saturday, June 13** – 9:00 a.m. for all others

Departure Shuttles:

Will leave camp based on the earliest transportation times.

Roundtrip Fee: \$75

BUS SHUTTLE (Additional Fee)

Shuttle available to/from the **Chestertown Bus Station**.

Roundtrip Fee: \$75

Reserve Shuttles online: <https://mycouncil.ghvscouting.org/Store/NCSTransport>

Questions: Please email Sandra.Owens@scouting.org

Reservation Deadline: June 10, 2026

VISITORS

Family members and guests are **not permitted** during the course.

Only participants and faculty may be on camp property during NCS.

ANNUAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RECORD – REQUIRED

You must bring a current **Annual Health & Medical Record (Parts A, B, & C)**.

Part C must be signed by a licensed medical provider **within 12 months of June 19, 2026**.

Participants without complete medical forms must obtain them at their own expense before being allowed to remain in camp.



REQUIRED TRAINING PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- Current Safeguarding Youth Training

You must bring certification documents with you.

Range Activities Director:

- NRA Basic Rifle & Shotgun
- NRA Instructor Rifle & Shotgun
- USA Archery Level I (online portion)

Aquatics Director:

- Current lifeguard certification (BSA, Red Cross, YMCA, SAI, Ellis, or equivalent)
- Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat
- Strong swimming skills

COPE Director: COPE Level I Instructor

Climbing Director: Climbing Level I Instructor

Camp Director & Program Director:

- NCAP Training
- Unlawful Harassment Prevention
- Youth-on-Youth Training

PREPARING FOR THE WEEK (FIRST-TIMER ESSENTIALS)

The Pace of NCS

NCS is an immersive certification program—not a summer camp session.

Expect:

- Full days of instruction
- Evening assignments
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Assessments before certification

Come prepared and ready to learn.

UNIFORMS

- **Field Uniform:** Required for meals, formations, evening programs, and campfire
- **Activity Uniform:** All other times

**Check-in Uniform Recommendation:**

Arrive in **Activity Uniform**; bring your Field Uniform for lunch and afternoon activities.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants stay in **Scouting America platform tents** with foam mattresses.

What you need to know:

- Bedding/linens **not provided**
- There is NO electricity in the campsites (charging stations available during the day)
- Tents are shared; most participants will have a tentmate
- Shower and restroom facilities are within walking distance
- CPAP users need to bring **battery-capable devices**, there is no power in the campsites

PACKING GUIDANCE FOR FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANTS**Top Required Items**

- Field & Activity Uniforms (multiple shirts)
- Sleeping bag and pillow – it can be 40 degrees at night in June!
- Rain gear & warm layers (see temperature note above!)
- Comfortable hiking footwear
- Water bottle
- Notebook and pens
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Personal toiletries
- Sunscreen & insect repellent

Program-Specific Items

Refer to the attached equipment list—some sections require:

- Swim gear (Aquatics)
- Climbing gloves or personal harness (Climbing)
- Laptop/tablet (Camp Director sections)
- NRA or USA Archery materials (Range Activities)

What NOT to Bring

- Personal firearms or ammunition
- Alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products (strictly prohibited)
- Pets
- Non-battery-capable CPAP machines

EMERGENCY CONTACT & COMMUNICATION

Cell coverage on camp property is limited.

For urgent needs, families may contact the camp office (number included in your packet).

Directional signage in camp will clearly guide you to the correct facilities.



DAY ONE SCHEDULE (schedules given upon arrival for the rest of the course)

Saturday, June 13, 2026

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

DEPARTURE

Friday, June 19, 2026

Graduation concludes by late morning; participants depart afterward.

Retraining participants may depart **after lunch on Tuesday, June 16.**

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Your commitment to training at this level ensures Scouts across the country receive a safe, high-quality, life-changing outdoor program. We are grateful you are joining us and look forward to supporting your success at National Camping School.

Yours in Scouting,

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

Matthew J. Bull
NCS Course Director
Matthew.Bull@scouting.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandy Owens".

Sandy Owens
NCS Council Liaison
Sandra.Owens@scouting.org