



Date: November 15, 2025

To: National Camping School Participant

From: Pat Boyd, Course Director (pat.boyd@scouting.org)

Michele Soboslai, Local Council Liaison (michele.soboslai@scouting.org)

Subject: Welcome to National Camping School at J.N. Webster (Ashford, CT)

Congratulations, your National Camping School application has been received! On behalf of the faculty, we look forward to serving you at June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation. The following information will help you prepare for NCS. Please read carefully.

You could not have picked a better location or time of year to experience National Camping School (NCS) in the heart of New England. Our goal is to prepare you to be a dynamic Camp Staff Leader at your local Council camp this Summer. The teaching Faculty is composed of experienced Camp Pros from all over Scouting, and top-notch support services are provided by the Connecticut Rivers Council.

Critical information about your National Camping School participation

LOCATION:

June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation
231 Ashford Center Road (U.S. Route 44)
Ashford, Connecticut 06278

www.GoToWebster.org

COURSE DATES:

Weekend # 1 Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26, 2026
Weekend # 2 Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2026

CHECK-IN:

When you arrive at J.N. Webster, please proceed to the Perry Welcome Center located off the Main Parking Lot for check-in. All participants should plan to arrive and **check in between 8:45 AM and 9:45 AM** on Friday, April 24. Driving directions and a camp map are attached to this letter.

Any registration-related questions may be directed to the Scouting America National Office (ncs@scouting.org). All recertification participants attend the first weekend ONLY.



EARLY ARRIVALS*:

If you need to arrive on Thursday, April 23, 2026, due to travel arrangements, please select “Early Arrival” in the online registration system. **The early arrival fee of \$55*** includes dinner on Thursday and breakfast on Friday. Early arrival check-in will be at the Greer Dining Hall. ***Note: For those who are not registered as early arrivals, your first meal will be lunch on Friday, April 24, 2026***

TRANSPORTATION:

As a Convenience, the Connecticut Rivers Council can assist with Airport or Train Station pickup for a nominal fee, **payable to the Connecticut Rivers Council (\$45-\$100, depending on the distance from camp)**. A member of the Host Council Team will pick you up at the Airport or Train Station and shuttle you to camp for a round-trip convenience fee. Bradley is our preferred airport as it is the most convenient to JNW.

- Bradley International Airport (BDL) – Windsor Locks, CT – 47 Minutes from JNW
- T.F. Green International Airport (PVD) – Providence, RI – 1 Hour from JNW
- Logan International Airport (BOS) – Boston, MA – 1 Hour and 40 Minutes from JNW
- Amtrak Union Station – Hartford, CT – 34 Minutes from JNW
- Amtrak Union Station – New London, CT – 54 Minutes from JNW.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Driving directions to June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation are attached to this letter.

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. The Annual Health and Medical Form can be found at: [Annual Health & Medical Record](#)

DIETARY NEEDS:

If you have special dietary requirements, please let the host council liaison know in advance, either through the registration process or by emailing John Ayer, JNW’s Food Service Director (Chefayer@gmail.com). At NCS, meals are varied, and there is always a salad/fruit bar, cereal with milk, and peanut butter and jelly available for sandwiches. Refrigeration is available in the Health Center for medications.

PREREQUISITES:

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

- **ALL:** Scouting America Youth Protection Training, Current Scouting America Membership
- **Aquatics Director:** Present evidence of current lifeguard certification (BSA Lifeguard, Red Cross Lifeguard, YMCA Lifeguard, Starfish Aquatics Institute StarGuard, Ellis & Associates International Lifeguard Training Program Lifeguard Certification, or equivalent).

- **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>
- **Range Activities Director:** NRA Rifle Instructor, NRA Shotgun Instructor, USA Archery Level 1 Online Course (practical portion of this course will be completed at NCS)
- **COPE Director:** COPE Level 1 Instructor
- **Climbing Director:** Climbing Level 1 Instructor
- **CCPT:** Current NCS COPE Director or NCS Climbing Director certification, have a Portfolio demonstrating 50 hours of face-to-face COPE or Climbing instruction with participants as a NCS Director or Level I or II instructor within the last 3 years. No more than 5 hours can be spent on administrative activities.

WEATHER:

Some of the scheduled programming will take place outdoors. While daytime temperatures in May may be in the mid-50's to mid-60's, it will be chilly at night (30's & 40's). Please bring suitable warm clothing, sleeping gear, rain gear, and a hat.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Each participant has housing options at JNW based on their comfort and experience level. About two weeks before arrival, participants will receive a Google Form asking for housing, transportation, or accommodation requests.

- Option # 1 – Standard BSA 9X9 Canvas Wall Tent with cots
- Option # 2 – Military Style Bungalow with Bunk Beds (unheated)
- Option # 3 – Bring your own tent
- Option # 4 – Stay in a Hotel Off-Site (At your own expense)

You will spend much of your time outdoors and should be prepared for various types of inclement weather. Please plan accordingly. Aquatics will use an indoor swimming pool and outdoor lake boating. Hot showers are available for all. JNW has cell service and Wi-Fi Internet connectivity in central areas. However, your experience will be enhanced by limiting distractions. If you require a CPAP machine, please bring an appropriate battery or an outdoor extension cord.

DAY ONE CAMP-WIDE SCHEDULE (Friday, April 24, 2026):

8:45 am - 9:45 am	Arrival, Check-in, Health Check, 1-on-1 meetings – Perry Welcome Center
10:30 am	Opening School Meeting
11:00 am	Walk-through Lunch by Section
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Course Instruction by Section
4:30	Personal Time
5:45 pm	Assembly & Retreat – Parade Grounds
6:00 pm	Family Style Dinner & Mealtime Presentation
7:00 pm – 9:45 pm	Course Instruction by Section
9:50 pm	Opening Ceremony – Council Ring
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. The 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. You do not need to arrive in Field Uniform, but you will need it for the opening meeting on Friday.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR NEEDED BY PARTICIPANTS:

Please see a list of equipment and gear required for your week at National Camping at the following link: [Equipment Needed for NCS.pdf](#). Many sections require that you bring program items or copies of Council documents in addition to your personal camping gear.

VISITORS:

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

DEPARTURE:

Departure on both Sundays will be at 3:00 pm. Participants enrolled in recertification sections will not need to return for the second weekend.

TRADING POST

National Supply will not have a trading post on-site at National Camping School. If you are interested in purchasing National Camping School branded items you may view them at: <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>. All items purchased online will be shipped to your home.

If you have any questions before you arrive, please feel free to reach out to me at pat.boyd@scouting.org. As a member of your council's long-term camping leadership team, you will be providing Scouts with an experience they will remember for a lifetime. Thank you for deciding to attend National Camping School.

I look forward to seeing you at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation!

Yours in Scouting,



Pat Boyd
NCS Course Director

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