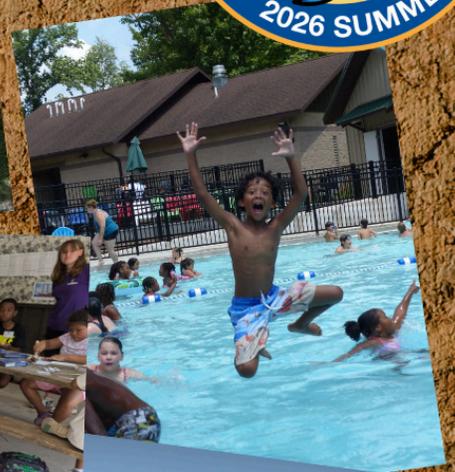


J. EDWARD MACK SCOUT RESERVATION

2026 PARENT & LEADER'S GUIDE



From Mission Control

Greetings Scouts, leaders, and families,

Welcome to Camp Mack's 2026 Cub Scout Summer Camp: *Cubs in Space*! This guide serves as your official mission briefing as we prepare for an out-of-this-world adventure. Whether your pack is already signed up or you're still considering joining us, we're excited that you're exploring the possibility of launching into camp with us this summer.

Cub Scout summer camp is one of the most exciting experiences in the Scouting program. For many Scouts, it's their first chance to spend extended time outdoors trying new activities, learning new skills, and building friendships that can last a lifetime. From the waterfront to archery, crafts to campfires, every day at camp is designed to help Scouts explore, grow, and have fun together. Our staff is working hard to make sure this year's Cubs in Space theme brings plenty of excitement, adventure, and discovery to every corner of camp.

Of course, every successful mission depends on a strong crew and a solid plan. Safety is our number one priority. Our staff are trained to follow Scouting America safety guidelines across all program areas so that every Scout can enjoy camp in a safe and supportive environment. Inside this guide you'll find important information about camp procedures, policies, and expectations to help your pack prepare for launch. Please take time to review it carefully so your camp experience can be as smooth as possible. A program guide is under review right now so you can plan on what activities your scouts will be participating in.

We also know that no mission succeeds without the support of dedicated leaders and families. Thank you for helping make camp possible for your Scouts. Your leadership, enthusiasm, and encouragement are what help create the unforgettable experiences that Cub Scouts remember for years to come.

Our crew is ready, the program is prepared, and the countdown has begun. We can't wait to welcome you to Camp Mack this summer as we blast off for an unforgettable week of Scouting adventure.

See you at camp—
and remember, the sky is not the limit... it's just the beginning.

Yours in Scouting,

Ben "Barney" Wohlberg
Summer Camp Director
J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation
campdirector@campmack524.org

1. Introduction	6
1.1. Camp Philosophy	6
1.2. Directions to Camp Mack	6
2. Registration	7
2.1. Camp Sessions and Dates	7
2.2. Per Scout Deposit	7
2.3. Camp Fees	8
2.4. Paying for Camp	8
2.5. Refund Policies	9
2.6. How to Register	9
2.7. Individual Registrations	10
3. Adult Leadership	11
3.1. Leadership Requirements	11
3.2. Adult Responsibilities	11
3.3. Youth Protection	11
3.4. PA Act 15 Clearances	12
3.5. Pre-Camp Leader's Meetings	13
4. Medical Information	14
4.1. Insurance Coverage	14
4.2. Medical Forms	14
4.3. Medications	15
4.4. Special Dietary Needs and Restrictions	15
4.5. Medical Facilities	15
5. Camp Policies	16
5.1. Emergencies in Camp	16
5.2. Contact With Wildlife	17
5.3. Alcohol and Drugs	17
5.4. Electricity Usage Policy (new for 2026)	17
5.5. Firearms/Archery Equipment/Other Weapons	18
5.6. Fires	18
5.7. Fireworks	18
5.8. Fishing	19
5.9. Flammables	19
5.10. Knives, Saws, & Axes	19
5.11. Open-Toed Shoes	19
5.12. Personal Property	19
5.13. Pets	20
5.14. Quiet Hours	20
5.15. Smoking	20
5.16. Swim Tests	20

5.17. Uniforms	20
5.18. Vandalism	21
5.19. Vehicles	21
5.20. Visitors	21
6. Facilities and Services	22
6.1. Camp Sites	22
6.2. Camp Office	22
6.3. Showers and Bathrooms	22
6.4. Food Service	23
6.5. Trading Post	23
6.6. Lost and Found	23
6.7. Laundry Facilities	23
6.8. Accessibility	23
7. Program	24
7.1. Theme	24
7.2. Program Guide	24
7.3. Program Areas	24
7.4. Resident Camp Program Features	26
7.5. Weeklong Program Features	27
7.6. Camp Staff	28
8. About the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation	30
8.1. History	30
8.2. Year Round Usage	31
8.3. Adopt-A-Site	31
8.4. Campmaster Corps	31
8.5. Friends of Camp Mack	32

1. Introduction

1.1. Camp Philosophy

The goal of Scouting is to develop desirable character, personal fitness, citizenship, and leadership skills in young people. One of the ways the Pennsylvania Dutch Council, BSA does this is through a summer camp program.

Scouting uses an age appropriate approach to introduce Cub Scouts to camping early in their Scouting career first through day camps and family camps. When a Scout is ready, they can move on to overnight resident camps lasting from three days for Wolves and Bears to five days for Webelos Scouts. Cub Scout summer camp programs provide an opportunity for families, dens, and packs to enjoy the outdoors and have fun together. These programs provide a taste of a lot of different activities as a precursor to moving onto a Scouts BSA summer camp where a scout gets a chance to master the skills they were introduced to at Cub Scout camp.

Campers will be attending a BSA nationally accredited camp that has a fully trained staff. Our camp also supplements the regular staff with a number of volunteers. These leaders bring skills and talents that enable the council to provide a high quality, safe program.

1.2. Directions to Camp Mack

Camp Address: 2 Scout Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073.

J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation can be reached by several different routes and is easily accessible from major highways and interstates.



From Route 30: Take the Rte 501/Lititz Pike Exit. Follow Rte 501 north approximately 12 miles passing through Lititz. J.E. Mack Scout Reservation is conveniently located about 2 miles north of the intersection of US 322 and PA Rte. 501 (Brickerville).

From Route 76- PA Turnpike: Take the Lebanon exit. Turn onto Rte. 72 north. Follow Rte 72 north to the US 322 split. Stay in the right lane and take US 322. Follow US 322 east to Brickerville. Turn left onto PA Rte. 501 North. Go 2 miles. The entrance to camp will be on the left.

Once you enter camp, follow the paved road for about a mile. You will pass by the maintenance and the training center. Finally, when you get to a large gravel parking lot, you will be greeted by a staff member.

2. Registration

2.1. Camp Sessions and Dates

Camp Mack offers three types of camp programs. While we recommend these sessions based on a scout's rank, these programs are open to all scouts depending on how comfortable they are with camping. If you come to camp for one of these sessions, and feel like you want to stay even longer, we can take care of that registration in the Trading Post.

Weekend Resident Camp - The perfect amount of camp for our Wolves and Bears, lasting for three days and two overnights. Campers will arrive Saturday morning and stay through the closing campfire on Monday evening, ending around 8:30 pm. This is designed to give scouts a sample of everything that camp can offer, and will have a block of time at each program area.

Session 1: June 20 - 22, 2026

Session 2: June 27 - 29, 2026

Session 3: July 11 - 13, 2026

Session 4: July 18 - 20, 2026

Session 5: July 25 - 27, 2026

Weeklong Resident Camp - This length of camp is geared towards Webelos and Arrow of Light scouts. Campers will rotate through the program areas for Saturday through Monday, but will have an opportunity to choose their own programs for Tuesday and Wednesday. This camp starts Saturday morning and ends Thursday after breakfast.

Session 1: June 20 - 25, 2026

Session 2: June 27 - July 2, 2026

Session 3: July 11 - 16, 2026

Session 4: July 18 - 23, 2026

Session 5: July 25 - 30, 2026

2.2. Per Scout Deposit

A \$25.00 deposit per scout is required by March 15, 2026 to hold the spots needed for the sessions your pack/den is planning on attending. This deposit is non-refundable.

2.3. Camp Fees

	Youth Regular Fee (Paid before May 15)	Youth Late Fee (Paid after May 15)	Adult Fee
Weekend Resident Camp	\$245.00	\$270.00	\$130.00
Weeklong Resident Camp	\$365.00	\$390.00	\$175.00

Pay for camp in full by May 15th and receive a \$25.00 discount off the regular camp fee. Scouts who pay by this date will also receive a free camp t-shirt. T-shirts for scouts registering after this date will be available for purchase in the camp trading post while supplies last.

Packs with eight or more Scouts may take advantage of our free leader policy which allows two leaders to attend camp for free.

2.4. Paying for Camp

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council recognizes that summer camp may be a financial hardship for some families. Because of this, here are some ideas of different ways to help families pay for camp.

Fundraisers

Hold a pack fundraiser just to help send scouts to camp. The annual popcorn fundraiser and spring product sale are also great ways to raise money for camp! Set goals and encourage families to raise money for their scouts to attend camp.

Camperships

The purpose of a campership is to assist those Pennsylvania Dutch Council scouts (youth only) with a financial need to attend camp. Camperships are made on the basis of need and available funds. [To apply, download the application here.](#) This application must be submitted no later than March 27, 2026. Submission of an application does not guarantee a campership. The maximum campership granted is 50% of the applicable youth camp fee. Camperships are not available to assist with an adult camper fee. Notification of awards will be mailed directly to the parent/guardian by April 15.

Our Military Kids

Our Military Kids is a program that provides substantial support in the form of grants to the children of the National Guard and military reserve personnel who are currently deployed overseas, as well as the children of Wounded Warriors from all branches.

These grants are to help children participate in programs, including summer camps, which help nurture children while their parent/guardian is away. [More information can be found here.](#)

Other Sources of Financial Assistance

There are numerous other sources of financial assistance to help send a scout to camp. The first place to start is your Chartered Organization. The organization may have funds available or be able to point you toward organization members who are willing to help. Service, veterans, and fraternal organizations tend to be especially willing to help. Another source may be scouters from the community. It never hurts to ask.

2.5. Refund Policies

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council Camp Refund Policy will be strictly followed. A copy of this policy can be found [at this link](#).

2.6. How to Register

Step One (November to January)

Pick dates when your Pack or Den plans on attending camp. Over and over again we see units that pick dates early and say “this is when we are going, are you coming with us?” get more scouts to camp. Having dates picked early helps both with families planning ahead and getting enough adult leadership.

Step Two (December to March)

Contact the Camp Director to schedule a camp promotion presentation. Presentations should be scheduled for an event between January and March at an event that most families will be at (but we would like to avoid the same meeting as a Friends of Scouting presentation). A representative from camp will come to your event and put on a brief presentation about summer camp, answering any questions scouts, leaders, or parents might have. If your pack hosts a camp promotion by March 31st, your unit will receive a \$50.00 discount towards the total camp fees.

Step Three (By March 15)

After deciding which session you want to attend, go to the [Pennsylvania Dutch Council's Tentaroo page](#) and register for camp online. If you do not know your pack's Tentaroo login information, please contact the Council Service Center before you set up a new account. By March 15, you should pay a deposit of \$25.00 per youth planning to come to camp on Tentaroo. Deposits are non-refundable, but they are transferable to another scout if needed. Although we understand that numbers will change as scouts are added or removed from your roster, please try your best to be as accurate as possible.

Step Four (Starting April 1)

Register your scouts and adults for the sessions that they will be attending. Pay your final balance. To receive the discounted rate, the final balance must be paid by May 15. After this, prices increase for both scouts and leaders.

Step Five (June and July)

Pre-camp meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the dining hall. This will be a time to double check all registration information as well as ask questions of the camp leadership. This is a great opportunity to submit health forms so our staff has a chance to review them before you arrive at camp. We recommend coming a week or two before your pack comes to camp.

Step Six (June and July)

Come to camp and have fun!!!

2.7. Individual Registrations

Scouts who attend camp with other members of their pack or den tend to have a much better experience. It is also much easier for adults to attend when other members of the unit are attending. But what if one of your scouts cannot come to camp the same session as the rest of the group? That's OK! They can still come to camp! In this case, an adult family member (21 years of age or older) must accompany each Cub Scout the entire session. We will partner you with another group to ensure all Adult Leadership and Youth Protection requirements are met. To register as an individual, go to Tentaroo and submit your payment.



3. Adult Leadership

3.1. Leadership Requirements

At least two registered adults, that are at least 21 years of age, need to attend camp with the pack/Scouts. A ratio of two adults to a maximum of eight youth and one additional adult for each four additional youth (or part thereof) is also required. If parents are asked to help fill in a leadership role, they must be registered members of the BSA. All adults in camp must have a current Youth Protection Certificate. Volunteers must also have PA Act 15 Clearances completed. See [Youth Protection Section](#) below for more information pertaining to requirements for adult registration with the BSA.

Lions and Tigers must have their adult partner present to participate.

3.2. Adult Responsibilities

While in camp, adults have a few responsibilities to help make camp a successful experience for their Cub Scouts. These responsibilities include:

- Have fun! Camp is a place for you to have fun too!
- Work cooperatively with the camp staff. The staff may ask you for help at various activity areas. We need your help for safety reasons and to facilitate various programs and activities.
- Follow all camp rules and guidelines and help your scouts do the same.
- Communicate needs or issues with the camp staff in a timely fashion. If something is wrong, don't wait until the end of camp to tell us. We can't do anything about something we don't know about.
- Take responsibility for the scouts in your pack. You are their adult leader, even if you are "just a parent." This responsibility includes making sure cub scouts are taking medication if needed and handling discipline issues in accordance with the BSA's Youth Protection Guidelines.

3.3. Youth Protection

Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required to attend camp with the pack. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in.

Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception: Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders. All adults must review the “[How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide](#)” that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook. In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position. One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.

Youth Protection Training: Scouting America’s Safeguarding Youth Training must be completed by all adults attending summer camp before coming to camp. Youth Protection Training is valid for one year from the date the course was completed. The course is available online at my.scouting.org.



3.4. PA Act 15 Clearances

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Dutch Council to ensure that all individuals partaking in and/or administering their programs meet the requirements of PA Act 15, requiring background checks of parents as volunteers, as they may be acting in lieu of a parent and will have routine interaction and direct contact with youth.

Pennsylvania Residents: Provide proof of completion of the state mandated background checks two weeks prior to arriving at camp. [Information on how to get clearances can be found here.](#) Once you have received the results of clearances, [upload them here at least two weeks prior to arriving at camp.](#) This allows clearances to be reviewed and approved prior to camp.

Out-of-State Residents: Complete and turn in a [Non-Resident Disclosure Statement.](#)

3.5. Pre-Camp Leader's Meetings

Prior to your arrival at camp, we highly encourage the pack leadership to come to one of our pre-camp meetings. Here we'll run through the most up to date information about the upcoming camp sessions and answer any questions you or your unit may have. This is also a great opportunity to turn in any dietary needs forms or completed health forms so our staff is prepared for your arrival (and making check-in a little less crazy). This meeting is optional, but we would appreciate it if at least one leader from each unit could join us. These meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm at our main pavilion. The dates of these meetings are:

June 16, 2026	June 23, 2026	June 30, 2026
July 7, 2026	July 14, 2026	July 21, 2026



4. Medical Information

4.1. Insurance Coverage

All registered members of the Pennsylvania Dutch Council are automatically covered by Health and Accident Insurance. Under the provisions of this policy, your scout is covered for any deductible amount not covered by your family's insurance company. Please verify that your family's current policy number and company information is provided on the medical form. Proof of coverage for out of council packs will need to be provided at check-in.

It is the responsibility of the scout's parent to file insurance claims. As a courtesy, the Health Lodge staff will provide the initial forms and information required for getting treatment. Neither the Pennsylvania Dutch Council nor the camp staff are responsible to follow up on unpaid claims or file additional paperwork for follow-up treatments.

4.2. Medical Forms

A BSA medical form is required for every person in camp, both youth and adults. Please send health forms to camp two weeks prior to your camp session. [The BSA medical form can be found here.](#)

Day Camp and Weekend Resident campers must complete both parts A & B of the medical form completed. This includes both youth and adults.

Weeklong Resident campers must complete parts A, B, and C of the medical form, which includes a doctor's signature. This includes both youth and adults.

Medical forms will not be accepted at the council service center. Forms can be brought to camp during the pre-camp leader meeting or sent to the camp at:

J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation
2 Scout Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

Be sure to make copies of the form before you come to camp. Keep originals in a safe place as they can be used again for other activities. These forms are extremely important so that we can help ensure the safety and health of everyone in camp. Forms will be returned at the end of each session. Forms left at camp will be destroyed.

BSA medical forms are only good for one year from the time they are dated. Please make sure forms do not expire before or during the camp session. Any person who arrives without a current medical form on file may not stay beyond 24 hours, and will not be permitted to take the swim test or participate in any strenuous activities. Arrangements must be made to obtain a physical exam within that time frame or else the person must return home until the situation is resolved. There is a local urgent care facility that offers walk-in service. Units are responsible for any costs of getting a new physical as well as making transportation arrangements. Being sent home for failure to provide the required medical form is not grounds for a refund.

4.3. Medications

All medications must be kept secure at all times. Lock boxes and a locked refrigerator are available in the camp office for this purpose. Medications may be administered by either the health officer or adult leader. The health officer will be available in the health lodge before and after each meal and in the evening to dispense medications. The camp will provide leaders with a log to make note of when drugs are administered, and this log will be turned into the health office before the unit leaves camp. Make sure medicine is clearly marked with name, pack number, and instructions. Youth may not keep in their possession any medications with exception of Epi-Pens, inhalers, and life-dependent emergency medicine. As an adult going to camp, make sure to talk with parents about any scouts on medication and the times they need to take them.

4.4. Special Dietary Needs and Restrictions

Camp Mack does its best to accommodate anyone with special dietary needs or allergies, but this can only be done if we are given advance notice. For any scout or adult with any special food needs, a summer camp special dietary needs form must be completed and submitted with their medical form. Forms turned in upon arrival will be accepted and the kitchen staff will try their best to accommodate, however provisions may not be able to be met. [The dietary needs form can be found here.](#)

4.5. Medical Facilities

Located behind the Trading Post, our Health Lodge is equipped to handle most medical situations that occur in camp. A Health Officer is on call at all times when camp is in session, and all staff members are trained in basic first aid and CPR during our training week if they are not already certified. AEDs are located in the main office and the pool. In case of a serious emergency, the nearest ambulance is stationed in Brickerville, less than 10 minutes away from camp.

5. Camp Policies

5.1. Emergencies in Camp

The health, safety, and wellbeing of each person on camp property is our primary concern. Therefore specific procedures have been put in place to handle emergencies if they arise. These policies are not optional. Staff members have been trained in these procedures and will provide direction throughout an emergency. Individuals who do not follow staff directions during an emergency may be asked to leave the camp without a refund.

If you notice an emergency situation:

1. Notify a staff member who will notify the Camp Director.
2. Do not contact emergency services yourself. If needed, the Camp Director will do this once the extent of the situation has been determined.
3. Follow all directions given by camp staff members.
4. Gather your scouts to the dining pavilion or at a location as directed by staff members. Make sure all of your scouts are accounted for.
5. At the end of the emergency, you may be asked to help fill out statements about what happened.

If you hear the emergency siren:

1. Immediately gather all of your scouts and adults and proceed to the dining hall or other gathering location as directed by a staff member.
2. Get a head count and determine if everyone is accounted for.
3. Follow all camp staff directions.
4. If for some reason the emergency siren is not working or cannot be heard, a staff runner will be sent to provide directions to adults.

Procedures for specific emergencies will be reviewed during the leader meeting on the first day.

At no time should any staff member, camper, or adult contact emergency services directly or allow themselves to be interviewed by the media in the event of a camp emergency. The Camp Director, Council Scout Executive, or the Council Field Director are the only designated spokespersons. This policy ensures that correct information is shared, keeps unfounded rumors to a minimum, and eliminates unnecessary worry of parents and the public.

5.2. Contact With Wildlife

Camp Mack is home to a variety of wildlife. Most, like deer and turkeys, will quickly run the other way when scouts are in camp. Some, like mice, raccoons, opossums, and insects can be bothersome. For insects, we recommend using bug spray, but please do not apply it inside your tents as it can ruin the waterproofing. For other animals, the best thing you can do is not give them any reason for a visit. Food should not be kept in tents. Any food in your campsite should be kept in sealed containers. The animals around camp don't mind sharing their home with visitors for the summer but will look for anything they can get their paws on to eat!

Ticks can be a problem in the summer. Get your scouts to get in the habit of checking themselves for ticks when they shower and before they go to bed. If a tick is found, please notify a staff member so we can help get it removed.

5.3. Alcohol and Drugs

The Boy Scouts of America has firm policies regarding alcohol and drugs. Any person unwilling to abide by these policies will be removed from camp immediately. Possession, consumption, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal, or non-prescription drugs will not be tolerated on property. Local authorities may be notified. Use of any prescribed medication is authorized when under the care of a physician and must be disclosed to the Health Officer on the individual's health form. The Pennsylvania Dutch Council supports all local laws, codes, and ordinances of the government bodies in whose territory we operate facilities.

5.4. Electricity Usage Policy (new for 2026)

Over the past several years, we have seen the use of electricity in our campsites skyrocket, due to the use of the charging of electronic devices and CPAP machines. The single power outlet provided to each campsite cannot handle the increased demand, leading to a safety concern due to overloading of circuits. With medical needs and the demand of remaining connected with cell phones, the camps of the Pennsylvania Dutch Council, have established the following policies:

- **Campsite Electricity:** There is only one electrical outlet per latrine. The electrical panels are locked and only accessible by camp maintenance and management staff. One barrier strip may be plugged in to accommodate the charging of battery packs and electronic devices only. Extension cords may not be connected to the latrine outlet.

- **CPAP Machines:** Please plan to use battery power for these machines. Options include a 12 volt deep-cycle battery with an inverter or a portable battery pack/power supply. Some manufacturers have solar chargers built in.
- **Other Appliances/Devices:** The use of fans, televisions, party lights, portable refrigerators, coffee pots, and other appliances are not permitted in campsites or tents.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Charging for electric vehicles will not be available. The staff will be happy to point you in the direction of charging stations nearby.
- **Extension Cords:** Due to the risk of fire, shock, or tripping hazards, they are not permitted to be used in campsites or run from buildings.
- **Generators:** Due to fuel storage requirements, noise levels, and potential fire risk, generators will not be permitted.
- **Be Courteous:** Please unplug chargers when the battery is done charging. This gives other campers the opportunity to charge their devices, and hopefully help us conserve energy.

Camp Management reserves the right to disconnect power or devices that are not following these policies or are considered unsafe.

There are several locations around camp where power can be accessed, such as the dining hall, program areas, and shower house. If you need a place to charge a device, ask one of the staff where the best location would be to plug it in. Please do not leave your device unattended.

5.5. Firearms/Archery Equipment/Other Weapons

Outside weapons may not be brought onto camp property. Only BB guns or bows provided by the camp will be used. Other firearms or weapons will be confiscated and turned over to the PA State Police for proper disposal.

5.6. Fires

Fires can be a potential hazard in camp, particularly if drought conditions exist. Campers must be cautious with fire following the guidelines of the camp fire guard plan and Outdoor Code. During times of extreme drought, a ban on open fires could be imposed. Campers will be notified if and when those conditions are in effect.

5.7. Fireworks

Fireworks of any type are prohibited in camp. Items will be confiscated and turned over to PA State Police for proper disposal.

5.8. Fishing

Fishing is permitted at Squire Lake during daylight hours. PA Fish and Game Commission laws must be observed. Fishing licenses are required for those over the age of 16. A catch and release policy is in place.

5.9. Flammables

Aerosol sprays neutralize the water repellency of canvas and should not be used in or around tents or canvas. Open flames are strictly prohibited in or near tents. This includes non-battery operated lanterns, tiki torches, lighters, candles, incense, and tobacco products.

5.10. Knives, Saws, & Axes

Knives, saws, and axes may be used only in campsites and program areas. Sheath knives are not permitted in camp. Proper axeyard and Totin' Chip / Whittlin' Chip rules should be followed. It is the responsibility of unit leadership to ensure safety precautions are followed.

5.11. Open-Toed Shoes

When hiking around camp, sturdy, closed-toe shoes are required. Open-toed shoes such as sandals, flip-flops, crocs, and water shoes are only permitted in shower houses, waterfront, or pool areas.

5.12. Personal Property

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council cannot be responsible for loss or damage to personal property at camp. Scouts should be encouraged to lock their valuables in a trunk or footlocker when they are not in use, or not bring these items to camp. It is recommended that campers have insurance coverage for property brought to camp. Most homeowner's policies include provision for this type of coverage. Report any thefts immediately to the Camp Director, Program Director, or Ranger.

5.13. Pets

Pets are not permitted in camp at any time during the camping season in compliance with Pennsylvania State Health and Safety Codes. This includes family nights. This policy does not pertain to pets of permanent camp residents or service animals.

5.14. Quiet Hours

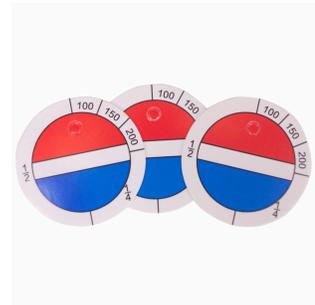
Rest at camp will affect a person's ability to function in a cheerful and safe manner. Scouts need 8 - 10 hours of rest daily. Adults are expected to set the example by respecting quiet times for the benefit of neighboring campers. Please keep conversations low and activities to a minimum between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:30 am.

5.15. Smoking

Smoking is allowed for adults age 18 and over and is permitted only in designated areas, such as behind the kitchen or around fire circles where no scouts are present. Please be responsible for properly disposing of your waste. Youth under the age of 18 are not permitted to smoke. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic delivery systems which simulates tobacco smoking.

5.16. Swim Tests

Swim tests are offered on the first day of camp for all campers wishing to swim or boat while at camp. These tests are important to ensure safe aquatic activities. Units are encouraged to complete swim tests prior to arriving at camp to help speed up this process. BSA policy mandates that we do buddy checks every 10 minutes that scouts are in the pool. This is a safety standard that we are required to follow.



5.17. Uniforms

Scout uniforms will be worn for evening flag ceremonies, dinner, the family night campfire program, and scouts' own services. Before attending, please remove any pins or detachable awards of the uniform that could fall off and get lost. At other times, scouts and leaders should wear comfortable, scout friendly clothing, depending on the weather. In the event of hot weather, the staff might elect to wear their activity uniforms for the evening meal. When this happens, staff will try to communicate this with adult leaders so they can make their own decision for their packs.

5.18. Vandalism

Youth and adults are responsible for their actions while at camp. Any individual caught destroying camp property will be billed accordingly. If it is unknown who conducted the property destruction, all units in a campsite or entire camp will be billed for the amount of repair or replacement.

5.19. Vehicles

Truck beds may not be used to carry passengers. All vehicles must be returned to the parking lot after loading or unloading gear during check in and checkout. Those who require a vehicle for mobility must secure permission from the camp ranger or camp director, and must agree to abide by all camp vehicle rules and speed limits.

5.20. Visitors

Due to our busy schedule, it is recommended that visitors be kept to a minimum during a scouts' stay at camp. All visitors, regardless of purpose or duration of stay, must check in the office and be given visitor's identification. If they are staying for a meal, they may be purchased for \$9.00 each at the Trading Post.

6. Facilities and Services

6.1. Camp Sites

Campsites are equipped with BSA standard canvas wall tents on wooden tent platforms. Tents are arranged in a “Pod” format with three tents surrounding a central common area with a picnic table and tarp. Each tent contains two canvas cots. Air mattresses or foam pads (not provided) could add to your comfort. Each site is also equipped with a trash can.

Additionally, each campsite features running water and a pit-latrine. The following tools are provided and can be found hanging on the side of your latrines; shovel, rake, broom and fire bucket. Additional supplies such as toilet paper and trash bags can be obtained from the camp office or camp ranger. There is an electric outlet available at each latrine.

Before your session, the staff will clean and stock the latrine. During your stay, it is the unit’s responsibility to keep the campsite and latrine clean. The commissioner staff will be around each day to check the cleanliness of your site and latrine. If you need anything resupplied or trash taken out, please let a staff member know.

6.2. Camp Office

The camp offices are located in the small building to the right of/behind the Trading Post. This is the hub of camp operations and is manned by a staff member to answer phones, questions, and provide assistance, information, and forms which you may need while in camp. Mail for campers can be sent to:

J. E. Mack Scout Reservation
% (scout name, pack #)
2 Scout Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

6.3. Showers and Bathrooms

Flush toilets and hot showers are available as a convenience to campers. A shower house/comfort station is conveniently located near the dining hall and swimming pool. Flush bathrooms are also located in the Alley Action Center just off the main parking lot. Occasionally, unsanitary conditions require us to temporarily close facilities until the responsible parties correct the situation. Shower houses are meant to supplement, not replace, the washstands and latrines in the campsites. If you find that supplies are needed or facilities need to be cleaned, tell a staff member right away.

6.4. Food Service

All meals are served cafeteria style in the dining hall pavilion. The council employs a professional food service company to prepare and provide nutritious meals, with a final menu reviewed by a registered dietitian. Coffee and water are available at all times in the dining hall. Meals for visitors can be purchased at the trading post for \$9.00 each. Please refer to the Medical Information section on information about dietary restrictions.

6.5. Trading Post

As a service to campers, a Trading Post is operated at camp. Among the items for sale are craft kits, books, Camp Mack souvenirs (hats, t-shirts, patches, sweatshirts, etc.), camping equipment, batteries, personal hygiene items, and much, much, more. Snacks available may include candy, ice cream, popsicles, slush-puppies, bottled water, soda, and many other items. We find that on average, our scouts spend about \$40 during our weekend sessions and about \$60 during the weeklong sessions. The Trading Post is open after breakfast and before lunch and dinner. While it is typically closed when the Cub Scouts are in program, it can be opened up during program time for adults.

6.6. Lost and Found

If your Scouts “misplace” something or find something lying about, a lost and found box is located on the porch of the Dining Pavilion. Items of value such as watches, wallets, etc. will be locked up in the Camp Office for the owner to claim. Unclaimed items will either be thrown away or donated to a clothing bank at the end of the camping season. We will make every attempt to return an item to its rightful owner

6.7. Laundry Facilities

Coin operated washers and dryers are available for use for those unforeseen happenings. Machines are located in the breezeway at the comfort station/shower house. Laundry detergent is available in the trading post. Cost per load is \$1.00 for the washers and dryers.

6.8. Accessibility

Most of the facilities at Camp Mack have been upgraded over the past several years to comply with ADA standards. Wheelchair access is available to all program areas as well as the Camp Office, Trading Post, Dining Hall, and shower facilities. Please notify the Camp Director if your unit has any special needs for accessibility.

7. Program

7.1. Theme

This year's theme is ***Cubs in Space!*** We're getting ready to blast off to a whole summer of fun and adventure! Packs are encouraged to come up with songs, skits, and cheers or even wear costumes for this exciting summer at camp!

7.2. Program Guide

A separate program guide will be released spring 2026. This will have updated information on schedules for each session, what our planned activities are, and basically answer all of the fun questions about camp this summer. The rest of this section is just a general overview of the camp program.

7.3. Program Areas

This section is just a brief overview of the different areas that scouts will have the chance to participate in. For further detail and a list of requirements that the staff will try to complete, check out our program guide.

Aquatics



Camp Mack operates both a pool and a lake for scouts to become more comfortable with aquatics activities. The areas are overseen by a BSA National Camping School trained aquatics director, and staffed by trained and certified lifeguards. Both areas adhere to BSA aquatics policies when it comes to inclement weather, the buddy system, and age appropriate activities. At the pool, scouts will have the opportunity to improve their swimming skills, as well have a chance for a free swim.

Weather permitting, there is an open swimming time for the entire camp during each session.

At the entrance of camp lies Squire Lake where boating and fishing activities take place. The boats available include paddle boats (any swimming ability may use these boats), rowboats (at least one passenger needs to be a swimmer), canoes (only swimmers), and corcls (only swimmers). Shoes and clothes that are able to get wet and dirty are highly

recommended. Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) boating equipment, and fishing poles are available for use.

Campcraft

Knots, lashings, wilderness survival, and outdoor cooking are the name of the game here. Campcraft is all about learning traditional Scout skills and how to live in the out-of-doors.

Fishing

Just a relaxing time at the lake. Learn a little bit about the fish in Squire Lake and do some angling yourself!

Fitness

Let's get moving! This program area is designed to get all that extra energy out while maintaining good sportsmanship.



Handicraft

Let loose your creativity at handicraft! Draw, paint, sculpt, and much more. Theme related crafts and all needed supplies are provided.

Nature

The nature area is all about getting in touch with your wild side! Scouts will learn about the world around them, perform conservation projects, and get to check out all kinds of nature displays.



Target and Range Sports

This area includes ranges for archery, BB, and slingshot shooting. The objective in these areas are to teach Scouts basic shooting skills in a safe and controlled manner. The Shooting Sports Area is overseen by a BSA National Camping School/NRA certified Range Safety Officer and shooting instructor who will ask adults to help.

STEM

Our newest program area focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The goal is to get scouts excited about and participate in some hands-on STEM activities.

7.4. Resident Camp Program Features

Morning and Evening Colors

Each day starts in front of the dining hall with a flag raising ceremony, and ends with the flags being lowered before dinner. If your pack is interested in helping with this ceremony, please talk to our Program Director!

Opening and Closing Campfire



What's camp without a campfire? On the first evening of camp, our staff will put on an opening campfire for our campers. Packs are encouraged to prepare a song, skit, or cheer for our campfire Monday evening. All materials must be reviewed by the program director and approved before being presented. In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be made about the location of the campfire.

Siesta

A siesta period is provided each day after lunch. At this time, there are no program areas open, so units can decide what they would like to do at that time, such as practicing for their part of the campfire, play a game, go on a hike, or even just relax at their campsite. The camp program resumes at 2:15 pm.

Note: There will be a leader's meeting during the siesta on Saturday. If there could be one representative from each pack present, that would be greatly appreciated.

Cracker Barrel

While it's a funny sounding name, this is simply a light snack at the end of the day. This is a great time to meet with the staff, other campers, or leaders in camp that week. On Sunday evenings, the staff will build campfires in each of the sites and bring ingredients for s'mores. Units are welcome to bring their own snacks for the evenings, but just make

sure to keep them secure, the wildlife can be quite industrious when it comes to finding food.

Scouts' Own Service

“A Scout is reverent.” This interfaith worship service recognizes and respects the difference in individual religious beliefs and observances in faith traditions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. During this service, a collection will be taken to help support the World Friendship Fund, helping develop scouting programs in developing countries. [More information about the World Friendship Fund can be found here.](#)

If campers would like to attend a service of a specific faith during your camp session, talk to either the camp or program director.

Penguin Swim

Just an early morning swim. There's even a patch for it!

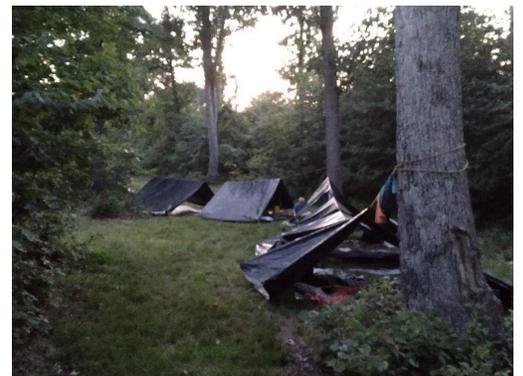
7.5. Weeklong Program Features

Choose Your Own Adventure

There is a lot to do at Camp Mack, and there's no way we could fit it all into one weekend! So for our weeklong campers, they get an opportunity to pick which activities they get to do. This could include more time to work on the Cub Scout Shooting Sports awards, work on some scout skills, explore some lesser visited parts of camp, but your pack gets to decide! The staff will have a list of suggested activities to pick from, but we're always looking for suggestions if there's a way we could better serve our campers.

Outpost

On Tuesday evening, campers will visit our outpost area. There, we will be cooking dinner, have a campfire program, and if they would like to, build a basic shelter to stay under for the evening. Staff stay down in the area overnight as well.



Trip to Camp Bashore

For Arrow of Light Scouts, their Cub Scout journey is starting to come to an end, but we hope that they're excited to continue the adventure into Scouts BSA! For groups that are interested, we can arrange to have Scouts take a trip to Camp Bashore, where the Pennsylvania Dutch Council hosts its Scout BSA summer camp! Leaders will be needed to help with transportation, but staff will be provided to show you all the exciting things that Scouts do!

7.6. Camp Staff

What makes Camp Mack a truly special place is the staff. This talented group makes sure that our campers have a fun and safe time at camp. Most have been involved in scouting since they were cubs themselves, several have earned their Eagle Scout or Gold awards, and some are even close to achieving it themselves. Below are some of the staff you may run into.



The **Camp Director** is responsible for the overall camp operation, including health and safety, food service, business management, hiring and ultimately following the BSA's camping standards. They can be reached at campdirector@campmack524.org if you have any questions about the upcoming camp season.

The **Program Director** has probably the best job in camp, they're in charge of all the fun stuff! They supervise all camp programs, including the program areas, evening campfires, and special events.

The **Camp Commissioner** is a resource for unit leaders. Any questions that leaders might have, either about the camp itself or scouting in general, the commissioner is here to help point you in the right direction.

The **Camp Ranger** is responsible for the physical camp facility, grounds keeping, camp security, and enforcement of BSA policies. Please report any damage or maintenance needs to the camp office, and they will be taken care of as soon as possible.

The **Health Officer** is the health and safety leader in our camp. If any medical emergencies occur, we'll make sure the Health Officer gets there right away!

Area Directors are responsible for a specific program area in camp, and help develop the activities for that station. While the program activities are planned out ahead of time, these are the staff you want to talk to if you'd like to arrange other activities.

Program Staff are the heart and soul of our camp staff. Ranging from 15 to 17 years old, many of these young men and women are scouts themselves. This talented group is focused on making sure your scouts have an amazing camping experience.

Counselors In Training (CITs) are volunteers under the age of 15 who are learning what it is like to be on camp staff. They often don't have a set assignment, so you might see them in different areas of camp.

If you know someone who might be interested in serving on staff, an application can be found at <https://padutchforms.tentaroo.com/campstaffapplication>.

8. About the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation

8.1. History

In the early 1960's, the former Lancaster County Council was faced with a serious camping problem. Camp Chiquetan, located near the confluence of the Conestoga and Susquehanna Rivers, was old, overcrowded, and fast wearing out. After visiting many land parcels, in October 1963 the executive board agreed to settle on a piece of property in the Furnace Hills along Route 501. This property bridged both Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. The original 840 acre land was purchased for \$90,000.

The plan was to build America's finest scout patrol feeding camp. Seeking a name for the new camp, the board approved "J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation" after the council's first Eagle Scout earned in 1917 the same year the council was formed. Much care was taken in the development of the total woodland to save its natural appearance. Over 22 miles of hiking trails were carefully laid out and developed. Trees and brush were removed by volunteer weekend work parties which included many scouts and leaders. Plans were laid out for a great dedication on July 4th, 1968; the conclusion of a year-long 50th Anniversary celebration for the council.

On that day, from a symbolic campfire at Camp Chiquetan, selected scouts carried a lighted torch over a 26 mile route lighting the first campfire at the dedication ceremony. The first Junior Leader Training Camp was held that same summer as a "shakedown" for the new reservation. Chiquetan was sold in the spring of 1969 and in June of that year the first summer long-term camp was inaugurated.



Nine troop sites and a staff site were opened at the new reservation. In 1971, Blair Lodge was added. Later, Dellinger and Esbenshade Lodges were enclosed making way for winter camping. In 1982, now under the leadership of the Lancaster-Lebanon Council, the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation was rated as one of the two finest facilities in the entire scout movement, St. Louis, Missouri having the other. The dream, begun in the fall of 1963, had become a reality.

In 1999, Camp Mack became the Pennsylvania Dutch Council's home for Cub Scout Summer Camp. Gifts from some amazing benefactors allowed the camp to continue to grow and accommodate all of our campers. Some of our more recent upgrades have been the John Pyfer Trading Post, Paul & Judy Ware Kitchen, and the Alley Action Center. In 2019, the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation celebrated 50 years of scout summer camp, culminating in the groundbreaking for a brand new pool that was ready for the 2020 camping season.



scouting excellence!

The summer of 2020 brought about its own challenges. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the regular camping season was canceled. This however, allowed the staff at Camp Mack to create its first virtual summer camp. Cub Scouts from the Pennsylvania Dutch Council shared a camping experience with scouts as far away as California! In the years since, the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation has continued to introduce new campers to the ideals of scout camping and looks forward to another 50 years of

8.2. Year Round Usage

There are plenty of opportunities for outdoor fun and adventure in the months that follow and lead up to summer camp. Camp Mack's facilities can accommodate almost any need you have to support your unit's program. There are eleven campsites and five cabins that are available for your pack, troop or crew which are available from September through May. The camp has also been used for Blue and Gold banquets, Eagle Scout Court of Honors, and even a wedding or two! [More information can be found here.](#)

8.3. Adopt-A-Site

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council operates two Nationally Accredited camps which comprise about 1000 acres of land with over 25 miles of trail systems. Each camp has a full-time Ranger to maintain and care for the buildings and grounds. But with thousands of people utilizing the camps each year, it's nearly impossible for the Rangers to keep up with all of the wear-and-tear that occurs in the most used areas. Volunteers are crucial to keep our camps looking good and operating safely. Units can adopt a campsite, building, or trail at Camp Mack and in return for eight hours of service, receive a voucher for a free weekend of tent camping or credit towards cabin rental. [More information about the Adopt-A-Site program can be found here.](#)

8.4. Campmaster Corps

The main purpose of the Campmaster Corps is to provide support and guidance to the units and groups using camp over the weekend. Campmasters help check units in, see how they're doing during the weekend, and check units out before they leave. This work provides relief to the Camp Rangers from unit responsibilities for the weekend, freeing them for other work, as well as personal time off. Campmasters have a cabin that they

have use of for the weekend. [More information about the Campmaster Corps can be found here.](#)

8.5. Friends of Camp Mack

In 2020, the Friends of Camp Mack was established with the following objectives:

- Identify, grow, and coordinate a network of current and former staff members, campers, and supporters of the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation
- Support camp property preservation and improvements via financial, material, and labor donations and fundraising efforts
- Aid in the promotion of J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation programs through like donations
- Sponsor social and service events open to supporters and the general public that focus on supporting J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation
- Engage in other activities related to the maintenance, sustainability, preservation, and promotion of J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation



[More information can be found here.](#)

