



DISCOVERY DAY CAMP



2026 PARENT GUIDEBOOK



Welcome!

Our team is excited to offer Summer Camp programs to your family. Summer Camp is a time for young people to build relationships, feel a part of a community, spend time outdoors and most importantly HAVE FUN! Included in this guidebook you will find information on a wide variety of topics including health and safety, packing lists, daily schedules, and helpful parent tips. Please review all the information included in this guidebook, there are a few items that will require action from you prior to your child arriving at camp.

We will send additional information to you as your camp date approaches with more details regarding camper drop off and group assignments. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team.

See you soon!

Email: camping@northernstar.org

Phone: 612-261-2303

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Overview of Camp Program

Camp Northern Star Mission

From our camp staff to our volunteers, we prepare young people to be leaders and individuals of strong character in a safe and inclusive environment.

Why day camps?

Camp Northern Star has been offering our community Day Camp programs for several years to provide program and welcome non-scout members of our community into our camps.

Day Camp programs allow families to stay close to home, come together in smaller groups, and still experience many of the same activities that they would at a traditional resident camp program.

How will days be structured?

8:00 am	Early Camper drop off (requires sign-up ahead of time)
9:00 am	Camper Drop Off
9:15 am- 11:30 am	Morning Activities
11:30 - 12:00 pm	Lunch (bring your own lunch)
12:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Afternoon Activities
2:00 pm	Snack/Rest Time
2:15 pm	Afternoon Activities Continued
4:00 pm	Camper Pickup
5:00 pm	Late Camper Pick Up (requires sign-up ahead of time)

Activities

All aspects of the program have been designed to be appropriate Kindergarten – 6th grade youth and staff will adapt specific games and activities to fit the specific age groups and ability levels. Activities may vary by camp location and program. You can expect activities such as the following at each session:

- Team Building
- Outdoor Skills
- Nature
- Crafts
- STEM
- Archery
- Aquatics (varies by location)

Consistency Across Camp Locations

Discovery Day Camp is offered at five camp locations over multiple sessions and delivering a consistent program across all locations is our priority. Our staff have been trained using same curriculum and will be provided the same materials/equipment. We want to make sure that all campers that attend camp this summer get the same high-quality program. Consistency is key, however each of our properties have unique options such as climbing, different water features, and fitness courses for your camper to experience. We expect and welcome campers to attend more than one session!

Camp Locations

Base Camp

6201 Bloomington Rd, Fort Snelling MN 55111

Phillippo Scout Camp

30654 32nd Ave Way, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Kiwanis Scout Camp

15987 St Croix Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

Rum River Scout Camp

15659 St Francis Blvd NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

Camp Horace Johnson

7200 Rice Lake Rd, Duluth, MN 55803

Tomahawk Scout Camp

N1910 Scout Road, Birchwood, WI 54817

Programs Offered: Discovery Day Camp (K-6th Grade), Discovery Adventure Camp (6-9th grade)

Emergency Contact at Camp

Each location Camp will have a lead staff member on site all week when campers are present. Site specific contact information will be shared in an email prior to the start of camp (via email).

If you have an emergency and you are not able to get a hold of the site leader you can contact the Council office directly and they will help relay messages.

Camping Customer Service (Monday-Friday 8-5)

Phone: 612-261-2303

Email: camping@northernstar.org

Kendra Burbank (Base Camp Location)

Phone: 612-261-2471

Email: keburbank@northernstar.org

Victoria Hurley (All Other Camp Locations)

Phone: 612-261-2452

Email: vhurley@northernstar.org



Daily Packing List

Please make sure your child(ren) are prepared with everything that they need for the day. We are going to spend most of our day outdoors weather permitting. Dressing in layers is recommended since temperatures are typically cooler in the morning and warmer in the afternoon. Please also make sure that campers wear closed toe shoes so that they can safely run in.

- Camp & Activities Participant Waiver/Health Form – please complete and sign all 3 pages.
- Lunch – we will not be able to guarantee refrigeration at each site. Please plan accordingly.
- Snack – we will have a rest/snack time built into the schedule each day. Please choose a nut free option.
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen – please apply sunscreen prior to arriving at camp, staff can assist with reapplication as needed.
- Bug spray
- Medications - please note these on your health history form and inform staff at drop off, must be in original container
- Rain Jacket
- Close toe tennis shoes - please avoid sending your camper in sandals.
- Swimsuit & Towel (You will be informed prior to camp which day campers will need a swimsuit)
- Optional Items –hat, sunglasses

We do not recommend sending your camper with trading cards, cell phones or personal electronic devices, they will be asked to keep them in their backpack during the day if they have them.

We **strongly** recommend putting your campers name or initials on any personal items that they bring to camp each day.



Group Assignments

In order to run our camp as effectively as possible, we split up all youth in the session into smaller groups. This allows us to maintain better youth-staff ratios and ensures everyone is always able to stay busy - they never need to wait their turn for an activity.

If you want your camper to be in a group with another camper, you can submit up to two names and we'll do our best to keep everyone together. Youth must be within 2 years of age to be grouped together. When registering, please enter the full name (first and last) of anyone else attending that session that you want your camper to be in a group with. Please note that generally the older camper will be moved to the younger group to accommodate skillset and therefore may miss some activities designated for our older campers.

Aquatics Activities

Many of our day camp locations will participate in swimming or aquatics activities, location specific details are below.

- Base Camp: Bussing to Local Public Pool
- Phillippo Scout Camp: Pool Swimming on site
- Kiwanis Scout Camp: Pool Swimming on site
- Rum River Scout Camp: Bussing to Local Public Pool
- Tomahawk Scout Camp: Lake Swimming on Site
- Camp Horace Johnson: Bussing to Local Public Pool

Swimming Qualifications at Phillippo, Kiwanis and Tomahawk

Our swimming areas are supervised by staff who are certified lifeguards and trained in CPR and First Aid. All participants will be required to stay in the shallow (learner) section unless they are able to pass a swimming test. Those that can pass with lifeguard approval will be allowed to move into the deep end.

Life jackets and flotation toys will be provided upon request. If you may also send personal life jackets or flotation devices for your child to use if you wish.

Swimming at Base Camp, Horace Johnson and Rum River

Our swimming areas are supervised by staff who are certified lifeguards and trained in CPR and First Aid. All participants will be required to stay in the shallow (learner) section unless they are able to pass a swimming test. Those that can pass with lifeguard approval will be allowed to move into the deep end.

Life jackets and flotation toys will be provided upon request. If you may also send personal life jackets or flotation devices for your child to use if you wish.

Camper Drop Off

Arriving on Site

Drop off can begin at 9:00AM, you must exit your vehicle and bring your child to our staff team to check in each day. If you arrive earlier than that, you might be asked to wait in your car until staff are ready to start the check in process. Look for signage and staff to direct you to the proper drop off point for your camper(s). On the first day (Monday) please be prepared to turn in a completed Camp & Activities Participant Waiver/Health Form. Make sure you have an emergency contact listed on the Health Form and if anyone else plans to drop off or pick up your child during the week, their names and phone numbers need to be listed as authorized persons. You will be asked to designate who will be picking up your camper at the end of the day and provide contact information for that individual. If you are dropping off past 9:30AM please contact your site directly to let them know you will be arriving late.

Extended Care - Early Drop Off

To participate in early drop off you must register your camper for it ahead of the start of camp for an additional fee. If you have not already registered your camper and would like to, go back into your registration, and add early drop off. Early drop off can start at 8:00AM and will follow all the same procedures above. Early drop off is not available at Tomahawk or Horace Johnson.

Camper Pick Up

Arriving for Pick Up

Pick up begins at 4:00 pm. If you need to pick up your camper early for any reason, please notify staff at check in so we can make sure they are ready. Please return to the same area that you dropped your camper off in the morning. You must exit your vehicle to check out your child each day, campers will not be sent to vehicles. **A photo ID is required each day at pickup.**

Extended Care - Late Pick Up

To participate in late pick up you must register your camper for it ahead of the start of camp for an additional fee. If you have not already registered your camper for it and would like to, you can go back to your registration and add late pick up. Late pick up goes till 5:00PM and will follow all pick up procedures as regular pick up. Late pickup is not available at Tomahawk or Horace Johnson.

Bussing Drop off/Pickup (select sites)

Bussing must be selected at time of registration and may incur additional fees. Please visit camp.northernstar.org/discovery to find your camps bussing options.

Camper Behavior Expectations

We know that camp is a great place for youth to learn and practice proper social behavior with others. Activities are designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and community and conflict can sometimes be a part of that learning process. Our staff are trained to facilitate and mediate these learning moments. However, it is important for our campers to respect each other and follow safety guidelines set by their site leader. In the unfortunate circumstance that we are unable to get a camper to listen and follow rules, we will notify you and ask that you pick your child up at camp. We cannot put the safety of other campers and staff at risk.

Our first response will be to make sure that everyone is safe. Once safety is established, we will explain the rules again to campers. If the camper is repeatedly breaking rules and not changing behavior, we will have to remove the camper from their small group and contact the parent for pick up. In the event behavior becomes reasonably unmanageable by camp leadership, camp reserves the right to send a child home for the remainder of the week. Refusal to pickup your camper will require our Camp Leadership to make a report to Child Protective Services to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing. In the event a camper is sent home for behavior listed below, a parent or other designated adult must pickup your camper within 30 minutes of notification of incident.

Examples of behavior that may result in a camper being sent home for the remainder or the day or week:

- Physical Aggression towards staff or other participants
- Explicit or derogatory language
- Refusal to follow safety instructions
- Refusal to take medications
- Refusing to remain with assigned group
- Stealing

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us prior to the start of your camp session.



Other Camp Policies

WEATHER POLICY & CANCELLATIONS

All our sites have indoor space available in case of inclement weather. We may remain outdoors in light rain events which is why it is important to pack a rain jacket with your camper. If the forecast shows a high likelihood of severe weather during the day – we will modify programs or rearrange schedules to work around weather changes.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

All events hosted by the Northern Star Camping Department utilize the same cancellation policy: Full payment is required at the time of registration. No partial or prorated fees will be issued for partial camp attendance or missed days.

Requests for cancellation/changes must be submitted in writing via email to camping@northernstar.org. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the camp director for family or medical emergencies. Cancellation timeline below:

- o 30 days prior to the start of your session = full refund less your deposit
- o 29 to 8 days prior to the start date of your session = full credit less your deposit
- o 7 or less days prior to the start date of your session = full forfeit of fees paid

ELECTRONICS POLICY

Use of cell phones, cameras or other electronic devices during program hours is prohibited. Such equipment, if present, will be asked to be put away or confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

CAMPING WITH WILDLIFE

While at camp, you will be exposed to a large variety of animals and plants that you may not be accustomed to. Our priority at camp is the safety of all participants and staff. All staff are all trained on what to do in case of unexpected interactions with wildlife.

MONEY AT CAMP

Our campers are welcome to bring spending money to camp with them each week to purchase items from the Trading Post (varies by location). Camp is not responsible for money brought to camp, and campers will be expected to manage holding their money and how they spend it. If you would not like your child to purchase items from the trading post, please do not allow them to bring money to camp.

PARENT PRO TIPS

REGISTERING FOR CAMP

Many of our camp sessions tend to fill quickly. For best guarantee that your child and their friends will be able to attend camp together, we recommend registering as early as possible.

HEALTH FORMS

Be sure to check out our forms early and review items you may need to collect prior to camp. Campers will not be permitted to attend day camp without a completed and accurate health form and waiver signed by a legal parent of guardian.

HOMESICKNESS

For many of our campers, this is their first time away from home for an extended period of time. For BOTH parents and youth this can be a difficult first experience away! Please know that our staff are experienced in assisting youth through hardship and will do everything in our power to create a positive (and full of adventure and distraction) environment. There may be times where we will allow your camper to make a call home to discuss a plan for remaining at camp, or returning home early.

IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Yes! We think that every camper should have an opportunity to attend Summer Camp and we do not want cost to hold anyone back from this experience. If you are in need, please complete the form linked in the "Related Articles" section at camp.northernstar.org/discovery to receive up to 50% of the youth cost covered.

MEALS AT CAMP

Camp does not provide lunch. Please pack a bag lunch each day. We do not guarantee access to refrigeration.

