

NORTHERN STAR SCOUTING

# WINTER ADVENTURES



FUN • GEAR • TRAINING

## PROGRAM CATALOG

2026



## TOP 10 REASONS TO GO WINTER CAMPING

### 1. STAYING WARM IS EASY

Our gear, training, and staff make staying warm easy. You don't need to have all the right stuff because we have you covered. Everything from sub-zero rated mummy bags to mittens and wool socks.

### 2. NO BUGS

There's no scrambling to zip up the tent door to keep the mosquitos out during the winter. They've settled down for a long winter's nap. Sit back and relax with confidence the bugs won't be biting.



### 3. BRAGGING RIGHTS

Winter camping is unique and it can be challenging to do on your own. Earn the Zero Hero award. Co-workers and classmates will be enthralled with your tails of adventure on Monday morning.

### 4. LEARN TO CAMP OUTSIDE 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

If you only camp in 30+ degree weather you're missing 1/3 of the camping experience. Let us show you what you're missing.



### 5. GREAT SLEEP

Winter camping is about comfort. You can bring more gear with you in a sled than you can in a backpack. Bring some extra cushion to sleep on - you've got the space. Zip into your cozy mummy bag and enjoy it.

### 6. TRAIL? WHAT TRAIL?

In deep snow you can make your own trails without hurting the ground beneath. Walk on water and explore more places and camp in more remote spaces.



### 7. NEW VIEWS

You thought you knew what our camps looked like, but then you get to camp and it is a whole new world. You can see farther and a blanket of snow gives these familiar areas a new personality.

### 8. STARRY NIGHTS

The stars are so much more vibrant in the winter time. With earlier sunsets you'll have more time to view the stars. Our staff will do a mini star gazing instruction during night hikes.



### 9. UNIQUE PROGRAMS

There are just some things you can't do in the summer: Snowshoeing, Cross Country Skiing, Tubing and more. Build a table out of snow and then cook on it.

### 10. WINTER SILENCE

A forest seems at rest under a blanket of snow. The structure of snow flakes absorb sound, so snow actually does make it a bit quieter outside.



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# Planning /Signing Up

## PROMOTING WINTER CAMPING TO YOUR UNIT

Plan a winter camping presentation in September to show the program options to your unit. If you'd like to have one of our staff come out and do a presentation for you, we will do so. We can bring examples of the gear, show a video, describe the programs, and answer questions. To request a presentation, scan the QR code below.



## SIGNING UP FOR WINTER CAMP

Go to [Camp.NorthernStar.org](http://Camp.NorthernStar.org) to register. Registration opens on October 1st at noon. Registration is first come, first served. A deposit is required per person to hold a spot in a program. Deposits range from \$25 to \$100 per person depending on the program.



## DOG SLEDDING LOTTERY

On Sept. 15th, a lottery for dog sledding spots will open. On Sept. 22, the lottery will close and the spots will be awarded. Any unfilled spots will become first-come, first-served on Oct. 1 alongside other programs registrations opening.



## FULL PAYMENT DEADLINES

Full payment is due December 15. Registrations left unpaid beyond deadline are subject to cancellation with deposits forfeit, and will be given to those on a waitlist.

More Information Online — [Camp.NorthernStar.org](http://Camp.NorthernStar.org)



## EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Introductory weekend program teaches participants how to stay warm while having fun in the great outdoors during the winter.

Sleep inside Friday night (Snow Base Only). Spend Saturday outdoors developing winter skills, teambuilding, cross country skiing, and playing broomball and engage in initiative games. Sleep inside on Saturday night or try sleeping outside in shelters around the bunkhouse. (There is limited outdoor sleeping for this program).



### ACTIVITIES

These activities are operated in a rotation. Some advancement requirements will be covered while participating.

- Cross Country Skiing
- Snow Shoeing and Nature Hike
- Snow Tubing
- Orienteering
- Team Building Games
- Winter Cooking
- Shelter Building

### LOCATION AND DATES



Offered at Tomahawk Scout Camp near Birchwood, WI,



Offered at Stearns Scout Camp near Clearwater, MN

- Jan. 9-11
- Jan. 16-18
- Jan. 23-25
- Jan. 30-Feb. 1
- Feb. 6-8
- Feb. 13-15
- Feb. 20-22
- Feb. 27-Mar. 1

- N/A
- Jan. 17-18
- Jan. 24-25
- Jan. 31-Feb. 1
- Feb. 7-8
- Feb. 14-15
- Feb. 21-22
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1

### REGISTRATION

Opens online on October 1st at noon. There is a \$25 deposit per person to hold your spot. Full payment is due December 15th.

### GRADE LEVEL

Recommended for 5th and 6th graders / Arrow of Light and first year Scout BSA Scouts.

### COST

North Wind (does not have Friday activities): \$81

Snow Base: \$88

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

- Sleep inside in bunkrooms on Friday (Snow Base Only)
- Sleep inside on Saturday night or individuals can try sleeping outside in shelters around the bunkhouse. (Outdoor sleeping limited).

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY (SNOW BASE ONLY)

- 7:30-8 pm Check-in, Move-in
- 8-10pm winter weather training.
- 10:00 pm Adult Leader Meeting
- 11:00 pm Lights out, all quiet

#### SATURDAY

- 8 am Breakfast (Snow Base Only)
- 9 am Arrival (North Wind Only)
- 9:30 am Outfitting and trail prep.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Afternoon activities
- 5:00 pm Return to Base Camp
- 6:00 pm Evening meal inside
- 7:00 pm Tubing, board games, or outdoor bedding training.
- 10:00 pm Lights out

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Morning Activity (Optional)
- Return gear, Grab and go lunch available, trading post open, Depart for home



## SPEARHEAD ADVENTURE

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spearhead is the next step in your winter training. Learn how to stay warm and cozy while sleeping outdoors in winter. Travel to a remote campsite to build your snow shelter, cook outdoors, and participate in winter activities before crawling into a 40 below rated mummy bag for bed.

### ACTIVITIES

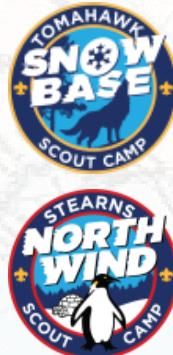
There are more activities than you can get done in one year. You will be asked to rank your choices to help us design the best combination of activities. Activities to choose from include:

- Winter Shelter Building
- Ice Climbing
- Kite Flying
- Geocaching/Orienteering
- Survival Challenges
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snow Shoeing
- Tubing
- Team Building Games
- Winter Escape Room
- Winter Cooking
- Snow Sports Merit Badge

### LOCATION AND DATES

This program is offered at Tomahawk Scout Camp, near Birchwood and Stearns Scout Camp near Clearwater, MN

- Jan. 9-11  
(Snow Base Only)
- Jan. 16-18
- Jan. 23-25
- Jan. 30-Feb. 1
- Feb. 6-8
- Feb. 13-15
- Feb. 20-22
- Feb. 27-Mar. 1



### REGISTRATION

Opens online on October 1st at noon. There is a \$25 deposit per person to hold your spot. Full payment is due December 15th.

### PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

Scouts can participate in Spearhead for multiple years and do different activities each winter. Choose an itinerary that's right for your group. You can make it harder or easier depending on your winter camp experience level.

### GRADE LEVEL

Recommended for 7th grade and above.

### COST

\$101/Participant

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Sleep inside Friday night and outside Saturday night. Everyone in your group should expect to sleep outside.

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

- 7:30-8 pm Check-in, Move-in
- 8-10 pm Check-out gear, winter weather training, pack sleds
- 10:00 pm Adult Leader Meeting
- 11:00 pm Lights out, all quiet

#### SATURDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am All crews on trail
- 10:30 am Start Shelters
- 12:30 pm Lunch in the crew site
- 1:00 pm Afternoon activities
- 4:00 pm Finish Shelters
- 5:00 pm Dinner preparation
- 6:00 pm Supper and campfire
- 8:00 pm Night hike
- 9:00 pm Lanterns out, all quiet

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:45 am Break camp, leave for Base Camp
- 10:30 am Check in Gear
- Trading Post and Grab and go lunch ready after gear check-in
- Depart after Grab and go lunch



## EXPEDITION ADVENTURE

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Expedition Program is the ultimate winter adventure for Scouts who have completed the Spearhead Program and are ready for the next level. Over the long weekend, participants will plan their route, take on survival challenges, and camp outdoors while exploring the property to its fullest. This provisional program is open to Scouts from any troop, with camp staff providing all adult leadership. Transportation is included, with departures from Base Camp on Friday night and returns on Monday afternoon.

### ACTIVITIES

There are more activities than you can get done in one year. You will be asked to rank your choices to help us design the best combination of activities. Activities to choose from include:

- Exploration Merit Badge
- Winter Shelter Building
- Ice Climbing
- Kite Flying
- Geocaching/Orienteering
- Survival Challenges
- Cross Country Skiing
- Team Building Games
- Winter Cooking

### LOCATION AND DATES

This program is offered at Tomahawk Scout Camp, near Birchwood and Stearns Scout Camp near Clearwater, MN

- Jan. 16-19 (Snow Base Only)
- Feb. 13-16 (North Wind only)



### REGISTRATION

Opens online on October 1st at noon. There is a \$25 deposit per person to hold your spot. Full payment is due December 15th.

### GRADE LEVEL

Recommended for 8th grade and above with previous winter camp experience

### COST

\$130/Participant

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Sleep inside Friday night and outside Saturday and Sunday night. Everyone in your group should expect to sleep outside.

### EXPLORATION MERIT BADGE

Complete the workbook at [USScouts.org](http://USScouts.org) for requirements 1-4 before your weekend. Requirement 8c needs to be completed after camp.

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

- 5:00 pm Pickup from Base Camp at Fort Snelling
- 6:00 pm Dinner in the van
- 7:00pm-8pm Check-in, Move-in
- 8-11 pm Check-out gear, winter weather training, pack sleds

#### SATURDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast at base
- 9:30 am All crews on trail
- Expedition Challenges.
- Lunch and Dinner on trail.
- 3:00pm Setup Camp
- Night Hike then to sleeping bags

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- Morning Expedition
- Lunch on trail
- Afternoon Expedition
- Supper at Campsite
- Night Hike then to sleeping bags

#### MONDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast at campsite
- Break Camp and return to base.
- Return gear 12:00pm Lunch
- Depart for Base Camp at Fort Snelling to arrive back by 3pm.



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# Dog Sledding

## DOG SLEDDING

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spend a weekend at our mushers camp where participants learn all about the sport of dog sledding with trained sled dogs.

Experience everything it takes to live and work with sled dogs under the guidance of an experienced musher. Each youth will ride in and drive a dog sled through the trails of Tomahawk.

### ACTIVITIES

- Dog Sledding
- Cross Country Skiing
- Tubing
- Shelter Building

### LOCATION AND DATES

This program is offered at Tomahawk Scout Camp, near Birchwood, WI.

- Jan. 9-11 (Snow Base Only)
- Jan. 16-18 (Snow Base Only)
- Jan. 23-25 (Snow Base Only)
- Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (Snow Base Only)
- Feb. 6-8 (Snow Base Only)
- Feb. 13-15 (Snow Base Only)
- Feb. 20-22 (Snow Base Only)
- Feb. 27-Mar. 1 (Snow Base Only)



### DOG SLEDDING LOTTERY

On September 15th, a lottery for dog sledding spots will open. On September 22nd, the lottery will close and the spots will be awarded. Any unfilled spots will be first-come, first-served on October 1st alongside registration for the other programs opening.

### GRADE LEVEL

Must be in 8th grade or higher to participate. Scouts should also have gone through a winter program at North Wind, Snow Base, OKPIK, or another winter program equivalent before they attend the dog sledding program.

### COST

\$269/youth, \$88/adult (adults don't ride). There is a non-refundable deposit of \$100 for youth upon registration to hold your spot.

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Sleep inside in bunkrooms on Friday and Saturday night. Option to sleep outside on Saturday night.

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

- 7:30-8 pm Check-in, Move-in
- 8-10 pm Check-out gear, winter weather training, Dog Training
- 11:00 pm Lights out, all quiet

#### SATURDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Group 1 mushes, Group 2 does activities.
- 10:30 am Start Shelters
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Group 2 mushes, Group 1 does activities.
- 4:00 pm Finish Shelters
- 5:00 pm Tubing
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm Night hike
- 9:00 pm Lights out, all quiet

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Short Dog Runs
- 11:00 am Turn in gear
- 11:00 am Trading Post open (until 1:30 pm)
- 12:00 pm Grab & Go lunch ready
- 1:00 pm Clean Up
- 1:30 pm Depart for Home



## ICE FISHING

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Scouts have the opportunity to earn the fishing merit badge as well as learning from MN's experienced ice anglers. Scouts will be outfitted with the latest fishing gear used by the pros, as well as North Wind gear to stay warm outside.

### ACTIVITIES

Learn to use an ice auger, electronic fish finding, how to use ice fishing rod, tip ups, bait, heated houses, cameras, learn techniques, proper fishing knots, rigging, mapping, lake Scouting, and fish cooking techniques. Learning all these skills guarantees ice fishing becomes a life-long hobby!



### LOCATION AND DATES

This program is offered at Stearns Scout Camp near Clearwater, MN. Stearns is 1.25 hours from the center of the Twin Cities Metro Area.

- Jan. 31–Feb. 1 (North Wind Only)
- Feb. 7-8 (North Wind Only)
- Feb. 14-15 (North Wind Only)



### REGISTRATION

Opens online on October 1st at noon. There is a \$25 deposit per person to hold your spot. Full payment is due December 15th.

### GRADE LEVEL

Recommended for 7th grade and above.

### COST

\$81 Youth or Adult Participant.  
\$40 Adult Non-Participant

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

The program will only occupy participants for Saturday. Friday night accommodations are not available

### FISHING LICENSE

Anyone fishing that is 16 years of age or older needs to have a Minnesota fishing license. This can be purchased online through the Minnesota DNR website.

### SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY

- 10:00 am Check in, Check out gear.
- 11:00 am instruction
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:30 pm Drive to lake - Ice Fishing
- 5:00 pm Return to camp
- 6:00 pm Fish Fry & Dinner
- 7:00 pm MB Completion
- 8:00 pm Return gear and depart for home (Optional)
- Also optional to sleep outside in shelters near the bunkhouse

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Morning Activity (Optional)
- Trading Post open and Grab and go lunch ready after final gear check-in
- Depart after Grab and go lunch



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# Search & Rescue

## SEARCH & RESCUE

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Specialty program designed to connect Scouts with Search and Rescue professionals, and learn how to save a life!

At this weekend program Scouts will be outfitted with warm winter gear before engaging in Search and Rescue activities and learning modules. Scouts have a chance to earn the Search and Rescue merit badge and learn how to help save lives.

### ACTIVITIES

- Lost camper
- Crash scenario,
- Falling through the ice rescues
- Search and Rescue merit badge



### LOCATION AND DATES

This program is offered at Stearns Scout Camp near Annadale, MN. Stearns is 1.25 hours from the center of the Twin Cities Metro Area.

- Jan. 17-18 (North Wind Only)
- Feb. 21-22 (North Wind Only)



### REGISTRATION

Opens online on October 1st at noon. There is a \$25 deposit per person to hold your spot. Full payment is due December 15th.

### GRADE LEVEL

Recommended for 7th grade and above.

### COST

\$81/Participant

### SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Sleep inside in bunkrooms on Saturday night. Option to sleep outside near base on Saturday night.

### SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY

- 9:00 am Check-in
- 9:30 am Check-out gear, winter weather training.
- 10:30 am Instruction
- 12:30 pm Lunch at base
- 1:30 pm Outside Instruction
- 3:00 pm Rescue Scenario
- 6:00 pm Supper and campfire
- 7:00 pm Night Search and night hike.
- 10:00 pm Lights out

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- Trading Post open and Grab and go lunch ready after final gear check-in
- Depart after Grab and go lunch

More Information Online — [Camp.NorthernStar.org](http://Camp.NorthernStar.org)



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**Packing List**

What You Need to Bring	What We Will Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular clothes</b> Come out to camp in regular clothes. Bring at least one change of socks and underwear.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sleeping Bag (for indoor use)</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pillow</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Pair of Top and Bottom Long Underwear</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2-3 Upper Body Warmth Layers</b> These layers should be of non-absorbing fabrics again like wool or polyester. Fleece or wool sweaters or vests are great. <u>Cotton should not be used here either.</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1-2 Lower Body Warmth Layers</b> These layers should be of non-absorbing fabrics again like wool or polyester. Fleece pants are great. <u>Cotton should not be used here either.</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Upper Body Shell Layer</b> This could be a standard winter coat or a raincoat. This layer helps keep out moisture and block the wind. If using a raincoat plan to bring an extra warmth layer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lip protection/Lip balm</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sunscreen</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sunglasses</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Toiletries</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Flashlight or headlamp</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Health Form (Parts A and B)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Trained Winter Camping Guide</b></li> <li>• <b>1 -40°F Mummy Sleeping Bag</b></li> <li>• <b>2 Foam Sleeping pads</b></li> <li>• <b>1 8'x10' Tarp</b></li> <li>• <b>4 Shovels per crew</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Gear Sled for you to share with a buddy</b></li> <li>• <b>We provide all the meals and snacks</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Cook Kit</b></li> <li>• <b>2 Lightweight Stoves</b></li> <li>• <b>2 Lanterns</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Fire Kit</b></li> <li>• <b>1 First Aid Kit</b></li> <li>• <b>Map and Compass</b></li> <li>• <b>Rope, Tape, Toilet Paper, Trash Bags</b></li> <li>• <b>Night Hike Activity Kit and Star Chart</b></li> <li>• <b>Balls for activities</b></li> <li>• <b>Program Supplies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ Snowshoes</li> <li>◊ Cross Country Skis</li> <li>◊ Tubing Tubes</li> <li>◊ Compasses and GPS Units</li> <li>◊ Star Charts, Maps, etc.</li> <li>◊ Ice Climbing gear</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Optional: Bring it if you have it. If you don't, we can provide it**

If you have comfortable and warm winter weather gear that is good quality, great! Our staff will inspect it and make sure it meets our gear standards before clearing it for trail. If you don't have your own gear, that's fine too! We can provide you with what you need to stay warm and have fun.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Plastic Bowl</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Plastic Mug</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Plastic Spoon</b> Metal utensils could stick to your tongue.</li> <li>• <b>2 Pair Polypropylene Sock liners</b></li> <li>• <b>2 Pair Warmth Layer Socks</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Pair Boots with extra liners</b> Boots Sizes 6 to 17. These boots have high uppers with a drawstring closure – gaiters are not be needed.</li> <li>• <b>1 Pair Mitten Shells</b></li> <li>• <b>2 Pair Mitten Inserts - Wool</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Pair Polypropylene Gloves</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Water bottle and carrier</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Hat for Day</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Hat for sleeping on trail</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Balaclava or Scarf or Face-cover</b> Something to cover you neck, face, and part of your head.</li> <li>• <b>Extra Warmth Layers</b></li> <li>• <b>Snow Pants or Wool Pants</b> We have wool pants and suspenders. Pant sizes range from 30" - 40" waist line. Sizes outside of this are limited so it is recommended if you have your own wool pants or synthetic snow pants to bring them.</li> </ul>
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**\*\*Do not bring cotton to wear on trail\*\***



Providing fun  
experiences that develop:  
**Character,**  
**Citizenship,**  
**Leadership,**  
**and Fitness.**



## LEARN MORE AT

[Camp.NorthernStar.org](http://Camp.NorthernStar.org)

## CONTACT US

Email [NorthWind@NorthernStar.org](mailto:NorthWind@NorthernStar.org)

or

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