

Massawepie 2020 Program Director's Note as of 5/15/2020

This Year our senior Staff team have been working to update and improve our camp program in a number of ways starting with some of our headline programs and program areas. We have been working to re-imagine our BarkEater program to more smoothly integrate the themes, experiences, and ceremony for each year while trying to update some of the ceremonies to be more immersive for the scouts. Likewise, we have been trying to re-work the Trailblazers program to refocus on really teaching core scout skills and immersing new scouts in the camp experience, while using open programs to offer opportunities to complete extra tenderfoot- first class requirements. I have also been working with many of our returning area directors and senior staff to improve everything from our staff week training programs to our staff experience throughout the summer. We are still seeking staff for a few key positions, especially for shooting sports and commissioners, but we have a strong base of returning junior and senior staff with many of our core areas like Handicraft, Scoutcraft, Sports, and Econ working with a majority of staff who have at least one year of experience in the area. We are also always seeking volunteers with specific expertise to assist and help train our staff. I am very confident about the team that we have brought together and am looking forward to seeing great things happen this summer.

We have also added two new Merit badges to our Handicraft program this summer and made a definitive split between classes taught at the Handicraft pavilion and those at the August Lodge. This summer Archeology, Indian Lore, Photography/Journalism, and our new badges, Citizenship in the Nation, and Signs signals and Codes will be taught at the August lodge, while our more conventional Handicraft badges will be taught at the pavilion. This is not the only way camp will look differently this summer, while we are confident that we will be able to operate for the summer, we are expecting to have to make accommodations to program and to a number of our procedures to keep our campers and staff safe for the summer and follow our mandates from the state. On the program side of things this means re-focusing on the ways that we use space while teaching classes and running open programs, and working on fun alternatives to some of the big events and activities that we may not be able to run as usual this summer. We have been considering ways to run a campfire program by visiting campsites, and alternatives to events like our end of week Carnival. It will be sad not to see all of these programs in the same way this summer, but it also presents a new opportunity to innovate and try some new things. I'm very confident that the team we have put together will be ready to collaborate and tackle these new challenges head on so that we can still create a great camping experience for all of our campers in 2020.

-Matthew Thurston

*If interested in volunteering during camp or helping during staff week, please call (585)-730-1001

Returning Area Directors in the Same Position

Abby Post, Trailblazers, Bark-Eater Director

Jacob Emery, Senior Commissioner

Rob Byers, Shooting Sports Director

Brandon Kornowski, Cope Director

Returning Area Directors

Chet Guenther, CIT, Outdoor Skills Director

Tyge Kelley, Dining Hall Steward

Chris Paul, Climbing Director

Holly Kurtz, Handicraft Director

Matt Stevens, Archery Director