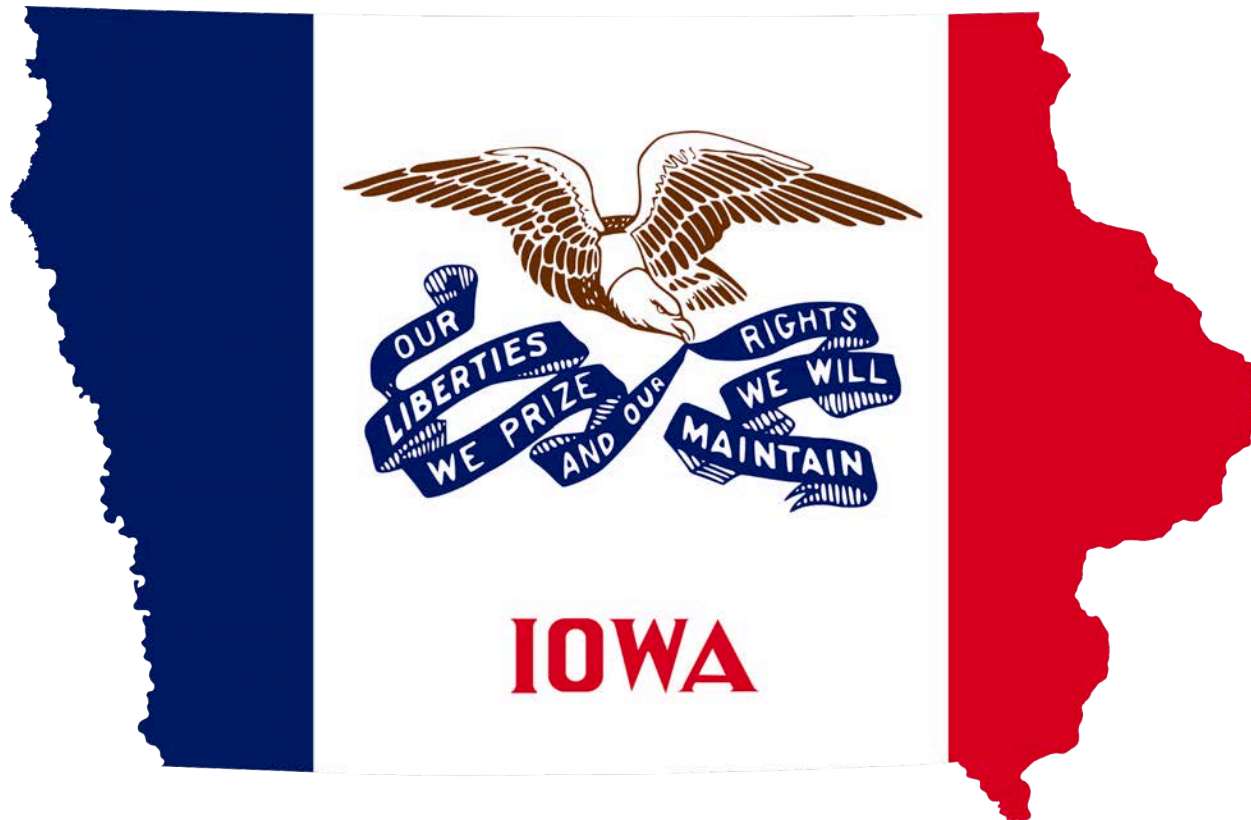


IOWA

Campgrounds and Scout Camps



Lake Iowa Scout Camp (Iowa)

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/county/iowa/Park/Lake-Iowa-Park/Facility/Scout-Camp>

Cost: Free

Phone: (319) 655-8465

Description

Lake Iowa Scout Camp, located in Iowa County, offers a serene outdoor experience for youth groups. The camp features level tent pads, a small enclosed building for gear storage or shelter during inclement weather, and amenities like picnic tables, fire rings, and pressurized water. It is available for youth groups to reserve free of charge from May 1 to September 30.

Lake Iowa Scout Camp is surrounded by several attractions that offer a mix of outdoor activities and relaxation. Here are some highlights:

- 1) **Lake Iowa Park:** Just nearby, this park offers camping, fishing, hiking trails, and a beach for swimming. It's a great spot for nature lovers.
- 2) **Lake Iowa Nature Center:** Located within Lake Iowa Park, this center features educational exhibits, a butterfly garden, and programs for all ages.
- 3) **Amana Colonies:** A historic site with charming shops, restaurants, and museums showcasing German heritage and craftsmanship. It's a delightful cultural experience.

Reservations: Call (319) 655-8465.



Wildcat Den State Park (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/wildcat-den-state-park>

Cost: Youth group from \$25/night

Phone: 563-263-4337

Description

Wildcat Den State Park, located in Muscatine County, Iowa, is a picturesque destination known for its stunning natural beauty and rich history. The park features unique geological formations, including sandstone bluffs, "Steamboat Rock," and the "Devil's Punch Bowl," which can be explored through its diverse hiking trails. Visitors can also step back in time by visiting the historic Pine Creek Grist Mill, built in 1848, and the Melpine Schoolhouse, a one-room school from the turn of the century.

The park offers primitive camping facilities, picnic shelters, and opportunities for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. It's a favorite spot for outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs alike, providing a perfect blend of adventure and tranquility. Whether you're hiking, exploring historic landmarks, or simply enjoying the serene surroundings, Wildcat Den State Park is a must-visit destination in Iowa.

Reservations:

https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/wildcat-den-state-park/r/campsiteSearch.do?search=site&criteria=new&book-sites=new&page=siteresult&contractCode=IA&parkId=610122#sr_a



Palisades-Kepler State Park (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/palisades-kepler-state-park>

Cost: Youth Site from \$20/night

Phone: 319-895-6039

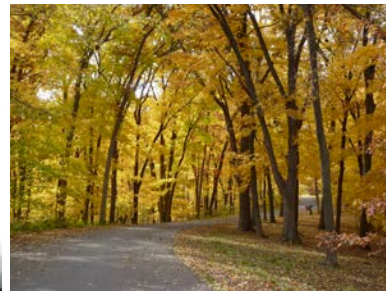
Description

Palisades-Kepler State Park, located in Linn County, Iowa, is a scenic 840-acre park along the Cedar River. Known for its dramatic river bluffs, deep ravines, and lush hardwood forests, the park offers a variety of outdoor activities. Visitors can explore five miles of rugged hiking trails, enjoy fishing for bass, catfish, and walleye, or launch a boat from the modern ramp. The park also features historic structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, adding a rustic charm.

Camping options include electric and non-electric sites, as well as modern family cabins. The park's stone lodge and picnic shelters are perfect for gatherings. With its rich history, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes, Palisades-Kepler State Park is a must-visit destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/palisades-kepler-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610113>



Stephen's Forest Campground (Iowa)

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/explore/stephens-forest-campground/IA/610147/12881/campsite-booking?nextAvailableDate=false>

Cost: Youth from \$15/night

Phone: (515) 281-5918

Description

Stephens Forest Campground, part of Stephens State Forest in Iowa, offers a serene escape into nature. Spanning over 15,000 acres across multiple units, the forest provides diverse recreational opportunities. The Lucas and Whitebreast Units are the most developed, featuring campgrounds, stocked ponds for fishing, and trails for hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife observation. The Woodburn Unit offers backpacking trails and pack-in campsites for a more rustic experience. Other units, like Cedar Creek and Unionville, are less developed but ideal for hunting and exploring.

The campground is known for its peaceful atmosphere, scenic landscapes, and opportunities to connect with the outdoors. Whether you're camping, hiking, or simply enjoying the tranquility, Stephens Forest Campground is a great destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Reservations:

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/explore/stephens-forest-campground/IA/610147/12881/campsite-booking?availStartDate=2025-04-25&arrivalDate=2025-04-25&lengthOfStay=1&productVehicleOccupantQuantity=0&nextAvailableDate=false&dynamicUpdate=true>



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca (Iowa)

<https://campiodiseca.org/>

Cost: Varies

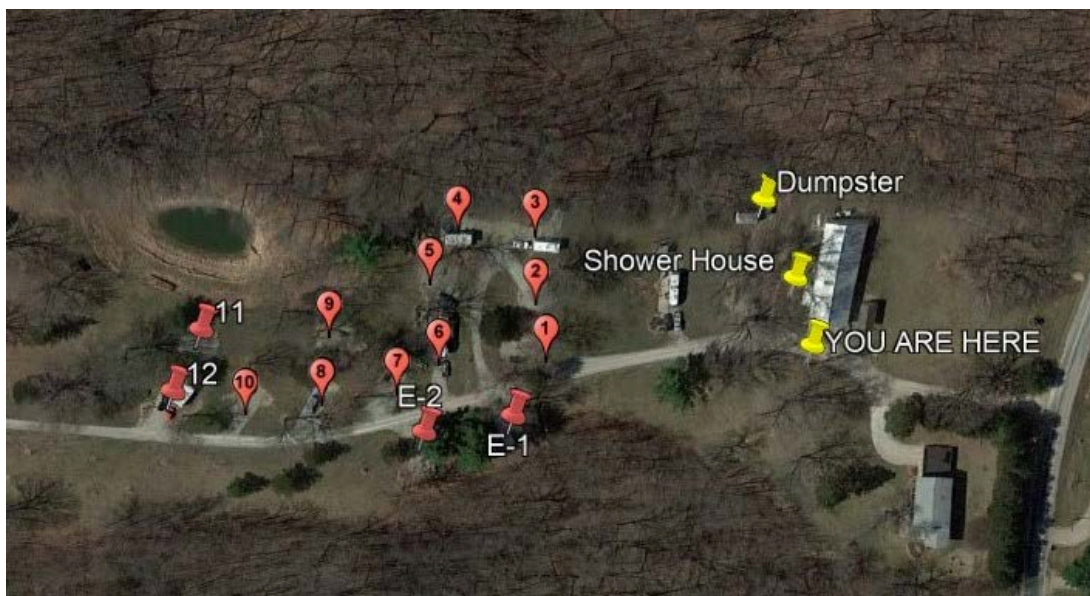
Phone: (319) 848-4187

Description

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, located in Solon, Iowa, is a year-round outdoor recreational and camping facility affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The camp's mission is to provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for individuals and groups of all ages. It offers a variety of programs, including summer camps for youth, retreats, and family events, all designed to nurture faith and foster community.

The camp features versatile facilities, including cabins, a dining hall, and outdoor activity areas. Activities range from canoeing and archery to zip-lining and Bible studies, making it a perfect blend of adventure and spiritual growth. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca emphasizes the use of God's natural creation as a way to teach and inspire, creating a meaningful experience for all who visit.

Reservations: <https://campiodiseca.org/rental/>



Rock Creek State Park (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/rock-creek-state-park>

Cost: Youth from \$20/night

Phone: 641-236-3722

Description

Rock Creek State Park, located near Kellogg, Iowa, is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The park features the beautiful Rock Creek Lake, which offers opportunities for boating, fishing, and paddling. Anglers can enjoy fishing for species like crappie, bluegill, bass, and catfish along the lake's 15 miles of shoreline. The park also provides over eight miles of multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding, and winter activities like skiing and snowmobiling.

With nearly 200 campsites, including options near the water's edge, the park is a favorite for campers. Amenities include modern restrooms, picnic shelters, and a playground. Visitors can also rent boats and purchase fishing supplies at the park's marina. Rock Creek State Park is a serene getaway, offering a mix of recreation and relaxation in central Iowa.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/campsiteFilterAction.do?sitefilter=Youth%20Group%20Only&startIdx=0&contractCode=IA&parkId=610137>



Pilot Knob State Park (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/pilot-knob-state-park>

Cost: Youth sites from \$15/night

Phone: 641-581-4835

Description

Pilot Knob State Park, located near Forest City, Iowa, is one of the state's oldest parks, established in 1923. The park is renowned for its unique natural features, including the iconic Pilot Knob Observation Tower, which offers breathtaking views and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can explore a variety of trails, including equestrian paths, and enjoy activities like hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing during the winter months.

A standout feature of the park is Deadman's Lake, a rare floating sphagnum bog that supports unique wildlife and plant species. The park also offers a 15-acre lake for fishing, camping facilities with modern amenities, and reservable shelters for gatherings. With its blend of history, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities, Pilot Knob State Park is a must-visit destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/campsiteFilterAction.do?sitefilter=Youth+Group+Only&startIdx=0&contractCode=IA&parkId=610140>



Ledges State Park Campgrounds (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/ledges-state-park>

Cost: Youth Site from \$25/night

Phone: 515-432-1852

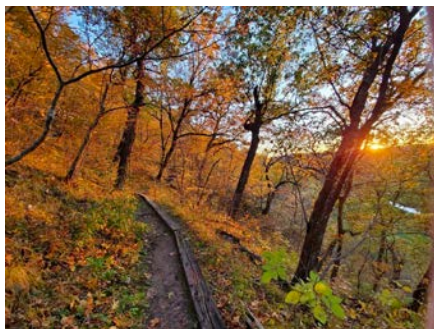
Description

Ledges State Park Campground, located near Madrid, Iowa, is a popular destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The campground offers a mix of modern and primitive campsites, including hike-in options for those seeking a more adventurous experience. Amenities include modern restrooms, showers, and a playground, making it family-friendly. The park is known for its stunning sandstone cliffs, scenic trails, and the iconic Pea's Creek "canyon," which visitors can explore on foot.

The campground is open seasonally, with all sites available by reservation. Ledges State Park also features historic structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, adding a touch of history to its natural beauty. Whether you're hiking, camping, or enjoying a picnic, the park provides a serene and picturesque escape.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/campsiteFilterAction.do?sitefilter=Youth+Group+Only&startIdx=0&contractCode=IA&parkId=610148>



Pinicon Ridge Park Campground (Iowa)

<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/965/Pinicon-Ridge-Park>

Cost: Youth Sites from \$65/night

Phone: (319) 438-6616

Description

Pinicon Ridge Campground, located within Pinicon Ridge Park in Central City, Iowa, is a scenic destination along the Wapsipinicon River. The campground offers a variety of sites, including modern options with electricity and water, as well as primitive sites for a more rustic experience. Amenities include restrooms, showers, fire rings, and picnic tables, ensuring a comfortable stay for campers. The park also features group camping areas and cozy cabins available for reservation.

Visitors can enjoy a range of activities, such as hiking, fishing, canoeing, and wildlife observation. The park's observation tower provides stunning views of the surrounding landscape, and the Alexander Wildlife Exhibit adds an educational touch. With its natural beauty and recreational opportunities, Pinicon Ridge Campground is a perfect getaway for families and outdoor enthusiasts.

Reservations: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Linn/Facility/Search>



Bailey's Ford Park (Iowa)

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Delaware/Park/Baileys-Ford-Park>

Cost: Varies

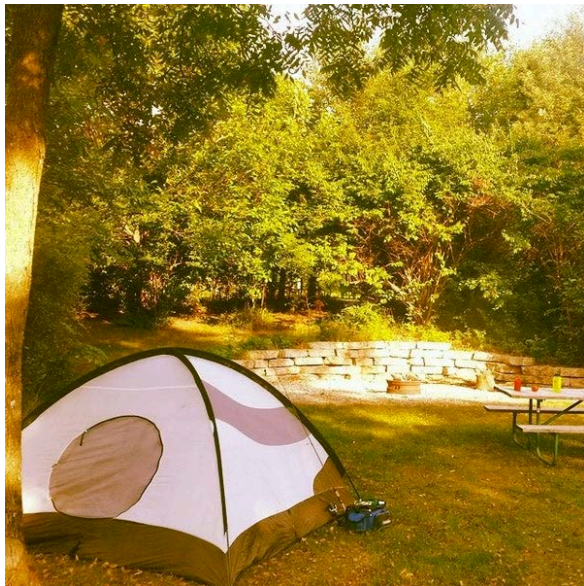
Phone: (563) 927-3410

Description

Bailey's Ford Park, located near Manchester, Iowa, is a serene 170-acre park along the Maquoketa River. It offers a variety of outdoor activities, including trout fishing in the Spring Branch Trout Stream, which is regularly stocked by the Iowa DNR. The park features over three miles of hiking trails, picnic shelters, and camping facilities, including modern and primitive sites. Visitors can also enjoy a playground, sand volleyball court, and opportunities for wildlife observation.

The park's rich history dates back to 1838 when Joel Bailey, one of Delaware County's first settlers, established a cabin and post office in the area.

Reservations: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/county/Delaware/Park/Baileys-Ford-Park>



Wapsipinicon State Park Campground (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/wapsipinicon-state-park>

Cost: From \$10/night

Phone: 319-462-2761

Description

Wapsipinicon State Park, located near Anamosa, Iowa, is one of the state's oldest parks, established in 1923. The park is known for its unique geological features, including the Horse Thief Cave and Ice Cave, which are steeped in history and legend. Visitors can explore over three miles of multi-use trails that wind through wooded areas and open prairies, offering opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

The park also features the Wapsipinicon River, a popular spot for fishing and boating, with species like catfish, bass, and crappie. Historic structures, such as stone bridges and shelters, were handcrafted by prisoners from the nearby Anamosa State Penitentiary, adding a rich historical element to the park.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/campsiteFilterAction.do?sitefilter=Walk%20To&startIdx=0&contractCode=IA&parkId=610132>



Spook Cave and Campground (Iowa)

<https://spookcave.com/>

Cost: Varies

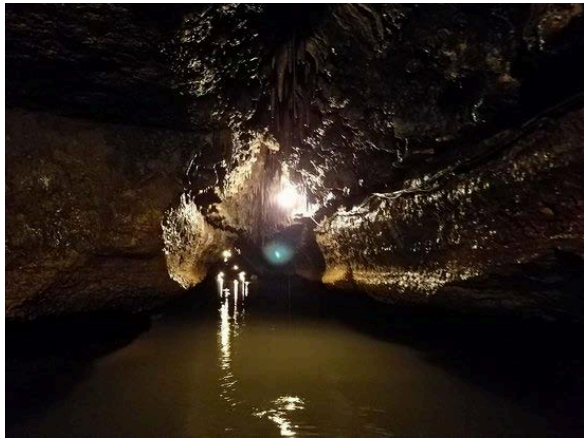
Phone: 563-539-4114

Description

Spook Cave, located near McGregor, Iowa, is a unique attraction offering guided boat tours through a water-filled cave. Discovered in 1953 and opened to the public in 1955, the cave is part of a scenic 93-acre property featuring a campground and cabins. Visitors can enjoy fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities in the surrounding Driftless Area, known for its karst topography and natural beauty.

The cave tour is a highlight, providing a fascinating journey through dark, winding passageways with unique rock formations. The campground offers modern amenities, including cabins, RV sites, and tent camping, making it a family-friendly destination. Spook Cave combines adventure, relaxation, and natural wonder, making it a must-visit spot in Northeast Iowa.

Reservations: <https://spookcave.com/reservations/>



CS Klaus Scout Camp (Iowa)

<https://scoutsiowa.org/camping/scout-camp/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (563) 556-4343

Description

Camp C.S. Klaus, located in a scenic 200-acre wooded valley near Colesburg, Iowa, offers an enriching and adventurous experience for Scouts of all ages. The camp features a beautiful lake, natural waterfalls, and trails for various skill levels. It provides a range of activities, including merit badge programs, rank advancement opportunities, and high-adventure experiences like COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) courses and a 40-foot climbing tower.

Scouts can participate in camp-wide games, campfires, and unique events like the Camp Klaus Water Follies. The camp also emphasizes skill-building through competitions and activities in areas like Scoutcraft, ecology, and aquatics. With platform tents, private showers, and a renovated dining hall, Camp Klaus ensures a comfortable yet adventurous stay. It's a place where Scouts can grow, learn, and create lasting memories.

Reservations: <https://campreservation.com/178/Camps/208>



Howard H Cherry Scout Camp (Iowa)

<https://hawkeyebsa.org/Camping/HHCSR/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (319) 438-1837

Description

The Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation, located near Waubeek, Iowa, is a premier Scouting America camp under the Hawkeye Area Council. Spanning 500 acres, the reservation offers year-round programs and activities for Scouts and the community. It features two main camps: Camp Waubeek and Camp Wakonda. While Camp Waubeek was auctioned off in 2023, Camp Wakonda remains active, hosting summer camps and various Scouting events.

The reservation boasts impressive facilities, including the Dakin Dining Hall, which accommodates up to 350 people, and the Allsop Outdoor Education Center, a versatile space for winter camping and retreats. Scouts can enjoy activities like swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding at John's Lake, as well as shooting sports and the Aegon Challenge Course with a 300-foot zip line and a 50-foot climbing center. The camp emphasizes leadership, skill-building, and outdoor adventure, making it a cherished destination for Scouts.

History

The Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation has a rich history dating back to 1930. It began when the council's lease on Camp Mishawaka in Stone City, Iowa, expired. Howard H. Cherry contributed \$1,000 to purchase 18 acres of land along the Wapsipinicon River near Waubeek, Iowa, leading to the opening of Camp Waubeek in 1931. The camp was established with the support of the Cedar Rapids American Legion's Hanford Post #5.

As the council grew, so did the need for more space. In 1957, Howard H. Cherry donated \$14,000 to acquire an additional 125 acres. Later, in 1965, he contributed \$25,000 to purchase 265 more acres, which allowed the council to open a second camp, Camp Wakonda. Today, the reservation spans 500 acres and serves Scouts year-round with a variety of programs and facilities



Reservations: <https://hawkeyebsa.org/Camping/HHCSR/>

JV Vineyard and Tree House (Iowa)

<https://jvvineyard.com/camping/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (712) 652-3760

Description

JV Vineyard and Retreat, located in Scranton, Iowa, offers a unique and serene getaway experience. The property features a beautifully renovated historic barn with lodging, event space, and a licensed kitchen. Guests can enjoy secluded camping options, including treehouse camping on a 20x40-foot platform overlooking a ravine and creek bed. The treehouse includes an eight-person tent, a firepit with a cooking grate, and access to modern amenities like showers and restrooms.

The retreat spans over 40 acres of timber, perfect for exploring, and includes a stocked pond for catch-and-release fishing, kayaking, and paddleboarding. Visitors can also stroll through the vineyard, meet farm animals, and shop for local products like jellies, jams, and baked goods. JV Vineyard and Retreat is an ideal destination for reconnecting with nature, hosting events, or simply relaxing in a peaceful environment.

At JV Vineyard and Retreat, you can enjoy a variety of activities that connect you with nature and provide a peaceful escape. Some highlights include:

- **Treehouse Camping:** Stay on a unique platform in the trees, complete with an eight-person tent and a cozy firepit for outdoor cooking.
- **Pond Adventures:** Enjoy catch-and-release fishing or explore the pond with kayaking and paddleboarding.
- **Exploration:** Wander through 40 acres of timberland, perfect for hiking and immersing yourself in the tranquil environment.
- **Farm Experiences:** Meet and interact with friendly farm animals and learn more about rural life.
- **Relaxation in the Vineyard:** Stroll through the scenic vineyard, soaking in the sights and sounds of nature.
- **Shopping for Local Goods:** Browse and buy homemade items like jellies, jams, and baked goods made on-site.
- **Event Hosting:** Utilize the renovated barn with a licensed kitchen for celebrations, retreats, or gatherings.

Reservations: <https://jvvineyard.com/camping/>



Lake MacBride (Iowa)

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/lake-macbride-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610119>

Cost: varies

Phone: (319) 624-2200

Description

Lake Macbride State Park, located near Solon, Iowa, is the state's largest park, offering a wide range of outdoor activities across its 2,180 acres. The park features two campgrounds: a modern campground with full and electric hookups, showers, and restrooms, and a non-modern campground with a more rustic setting. Both campgrounds are nestled in scenic wooded valleys, providing a peaceful retreat for visitors.

The park is centered around Lake Macbride, where guests can enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, and swimming at the designated beach area. Multi-use trails wind around the lake, offering opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and exploring Iowa's natural beauty. During the winter months, activities like cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular.

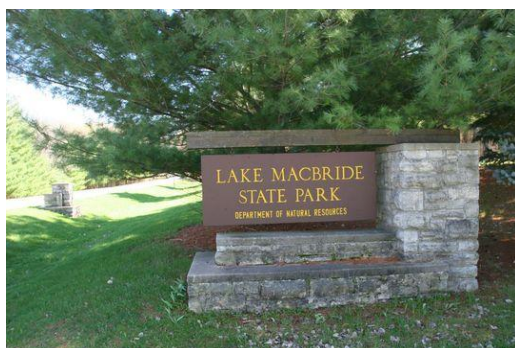
Lake Macbride State Park is a year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with amenities and activities that cater to families, adventurers, and nature lovers alike.

Lake Macbride State Park in Iowa offers a wide range of activities for outdoor enthusiasts:

- **Water Activities:** Enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, and swimming at the designated beach area.
- **Hiking and Birdwatching:** Explore miles of multi-use trails that wind through oak-hickory forests and restored prairies, perfect for spotting native birds and wildlife.
- **Camping:** Stay at modern or non-modern campgrounds, with options for full hookups or a more rustic experience.
- **Picnicking:** Relax at picnic areas or reserve shelters for gatherings.
- **Winter Fun:** During colder months, try cross-country skiing or snowmobiling.
- **Boating Rentals:** Rent pontoons, motorboats, canoes, kayaks, or paddleboards to explore the lake.

Reservations:

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/lake-macbride-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610119>



Mitigwa Scout Camp (Iowa)

<https://camppreservation.com/177/Camps/728>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (515) 438-2351

Description

Mitigwa Scout Reservation, located near Madrid, Iowa, is a cherished destination for Scouts in the Mid-Iowa Council. Spanning over 460 acres of rolling valleys and ridges, the camp offers a variety of outdoor adventures and facilities. Lake Fisher, a man-made lake, provides opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and small boat sailing. The camp also features a 30-foot rappelling tower, a COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) course with a 400-foot zipline, and year-round wood-heated cabins.

Mitigwa emphasizes skill-building, leadership, and camaraderie through its diverse programs, including merit badge opportunities and inter-troop competitions. With its scenic beauty and rich history, the camp continues to inspire Scouts and create lasting memories.

History

Mitigwa Scout Camp, established in 1923, has a rich history as a cornerstone of Scouting in Iowa. Originally located in the Adel area, the camp moved to its current site near Madrid, Iowa, in 1923. Over the decades, it has provided countless Scouts with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build friendships, and connect with nature.

The camp has weathered significant historical events, including the Great Depression, World War II, and more recent challenges like the pandemic, without missing a single summer of Scouting. It has also been home to the Mitigwa Lodge, a chapter of the Order of the Arrow, since 1951. The lodge continues to uphold the camp's traditions and values, fostering a sense of community and service among Scouts.

Reservations: <https://camppreservation.com/177/Camps/728>



Eden Valley Bunkhouse (Iowa)

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/county/clinton/park/eden-valley-refuge/facility/eden-valley-bunkhouse>

Cost: \$60 / Night

Phone: (563) 847-7202

Description

The Eden Valley Bunkhouse, located within the Eden Valley Refuge in Clinton County, Iowa, offers a cozy and rustic retreat for visitors. This 12-bed facility is perfect for group stays, such as Scout outings, family gatherings, or retreats. Nestled in a serene natural setting, the bunkhouse provides easy access to the park's amenities, including scenic hiking trails, a swinging bridge, and an observation tower with stunning views.

Guests can enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the refuge, which features limestone bluffs, forested hills, and Bear Creek. The park also offers camping options, a nature center, and picnic shelters, making it a versatile destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The Eden Valley Bunkhouse is an ideal spot for reconnecting with nature and enjoying a relaxing getaway.

Reservations:

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/county/clinton/park/eden-valley-refuge/facility/eden-valley-bunkhouse>



Walking Stick Adventures TiPi Camping (Iowa)

<https://walkingstickadventurescom.wordpress.com/about/tipi-camping/>

Cost: From \$104/night

Phone: (319) 329-9821

Description

Walking Stick Adventures TiPi Camping, located in Williamsburg, Iowa, offers a unique and private camping experience on a restored 4-acre prairie. Guests can stay in a spacious tipi, complete with amenities like a fire ring, cooking equipment, and a hammock. The site also features a small pond for kayaking, canoeing, and fishing, as well as trails for exploring the peaceful surroundings.

Campers have access to a rustic restroom with an outdoor shower, along with water and electricity at the campsite. The property is pet-friendly and provides a serene escape while being conveniently located near attractions like the Amana Colonies and Fireside Winery. Walking Stick Adventures TiPi Camping is perfect for families, friends, or anyone seeking a memorable outdoor adventure.

Reservations:

<https://www.hipcamp.com/en-US/land/iowa-walking-stick-adventures-tipi-camp-49mxh10n?adults=6&children=4&srId=3f5aa7fd-380e-41fe-a4bc-6aa12404863b&arrive=2025-07-18&depart=2025-07-20>



Ingawanis Adventure Base (Iowa)

<https://www.winnebagoCouncil.org/iab/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (319) 352-5880

Description

Ingawanis Adventure Base, located near Waverly, Iowa, is a scenic and versatile camp owned by the Winnebago Council, Boy Scouts of America. The camp spans wooded rolling hills and offers direct access to the Cedar River, making it an ideal destination for outdoor adventures. Activities include tent and cabin camping, canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, and high-adventure programs like COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) courses.

The camp is designed for Scouts of all ages, with programs that emphasize leadership, teamwork, and outdoor skills. Ingawanis Adventure Base also hosts events like day camps, family campouts, and long-term camps, providing a rustic yet enriching experience for participants. Its natural beauty and diverse activities make it a cherished spot for Scouts and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Reservations: <https://mycouncil.winnebagoCouncil.org/reservations>



Backbone State Park (Iowa)

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/backbone-state-park>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (563) 924-2527

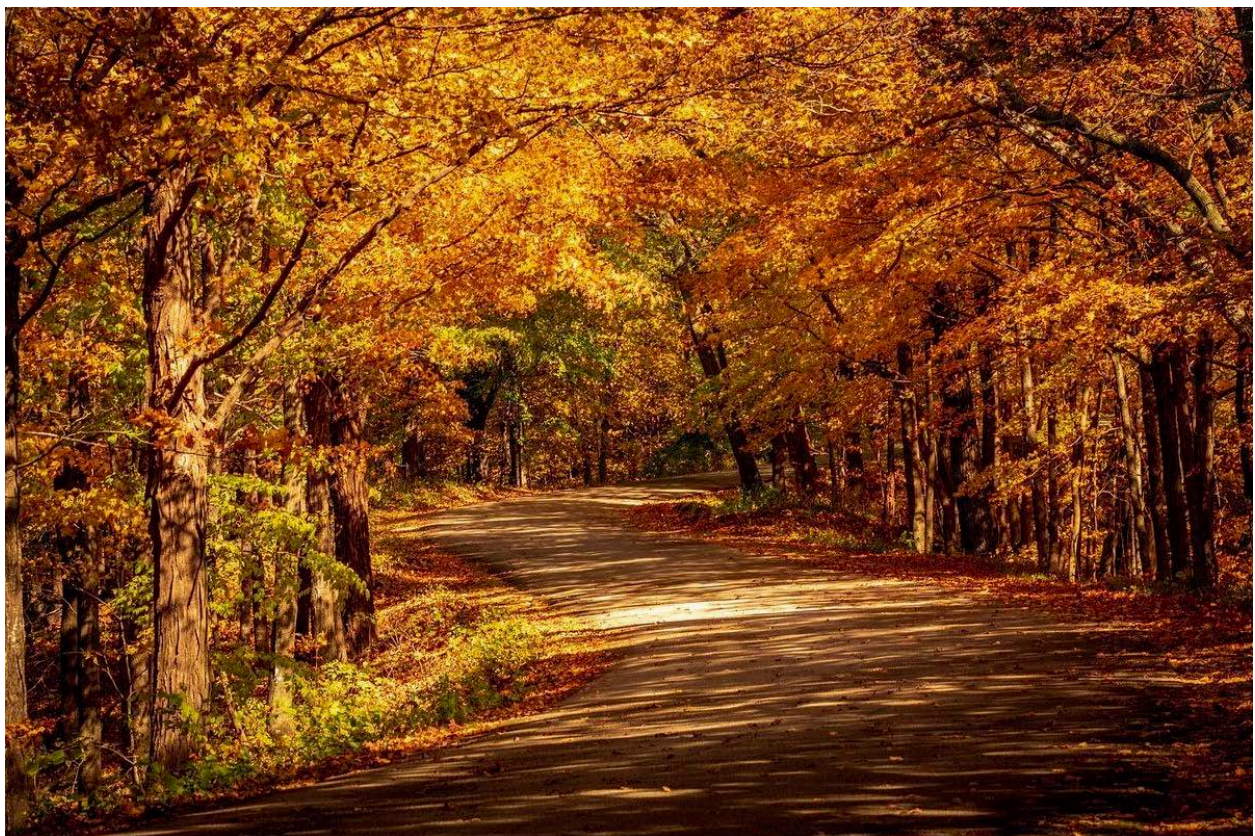
Description

Backbone State Park, located near Dundee, Iowa, is the state's oldest state park, established in 1919. Spanning over 2,000 acres, the park is named after the "Devil's Backbone," a narrow ridge of bedrock carved by the Maquoketa River. It offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, rock climbing, fishing, and boating. The park features a 21-mile trail system, trout streams, Backbone Lake, and opportunities for camping in cabins or campgrounds.

The park's rich history includes development by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s, which built many of its trails, cabins, and the Backbone Lake Dam. Backbone State Park is a haven for nature lovers and adventure seekers, offering stunning landscapes and a chance to explore Iowa's natural beauty.

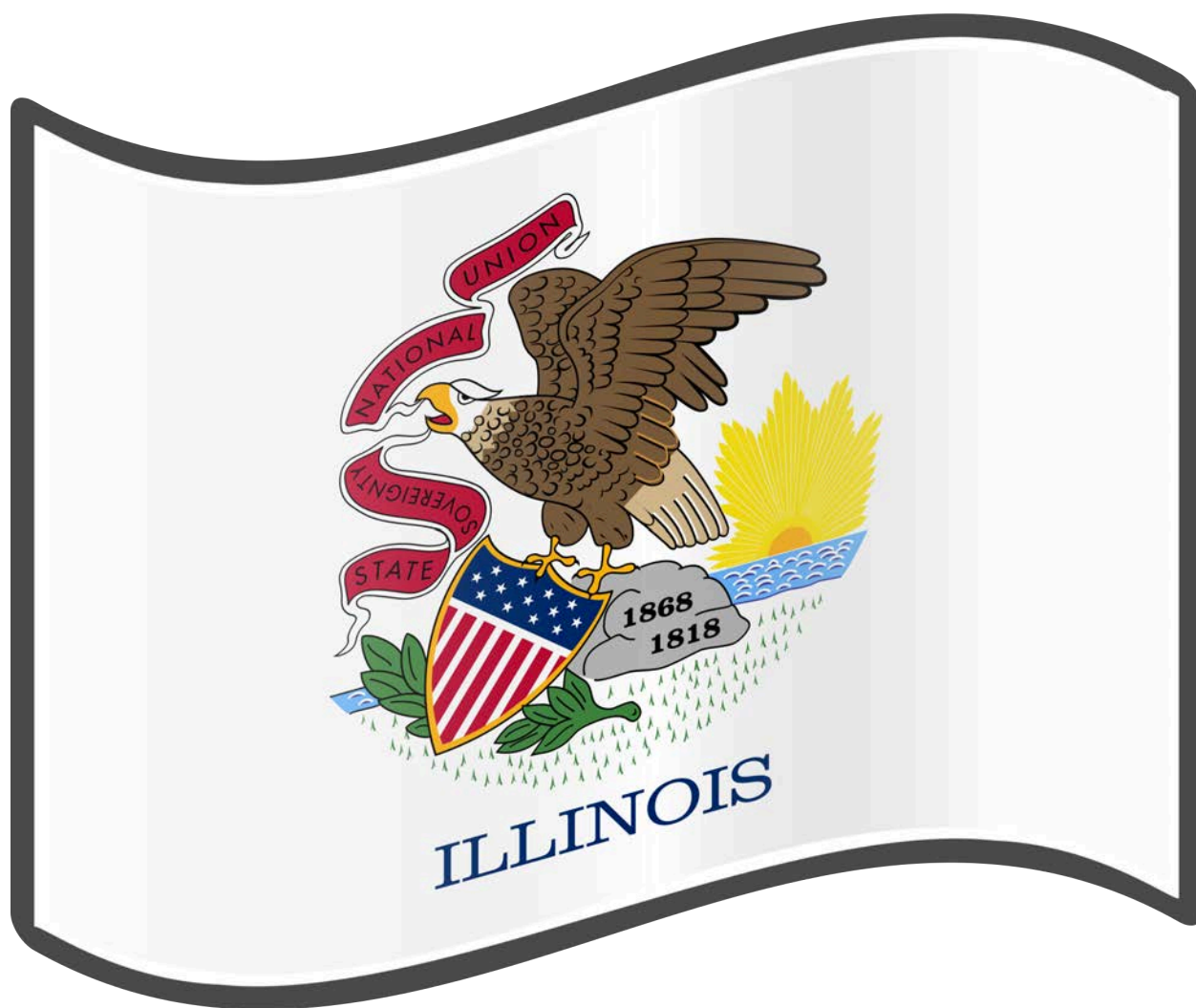
Reservations

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/backbone-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610105>



ILLINOIS

Campgrounds and Scout Camps



Starved Rock (IL)

<https://www.starvedrocklodge.com/starved-rock-state-park/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (815) 667-4726

Description

Starved Rock State Park, located near Utica, Illinois, is a stunning natural destination known for its dramatic sandstone canyons, waterfalls, and scenic trails. Spanning over 2,600 acres, the park offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, boating, and picnicking. Its 13 miles of trails wind through lush forests and lead to breathtaking views of the Illinois River.

The park's name originates from a legend involving the Illiniwek tribe, who were besieged on a sandstone butte and ultimately perished from starvation. This rich history, combined with the park's natural beauty, makes it a popular spot for both recreation and exploration. Starved Rock Lodge, located within the park, provides accommodations and dining, making it a year-round destination for nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike.

Reservations

Lodge: <https://www.starvedrocklodge.com/starved-rock-state-park/>

Campground: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/camp/park.starvedrock.html>



Canyon Camp (IL)

<https://www.canyoncampbsa.org/cabins--campsites>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (815) 397-0210

Description

Canyon Camp, located near Stockton, Illinois, is a premier Scouting America camp nestled in the scenic Apple River Canyon. Established in 1936, the camp spans 330 acres of natural wooded land, offering a rich environment for Scouting advancement and outdoor adventures. It provides a variety of activities, including hiking, climbing, kayaking, and a high ropes course with a zipline.

The camp is known for its immersive summer programs, featuring over 50 merit badge opportunities and specialty programs designed to challenge and inspire Scouts. Canyon Camp also offers year-round camping experiences, with facilities like cabins, campsites, and a dining hall. Its commitment to the Scout Oath and Law has made it a cherished destination for Scouts across Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Reservations: <https://www.canyoncampbsa.org/cabins--campsites>



Rainbow Scout Reservation (IL)

<https://www.camplowden.org/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (815) 942-4450

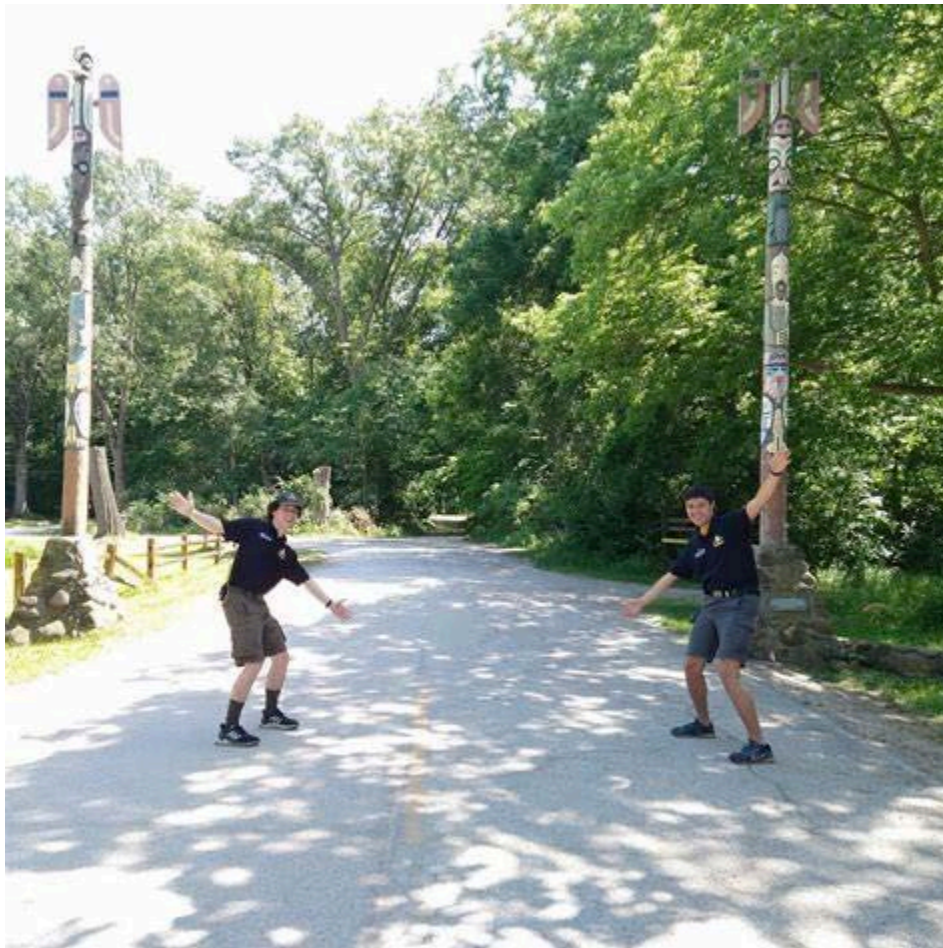
Description

Rainbow Scout Reservation, located in Morris, Illinois, is a 700-acre camp dedicated to providing exceptional Scouting experiences. Operated by the Rainbow Council, Scouting America, the camp offers a wide range of outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, archery, aquatics, and team-building programs like COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience).

The reservation features multiple campsites, shelters, and modern facilities designed to accommodate Scouts of all ages. Known for its diverse merit badge programs and adventurous activities, Rainbow Scout Reservation is a place where Scouts develop leadership skills, build lasting friendships, and connect with nature. Its commitment to fostering growth and outdoor exploration makes it a cherished destination for youth and families alike.

Reservations

<https://www.rainbowcouncil.org/camping/facility-properties-rentals>



Camp Loud Thunder (IL)

<https://loudthunder.org/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (563) 388-7233

Description

Camp Loud Thunder, located in Illinois City, Illinois, is a premier Scout camp operated by the Illowa Council, Scouting America. Nestled next to the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, the camp spans over 200 acres of wooded terrain and offers a wide range of outdoor activities. Scouts can enjoy swimming, climbing, zip-lining, canoeing, kayaking, and shooting sports, including rifle, shotgun, and archery.

The camp also features a high ropes course, a C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) program, and an observatory with a high-resolution telescope for stargazing. With its diverse programs and facilities, Camp Loud Thunder provides Scouts with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build teamwork, and create lasting memories in a beautiful natural setting.

Reservations: <https://loudthunder.org/use-our-facilities/>



Camp Lowden (IL)

<https://www.camplowden.org/>

Cost: Varies

Phone:

Description

Camp Lowden, located near Oregon, Illinois, is a Scouts BSA summer camp nestled along the scenic Rock River. Operated by the Blackhawk Area Council, the camp spans a beautiful natural setting and offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, and shooting sports. It features unique facilities such as a sporting clay range and cabins available for rental during the off-season.

With a rich history and a commitment to fostering leadership and outdoor skills, Camp Lowden provides Scouts with opportunities to earn merit badges, participate in team-building programs, and enjoy memorable campfire experiences. Its picturesque location and diverse programs make it a cherished destination for Scouts and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Reservations: <https://www.camplowden.org/rentals>



Camp Drake (IL)

<https://www.campdrake.com/>

Costs:

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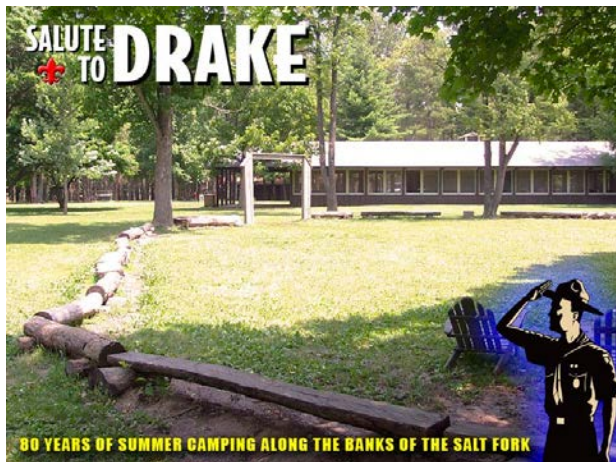
Phone: (217) 427-5243

Description

Camp Robert Drake, located in Fairmount, Illinois, is a Scouting America camp operated by the Prairielands Council. Nestled along the Salt Fork River, the camp spans over 160 acres of scenic woodlands and offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, canoeing, fishing, and shooting sports.

The camp is known for its summer programs, which provide Scouts with opportunities to earn merit badges, develop leadership skills, and participate in team-building activities. Facilities include campsites, a dining hall, and program areas designed for adventure and skill development. Camp Drake's commitment to fostering personal growth and outdoor exploration makes it a cherished destination for Scouts and their families.

Reservations: <https://www.campdrake.com/>



Rhodes-France Scout Reservation (IL)

<https://stlbsa.org/properties/rhodes-france-scout-reservation/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (217) 562-5223

Description

Rhodes-France Scout Reservation, located southeast of Pana, Illinois, is a 640-acre outdoor haven for Scouts and nature enthusiasts. Operated by the Greater St. Louis Area Council, the camp features two serene lakes, an in-ground swimming pool, and excellent shooting sports facilities. It also offers 13 campsites, six cabins with modern amenities, and a well-stocked trading post.

The camp provides a variety of activities, including hiking, swimming, and team-building programs. Highlights include a rustic open-air chapel for reflection and a picturesque amphitheater known as the Firebowl Arena, set against the backdrop of Lake Millikin. Rhodes-France Scout Reservation is a cherished destination for Scouts to develop skills, build friendships, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Reservations: <https://campreservation.com/312/Camps/904>



Saukenauk Scout Reservation (IL)

<https://www.mississippivalleybsa.org/our-camps/saukenauk-scout-reservation/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (217) 985-3735

Description:

Saukenauk Scout Reservation, located in Mendon, Illinois, is a 602-acre camp operated by the Mississippi Valley Council, Scouting America. The camp features diverse environments, including woodlands, wetlands, and prairie remnants, offering Scouts a chance to explore and connect with nature.

The reservation includes three distinct areas: Camp Illini, designed for traditional summer camp programs with facilities like a dining hall, lake, and shooting ranges; Camp Illiniwek, ideal for troops preferring self-cooking and a more rustic experience; and Camp Iroquois, an undeveloped area for high-adventure activities. With its variety of habitats and programs, Saukenauk Scout Reservation provides Scouts with opportunities for skill development, leadership growth, and unforgettable outdoor adventures.

Reservations:

<https://registration.mississippivalleybsa.org/>



Camp Eastman (IL)

<https://www.mississippivalleybsa.org/our-camps/camp-eastman/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (585) 336-6070

Description

Camp Eastman, located in Nauvoo, Illinois, is a scenic Scouting America camp operated by the Mississippi Valley Council. Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the camp spans a beautiful natural setting ideal for outdoor adventures. It offers a variety of activities, including hiking, camping, fishing, and shooting sports.

The camp features well-maintained facilities, including campsites, program areas, and a dining hall, making it a hub for Scouting programs and events. With its rich history and commitment to fostering leadership and outdoor skills, Camp Eastman provides Scouts with opportunities to connect with nature, develop teamwork, and create lasting memories.

Reservations: <https://registration.mississippivalleybsa.org/>



Camp Warren Levis (IL)

<https://stlbsa.org/properties/camp-warren-levis/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (618) 234-9111

Description

Camp Warren Levis, located in Godfrey, Illinois, is a 285-acre Scouting America camp operated by the Greater St. Louis Area Council. This picturesque camp offers a variety of outdoor activities, including boating and fishing on a private lake, swimming in a seasonal pool, and hiking through its scenic trails.

The camp features multiple facilities, such as lodges, campsites, and program areas, making it ideal for Scouting events and family outings. It also provides opportunities for shooting sports, climbing, and other adventure-based activities. With its rich natural beauty and diverse programs, Camp Warren Levis is a cherished destination for Scouts and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Reservations: <https://campreservation.com/312/Camps/710>



Wisconsin

Campgrounds and Scout Camps



Eagle Cave (WI)

<https://www.eaglecave.net/>

Cost: <https://www.eaglecave.net/inside-eagle-cave/prices>

Phone: (608) 537-2988

Description

Eagle Cave, located in Blue River, Wisconsin, is the state's largest onyx cave and a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Discovered in 1849 and opened to the public in 1938, it was the first commercially operated cave in Wisconsin. The cave features stunning geological formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstone, making it a fascinating site for exploration.

Eagle Cave is especially known for its unique camping experience, where youth groups can camp inside the cave during fall, winter, and spring. The cave's exploratory program, running since 1954, offers guided adventures that allow visitors to delve deeper into its subterranean wonders. With its rich history and natural beauty, Eagle Cave provides a memorable experience for adventurers of all ages.

Reservations: <https://www.eaglecave.net/>



Sleep on a Submarine (WI)

<https://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/visit/stay-on-the-sub/>

Cost: \$50 Per Person/night

Phone: (920) 684-0218

Description

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, offers a unique overnight experience aboard the USS Cobia, a World War II submarine. Known as the "Stay on the Sub" program, this adventure allows participants to sleep in the submarine's original crew quarters, providing a glimpse into the life of submariners during the war.

The program includes guided tours, hands-on activities like sounding the dive alarm, and exclusive access to the museum's exhibits. It's suitable for families, youth groups, and history enthusiasts, with options for private bookings or group events. This immersive experience combines education, history, and adventure, making it a memorable way to explore maritime heritage.

Programming runs from 7:30 PM arrival until about 11:00 PM. Exclusive gallery admission is included for the following day.

Reservations: <https://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/visit/stay-on-the-sub/>



Snow Base (WI)

<https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/snow-base-and-north-wind>

Cost: Varies by Program (\$25-\$100/person)

Phone: (612) 261-2460

Description

Snow Base, located at Tomahawk Scout Reservation in Birchwood, Wisconsin, is a premier winter camping destination operated by the Northern Star Council, Scouting America. It offers Scouts and youth groups unique cold-weather experiences, including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and winter survival training.

The program emphasizes outdoor skills and leadership development, with activities tailored to embrace the challenges of winter. Snow Base provides specialized equipment and training, ensuring participants can safely enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin's snowy landscapes. It's an ideal setting for adventure, camaraderie, and personal growth during the colder months.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-SnowBase2025>



Minnesota

Campgrounds and Scout Camps



Base Camp (MN)

<https://www.explorebasecamp.org/>

Cost: Varies

Phone: (612) 261-2301

Description

Base Camp, located in Fort Snelling, Minnesota, is a unique urban adventure facility operated by the Northern Star Council, Scouting America. Situated in a historic cavalry drill hall, Base Camp offers year-round programs for youth and adults, including rock climbing, archery, high ropes courses, and team-building activities.

The facility also features a Leadership Center, which hosts workshops and events focused on developing leadership skills. Open to the community, Base Camp provides opportunities for school field trips, corporate team-building events, and Scout programs. Its blend of history, adventure, and education makes it a one-of-a-kind destination for personal growth and group experiences.

Reservations: <https://www.explorebasecamp.org/Facility-Rental>

Youth Programs: <https://www.explorebasecamp.org/Youth-and-Adult-Programs>



Many Point Scout Camp (MN)

<https://www.manypoint.org/>

Cost: Varies between Summer Camp and Off-Season Rentals

Phone: (612) 261-2465

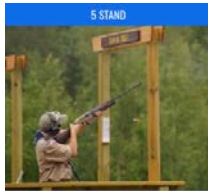
Description

Many Point Scout Camp, located in Ponsford, Minnesota, is a premier summer camp operated by the Northern Star Council, Scouting America. Nestled along the shores of Many Point Lake, the camp spans over 2,400 acres of pristine wilderness, offering Scouts and families a wide range of outdoor activities and programs.

The camp is divided into sub-camps, each catering to different camping styles, from traditional troop camping to family-friendly accommodations. Activities include swimming, boating, climbing, shooting sports, and merit badge programs. Many Point also emphasizes leadership development and team-building through its innovative programs.

With its rich history and commitment to fostering personal growth, Many Point Scout Camp has been a cherished destination for Scouts and their families for over 75 years. It continues to provide unforgettable experiences in a safe and inclusive environment.

Reservations: <https://www.manypoint.org/>



5 STAND



ATV



BOAT SAILING



BIKE TRAIL



CHARACTER CHALLENGE ADVENTURE



FISHING OUTPOST



HUCK FINN OVERNIGHT



TREEHOUSE OVERNIGHT



WATER SKI