



Frequently Asked Questions

Custaloga Town Scout Reservation

Scouts BSA Summer Camp

2021

1) **What is the typical class size and instructor to scout ratio?**

Most classes are limited to 15 or less, some are limited further based on the National Camp Accreditation Program requirements for oversight of the scouts (IE: rifle and shotgun are limited to 8 participant for safety). Normal staffing ratio is 10 scouts per instructor or better. Personalized assistance is available from all staff during free time.

2) **How far is it between classes and how long do I have to get there?**

We operate on a block schedule, so the most classes are two and a half hours (IE: all morning and all afternoon). Therefore, you are not “changing classes” during the day, only first thing in the morning and after lunch. There is a distance matrix with approximate times published indicated between program areas. Bicycles are now permitted to get to more distant areas. From the Dining Hall in the center of camp, all programs areas are within a 10-minute walk.

3) **Other camps offer more merit badges. Why doesn't Custaloga Town?**

CTSR offers more guaranteed merit badges than any camp within 100 miles. Our published list guarantees the classes we will offer every week, only limited by the number of participants that sign up on a first come-first serve basis. We do not cancel classes due to small size. This allows for scouts to complete requirements early and possibly move to another available class with the help of staff. We offer several other optional classes based on requests, availability of quest instructors, and supplies. If there is a particular merit badge you would like, but it is not a part of the published list, ask, and we will try to accommodate the request. Most area Scouts BSA summer camps offer less than 50 merit badges

4) **Why are not all required merit badges for the rank of Eagle offered?**

Custaloga Town offers over 60 merit badges each week and ALL required merit badges EXCEPT Personal Management, Family Life, Personal Fitness, Cycling, and Sustainability. You can work on these merit badges at camp, but due to the requirements they cannot be completed at camp due to time sensitive diary/log requirements of activities that must be completed outside the scope of summer camp. The average Scout can earn a minimum of five (5) merit badges per week from an offering of over sixty (60) to choose from.

5) **Everything is the same from year to year. I want something different.**

Variety is the spice of life and we all need to have variety. The camping committee, camp management, and the staff work year-round to create a diverse program. Themes are changed annually, classes offered are changed (some dropped and new ones added) in a rotation. Based on the annual camper surveys the program is modified each year. If you want to see something, ask, we will investigate the possibilities of including it in future program years.

6) **Is there anything to do at camp besides earn merit badges at camp?**

The main reason to attend Custaloga Town is to have fun, and advancement is only a part of the program. A Laporte Archery machine throws foam disks to test your accuracy with the bow and arrow. A 900-foot zip-line will test your fear of heights. There are plenty of fishing spots in Deer Creek, French Creek and Heydrick pond for any level angler, so bring your fishing pole. Three full meals are served each day in the dining hall, so you do not have to cook and clean-up in your campsite, taking away from the fun camp time. You can go hiking on several great hiking trails, try stand up paddleboards, enjoy the gaga pit, use the swimming pool recreation.