

CAMPMASTERS

KEY SCOUTERS IN WEEKEND CAMPING

TUSCARORA SCOUT RESERVATION BADEN-POWELL COUNCIL #368, BINGHAMTON, NY

VALUES:

- The Campmaster Corps values are based on our belief in the program of the Boy Scouts of America and in the importance of a positive outdoor experience included in that program.

VISION:

- To enhance the experience of every Scout, Scouter, and Visitor who comes to Camp Tuscarora.
- To support the purposes of the Boy Scouts of America and its programs.
- To be positive role models and examples of the Scout Oath and Law in everything that we do.

MISSION:

- Campmasters provide a welcome reception to all who arrive at camp.
- Campmasters provide program support to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers as appropriate.
- Campmasters co-ordinate emergency response and notification of proper authorities as appropriate.
- Campmasters actively promote the year round short-term camping program of the council.
- Campmasters support the Camp Ranger in the protection and improvement of the camp properties and facilities.
- Campmasters promote a positive image of Scouting to visitors.
- Campmasters support Council and District training events conducted at camp.

HISTORY:

The fledgling Campmaster Corps at Camp Tuscarora began in the mid 60's. At that time, the Health Lodge was used as the Campmaster Headquarters. A few of the Scouters involved in organizing the Corps included: Jack Morton, Bud Williams, Clyde Brown, and Bob Dealaman. After a slow, and at times "hit and miss" start, the Corps was re-energized in the early 70's with Charlie Dean as the Chairman. Because of the remoteness of the Health Lodge, especially when there was deep snow on

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the ground, The Corps was relocated to the camp Administration Building. Some minor building improvements, such as insulation in the ceilings, and heavy drapes for the windows were added to improve comfort (a relative term) in the winter months. Check-in of units was accomplished while seeking shelter in a small A-frame structure located near the main gate of camp, and across from the Ranger's driveway.

During the long, cold winter nights of the mid 70's, planning began for the construction of a permanent "Campmaster Building". This building would provide more appropriate accommodations and be situated at a more convenient location for the check-in of Scouts and visitors entering and leaving the camp property. After years of planning, and with the permission of the Council Scout Executive and the Executive Board, and with the Campmasters responsible to raise the total funds required to cover the cost of the facility Ira Reynolds, an active Scouter from Susquehanna PA, provided a major contribution kicking off the fundraising for the building. Construction began in the early fall of 1982 and the building was first occupied by a Campmaster in December 1982. The committee also had the vision to establish a Campmaster Fund to help cover future building maintenance repairs and equipment replacements. The Corps also donates to the council each year to defray the cost of utilities. The Baden-Powell Council manages this fund for the Campmaster Corps.

The Campmaster Building would become the "Welcome Center" to Camp Tuscarora. It serve to house the Campmasters for their weekend of duty in the fall, winter, and spring months, and then serve as housing for a Camp Chaplain in support of the summer camp program. It was conveniently located just inside the main gate of camp for units and visitors to check-in. It would also be equipped to serve as the focal point in the event of an emergency situation in camp.

The Campmaster Building is owned and operated by the Baden-Powell Council, Boy Scouts of America. It is maintained and managed by the volunteer Campmaster Corps.