

Bowman Vets/ Older Boys Program

Have some of your older scouts earned most of the Bowman merit badges? Do they want to explore other parts of Goshen Scout Reservation? Are advanced outdoor activities an interest for them? Is a flexible schedule important?

The Bowman Vets Program is just for them! On the Sunday troops arrive at camp, participants will sort through a variety of options around the lake to **create their own program for the week**. Popular activities include:

- ATVing (Must be 14 years old to participate)
- Caving
- Paddle Boarding
- Service Projects
- Rock Climbing
- Pioneering Projects
- Overnight Backpacking
- Black Powder Shooting

There will also be opportunities to earn merit badges such as Search and Rescue, Geocaching and Water Sports. Through these activities, scouts will develop their teamwork, leadership and advanced outdoor skills.

The amount of commitment is up to your scouts. Scouts will work closely with our Bowman Vets Director to develop a schedule for the week. He is accommodating to duties in campsites, other merit badges and troop activities. However, the more commitment each scout brings, the more camaraderie and personal growth tends to be observed.

Please note there is no "Set" schedule for the Bowman Vets program. The program varies week to week depending on the activities the Scouts want to participate in each week.

This program allows for scouts to try out various activities around camp and the reservation, but the activities are subject to change depending on availability that week.

This program is designed for older scouts looking for a more unique camp experience outside of what Bowman normally has to offer.

Common FAQs:

Q. How many counselors are there for the Bowman Veterans program?

A. There is one counselor for the Veterans Program. He is the director of the program and will oversee scheduling the activities and ushering the scouts in the program to each activity. He also helps supervise the activities the Vets decide to partake. Other counselors are at the various activities that they do.

Q. How many scouts are usually in the Veteran program? Is there a maximum?

A. In past years there have been about 9-12 Scouts. The scouts come from different Troops that are attending Camp Bowman that week. There is no specific maximum, but if the number reaches 20 or more, some adjustments may need to be made. If there are too many scouts signed up for the program, we will limit the class size based on age and rank. Older scouts with higher ranks will get higher priority to join the program.

Q. What are the specific activities that are available with the Veterans program?

A. There are many activities available each week. However, these activities may vary depending on the week and depending on availability of certain equipment or counselors. Among the possible activities are:

Many of the offerings of Lenhok'sin, such as:

- Mountain biking
- Caving
- Paddle Boarding
- Foxfire
- Robin Hood
- Powder Rifle
- Mountain Man
- etc.

Also, other activities may include:

- Wakeboarding (dependent on availability of motorboat shared with Camp Marriott)
- Water skiing (same dependency as wakeboarding)
- COPE/Climbing
- ATV Program (must be 14 to participate)
- Kayaking around lake
- Day trips - hiking
- Overnight trip
- etc.

Q. How are the activities selected each week? And how many activities do the Veterans scouts get to do in the week they are at camp?

A. On the first full day of Camp (Sunday) the scouts who are in the Bowman Vets Program decide as a group (along with the Director of the program) which activities they want to do that week. Basically, they would do at least 5 major activities (and likely more) as listed above - Monday through Friday. It's possible some activities / stations are for a half day, so two might be done in one day. Not all activities may be available each week.

Q. Is it possible to get any merit badges while doing the Veterans program?

A. Yes, but it is limited as to the ones available. Generally, the scouts opt to participate in activities as opposed to merit badges. **If your scout is interested in gaining merit badges at camp, it is highly recommended that they sign up for merit badge classes instead of the Bowman Vets program.**

Q. Do I eat my meals with my Patrol at my Troop's campsite?

A. Yes, all your meals are at your own campsite where you are with your Troop. The only exceptions are if the Bowman Vets activities chosen the week you are there are a day hike or an overnight trip, then you would eat some meals together with the scouts in the Veterans program.

Q. If there is an activity one day that a scout in the Veterans program doesn't want to do, either because he has done it before or just isn't interested in it, does he have any other options?

A. Yes, he could opt-out of the activity that day and stay with his own Troop and participate in things like open swim, open shoot, etc.

Q. What are some specifics of the ATV Program

A. A scout needs to be age 14 or older. There is an extensive required safety course before any riding is done. The ATVs are four-wheel "quad bikes." Goshen Camps have had a very clean safety record during the many years the program has been run. The ATVs (Quad Bikes) are not high-powered. There is an additional \$50 fee for the ATV Program. The required equipment is: long sleeve shirt, pants that cover the shins, boots that cover the ankles, and water bottle; a bandana is recommended. Gloves, goggles, and helmets are provided, but participants are free to bring their own. **If the scout is interested in doing the ATV program and having the chance to ride the ATVs for the week, have them sign up for the ATV program. Bowman Vets will only ride the ATVs for one morning a week, and will most likely not get the chance to ride them again.**

Q. Does a Bowman Veterans group always do an overnight trip?

A. No, it depends on what the group decides at the beginning of the week for their activities.