# Baker Outdoor Learning Center

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THE LODGE
The beautiful William M. Baker Lodge features a stone fireplace, grill, wrap around porch, and a full kitchen that includes an electric range, refrigerator, freezer, microwave, and coffee makers. Seating capacity is 125 lecture style and 80 for dining.

THE CABINS
Join us for an authentic unplugged experience! Our eight rustic log cabins accommodate eight people comfortably with a four bunk arrangement; eight beds. This allows space for a table with benches to encourage group socializing. One cot may be added to each cabin, for a total overnight capacity of 72 people. Please keep in mind you must provide your own bedding (sleeping bag, pillow, etc.). There is no running water, bathroom or electricity (unless needed for a valid medical reason) in the cabins. However, each cabin is provided with one battery-operated lantern, wood stove and plenty of firewood. The cabins also feature supplemental baseboard heat in the winter (keeping them between 32-40 degrees). Outside there is a grill, fire pit and a picnic table.

VIRTUAL TOUR
CLICK HERE

PARKING
There are 35 spots available for parking. All vehicles must park in the paved parking lot. No vehicles are allowed to drive back by the cabins; carts are available to haul supplies if needed. Drop-off and pick-up only is allowed on the gravel road behind the Lodge. If you anticipate needing more spaces, notify us and we can open up our overflow parking area.

SHOWER FACILITIES
There are no on-site showers. The Baker Campground has multiple shower buildings that our guests can use. The Campground is located one mile from the Baker Outdoor Learning Center and is open May-October.

ACCESSIBILITY
At Baker Park, we do our best to provide reasonable program modifications and auxiliary aids and services to people with disabilities. Call 763.694.7856 for more information.

Facilities
Surrounded by the lakes, marshes, meadows and mature forest of the 3,113 acre Baker Park Reserve, the Baker Outdoor Learning Center is a quiet, protected setting that offers reservation groups unique environmental and recreational learning opportunities. The site features eight log cabins, an expansive Lodge, miles of trails, a rock climbing wall, and archery range, and offers nature and outdoor recreation classes.
Welcome

Dining

▶ THE KITCHEN
The kitchen includes a convection oven, refrigerators, pots/pans/cooking equipment, plates/cups/silverware for 80 people, coffee pots, and serving utensils. A kitchen orientation is required before any group can use the kitchen; please designate a lead kitchen person for your group. Groups using the kitchen must clean all dishes when done. The Baker Outdoor Learning Center is committed to reducing the amount of waste produced: please do not bring disposable dishes; please compost and recycle. There are no kitchen use fees.

▶ FOOD OPTIONS
- **Campfire Cooking**: We provide the cooking equipment and campfire supplies. You supply the food.
- **Kitchen Use**: You provide the food. We provide the kitchen and all kitchen supplies. Please contact our Cook if you would like menu ideas or recipes to feed a crowd. Please review USDA food safety practices before your visit at the following link: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)
- **Meals**: We provide the food and do all the ordering, cooking, serving, etc. You do not need to worry about the food. Only available to weekday overnight schools. $5.00/person/meal
- **Catered**: Your event can be catered by one of our approved caterers. See the enclosed list.
- **Brown Bag**: Bring your own sack lunch.

▶ LEAVE NO TRACE
The Lodge and kitchen must be left in the condition and arrangement they were upon arrival.

Fee Structure

▶ EDUCATION GROUP PROGRAM FEES
$85 minimum total fee for day education groups
$60 minimum total fee for scout groups
- 0-2 Hours: $4.90/participant
- 2-4 Hours: $8.90/participant
- 4+ Hours: $12.15/participant
  - no charge for leaders and other chaperones

▶ OVERNIGHT FEES (includes Lodge & 8 cabins)
- Sunday-Thursday nights
  - $13/person/night: $260 minimum (20 people)
- Friday night
  - $18/person/night: $425 minimum (23 people)
- Saturday night
  - $18/person/night: $500 minimum (27 people)
  - All overnight groups must pay the 7.525% Minnesota Lodging Tax, regardless of tax-exempt status. Fees do not include tax.

▶ OVERNIGHT PROGRAM FEES
- $4.40/participant/program: $30 minimum/program
- All overnight groups are required to schedule at least one of our staff-led programs.

▶ RENTAL GROUP FEES (only includes Lodge; education & overnight groups do not pay these fees)
- $300/first four hours: Sunday 2pm - Friday 4pm
- $500/first four hours: Friday 4pm - Sunday 2pm
  - 4 hour minimum
  - $75/each additional hour
  - optional programs $4.90/participant ($30 minimum)
  - Fees do not include tax.

▶ EVENT FEE (only applies to large rental groups)
- $250 event fee is charged when less than half of the group stays overnight during an overnight reservation.
Expectations

The Lodge and kitchen must be left in the condition and arrangement they were found in upon arrival.

- Tables and benches must remain in the Lodge. They can be rearranged, but it is your group’s responsibility to return them to the conventional two rows of four tables. All tables must be wiped down and benches placed upside down on top of the tables before departure.

- It is your group’s responsibility to clean all items used in the kitchen and return them to their proper location. All dishes used must be washed, rinsed, sanitized and put back where they were found. The counter should be wiped clean, the floor swept, and no food should be left behind.

Leave No Trace

We are proud to offer unique nature experiences. To help us preserve the natural habitats in and around our site, please keep the following in mind:

- Although playing off the beaten track is encouraged at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center, please try to concentrate most activity on already existing trails.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Observe wildlife from a distance; do not follow or approach them.
- With the exception of our bird feeders, never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

No pets are allowed.

The Site

The Baker Outdoor Learning Center features eight log cabins, an expansive Lodge, miles of trails, a rock climbing wall, an archery range, and offers nature and outdoor recreation classes. The program center serves over 18,000 guests per year through school field trips, scout retreats, summer camps, youth group trips and more.

Clean Up

The Lodge and kitchen must be left in the condition and arrangement they were found in upon arrival.

- Tables and benches must remain in the Lodge. They can be rearranged, but it is your group’s responsibility to return them to the conventional two rows of four tables. All tables must be wiped down and benches placed upside down on top of the tables before departure.

- It is your group’s responsibility to clean all items used in the kitchen and return them to their proper location. All dishes used must be washed, rinsed, sanitized and put back where they were found. The counter should be wiped clean, the floor swept, and no food should be left behind.

Recycle

Help us recycle! All aluminum cans, glass, and plastic bottles should be recycled.

Compost

All organics (all foods, paper towels, paper plates, etc.) are collected and sent to a commercial composting facility where it is turned into soil.

The Weather

If your group has a program scheduled through us, at least part of the program will be held outdoors. Please dress for the weather.

“There is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing”
Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Author/Adventurer
CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS

A chaperone is a role model—
- Please be prepared to be present and involved in class. The Naturalist may have you assist with parts of the program.
- Students at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center are expected to show respect for the environment, the instructors and fellow students. Please model this respect.
- Your enthusiasm and interest in the classes will spread to the students. Your participation is the best management technique.
- A Naturalist will lay out their specific expectations at the start of each class. Please be prepared to help enforce these expectations. Please NO CELL PHONE usage during class.
- Please check to make sure students are wearing appropriate clothing.

Respect Rule

Guests are expected to respect—
The people at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center
naturalists, students, parents/chaperones, volunteers

The beautiful natural setting of Baker Park
leave all animals, rocks, plants, and natural objects as you find them

The equipment/facility
Lodge, cabins, program equipment, gear, etc.

Yourself
try out new things and stretch yourself
come prepared to learn

Why Outdoor Education?

“...environmental education is an excellent means for interdisciplinary teaching, and the skills and knowledge students learn are readily transferable to other disciplines.”

Dr. Julie Ernst, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Director of Master of Environmental Education Program
University of Minnesota, Duluth

“I hope other schools are teaching the things we’re learning about the environment. It’s really important to know about your impact on the environment and about how we exist with all of the plants and animals.”

- Rockford Middle School, 7th grade student

Staff

A staff liaison will be present during the entire visit. Three Rivers Park District/Baker Outdoor Learning Center staff are professionals and highly skilled in their outdoor teaching technique. All staff have at least a bachelor’s degree with many holding teaching degrees and advanced degrees in education and science. The staff also have first aid and CPR training. After your first class, you will see why Three Rivers Park District is a leader in outdoor education.

Emergency

If you need to contact a student during a program, call the Lodge at 763.479.0163. This phone rings in the Lodge and staff cabin. A staff liaison is with your group 24 hours a day. You can also call the staff cell phone at 612.756.0443 (this number is only answered and messages checked when there is an overnight group in residence).
Outdoor Education Programs: Natural History

Natural History

- **AMPHIBIANS VS. REPTILES** (April-October; max: 20; ages 6+)
  Actively learn the unique characteristics and differences between amphibians and reptiles. Hike with a net to catch some Baker Park amphibians for an up-close look.

- **ANIMAL TRACKING** (max: 20; ages all, best in winter)
  Discover the more secretive animals of Baker Park and their lifestyles by studying the tracks and signs they leave behind. Size, daily routines and specific animal habitat requirements can be determined by hands-on animal tracking and exploration.

- **BIRDS** (max: 20; ages all)
  Actively discover the beauty and ecology of birds and the many strategies they use to survive. In addition to a hike with binoculars, this program may include: a stuffed owl mount, bird skulls, a hands-on "bird beaks" adaptation activity, and/or a visit to Chickadee Landing.

- **FORESTS: TREE ID** (max: 20; ages 10+)
  Discover the unique natural history of the Baker Park forest during a hands-on hike. Learn about the inner workings of a tree and use a dichotomous key to identify local trees.

- **FLIGHT** (max: 20; ages 10+)
  Explore Bernoulli’s Principle and Newton’s 3rd law to explain why objects can fly. Through hands-on experiments students will be introduced to three types of flight.

- **INSECTS** (April-October; max: 20; ages all)
  Catch the buzz on Earth’s most abundant creatures. Use sweep nets, collecting jars and magnifying lenses to catch and examine insects. Explore the field and forest to get close-up to insects. Compare and contrast insects with spiders (arachnids).

- **KEEPING WARM** (November-March; max: 20; ages 10+)
  Animals active in winter have a huge problem; keeping warm. Discover the four ways animals lose heat (conduction, convection, radiation, and evaporation). Brainstorm what animals do to keep warm, how insulation works and why it is so important. Experiment with different insulations on baby food jar “animals”.

- **MINNESOTA MAMMALS** (max:20; ages 6+)
  Fur, skulls and other natural objects are used to help examine Minnesota’s many mammals and their extraordinary adaptations to survive our extreme climate. Become “critter detectives” and discover various animal signs (tracks, nests, scat, etc.) during a hike.

- **NATURALIST HIKE** (max: 20; ages all)
  Take a guided hike through the woods and meadows of Baker Park. See what wildlife or animal signs you encounter.

- **NATURE ADAPTS TO WINTER**
  (December-March; max: 20; ages 10+)
  Learn all about the many fascinating ways plants and animals adapt to Minnesota winters. Which animals migrate? Which hibernate? Which ones "tough it out"? What tracks can be found around Baker Park? This program can be done on snowshoes if conditions allow.

- **PLANTS** (April-October; max: 20; ages 6+)
  The food-factory of our planet! Study the world of plants by focusing on parts, uses, needs and ecology. Get your hands dirty by pulling some garlic mustard (a non-native plant) to examine roots, stem and leaves up close. Time is also spent discussing seed dispersal and plant adaptations.

- **PREDATOR-PREY GAME** (min: 20; max: unlimited; ages 10+)
  This large group game of ultimate survival is a fun and exciting way for students to learn of the basic needs for survival and the dynamics of a food chain by assuming the roles of various animals. Survival depends upon understanding the predator-prey relationship and overcoming limiting factors within the environment.

- **POND STUDY** (April-October; max: 20; ages 6+)
  Use nets to scoop critters (such as tadpoles, insects, snails and leeches) from the pond. Specimens are observed by catch and release. Concepts frequently discussed are pond ecology, metamorphosis, and the water cycle.
ARCHERY *(March-November; max: 20; ages 8+)*
Learn the basics of shooting a bow, elements of safety, and styles of equipment. Students have an opportunity to shoot compound bows at our archery range. All equipment provided (fits all sizes). No experience necessary. Most staff are NASP-certified instructors. Waiver required.

CANOEING* (May-early October; max 20; ages 11+)
When in Minnesota – paddle! We put on life jackets, review the basics of paddling and water safety, then get on the water near the BOLC. Available to paddlers at least 11 years old. Waiver required.

COMPASS BASICS * (max: 25; ages 8+)
Start with how and why compasses work, and practice using them until everyone gets the hang of it. Then it’s off to the compass course where teams use their skills to locate special posts in the forest!

ORIENTEERING (max: 25; ages 11+)
Learn how and why compasses work and how to read a topographical map. Put the map and compass skills together to navigate your way through our orienteering course. This requires 2 hours of time.

DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY (max: 20; ages 8+)
Discover the fun of nature photography! After a lesson on how to use our digital cameras, head into the woods and meadows of Baker Park looking for the perfect photo opportunity. Print, edit, and frame a photo to take home.

KNOTS AND LASHING* (April-November; max 20; ages 10+)
Work in small groups to practice some basic knots and lashing. Head to the woods to use your imagination and new rope skills to build objects such as swings, ladders or your small groups own creative ideas.

FIRE MASTER!* (max: 20; ages 10+)
Walk the long path of fire history and technique by beginning with bow drills, progressing to flint and steel, and finally to matches and batteries. Discover which fire design is best for signals, dutch-oven cooking and campfire stories!

INTRO TO GPS (max: 40; ages 9+)
Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the device and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Use the G.P.S. to find waypoints throughout the park.

MAPLE SYRUPING* (late February/March; max: 20; ages all)
Activity stations teach about the process of making of maple syrup through firsthand experience. Explore the history of maple syrup-making, "tap" a tree, observe and learn how sap is boiled down into syrup at our evaporator, and taste REAL maple syrup!

SNOWSHOEING* (snow-dependent; max: 25; ages 4+)
A great way to explore nature in winter! A quick introduction to the history of snowshoes and how they work prepares us for the hike. We stop few times for some nature interpretation (and a breather!). No experience required. Must select a back-up program.

CROSS-COUNTY SKIING* (snow-dependent; max: 20; ages 11+)
Learn the basics of Nordic skiing: falling and standing, glide and weight transfer. Then head out with your instructor on the trails of Baker Park. Extra $5/wk day and $7/wknd for equipment rental. Activity takes place 1.5 miles from the Learning Center at the Baker Ski Chalet. Group must provide their own transportation to and from the ski area. Waiver required.

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE* (max: 25; ages 8+)
An active, fun and challenging way to learn about survival skills. We review such needs as shelter, water, warmth, food, a positive attitude, and signaling. Then, your LOST! What items are most valuable to have? Can your group build a fire? Work together and survive?
Outdoor Education Programs

Cultural History

- **PREHISTORIC SKILLS** (max: 20; ages 6+)
  A hands-on experience of various aspects of prehistoric life in North America/Minnesota (before written history) skills: bow drills (fire by friction), atlatls (prehistoric spear-type hunting weapon), active games, and Minnesota history. *Waiver required for atlatls.*

- **VOYAGEUR LIFE!** (max 20; ages 8+)
  Bonjour! In this class, students are given the opportunity to experience everyday life in an imaginary North West Company brigade in the year 1793. As recruits they will learn some skills of the colorful voyageur such as flint and steel fire making and playing voyageur games. A rowdy good time delivered in a living history format. *Waiver required for hatchet throwing.*

Group Interaction/Team Building

- **CLIMBING WALL** (April-October; max: 20/hour; 40 lbs)
  Attempt to scale our 25-foot wall and sound the buzzer at the top! All equipment and trained instructors provided. Must be over 40 lbs. and less than 240 lbs. to climb. *Waiver required*

- **TEAM BUILDING** (max: 15; ages 8+)
  A progression from fun games to initiative challenges designed for problem solving and collaboration. We typically move through multiple challenges as participants advance and build upon previous successes. Examples include: Group Juggle, Toxic Waste, River Crossing, Buddy ropes and Pipeline. Concepts include: communication, tolerance, leadership, listening, supporting one another, etc.

Evening/Indoor Activities

- **CAMPFIRE: SONGS, STORIES, SKITS** (max: unlimited)
  TOTAL FEE: $50. Gather around the fire for a Baker staffed campfire with camp songs, a story or two, and perhaps a skit. Outdoors if weather permits. If making s’mores, please make AFTER, not during the campfire. (Groups must bring their own s’mores)

- **INDOOR TEAMBUILDING** (max: 40; ages 10+)
  A progression from fun games to initiative challenges designed for problem solving and collaboration. We typically move through multiple challenges as participants advance and build upon previous successes. Examples include Lego Towers, River Crossing, Bridge Building, etc.

- **NIGHT G.P.S.** (max: 60; ages 8+ with adult)
  Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the device and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Then head out AT NIGHT to find hidden geocaches. Flashlights and glow tacks help you uncover the mystery hidden in the woods.

- **NIGHT HIKE** (max: 20; ages 7+)
  Explore the natural world at night. Hikes designed to be quiet, slow and without flashlights. Topics may include stargazing, nocturnal animals, night sounds, games, myths and legends, and the science of the human eye.

- **OWLS** (max: 60; ages 5+)
  View a stuffed owl and learn about the owls of Baker Park. Learn about nocturnal animals, predators, adaptations and food webs. Then, dissect a sterilized owl pellet, and see what the owls have been eating!

- **SKULLS** (max: 40; ages 11+)
  Discover the identifying characteristics of skulls. Use a dichotomous key at skull stations to identify some of the animals that live in Baker Park. Learn about unique animal adaptations.

Design a Program

- **NATURALIST DESIGN A PROGRAM**
  Not finding a program that fits your group’s needs? Have a specific nature/outdoor program in mind? Let our professional staff develop a program to fit your group’s needs. Please give us at least one month. Examples: homeschool curriculum, outdoor cooking, wildlife management, fishing, astronomy, etc.
We offer programs specifically designed to help scouts earn badges.

All badge books are available onsite. We strive to cover as much of the badge as possible, but cannot guarantee to cover every requirement.

Programs typically last 1.5 to 2 hours. The maximum number of participants for each program is listed in parentheses.

Those with asterisks (*) can have more than one class conducted at the same time. For example, we can have 3 Birds classes running simultaneously.

Call 763.694.7856 to set your program schedule.

**JUNIORS: OUTDOOR ART EXPLORER BADGE** (Max 20)
Combine nature, art, and your creativity to design outdoor-inspired artwork to take home.

**CADETTES: NIGHT OWL** (max: 20)
Use all five senses to explore the nocturnal world while on a night sky/night animals hike. This badge can only be done in the evenings when it is dark.

**CADETTES: TREES** (max: 20)
Explore the anatomy of a tree, and discover the key to tree identification. March activities may include maple syruping.

Call 763.694.7856 to set your program schedule.

**BROWNIES: BUGS** (max: 20)
Go on a bug hunt to explore the world of insects and the homes they live in.

**BROWNIES: HIKER** (max: 20)
Discover how to plan a hike and what gear you need for success. Then hit the trail!

**JUNIORS: CAMPER** (max: 60)
FEES: $40/scout, $20/adult, or overnight minimum. Join us for an overnight adventure! Build fires and cook over them. Choose a camping skill: map and compass, GPS, knots and lashing, journaling, or snowshoeing. Have a rip roaring evening campfire and night hike. In addition to badge activities, we provide lodging and up to two meals/person.

**JUNIORS: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER** (max: 20)
Learn how to use a digital camera (cameras provided) then use it to capture the beauty of the natural world. Scouts will print and frame a photo to take home.

**JUNIORS: GEOCACHER** (max: 20)
Use a GPS to find hidden caches in the woods; make a trade item. Learn how items move from cache to cache all over the world.

**BADGE BY REQUEST**
Not finding a badge that meets your group’s needs? All badge books are onsite and we can work with your group to fulfill other nature-related/outdoor recreation-related badges not listed. Please give us at least one month notice.

**NATURALIST DESIGN A PROGRAM**
Not finding a program that fits your group’s needs? Have a specific nature/outdoor program in mind? Let our professional staff develop a program to fit your group’s needs. Please give us at least one month. Examples: homeschool curriculum, outdoor cooking, wildlife management, fishing, astronomy, etc.

**Girl Scouts: Journeys**

**BROWNIES: BUGS** (max: 20)
Go on a bug hunt to explore the world of insects and the homes they live in.

**BROWNIES: HIKER** (max: 20)
Discover how to plan a hike and what gear you need for success. Then hit the trail!

**JUNIORS: CAMPER** (max: 60)
FEES: $40/scout, $20/adult, or overnight minimum. Join us for an overnight adventure! Build fires and cook over them. Choose a camping skill: map and compass, GPS, knots and lashing, journaling, or snowshoeing. Have a rip roaring evening campfire and night hike. In addition to badge activities, we provide lodging and up to two meals/person.

**JUNIORS: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER** (max: 20)
Learn how to use a digital camera (cameras provided) then use it to capture the beauty of the natural world. Scouts will print and frame a photo to take home.

**JUNIORS: GEOCACHER** (max: 20)
Use a GPS to find hidden caches in the woods; make a trade item. Learn how items move from cache to cache all over the world.

**CADETTES: NIGHT OWL** (max: 20)
Use all five senses to explore the nocturnal world while on a night sky/night animals hike. This badge can only be done in the evenings when it is dark.

**CADETTES: TREES** (max: 20)
Explore the anatomy of a tree, and discover the key to tree identification. March activities may include maple syruping.

**BADGE BY REQUEST**
Not finding a badge that meets your group’s needs? All badge books are onsite and we can work with your group to fulfill other nature-related/outdoor recreation-related badges not listed. Please give us at least one month notice.

**NATURALIST DESIGN A PROGRAM**
Not finding a program that fits your group’s needs? Have a specific nature/outdoor program in mind? Let our professional staff develop a program to fit your group’s needs. Please give us at least one month. Examples: homeschool curriculum, outdoor cooking, wildlife management, fishing, astronomy, etc.
Cub Scout Badges

- **TIGER: BACKYARD JUNGLE** (max: 40)
  Explore the animal world through our touch and see items from mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Examine a micro world outdoors. Then make a “natural” bird feeder.

- **TIGER: TIGERS IN THE WILD** (max: 20)
  Take a hike with a naturalist and apply the outdoor code and review Leave No Trace principals. Examine different animal sign and plants, watch for wildlife.

- **WOLF: FINDING YOUR WAY ADVENTURE** (max: 20)
  Learn how to read and understand maps using contour lines and legends. Develop skills to use a map and compass together.

- **BEARS: SHARING THE WORLD WITH WILDLIFE** (max: 60)
  Learn about the job of a naturalist. Then with the naturalist, explore the animal world through our touch and see items from mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Also, find out about extinct and endangered species.

- **WEBELOS: INTO THE WOODS ELECTIVE** (max: 20)
  Investigate the Baker Park forest by identifying trees and forest plants, looking at tree rings, and take a hike to look at the forest as a resource and list forest products.

- **WEBELOS: INTO THE WILD ELECTIVE** (max: 60)
  Discover the world of native wildlife by hiking with a naturalist. Learn about birds, and their flyways, wetlands and much more.

All Scouts: Daytime Programs

- **ARCHERY** (March-November; max: 20; ages 8+)
  Learn the basics of shooting a bow, elements of safety, and styles of equipment. Students have an opportunity to shoot compound bows at our archery range. All equipment provided. No experience necessary. Most staff are NASP-certified instructors. Waiver required.

- **CANOEING** (May-early October; max 20; ages 11+)
  When in Minnesota – paddle! We put on life jackets, review the basics of paddling and water safety, then get on our own enclosed body of water. Available to paddlers at least 11 years old. Waiver required.

- **CLIMBING WALL** (April-October; max: 20/hour; 40 lbs)
  Attempt to scale our 25-foot wall and sound the buzzer at the top! All equipment and trained instructors provided. Must be over 40 lbs. and less than 240 lbs. to climb. Waiver required.

- **COMPASS BASICS** (max: 25; ages 8+)
  Start with how and why compasses work, and practice using them until everyone gets the hang of it. Then it’s off to the compass course where teams use their skills to locate special posts in the forest!

- **CROSS-COUNTY SKIING** (snow-dependent; max: 20; ages 11+)
  Learn the basics of Nordic skiing: falling and standing, glide and weight transfer. Then head out with your instructor on the trails of Baker Park. Extra $5/wk day and $7/wknd for equipment rental. Activity takes place 1.5 miles from the Learning Center at the Baker Ski Chalet. Group must provide their own transportation to and from the ski area. Waiver required.

- **DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY** (max: 20; ages 8+)
  Discover the fun of nature photography! After a lesson on how to use our digital cameras, head into the woods and meadows of Baker Park looking for the perfect photo opportunity. Print, edit, and mount a photo to take home.

- **FIRE MASTER!** (max: 20; ages 10+)
  Walk the long path of fire history and technique by beginning with bow drills, progressing to flint and steel, and finally to matches and batteries. Discover which fire design is best for signals, dutch-oven cooking and campfire stories! Time will also be spent reviewing LNT principles and fire safety.

- **FLIGHT** (max: 20; ages 10+)
  Explore Bernoulli’s Principle and Newton’s 3rd law to explain why objects can fly. Through hands on experiments students will be introduced to three types of flight.

- **INSECTS** (April-October; max: 20; ages all)
  Catch the buzz on earth’s most abundant creatures. Use sweep nets, collecting jars and magnifying lenses to catch and examine insects. Explore the field and forest to get close-up to insects. Compare and contrast insects with spiders (arachnids).

- **INTRO TO GPS** (max: 40; ages 9+)
  Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning system (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the device and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Use the G.P.S. to find hidden treasures throughout the park.

- **KNOTS AND LASHING** (April-November; max 20; ages 10+)
  Work in small groups to practice some basic knots and lashing. Head to the woods to use your imagination and new rope skills to build objects such as swings, ladders or your small groups own creative ideas.
# Scout Programs and Badges

## All Scouts: Daytime Programs

### MAPLE SYRUPING* (Late Feb/March; max: 20; ages all)
Activity stations teach about the process of making of maple syrup through firsthand experience. Explore the history of maple syrup-making, “tap” a tree, observe and learn how sap is boiled down into syrup at our evaporator, and taste REAL maple syrup!

### MINNESOTA MAMMALS* (max:20; ages 6+)
Fur, skulls and other natural objects are used to help examine Minnesota’s many mammals and their extraordinary adaptations to survive our extreme climate. Become “critter detectives” and discover various animal signs (tracks, nests, scat, etc.) during a hike.

### ORIENTEERING (max: 25; ages 11+)
Learn how and why compasses work and how to read a topographical map. Put the map and compass skills together to navigate your way through our orienteering course. This requires 2 hours of time.

### PREHISTORIC SKILLS* (max: 20; ages 6+)
A hands-on experience of various aspects of prehistoric (before written history) skills: bow drills (fire by friction), atlatls (prehistoric spear-type hunting weapon), active games, and Minnesota history. Waiver required for atlatls.

### PREDATOR-PREY GAME (min: 20; max: unlimited; ages 11+)
This large group game of ultimate survival is a fun and exciting way for students to learn of the basic needs for survival and the dynamics of a food chain by assuming the roles of various animals. Survival depends upon understanding the predator-prey relationship and overcoming limiting factors within the environment.

### POND STUDY* (April-October; max: 20; ages 6+)
Use nets to scoop critters (such as tadpoles, insects, snails and leeches) from the pond. Specimens are brought back to the Lodge and projected to magnify them onto a screen. Concepts frequently discussed are pond ecology, metamorphosis, and the water cycle.

### SNOWSHOEING* (snow-dependent; max: 25; ages 4+)
A great way to explore nature in winter! A quick introduction to the history of snowshoes and how they work prepares us for the hike. We stop few times for some nature interpretation (and a breather!). No experience required. Must select a back-up program.

### SURVIVAL CHALLENGE* (max: 25; ages 8+)
An active, fun and challenging way to learn about survival skills. We review such needs as shelter, water, warmth, food, a positive attitude, and signaling. Then, you’re LOST! What items are most valuable to have? Can your group build a fire? Work together and survive?

### TEAM BUILDING* (max: 15; ages 8+)
A progression from fun games to initiative challenges designed for problem solving and collaboration. We typically move through multiple challenges as participants advance and build upon previous successes. Examples include: Group Juggle, Toxic Waste, River Crossing, Buddy ropes and Pipeline. Concepts include: communication, tolerance, leadership, listening, supporting one another, etc.

## All Scouts: Evening Programs

### CAMPFIRE: SONGS, STORIES, SKITS (max: unlimited)
TOTAL FEE: $50. Gather around the fire for a BOLC staff-led campfire with camp songs, a story or two, and perhaps a skit. Outdoors if weather permits. If making s’mores, please make AFTER, not during the campfire.

### NIGHT G.P.S. (max: 60; ages 8+ with adult)
Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the device and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Then head out AT NIGHT to find hidden geocaches. Flashlights and glow sticks help you uncover the mystery hidden in the woods.

### NIGHT HIKE* (max: 60; ages 7+)
Explore the natural world at night. Hikes designed to be quiet, slow and without flashlights. Topics may include stargazing, nocturnal animals, night sounds, games, myths and legends, and the science of the human eye.

### OWLS (max: 60; ages 5+)
View a stuffed owl and learn about the owls of Baker Park. Learn about nocturnal animals, predators, adaptations and food webs. Then, dissect a sterilized owl pellet, and see what the owls have been eating!

### SKULLS (max: 40; ages 11+)
Discover the identifying characteristics of skulls. Use a dichotomous key at skull stations to identify some of the animals that live in Baker Park. Learn about unique animal adaptations.

## Why Outdoor Education?

“An environment-based education movement—at all levels of education—will help students realize that school isn’t supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world.” — Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*

10 Reasons to Take Your Students Outside
RESERVATION AND PAYMENT
Call 763.694.7724 to obtain date availability and reservation information. Reservations can be made up to one year in advance (note: returning groups get first priority and have up to one week after their visit to confirm the same dates for the following year). The minimum fee is required as a deposit and due at the time of reservation. Payment for anticipated group size is due before reservation date.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships for groups with financial needs may be available upon request; call 763.694.7856 for more information.

CANCELLATIONS
- Day Education Group Cancellations: Cancellations made more than 30 days before the events date are refundable. Cancellations made less than 30 days before the events date are not refundable. Efforts will be made to reschedule.
- Overnight Group/Rental Group Cancellations: If a cancellation is made 240 days prior to the use date, 100% of the deposit will be refunded. Cancellations made 120 days prior to the use date are 80% refundable. For cancellations made 60 days prior to the use date, 50% of the deposit will be refunded. All cancellations made after 60 days are non-refundable.

FORMS
Distribute the following forms to everyone in the group:
- Day Information
- Expectations
- How to Get to the Baker Outdoor Learning Center
- Health Form (required for overnight trips; under 18)
- Program Waivers (if applicable)

TRANSPORTATION
Arrange for buses or other transportation. There are no parking fees at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center.

PLAN MEALS
- Campfire Cooking
- Kitchen Use
- Meals - prepared by BOLC Staff
- Catered
- Brown Bag

CHAPERONES
Parent/Chaperones: Arrange parent/chaperone sign up if your group is a youth agency. Be sure they have the “Baker Outdoor Learning Center Expectations” hand out.

6 Months Prior
Review the programs we offer and discuss with your group. Contact us at 763.694.7856 if you would like assistance with deciding which programs would be most appropriate for your group.

3 Months Prior
Contact us at 763.694.7856 to discuss fees and schedule for programs.

2-4 Weeks Prior
FOOD
Buy food if you are having a meal during your visit and review USDA food safety practices at www.fsis.usda.gov, if providing meals for yourself. Contact our Food Service Coordinator with any special diet needs or allergies if you are having us provide meals.

NUMBER CHANGES
Inform us of any changes to previous estimate of anticipated number of people.

REVIEW
- Day Information
- Expectations
- How to Get to the Baker Outdoor Learning Center
- Health Form (if applicable)
- Program Waivers (if applicable)

GROUPS
- Organize students into learning groups: A,B,C,D...
- Assign cabins/sleeping arrangements

Tips for Teachers
- Contact lunch program to alert lunch changes.
- Discuss medications with school health office.
  - Medications can be stored in the BOLC Lodge/Office
- Reserve school cameras from media center.
- Give chaperones expectation sheet

Contact Information

PHONE
- Reservations/Billing: 763.694.7724
- BOLC Food Service Coordinator: 763.694.1123
- BOLC Lodge Phone: 763.479.0163
- BOLC Supervisor: 763.694.7856
- BOLC Lead Naturalist: 763.694.7727

EMAIL
- BakerNWS@threeriversparks.org
- Ryan.Barth@threeriversparks.org

FIND US ONLINE

Emergency
If you need to contact a person during a program, call the Lodge at 763.479.0163. This phone rings in the Lodge and staff cabin. A staff liaison is with your group 24 hours a day. You can also call the staff cell phone at 612.756.0443.
**Baker Outdoor Learning Center**

**Rental Group Pre-Visit Checklist**

**Important Things to Note**

**ARRIVAL**
No staff are onsite except during times when the site is reserved. Please arrive on time. No early arrivals allowed!

**ALCOHOL POLICY**
If you plan to have alcohol at your event, please let the supervisor know by calling 763.694.7856. Beer, wine, ciders, hard lemonades, and other malt beverages are allowed in glass bottles or cans only. Hard liquor is not allowed. Alcoholic beverages served in kegs, barrels, boxed wine, or bulk containers are prohibited, unless authorized by special use permit. To obtain a special use permit please contact one of the Park District Approved Caterers. **Any alcohol served at a catered event must be purchased or provided by an Approved Caterer.** Park guests having self-catered events may bring in their own beer and wine in single-serving containers.

**CANOPIES**
If your group plans to bring a canopy, canopies are only allowed on the cement by the fire ring outside of the Lodge and/or the grassy field near the old turkey barn. Canopies must be free-standing.

**DECORATIONS**
Set up and clean up must be accomplished within your group’s rental time period.
- **Walls, Ceiling & Tables:** Nothing (tacks, pins, nails, etc.) can be pushed into the wood. Do not block the smoke alarm beam. Approved tape may be used.
- **Candle Use:** Candles must be in a candle holder. No dripping wax.

**GREASE**
Absolutely no grease or food items may be dumped anywhere in the park, including down the kitchen sinks. Grease from cooking should be placed in a closed container in the refrigerator and staff notified so it can be disposed of properly.

**GRILLS**
There is a large grill located at the back of the Lodge. We provide firewood; if you wish to use charcoal, you must bring your own. If you bring your own grill, it must be used by the loading area at the back of the Lodge. Grills are not allowed on the grass or the main patio areas.

**GROUP ORIENTATION**
A scheduled, all-group orientation (approximately 10-minutes) is required for overnight groups.

**HEALTH FORMS**
All overnight guests under 18 years of age without a parent or guardian on-site must have a Health Form on site.

**LEAVE NO TRACE**
The Lodge and kitchen must be left in the condition and arrangement they were upon arrival.

**PETS**
Pets are not allowed at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center.

**RENTAL AGREEMENT**
A copy of the Baker Outdoor Learning Center Rental Agreement must be signed, submitted and on file before your group’s event takes place. (only for rental groups)

**SMOKING**
Smoking is not allowed in any building. All smoking must occur at least 25 feet from any entrance door. Please smoke outside the back of the Lodge and discard all cigarette butts into the small metal cans.

**Prior to Visit**

**RESERVATION AND PAYMENT**
Call 763.694.7724 to obtain date availability and reservation information. Reservations can be made up to one year in advance (note: returning groups get first priority and have up to one week after their visit to confirm the same dates for the following year). The minimum fee is required as a pre-payment and due at the time of reservation. A final bill will be sent immediately after your visit, with payment expected within seven days.

**RENTAL CANCELLATIONS**
Cancellations: If a cancellation is made 240 days prior to the use date, 100% of the prepayment will be refunded. Cancellations made 120 days prior to the use date are 80% refundable. For cancellations made 60 days prior to the use date, 50% of the prepayment will be refunded. All cancellations after 60 days are non-refundable.

**FORMS**
Return the following forms:
- Rental Agreement

**FOOD**
Choose one of the following options:
- Self catered
- Catered; selected from Park District Approved Caterers list provided

**NUMBER CHANGES**
Inform us of any changes to previous estimate of anticipated number of people.

**PROGRAMS**
Select an educational program from the BOLC Program List. These include a variety of natural history, outdoor skills, rec-

**Contact Information**

**PHONE**
- Reservations/Billing: 763.694.7724
- BOLC Cook: 763.694.1123
- BOLC Lodge Phone: 763.479.0163
- BOLC Supervisor: 763.694.7856
- BOLC Lead Naturalist: 763.694.7727

**EMAIL**
- BakerNWS@threeriversparks.org
- Ryan.Barth@threeriversparks.org

**FIND US ONLINE**

**Emergency**
If you need to contact a person during a program, call the Lodge at 763.479.0163. This phone rings in the Lodge and staff cabin. A staff liaison is with your group 24 hours a day. You can also call the staff cell phone at 612.756.0443.
### Sample Schedule from a 6th Grade Day Field Trip with 120 students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
<th>Group C</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group D</th>
<th>Group E</th>
<th>Group F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:10</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>10:00-10:10</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10-11:30</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
<td>10:10-11:30</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-Noon</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11:30-Noon</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon-1:20</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>Noon-1:20</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20-2:40</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>1:20-2:40</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
<td>Snowshoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40-2:50</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
<td>2:40-2:50</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
<td>Conclusion / Bathroom Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sample Schedule from a 6th-8th Grade Overnight group with 60 students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>6th grade #1</th>
<th>6th grade #2</th>
<th>7th grade</th>
<th>8th grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30-10:00</td>
<td>Orientation and move into cabins</td>
<td>Orientation and move into cabins</td>
<td>Orientation and move into cabins</td>
<td>Orientation and move into cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:30</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Pond Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15-1:00</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:30</td>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>Prehistoric Skills</td>
<td>MN Mammals</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-4:30</td>
<td>Prehistoric Skills</td>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>Survival Challenge</td>
<td>Survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:15</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15-6:00</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>Nature Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-7:30</td>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>Rock Wall</td>
<td>Digital Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30</td>
<td>Campfire</td>
<td>Campfire</td>
<td>Campfire</td>
<td>Campfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:30</td>
<td>Night Hike</td>
<td>Night Hike</td>
<td>Night Hike</td>
<td>Night Hike</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAY 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>6th grade #1</th>
<th>6th grade #2</th>
<th>7th grade</th>
<th>8th grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td>Pack, Clean Cabins</td>
<td>Pack, Clean Cabins</td>
<td>Pack, Clean Cabins</td>
<td>Pack, Clean Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15-1:00</td>
<td>Finish Packing / Depart</td>
<td>Finish Packing / Depart</td>
<td>Finish Packing / Depart</td>
<td>Finish Packing / Depart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RYAN BARTH

Ryan Barth graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point with a Bachelor of Science in Education and Biology. After working at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Gooseberry Falls State Park, with Dakota County Parks, and teaching high school biology for a few years, Ryan went on to earn his Master’s degree in Education. Ryan has worked at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center for the past fifteen years and is an avid outdoorsman with certifications in DNR Firearms Safety, NASP Archery, and Bow Hunter Education. Ryan is a contributing author, along with USA Archery, of the Explore Archery curriculum book. Also, Ryan has been appointed to the MN DNR R3 committee (hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation committee). When not at work, Ryan loves to spend time with his wife and three kids.

EMMA CHAPMAN

Emma grew up in southwest Minneapolis and spend her childhood playing in the city parks and lakes. After graduating from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in biology, Emma began moving around the country teaching and learning about best practices in environmental education. She worked at five different outdoor schools in five different states before landing at Baker Outdoor Learning Center. During her travels, she especially enjoyed steering a 20-person canoe in Olympic National Park and exploring off-trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Now that she has found her way back to Minnesota, she spends her time exploring Minneapolis parks with her dog, working to rebuild her old road bike, and finishing her Master’s degree in Environmental Education.

SARA HARCEY

Sara Harcey grew up in Richfield, MN, just a jump over the fence from the nature center she spent lots of time getting dirty. She graduated from the University of Minnesota—Morris where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a minor in Theater. Since 1992, Sara has been a naturalist at one national park, two nature centers and two residential Environmental Learning Centers. Sara has been a Naturalist at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center since March 2007. She enjoys telling stories and skiing in beautiful places (and telling stories about skiing in beautiful places).

CHAD HOLLINBECK

Chad Hollinbeck grew up racing on the cross country ski trails at Baker Park. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Life Science Teaching with an Environmental Education minor from the University of Minnesota—Duluth. He has been a classroom teacher in middle school science in Oregon and Minnesota. Chad recently earned his Masters of Science in Educational Leadership from Mankato State University. He has also been climbing rocks, ice and mountains for more than 20 years. These hobbies have taken him around the globe to countries, including Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Canada. Chad is an avid deer hunter. He holds certifications as a USA Archery level 2 Instructor, NASP Archery certified, DNR: Bow Hunter Education and is a Firearm Safety Instructor. When not at work, Chad can be found on wheels, planting trees, around a campfire or someplace outside with his wife and three children. He also enjoys coaching mountain biking.

MARY MORRIS

Mary grew up swimming in Willmar Lake, camping in the family’s pop-up tent camper, and running around the MN Northwoods while at Skogfjorden (Norwegian summer camp). Mary attended St. Olaf College, earning a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Norwegian. Since, she has honed her naturalist and teaching skills at numerous nature education organizations around Minnesota. Since 2015, she took a break from teaching to live in Norway, studying Friluftsliv, Norway’s unique brand of Outdoor Life. Her experiences there inform her outdoor teaching and personal interactions with nature. When not at the Baker Outdoor Learning Center, keep an eye out for Mary on her rollerblades, cross-country skis, or trying to knit perfectly-sized liner mittens!

PATTY RILEY

Patty Riley is our Food Service Coordinator and is always on the lookout for new recipes that strive to reflect the Three Rivers Park District mission—watch for more homemade snacks, food from local producers and fun ways of eating vegetables this summer! Patty graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Natural Science, specializing in Aquatic Science, and has been a Naturalist ever since. When she’s not cooking, Patty gets out of the kitchen to poke in the pond and teach other classes too. Patty also enjoys experimenting in her own kitchen at home with the season’s bounty from her garden, and spending time outdoors with her family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF PHONE NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RYAN BARTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMMA CHAPMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARA HARCEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE SUPPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAD HOLLINBECK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARY MORRIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATTY RILEY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kitchen Equipment Checklist

We want your stay at Baker Outdoor Learning Center to be as pleasant as possible and know that cooking for a crowd can be a daunting task! If you have any questions or concerns prior to your trip, please contact our Food Service Coordinator, Patty Riley at patty.riley@threeriversparks.org or by phone at 763-694-1123.

Onsite questions should be directed to the staff host at 612-756-0443.

Appliances & Cooking Equipment

- **APPLIANCES**
  - 6 burner electric stove
  - Convection oven with 3 shelves
  - 23 ft³ Refrigerator
  - Sanitizer
  - Microwave
  - Bunn Commercial Coffee Maker with 2-10 cup pots
  - Coffee Percolators- 55 cup and 35 cup
  - 55 cup Percolator used for hot water only
  - 2 Counter top warmers
  - 1-4 Quart soup warmer
  - Pancake griddle
  - 4 Slot toaster

- **COOKING EQUIPMENT**
  - Non-stick frying pans (please use nylon / rubber utensils)
  - Stock pots- various sizes with covers
  - 3 smaller sauce pans
  - Full sheet pans- 10 (1 plastic cover)
  - 2” deep full sheet cake pans- 2
  - Half Sheet pans- 4 (2 plastic covers)
  - Steam table pans- full size (fits in warmer) with covers, 6” deep (2); 4” (2); 2” (4)
  - Steam Table pans- ½ size- fit 2 in warmer side by side, 6”deep (4); 4”(2); 2”(2)- with covers

Serving Equipment & Utensils

- **SERVING EQUIPMENT**
  - Plates- 100+
  - Dessert plates- 65-(35 more available, ask staff)
  - Bowls- 45 ceramic/ 45 melamine
  - Cups- 100
  - Mugs- 90
  - Mixing/Serving bowls- lots of sizes from 1 qt to huge!
  - Cutting boards- large & small
  - Serving trays- 2-13” round non-slip, 1-12x15” rectangle
  - Colander- several small and one large
  - Pitchers (with covers) - 5 half gallon, 2 gallon
  - Insulated water jugs- 3 - 5 gallon, 1-3 gallon
  - 5 gallon Insulated hot beverage server
  - 3-1 qt. insulated beverage carafes
  - 1-1 gallon insulated coffee server
  - 8 half gallon pitchers

- **UTENSILS**
  - Forks- 90 / Knives- 90 / Spoons- 90/ Soup spoons- 90
  - Tongs- large metal for cooking and serving & small plastic for serving
  - Spoons and ladles- selection of sizes, slotted, solid, plastic and metal
  - Spatulas- Heat resistant rubber, plus several sizes of metal & nylon pancake turner style
  - Knives - selection of paring, chef’s, serrated
  - Can openers, bottle openers, cork-screws
  - 3 Apple Wedgers
  - Peelers
  - Basting brush
  - Whisks- 1 large 14”, 1 small
  - Selection of plastic and metal measuring spoons and cups
  - Box Graters
  - 30 long marshmallow toasting forks (2 prong)
  - Barbeque tongs and spatulas (request from staff)

Cleaning Equipment

Please use provided equipment and solutions.
- Blue Dish Soap (other soaps create too much suds for effective rinsing in the machine.)
- Sanitizer Machine Detergent
- Stearamine Tablets for eating and food prep tables (ask staff for proper mixing directions)
- Kitchen Only mop & bucket and Lodge & Bathroom only mop & bucket
- Brooms, dust mops, dust pans
- Organics, Recyclables and Trash receptacles and bags
General Recreation Area

1.5 miles from BOLC
2309 County Road 19
Baker Park Road
Maple Plain, MN 55359
763.694.7662 (summer)
763.694.7860 (winter)

BOAT LAUNCH
Parking for boat trailers on Lake Independence is limited to 58 boats. If the maximum number of watercraft has been launched, additional boats are not allowed into the park until openings become available. All boat trailers parking in the designated launch area are required to display a valid boat trailer parking permit. All boaters are required to remove all weeds before entering or leaving Lake Independence to avoid the spread of noxious weeds. Weed receptacles are provided by the boat launch.

CREATIVE PLAY AREA
The Baker Play Area is located near the main parking lot and the beach. The structure is approximately 11,000 square feet and features slides, tunnels, sand diggers, tire swings, and two tow cable rides.

FAMILY CAMPGROUND
There are 205 individual family sites available, including 103 with electricity. Baker campground includes four restroom facilities, two which include showers (BOLC guests are welcome to use the shower facilities when the campground is open). The shower buildings feature modern showers, flush toilets, and family changing rooms (wheelchair accessible). The Family Campground also features five camper cabins. For reservations and more information, please call 763.559.6700.

FISHING
An accessible fishing pier is located on Lake Independence near the south beach for shore fishing.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT
Rental equipment is available, please call 763.694.7662 for information and availability.
- Recreation Equipment (bicycles, volleyballs, net, horseshoes, and more) are available at the campground office on weekends from late April to late October and daily from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.
- Boat Rentals (paddleboats, rowboats, kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards) on Lake Independence are available weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.

SWIMMING
Lake Independence beaches are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Hours are 9 AM to 8 PM daily. Both the main beach and south beach at Baker Park are unguarded.

Golf Course/Winter Recreation

1.5 miles from the BOLC
2935 Parkview Drive
Medina, MN 55340
763.694.7670 (summer)
763.694.7660 (winter recreation area)

BAKER NATIONAL GOLF COURSE
A special feature of the park is Baker National Golf Course, offering an 18-hole Championship Course and the 9-hole Evergreen Executive course, as well as a driving range. For more information and tee times call 763.694.7670.

WINTER RECREATION AREA
Baker National Golf Course turns into a ski chalet in the winter! Enjoy miles of groomed cross-country ski trails. Ski rental also available. Need a lesson for your group? Check out our "Outdoor Education Programs" for information about group lessons offered through BOLC. The Baker National Golf Course/winter recreation area also has a sledding hill with sleds available for rent.

Trails

Within easy access of the BOLC are miles of trails designated for biking and/or hiking. Visit ThreeRiversParks.org for a complete trail map. 763.694.7860

PAVED HIKE/BIKE (12.5 MILES)
Baker Park’s paved trail system includes the 6.2 mile loop through the southern portion of the park with rolling hills and scenic views (which crosses over the BOLC entrance road). There are three rest stops - two with restroom facilities and one with drinking water. The Lake Independence Regional Trail parallels County Road 19 north of Baker Park for approximately seven miles, and ends near the southern border of Crow-Hassan Park Reserve. Baker Park Reserve does not have summer mountain bike trails. The 6.2 mile loop also connects to paved trails that go through the general recreation area via a tunnel under County Road 19.

TURF (11.4 MILES)
In addition to the paved trail, the turf trail across the street from BOLC is open April through October. There are also nine miles of turf trail open to hikers and horseback riders (horses are not rented by Three Rivers Park District and are not allowed at BOLC). We also have miles of turf trails onsite that only guests are allowed to use (see the enclosed "Map of BOLC").
Where We Are: 4001 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

From the East: For the least number of turns, exit off I-494 onto County Road 9/Rockford Road, going west. When you cross Highway 55, you are then on County Road 24. 6 miles after passing Highway 55 and 1/2 mile after you pass County Road 201 South, we are on your left.

For less stoplights, take Highway 12 West from I-494. 8 miles west of I-494, go right on County Road 29. Follow the sharp curves and you are soon on County Road 19 and within Baker Park. Turn right on County Road 24 (2 miles north of Highway 12). We are 1/2 mile on your right.

From the West: From County Road 19, go east on County Road 24. We are 1/2 mile on your right.

Arrival: Park in the paved parking lot. Signs from the office and our kiosk lead you to the Lodge.
Baker Outdoor Learning Center

Overnight Packing List

What to Bring (and Not to Bring) Checklist

**Clothing:**
- Rain gear and boots
- Extra shoes/hiking boots that can get wet/muddy
- Socks
- Long pants and shorts
- Sweater/fleece/sweatshirt
- Shirts (short- and long-sleeve)
- Changes of underclothing
- Pajamas and slippers
- Hat

**Winter:**
- Warm coat
- Snow pants
- Warm boots
- Stocking hat
- Long underwear
- Wool socks
- Gloves/Mittens

***Dress WARM. All outdoor education programs spend time outdoors.***

**Personal items:**
- Sleeping bag or sheets and blanket (twin size mattress)
- Pillow
- Toothbrush and paste
- Reusable water bottle
- Flashlight
- Backpack or bag to carry things
- Insect repellent & sunscreen

**Optional:**
- Camera
- Journal with pen or pencil

**Do NOT Bring:**
BOLC is a rustic camp facility.
- Fueled or candle lanterns
- Electronic gizmos (radios, Ipods, computer games, etc)
- Saws, hatchets or knives
- Stoves
- Please NO cell phones during outdoor education programs
- No dogs/pets are allowed