



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

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For Immediate Release:

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Free Sheriff's Summer Camp Applications Due March 1st

Camp provides free admission, food, lodging, travel, and activities for local families

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Do you know a child between the ages of 9 and 12 who, due to economic reasons, won't be able to attend a summer camp or enjoy a summer vacation?

Applications are open for Broome County families in need to send their kids free of charge to the 2026 NYS Sheriff's Summer Camp. **The deadline this year for the initial application is March 1, 2026.**

Each year, children from across the state travel to Keuka Lake in Penn Yan, NY to attend the Sheriff's Summer Camp free of charge. The program is fully funded by the New York State Sheriff's Institute and is designed to provide the full camp experience to children between the ages of 9 and 12 who, because of economic reasons, would not have the opportunity to attend a summer camp or enjoy a summer vacation.

County Sheriffs are given a certain number of camper slots for children to attend each summer. There is no cost for families. Food, lodging, travel, and activities are all free and paid for by donations. Youth are provided with athletic, musical, aquatic, recreational, and creative pursuits throughout their weekly camp session.

"This is a unique opportunity for families of Broome County and we want to make sure they are able to take full advantage of it," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "Not every family has summer camp or a summer vacation in their budget, and the Sheriff's Summer Camp is here to help those families and their children still have the chance to make lifelong memories and unforgettable experiences at a crucial and formative time in their lives. If you or someone you know is a parent facing financial challenges this year, we're urging you to please consider taking part in this outstanding program."

Initial Applications (Page 1 of the Application Packet) are due on March 1st, with the primary criteria being economically challenged children and children who can benefit from the positive interaction with deputy sheriffs. All four pages of the Camp Application, which includes health/medical portions that must be completed by a doctor must be submitted by April 1st.

Originally established as the YMCA Camp, “Camp Iroquois,” nearly 100 years ago, New York State Sheriffs have been proud to offer such a fantastic camp experience for disadvantaged youth from all over New York State since 1986. It’s a place where energy, enthusiasm, caring, and dedication create an atmosphere where campers feel included, supported and nurtured.

Sheriff Deputies and Corrections Officers from across the state volunteer their time each year and are essential to the camp’s daily curriculum. Four to six deputies are in residence during each of the six 1-week sessions, with other deputies visiting daily, providing demonstrations on K9 Units, Helicopters, Motorcycles, Horses, Marine Units and more as well as a presentation regarding illicit drugs and alcohol use.

Deputy Ed Hlebica has helped out at the Sheriff’s camp for the past 3 years.

“It’s truly a safe space for kids to grow, explore and keep coming back year after year,” said Hlebica. “We’ve been able to nearly triple our community’s participation over the past few years, and spots are already filling up, so we’re urging everyone who’s interested to get their applications in as soon as possible.”

There are two separate weeks that we’ll be sending Broome County children to camp. June 28 – July 4 and August 2 – August 8. If you know a child who could benefit from this, please contact: Records Clerk Pamella Riley at 607-778-6543, by email at Pamella.Riley@broomecountyny.gov, or stop by the Broome County Sheriff’s Office for an application.

[Link to Camp Brochure](#)

[Link to Camp Application](#)

[Link to Camp Flyer](#)

What to Bring to Camp

Required (Strongly Suggested) Items to Bring:

- Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets (We provide the bed and mattress)
- Pillow
- Swimsuits and beach towels (2-3 each, if possible)
- Additional towel and wash cloth for showering (different from beach towel)
- Shorts and t shirts for warm days
- Sweatpants or jeans and sweatshirts for cooler temperatures
- Clothes to sleep in
- Socks and underwear for the week
- Sneakers
- Water shoes and/or flip flops
- Toiletries toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, hairbrush, etc
- Sunscreen
- Medications (if applicable, in labeled zip lock bag with medication form)

Optional Items to Bring:

- Raingear
- Hat
- Hiking boots
- Flashlight (with batteries)
- Bug Spray

DO NOT BRING UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES:

- Cellphone
- Jewelry
- Food
- Money
- Fishing poles

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