

Troop Trip Guide

Jim Moran
Wood Badge Course
NE II-133
Eagle Patrol



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Introduction

I developed this guide to fulfill one of my Wood Badge ticket items. The idea for this guide came about during my Troop's visit to Valley Forge. While we had a great time, we encountered a few things for which we could have been better prepared. As it was our first time there with the current adult leadership, no one had the first-hand experience to advise us. I hope that this guide helps those of you who may have been in the same situation.

For those of you who have just taken over as the Scoutmaster for a troop, it may provide you with ideas for new trips. The contributors to this guide hail from different areas in New Jersey and New York. Perhaps, they will offer you an idea you had not yet considered.

I assembled this guide from emails and interviews of Scout leaders who attended a trip. My intention was to obtain the best advice available to share with you. The information documented in this guide is as accurate as I can make it at this time. I recommend that you check the web sites listed and call those sources to get the most up-to-date information before you plan your trip.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim Moran

Historical Sites

Cooperstown NY

Submitted By	Jon Brennan, BSA Director Field Services, NNJ Council
Date Submitted	December 16, 2003
Month(s) of Visit	May
Activities	Visit the Baseball Hall of Fame and Howes Caverns, Camped for 2 nights at Beaver Valley Campgrounds
Preparations	Contacted the Baseball Hall of Fame and Howes Caverns for Group Rates, they both had them at the time, the third weekend in May is when we went, Campgrounds had just opened, no problem, they have a Scout Camping Area.
After Thoughts	Better Promotion of the trip
Fees	
Special Considerations	Contact the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, they will be a major help, they also have a website
Where to Stay	Camping is available in the area
Contact Info	http://www.baseballhalloffame.org http://www.howecaverns.com http://www.beavervalleycampground.com
Additional Info	A great weekend trip for either Packs, Troops or Crews

Fireman's Home

Submitted By	Hudson, NY
Date Submitted	Rudy Numssen, Troop 31, Centerville, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 13, 2004
Activities	Spring Antique fire fighting equipment allows boys to experience the difference between old and new equipment 9/11 exhibit More than 50,000 square feet of fire apparatus, equipment, gear and memorabilia depicting the history of firefighting in a moving tribute to those brave men and women who have served their communities so well.
Preparations	
After Thoughts	
Fees	No Fees
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Troop 31 went as a day trip, but Fireman's area has 50 – 60 acres and they allow camping.
Contact Info	http://www.fasnyfiremuseum.com/home.php (877) 347-3687
Additional Info	Open 9AM – 4:30 PM

Gettysburg, PA

Submitted By

Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
Michael Prigoff, Assistant Scoutmaster - Troop 63

Date Submitted
Month(s) of Visit
Activities

11/12/2003

October

The Visitor's Center has a museum and a bookstore. It also has an attraction called "The Electric Map". I highly recommend this activity as it depicts the Battle of Gettysburg in a display of lights on a large relief map of the battlefield. It provides a good introductory orientation to the battle.

Adjacent to the Visitor's Center, you will find the Cyclorama. This is a circular mural with narration depicting Pickett's Charge.

There are several hiking trails that guide you through the various sites. The BSA and National Park Service have published an excellent trail guide for this purpose. These guides can be purchased at the bookstore.

The Billy Yank Trail is nine miles and takes approximately six hours.

The Johnny Reb Trail is three miles and takes approximately two hours.

The Historic Gettysburg Trail is also three miles.

Scouts who do the two trails, the Eisenhower Home tour, and complete the required essay can get a great four-part Historic Trail patch and a medallion.

Our troop followed the Johnny Reb Trail. It was an easy hike that would be suitable for all ages of Scouts. We observed another troop that appeared to be following part of this trail on bicycles. Many parts of this trail are on paved paths, but there were some portions that they must have detoured with the bikes.

Another troop went to the visitor's center early Saturday morning followed by the long hike. On Sunday morning, they took the short hike followed by the Eisenhower home tour (about an hour) before returning home.

We planned this trip for the Columbus Day weekend when the Scouts would be off from school on Monday. Our agenda included:
Saturday

- 8 AM depart for Gettysburg
- Noon – set up camp / eat bag lunch
- 1 PM –Johnny Reb Trail
- 5:30 PM – Catholic Mass at St. Francis Xavier (this church was used as a makeshift hospital during the battle)
- 6:30 PM – dinner out at Pizza Hut
- 7:30 PM – back to site for campfire

Sunday

- 7 AM – cook breakfast
- 9 AM – Visitor's Center & Cyclorama
- Noon – picnic lunch
- 1 PM – Historic Gettysburg Trail
- 4 PM – back to site to prepare/eat dinner
- 8 PM - campfire

Monday

- 7 AM – cook breakfast
- 9 AM – depart for home

Preparations

The Visitor's Center and Cyclorama are Federal facilities and do not allow backpacks and weapons – leave the pocketknives in the car!

After Thoughts

It is helpful to get the guidebooks in advance.

This was a great trip and I would do it again with the troop. We did encounter some difficulties. There was a lot of roadwork on the drive out and our schedule had to be altered. We substituted a short walk through downtown Gettysburg for the Saturday hike and did the Johnny Reb Trail on Sunday.

Fees

Effective 1/1/2004:

Electric Map: Adults \$4 - Youth \$3

Cyclorama: Adults \$4 - Youth \$3

Trail Guide: \$1.50

Special Considerations

The cooperation of the weather is definitely a factor. We were lucky in this area.

Where to Stay

There are campsites available at the Gettysburg National Park, but you must reserve these well in advance.

There is also a Scout camp, Camp Conewago, nearby in New Oxford, PA.

Contact Info

See current info on web sites below

Additional Info

<http://www.nps.gov/gett>

<http://www.yaac-bsa.org>

Iroquois Indian Museum

Submitted By	Schoharie, NY
Date Submitted	Bill Kenneweg, Troop 31, Centerville, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 13, 2004
Activities	Spring
	The Iroquois Indian Museum is an educational institution dedicated to fostering understanding of Iroquois culture using Iroquois art as a window to that culture. The museum is a venue for promoting Iroquois art and artists, and a meeting place for all peoples to celebrate Iroquois culture and diversity. As an anthropological institution, it is informed by research on archaeology, history, and the common creative spirit of modern artists and craftspeople
Preparations	
After Thoughts	
Fees	Check web site for fees and hours of operation
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Troop 31 went as a day trip
Contact Info	http://www.iroquoismuseum.org
Additional Info	

Urban Hike – Central Park

Submitted By
Date Submitted
Month(s) of Visit
Activities

“A Day and Night in Central Park, New York City”
Peter Angelica, Committee Member - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
3/31/05
March '04

The goal of this trip was to hike from one end of Central Park to the other, seeing a large “natural” environment surrounded by a major city. In addition, we took in a show at the Rose Center for Earth and Space (aka Planetarium) and an IMAX film at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). The visit to the AMNH was part of a back-up plan if it had rained on Saturday.

Coming from NJ, our group of 4 adults and 10 scouts started the day with a hike across the George Washington Bridge for the views; check the website to see which walkway (North or South) is open. Check with the Fort Lee Police regarding how to get onto the bridge. At the NY side of the bridge, we entered the bus terminal to take the “A” train subway from 175th St. to Columbus Circle. There we met a representative of The Central Park Conservancy. While they have standard tours of sections of the Park on a Saturday, we were able to go with their Youth Group that took us on a tour of the youth-led ecological restoration project in the Hallett Nature Sanctuary, a 3.5-acre woodland in the SE corner of the Park which was set aside for wildlife and closed to the public since 1934.

The CPC representative took our group from the Pond to the Dairy to use the bathrooms (not public). We then started the hike (>2.5 mi) to the AMNH, going onto the Mall, Bethesda Fountain, and then headed west through the Ramble to 80th St. We left the Park and crossed Central Park West to the Rose Center. We ate lunch outside the museum since it does not have a cafeteria or dining hall on weekends. We checked all day-packs upon entry (no knives were allowed on this trip), went to the Planetarium show, toured the museum for an hour, and saw the IMAX movie. Many of us were pretty tired at that point, so some slept through the movie.

Leaving the museum we returned to the Park and met the Urban Park Rangers at Belvedere Castle at 3:00 and visited the science center there. They then led us on a hike (>2mi) to the Great Hill where we set up tents. We had a parent drive a truck with the tents and gear to the Park entrance at 106th St., where the tents were transferred to a Park vehicle and brought to the site. The exchange was necessary since no vehicles are allowed in the Park on weekends. No cooking is allowed in the park, so we ordered pizza

for dinner; the Rangers can help with this. If you want delivery, you have to leave the park and find a building with an address, since nobody delivers without an address. You can have the Rangers watch the tents while you eat in a restaurant, but it is not easy to find a restaurant nearby to accommodate a large group.

After dinner we went on a night hike through Northern Central Park with Urban Park Rangers to the Dana Discovery Center for bathrooms. This was my personal highlight, as the structures and vistas of the Park become all the more magical in the semi-darkness; don't forget your flashlight. We saw Block House #1, one of the fortifications built to protect NYC from the British during the War of 1812, and the Huddleston Arch, a bridge built without the help of mortar or metal supports. The Urban Rangers of both sexes were great with the boys in terms of keeping them engaged in the conflict between a "natural" environment and its urban surroundings. No campfires allowed, but everyone was tired. Two Rangers were awake and on duty through the night.

To coincide with their shift changes, the Rangers required us to break camp and have the tents and gear out of the Park by 7:00, which we did with the help of the parent with a truck. We then got delivery of bagels for breakfast. We hiked east to the Tennis Center to use the bathrooms and then out to 5th Ave to catch the bus to St. Patrick's Cathedral for the Cardinal's Mass. We saw the skating rink at Rockefeller Center and then walked to the Port Authority at 40th St. for a bus home.

The time schedule for this trip was:

- 8:30 - start hike across GW Bridge (≥ 1 mi)
- 9:45 – Meet CPC and tour Hallett Sanctuary
- 10:30 - start hike to AMNH (2mi)
- Noon – Lunch outside
- 1:00 – Planetarium show
- 1:30 PM– Walk around AMNH
- 2:30 PM – IMAX show
- 3:30 PM – Meet Urban Park Rangers and hike to site (>2.5)
- 6:30 PM – Set up tents and dinner
- 8:30 PM – Night Hike

Sunday

- 7 AM – Break camp and eat Breakfast
- 9 AM – Catch 5th Ave Bus to Rockefeller Center
- 10:30 – Cardinal's Mass
- 1 PM – Bus Home

Preparations

Review all websites (see below). I made a dry run of the morning hike for the timing; we had to keep to a tight schedule to make the

shows at the AMNH on time. Get the CPC book on the Park for background. Give yourself 3 months lead time to get all the different events scheduled; if you wait too long, tickets for shows at the AMNH will sell out. Your time with the Rangers will revolve around their 8 hour shifts. Review urban etiquette with your scouts; while this looks like the woods, it is a public park you are sharing with the other 10,000 visitors that day. Stay on paved paths, use bathrooms not trees, have a buddy system, do not stare at strange-looking people. Get MetroCards for subways and buses ahead of time; booths do not sell to groups.

After Thoughts	I am not sure the scouts got much out of the Hallett Sanctuary, partially because of the student-led nature. Later in the year would have been prettier and warmer, but then we would have had more people in the park. This is a busy hike; one could pare it down in several areas if needed. If you do not want to spend the night, this could be just a day hike. If not attending Catholic Mass, there are other great church services in NYC near the Park or on 5 th Ave.
Fees	Rangers - \$250; Combined admission to AMNH and 2 shows - \$15/child (<13yrs), \$21/student, \$25/adult. \$2/ride on bus or subway
Special Considerations	Before April 1, not all Park public bathrooms are operating. Check with the Rangers and CPC. NYC March weather is unpredictable; ours was dry but cold; low 20's at night. If it rains, the AMNH is a great alternative. Food is not cheap. Because we had to check any packs when visiting the AMNH, we did not have the scouts carry sleeping bags and tents, but had a dad put them in a truck and drive them into NYC and out the next day.
Where to Stay	Camping in the Park is <u>illegal</u> unless under Ranger supervision
Contact Info	Urban Park Rangers - Dial 212 NEW YORK and ask for the Urban Park Rangers, or 212/628-2345 http://www.nyc.gov/parks Central Park Conservancy - (14 East 60th Street, NYC, NY 10022 (212) 310-6600 contact@centralparknyc.org). American Museum of Natural History - (Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192 (212) 769-5100 www.amnh.org For advance reservations for special exhibitions, films, and lectures, call (212) 769-5200 (9:00am - 5:00pm, M-F.)
Additional Info	V & T Pizzeria , 1024 Amsterdam Ave (betwn 110 th and 111 th St.) (212) 663-1708 They deliver.

Bagels & Co, 393 Amsterdam Ave. (betwn 77th and 78th St.)
Phone: (212) 496-9400 Open early on Sunday and delivers
H & H Bagels 2239 Broadway (betwn 79th and 80th St.)
(212) 595-8000 No delivery but open 24hrs and the best in NYC

Urban Hike – Revolutionary War Historical Trail

Submitted By
Date Submitted
Month(s) of Visit
Activities

New York City

Peter Angelica, Committee Member - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
3/31/05

December

This day-hike (8:30AM – 4:00PM) is about 9 miles. It was laid out by the Man-A-Hattan Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, and is one half of their “NYC Historical Trails”. While this one covers the northern tip of Manhattan, the other half, called “The Old New York Historical Trail” covers the southern tip. Each hike has a Trail Guide Book (TGB) and a patch. The focus of this hike is the battle of Manhattan during the Revolution, although there is much more to see and experience along the way. The TGB has questions for the scouts to complete during the hike. While the following varies little from the route given in the TGB, please refer to the TGB for a more complete description and much more detail.

Our group of 6 adults and 10 scouts drove across the GW Bridge and down the Henry Hudson Parkway and exited at 157th St. We were able to park cars on the streets around Trinity Cemetery and Audubon Terrace; there is usually on-street parking in that area. We took the #1 subway train at 157th St. and Broadway to the last stop in Manhattan, 215th St. We walked to Inwood Park and hiked through it to 204th St. and crossed to Broadway to view from the street the Dyckman farmhouse, currently closed due to renovations. We then hiked down Broadway to Fort Tryon Park and did a quick (1 hr.) walk through of the Cloisters Museum. The TGB advises against stopping here, as it deserves much more time than one can give it and still complete the tour in a reasonable time. However, I am not sure we could have coaxed the scouts to spend more than an hour gazing at paintings, tapestries, and sculpture. Furthermore, since we could not get into the Dyckman house, we had some time, and for those that had never been to the Cloisters, it was well worthwhile. Besides, it was our first bathroom stop.

We had lunch outside, as the Cloister has no facilities. We then hiked through the park following the TGB, and visited the Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first canonized American citizen. We had contacted them in advance and they were willing to let us have lunch at their facility in the event of rain. We continued the hike following the TGB, with the exception of stopping at the 1930’s movie palace, the Loew’s 175th at 4140 Broadway. Still intact in all its glory, by chance we were there when it was open.

We completed the hike with a tour of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, a very grand colonial home and Washington's HQ during the battle for Manhattan. We had contacted them in advance to reserve a tour for the group.

Preparations	A really good detailed map of this part of Manhattan is a must. The website for Washington Heights (http://www.washington-heights.us/history/) not only provides great information about the area, but has links to all of the sites mentioned in the TGB, so one can set up tours, etc. This is necessary for the Cloisters and the M-J Mansion. Obtain MetroCards for the subway in advance, as booths do not sell group cards. Make sure somebody is prepared to lead the tour of the Cloisters, as there are no tours on weekends for groups. We brought lunch, although there are great restaurants in the area.
After Thoughts	Very easy day-hike/trip if you are near NYC. The area is not the best area of NYC, but neither is it unsafe. Rainy weather would have made the visits to the museums messy, but the trip is still possible. Someone with a good knowledge of the battle of Manhattan is necessary to make much of the hike relevant.
Fees	Trail Book & Patch - \$3/trail, or \$5 for both Revolutionary and Old New York Historical Trails; The Cloisters - \$6/person Morris-Jumel Mansion - \$2.50/person, \$15 min.
Special Considerations	No knives allowed on this hike. Almost all hiking is on paved paths or sidewalks.
Where to Stay	Day hike, no overnight planned. One of the Alpine campsites off 9W would have been convenient.
Contact Info	Historical Trail Committee, Man-A-Hattan Lodge 82, B.S.A. c/o Patricia Bain, Advisor, 165 East 32 nd St., Apt. 11B, NYC, NY 1006, or the BSA in Manhattan; Greater New York Council 350 Fifth Avenue, 4th Floor New York, NY 10118-0199 212-242-1100; Web site: http://www.bsa-gnyc.org
Additional Info	

US Merchant Marine Academy

Submitted By
Date Submitted
Month(s) of Visit
Activities

Kingspoint, NY

Dale Livi, Committee Chair - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ

March 2005

April

This is a weekend Camporee that is organized and run by Eagle Scouts who are midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. The US Merchant Marine Academy is one five federal services academies. The mission of the Academy is to train young men and women to be merchant marine/US Navy Officers.

The activities have either a nautical or military theme. Events included; a physical fitness challenge, use of the computer lab for simulated navigation problems, precision rifle drill with instruction from drill team and USMC personnel, life boat races on LI Sound, tour of ships, boats and USCG cutters located at the Academy, tug boat rides on LI Sound, USCG helo search and rescue demo, knot tying and rope handling lab, USMC and US Army displays, tour of museum, chili cook offs and bonfire. One of the high points is the raising of the larges size garrison flag (#1 Ensign) up the Academy's 173-foot flagpole at morning colors.

Camporee 2005

TYPICAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

- 1500– 2300 Registration (concession stand under football bleachers)
Parking (academy campus and Stepping Stone Park)
Troops arrive, check-in, and set up (Roosevelt Field)
Troop Guides meet with their Troops (Roosevelt Field)
- 1945 Troop Guides begin to bring their Troops to the Opening Ceremony.
- 2000 Opening Ceremony in O'Hara Hall.
- 2200 Opening Ceremony Ends. All participants return to campsites.
- 2210 Cracker barrel for Scoutmasters/Senior Patrol Leader and Meeting in Delano Hall. Rules and Regulations will be reviewed. Schedules for Saturday will be gone over. All questions answered. Schedule of events handed out.
- 2300 Taps. **ALL** Scouts and Scoutmasters to be in their campsites.

SATURDAY

- 0530 Morning PT for volunteer Scouts with Academy's Eagle Scout

Volunteers. (Muster on Roosevelt Field)

0600	Reveille for all hands.
0615-0730	Breakfast in troop areas
0730	Muster on Lower Roosevelt Field and march to the Oval. Scouts helping raise the number 1 Ensign report to the camp staff at this time at the Trading Post.
0750-0800	Colors. Volunteer Scouts assist in raising the number 1 Ensign.
0810-0850	ALL Troops go on a tour of the Academy. Meet with Troop Guides for tour.
0900-1100	See tentative scheduled events.
1100-1300	Lunch on Roosevelt Field in troop areas. The Trading Post will be open at this time.
1230-1800	Scouts divide into Patrols and go to the stations according to the attached schedule.
1800-2000	Dinner on Roosevelt Field in troop areas. Chili Cook-Off and campsite inspections. The Trading Post will be open.
2000-2045	ALL hands relaxing time in troop areas. Relaxing, enjoying the scouting spirit, and taking a break from your normal schedule is mandatory at this time. The Trading Post will be open.
2045-2100	March to Campfire.
2100-2200	Campfire (words, awards, skits) Location TBD.
2215	Cracker barrel for Scoutmasters in Ackerman Auditorium.
2300	Taps. ALL Scouts and Scoutmaster to be in their sites.

TBA/Tentative Events

ALL scouts report to Waterfront to observe USCG Search and Rescue Demonstration. (includes USCG Helicopter & the 100 ft. Cutter ADAK)

Waterfront - Tours and explanations of USCG ADAK

TBA - Tours and explanations of USCG Dolphin Helo – Tentative

TBA – Demonstration and tour of U.S. Air Force National Guard Pave Hawk.

SUNDAY

0600	Reveille for all hands.
0615-0730	Breakfast in troop areas.
0730	Muster on Roosevelt Field and march to the Oval.
0750-0800	Colors. Troops assemble on the Oval for flag raising.
0810	Closing Remarks. Troops may depart after site is inspected by KPESA staff.

0930 Catholic services in Mariners Memorial Chapel.
1100 Protestant services in Mariners Memorial Chapel.

Preparations
After Thoughts

This is an excellent trip that exposes scouts to a different experience than the typical forest camping. Scouts are not only exposed to some interesting presentations but also have the opportunity to interact with scouts from as far away as Maine or Virginia, Sea Scouts, Girls Scouts as well as midshipman, Coast Guardsmen, Marines and other representatives of our armed forces.

Fees

The 2005 cost for the camporee was \$10.00 per person as well as a \$15.00 troop registration fee. A \$50 deposit was required at registration

Special
Considerations

Camping space is limited to one of the athletic fields. Sites are close together and space is at a premium. Ground fires are not permitted. All cooking must be done on camp stoves or BBQ's.

Where to Stay
Contact Info

US Merchant Marine Academy Office of External Affairs
(516-773-5000)

Additional Info

<http://www.usmma.edu/kpesa>

Valley Forge, PA

Submitted By	Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
Date Submitted	December 16, 2003
Month(s) of Visit	March
Activities	We arrived on Friday night and setup camp. We cooked breakfast on Saturday morning and headed out to the Welcome Center. We stopped at the bookstore and purchased the trail books and watched the film "Valley Forge – a Winter Encampment". We set out on the nine-mile hike on the Valley Forge Historic Trail. Scouts who completed the hike and the activities in the trail book earned the Historic Trail Medal from available the Cradle of Liberty Council.
Preparations	We put lunches in a cooler and parked a car near the spot in the trail we expected to be at noon.
After Thoughts	Bring a compass – the trail guide gives compass headings.
Fees	Camping Fee is \$3.00 per person, but check the web site for reservations and current price. There is a fee to enter Washington's Headquarters (\$3.00), but other park activities are free.
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	The Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company rents campsites to support Valley Forge Troop 73. The site is very convenient to the historical park. There are field sites close to the parking area or wooded sites up the hill.
Contact Info	http://www.vftroop73.org http://www.nps.gov/vafo http://www.colbsa.org
Additional Info	

Washington, DC

Submitted By	Jim Harper, Troop 5, Ridgewood, NJ
Date Submitted	July 15, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	November 2002
Activities	Park cars at the mall: Friday: Start at the Lincoln Memorial and work your way to the Smithsonian. Have lunch and dinner at the Union Station food court or the Smithsonian. Saturday: cook breakfast in site; prepare bag lunch for afternoon. Visit Holocaust Museum and Mint. Cook dinner in site. Sunday: Visit Arlington National Cemetery in full uniform.
Preparations	Due to the distance, plan this for a long weekend.
After Thoughts	Jim Harper said the troop was disappointed with the National Geographic Museum so you might want to skip this. Plan to get to the Washington Monument early to get tickets for a specific time.
Fees	Bring money for meals. Tell Scouts in advance about the costs and let them manage their own money. Teach budgeting.
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Federal Reserve Campsite in Maryland Pine Forest The campsite is a drive-up site.
Contact Info	http://www.washington.org
Additional Info	

West Point Camporee

Submitted By	West Point, NY Bill Pitcher, Troop 20, Hurley, NY
Date Submitted	July 14, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	May – usually the weekend after Mother's Day
Activities	It is approximately 2 ½ miles to the site over Bill Hill Mountain. A cadet leads the troop for this hike to the site. There is a wide range of activities including canoe races, bucket brigades, pioneering, compass skills, knot tying, and first aid scenarios. On Sunday, there is a full parade of all cadets.
Preparations	In order to take advantage of this trip, you must have a cadet sponsor. The cadet sponsor must be a former member of your troop or a relative of a member. The cadet sponsor must be willing to host the troop and participate in the Camporee. You need to apply well in advance – between August and December of the prior year. Scouts should bring a daypack. Only two vehicles are allowed at the site. Other vehicles must park elsewhere.
After Thoughts	
Fees	Est. \$12 – 15 per scout Check website for information
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	
Contact Info	http://www.usma.edu/USCC/DCA/Clubs/scou/index.html
Additional Info	

Wilderness Trips

Hemlock Ridge / Marlboro Mountain

Submitted By	Plattekill, Ulster County, NY Art Fosler / Walter Davidson
Date Submitted	July 13, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	Anytime
Activities	Remote camping – no latrines Night hiking: 1½ miles backpack into site with 300 – 400 foot ascent. Setup camp in the dark next to stream. Cooking over campfire Opportunity for Pioneering and Orienteering Building a rope bridge across the stream and lashing camp furniture
Preparations	No site permits are required You must bring tablets or other water purification devices.
After Thoughts	Pack light – you are backpacking
Fees	
Special Considerations	None – this trip is appropriate for all scouts
Where to Stay	Wilderness campsites
Contact Info	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/reccmpl4.htm
Additional Info	From US 9W in Milton; turn west on Ulster County Route 10 (Milton Turnpike); go 4.1 miles to a left turn onto South Street; 0.8 miles, a narrower South Street turns left off the main road, now watch for this carefully; follow South Street; go 1.7 miles, where South Street becomes Lewis Road; continue 0.4 miles more to the parking entrance on the left.

Floodwood 50 mile Trek

Submitted By	Bob Smith
Date Submitted	12-15-03
Month(s) of Visit	August
Activities	50 mile trek on The Northville Placid Trail. From Lake Placid to Long Lake. Hiking, camping, swimming, rock climbing and repelling, float plane ride.
Preparations	8 months, the Northville placid trail is 123 miles long, after reading the ADK's book on it we needed to select one part of it and figure out the drop off and pick up. The section we did was 39 miles long but we were able to do side trips to cover the requirements of the 50 Miler Award. The Trek involved a voyager, Jim Kapotes and I and 5 Scouts (High Peaks Limit 8 people to a trek). Each scout was given an assignment to research a person or a place we were traveling through and they would have to discuss their research of that person or place with us when we reached that specific area. They included Mitchel Sabattis (A guide and inventor of the Adirondack canoe), The Cold River, Noah Rondeau, and the MacIntauch Mt Range. The scouts earned The Leave No Trace Award and only need another 2 night and 16 mile trek to complete the Backpacking Merit Badge.
After Thoughts	This was a GREAT Trek, the people who run Floodwood never did this trip and our Voyager was the Director, Jim Duvaney. He loved it so much that they plan to include it in future. The scouts want to do the next section of the Trail this summer.
Fees	\$260 for Floodwood, float plane ride \$15 (and parental permission)
Special Considerations	This was a fairly difficult trek, each scout was carrying about 40 lbs and Jim and I had about 50-55 lbs. Scouts should be 14 or older and in good shape, we were hiking between 12 to 14 miles a day.
Where to Stay	There are many lean-to's and it is very remote, we only saw a few people the whole week.
Contact Info	http://www.nnjbsa.org/camps/floodwood
Additional Info	After our Trek we took a float plane ride from Long Lake and flew over the same area we had hiked, it was a surprise to the boy's because Jim and I got permission from the parents and they didn't know about it.

Round Valley Recreation Area

Submitted By	Clinton, NJ
Date Submitted	Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
Month(s) of Visit	December 16, 2003
Activities	September The campsites at Round Valley are wilderness sites that are only accessible by a 3+ mile hike or by boat. Activities included wilderness camp setup, hiking, and fishing. The reservoir is a trophy bass lake.
	<p>This was planned as a one night trip because our intended arrival time was too late to hike into the site.</p> <p>We brought canoes and a small powerboat. Some adults carried gear to the site in the boats while other hiked with the scouts with packs. We planned foil packet meals and packed these into a cooler that was transported via canoe.</p>
Preparations	There are restrictions on arrival times. The rangers do not want groups hiking to the sites and potentially getting lost in the dark. Check with the rangers before you plan your weekend.
	<p>There are water pumps on the trail, but we found some not working. Be prepared to pump/purify your own water.</p>
After Thoughts	Some younger scouts had difficulty with the hike and a pack. While it is only three miles, the trail is not flat.
Fees	\$1 per night per person
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Wilderness camping at Round Valley Recreation Area
Contact Info	http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/round.html
Additional Info	

Float Trips

Delaware River Canoe Trip

Submitted By
Date Submitted
Month(s) of Visit
Activities

Ulster County, NY
Bill Pitcher, Troop 20, Hurley, NY
July 14, 2004
August
This is a canoe trip with water running 3 – 5 MPH
Goals for the trip:
1. Get parents involved
2. Boys have fun

Friday: arrive at TMR at Noon, setup camp, have lunch, explore/hike/swim in this large camp that is located on the Delaware River.

Saturday: canoes will be delivered to Callicoon, NY where we will start the canoe trip – about 20 miles – returning to our site at TMR.

Sunday: break camp at TMR and paddle to Buckhorn Natural Area – about 17 miles. Pick up gear on the NY side and paddle/transport the gear across the river to set up Sunday night's camp.

Monday: break camp, transport gear across the river to vehicles, then canoe the final stretch of 17 miles to Matamoras to return the canoes and begin the trip home.

Preparations

This troop decided to have the parents prepare/cook the food and make this a mandatory Parent/Scout trip

Arrange with a canoe rental company to deliver and pick up canoes at a specific spot.

Gear: typical camping equipment including rain gear, swim suit, towel shirts, long/short pants, daily change of underwear/socks, sleeping bag and pad, sweatshirt/light jacket, hiking shoes/camp shoes, mess kit with utensils/cup, water bottle, toilet kit, flashlight, handbook, and pen/pencil.

Additional gear: extra water bottles, water sandals/shoes, dry bag for day gear, bicycling gloves, fishing gear, compass, sun block, insect repellent, knee pads, helmet, wet suit, and hat.

NO ELECTRONIC STUFF ALLOWED.

**After Thoughts
Fees**

Troop 63 charged \$90 per person which included 3 days of canoe rental at \$18 per person per day, food, camp site fees, transportation, and 50 miler patch.

**Special
Considerations**

The Delaware River has stretches of whitewater/rapids. This trip has a level of difficulty and danger. The river can be gentle, but it can have sections with difficult white water that can be dangerous. People have drowned and been seriously hurt on this river. This trip may not be for everyone. All participants will be required to wear PFDs regardless of their age and skills. Helmets and wet suits are not required but are considered advisable.

Where to Stay

Ten Mile River Scout Reservation
Outpost camp
Buckhorn Natural Area (Delaware State Forest)

Contact Info

<http://tenmileriver.org>
888-346-5805
<http://www.nps.gov/upde>
<http://www.nps.gov/upde/rivtrip.htm>

Additional Info

Fish Creek Ponds

Submitted By	Ulster County, NY
Date Submitted	Bill Pitcher, Troop 20, Hurley, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 14, 2004
Activities	September This is a canoe trip with water running 3 – 5 MPH Goals for the trip: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Get parents involved2. Boys have fun
Preparations	This troop decided to have the parents prepare/cook the food and make this a mandatory Parent/Scout trip
After Thoughts	
Fees	Check web site for fees and hours of operation
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	
Contact Info	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/camping/campgrounds/fishcreek.html
Additional Info	

Old Forge to Blue Mountain Lake

Submitted By	Bill Melvin, Troop 63, Ashokan, NY
Date Submitted	July 13, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	August 2003
Activities	Canoe trip on calm water Four difficult portages Camp on an island
Preparations	Bring wheels for canoes Check canoes for leaks before the trip Could plan round trip or straight line trip with a pickup driver at the end of the route.
After Thoughts	Pack lightly
Fees	Some of the campsites have fees – check with NY State for registration
Special Considerations	None – this trip is appropriate for all scouts, but follow the BSA guidelines for canoe trips.
Where to Stay	All sites had basic latrines, some have pumps and some have lean-tos
Contact Info	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/reccmpl4.htm
Additional Info	

Shawangunk River / Walkkill River

Submitted By	Ulster County, NY
Date Submitted	Art Fosler / Walter Davidson
Month(s) of Visit	July 13, 2004
Activities	March - October
	Canoe trip
	Fresh water fishing
Preparations	Bring spare dry boots
	One driver should stay at the end of the route.
After Thoughts	Check river conditions beforehand. It could be whitewater class 3 after a rainstorm. In drought conditions, you should postpone the trip.
Fees	
Special Considerations	None – this trip is appropriate for all scouts, but follow the BSA guidelines for canoe trips.
Where to Stay	
Contact Info	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/reccmpl4.htm
Additional Info	

Just For Fun

Harley Davidson Factory

York, PA

Submitted By

John Storyk, Joe Paradies Troop 70, Highland, NY

Date Submitted

July 14, 2004

Month(s) of Visit

Late Spring

Activities

Tour the famous motorcycle factory (about 2 hours)

Possible to combine with another trip or see the Valley Forge

Military Academy

Preparations

After Thoughts

Fees

Check web site for fees and hours of operation

Special

Considerations

Where to Stay

Contact Info

<http://www.harley-davidson.com>

Additional Info

Knoebels Amusement Park

Submitted By John Bailey, Assistant Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
Date Submitted March 23, 2005
Month(s) of Visit June
Activities Knoebels has a large selection of thrill rides, family rides and kiddie rides. Its thrill rides include two world-class roller coasters, the Phoenix and the Twister. Family rides include bumper boats, haunted mansion, grand carousel, motorboats and many others. For a complete listing see their web site; WWW.KNOEBELS.COM

Knoebels also has a large swimming pool. The Crystal Pool & Waterslides includes nearly 4 Acres of Sunbathing, 4 Thrilling Waterslides, Ball Crawl & Climbing Nets, Swimming Accessories, Picnic Area, & Refreshment Stand.

Knoebels offers FREE entertainment every day! Many different types of musical bands perform at the park. Their website offers a listing by date.

Preparations Reserve your campsite early

After Thoughts
Fees

The park has a number of different plans from pay one price plans to individual ride prices. Best consult their web site:
www.knoebels.com/rates

Special
Considerations

The Knoebels campground, because it is so convenient to the amusement park, fills up quickly in the summer. Make your reservations early!

Where to Stay

Knoebels offers two campgrounds for you to stay at: Knoebels campground and Lake Glory Campground. The Knoebels campground is adjacent to the amusement park. A free shuttle runs between the Lake Glory campground and the amusement park. For tent sites, rates for both campgrounds are approx. \$30 – 32 per nite. Both campgrounds also offer cabins (which cost more).

Contact Info

WWW.KNOEBELS.COM

(570) 672-2572

(800) ITS-4FUN

Additional Info

Lake Compounce Amusement Park

Submitted By	Bristol, CT Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
Date Submitted	December 16, 2003
Month(s) of Visit	June
Activities	Lake Compounce is the oldest continuously operating amusement park in the country. It is a beautiful, traditional, amusement park with a lot of history. Lake Compounce has a nice mixture of old and new rides. Classic rides include a Flying Scooters, Rotor, and Carousel. More modern non-coaster rides include the Top Spin, Thunder Rapids, and a nice Pirate ship ride set on a nice waterfall location. The Compounce Mountain sky ride is a ski-lift like ride that gives you a nice view of the park We planned our trip so that we drove to the campsite on Friday. We cooked breakfast in the site on Saturday morning and then spent the day at Lake Compounce. We bought lunch and dinner at the park. On Sunday, we cooked breakfast in the site and broke camp for the ride home.
Preparations	Check the operating hours in advance. We went in June and they were only open from 11AM to 8PM on Saturday.
After Thoughts	The sites at Black Mountain State Park are drive-up sites. There are many RV-type campers, so it is best to book early and reserve a tent site.
Fees	Group discounts can be arranged in advance, but you need a group of at least 25. Group rates on weekends are approximately \$20 per person.
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Black Mountain State Park
Contact Info	http://www.lakecompounce.com http://dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/blackrock.htm
Additional Info	

Six Flags Great Adventure

Submitted By	Jackson, NJ; Lake George, NY
Date Submitted	Beverly Bellizzi, Tom Beeble Troop 70, Highland, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 14, 2004
Activities	Early Spring Amusement park rides. Jackson also has a water park and an animal park.
Preparations	Group discounts can be arranged in advance
After Thoughts	Troop 70 preferred to make this a Scouts only trip – no siblings
Fees	Check web site for fees and hours of operation
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	
Contact Info	http://www.sixflags.com
Additional Info	

Winter Trips

Frost Valley YMCA Camp

Claryville, NY

Submitted By

Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ

Date Submitted

December 16, 2003

Month(s) of Visit

January

Activities

Frost Valley is a great place for a trip and it does not require much planning. They provide a full meal service and all activities for the fee.

Activities include:

- Cross country skiing
- Snow tubing
- Ice fishing
- Broomball (like hockey on a frozen pond)
- Ice cutting
- Maple sugaring
- Many hikes

Preparations

You need to reserve early as they do fill up for key weekends.

After Thoughts

All of the cabins have showers and toilets. Remind the scouts to bring a towel so they can take a shower.

Fees

Check the website for current fees. Groups can reserve an entire cabin.

Special Considerations

The Frost Valley dining service accommodates guests with special dietary and religious needs/

Where to Stay

We like Turrell because it has nice fireplace and a ping pong table.

Contact Info

<http://www.frostvalley.org>

Additional Info

Mohonk Preserve Duck Pond

Submitted By	Ulster County, NY
Date Submitted	Jim Upright Troop 70, Highland, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 14, 2004
Activities	January Prepare for the Klondike Derby There are plenty of hiking and biking trails. Groups might be interested in a guided tour or a self-guided tour program.
Preparations	Group discounts can be arranged in advance
After Thoughts	
Fees	Check web site for fees and hours of operation
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	
Contact Info	http://www.mohonkpreserve.org
Additional Info	US 87 north to Exit 18 for New Paltz; turn left onto Route 299 west; drive through the college town of New Paltz (State University of New York at New Paltz); shortly after crossing the bridge over the Wallkill River turn right onto Springtown Road; shortly, at the fork in the road turn/bear left and head up Mountain Rest Road to the entrance on the left.

Saratoga / Glens Falls

Submitted By	Ulster County, NY
Date Submitted	Bill Pitcher, Troop 20, Hurley, NY
Month(s) of Visit	July 14, 2004
Activities	February This is a father/son winter sports trip: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cross country skiing2. Downhill skiing3. Snow boarding4. Opportunity to earn snow sports merit badge
Preparations	There are no separate sleeping quarters for women, so this is a father/son trip. Check with local ski shops before you go.
After Thoughts	
Fees	\$20 rental \$22 lift ticket \$110 for the weekend Check website for latest prices and look for group discounts
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Wakpominee (Twin rivers Council) There are several winterized buildings available
Contact Info	http://www.wakpominee.org/camp http://www.goremountain.com
Additional Info	

Winter Camping Onteor Lake

Submitted By	Near Kingston, NY Bill Melvin, Troop 63, Ashokan, NY
Date Submitted	July 13, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	January 2003
Activities	Orienteering Making Quincy huts Snow shoeing Cross country skiing
Preparations	You must bring tablets or other water purification devices. Review guidelines for winter camping. Inspect scouts before departure. Pack at a troop meeting. Use Klondike sleds to transport gear.
After Thoughts	
Fees	
Special	
Considerations	
Where to Stay	Wilderness campsites
Contact Info	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/reccmpl4.htm
Additional Info	

Warm Weather Trips

Fire Island / Watch Hill

Submitted By	Long Island, NY Chris Patoir, Scoutmaster Troop 13, Glen Rock, NJ
Date Submitted	July 14, 2004
Month(s) of Visit	September
Activities	Camp on sand dunes. Activities include ecology center, canoeing, clamming, nature hike, and swimming. The bay side has calm water.
Preparations	This is a National Park, so you need to reserve early – there is a lottery system for reservations. If you plan swimming activities, be sure to check ahead for lifeguards or bring your own.
After Thoughts	
Fees	\$20 per site
Special Considerations	
Where to Stay	Camp in the Watch Hill area.
Contact Info	http://www.nps.gov/fiis http://www.nps.gov/fiis/EastDist/watchhill.html Ranger Office: 631-597-7021 Visitor Center: 631-597-6455 Camping: 631-289-9336

Additional Info

Sandy Hook National Recreation Area

Submitted By Sandy Hook, NJ
Date Submitted Jim Moran, Scoutmaster - Troop 27 Glen Rock, NJ
December 16, 2003
Month(s) of Visit September
Activities Sandy Hook has plenty of activities from tours of the lighthouse, Fort Hancock, and Battery Potter to surf and bay fishing.

We planned our trip to include a 4-hour trip on a fishing boat out of nearby Atlantic Highlands.

Preparations

After Thoughts The camping area has a lot of poison ivy, so Scouts should be prepared to recognize and avoid it.

Fees

Special Considerations

Where to Stay

Contact Info

<http://www.state.nj.us/travel/virtual/sandyhook>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/park/sandyhk.htm>
<http://www.nps.gov/gate>

Additional Info