Bucktail Council #509 BSA
Where to go Camping Guide

Compiled and Organized by Ah’Tic Lodge #139

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Dear readers,

As found in the purpose statement of the Order of the Arrow, it is the job of the organization to promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout’s experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp. That, my friends, is the purpose of this pamphlet. It is to be used in exploration of new sites for adventure with your local units, in everything from a standard weekend camping trip to the numerous High Adventure opportunities we harness within our region and nationwide.

Each of us here at the Ah’Tic Lodge take great pride in the natural beauty and outdoor opportunities in our surrounding area. Our great land is laced with navigable rivers, hiking trails, rocks to climb and terrain to be explored. Outdoor adventure is one of the key pillars of the Scouting movement as a whole, and personally the activity that consumes most of my weekends and summers. Camping is one of the greatest tools in recruitment and expansion of membership in the program, and undoubtedly the aspect present most in conversation between current and potential Scouts. These reasons listed above are why we here at the Ah’Tic Lodge worked to put this pamphlet together over this past year.

We hope that you as unit leaders and adult volunteers will put this guide to use in finding new
locations to take your units into the great outdoors. Inside you will find a variety of information which can be put to use in your outdoor pursuits. Information ranging from places to camp, both long and short term, hike, canoe, mountain bike, and horseback ride can be found inside this booklet as well. Also, you will find lists of tips, tricks, useful skills, gear outfitters, rental opportunities, awards, and even additional resources to explore for further in-depth knowledge.

Though Ah’Tic Lodge compiled this information, the cycle does not end with us. Inside you will find information which can be used to send back additional information which you would like to see in next year’s updated version of this booklet. We want to know your feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact the Lodge through the Bucktail Council Center, or through email. It is our intent as a Lodge to update this Guide annually, and we would like to hear suggestions of how to make it better from all of you.

Most of all, we all hope this guide helps your units in not only finding where to go camping, but also a few helpful hints along the way.

Yours in Service,

Matthew L. Bell

Matthew L. Bell
Lodge Chief

Council Camp (CMR)

Located in beautiful Penfield, Pennsylvania, Camp Mountain Run has top of the line facilities and programs to offer to Scouts and non-scouting groups alike. Camp Mountain Run offers camping options all year round. In the winter, one of CMR’s six lodges can be rented for a weekend outing with the Troop. During the summer, it is easy to enjoy the other facilities that CMR has to offer. Including an Olympic-size swimming pool, rifle and shotgun ranges, Boone Lake for boating activities, among many other summer programs held here. From Cub Scout weekends to weeks of Boy Scout Camp, you are sure to be taken aback by the beauty and serenity that this sanctuary in the Pennsylvania Wilds has to offer for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages.
Guide to Safe Scouting

The Guide to Safe Scouting is a comprehensive yet necessary part of all Scouting activities. We recommend that no shortcuts should be taken in the Guide, but for your convenience we have listed the Sweet 16 points of the Guide to Safe Scouting below:

1. Qualified Supervision in all Activities
2. Physical Fitness
3. Buddy System
4. Acting in Safe Environments
5. Proper Equipment Selection and Maintenance
6. Personal Safety Equipment
7. Safety Procedures and Policies
8. Skill Level Limits
9. Weather Checks
10. Planning
11. Communications
12. Plans and Notices
13. First-Aid Resources
14. Following Applicable Laws
15. CPR Resource
16. Discipline

Please, for the safety of you and all of your Scouts please follow all aspects of the Guide.

A complete guide can be found at:
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourced/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx

A further expansion of the Sweet 16 of the Guide to Safe Scouting can be accessed at:

From all of us here at the Ah’Tic Lodge and the Bucktail Council, keep your Scouting safe so you can continue to enjoy it for years to come!
Standards of Conduct (LNT)

A key component of the Scouting program is safe and responsible outdoor stewardship. In Scouting, we like to practice Leave No Trace principles in order to ensure preserving the beauty and awe that nature holds. We recommend implementing the Leave No Trace principles in each of your outdoor outings. These principles can be broken down into 7 easy rules to follow:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate to Other Visitors

For more information about Leave No Trace, please visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org) to learn more and to even become a member of the Leave No Trace Society.

Camping Tips and Tricks

i. Scoutcraft Skills

- The BSA Handbook and Fieldbook have hundreds of Scoutcraft skills for your use. One rarely published is the building of a waggle style survival belt. This can be used for rescue and wilderness survival purposes by using it alone or attaching it to others of its kind. To build, simply form a eye-splice at one end of the rope (allow enough rope to wrap around yourself twice), whittle a wooden stick to hold another eye-splice in place. Finally wrap the belt around yourself and insert the wooden toggle into the opposite eye-splice, the uses for this small tool are endless.

- Use lashing for practical uses around camp. Lashings are so much more than just a page in your Handbook, they are a primitive way to make camp comfortable. Build cook wear drying racks, flagpoles, or even latrines out of poles and rope, you may be surprised with your own creativity and the objects uses.
ii. Boats and Canoes
- This may seem like a given, but always pack your gear in waterproof containers, especially the important items such as electronics and navigation equipment. For multiple day adventures, dry bags are a necessity. Smaller items can be stored in hard plastic waterproof boxes, which can be found at retailers such as Wal-Mart. Check to make sure they seal properly before trusting important items in them!
- Capsizing is always a possibility when on the water. Make sure your gear is secured properly and lashed to the thwarts of your canoe or in a dry compartment of a kayak. The only thing worse than getting soaked when you don’t want to be is losing gear at the same time.
- When paddling a canoe on your own, whether it be intentional or due to your partner taking an unplanned swim, it is much easier to control the boat when kneeling in the center of the boat. Not only are you lower to the water, but more agile movements are possible with the increased contact between your boat and the water.

iii. Camping Equipment/Gear Suppliers
- Country Squirrel Outfitters
  3 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
  (814) 776-6285
  www.countrysquirreloutfitters.com
- McCracken’s Canoe Rental
  5409 Shawville Hwy, Clearfield, PA 16830
  (814) 765-1410
  www.mccrackencanoe.com
- Bob’s Army and Navy
  229 E Market St, Clearfield, PA 16830
  (814) 765-4652
  www.bobsarmynavy.com
- Organic Climbing
  331 Enterprise Drive, Philipsburg, PA 16866
  (814) 342-6719
  http://www.organicclimbing.com/
- Appalachian Outdoors
  123 S Allen St,
  State College, PA 16801
  (814) 234-3000
  www.appoutdoors.com
- Allegheny Outfitters
  2101 Pennsylvania Ave E
  Warren, PA 16365
  www.alleghenyoutfitters.com
iv. Backpacking for Beginners

- When backpacking, one of the most important aspects of a successful trip is how you pack your gear into your backpack. The BSA Handbook and Fieldbook recommend packing heavier gear closest to back, with heavy gear more on the outer portion of the pack. All in order to create the best center of balance and posture for you while hiking.

- One key tip to look at when you pack your backpack is how the pack looks. For example, your bag shouldn’t look like a gym bag full of basketballs. Use light gear such as fleeces or blankets to fill in gaps and cracks throughout your pack. It will make your pack hold more as well as being more comfortable.

- Carry gear with multiple uses. For example, use the compression sack for your sleeping bag as a pillow. Stuff a fleece or shirt into the bag at night and rest your tired head on it rather than carrying a separate pillow with you.

v. Leave No Trace

- Don’t let the words “Leave No Trace” scare you out of being a conservationist on the trail. Leave No Trace refers to anything you can do to keep your impact in the back country to a minimum. It’s easy really, something as simple as burning sticks less than the diameter of your thumb is Leave No Trace.

vi. Cooking

- One very interesting and tricky cooking trick for minimalist camping is using food items as cooking utensils. One such example is the cooking of an egg in an orange peel. To do so, cut the orange peel around its equator, and carefully peel each hemisphere. Simply crack the egg into the “bowl” and either hold it over a small fire or place it into the coals. From there, enjoy and dispose of your eco-friendly “cooking pot”.

- Stainless steel mess kits aren’t made just to look cool. If cooking in a small group or on your own, they can be quite useful for frying up a batch of eggs or even popcorn over the fire. This can save you from carrying extra cooking gear that may go unused, but always remember the principles of fire safety.
vii. Winter Camping

- One of my favorite tips for winter camping is using an aluminum or steel drinking bottle as a warmer for you and your sleeping bag. Simply fill the bottle with hot water, or heat it over a fire, cover it with a sock to keep from burning yourself, and tuck it into your bag for extra warmth through the night.
- Layers! Layers! Layers! Keep this principle in mind when heading out for a chilly weekend adventure. Wicking base layer, followed by insulation and then a water/windproof shell to hold all of your heat in.
- Bandannas are gold for camping at all times of the year, but don't write them off as just a rag to wipe sweat in during the summer. Tie the bandanna around your neck to hold in some extra heat, pull it over your face to protect it from becoming subject windburn, or wrap it around your hand for handling a hot cooking pot.

Awards

Not only can camping be a personally rewarding endeavor, the BSA also has some formal recognitions which can be attained through the camping program, some of the most prominent and prestigious awards are listed below.

Historic Trails Award: Earned in conjunction with historic societies. Such societies can be found in most communities. To achieve this award, an individual or unit must:

I. Locate a historic trail or site and study information relating to it
II. Hike or camp 2 days and 1 night along the trail or in the vicinity of the site.
III. Cooperate with a group (such as a historic society) to restore and mark all of part of this site, or plan and stage a historic pageant, ceremony, or other public event relating to the site. The event should be large enough to warrant coverage from the local press.
IV. File the Historic Trails Award application with your local council service center.

Fifty Miler Award: Over land or over water, travel fifty consecutive miles in the presence of an adult of age 21 or older. Note: if trip is over 500 miles from home town or crosses territorial boundaries, you must complete a National Permit Application, No. 34419. If within 500 miles, complete a Local Tour Permit Application, No. 34426.

Conservation Awards: Attained through learning and putting into practice conservation habits and actions. Includes the Leave No Trace Awareness Award, the Boy Scout World
Conservation Award, and the Hornaday Awards. For more information on these awards, please look into the reference section of this guide for additional resources.

National Camping Award: Attained for completing a required number of unit camping nights. To be eligible, one must keep track of all nights camped with their unit, patrol, or on family camping trips, and have them approved by a Scoutmaster. Contact the Council Office for additional stipulations for these awards.

Order of the Arrow Triple Crown: One of the most prestigious awards in the Boy Scouts, the Triple Crown is a culmination of completing the Order of the Arrow High Adventure programs at Philmont, Northern Tier, and Sea Base. After completion of all three OA programs, one is eligible to receive the Triple Crown.

Chiklcamoosse Canoe Trip: Award through the Bucktail Council and Clearfield County Historical Society. Must complete the 80 mile canoe trip to North Bend, PA. Its completion need not be at one time, however. Guidebooks are available at the Council Office and information is also available online.

**Summer Camp Information**

Camp Mountain Run, Penfield, Pennsylvania, is the home camp for the Bucktail Council. Countless hours and weekends have been spent here by Scouters of all ages, both past, present, and future. In the coming 2014 summer camping season, you are sure to find top of the line programs at CMR.

In the 2013 summer camp season, CMR happened to suffer quite a loss during the torrential rains that pushed through central Pennsylvania through the loss of Boone Lake, camp’s center for boating. It is anticipated as of now that the lake and dam of Boone Lake will be new and improved by the kickoff of Summer Camp 2014. Here at the lakefront area, you can practice and complete merit badges such as Kayaking, Canoeing, and Rowing. As well as completing a certification in BSA Paddle Craft Safety.

From the lake it is not a very far venture to the rifle range. The Range, as it is affectionately called, offers the Rifle merit badge (both the .22 rimfire and black powder editions), Archery badge, as well as a fully operational clay pigeon range to fulfill the requirements of the Shotgun merit badge.
On a hot summer day, the pool is another favorite spot for campers at all ages. Camp Mountain Run boasts an Olympic-sized swimming pool, with staff approved to teach the Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges. On top of merit badge programs at the pool, Scouts can also earn their BSA Snorkeling award, Mile Swim award, and become certified as a BSA Lifeguard.

Next comes another favorite, the handicraft area. Located in the Walker Center, handicraft offers a huge selection of hands on crafting merit badges. Scouts of all ages can take part in merit badges such as Leatherworking, Woodcarving, Space Exploration, Pottery, Basketry, and Indian Lore.

On to Scoutcraft! At the far North end of CMR lies the Scoutcraft program location. Where essential skills such as Pioneering, Cooking, Orienteering, Geocaching, Wilderness Survival, Camping, Fishing, Fly Fishing and even Search & Rescue are absorbed and put to use. Hand in hand with Scoutcraft is Nature. Found in the Gillmore Lodge, the nature program offers loads of merit badges, including but not limited to Environmental Science, Nature, Astronomy, Mammal Studies, Bird Studies, and Soil and Water Conservation.

And finally, perhaps the most important program area for Scouting, Trail to Eagle. Trail to Eagle is a program area focused on the more paperwork based merit badges, most of which are required for the rank of Eagle Scout. Found in the Walker Center, Scouts can work towards numerous merit badges, such as Communications, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, First Aid and Scouting Heritage.

Summer Camp for Bcy Scouts and Venturers generally runs for 4 weeks, with an additional 2 weeks reserved for long term Cub Scout camping. Camp Mountain Run has 10 Summer Camp sites available for unit camping, with a variety of capacities to suit your unit. For more information and to sign up for Summer Camp, visit www.bucktail.org. Hope to see you there!

**Camp Staff**

If camping and Scouting are some of your favorite activities, then serving on camp staff is most definitely for you. Working at beautiful Camp Mountain Run for the summer will prove to be one of the most fulfilling endeavors you ever embark on during your time in Scouting. You will be working with other Scouts both older and younger than yourselves, each of which you will learn some piece of useful information from during the course of your summer. With opportunities ranging from lifeguarding to working at the range, from preparing the nourishment for the day’s adventures to teaching young Scouts about their role in our Nation. If you feel you may be interested in working on Camp Staff, get in contact with the Council office to get your hiring paperwork going. Or visit www.bucktail.org for more Summer Camp Staff information.
High Adventure Opportunities

As a whole, the BSA offers 3 National High Adventure bases, as well as the programs now offered at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. In the bounds of our Council, we also have a few High Adventure opportunities of our own.

Philmont Scout Ranch: Located in beautiful Cimmaron, New Mexico, Philmont is one of the most recognizable names in the Scouting program. Philmont offers over 200 square miles of adventure, explorable through the classic backpacking treks, horseback adventures, training, and service programs. Specifically through the Order of the Arrow, Philmont offers a program referred to as OA Trail Crew, which is a 2 week experience in which Arrowmen do both service to the facility and a week of trekking. For more information, explore Philmont at www.scouting.org/philmont.

Florida Sea Base: Sea Base is very much an enormous enterprise in itself. Sea Base offers a very dynamic program in the Florida Keys and also in the Bahamas. At Sea Base, you have the opportunity to SCUBA dive, fish, sail, snorkel, and enjoy the Florida sunshine in the beautiful coral reefs of the Florida Keys. Though the Order of the Arrow, Scouts can also take part in the OA Ocean Adventure program offered there. For more information, visit www.bsaseabase.org.

Northern Tier: Northern Tier is perhaps the most broad of each of the High Adventure Bases. Not only is it possible to explore the waters of Northern Minnesota and Canada via canoe, but through the winter months Northern Tier offers an intense winter camping program called Okpik. Just as the other bases do, Northern Tier offers OA Wilderness Voyage, as well as OA Canadian Odyssey for the adventure-seeking Arrowman. For more information, visit www.ntier.org.

Paul R. Christen Adventure Base at the Summit: The BSA’s newest High Adventure opportunity, just added in 2013, offers a variety of programs for Scouts in the heart of West Virginia. Scouts have the choice of rafting, climbing and shooting sports, as well as the Summit Experience, which is a program encompassing all aspects of the Summit. For more information, visit www.summitbechtelreserve.org.

Chiklacomoose Canoe Trip: A High Adventure program specific to the Bucktail Council as well as Clearfield County. This expedition covers 80 miles of the Susquehanna River, mirroring the routes of old time logging rafts which navigated the area. Guidebooks are available at the Bucktail Council Office, as well as in PDF file format. Simply perform a Google search for “Chiklacomoose Canoe Trip” and click on the first result.
Sample Forms

Throughout the course of this Guide, you have undoubtedly read some information about permits and paperwork which are necessary to complete before embarking on all of your adventures. Attached to the end of this pamphlet you will find some empty copies of such forms for your convenience. Either rip it out of the packet and fill it out, or make a photocopy of them and ship them up to the Council Center so you are all clear to head out into the Wilderness. I hope you have enjoyed this guide, and put it to use often, and most of all, remember the wise words of John Muir: “The Mountains are calling, and I must go.”

Bibliography


Want to Hear More?

Like what you’ve read and want to hear more? Contact the Bucktail Council to schedule a personal camp promotion show and talk with a Lodge Representative to your unit. We hope to hear from you soon. Until then, may your adventures be numerous and may your packs be light, and until we meet again, keep calm and go camping!

The Bucktail Council can be reached at: http://www.bucktail.org/camping
i. Camping Opportunities

Parker Dam State Park
28 Fairview Rd, Penfield, PA 15849
(814) 765-0630

SB Elliott State Park
Penfield, PA 15849
(814) 765-0630

Allegheny National Forest
131 Smokey Ln, Marienville, PA 16239
(814) 927-6628

Black Moshannon State Park
Philipsburg, PA 16666
(814) 342-5960

Quehanna Wild Area
Driftwood, PA 15832
(814) 765-0821

Bald Eagle State Park
149 Main Park Rd, Howard, PA 16841
(814) 625-2775

Moshannon State Forest
3372 State Park Rd, Penfield, PA 15849
(814) 765-0821

Elk State Forest
Emporium, PA 15834
(814) 486-3353

Bald Eagle State Forest
149 Main Park Rd, Howard, PA 16841
(814) 625-2775

Hiking Trails, Backpacking Trailhead, Boating, Mountain Biking, Beach, Fishing, Hunting Available, Seasonal Camping.

Hiking Trails, Backpacking Trailhead, Fishing, Hunting Available, Seasonal Camping.

Hundreds of miles of Hiking Trails, Rustic Camping available.

Hiking Trails, Backpacking Trailhead, Boating, Mountain Biking, Beach, Fishing, Hunting Available, Seasonal Camping.

50,000 acres of God’s Country ready to be explored. Hiking, camping, and hunting available.

Hiking Trails, Beach, Fishing, Hunting Available, Seasonal Camping.

Backpacking Trailhead, Mountain Biking, Cycling, Boating, Fishing, Equestrian Trails, Hunting Available, Year-round Camping.

Backpacking Trailhead, Mountain Biking, Cycling, Boating, Fishing, Equestrian Trails, Hunting Available, Year-round Camping.

Backpacking Trailhead, Mountain Biking, Cycling, Boating, Fishing, Equestrian Trails, Hunting Available, ATv Trails, Year-round Camping.

ii. Hiking Trails

Quehanna Trail
28 Fairview Rd, Penfield, PA 15849
(814) 765-0630

73 miles of intense hiking, as well as a 20 mile Wes: Cross Connector Trail. Trailhead located in Parker Dam State Park.
Approximately 40 miles encircling Black Moshannon State Park, with a 7 miles cross connector trail within the park.

When completed will stretch from ND to NY (4,600 miles). Runs through Allegheny National Forest, with moderate to difficult backpacking.

Twin Lakes Trail
Running through Allegheny Natl. Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny

Lauren Mill Trail
Trailhead located 3.6 miles from Ridgway

Brush Hollow Trail
Trail located 10.5 miles along PA route 946

Overland Trail
Runs from Clearfield Reservoir to Camp

iii. Canoeing/Kayaking

West Branch Susquehanna River

Clarion River

Allegheny River

Allegheny Reservoir

Curwensville Lake

Easy to moderate backpacking on this 16.5 mile linear trail through the Allegheny Natl. Forest.

Hemlock & Scout Loops
4.6 miles of moderate hiking

Perseverance & Sparrow Nest along Lauren Mill Road (SR 300)
5.4 miles of easy, rolling hiking

3.75 miles of gradual elevation changes, as well as a vista along the trail.

20 miles of moderate hiking, good enough for a day trip or short backpacking outing.

Runs through Clearfield County, navigable by canoe and kayak.

Tributary of Allegheny River, carries through Elk County and navigable by canoe and kayak.

Navigable throughout length by canoe and kayak, main portion near our area is Warren County.

Near Warren PA and the PA–NY border, the reservoir is available for both powered and unpowered boating.

Located in Clearfield County, Curwensville Lake offers both unpowered and powered boating, as well as fishing and camping.