



NCAC HAC High Adventure Sourcebook

Volume 1: Adventures and Camps

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
National High Adventure Bases	2
Philmont Scout Ranch	2
Northern Tier	4
Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base: Ely, MN	4
Donald Rogert Canoe Base: Atikokan, ON.....	4
Northern Expeditions Canoe Base: Bissett, MB	5
Sea Base	6
Summit Bechtel Reserve	8
Eastern United States	11
Maine High Adventure Area: Maine	11
Adirondack State Park High Adventure Bases: New York.....	13
Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation.....	13
Massawepie Adirondack Treks.....	15
James “Marmaduke” Seton Trek Center	16
Summit Base at Curtis S Read Scout Reservation.....	17
Sabattis High Adventure Base	18
Lenhok’sin High Adventure Base, Virginia.....	19
Harrison High Adventure Base: North Carolina.....	20
Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Georgia to Maine	23
Tuscarora Trail: Virginia to Pennsylvania	25
Foothills Trail: North and South Carolina	27
Virginia Triple Crown: Virginia	30
Blue Ridge Mountain Scout Reservation: Virginia.....	32
Central United States.....	34
North Country National Scenic Trail: North Dakota to Vermont.....	34
Louisiana Swamp Base: Louisiana	35
Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch: Texas	37
Jack Zink High Adventure Base: Oklahoma	40
Western United States.....	43
Rocky Mountain High Adventure Base: Colorado	43
Elkhorn High Adventure Base: Colorado	45
Montana High Adventure Base: Montana	46

Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost: Wyoming	47
Chilkoot High Adventure Base: Alaska	49
Alaska Ultimate High Adventure: Alaska (New!)	51
International	52
Kandersteg International Scout Center: Switzerland	52
Off-Season Adventures	54
Northern Tier: Minnesota	54
Maryland Dog Sled Adventures: Maryland	56
Acknowledgements	58

Introduction

The National Capital Area Council (NCAC) High Adventure Committee (HAC) is dedicated to promoting high-adventure programs in all NCAC districts by providing information and assistance to NCAC youth and adults on High Adventure program opportunities, and conducting planning, logistics and training for expeditions to National and regional High Adventure bases with contingent crews from our Council.

This Sourcebook is comprised of information from numerous Council, District, camp, and other sources to provide current information on the many High Adventure opportunities across the United States and around the world.

National High Adventure Bases

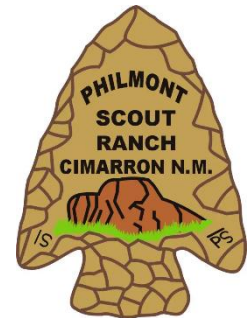
Are your Scouts ready for the time of their lives? The BSA's high adventure bases offer Scouts a chance to put their skills to the test, learn new ones, and make lasting memories, all in an exhilarating and extraordinary environment. Check out what's going on at the four high adventure bases around the country!

Philmont Scout Ranch

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Cimarron, New Mexico

Website: <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/>



Philmont Scout Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's largest national High Adventure Base. Its 34 staffed camps and 55 trail camps provide an unforgettable adventure in the high country along hundreds of miles of rugged, rocky trails.



Born in 1938 as Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp, today's Philmont Scout Ranch is a bustling center for high adventure and training. Youth and adults take advantage of the Ranch's camping, training and work programs. Most activity takes place during the summer, but Philmont also offers Autumn Adventure and Winter Adventure programs.

More than 1 million Scouts, Venturers, and leaders have experienced the adventure of Philmont since the first camping season in 1939. Throughout its existence, conscientious attention to low-impact camping techniques has helped maintain the Ranch's wilderness.

The area surrounding the Ranch is rich with history, from the Native Americans who made this arid land their home to the land barons of the 19th century. The town of Cimarron boasts a number of historical buildings, including the St. James Hotel, the site of numerous shootouts during Cimarron's wilder days.

Do you want to visit Philmont Scout Ranch this summer? The ranch has slots available all over the Ranch! From expeditions to individual treks, Training Center Conferences to staff positions, they're sure to have an adventurous opportunity just for you!

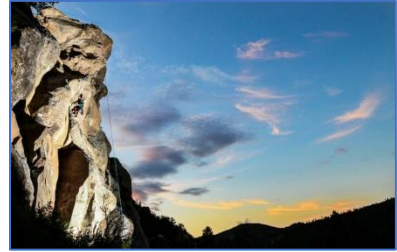


12, 9, and 7-Day Trek Availability. Take a hike through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico on a 12, 9, or 7-Day expedition at Philmont like the famous trappers who first explored the West. Participants will experience backcountry trail and staff camps while also participating in a number of program activities. Help rebuild the Continental Tie and Lumber Company railroad through the Ponil Canyon, pan for gold outside Cyphers' Mine, or climb to the top of Philmont's 12,441 ft. Baldy Mountain for breathtaking panoramic views. Whatever adventure you desire, Philmont is bound to have it.



Individual Trek Availability. Still craving that Philmont experience, but don't have a crew to enjoy it with? No problem! You can come to Philmont on your own this summer! You can sign up individually for any of the Ranch's Individual Treks. Delve into the ecology and conservation work behind Philmont as part of the Roving Outdoor Conservation School Trek, Trail Crew Trek, STEM Trek or Order of the Arrow Trail Crew Trek; test your limits on a 21-day Rayado trek; improve your horsemanship on Ranch Hands; or develop your leadership skills through NAYLE or the Philmont Training Center's Mountain Trek program. Sign up now for the adventure of a lifetime.

The Philmont Training Center (PTC). Each summer the PTC offers the best in BSA leadership training. This summer there are over 90 courses to choose from, including 30 brand new programs. The best part? While you're soaking up information from some of the most knowledgeable scouters in the country, your family can soak up fun through a variety of age-appropriate activities and programs, including programs for spouses! Sign up now to bring you and your family to the Philmont Training Center this summer!



The **Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS)** at the Philmont Scout Ranch is an exciting program for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in conservation and natural resource management. Participants aged 16-20 register individually for these guided 21-day co-ed treks through remote wilderness areas to staffed program activities. Staff-led lessons focus on the ecology of the Rocky Mountains.



Northern Tier

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Northern Minnesota, Northwest Ontario and Northeast Manitoba, Canada

Website: <https://www.ntier.org/>

Northern Tier is the Boy Scouts of America's gateway to adventure in the Great Northwoods. In the Summer, scouts from Northern Tier's three wilderness canoe bases explore millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests and wetlands in Northern Minnesota, Northwest Ontario and Northeast Manitoba. In the winter, Northern Tier is home to the OKPIK Cold-Weather Camping program, the BSA's premier winter high adventure program. Fall programming is also available.



Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base: Ely, MN

The flagship base of Northern Tier, the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base has hosted Boy Scout canoe expeditions on the shores of Moose Lake since 1941. Located twenty miles outside of the town of Ely, MN, the Sommers Base outfits over 4,000 Scouts each year on wilderness canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in Minnesota and the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario. Trips out of the Sommers base are limited to 8 total participants plus an Interpreter.



Not everyone can attend Northern Tier with their Troop or Venturing Crew, but there are still a wide variety of opportunities for individual Scouts and Venturers to get to the Northwoods. Northern Tier has designed several programs, some offering special challenges for personal growth.

Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base is also home to several unique individual scout programs: the Order of the Arrow's Wilderness Voyage; Forest Corps, a coeducational environmental leadership program; and Lone Voyageur, a program that allows for individual scouts and smaller troops to take out a Northern Tier trip.

Donald Rogert Canoe Base: Atikokan, ON

Located an 80-mile paddle North of the Sommers base, the Donald Rogert ("Atikokan") Canoe Base outfits 1500 scouts each year for expeditions into the Northern regions of the Quetico Provincial Park as well as into the Canadian Crown Lands, including the Turtle River – White Otter Lake Provincial Park.



The Quetico is a gorgeous and pure wilderness, with minimal traces of human travel; the Crown Lands region features the remains of a used wilderness – trappers cabins, age-old gold mines and even the remains of a World War II Prisoner of War camp can be found amidst the beautiful wilds of the Canadian Shield (a vast geological shield covered by a thin layer of soil). Crew sizes may be up to 11 participants plus an Interpreter if traveling in the Crown Land and 8 participants plus an interpreter if traveling in the Quetico.

Northern Expeditions Canoe Base: Bissett, MB

Unofficially regarded as the “Most Extreme High Adventure in Scouting,” the Northern Expeditions (“Bissett”) Canoe Base is the most rugged and remote region paddled by Northern Tier crews.

All crews enter the wilderness via a twenty-minute float plane to a canoe cache located at the heart of the combined 2.5 million acres of Atikaki Provincial Park and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, an area paddled by only a handful of canoeists each year.

Northern Pike, Walleye and Channel Catfish abound the Bissett region. The fishing truly is world class and the difficult geography ensures that it will remain so.

Crews are limited to the size of 11 participants plus an Interpreter. Bissett is most appropriate for older crews with previous High Adventure experience.



Sea Base

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Florida, US Virgin Islands, Bahamas

Website: <https://www.bsaseabase.org/>



Want to find your sea legs? The Florida National High Adventure Sea Base offers year-round opportunities to explore the great underwater wilderness. Register today for an epic adventure in the Florida Keys, Bahamas, or U.S. Virgin Islands. Fall, winter, spring, and summer dates for 2018 are available now!

The BSA Sea Base is a unique Scouting program that offers aquatics programs found nowhere else. Whether your interests lie in sailing, scuba diving, rustic camping on an undeveloped barrier island, fishing or a combination of all these, this is the place for your troop or crew.



Sea Base began in the early 1970's as a local program in the Florida Keys called the Florida Gateway to High Adventure under the guidance of Sam Wampler, a professional Scouter from the South Florida Council. It offered primarily sailing programs using local marinas and chartered boats sailing to the Bahamas and back. As the idea caught on and grew, it joined the high adventure offerings of the National Council of the BSA along with

Philmont Scout Ranch and the Northern Tier High Adventure Base. In 1979, Sea Base acquired a permanent facility on Lower Matecumbe Key and when this opened for Scouts in 1980 it was renamed the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base. As the popularity of this program grew, scuba diving was added and in 1984 the BSA received the gift of Big Munson Island from Homer Formsby. This undeveloped island offered tremendous program potential as an outpost for primitive camping, Robinson Crusoe style. During this time period the sailing program concentrated on sailing around the fabulous Florida Keys. New sailing programs were started that originated and ended in Marsh Harbour in the beautiful Abaco Islands of the Bahamas.

Sea Base programs continued to excite the imagination of Scouts and Scouters, and as attendance grew the need for a second facility was obvious. Thanks to the generosity of J. Porter Brinton of Greenwich, CT, the Brinton Environmental Center opened in 2001 making Sea Base even better. Sea Base has continued to add and upgrade facilities and programs to meet the needs of Scouts.



Sea Base now operates 17 different adventures out of five locations: two in the Florida Keys, two in the US Virgin Islands, and one in Marsh Harbour, Bahamas.

- Coral Reef Sailing, Sea Exploring Adventure, STEM Eco-Adventure, Scuba Adventure, Scuba Certification, and Live Aboard Scuba Adventure operate in the Florida Keys at Mile Marker 73.8 at Florida Sea Base on Lower Matecumbe Key located 75 miles south of Miami.
- Out Island Adventure, Keys Adventure, Florida Fishing, and Marine STEM programs operate in the Florida Keys on Summerland Key at Mile Marker 23.8 at the Brinton Environmental Center located 125 miles south of Miami.
- Sea Base Bahamas offers Bahamas Adventure and Bahamas Tall Ship Adventure operated out of Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas, located about 100 miles east of Fort Lauderdale.
- Sea Base St. Thomas offers St. Thomas Sailing Adventures and STEM Eco Sailing Adventures operate out of St. Thomas, USVI.

Summit Bechtel Reserve

(Updated 01/2023)

Location: Glen Jean, WV

Website: <https://www.summitbsa.org/>



Situated in the wilds of West Virginia, The Summit Bechtel Reserve is a training, Scouting, and adventure center for the millions of youth and adults involved in the Boy Scouts of America and for anyone who loves the outdoors. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is also home to the National Scout Jamboree and the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base. The latter offers a number of unique high adventure opportunities to troops, crews, and ships.

The New River Experience is a 50-mile paddle trek on the New River. Scouts will navigate the upper portion of the river in inflatable kayaks (one or two-man) called “duckies”. This portion of the river includes Class I, II and III rapids. The final whitewater day in the Lower Canyon is a rafting experience



and includes Class III to IV rapids. Crews camp along the river through the New River Gorge. A gear boat (raft) accompanies the group to transport gear and food.

The New River cuts deep into the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. Its long history spans the hunting and foraging of Native Americans, the fur trapping of early frontiersman, and the raw strength and

determination of the coal miners and railroad workers who sought to tame its rugged beauty. The New River Gorge is culturally significant, as well as it is a poignant reminder of our national Coal Heritage; at one time the Gorge was dotted with small coal camps and towns whose remnants you can still visit today to come to understand the strength and character of the men and women whose hard work and determination helped shape this country.

The Summit invites you to come and enjoy a river voyage through the historically, culturally, ecologically significant New River Gorge. Paddle, camp, fish, and enjoy all that it has to offer to the next generation of rugged individuals willing to match their mettle against one of the world’s rugged natural wonders.

The Polaris ATV Experience covers more than sixty miles over four days of travel on ATVs. Trails include a mixture of single-track, double-track, and a small amount of gravel. The trails are easy to intermediate in difficulty, with some optional rather challenging mud holes. Stops along the way include epic vistas, exciting side programs, and natural STEM education moments. Scouts will especially 'love' the Thursday afternoon mud hole training where they will intentionally get as stuck and mired as possible in



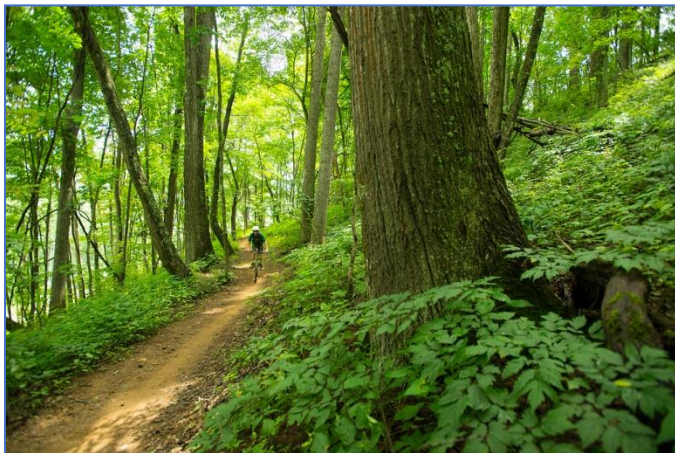
the biggest mud holes staff can find, then extricate themselves using ATV techniques, z-drag systems, and winches.

Rugged exploration has long been a deeply entrenched tradition in West Virginia and from that the ATV has developed as an important West Virginia tool for both work and recreation. While ATVs may seem like a simple vehicle to operate, they require significant skill and stamina to operate safely. This course brings back that feeling of rugged exploration while teaching you to safely drive an ATV through the wilderness.

On top of safe operation, you will also learn basic mechanic skills to keep your ATV running on the trail and get hands on practice with techniques to get your ATV unstuck from any mud situation. The miles of ATV trails travel from one beautiful location to the next all while stopping at vistas, natural landmarks, and for teachable moments.

The Summit invites you to come enjoy an ATV experience through the back-woods terrain of the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

The Summit Experience is for the adventuresome that are not quite certain which activity best suits them, so you'll try them all! It is the only program that lets you try all The Summit's high adventure activities -- BMX, skateboarding, mountain biking, zip lines, canopy tours, hunter's education, climbing, shooting sports and more -- in one setting. This seven-day/six-night program runs Sunday to Saturday. It consists of half-day introductory level experiences at each of the nine Summit high adventure venues. Each group will have the chance to ride The Big Zip, The Summit's three-quarter mile zip line. In addition, each night (Monday-Friday), the Summit opens the Scott Summit Center for activities, fun, and socializing (the Scott Summit Center incorporates small versions of our adventure sports venues).



The Bikepacking Experience Overview is fifty miles of backpacking style travel on bikes, e.g., 'bikepacking.' With five days of travel, all gear and food for the week is carried on the bikes. Trails include a mixture of single-track and double-track and a small amount of gravel or paved road. Most of the trails are easy to intermediate in difficulty with some optional expert routes and sections. Vertical climbs are generally 600 feet or less with two challenging climbs of around 1,000 vertical feet.



Nestled deep in the Appalachian Mountains, the rugged beauty of the New River Gorge has long been a symbol of American ingenuity and sheer determination for the people who have worked this land. Get the feeling of exploration through backpacking combined with the freedom and exhilaration of mountain biking for an adventure like none other. Bring history alive as you roll through the Gorge seeking out ghost towns, hidden ruins and abandoned coal mines.

The experience is a seven-day/six-night adventure from the Summit Bechtel Reserve through the New River Gorge to the historical town of Fayetteville, West Virginia connecting scenic old roads and purpose built trails. Stops along the way include the town of Thurmond, once an extremely prosperous town and the hub of activity in the New River Gorge, which provides an opportunity to delve into the exciting history of the Gorge. Aside from the train station, the town itself is relatively untouched by modern development and is largely a ghost town museum to bygone days.

The Pack N' Paddle Experience is an awesome adventure and a great option for those who enjoy backpacking and desire to learn about the local history of the Summit and the surrounding area. As you travel through the various small mining communities and forgotten rail beds, you will see what the “Wild and Wonderful” wilderness of West Virginia has to offer. Weather rafting the New River, exploring scenic views, or sitting by the campfire, you will experience that which will leave you breathless!



Eastern United States

Maine High Adventure Area: Maine

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Matagamon, ME

Council: Katahdin Area Council

Website: <https://www.mainehighadventure.org/>



Still struggling with how to offer your scouts that ultimate high adventure experience? Consider the Main High Adventure Area. a challenging outdoor program for Scouts, Venture crews and private groups offered by the Katahdin Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Each summer, hundreds of Scouts and youth alike, enjoy the unique backcountry experience of northern Maine. The area encompasses nearly three million acres, including Mt. Katahdin, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot watershed, the St. Croix International Waterway, the northernmost 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and many other streams and lakes. Experience the thrill of almost 10,000 square miles of Maine woods. For over 35 years the Maine High Adventure has been providing customized, fully outfitted, guided trips. Scouts have come from across the country and the world to experience the type of backcountry adventure that is becoming more and more scarce each day. The Maine High Adventure Base takes all the headaches out of your logistics; all you need to bring is your personal gear and they provide the rest, including food, camping equipment, van transportation, and a fully-trained "Matagamon guide" who will accompany your group throughout the duration of your experience.

Opportunities abound for exciting, unique and extended backcountry travel. Every day will involve challenges and rewards. Each bend in the river or change in horizon will bring new possibilities for excitement and relaxation. Take each day as it comes, make your own customized itinerary that fits everyone's desires and wishes.

Canoeing is, by far, the most popular option for participants. Paddling is available on waters ranging from some of the largest lakes in Maine to challenging whitewater streams and rivers and everything in between. A crew can plan a laid-back relaxing itinerary, a strenuous, demanding trip or a combination of each. Over the past three summer seasons, most crews have paddled an average of 75 to 85 miles while on the water based portion of their trek.



Many groups also include day-hikes or side-trips in their planning. Climbing one of Maine's majestic high peaks, such as Mt. Katahdin, North Traveler, or Doubletop provide vantage points seen by very few casual visitors. Additionally, there are limitless opportunities to visit historical landmarks or unique natural areas, many of which are enriched with the varied culture of Maine.

Backpacking is another option for participants at the Maine High Adventure Area. The famous Appalachian Trail winds its way over rugged terrain towards its northern terminus atop Mt. Katahdin. Many hikers refer to Maine as the "hardest section of the Appalachian Trail" due to the nature of the rocky footing. Maine High Adventure is in very close proximity to the "100 Mile Wilderness", the final 100 miles of this long-distance footpath and ambitious crews may wish to take on the challenge of hiking all 100 miles, while some may wish to backpack the final 25, culminating in a hike of Mt. Katahdin. The opportunities are limitless!



The wilds of northern Maine offer a variety of fascinating environments - enormous lakes carved by glaciers, whitewater churning down rocky rivers, craggy peaks soaring skyward, endless conifer and hardwood forests, abundant wildlife, and a profusion of colorful wildflowers.

While it is impossible to sum up all of the areas that Maine High Adventure and its participants utilize, click the links below for summaries of some of the more popular selections by previous MHA crews.

Maine has an intriguing history, featuring the Abanaki Indians, known as the "Dawn People", as well as Leif Erickson, Henry David Thoreau, and the mighty lumberjacks and sportsmen whose tales and lore have woven a colorful tapestry. And you can add your own chapter to that history.

Adirondack State Park High Adventure Bases: New York

Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation

Updated (1/2023)

Location: Lake Clear, New York

Council: Northern New Jersey Council

Website: <http://floodwood.org/>

Contemplating a high adventure trip next year or two but the find Philmont, Northern Tier, and Seabase a bit daunting? Consider a less arduous and lower cost experience as a means to getting your feet wet and building up to the major high adventure bases.

Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation is a high adventure base located in Tupper Lake in the Adirondacks. It is owned by the Northern New Jersey Council, Boy Scouts of America. Floodwood specializes in hiking and canoeing treks. Floodwood itself is a base camp from which canoeing and hiking treks leave. While at base camp, crews can partake in waterskiing, water tubing, climbing, repelling, archery, day hikes, and rank advancement. For each trek a crew either schedules to leave from base camp and be picked at the end of their trek or the crew is dropped off and returns to base camp. Each trek is accompanied by a certified and highly skilled staff member, known as a Voyageur.



What makes Floodwood unique is its location on Rollins Pond, which, in turn, connects directly into the vast Saranac, St. Regis, Tupper, Raquette, and Fulton Chain of canoe waters and the Rollins Pond Canoe Base's strategic location which grants easy access to a chain of many more lakes in the area. The many lakes and forty-six high peaks of the Adirondacks offer endless opportunities for different treks and, depending on the preferences of your unit, you may choose to do a week long canoe trek or a week long High Peaks trek, or anything in between. In fact you could probably trek the Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation each summer for the next twenty years and never take the same trek twice!

Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation was acquired by Bergen Council in 1963. The following year, plans were drawn up for an ambitious camping reservation with multiple camps on different parts of the property. As a first step, though, an outpost camp was established at Rollins Pond in the summer of 1965. Since the concept of wilderness camping offered by a local council camp was a new idea, attendance was by invitation, and only units with the required depth of adult leadership experience were even considered.

The initial experience was successful and for the next four summers the program was continued and expanded. Problems, however, with water supply at Rollins Pond led the Council to explore other areas of the reservation for its permanent camp site as was the initial expansive plan for multiple camps being reconsidered. In the end, West Pine Pond was chosen for development and it is from this site that units have camped since the summer of 1970, albeit units continue to use Rollins Pond as the launching point for canoe treks and for the water skiing program.



So check it out. Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation is less than a day's drive from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. It's a lower cost option for units wanting to get their feet wet and whet their appetites for the major high adventure bases.

Massawepie Adirondack Treks

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Tupper Lake, New York

Council: Seneca Waterways Council

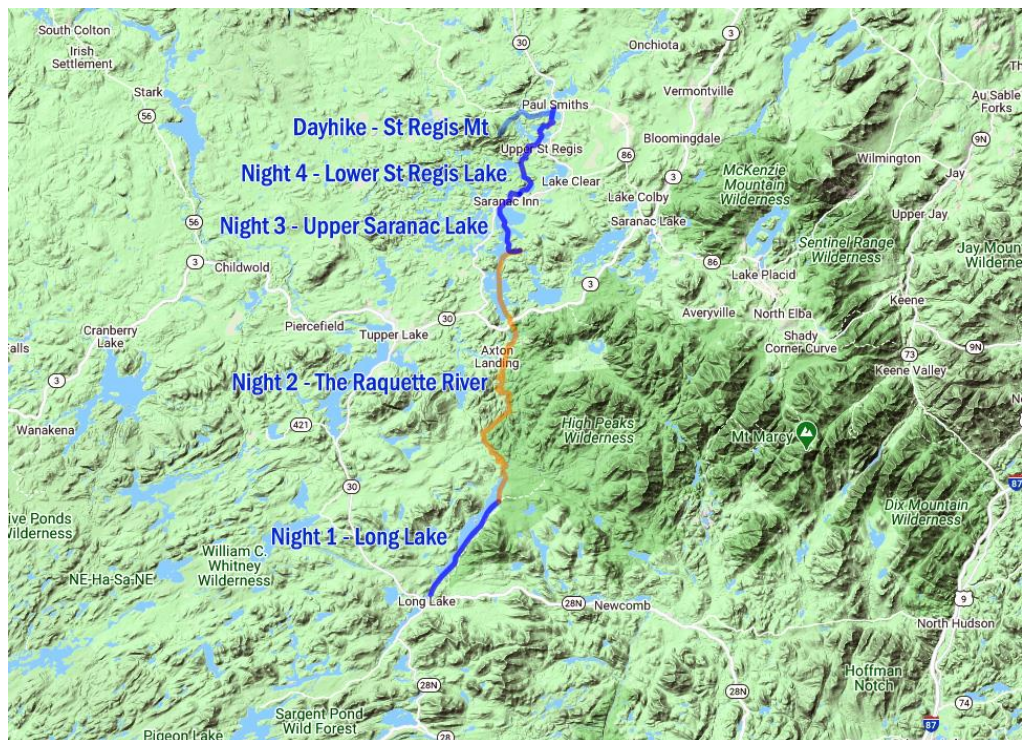
Website: <https://senecawaterways.org/massawepie-adirondack-treks/>



The Massawepie Adirondack Trek Center offers all Scouts and Scouters canoeing, backpacking, and combination treks during the months of July and August. Trek groups can participate in established trek destinations throughout the 2.6-million-acre Adirondack Forest preserve, or can customize their own. Rock climbing, rappelling and mountain biking options are also available.

5-Day Trek Spotlight

The Long Lake to St. Regis Mt. route is a signature trek that invites your crew to experience some of the finest waterways and wilderness that the Adirondack Park has to offer. Starting at the State Boat Launch in Long Lake your crew will traverse all of the 14-mile Long Lake, navigate the winding Raquette River while carrying around the majestic Raquette Falls before carrying into Upper Saranac Lake via the Indian Carry. Paddling the length of Upper Saranac Lake you'll carry into the St. Regis Primitive Wilderness area and tackle the famed 7 carries route on your way to the lean-to at Keese Mill. Friday morning you'll have a short paddle to the St. Regis Mtn trailhead with a 3.2 mile hike to the top for panoramic views of the terrain you've covered during the week. Upon returning to camp your crew will participate in a service project under the expert tutelage of our property manager. This trek begins on Sunday afternoon and ends on Saturday before lunch. Units will be fully qualified to apply for the 50-miler award at the end of the adventure!



James “Marmaduke” Seton Trek Center (Update 1/2023)

Location: Long Lake, New York

Council: Longhouse Council

Website: <http://www.cnyscouts.org/camping/sabattis-scout-reservation/>

The James “Marmaduke” Seton Trek Center, located at Sabattis Scout Reservation, offers true high adventure opportunities. We are ready to fully equip your canoe or backpacking trip with canoes, tents, PFD’s, food, guides, and stoves/fuel. If high adventure is calling your older Scouts, let them answer it at the Seton Trek Center.



For more information contact the Longhouse Council office at (315) 463-0201 or email Ron Hill (ronald.hill@scouting.org).

Information about specific treks is available here: <http://www.cnyscouts.org/media/2740/seton-wilderness-outpost-trek-route-options.pdf>

Summit Base at Curtis S Read Scout Reservation

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Brant Lake, New York

Council: Greater Hudson Valley Council

Website: <https://www.ghvbsa.org/summitbase/>

At Summit Base we offer a unique collection of challenging outdoor activities. Surrounded by the tremendous opportunities of the Adirondack Park, our program creates a full experience for any skill level.

Our programs provide excellent leadership. We staff only BSA National Camping School (NCS) certified Trek Guides and/or New York State Licensed Guides, and our C.O.P.E. and climbing programs are managed by NCS certified directors.

Why should you attend Summit Base?

No other scout camp in the Northeast comes close to offering the number of high adventure opportunities that we do.

Project C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) –Our C.O.P.E. course utilizes ten low elements as well as a high ropes course to emphasize teamwork and leadership in a group, while presenting individual challenges that test participants both mentally and physically.

Climbing - Summit Base offers two climbing experiences within our camp: traditional rock climbing at a natural cliff site, and our 60-foot climbing tower ~ the highest in the Northeast. We also offer Climbing Merit Badge classes each week in the summer.

Mountain Biking - A new program at Summit Base that started in the Summer of 2015. With instructional, beginner-intermediate, and advanced sessions, we offer opportunities for everyone to ride the trails throughout camp while developing new skills and knowledge of the sport.

Zip Line - A 100-foot run over water from a 15-foot tower ends when you drop into Lester Pond. A favorite activity up at Summit Base!

Guided Day Activities for Groups –Groups of up to 12 may travel in to the Adirondack Park to take part in High Adventure activities at some of the most well-known sites in the park; possibilities include rock climbing, backpacking, and caving.

Treks- Choose from backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, or a combination trek of backpacking/canoeing. Our guides lead your group on these adventures throughout the Adirondacks to some of the most scenic settings in the park.

Adirondack Challenge - This Program is designed to teach scouts 14 and older the basic knowledge of rock climbing, backpacking and boating in a safe and controlled environment. Adirondack Challenge runs as a half-day program still allowing your Scouts to hold their leadership roles within the troop while at summer camp.

Sabattis High Adventure Base

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Long Lake, New York

Council: Patriots Path Council

Website: <https://www.campsabattis.org/treks>



Sabattis Adventure Camp also offers a full-service trek program. All of our treks are approved under the strict regulations of the New York State Health Department, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Boy Scouts of America. We follow the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace to ensure a trek that will be both educational and fun.

Your group is provided with food, permits, transportation from starting and finishing points, Kevlar canoes, paddles, most group equipment, and a hot shower at the end of your trek! A Sabattis trek is less than a quarter of the cost of a Philmont or Northern Tier trek.

Trekkers are welcome to take part in Sunday and Friday camp activities at Sabattis Adventure Camp including opening and closing campfires, Sunday barbecue, Friday afternoon field day or water carnival, and shooting programs when you return from your trek (14+). (Programs are not available during week 5 treks when summer camp is closed. Instead, enjoy the quiet solitude of the Adirondacks.)

Base camp includes patrol box, wall tents with platforms, dining fly, cots, and cooking gear. Let us know in advance if you need base camp cooking gear. Shower house is available.

Lenhok'sin High Adventure Base, Virginia

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Goshen Scout Reservation, Goshen, Virginia

Council: National Capital Area Council

Website: <https://www.gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/lenhoksin-high-adventure/>

Lenhok'sin High Adventure, Goshen Scout Reservation's nationally accredited high adventure program, offers hiking experiences you will never forget. All treks have 5 days and 4 nights on the trail and/or river. Crews arrive at Camp Baird base camp on Sunday, with a Monday arrival option for LDS units, and depart on the following Saturday. We provide the food and have a variety of awards for your crew to achieve.

Lenhok'sin Trail Trek

As our main attraction and primary program, this trek focuses on backpacking through the 4,000+ acres of Goshen Scout Reservation and 35,000 acres of surrounding state game lands.

Crews will spend five days and four nights on the trail and will have an opportunity to visit up to four of our staffed outposts or other exciting activities.

Crews fill out a survey prior to arriving at camp. We design Crew itineraries based on the interest in certain outposts and award opportunities as indicated by the Crew. Itineraries can fit a wide range of Crew abilities, from experienced backpackers to those who have only been a few times before.

James River Canoe Trek

Paddle down one of Virginia's most scenic rivers, the James River, on a 5 day, 4 night canoeing trek. Experience 61 miles of the historic upper James River in Virginia from the headwaters at Iron Gate to the Snowden Dam. Navigate over 100 Class I rapids, 20 challenging Class II rapids, and the infamous Balcony Falls rapid. Bring your fishing pole and pick up dinner along the way. Camp nightly at wilderness riverside locations. Add an optional river clean up service project to work towards your River Trek and 50 Miler Awards.

All medical checks and swim tests will be conducted at Base Camp. We will outfit you with food and see to it that you are ready to hit the river on Monday.

Harrison High Adventure Base: North Carolina (Updated 1/2023)

Location: North Carolina

Council: Daniel Boone Council

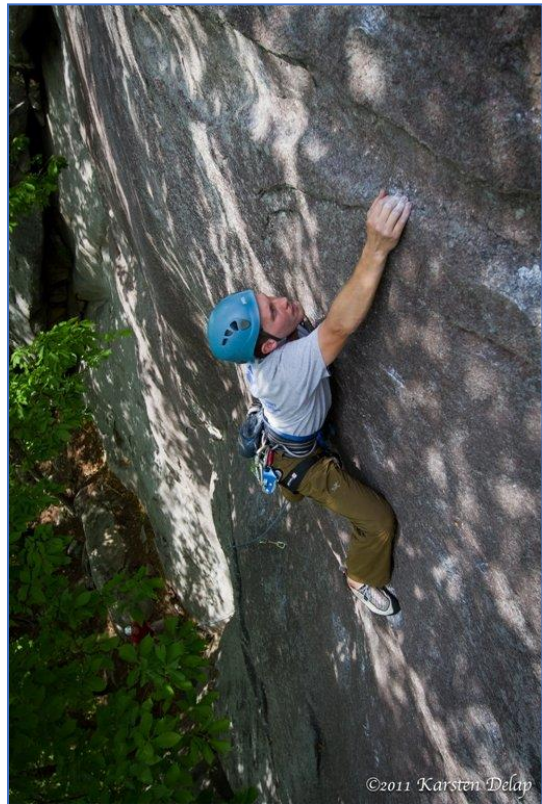
Website: <https://www.campdanielboone.org/>



Since 1978, the Harrison High Adventure Base in the Daniel Boone Council of North Carolina has been one of the premier council-operated destination for older Scouts and Venturers. Now in its 40th year of operation, the High Adventure Base continues to set the standard for innovative and exciting programs.

Zip & Splash. A week filled with climbing, zipping, and Challenging Outdoor Personal Experiences (COPE) that wraps up with a day on the Nantahala River. On Monday, your group will review climbing equipment, belaying, rappelling, climbing commands, and climbing techniques while climbing and / or bouldering at camp. Everything the scouts learn on Monday will be reviewed and used during the rest of the week at the climbing sites throughout the area. Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent climbing on live rock at one of several available locations such as Looking Glass, Rumbling Bald, Ship Rock, Snakes Den, or Linville Gorge. Thursday will be spent at the Nantahala Outdoor Center on their COPE course and Zip Line experience. Friday will wrap up the week with a day of rafting on the Nantahala River or climbing (weather and the desire of the group will determine Friday's program). Scouts who do not already have the climbing merit badge will have earned it before the week is out, regardless.

Backpacking. Western North Carolina has over a million acres of National Forest land available with hundreds of miles of trails. Seven trails have been selected that will allow your scouts to get unplugged from their electronics, explore nature, and improve their backcountry skills. They will see stars as they may never have seen them before. In some areas, your crew may not see another person the entire time out making it a truly remote wilderness experience!



All treks are led by trained and experienced staff. These guides stress instruction and practice in Leave No Trace and Outdoor Ethics, expedition behavior, the patrol method, and boy run leadership. Instruction and practice in backpacking, hiking, camping, first aid, nature, and other backcountry outdoor skills takes place daily.



Boonesboro Village. The village is a living history program at Camp Daniel Boone. It allows scouts to experience life skills and crafts that were common in the late-1700's. Living in Boonesboro Village is like going to Boy Scout Camp in 1920, with an atmosphere and camaraderie that is very different from most traditional base camp

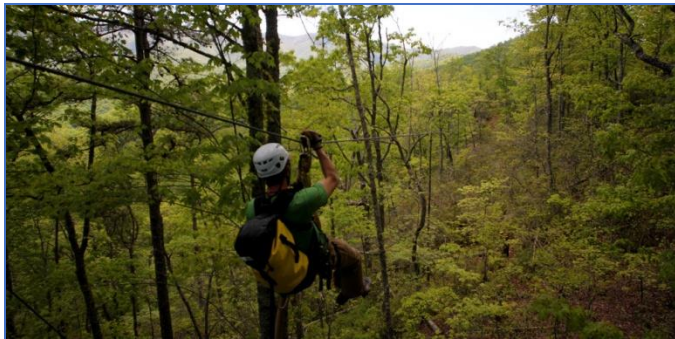


experiences. Participants will enter the 1770's on Sunday afternoon and experience life as our ancestors knew it until they return to the 21st century the following Saturday morning. Scouts live in barracks and prepare all of their own meals over open fire using only equipment that would have been available in the 1770's.

The Five Rivers Whitewater Trek. This trek offers scouts five days of whitewater fun on some of the finest waters in the entire United States. This trek provides a nice,

gradual increase in river rafting intensity daily. The raft week begins with a fully guided raft trip on the Nantahala River. This river features eight miles of easy Class I and II rapids before splashing through the exciting Class III whitewater of Nantahala Falls at the end. Tuesday finds the Scouts on the French Broad River. This is the world's third oldest river with Class II and III whitewater and flows through the scenic Pisgah National Forest. On Wednesday, scouts travel to Hartford, Tennessee, to raft the upper section of the Pigeon River. This river borders the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has Class III and IV rapids. Thursdays, the rafting continues on the Ocoee River in Tennessee. This river hosted the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. The river is filled with big waves and non-stop action. This incredible trek ends Friday on the Chattooga River. The Chattooga is without a doubt the Southeast's premier whitewater rafting adventure. Section IV of the river has awe-inspiring views and boasts Seven-Foot Falls, Raven's Chute Rapid, and the famous Five Falls where five Class IV and V rapids unfold within one-third of a mile! The Chattooga was federally protected in 1974 by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, forever preserving its rugged river gorge from development and ensuring it delivers breathtaking scenery and treasured whitewater experiences in an unmatched wilderness setting. Southern Living magazine called rafting the Chattooga "The #1 thing every Southerner ought to do."

Camp Daniel Boone is also proud to partner with the [Nantahala Outdoor Center \(NOC\)](#) to provide our Scouts with multiple rafting opportunities. NOC has been in operation since 1972 and has been called "One of the Greatest Outfitters on Earth" by National Geographic Magazine. Their commitment to professionalism and safety are the cornerstone of their success. Scouts will enjoy this high adventure providing a mix of whitewater and aerial fun. This trek begins with whitewater rafting on the Nantahala River. This eight-mile river features easy Class I and II whitewater and finishes with the Class III Nantahala Falls. On Tuesday, Scouts take to the air at NOC's Zip Line Adventure Park (ZLAP) of zip lining combined with sixteen rope challenges that are twenty and forty feet off the ground. The afternoon continues the aerial adventure getting harnessed up to climb a majestic tree with the help of NOC aerial guides. Wednesday, the aerial adventure moves to the Mountaintop Zip Line Tour, which features vista views of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Nantahala Gorge. It has the longest zip line in the region, a dramatic half-mile mega zip. The trek shifts back to whitewater rafting on Thursday; when scouts travel to Hartford, Tennessee, to raft the upper section of the Pigeon River which features Class III and IV rapids that border the Great Smoky Mountains. The week finishes on the world's third oldest river, the French Broad. This river has class II and III whitewater and flows through the scenic Pisgah National Forest.



On Tuesday, Scouts take to the air at NOC's Zip Line Adventure Park (ZLAP) of zip lining combined with sixteen rope challenges that are twenty and forty feet off the ground. The afternoon continues the aerial adventure getting harnessed up to climb a majestic tree with the help of NOC aerial guides. Wednesday, the aerial adventure moves to the Mountaintop Zip Line Tour, which features vista views of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Nantahala Gorge. It has the longest zip line in the region, a dramatic half-mile mega zip. The trek shifts back to whitewater rafting on Thursday; when scouts travel to Hartford, Tennessee, to raft the upper section of the Pigeon River which features Class III and IV rapids that border the Great Smoky Mountains. The week finishes on the world's third oldest river, the French Broad. This river has class II and III whitewater and flows through the scenic Pisgah National Forest.

The week finishes on the world's third oldest river, the French Broad. This river has class II and III whitewater and flows through the scenic Pisgah National Forest.



Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Georgia to Maine

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine

Website: <https://appalachiantrail.org/>

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, generally known as the Appalachian Trail or simply the AT, is a marked hiking trail in the Eastern United States extending between Springer Mountain in Georgia and Mount Katahdin in Maine. The trail is roughly 2,200 miles long. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy describes the AT as the longest hiking-only trail in the world. More than 2 million people are estimated to take a hike on part of the trail at least once each year. The cancellation of Philmont treks last summer, brought the AT back into focus as an alternative high-adventure venue for those in our area. If you are not familiar with hiking the AT, we offer a few brief words on trail and shelter etiquette.

The number of "thru hikers", those that hike the length of the Appalachian Trail in a single season, peak (referred to euphemistically as the "bubble") in our area in mid-to-late July for Northbound hikers and the first two weeks of August for Southbound hikers so, as a rule-of-thumb, it is best to avoid the AT during these peak usage periods.



If planning to hike the AT with your crew, take some time and familiarize yourself with the local rules. Generally, shelters are built to

accommodate the needs of thru hikers in numbers of four or less. Rush Williamson, Scouting's liaison to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) advises that in Maryland, for example, the rule is that if the shelter / campsite is full, one is to keep hiking onward to the next shelter, regardless. Generally, off-trail camping (200 ft or more from the trail) is permitted in areas of the AT but prohibited in others such as between the Blackburn Trail Center and Harper's Ferry.



Shelters are first come, first served, but a Scout group should always yield the shelter to thru-hikers. These intrepid souls travel light, often without tents, and depend on access to these shelters. Many thru-hikers will be on the trail dawn-to-dusk, using every available bit of light to cover as much distance as possible. Please don't assume that because the light is failing, a thru-hiker will not stop for the evening (even in the dead of night). Be courteous and respectful,

and yield the shelter.

A Philmont Crew of twelve will obviously exceed the capacity of most shelters -- with the exception of the Blackburn Trail Center and Bear's Den which can accommodate larger groups by design -- so

consider splitting your crew. Know, too, that any crew traversing the AT in the Shenandoah National Park must not exceed ten persons and will require a permit.

Tuscarora Trail: Virginia to Pennsylvania

(Updated 12/2019)

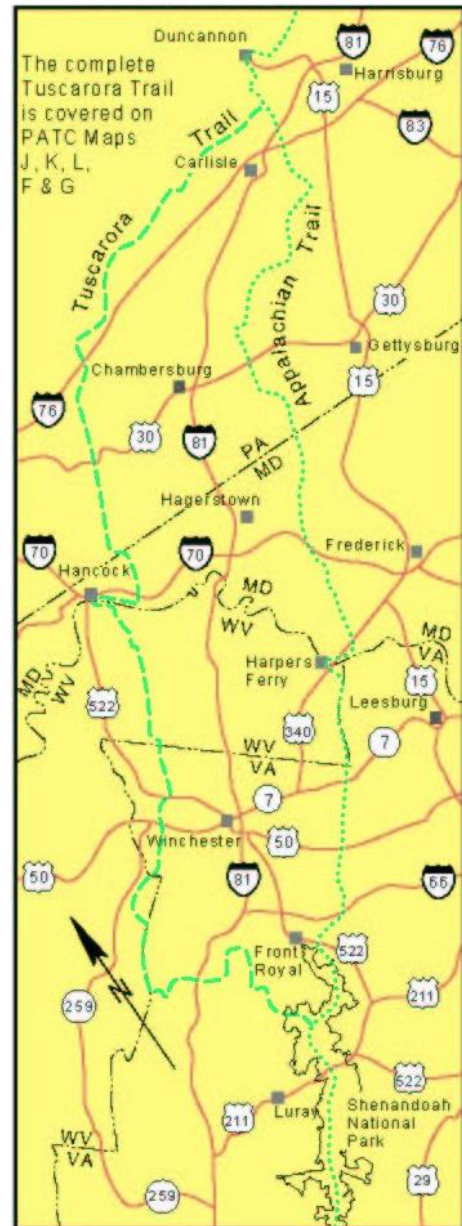
Location: Central Virginia to Southern Pennsylvania

Website: <http://www.patc.org>

The 252 mile (406 Km) Tuscarora Trail runs through the Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians that pass through Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. In the South, the Tuscarora begins at a junction with the AT near Mathews Arm Campground and in the North, it rejoins the AT at the top of Blue Mountain, just west of the Susquehanna River and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Tuscarora begins at a junction with the Appalachian Trail (AT) near Mathews Arm Campground, 0.4-mile (0.64 km) south of the AT's crossing of Skyline Drive at Mile Post 21.1 in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. In the north, it rejoins the Appalachian Trail at the top of Blue Mountain just west of the Susquehanna River and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, creating a 435 mi (700.1 km) circuit known as the Tuscalachian Loop. The entire loop is 435 miles (covering 183 miles of the AT). It is a preferred alternative to the AT for larger groups. The Pennsylvania section is quite strenuous and will challenge the abilities of any crew.

Throughout most of the 1960s a number of sections of the Appalachian Trail were in danger of being closed by commercial land owners. To ensure the trail's continuity, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy began to consider alternative routes that could be used to bypass those sections which appeared to be threatened, with the goal of maximizing public land usage. The Trail was built as an alternative route for the Appalachian Trail when it was feared that development would force closure of the AT (prior to passage of the National Scenic Trails Act of 1968). The Tuscarora Trail was originally two separate trails: the 142 mi (228.5 km) Big Blue Trail in Virginia and West Virginia, and the 110 mi (177.0 km) Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Work began on the Big Blue Trail in 1967, just one year before the Appalachian Trail received protected status. Though a continuous footpath was assured by the Act, the Keystone Trails Association and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club decided to complete both trails for use as AT spur trails.

The trail endured difficult times. In 1980s, for example, much of the trail in Pennsylvania had been closed due to a gypsy moth onslaught that had killed much of the surrounding oak forest. During that time, the trail became overgrown with brambles, briars, and other dense vegetation such that it was impassable. Thanks, though, to the dedicated work of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Conference it is



once more open to the public and over the last decade the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) has expanded and improved the trail and there are now fourteen shelters. Maps and guide books can be ordered from the PATC online store.

Today the Tuscarora Trail is now an official side-trail of the Appalachian Trail (blazed in blue) and will eventually become a component of the Great Eastern Trail, which will extend from Alabama to the Finger Lakes in New York state.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, along with other hiking organizations maintains the Tuscarora Trail, and in partnership with Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) is promoting the trail as a long-distance hiking resource in the Mid-Atlantic.



Looking for service opportunities to complete your 50-Miler Award? REI has provided PATC with a generous grant to raise awareness of the 252-mile Tuscarora Trail, but one of the challenges of maintaining it and drawing recreational hikers to it has been its incomplete, inconsistent, and inadequate signage. Thus, part of the REI grant has been used by PATC volunteers to design and purchase hundreds of new full-color directional signs that will guide hikers through the entire 252 miles. These signs are now ready to be installed but sign crew volunteers are needed for upcoming sign installations (these can be day trips). No experience is necessary, but you will need to be able to hike, carry tools, dig holes, attach signs, and level them. All tools, materials, and safety gear are provided. Work began in the South last year and is steadily progressing northward. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the project leader (and former PATC President), Jim Tomlin at jftomlin@gmail.com.

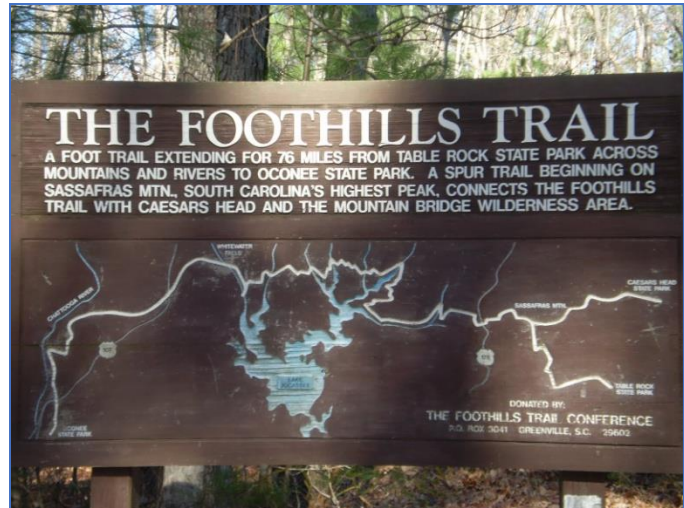
Foothills Trail: North and South Carolina

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Western North Carolina and Northern South Carolina

Website: <https://foothillstrail.org/>

Looking for a high-adventure opportunity that is easier on the budget and a bit closer to home? Consider the Foothills Trail in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and Northern South Carolina. About a day's drive from the Washington-Metropolitan Area, the 77 mile Foothills Trail runs from upstate South Carolina to Western North Carolina, crossing through hardwood forests, past waterfalls and rivers, and over the 3,563 foot Sassafras Mountain, the highest peak in South Carolina. This National Recreation Trail was established in the early 1980s by hiking enthusiasts who wanted to link local trails into a single route through the Blue Ridge Mountains.



The Blue Ridge Mountains are well known for their three hundred sixty degree views from their bare summits. But while the Blue Ridge Mountain "balds" may be a highlight of the southern Appalachians, they encompass a far greater range of beauty than the view from the tops of the six thousand foot range.

Far below the Blue Ridge, the foothills undulate with as much unforgiving elevation change as the high peaks themselves. Unlike the tall and unforgiving crests of the great range, the foothills are alive and lush. Streams, creeks, and engorged rivers mark the land with deep gorges and sandy beaches. Waterfalls abound, their distinctive rush mixes with sounds of wind and wildlife.

The Foothills Trail climbs gently out of Oconee State Park on a wide, flat trail that becomes increasingly tight before transforming into traditional single track. Scouts will be treated to their first of many waterfalls at mile 8.2 at Lick Log Creek. The Trail joins the Chattooga River Trail at mile 10.6 and winds along the Chattooga River's sandy beaches for miles. Waterfalls abound at mile 16.3 via a side trail at King Creek Falls, and another at mile 23.2.

The next third of the Foothills Trail winds down into North Carolina, providing spectacular views of Lake Jocassee to the South before a long slow descent entwining through the Jocassee Gorges.



This middle section of trail bumps along at low elevations and sports spectacular runoff that forms a number of beautiful waterfalls. At mile 28.9 there is a side trail to Whitewater Falls, at mile 30.1 Corbin Creek Falls, a small waterfall at mile 35.5 and a blue blaze to Hillard Falls at mile marker 36.5.

During this middle section of trail, Scouts will also get their first introduction to another essential attribute of the Foothills Trail. Stairs. Lots of Stairs. These wooden stairs make appearances at many points on the Foothills Trail -- most notably on Heartbreak Ridge, where there are 302 stairs on the ascent and 294 on the flip side!

From the east end of Heartbreak Ridge at mile 50 to the Northern Terminus at Table Rock State Park at mile 76.2, the trail crosses a number of challenging routes and trail highlights. Beginning at mile 50 the trail slowly gains elevation, passing Laurel Falls (54.30) and Virginia Hawkins Falls (57.3) on the way up. The largest climb of the hike begins at mile 62 when it gains 1,839 feet over 4.4 miles before topping out at Sassafras Mountain, the highest point in South Carolina.

The Foothills Trail proper ends at Table Rock State Park, about ten miles from Sassafras Mountain. However from Sassafras Mountain there is a 14.2 mile spur trail to Ceasar's Head State Park in South Carolina that some choose as an

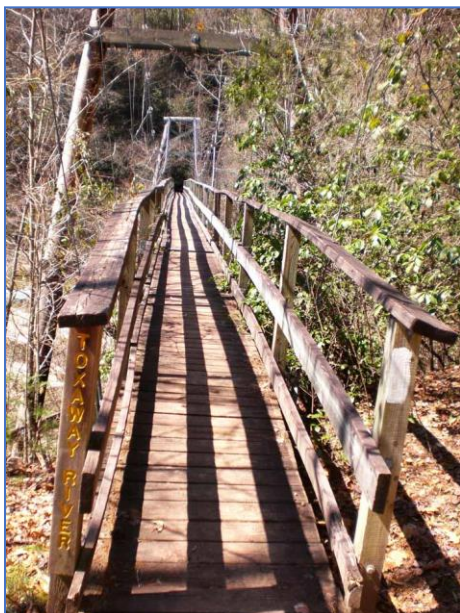


alternate northern terminus for the trail. Along this extended spur lies views of the East Fork of the French Broad River, as well as the sheer rock faces of Raven Cliff Falls.

For those who wish to follow the white blazes of the Foothills Trail, the trail continues down Sassafras Mountain, makes one last climb to up Pinnacle Mountain, and winds its way down to Table Rock State Park.

Table Rock State Park offers a myriad of amenities from camping to cabins, swimming to fishing. The park also has a store and gift shop with limited groceries to fuel your post thru-hike hunger.

Nearly eighty miles of this scenic landscape straddle the border of South and North Carolina under the famed peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This particular hike is notable for several



reasons (beyond the wilderness it passes through). The Foothills Trail is a remarkably well blazed path, has easy section hiking access, and the unrivaled support of the conference that maintains it.

Today there are almost thirty miles of well-maintained spur trails in addition to the main route. Most hikers take 5-10 days to thru-hike the entire trail. Those with only weekends free can section hike instead from one of the many trailheads dotted along the length of the traverse. While the many creeks and occasional lakes make great spots to cool off during the summer, the best time to hike the Foothills Trail is perhaps in the Fall, when the forest turns bright red and gold.



There are some rules. Hikers must fill out a trip card at the trailhead registration kiosk; the state park and US Forest Service trailheads require parking fees (\$5 per day at the state parks, \$2 per day in forest service parking lots). Contact Foothills Trail Conservancy for details.

Virginia Triple Crown: Virginia

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Salem, Virginia

Website: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/virginia/virginias-triple-crown-loop>

Looking for a high-adventure opportunity that is in our own backyard? Consider the Virginia Triple Crown: Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob, and Tinker Cliffs. Together the three summits provide scouts and outdoor enthusiasts alike the opportunity to conquer three of the region's most popular trails and peaks, and encounter some of our most spectacular views in Virginia. The Triple Crown can be completed over multiple trips to Virginia's Blue Ridge, or for the intrepid scout and adventurer, there's the option to create a 35-mile loop that can be completed over the course of several days.

Begin your adventure at the Dragon's Tooth Parking Area off Route 311. Don't be fooled by the fact the hike to Dragon's Tooth is only 2.3 miles distant. The first 1.5 miles of this journey wind along streams and easily identified, well-marked trails, but then you'll be tested by the climb and steep ascent to the top. The final 0.8 miles of the hike will test your bouldering skills (make use of iron climb bars in place to assist as you make your way along the rock walls). At the top, the climb pays off with a stunning view of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains on the horizon. For an even more unique view, climb to a spot on "The Tooth" - a 35-foot tall quartzite rock spire that reaches into the sky.



If you're hiking the entire portion of this stretch of the trail, continue north on the Appalachian Trail for 7.5 miles until you reach the McAfee Knob Parking Lot, which officially begins the second leg. The alternate option is to return to the Dragon's Tooth Parking Lot and drive south on Route 311 for 4 miles until you reach the McAfee Knob Parking Lot.

McAfee Knob is one of the icons and most recognizable points along the entire Appalachian Trail as well as the most popular hike in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. The pronounced rock ledge that defines McAfee Knob provides a stunning 270-degree panoramic view that can serve as the perfect setting to watch the sunrise. It's also where hikers capture breathtaking photos standing and sitting on the edge of the mountain. It's a moderately difficult hike that takes approximately 4-6 hours to complete out-and-back from the McAfee Knob Parking Lot off Route 311.

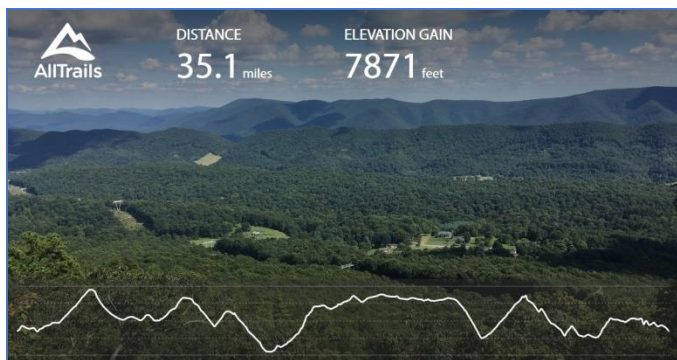


If you're completing the Triple Crown in one trip, you'll opt to continue north on the Appalachian Trail instead of making your way back to the parking lot. From McAfee Knob, it's approximately 5.5 miles to Tinker Cliffs along the trail.

If there's a hidden gem of the three segments of the Triple Crown, it's Tinker Cliffs. Following the Andy Layne Trail off Catawba Road, this 7.7-mile out-and-back hike will test your strength as the trail features nearly 2,000 feet of elevation gain. Once you reach Tinker Cliffs, which are made from limestone that's over 250 million years old, stand in awe of the Blue Ridge Mountains to your south, which includes Catawba Mountain and McAfee Knob. From an elevation of 3,000 feet, it's an amazing view (Note - a portion of this hike winds through private property so please respect all signage and stay on the trail).



For those completing the Triple Crown as a loop, once you reach Tinker Cliffs, you continue north on the Appalachian Trail until turning left onto Andy Layne Trail. Follow this trail until you reach the parking lot at Route 779 and cross the road to connect with the yellow-blazed North Mountain Trail. Turn left and head south on the trail along the ridge of North Mountain until you reach Route 311. Turn left and hike south on Route 311 until reaching the Dragon's Tooth Parking Lot to complete the 35-mile loop.



Camping is prohibited on McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs but there are numerous camping shelters along this portion of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia's Blue Ridge. Please camp only in designated spots along the trail. The four designated camping shelters located along this route are Campbell, Catawba Mountain, Johns Spring, and Lamberts Meadow.

Regardless of where you hike, adhere to Leave No Trace principles to help ensure that places like the Virginia Triple Crown remains an enjoyable hiking experience for locals and visitors for years to come. Protecting the natural environment and maintaining its beauty is an essential part of what makes the Appalachian Trail and Virginia's Blue Ridge an amazing destination.

Special thanks to the Roanoke Visitors Bureau for their excellent description of the Virginia Triple Crown (quoted liberally in this feature).

Blue Ridge Mountain Scout Reservation: Virginia (Updated 4/2023)



Location: Southwestern Virginia

Website: <https://bsa-brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html>

Aquatics Base on Claytor Lake: Offering motor and sail boating, wakeboarding, Scuba lessons, kayaking, personal watercraft (aka Jet Skis), snorkeling, water skiing, paddle boarding and tubing. <https://bsa-brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=49:clab&catid=19>



Blue Ridge Mountaineer (formerly Mountain Man or Mountain Frontier Adventure): Participants will experience life of the 18th Century while camping in the backwoods of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Scouts will live and dress like the Mountain People of yore and will learn the ways of the longhunters that explored, trapped, and settled western Virginia. Scouts will experience the tools used by Mountain People like tomahawks, knives,

muzzleloaders, and leatherworking. They will learn to start fires with flint and steel on which they'll cook some of their meals. At the Blacksmith Forge Scouts will make implements and tools like they did in the 1800's and can assemble and make their own knife and sheath. Don't forget to visit the Ordinary for root beer and mountain music! <https://bsa-brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=38:mtnman&catid=20>

Canoe the New: Participants spend 5 days canoeing and rafting 50 miles of the New River area. They will travel the route of Voyageurs and early explorers. Scouts will hone their paddling skills as they learn to read rapids. There will also be time to catch some fish for dinner. Ride Class V rapids in the famous New River Gorge. Along the way, you'll earn the Canoeing and Whitewater Merit Badges. [https://bsa-](https://bsa-brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=35:voyageur&catid=21)



[brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=35:voyageur&catid=21](https://bsa-brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=35:voyageur&catid=21)

New River Adventure: Participants spend three days rafting Class V whitewater rapids on the New River Gorge in West Virginia and participate in low and high COPE and rope courses. They will spend two days caving or rock climbing in the New River Gorge or participate in our ATV course, or pistol shooting (for Venturers only). New River Adventure is full of action-packed activities in the New River Gorge and on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation. <https://bsa->

brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=44:new-river-adventure&catid=21

High Knoll Trail:
Scouts will spend the week backpacking throughout the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation. Scouts must be 12 1/2 and First Class by the start of camp week. This is a rugged 4 day backpacking adventure showing a taste of the Appalachian area, past and present. Crews will travel according to their



planned itinerary and have the option to attempt the 50 Miler award. Each evening, teams will have time to participate in activities which may include natural rock climbing, horseback riding, black powder shooting, Logging Camp, paintball range, mountainboarding, geocaching, rafting Class V rapids.

<https://bsa->

brmc.org/index.php/campreservation/summercamp.html?view=article&id=37:hiknoll&catid=20

Central United States

North Country National Scenic Trail: North Dakota to Vermont

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/noco/> or <https://northcountrytrail.org/>

Come to the North Country. Trek the hills and valleys. Stand on the shores of lakes & streams from glaciers 10,000 years before. Clear-flowing water, red/gold of autumn, a fairyland of snow, open prairies, and distant horizons paint the land. Historic sites along the way tell how America settled and grew as a nation. From North Dakota to Vermont, adventure is never far away.



From bird watching to backpacking the North Country National Scenic Trail provides visitors an opportunity to enjoy many rewarding experiences as it winds its way across eight northern states. Connecting a host of natural, historic, and cultural areas from valleys to hilltops, cities to small towns, and everything in between. There is something for everyone to enjoy in each changing season!

The Trail traverses through more than 160 federal, state and local public lands, including 10 National Forests, four areas of the National Park Service, and over 100 state parks, forests and game areas. It winds along three of the Great Lakes, past countless farmlands, through large cityscapes and vast prairies, over many rivers and streams, and through the famed Adirondacks. The North Country Trail also shares routes with the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota, the Buckeye Trail in Ohio, the Finger Lakes Trail in New York, and the Iron Belle Trail in Michigan.

Whether you're looking to hike just a few miles or plan a longer backpacking trip, the North Country Trail offers diverse landscapes and flexible hiking opportunities.



Louisiana Swamp Base: Louisiana (Updated 1/2023)

Location: Atchafalaya, Louisiana

Council: Evangeline Area Council

Website: <https://www.bsaswampbase.org/>

Still contemplating a high adventure trip next year or two but not quite ready for Philmont, Northern Tier, and Seabase? Here's another option to consider.



Louisiana Swamp Base is a national conservation and high adventure recreation base created in 2010 by the Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, to commemorate the Centennial of Scouting while also making a 100 year commitment to annually immerse thousands of youth in the environment and culture of the Atchafalaya Swamp.



Started in the summer of 2013, Swamp Base offers two week-long high adventure treks through the Atchafalaya Swamp. Modeled after the Boy Scouts of America's four National High Adventure camps and bases, Swamp Base joins the tradition offering a premiere camping and adventure opportunity for America's scouts.

Swamp Base currently offers two guided canoe adventure treks, simply called Trek 1 (61.6 miles) and Trek 2 (75.0 miles). Each excursion ventures through remote swamplands and caters to Boy Scouts, Venturers, Varsity Scouts, and Sea Scouts.

Crews will spend six days and six nights in Louisiana, with 5-days and 4-nights of their time spent paddling through the Atchafalaya

swamp. Designed to highlight adventure and the vastness of the swamp itself, these trek programs include challenging tests of endurance and survival skills coupled with specific lessons about the wetlands, cultures, and communities of South Louisiana, while at the same time promoting ecological conservation through an assortment of service learning activities.

A wilderness far too intimidating for the casual outdoorsman, the Atchafalaya Swamp remains somewhat remote and even a bit mysterious. But for the adventurous and the prepared, the swamp offers challenges to conquer and wonders to behold.

Make no mistake, the Atchafalaya Swamp is a complex and challenging environment as it is one of endless beauty. Access to the diverse swamp is limited, and once inside landmarks are nearly non-existent. With the addition of fluctuating water levels that change dramatically with each season, the landscape transforms and reshapes itself constantly. It is because of this constant state of change that experience, proper education, and planning are essential before engaging in any high adventure activities within the area. But accompanied by your highly experienced trek guide and outfitted with the right tools and equipment to tackle the swamp, you will be rewarded with the experience of a lifetime!



Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch: Texas

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Fort Davis, Texas

Council: Buffalo Trails Council

Website: <https://www.btsrnx.com/> - website unavailable 1/2023



Cavalry Adventure Camp at the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch (BTSR) in Buffalo Trails Council in Texas is a one of a kind High-Adventure program for your older Scouts.



Take a step back in time and live like the 9th and 10th Cavalry who were stationed at Fort Davis in the late 1800s. Learn how soldiers lived and trained, ride and take care of horses as they did, wear the uniforms and sleep in the same type tents. The camp is located on top of Forbidden Mountain (it's a two-mile uphill climb), where you will enjoy the variety of programs along with the breathtaking beauty of the scenic overlooks. Some program highlights include:

- Try out real Cavalry uniforms and sabres
- Live in military type wall tents
- Learn skills and drills of the cavalry
- Black powder shooting
- Try your hand at branding and roping
- Enjoy Chuck wagon style cooking
- Fun campfires and storytelling
- Learn the history of Fort Davis



In addition to the highlights, above, you'll learn and experience the history of Fort Davis first hand.



BTSR provides the trained staff, chuck wagon cooking gear, program supplies, and food.

There are over a dozen trails that wind through the more than 9,000 acres of rugged and beautiful terrain at the BTSR. Many of these trails were established almost six decades ago and still see traffic today as the ranch continues to put hikers into its beautiful backcountry. Trails range from easy, with little to no elevation change, to the most rugged and challenging trails that

will test even the experienced hiker. These are not roads or wide national park trails; they are very rustic trails that leave little impact on the surrounding beauty scouts will experience as they hike along them. Itineraries are designed to use the most appropriate trail based on the experience level required for each program and vary from 4400 ft. of elevation at base camp to over 5400 ft. at the top of Forbidden Mountain. There is something at the BTSR for everyone!

Looking for scenery? With over 50 miles of trails winding through the corner of the Davis Mountains, scouts will be able to witness some of the most beautiful and scenic overlooks in the state. The Ranch includes portions of Little Aguja Canyon, Madera Canyon, Pig Pen Canyon, and Million Dollar Canyon inside its boundaries. Looking down into the bottom of one of these canyons, or looking up to rising towers of rock from the bottom of them, scouts will not go home dissatisfied with the beauty and variety of nature found at this camp.



The BTSR is full of many unique geological formations and landmarks, many of which scouts will be able to see on one of their treks. Be on the lookout for Needle Rock, Natural Bridge, Giant's Hand, The Notch, Balance Rock, the Columns, Blue Hole, and Forbidden Castle. Scouts might even encounter the ancient Indian paintings on their trek!

The BTSR offers an introductory trek, medium and hard difficulty, endurance options. At the lower end, the introductory trek serves the twelve year-olds in your troop. It's a three day, twelve mile introduction to backpacking.

The medium difficulty treks are suited to the thirteen year-old scouts in your troop as the mileage increases to 21-25 miles. Scouts will enjoy the stunning beauty of BTSR as they backpack through the Northern portion of the Outback. This trek is tailored for those people who need to dust off the hiking boots before hitting the trail or who are interested in a relaxed pace that still covers a lot of territory. Trail activities include options for a Global Positioning System course, Sports, Wilderness Survival, Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) low activities, Search and Rescue experience, side hikes, animal observations, climbing and rappelling.

The harder difficulty treks are suited to the thirteen and older scouts in your troop as the mileage increases to 28-25 miles. These treks are a bit more challenging and are a great option for scouts who are experienced and seeking a more challenging and enjoyable week in the backcountry. On these treks hikers will see some of the most scenic spots on camp, including a visit to the Indian paintings, Needle Rock, The Notch, and Forbidden Mountain. Trail activities include options for sunrise photography, nightly star observation, COPE low activities, side hikes, Cavalry Camp activities, sports, climbing, and rappelling.



The endurance treks are suited to the fourteen year and older crowd as the trek length begins to hit 55-65 miles. These treks are the most difficult and physically taxing programs at the B TSR. Hiking over 50 miles in just five days is an achievement and one to be quite proud of. On these treks scouts will enjoy climbing, team building, and a search and rescue role play as they take the grand tour of the B TSR outback. Hike over 60 miles through the rugged terrain of the outback and earn the RR 1832 Marathon award! Trek crews also have the option to earn the 50 miler award.



Jack Zink High Adventure Base: Oklahoma (Updated 1/2023)

Location: Tulsa, Oklahoma
Council: Indian Nations Council
Website: <https://zbase.camp/>



The Jack Zink High Adventure Base (ZBASE) is located on the sprawling 35,000-acre Jack Zink Ranch and 10,000-acre Skiatook Lake in Northeast Oklahoma, northwest of Tulsa, and a short 20 minute drive from Tulsa International Airport.

ZBASE is a high adventure leadership-based program that operated by the Indian Nations Council. It serves Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts, and high adventure enthusiasts. The leadership curriculum combines an outdoor discovery-based classroom with hands-on, active experience, both designed to develop participants' leadership skills and help them learn more about themselves and others

There are eight treks to choose from. Each trek consists of an orientation / preparation day at Base Camp and five days on the trail visiting Adventure Areas. Crews will travel by backpacking five-to-nine miles per day. Some treks may canoe or travel on the lake, but most travel is on land. The trek concludes with a day back at Base Camp to clean up and participate in closing ceremonies.

Crews select a trek based on the program areas in which they desire to participate. The Adventure Areas include:

-- All Terrain Vehicles (ATV): The ATV Course provides Scouts with plenty of room to roam, zoom, and challenge themselves as they experience ZBASE from the driver's seat of an ATV. With plenty of rocks, hills, forests, and streams, there's something new to see around every corner of the ZBASE ATV Course. "If you like the experience of the wind in your face and the excitement of piloting a quad vehicle over various types of natural – and rugged terrain, there's simply no better way to experience ZBASE."



-- Canoeing / kayaking / Jet skis: The Aquatics Adventure Center takes advantage of one of the biggest assets of ZBASE, the 10,000-acre Skiatook Lake! Here, Scouts can experience jet skis and a water obstacle course. This area can be the stop off for your trek after long days of canoeing or kayaking. During the evenings

-- Mountain Bikes: When it comes to really unplugging from the daily digital grind, nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a mountain bike through some of the most scenic -- and rugged -- terrain at the Ranch. Taking advantage of the undulating topography provided by ZBASE allowed staff to build one of the most robust trail systems in Oklahoma, complete with challenges for every cyclist's skill level. "Climbing quad-burning hills, cruising through open prairies, and going all out on rocky descents will leave ZBASE crews breathless...and ready for more!"

-- Ninja Warrior Course / Tree Houses: The Tree House Adventure and Obstacle Course are sure to be the main draw for Scouts. The course consists of three suspended tree houses connected by gravity-defying bridges. The course provides both physical and mental challenges, and Scouts will relish the opportunity to prove themselves by tackling an obstacle course that's been adopted from a national adventure TV show! If you don't think your Scouts have been challenged enough by the Tree House, then have them take on the ZBASE Warrior Challenge! This three-mile "mudders" obstacle course will tax even the strongest amongst your crew. "When it comes to high adventure and challenge, the ZBASE Tree House and obstacle course takes participants to greater heights. Do you have what it takes to be a ZBASE Warrior?"

-- Aerial Adventures (Adventure Tower and Zip Line): The Aerial Adventure encourages ZBASE participants to reach new heights by getting their feet off the ground. Each Aerial Adventure zone has been designed with the latest innovations in climbing and safety technology, and there's something for everyone to reach for. A 70 ft. high by 124 ft. wide double octagon steel adventure tower.



Up top are breath taking views but it will take everything your Scouts can muster to traverse more than 40 individual elements to get there. But when they do, they are rewarded with a 1,300 ft. zip line that traverses over across Skiatook Lake. "The ZBASE Aerial Adventure is a great way to encourage physical accomplishments and create memorable experiences for even the most digitally entrenched. When it comes to truly high adventure, the Aerial Adventure is the pinnacle ZBASE experience."

-- Cable Wake Park: No boat? No experience? No problem! Scouts of all ages and skill levels will stay cool while catching air at this extreme water sports park designed for wake boarding, water skiing, and knee boarding. The Cable Wake Park encourages Scouts to learn new skills and get creative on a portion of Lake Tall Chief. Using a unique overhead cable system, the wake park runs in a continuous counter-clockwise motion, allowing multiple riders to enjoy non-stop water sports adventure at the same time. Consisting of a new dock and five towers, the Cable Wake Park is one of the largest and best-equipped facilities of its kind in Oklahoma and is "guaranteed to make some serious waves."

-- Western Village and Cowboy Action Shooting: Turkey Creek Canyon transports Scouts back to the days of the Wild West when outlaws used to hide in the surrounding Osage Hills. This authentic Wild West village -- complete with a main street -- is home to many famous 'historical' destinations such as the



Long Horn Palace, Robson Buffalo Hotel, and various storefronts. There's an outdoor kitchen and bunkhouses created just for hungry and tired cowboys in search of a cold sarsaparilla and a bowl of hot chuck wagon stew.

At the shooting ranges, Scouts get to take part in the tradition of shooting in a unique

old-time setting. "Turkey Creek Canyon and Wild West Village is a total blast from the past!"

-- Sporting Clays: No adventure would be complete without the chance to learn to shoot, which is why the Sporting Clays Challenge is an integral part of the ZBASE experience. ZBASE crews will learn the proper way to shoot, maintain their shotguns, and how to demonstrate firearm safety and responsibility. The Sporting Clays Challenge includes an 18-station sporting clays course. Targets include singles, simultaneous pairs, report pairs, or "rabbit" targets that skitter unpredictably across the ground. The course also features a covered pavilion, shotguns, and trap machines with wireless release systems. This activity will teach Scouts the skills of marksmanship by handling real shotguns on real, flying targets. After their round of sporting clays, crews will be invited back to the Graves Building for a bar-be-cue meal and a chance to swap tall-tales on the back porch as evening rolls in. Crews will be camped on the bluff overlooking Turkey Creek Canyon, Skiatook Lake, and the southern part of Zink Ranch before heading on to the next adventure.



-- Native American / Equestrian Area: The Native American Adventure will provide each Scout with a hands-on learning experience about our equestrian area and take a trail ride across the beautiful ZBASE landscape and an opportunity to experience the new archery program replete with sporting arrows and action archery shooting!



adventure base.

The mission statement of ZBASE is three-fold. First, become a premier regional (and eventually national) high adventure base. Second, to help maintain the relevance of Scouting's core principles to today's youth. Third, to be seen as a leadership training center. The Zink Ranch has a tradition of hosting various scouting activities and is a fitting site for this new, one-of-a-kind, high

ZBASE is a high adventure base and participants must be 13 by September 1, 2022 or preferred 14 years of age (or 13 and have completed the 8th grade). The ATV and jet-ski programs REQUIRE that the youth be 14 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). No exceptions. Crews should have basic Scout Skills and be familiar with canoeing, backpacking, Leave No Trace principles, and land navigation. Crews do not have to be wholly proficient in these skillsets but should be familiar with them. Using the months before your trek to practice or re-introduce these skills would be advised as this should not be a first-time outdoor adventure. Participants also need to be in good physical condition; the demands of a high adventure trek should not be taken lightly! Adults will need to have completed CPR/ First Aid and a recognized Wilderness First Aid Course and must bring proof of their certification with them.

Western United States

Rocky Mountain High Adventure Base: Colorado

(Update 1/2023)

Location: Southern Colorado

Council: Pathway to the Rockies Council

Website: <http://pathwaytotherockies.org/rmhab/>

The Rocky Mountain High Adventure Base (RMHAB) program offers a number of mountain programs options from which to choose.

Mount Shavano (Elevation 14,299). This brief trek includes a 4-mile trip to the summit and back for a total of 13 miles and a vertical gain of 5000 feet. If snow conditions permit, crews may glissade down a snowfield (a way of sliding down a steep slope of snow or ice, typically on the feet with the support of an ice axe -- I had to look that one up).



Mount Ouray (Elevation 13,971). Mount Ouray is an extinct volcano named after the famous Ute Chief. Guided treks are not available, but RMHAB will provide all transportation, gear, and guidance for an unguided one or two-day trek. The day hike starts at Marshall Pass on the Continental Divide Trail, just to the west of Mt. Ouray, and at about 10,500 feet. The optional two-day trek would begin with a hike up Silver Creek to Marshall Pass. Marshall Pass is a gorgeous area filled with green mountain meadows, beaver ponds, mule deer, and a view of Mount Ouray's awesome peak towering above you. The second day you would continue on the Continental Divide Trail to summit Mount Ouray.

Mount Antero (Elevation 14,269). This is deemed the the most difficult of the treks due to its length; 21 miles and 5,000 feet of elevation vertical gain. The distance and elevation are compounded by unpredictable weather and personal reactions to the extremely high altitudes. Because of its difficulty, it is also one of the most rewarding.

Continental Divide Day Hike (Pecks Peak).

This trek begins with a gondola ride to the top of the Continental Divide where you spend the day hiking around the top of the world. Your crew will also have the opportunity to proceed down the beautiful mountain trail and over to Peck's Peak.



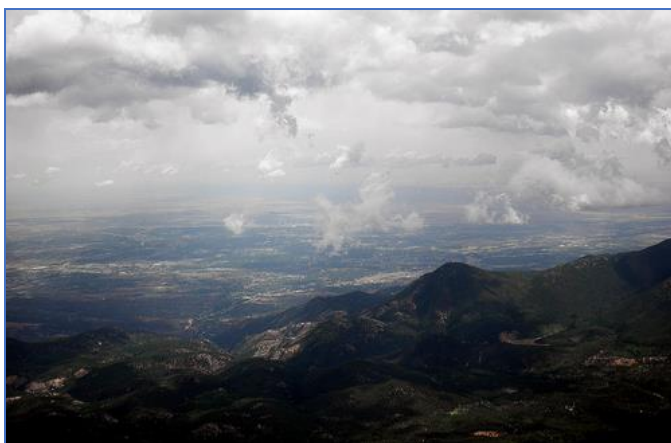
Continental Divide Trek (Elevation 11,312).

The Divide Trek can be a two or three-day

trek. This trek begins at Monarch Pass and heads south on the Continental Divide trail 10.5-miles to Marshall Pass. Most of this trail is above tree line and has a beautiful view in all directions. You may choose to camp anywhere on the Divide Trail or, if you can make it to Marshall Pass, you can camp in a miners cabin. After a night of rest you will continue along the Divide Trail south to the Silver Creek Trail and head downhill through the switchbacks and beaver ponds or you may decide to take the extra day and summit Mt. Ouray.

5-Day Backpacking Treks. The RMHAB will take your crew on a 5-day guided backpacking trek. The High Adventure Base furnishes all gear such as tents, cook gear, water filters, and food. All you need to bring is your personal gear. You will start your trek at the Angel of Shavano Trail Head and hike north to the chalk cliffs of Mt. Princeton. Your guide will lead you down the Colorado Trail and on the way you may chose to summit any or all of the 14er's (peaks over 14,000 feet) such as Mt. Antero, Mt. Shavano, and Mt. Taboguache.

Mountain Lake Fishing Trips. For those who prefer to sample the magnificent fishing that Colorado has to offer, the RMHAB sponsors self-guided one and two-day backpacking trips to several scenic mountain lakes located just below the tree line. Elevations of these lakes and the hiking distance will vary depending on which trip you embark upon.



Rappelling / Rockclimbing. This program is offered to a limited number of participants as it is contingent on the number and availability of suitable climbs and climbing guides. Climbing is on pure solid Rocky Mountain granite and can range in height from 30 feet to 160 feet.

Mountain Biking. You may choose, as part of your program, a mountain bike experience. The RMHAB provides GT mountain bikes and guides for one and two-day overnight rides, or you can take your crew out on their own bike trek.

Self-Guided. Your crew may also opt to take on a self-guided trek. The RMHAB will provide all gear, food, maps, directions, radio, and transportation to and from the trailhead. Mt. Princeton, Mt. Ouray, Mt. Yale, Mt. Harvard, Mt. Columbia, Mt. Oxford, Mt. Massive, and Mt. Elbert -- the tallest peak in Colorado and second highest in the continental United States -- all await you!

Customized Treks. The RMHAB has an open mind. If there is a trek that you would like to try other than the programs discussed above, give them a call and they will help you to design a trek that will fit the needs of your crew. They offer one-to-ten day mountain treks on foot or bike that can include fishing opportunities. Suggest ideas and the High Adventure Base will try to work it into the schedule!



Elkhorn High Adventure Base: Colorado

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Northern Colorado

Council: Longs Peak Council

Website: <https://longspeakbsa.org/programs/camps-camping/elkhorn-high-adventure-base/>



The Elkhorn High Adventure Base is one. Located on Ben Delatour Scout Ranch (BDSR) near Red Feather Lakes, Colorado, and just north of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Elkhorn High Adventure Base sits at 7,000 feet, high in the Rocky Mountains.

The Elkhorn High Adventure Base is one of four camps located on the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. The high adventure program there has been put together to take full advantage of the magnificent location in the mountains of northern Colorado. The Elkhorn High Adventure Base is surrounded by mountain



terrain on nearly all sides, so whether it is a one day technical climb of Coral Rock or a multi day above timberline traverse of the Rawah Wilderness and Roosevelt National Forest you'll get to experience the Colorado Rockies like nowhere else. Some of the treks include ascents of peaks that reach nearly 13,000 feet in elevation while others might just include a quiet afternoon at a mountain lake high above the trees (and sometimes the clouds!).

Each crew will spend at least five full days hiking and camping in the Rocky Mountains where treks can be anywhere from 35 to 50 miles. There are six-day treks, ten-day treks, and completely custom built treks available. Planned activities can include white water rafting (contingent on river conditions, of course), and overnight horseback rides. Some examples:

- The Dick Finch Memorial Trek begins with transport to Chimney Park Scout Camp in southern Wyoming where your six day backpacking hike begins. You will travel through Medicine Bow National Forest, Rawah Wilderness, Laramie River Valley and into the Roosevelt National Forest ending at the Elkhorn High Adventure Base at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch.
- The Elkhorn SuperTrek is a ten day backpacking adventure includes a whitewater rafting trip down the Cache La Poudre River (which can also be booked separately).

The camp also offers activities such as Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) course, rappelling (including a 100 foot free rappel!), basic and advanced rock climbing (no walls or towers!), black powder shooting, and tomahawk throwing.



Whatever the interest of your crew, the Elkhorn High Adventure Base offers a unique experience for older Scouts to hike, camp, and climb in the Rocky Mountains!

Montana High Adventure Base: Montana

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Northwest Montana

Council: Montana Council

Website: <https://montanabsa.org/camps/high-adventure/>

Looking for something a bit more off beaten path? Consider the *Montana High Adventure Base* (MOHAB). The MOHAB is a nationally accredited Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Base with ten times the room to roam than Philmont! The MOHAB offers participants basecamp training and hands-on experiences that will provide them with the necessary skills to safely lead themselves on their own wilderness expedition.



MOHAB is a High Adventure program operated by the Montana Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in partnership with the Boone and Crockett Club. The MOHAB's very uniqueness is defined by its remote location, wilderness character, and multi-sport expedition travel (the MOHAB Curriculum focuses on ultralight backpacking, wilderness packrafting, expedition leadership, and conservation). The MOHAB Programs are available to entire units (troops, teams, and crews), or to individual or small groups of scouts coming to MOHAB without their unit. The MOHAB programs span the range of difficulty from easy to hard, and include both wilderness trekking and wilderness packrafting expeditions, one or two weeks in length.



The MOHAB is located near Dupuyer, Montana (80 miles west of Great Falls, Montana) at the Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. The Ranch is located on property adjacent to the wilderness boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness.



Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost: Wyoming (Updated 12/2018)

Location: Northwest Wyoming

Council: Greater Wyoming Council

Website: <https://scoutingevent.com/062-56693>



Camp Buffalo Bill, home of the Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost is operated by The Greater Wyoming Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and provides year-round residential camp program for scouts of all ages.

Located in the Wapiti Valley between the North Absaroka and Washakie Wilderness areas, Camp Buffalo Bill is just seven miles East of Yellowstone National Park providing a setting where beauty, wildlife, and adventure abound. This was the playground for William “Buffalo Bill” Cody and it can be yours too!

The Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost (YHAO) provides world-class high adventure experiences throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area. Treks there have a unique wilderness flavor not found at other high adventure programs or bases as Scouts will travel through the 2.9 million acres of wilderness in Yellowstone National Park and the Shoshone National Forest. Trek guides will accompany your crew for the duration of your trek, helping you and your crew to refine your wilderness camping and backcountry travel skills.



The programs were developed around the seven Leave No Trace (LNT) principals and LNT curriculum will be taught over the course of your trek. There are three basic flavors of trek.

Yellowstone Backpacking. The YHAO offers backcountry treks on the more than 1,000 miles of trail of 2.2 million acre Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone treks are typically five days long and. You will hike between 5-10 miles a day through the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park averaging 30-45 miles over the period. Travel on Yellowstone treks is primarily on trails and you'll be staying in established backcountry campsites. It is remote and pretty rare for you to run in to other park visitors after the first day, but you will likely encounter a wide variety of wildlife including elk, moose, coyote, wolves, bison, and bear during your trek. There will be opportunities to fish for dinner on most itineraries. And you can also expect to encounter snow on the high passes, even in summer.

Absaroka Backpacking. The Absaroka (pronounced Ab-sor-ka) backpacking program is a bit more rigorous. On these treks you'll hike between 7-10 miles a day through the 704,529 acres of the Washakie Wilderness. Expect to feel those thighs burn just a bit as the area ranges in elevation from 6,400 to more than 13,000 feet. This is some of the most remote territory in the Lower 48.

Yellowstone Surf-n-Turf. They say the mad-scientists at YHAO cooked up this afloat and afoot adventure. Your crew will be split into two groups, one starting at on Yellowstone or Shoshone Lake in Sea Kayaks. The other group will start on foot in either Yellowstone or the Washakie Wilderness. The groups will meet halfway through their adventure, switch gear, and complete the expedition. Pretty cool.



Chilkoot High Adventure Base: Alaska

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Haines, Alaska

Council: Great Alaska Council

Website: <http://alaskascoutingadventures.org/>

The Chilkoot High Adventure Base is located in Haines, Alaska, across the Chilkoot Inlet. It is the ultimate scouting experience. This unique scout camp gives scouts the opportunity for wilderness exploration, adventurous activities, and outdoor leadership training under the tutelage of highly trained professionals.



The mountains of Alaska have captivated the imagination of the world's alpinists for decades and the extensive glaciations, vast wilderness setting, and extreme rugged nature of Alaskan peaks are unmatched anywhere in the world. Bordering the largest non-polar ice cap in the world, the Chilkoot High Adventure Base is perfectly situated to access one of the most rugged, glaciated and wild mountain ranges in the Western Hemisphere.

Opportunities abound at the Chilkoot High Adventure Base for mountaineering,

backpacking, rock climbing, ice climbing, sea kayaking, and white water rafting. These wilderness adventures are filled with exciting challenges and learning experiences. They offer scouts a way to safely explore the incredible wilderness of Alaska's mountains, rivers and fjords, and develop the skills required for a lifetime of adventure and leadership. We profile three of the activities here: mountaineering, ice climbing, and sea kayaking.

The **mountaineering** location is based out of Skagway, Alaska. It is accessed from the Klondike Highway and offers fantastic views and mountaineering terrain. From a series of different alpine base camps, instructors and scouts choose from endless array of climbing objectives to build their itinerary. A typical day might include an alpine start for a summit attempt of a nearby peak, vertical ice climbing on seracs (a pinnacle or ridge of ice on the surface of a glacier) or rappelling technique review on a nearby nunatak (an isolated peak of rock projecting above a surface of inland ice or snow). Regardless, Haines High Adventure Base instructors will provide professional skill instruction and time-tested progressions alongside a series of exciting summit climbs. Scouts will have a chance to climb through a crevassed

icefall, ascend a rocky ridge with the clouds beneath their feet and build an elaborate base camp in a scenic mountain setting.

The **glacier ice** offers unique and ever changing climbing opportunities. This course is designed to give scouts a hands-on introduction to ice climbing (building solid climbing skills and confident climbers is the main focus). The course is conducted in the heavily glaciated mountains surrounding Haines. This is ideal terrain to practice and hone climbing skills amidst a spectacular alpine backdrop. Climbing on Glacier Ice offers an incredible variety of ice formations to explore. Tall ice seracs, moulins, and crevasses all offer unique terrain to climb and explore. Scouts will learn to use technical equipment such as ice axes and crampons, and trek across the glacier exploring the myriad features. Scouts make our way to steeper walls and seracs to challenge the team and hone their ice climbing skills.



Haines, Alaska offers access to **expedition paddling** that is unrivaled in North America. Haines sits at the top of the famous Inside Passage, at the end of the longest and deepest fjord in the North America. Kayaking trips take place around the Chilkat Peninsula and in Chilkat State Park where there are a number of islands scouts often camp at. In addition scouts may paddle to the Glacier Point and hike to the face of the Davidson Glacier. Haines, Alaska is the starting and

finishing place for these kayaking trips. Scouts will explore the incredible land and seascapes that make up the fjords of Alaska. This area offers excellent kayaking for beginners and experts alike. The beaches are wild and pristine, with more chance of seeing wildlife than people. Marine life includes Humpback and Orca Whales, Sea Otters, Sea lions, Seals, Salmon, Eagles, and more. There are also opportunities to see bear, wolves, and moose while on the water.

Many of the Haines High Adventure sea kayaking courses incorporate American Canoe Association (ACA) technical skills training. Haines High Adventure sea kayaking instructors are certified ACA instructors and scouts may qualify for ACA certification.

The IWLS programs are accredited by the Association for Experiential Education (AEE). The AEE accreditation is widely recognized to be the definitive standard in the field of outdoor education and the IWLS programs meet or exceed the rigorous standards for excellence in program governance, field operations and safety required for AEE accreditation.

Reserve your trek now!

Alaska Ultimate High Adventure: Alaska (New!)

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Chugiak, Alaska

Council: Great Alaska Council

Website: <https://www.akultimatehighadventure.org>

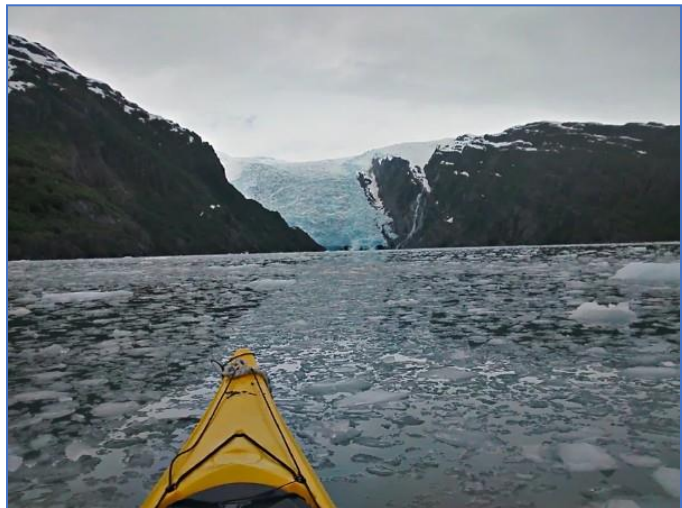


The Alaska Ultimate High Adventure (AUHA) base offers 'turnkey' adventure of a lifetime. Each trip includes logistics, transportation, lodging, food, cooking equipment, and exceptional guides experienced in working with Scouts (all treks are guided).

An AUHA trek is only limited by your imagination. Trips are customized and can be a remote backcountry bush plane drop-offs in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, whale watching in Kenai Fjords, charter fishing excursions, glacier hikes, an afloat trek, or van tours of some of Alaska's most iconic destinations.

All treks begin and end from Camp Gorsuch in Chugiak, located on Mirror Lake in south-central Alaska. The camp is part of the Rasmuson Scout Reservation that offers long-term camping to scouts from Great Alaska Council and visiting Councils. The following highlight just a few of the options available:

- A sea kayaking tour can be a 7-day stand-alone expedition or combined with a backpacking itinerary for the perfect balance of land and sea. Alaska sea kayaking offers amazing views of seals, icebergs, and glaciers!
- The "Camp Combo" combines a week of camp with a few extra days of adventure afterwards including options for both Denali National Park and areas about Juneau.
- Alaska, the "Last Frontier," is home to many options for breathtaking backpacking trips. The most popular options take 7-10 days and can include remote destinations.
- Backpacking and kayaking combinations offer the best of both worlds. Crews can hike the Resurrection Pass and then transition to sea kayaking in Blackstone Bay.
- River trips offer multi-day rafting and canoeing with exceptional fishing and incredible views. Popular options include the Copper River, Chitna River, and Kobuk River.



Intrigued? It begins with a simple phone call to their professional staff or by completing the "contact us" form on their homepage. From there they will interview you to find what types of activities your crew is interested in and how much time you would like to spend in Alaska.

International

Kandersteg International Scout Center: Switzerland

(Updated 1/2023)



kandersteg
international scout centre

Location: Swiss Alps

Website: <https://www.kisc.ch/>

Kandersteg International Scout Centre is the World Centre of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The Centre began operation in 1923 with Lord Baden-Powell, who, after the first World Scout Jamboree, dreamt of a place where Scouts from all over the world could meet.



Situated at 4,000 feet elevation and, some 40 miles south of Bern, Switzerland, Kandersteg International Scout Centre is served by road and rail. KISC provides an excellent base for exploring the Swiss Alps, for sightseeing excursions and for meeting Scouts and Guides from all over the world. The Staff is international, but English is the working language, and all correspondence is conducted in English.

In Summer, the Centre offers a selection of activities which include mountain

orienteeing, hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, and river rafting.

Winter is a magical time in Kandersteg. The centre offers an abundance of snow activities including sledding, snowshoeing, igloo-building, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and more. As an option, Scouts and Guides can book ski packages that include room and board, ski passes, transportation to local ski resorts, as well as KISC provided skiing and activity guides.

While participating in these activities, Scouts work toward earning the Centre's International Friendship, Eco,



and High Adventure Awards. These awards serve to bring together Scouts and Guides of all nationalities in a unique alpine environment experience.



The Centre plays host to some 12,000 Scouts and Guides from 40 or more countries every year and can accommodate about 1,500 people at any one time. Indoor accommodations include the Chalet and the older Kander-Lodge. Other accommodations include The Tower, Sunneblick (a classic Swiss Chalet), and the Ueschinenhütte or Upper Hut located in the Ueschinen Valley that serves as the base for the Centre's

climbing program. The KISC can also arrange bookings for stays in alpine huts. The more than 50 campsites can accommodate up to 1,200 campers. Wood for campfires and cooking, along with other campsite equipment is available from the campsite office.



Off-Season Adventures

Northern Tier: Minnesota

(Updated 1/2023)

Location: Ely, MN

Website: <https://www.ntier.org/winter-adventures/>



Northern Tier is the site of the Boy Scouts of America's National Cold Weather Camping Development Center. Okpik Cold Weather Camping, Northern Tier's winter offering, is the Boy Scouts of America premier winter camping program. At Okpik, Scouts experience a true Northwoods winter: learning how to thrive in subzero temperatures, travel across frozen wilderness lakes and construct their own sleeping structures out of snow. All trips are fully outfitted and provisioned, including almost all of the personal gear necessary to stay warm in the winter. A highly trained staff member, called an Interpreter, accompanies all crews on their trek.



The Okpik program is hosted out of the Charles L Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base, located outside of Ely, MN, on the very edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Four types of Okpik experiences are currently offered: Cabin

Stays, Okpik Weekend Samplers, Okpik Treks, and Dogsled Trips. Okpik Treks, provide older scouts with the opportunity to test their camping skills in a true winter wilderness. Crews travel by ski, snowshoe or foot into the BWCAW for at least two nights, learning how to travel efficiently and enjoyably in the more difficult conditions of the Minnesota winter. Crews can expect to travel between five and fifteen miles on their trek through a remote winter wilderness.

OKPIK CABIN STAY participants will be able to experience a full range of winter activities while still being able to enjoy a warm cabin at night. Crews will take day trips out to lakes in the area, learning how to ski, snowshoe and ice fish in the process. They will also learn how to cook breakfast and dinner meals in winter conditions.

OKPIK COLD WEATHER CAMPING WEEKEND introduces camping in winter conditions. Participants will hike out to a wilderness lake, towing their gear in sleds (pulk), set up a campsite and spend the one or two nights camping. In addition, they will be exposed to a wide variety of winter activities: snowshoeing, ice fishing, skiing and even a brief introduction to dog sledding.

OKPIK MUSHER CAMP provides participants with an introduction to dog sledding. Crews spend their entire weekend with the dogs: going on runs of up to 10 miles every morning and afternoon, providing other Okpik participants with rides, feeding the dogs breakfast and dinner, sleeping in a rustic cabin directly adjacent to the dog yard and cooking meals in the winter.

OKPIK REMOTE MUSHER CAMP provides participants with an introduction to dog sledding. You will be shuttled to a Dogsled Kennel and setup a basecamp using snow shelters or tents. You will learn and take part in daily chores around the dog yard. You will work with experienced mushers who are excited to

teach you all about these amazing animals. Along with daily chores and taking the dogs for runs, you will also have a chance to ski/snowshoe in your downtime. This program provides a great balance of winter camping and the dog program.

OKPIK DOGSLED TREK – A step up from the Musher Camp, the Dogsled Trek is intended for those who have some dog sledding or winter camping experience. It involves taking 18 Alaskan Huskies out on the ice for two nights! After setting up a base camp, crews will explore the pristine and remote Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness on morning and afternoon runs of up to 10 miles. Participants should be prepared to run, hike, or snowshoe several miles in addition to dogsledding.

REMOTE DOGSLED TREK: A step up from our Basic Dog Sledding programs, the Remote Dog Sled Trek is intended for those that have previous dog sledding or winter camping experience. This program will travel more significant distances from the Northern Tier Base, sometimes even departing from or returning to another location all together. Crews will get a more robust winter experience, in more extreme conditions. This program is better suited towards those with previous winter camping experience.

Maryland Dog Sled Adventures: Maryland (Updated 1/2023)

Location: Northern Maryland

Website: <http://marylanddogsledding.com/Tours.htm>

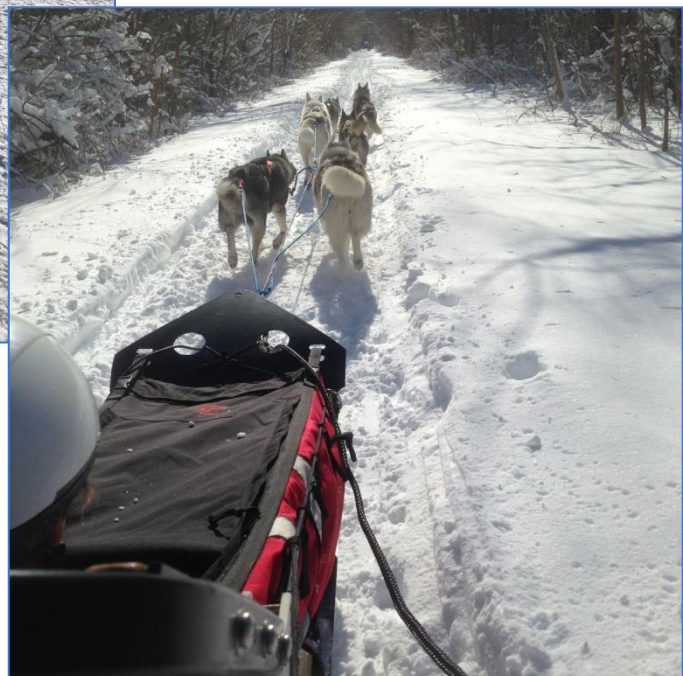
The pandemic forced cancellation of the Annual Klondike Derby but that does not spell an end to winter activities and fun. Consider Maryland Sled Dog Adventures and experience dog sledding (a/k/a mushing) in the scenic hills of Baltimore County, Maryland.

Maryland Sled Dog Adventures is a micro mushing kennel of Siberian Huskies and Maryland's only dog sled touring operation that specializes in dog sled rides and programs in dog sledding for Scouts. There is even a virtual (on-line) dog sledding program for those unable to leave their homes!



By now you are thinking: "This is Maryland, what if there is no snow?" Well, temperatures permitting, even when there is no snow, you can still go. When not running on snow, which is much of the time in Maryland, Sled Dog Adventures use a three-wheel and four-wheel dog sled rigs (in mushing, a wheeled cart used for dog sledding when there is no snow is called a "rig" or a "gig."). Larger rigs permit carry of a passenger seated on the dog sled.

There are a few restrictions this year, naturally. The minimum group size is 14 and maximum is 20 kids. There is no charge for



adults/chaperones or leaders but neither are rides available to adults. This year, due to CoVID Pandemic, Sled Dog Adventures are allowing only three adults to participate at any one time. And, in addition to general liability waivers, participant must submit a CoVID-19 waiver and complete some screening questions which must be signed by

the parent or legal guardian of each scout and brought with on the day of the program. Naturally masks, social distancing, break out groups, etc., will be observed. The cost is \$70 per Scout and if arrive with fewer than 14 kids, you will still pay for (add siblings, friends, etc. to get up to the 14 person minimum).

You will need to bring three adults (and only three adults). If more drivers are required they have the option of waiting in the car or dropping off and either going home -- if practical -- or going somewhere locally for coffee, breakfast, etc. Scouts should bring their own snacks and time will be set aside for them to eat as due to heightened risk no snacks are provided.

Helmets are required this year (any type of helmet is fine--bike, ski, snowboard, equestrian, motorcycle, hockey, etc) but Scouts MUST bring their own helmets. Safety glasses, sunglasses, or goggles are also required. Typically, these are provided, but with few viable options for sanitizing them on the trail Scouts are asked to bring his/her own safety glasses, goggles, sunglasses



Acknowledgements

This sourcebook would not be possible without the dedicated work of NCAC High Adventure Committee member and Old Dominion District representative Mike Nostrand. Mike's "High Adventure Corner" articles for their district newsletter provided the vast source for this collection. Thank you, Mike! We also thank and recognize the Old Dominion District High Adventure Committee, from whose material much of this volume is drawn.

Additionally, we gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the National, Council, federal, state, local, and camp websites and webmasters that share the information about their awesome camps, programs, and trails. Thank you! Without you, none of this would be possible.