



Unit Guide

Seneca District Fall Camporee 2023

Last updated 9/4/2023

Who May Attend

The Camporee is open to all registered Scouts BSA Troops, Venturers, Ships, Posts, and their leaders. Webelos are welcome as guests of a participating Troop. GSUSA Troops are welcome. This section offers details for each group type.

There are no restrictions on visiting adults, so long as troops follow all youth protection policies regarding adult supervision.

Webelos

Units are encouraged to invite Webelos to participate on the weekend. They may attend for the entire weekend. Webelos attend as guests of a Troop. Webelos dens do not register as a den. Instead they register as members of their sponsor troop. The sponsoring Troop must submit separate Troop and Webelos rosters at Friday night check-in. Except for the roster, camp staff considers Webelos troop members. The exception is that some stations that are not age appropriate for Webelos will have parallel activities.

The sponsoring Troop is responsible for the Webelos wellbeing.

See sections on Camping and Stations for addition details.

GSUSA Scouts

GSUSA Troops are invited to attend Camporee. Remember that the weekend is focused on youth 11 years and above. The only special rule is that these units must camp separately (separate camp sites). The same 2 deep adult leadership rules apply to GSUSA members.

Please remember that camp management and staff will not be familiar with GSUSA policies so you may be asked to help us in this regard. All camping and safety rules apply the same.

Preparing for Camporee

Camporee is a mixture of Scout skills, games, and activities centered on our theme. So, how should you prepare?

First, the web site for this year's event has a list of stations we will offer. Some stations may have supplies you should bring. **Some stations will be more fun if you work on some specific skills ahead of time.** Please review this as you prepare.

Second, and this is important, many of the stations are sized for a Patrol of 6-8 members. For example, the Foosball field can accommodate a team of 6 members. So, attending stations in small or large patrols will work against you both in terms of the competition and fun. Please form "travel patrols" of 6-8 members for attending stations. Whether these "travel patrols" carry over to operation within your campsite is up to you.

Patrols are expected to "travel" as a group and carry with them their Patrol Flag. This is important at stations and flag ceremonies. All patrol flags should be on a staff.

Adult Volunteers - Each unit will provide one or more adults to assist at stations Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to supplement our staff. We don't want to see lots of adults hanging around the campsite. They should all be volunteering to help at stations.

We have a lot of stations and it is probably impossible to attend all of them in the time we have on the weekend. Stations fall into three categories: scout skills, games, and things related to the theme. Each patrol should plan on hitting a mixture of all three.

Uniforming and Dress Code

All youth and adults must be in uniforms at Flag Ceremonies. Flag ceremonies are held morning and evening on Saturday and then morning and mid-day on Sunday. During the day on Saturday there is no uniforming requirement, but it is requested that Scouts wear their uniforms during the day. It is suggested that all participants remain in uniform for the entire weekend. There may be special events that require uniforms. This will be announced in advance of the event.

Facility

Walkersville Watershed Campground
9026 Chestnut Grove Rd
Frederick, MD 21701

(Please note this is a private residence – do not knock at the door. The campground is across the street from this address.)

For those with Google Maps, the coordinates are 39°29'0.28"N 77°16'52.1"W

The Walkersville Watershed is 230 acres of land that is available for Scouts to use for camping, training, ceremonies, Eagle Scout projects and many other uses. This area, also known as the Walkersville Reservoir area, currently houses two pavilions in the center of the campsites, an outback area with 3 Adirondack shelters and a pavilion,

a fire-ring amphitheater, 2 ponds, many miles of trails, Scout-only GeoCaching and is being improved all the time.

Unit Leadership

The customary two-deep leadership is required at Camporee. Webelos dens must be accompanied with the customary 2-deep leadership or parent and must check-in with the registration table at Camporee HQ. The official BSA policy covering Webelos camping can be found at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf>.

Camping

Each unit (BSA or GSUSA) will be assigned a campsite. If you bring a large group you might get two contiguous campsites. If you are concerned about space, specific need or accommodations, contact the Camporee Director before the event. No changes to campsite assignments will be possible once you arrive. Your operation inside your campsite is your responsibility. Specifically you must:

- Provide your own camping gear (tents, cooking stuff, food etc.)
- Provide unit discipline. If you are sponsoring Webelos, you are responsible for housing and feeding them.
- Engage in low impact camping techniques. Tent ditching or trenching is not allowed
- RV's are not permitted on site.

Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only within the campsite. If you want to use charcoal to cook it must be in a raised container. No ground burns are permitted. No digging is permitted. We encourage you to bring your unit flags and display them as part of your campsite entrance. Campsites are organized along the main road so there is a logical entrance to your site.

Your campsite will be inspected before checkout.

We will provide potable water (water well) and porta-potties. Porta-potties will be designated as male, female, and staff. Because of partial drought conditions, we ask that you bring as much water with you as you can to limit the use of provided water. We don't want to run the well dry.

There will be a First Aid station in the HQ area staffed 24 hours a day. It is well-lit at night.

Gray water must be disposed of appropriately at the designated gray water disposal station. Please remember that only biodegradable soap is permitted. Details will be discussed at PLC on Friday night.

Trash - Pack it in – Pack it out! Please bring sealable garbage bags for disposal of your trash and garbage. Everyone must haul out their own trash and garbage on Sunday. Please leave Walkersville cleaner than you found it.

Cooking - Liquid fuel and propane stoves may be used in accordance with BSA policy. Propane is the preferred fuel. Scoutmasters and Advisors are to follow BSA liquid fuel storage and stove lighting policies. Scouts (and Venturers) do their own cooking by the patrol method just as they would on normal campouts. It is up to the individual units to bring their own cooking stoves, pots and pans, utensils, cleaning or other cooking equipment. All units will cook in their own campsite. It is strongly suggested that time constraints of the Camporee schedule should be kept in mind when planning meals. Time for cooking and cleaning must be at a minimum for the sake of the number of activities that must take place. It is recommended that a quick, no-cook lunch be chosen for Saturday.

Fires – there is a campfire ring at each site, however, raised fires will be allowed in camp provided that there is at least 6 inches of clearance between the bottom of the fire pan and the ground. Each unit will be responsible for supplying their own wood within the campsite area. Do not cut any live trees, plants, etc. All traces of your fire must be removed according to Leave No Trace standards, including the removal of ashes and charcoal.

Arrival and Check-In

Units may arrive between 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM on Friday. If you must arrive on Saturday notify the Camp Director in advance. Saturday morning arrival is between 7:00 and 8:30 AM.

We will have lighted (glow stick) signs along Chestnut Grove Rd to label the field. Our road side BSA road signs are red lettering on white background. The Registration table will be just up the lane from the main entrance. Your group must stop at registration but only the lead driver should leave the car. They will identify the unit and get directions to your campsite. Your vehicles will immediately go to the campsite to unload. Once set up the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol leader will return to the registration table to do formal check-in. All vehicles must be moved off the main road by 9:00 PM Friday.

Check-in will include verifying the following information:

- Final Registration Payments Made - Before coming to the camporee, please make your camporee payments at the Council Service Center or online.
- Permission Forms for each Youth - BSA Activity Consent Forms do not need to be submitted, but need to be available for inspection during check-in.

- Medical Form for each Youth & Adult – Part A & B medical forms must accompany the unit. We will not collect them. But you will be expected to provide them if you require first aid services. Show them at check-in.
- Completed Unit Roster - The roster form will be available a few weeks before the event. Please fill it out before you arrive.
- Separate Unit Roster for Webelos dens

Mandatory Leader Meeting Friday Night

At 9:00 PM Friday there will be a mandatory leader meeting (PLC) for Scoutmasters/Advisors and Senior Patrol Leaders/Presidents at Camporee HQ. Cracker barrel will be provided for the leaders at the meeting. At this time, units will receive pertinent information for the weekend's events. Special bulletins regarding changes to the program or schedule will be provided. Staff will answer questions and resolve issues. If additional staffing assistance is required, units may be asked to provide additional volunteers.

Note: All youth and adult leaders are asked to bring their own cups, mugs, Nalgens, etc., to the Cracker Barrel. Our goal is to limit all unnecessary use of paper products.

Unscheduled Arrivals and Departures

We will not be monitoring individuals leaving and returning. This is a Troop responsibility.

Check-Out and Departure

Check-out time is after Sunday assembly/awards. Units will do a trash sweep before they are ready for their final campsite inspection; remember to leave your site cleaner than you found it. Each campsite must be inspected by a Unit Commissioner or Camporee staff member before the site can be vacated. The camporee evaluation form must be turned in before a Unit Commissioner will inspect your campsite.

Check-out will include the following procedures:

- Final Campsite Inspection – Send your Scoutmaster/Advisor or Senior Patrol Leader/President to Camporee HQ with completed camporee evaluation form. A Camporee staff member will be sent to your Camporee campsite for a final inspection. Your unit must wait at your Camporee campsite until after the staff member has ensured that all of your gear is packed up and the campsite has been patrolled for trash.

- Evaluation Forms – Forms must be filled out and complete and ready to be turned in during check-out. By providing your feedback, you ensure that Camporee can be improved upon year after year.
- Patches – will be handed out after inspection.

Camporee Stations

Stations will be open Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. There is no formal rotation schedule. Spend as much time at a station as you like. Of course we may have to adjust for congestion.

Stations are spread across the entire campground. Each patrol will receive a map to help navigate the area.

Competition

Most stations are scored. Sometimes this means completing the task, sometimes it is head-to-head competition with another patrol; sometimes it is best time wins.

What is counted in the competition? Simple - everything. But, more specifically it is a mixture of patrol and troop activities and patrol spirit:

- Station activities
- Attendance at flag ceremonies
- Campsite inspection
- Patrol flag and cheer, as well as working together

We have a lot of stations. Do not think you need to attend all of them. It may not even be possible given the time we have on the weekend. But, remember that stations are in three categories: scout skills, games, and theme. Be sure to attend some of each.

Cooking Competition

Each year there is a theme or other specific instructions. But in general...

Scoutmaster Cook-off: All day Saturday your Scoutmaster can earn your unit special recognition by participating in the Leader Cook-off.

It is important that you get in the spirit. Spirit is much more important than culinary skills. Judging happens at HQ immediately after evening flag on Saturday afternoon.

Campfire

There will be a campfire on Saturday night. Patrols should prepare skit/song/cheer(s) that must be presented/approved by staff prior to the campfire.

Patrols

Scouts attend stations in patrols of 6-8 members. The patrol flag should accompany the patrol to flag ceremonies and stations. Webelos are to be integrated into your patrols. Patrols made up entirely of Webelos are unacceptable. Note - when attending stations, patrols should travel without adult supervision. Adults - want to participate? - help with a station! Also be prepared with a patrol yell when attending each station.

Awards

The weekend is a competition, so we have awards.

- Patrol competition - Top three Patrols will be awarded Camporee Neckerchiefs
- Scoutmaster cook-off - winners get special awards presented for their units.
- Troop - rotating trophy

Remember that competing is optional. Come, learn, and have a good time.

Introduction to Leave No Trace

Leave-No-Trace is a comprehensive approach to living and behaving in the outdoors, which encompasses not just camping, but also hiking, backpacking, and even just going to the park for an afternoon. The Camporee will follow the seven principles of the Leave No Trace code. These principles are:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Apply these principles as you enjoy your weekend at Walkersville Watershed – pack out what you carry in, stay on trails, use the established fire pits, and respect others around you in the park and in camp. Further information on Leave No Trace can be found in the Scout Handbook, at the BSA website (www.scouting.org), and at the Leave No Trace website (www.lnt.org).

The Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to –
Be clean in my outdoor manners.
Be careful with fire.
Be considerate in the outdoors.
Be conservation minded.

Changes & Event Cancellation Policy

The Camporee Director is the only individual authorized to change or cancel a scheduled activity. Any necessary changes will be made at the earliest possible time and posted in writing at the Camporee HQ. If you have a question on the program, please feel free to come to the Camporee HQ at any time or ask a staff member around the site.

In the event that this event must be cancelled ahead of time, an email notification will go out to all persons who made an online reservation, as well as the Seneca District general distribution list and the Seneca News Flash. A notification will go out no later than noon on Friday. If the event is cancelled, it will be NOT be rescheduled. Given BSA policy there will be no refunds (no refunds for events costing less than \$25 per person).

Our ability to provide refunds depends on non-refundable expenses we must pay out in advance of the event.

When you registered your unit you were asked to supply two points of contact: the person making the reservation and the lead adult who will attend the event. If we must cancel the event or significantly alter the schedule these two individuals will be contacted using the email addresses supplied.

Lost and Found

Items found are to be turned in at Camporee HQ. Lost items may be claimed there. Items not claimed by the conclusion of Camporee on Sunday will be available at the next Seneca District Roundtable. (Hint: Label your belongings!)

Special Accommodations

Arrangement for individuals with special needs must be made with the Camporee Director prior to Camporee. No arrangements will be made at the event.

Emergency in camp

In the event of any emergency that endangers the camp, we will blow 3 blasts on an air horn. Upon hearing this warning sound, drop everything “immediately” and gather your unit at the Flag Pole area. Take head count and ensure nobody is missing. Unit leaders will be asked to report on their group. This procedure applies whether you are at stations, in camp, or in the middle of the night.

Just as with any emergency, please maintain a walking speed and keep a cool head. If you hear the emergency signal of three blasts, you need to assume it is a real emergency. We are not planning any drills.

The Camporee site address is Walkersville Watershed, 9026 Chestnut Grove Rd, Frederick, MD 21701.

First Aid & Medical Facilities

Report any acute medical conditions to the medical staff upon arrival. Those persons with diabetes or allergies to bee stings must provide their own emergency kits. Anyone with allergies should be prepared with the proper medication. Our medic will also want to know if there are any doctors in your group. Minor first aid needs are the responsibility of the unit. Be prepared.

An EMT-B will be providing first aid on site for more advanced injuries or serious health problems. All accidents must be reported to senior staff or the camp medic regardless of severity.

Medical Forms & Medications

Every youth and adult attending Camporee must be covered by Parts A & B of the BSA medical form. Unit leaders must bring copies of the unit medical forms to Camporee. Medications **MUST** be kept in a secure locked box or in a unit leader’s car. If your unit does not have a lock box or does not wish to store the medications in the car they can be surrendered to the camp medic who will store them. Medications will be returned at the end of camp. Also any medications requiring refrigeration (i.e. Insulin) are the responsibility of the individual units. It is preferred that units keep their medical forms in an organized binder. Unit leaders may be asked to bring the medical forms for inspection during check-in, but they will be kept in the unit’s care, in case of emergency. If medically necessary, the camporee medical staff may also request forms from the unit leader. No copies required.

Activity Consent Form

Every youth under 21 years of age must have a BSA Activity Consent Form signed by parents/guardians giving permission to participate at the event, and for any medical treatments, hospitalization, etc. These forms should be kept with the youth's individual medical forms within the unit.

Weather

Remember the Scout Motto: Be Prepared. Both youth and adults should pack and prepare to come and participate at Camporee, rain or shine. We are Scouts BSA; a little rain never hurt us. The weather at this time of year can be very unpredictable with temperatures ranging from warm to very cold over the course of the weekend. BE PREPARED! Bring tents, ponchos, pack covers, dining flies, ground cloths, and necessary clothing to be comfortable at both extremes. The Camporee will not be cancelled because of rain or even snow (however unlikely), since all units are expected to have trained members in inclement weather camping procedures.

Safety

Safety of all Scouts, Scouters, Webelos and parents is the first objective of this Camporee. All Scouters and Youth Leaders are expected to stop and refrain from unsafe activities and horseplay. Violence will result in being asked to leave the event. The following rules are to be strictly observed:

- Scout Leaders are expected to provide all supervision of the scouts in their unit.
- The Buddy System is required at all times. There should be no lone Scouts walking around the Camporee at any time. Proper Buddy System rules should be enforced within each unit's campsite.
- No liquid fuel lanterns will be allowed outside the campsite. Scouts should carry a flashlight rather than a Coleman (or like) lantern.
- No flames inside tents.
- Campfires must be raised at least 6 inches off of the ground if outside the firering.

If you are unsure of specific policies and guidelines for safety in Scouting, please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety. If needed contact the Camporee Director.

Discipline & Use of Electronics

Leaders will be responsible for the supervision of their units at all times and will be held accountable for their behavior. Adult leaders, who are not helping in

the events or watching unit sites, should observe from a distance when watching their youth participating in the events; coaching and guiding is not allowed during competitions.

No child left behind – all youth should be with their patrols and participating in the events. No youth should be back in the troop camp unless it is scheduled.

Scouts and Venturers should leave all cell phone, radios, television, portable game devices, Walkmans, Discmans, MP3 players, iPods, and other electronics at home. Electronic or GPS devices, even if incorporated into watches, cell phones, iPods, or any other such electronics is not permitted on the competition field. If a youth for health reasons requires an electronic device, it needs to be approved by the Camporee staff beforehand, in advance of being at any competitive event. Loss or Damage of property is the sole responsibility of the person who brought it.

Discipline

Quiet Hours - All activities will be subject to quiet hours and lights out from 11:00pm till 7:00am each day. Leaders in each unit are responsible for enforcing these hours. A Scout is Courteous. After taps, every Scout is expected to be in his/her tent and quiet at that time. If you must move about in your own area after taps, do it quietly so that others are not disturbed. Roaming about the campgrounds or other campsites will not be tolerated.

Respecting Other Units' Sites - Everyone should respect other units' campsites. Please do not cross through another unit's site, instead go around. While we encourage Scouts and Scouters to visit other units, please announce your arrival with a loud "hello", instead of just walking straight into a site. Show others the level of courtesy you would like shown to you.

Knives & Axes - Sheath knives and knives with blades longer than 3 ½ inches are not allowed at the Camporee. If any are found, they will be held for the remainder of the Camporee by a member of the Camporee Staff. Axes may be used only if an ax yard is set up and marked off properly by the unit.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Profanity - The Camporee Committee fully supports the policy of the Boy Scouts of America concerning the use of Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, or other Mind Altering Substances. It is, therefore, the policy of the Camporee Committee that there shall be no Alcoholic Beverages (except those used for religious sacrament), Drugs or other Controlled Substances (including smoking) present at or consumed during the Camporee. Non-compliance with this Policy will result in the individuals and their Unit being asked to leave the Camporee. Likewise, profane language or gestures by youth or adults will not be tolerated.

Firearms - For safety reasons, firearms, pellet guns, BB guns, bow and arrows or slingshots of any kind are not allowed at the Camporee without gaining specific permission from the Camporee Director before the Camporee.

Fireworks - Absolutely no fireworks are permitted.

Personal Pets - No personal pets are permitted on the Camporee site, except those used as guide animals for the blind or other aids for disabled campers. Permission to bring a guide animal to camp must be obtained from the Camporee Directory in advance of the event.

2023 Seneca Fall Camporee Schedule

This schedule is only tentative. We will distribute a more accurate schedule at check-in.

Friday – October 6

4:00-9:00PM	Check-in time - follow signs - we will leave a light on
8:45PM	Staff meeting (HQ)
9:00PM	PLC (Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader) (HQ) followed by Cracker Barrel
11:00PM	Taps

Saturday – October 7

7:00AM	Reveille
7:00-8:45AM	Breakfast
8:45AM	OA staff meeting at flag pole
9:00AM	Assembly – Opening Flag - Announcements
9:30AM-12:30PM	Stations
12:30-1:30PM	Lunch (stations close)
1:30-4:45PM	Stations
5:00PM	Camp Assembly – Flag Lowering followed by Scoutmaster Cook-Off judging at HQ
5:45PM	Dinner
8:15PM	Campfire – Award presentation Following campfire PLC – Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader followed by Cracker Barrel at HQ
11:00PM	Taps

Sunday – October 8

7:00AM	Reveille
7:00-8:45AM	Breakfast
8:45AM	Assembly – Flag Ceremony & Scouts Own
9:00-11:45AM	Stations
12:00PM	Assembly – Closing Flag
12:30PM	Camp Closes – Check-Out and Depart for Home