



Things to do this summer.

The NEW Summertime Fun Adventure Loop

The National Summertime Pack award has been reimagined into an elective Adventure named Summertime Fun. It has been changed from an award earned by group participation to an Adventure loop earned by the individual scouts.

This new Adventure may be one of the simplest Adventures, it has one requirement and that is:
Anytime during May through August participate in a total of three Cub Scout activities.
It is intended to encourage packs to have a year-round program.

The new Summertime Fun elective Adventure is available for Tiger through Arrow of Light.

If any packs gain Lions during the summer months they will need to find a different way to acknowledge those scouts.

- Summer is the best time to enjoy the great outdoors.
- Kids often have more free time — and fewer scheduled activities — in the summer.
- Packs that offer a year-round program see higher retention numbers.
- Scouting changed the registration process in the fall to registration fees being due on your joining anniversary. This means the new scouts who joined this past fall are going to start receiving notices they will need to pay \$85.00 to stay in the program. Having summer programming will remind them scouting is worth staying in for another year.

Included is a list of ideas you can use with your packs and dens to keep the youth active through the summer.

Most of the places I contacted were very excited to be working with scouts. Many even offered to adapt their programs to accommodate the requirements for our adventures and merit badges.

Please remember you are representing scouts when you are visiting and remind your scouts (and their parents) a scout is courteous, friendly and kind.

Be sure to check the guide to safe scouting when planning activities to make sure you are following scouting guidelines.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

This is also a good time to check that everyone has an up to date medical form on file. Not only do campers need these for day and resident camp but the pack also needs them any time you have an outing somewhere other than your charter organization. Always use the link from scouting.org for your medical forms to ensure they are the most current copies.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

As you start filling your summer schedules keep in mind all the events offered through council and listed in smoke signals.

<https://wfbsa.org/>

May 3rd OA Nature walk

<https://www.wagon.org/2025/04/09/2025-spring-nature-walk/>

Eberly Scout Reservation Spring Workday

May 10th, 2023

Help is needed to prepare
Camp Conestoga and Camp Buck Run
for the 2024 Camping Season.

-Campsites are available on a "first come first serve" basis for any unit that would like to camp for the weekend. There is no cost to camp for the weekend if participating in the workday!

-Lunch will be provided on Saturday during the workday!

-Assignments for work projects will be given out on the front porch of Rohrabacher Lodge at 9:00 am!

-Work projects vary in skill level and intensity- there is something for every skill set!

For questions, please contact Kenny Bartlett at Kenneth.Bartlett@scouting.org

May 16-18 Spring Camporee



[Zombie Tag Registration](#)



[Trauma-Rama Registration](#)

Go to the [Council Events Page](#) for more details about each event.

These events are open to *both* troops and packs.

All 3 meals on Saturday are included.

They are also looking for volunteers to help for the weekend.

SUMMER CAMP ALL SUMMER LONG

<https://wfbsa.org/camping/>

DAY CAMPS

Click on each picture for more information about each day camp.

All scouts in our council are welcome to attend any of the 3 district day camps.



Aug. 9th Evergreen Drive in campout

Keep a lookout in Smoke Signals for more information about this awesome event.

Some simple Ideas

- Paint party - can be catered to the new adventures once they are announced
- Craft night
- Story time with a craft/snack- maybe at a park geared more towards Lions and Tigers those can be catered to new adventures once they are announced
- Make a woggle night
- Troops teach night- ask troops if they would be willing to send scouts to teach a skill if we provide a place and advertising.
- Chalk the lot
- Ice cream social
- Touch a truck event
- Most of these could be advertised to the public and used as recruitment events as well
- Ferrier family life trails at twin lakes (or any park with public exercise stations) provide adventure requirements, water snacks..use a recruitment day.
- Playground dayA day with the Laurel highlands Model airplane club, the mon valley one is at cedar creek.
- The Westmoreland Museum of art. Prepare some of the requirements for adventures and invite families to attend a specific day where scout leaders will be available to answer questions and guide scouts through the adventure.
- A fishing day/derby :maybe supply some bait and people who can tie hooks and untie knots. Have the requirements for the adventures handy. Some of the requirements are easy....ie draw fish you think you would catch here (LIONS). Some are more involved like knowing the local fishing laws. Fish and Game will provide rods and reels if you ask early enough.
- Trout unlimited. <https://www.tu.org/about/offices-and-contact-information/> This is another nonprofit that will help set up a fishing day with you.
- A bike rodeo. Same concept as the fishing day. Ask penn dot to come to teach about bike laws
- Hike . partner with some of the local trails to set up a day for hiking. Have info about hiking adventure requirements, 6 essentials, leave no trace.

Visit your local library.

Go to the Westmoreland Library Network

<https://www.wlnonline.org/>

There you can find local libraries near you as well as programs offered at each location.

If you see a book you would like to use at one of your meetings you can request to have it sent to your local library for pick up.

You can also use Libby to borrow resources online.

State parks

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/pages/default.aspx>

Use the link above to see what state parks are near you and what they have to offer.

The individual parks will have a listing of what type of hiking trails or picnic areas are available.

They often offer free programs about wildlife and nature as well.

If you plan to bring a large group of scouts to one of these programs I suggest calling ahead to make sure they can accommodate you.

- Keystone state park Kristian Baker 724 668 293
- Kooser 814 445 7725

- Laurel hill 814 445 7725
- Laurel ridge 724 455 3744 all 3 Michael Mumau
- Laurel ridge has the fire tower
- Laurel mountain, Laurel summit and Linn Run 724-238-6623 Corey Snyder
- Ohio pyle 724 329 8591 Ken Bisbee

They are doing a bunch of trailjourn hikes for different parts of the trails.

- Raccoon creek 724 899 2200 Albert Wasilewski

Westmoreland County Parks

<https://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/729/Parks-Trails>

Our local parks also offer a ton of free adventures for your scouts. Playgrounds, hiking trails, fishing and camping are just a few of the things you could do.

The parks also offer night fishing permits.

Something as simple as a cookout near a playground would make a simple summer outing.

Also look into

Bowling alleys

Mini golf

Roller skating

Movie theaters

The following are some organizations and businesses you could visit.

Consider teaming up with another pack or troop to access group rates. If you need help finding someone to buddy with, reach out to your commissioner.

Westmoreland County Courthouse

(724)830-3106

Take a free tour of the courthouse to learn a little bit about how our government works.

The tour would take about an hour and is recommended for groups of about 10-12 scouts.

They are open from 9-3 through the week. Please call a few weeks in advance to schedule a tour. Older scouts will probably benefit more from this activity.

Flight 93 National Memorial

<https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>

Ranger desk (814)839-6322 or (814)839-6561

They are open from 9-5

All tours and programs are free

Between memorial day and labor day there are daily half hour presentations at 11:30 am and 2:30pm. They are open to the public and normally very busy.

They also have a Jr. Ranger program. You would need to call ahead for this program. Each scout will receive a handbook and take a self guided tour where they will complete sections of the handbook. Younger scouts will do 1 or 2 sections and older scouts will complete all 10 to earn their Jr. Ranger badge.

They also can be contacted about possible Eagle scout projects.

The Lamp Theater

<https://www.lamptheatre.org/>

(724)367-4000

Please call a few weeks ahead and talk to Bill to schedule a free tour of the Lamp Theater and get a glimpse of what happens behind the scenes.

The Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra

<https://westmorelandsymphony.org/event/summer-sparklers/>

Nemacolin Castle

<https://www.nemacolincastle.net/>

The website for this castle is currently being updated but if you have any questions please call Kim at (724)322-2422.

They offer tours of the castle. The tours take about an hour and visit 22 rooms in the castle. They recommend groups be split into groups of about 10 so everyone can fit comfortably in the rooms. They also recommend dividing your scouts into groups based on interest and attention span. That way little lions and tigers can enjoy being in a cool castle and older scouts will have more time to hear about the history of the building.

Call ahead to schedule a group tour and find out about pricing. Kim also said if you call ahead she may be able to schedule some of the reenactment soldiers to be there and talk to the scouts.

You can also bring a picnic lunch with you to enjoy on the grounds.

Living Treasures

<https://ltanimalpark.com/home/>

Sarah from Living Treasures was extremely excited about scouts coming to learn with her.

Sarah has a list of standard programs she offers to groups and schools. She is also willing to tweak her programs to fit the requirements for scouting adventures and merit badges.

Please give her a call at (724) 593-8300 at least 2 weeks in advance to schedule a visit. Let her know what you would like to get out of your visit when you call.

Here are her regular programs that she has to offer
<https://ltanimalpark.com/field-trips/>

Trib Total media

(412)320-7872

If your group would like a tour to see what happens behind the scenes at a newspaper call Lindsey Bock from direct marketing to schedule a free tour. The tour will take place at the Tarentum center and she would need at least 2 weeks lead time.

The tours are good for smaller groups of 10-12 kids but can be adjusted for any age level.

The tours would be during the week

Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling

<https://www.westmorelandcleanways.org/>

Natalie came to our round table last year and told us about a ton of opportunities for our scouts.

They offer free tours of the recycling center as well as the apiary on site. Older scouts will even be given the opportunity to put on the bee suit.

Natalie is very flexible about scheduling a tour. Please give her a few weeks lead time.

Email her at natalie@westmorelandcleanways.org for the months of April and May to get the quickest response.

For the summer months call her at (724)879-4020.

There are also a ton of service hour opportunities available here.

If your scout group is planning on doing a litter cleanup call ahead and cleanways can provide you with road signs , bags and other supplies. They will even take your collection of illegally dumped tires if you do your own tire clean up project.

For older scouts they need help with tire clean up events to unload the tires at the center.

They also have programs they will bring to your meetings to help teach your scouts about recycling and the environment.

Please contact them to find out more.

Tour-ed mines

<https://tour-edmine.com/>

These hour and a half long tours will teach the scouts about immigration, underground mining and how mining has changed from hand loading cars to how it works today. You will get to see mining equipment and even walk in a caboose.

The tour is underground with a temperature of 55 degrees so it could be a nice break from the summer heat.

There is a pavilion located on 20 acres of property the scouts are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to after and enjoy the grounds.

Call early because dates fill up fast.

Big mac museum

<https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/16517>

If you would like to schedule a tour of not only the big mac museum but also of the restaurant please call (724)863-9837.

Please give them a few weeks notice and don't plan for a tour during their lunch rush and they will be happy to accommodate you.

The Compass Inn museum

<https://www.compassinn.org/>

The inn opens May 3rd 2023 for visitors. Tours last 1.5- 5 hours depending on what tour you choose and how many activities you choose to add.

They need at least 2 weeks lead time and a 25% deposit to hold the date with the remainder due the day of.

Click this link for a breakdown of prices and activities they offer.

<https://www.compassinn.org/education>

Pinball Pa

<https://www.pinballpa.com/>

This place has over 400 pinball and coin operated machines from 1960 through today.

For groups of 3 or more the rate is \$21 for 2 hours of free play. If you call a few weeks ahead of time the owner will set up a half hour tour before the building opens to the public and will give you the history of the machines there.

Falling waters

<https://fallingwater.org/>

*Group Rates for the Architectural Tour (our regular tour) are \$15 per student, 1 free adult chaperone for every 11 students (required) and any extra adults are \$26 each. Reservations are necessary and we now sell out much farther ahead than prior to COVID. Reservations are recommended at least 2 months in advance because of a very limited number of spots.

*Group Rates are *not* available on weekends between Memorial Day and October 31 or Holidays (Memorial Day, labor Day and July 4th).

To receive the group rate, reservations must be made by contacting Amy Humbert ahumbert@paconserve.org

Westmoreland Airshow

<https://www.westmorelandcountyairshow.com/>

Keystone raceway 724-668-7600

<https://keystoneracewaypark.com/>

Riverhounds game 412 865-goal

<https://www.riverhounds.com/group-outings/>

they consider a group 15 or more. Have opportunities for colorguard and halftime activities.

Laurel caverns

<https://laurelcaverns.com/>

Lillian for group sales 724 438 3033

The Powdermill Nature Reserve has

Guided hikes

Garden tour

Avian research

Stream study

For 9 dollars a person.

They have self guided visits for free

724 593 6105

<https://carnegiemnh.org/visit-powdermill/>

All of the Carnegie museums have tours available or you could create your own

based on the adventure you are working
on.

<https://carnegiemuseums.org/>

The Greensburg Garden Center

<https://westmorelandgardencouncil.org/>

In august they have a butterfly release party. It is in their butterfly garden and you get a newly emerged butterfly in a folded paper then everyone releases them at the same time. In the past you had to call and reserve your butterfly.

Altoona Curve

<https://www.milb.com/altoona/tickets/kids>

Washington Wild Things

<https://www.washingtonwildthings.com/>

Have your scouts recognized at a game or go to one of their camping on the field after a game events

Pittsburgh Zoo

Go for the day

A special program

Or an overnight stay.

<https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/contact/>

Pittsburgh Pirates Game

The Pirates have discounted tickets set aside just for scouts during specific games. Your unit can set aside a block of tickets so you all will be together

Reach out to Josh Avert at 412-325-4903 or via email at

Joshua.Avert@pirates.com.

For more information or click this link

[Scout Days | Pittsburgh Pirates \(mlb.com\)](#)

If there is something your unit does that is awesome please share it with us so we can add it to the list!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

