



Hello Scouts and Families,

It's summer camp registration time!

After a few technical difficulties expertly resolved by Mr. Taylor, we have set up Troop web page for enrollment and payment for Summer Camp 2024 at Camp Freedom. Read on for all the details!

Executive Summary

- Where: Camp Freedom at Heritage Reservation in Farmington, Pennsylvania
- When: July 21 – July 27, 2024
- Cost: Scouts, \$605; Adults, \$240. (If paying by credit card, the cost is \$623 and \$248, respectively.)
- First payment due by Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Action Items – see below for instructions

- Register each scout and each adult separately at the link below ASAP and by February 6, 2024
- Submit payment by February 6, 2024
- Schedule physical exams (for both scouts and adults) to have your medical professional sign medical forms for all scouts and all adults attending
- Returning scouts: start thinking about what merit badges you're interested in!

Description of Camp Freedom

“In a location offering campsites on ridge tops and on waterfronts, Camp Freedom is the perfect place for your troop to camp this summer. A dining hall with a capacity of 400 is responsible for feeding hungry Scouts and Scouters – we’ll save you a seat! Add to that the exciting program we offer – over 50 merit badge offerings, a first year camper program, the Day Trek older Scout adventure program, and much more – and it makes perfect sense why thousands of Scouts continue to call Camp Freedom their home away from home each and every summer.”

An eight-minute video introduction to Heritage Reservation Scouts BSA Camp is available here (from 2021): <https://youtu.be/g9xO9xkmxcA?si=OszvhTTKOWzFDAL4>

Programs

For first-year summer campers, Camp Freedom offers their Trail to First Class program. Description: Ensuring new Scouts have a successful first summer at camp can mean the difference in them staying in Scouting for the long haul. To help these Scouts get a firm foundation of the Scouting skills needed for their early advancement, Camp Freedom offers the Trail to First Class (TFC) program. Emphasizing the patrol method, the Trail to First Class program is a mix of outdoor skills, learning games and challenges, and FUN! The program will focus more on Scout skills, with Scouts learning, practicing, and competing against one another as patrols so skills are reinforced and retained. TFC Scouts will visit other program areas in camp to get instruction in area-related requirements. Scouts will also work on merit badges such as Leatherworking, Mammal Study, and Space Exploration along the way.

Returning summer campers will have a wide variety of merit badge programs to choose from in Scoutcraft, Aquatics, Shooting Sports, Eco-STEM, Scout Scholar, Handicraft, and COPE & Climbing areas. See the attached poster showing 2023's offerings.

Older scouts can sign up for the Day Trek program. During the day, Scouts select from adventures including caving, fly fishing, whitewater rafting, sporting clays, and more. Evenings are spent in Camp Freedom participating in camp-wide programs with the rest of the Scout's troop.

The official program schedule and list of pre-requisites will be distributed in a few weeks when it becomes available, along with instructions for submitting your programming preferences.

How to Register

Please indicate your intention to attend summer camp by registering each scout and adult by February 6, 2024 at the following web site:

<https://troop893.com/activities/summer-camp-2024>

Use the blue buttons on the right. You will be asked to enter the camper's name, contact information, birth date (for scouts), and t-shirt size. Adults will also be asked about their preferred tenting and transportation arrangements.

Cost and Payment

The cost for scouts, \$605 per camper, includes all camp expenses (including meals), our annual Troop 893 Summer Camp t-shirt, and round-trip transportation (most likely via charter bus). The cost for adults, \$240, covers the same except for the transportation. Please note that payment by credit card incurs a fee of approximately 3%. In this case the cost is \$623 per scout and \$248 per adult.

This year, we ask that full payment be made by February 6, 2024 if possible. Merit badge registration opens first for those troops who have paid in full. Since the popular merit badge classes fill up very quickly, we aim to have everything set up and paid for in advance of the program registration date. Receiving full payment by February 6 will give us the most flexibility and the highest likelihood that your scout can be registered for their desired merit badges.

However, an installment payment plan is also available: Pay \$300 per scout by February 6, 2024 and the remaining \$305 by March 5, 2024.

Payments can be made via check (preferred) or online by credit card.

Checks should be made payable to “Troop 893”. You may combine payments for multiple scouts and/or adults into a single check. Please deliver your check to Ernie Barreto or Paul Taylor at a troop meeting. Alternatively, checks may be delivered to Paul Taylor at The Centreville Dance Academy, 6031 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121 (with an email sent to Ernie Barreto at ernie_barreto@yahoo.com).

Credit card payments can be made online at <https://troop893.com/activities/summer-camp-2024>. Note that payments via credit card will include a fee of approximately 3% as described above.

Medical Forms

Every participant – both scouts and adults – will have to provide an up-to-date medical form. The specific medical form needed is attached. These will be discussed and collected at a later date. However, note that Part C of the form must be completed and signed by a certified and licensed physician (MD, DO), nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant. The examiner’s signature must be dated within 12 months of the end of camp. If you plan to use a completed form that you already have, check that the authorization is dated no earlier than July 27, 2023. Of course, it would be best to have an unambiguously up-to-date form.

Please begin now to plan how you will obtain this authorization. Most general practitioners will fill out Part C of the form as part of a person’s annual physical exam. Alternatively, CVS’s Minute Clinic provides this service.

Troop Expectations

In order for everyone to have a fun and exciting time, scouts will be expected to exhibit scout spirit while at camp and to follow the scout oath and scout law. It is also expected that scouts will attend for the FULL WEEK and will travel to and from the camp with the troop. This ensures maximum engagement and maximum fun and accomplishment!

Please feel free to reach out to Ernie Barreto, the Troop 893 Summer Camp Coordinator, at ernie_barreto@yahoo.com – or any of our troops’ adult leaders – with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours in Scouting, Ernie Barreto

Troop 893 Summer Camp Coordinator ernie_barreto@yahoo.com



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

2023 MERIT BADGES

HERITAGE RESERVATION

CAMP FREEDOM   CAMP LIBERTY

SCOUTCRAFT



Camping*



Fishing



Geocaching



Orienteering



Pioneering



Scouting Heritage



Search & Rescue



Signs, Signals, & Codes



Wilderness Survival

AQUATICS



Canoeing



Kayaking



Lifesaving*



Motorboating



Small-Boat Sailing



Swimming*



Watersports

SHOOTING SPORTS



Archery



Rifle Shooting



Shotgun Shooting

ECO-STEM



Astronomy



Chemistry



Electricity



Energy



Engineering



Environmental Science*



Forestry



Geology



Mammal Study



Nature



Oceanography



Reptile & Amphibian Study



Space Exploration



Weather

SCOUT SCHOLAR



Chess



Cit. in Nation*



Cit. in World*



Communications*



Emergency Preparedness*



Fire Safety



First Aid*



Law



Public Speaking



Salesmanship



Music

HANDICRAFT



Basketry



Fingerprinting



Game Design



Leatherwork



Metal Work



Movie Making



Painting



Photography



Woodcarving

C.O.P.E. & CLIMBING



Climbing

* Denotes Eagle Required