



Scouts BSA  
Troop 497

## 2024 Summer Camp Information

June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation  
231 Ashford Center Rd, Ashford, CT 06278

### Dear Parents and Scouts:

Summer camp is just a very short time away, and we are very busy getting all of the details completed for the trip. In order to keep everyone on track, this letter has been prepared to inform everyone about the details of the trip. All Scouts and many of the adult leaders will be traveling by two 57 passenger video buses. In addition, we will also have trucks with our troop equipment trailers. We will have a large group going to camp and will need everyone's cooperation in order to make the trip run easily. At the time of this letter, we have 63 scouts and 25 adults registered to attend. In order to make this trip enjoyable and as hassle free as we can, we will need the cooperation of every parent, leader, and scout. Please take the time to read this letter in order to minimize any confusion or misunderstanding.

### Uniforms:

Each Scout and Leader attending the trip must have a complete "Class A" Boy Scout Uniform. This includes a Boy Scout Shirt, Boy Scout Pants, Scout Socks, Troop Neckerchief with Slide, Leather Belt or Scout Belt, Name Tag, and Troop Hat. **Please do not substitute look-a-like pants or shirts as uniforms !! They must be official uniform parts.** New scouts will receive a name tag at check in. Scouts who have lost their name tag may purchase a replacement at Thursday check in (discussed below). Because the official uniform has changed several times over the years, all styles are acceptable for our trip as long as they are official scout uniforms. White socks, including BSA white socks, are not part of our troop uniform and should not be worn. If a scout chooses to wear scout shorts, he must wear the green or green and red official Boy Scouts socks. If he wears the long pants, he must wear dark or scout socks. Flip flops, sandals, or other open toed shoes are not to be worn with the uniform. Scouts and Leaders will be inspected as they board the buses. Scouts and Leaders not in correct uniform will not be allowed in the buses. Scouts and Leaders will be required to wear the uniform during each evening meal and special events during camp as well as the times that we are in the public view. Please plan accordingly.

### Traveling:

We will be traveling from St. Joseph's Parish Center in the video buses to and from camp. The attached itinerary lists the estimated arrival and departure times for our stops during the trip. The equipment trailer will accompany us to camp in order to alleviate putting all the equipment into the buses.

Scouts will be required to cooperate with the leaders and drivers on each bus. The troop will travel in full uniform unless specifically changed by the scoutmaster. The troop T-shirt may be allowed sometimes, so wear it under the uniform shirt. Should a scout not have a troop T-shirt, then the full uniform must be worn. Each Scout and Adult will be assigned to a specific bus for the duration of the trip. These assignments will be given out at the time of departure. Please do not ask for any bus changes.

Each Scout and Leader should pack a small backpack as a carry-on on the bus. All additional personal gear should be packed in a single separate duffel bag. All duffel bags and troop gear will be packed under the bus or in the trailer for the trip to camp.

The carry-on backpack should contain a change of clothing, toilet articles, towel, uniform parts, troop T-shirts, a filled water bottle and other necessities. These overnight bags will be on the buses and placed in the areas under the seats. We will use these bags during our trip on the buses during the day. This is the only gear which you will have while traveling on the buses. Duffel bags will be stored below the buses and NOT BE ACCESSIBLE WHILE TRAVELING. The duffel bags will be available at each overnight stop and sleeping bags and pads should be packed in the duffel bag. Please mark all sleeping bags and personal gear with the scout's name in an obvious location using a laundry marker, sharpie, or other permanent type marker. Please do not over pack the day packs. All adults and seniors who may wish to bring a chair should bring it Friday morning at 5:30 AM. We will load these on the bus with the duffel bags.





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### Medications:

All medications and instructions for administering them must be turned in to our Medication's leader, upon arrival at the church during check-in on Thursday evening. Please place them in a zip lock bag with the scout's name printed in large letters on the bag. Place a completed Troop Medication Form, available on the Troop web site, in the plastic bag. Please complete this form neatly to provide clear instruction to us. The Medication's Leader will keep track of and administer all medications as directed. The medicine must be in the original prescription container with the doctor's name on the label.

### Camp Rules:

The primary rules of camp are those of the Scout Oath and Law. We have a high expectation of each of our scouts and leaders in these areas and it has proven very successful over the years. Additionally, the following are some rules we feel need to be mentioned to avoid confusion.

1. The following items are **not** allowed on the trip.
  - Cellular Phones, IPODS or other MP3 players, Radios, TV's, Pagers, Computer Games, or other electronic devices except cameras.
  - Material or items not appropriate for Scouting Activities.
  - Non-Age Appropriate Reading, Magazines  
*(Summer reading for school is encouraged)*
  - Sheath Knives, Butterfly Knives, etc.  
(Standard Folding Pocket Knives are acceptable for Scouts with Totin' Chip)

If any of these items are found on the trip, they will be taken and donated to local charities for fundraising or other purposes. **THEY WILL NOT BE RETURNED!!!** Many of our scouts are "hiding" their cellphones in the bags. These are expensive items and cause extreme distractions and challenges at camp. Please help us adhere to this policy so we don't have any issues with upset families due to equipment not being returned.

2. We will have ample food and drink for the scouts. Please **DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD, SNACKS, CANDY, OR OTHER EDIBLE ITEMS IN THE BUSES OR TO CAMP** (a filled water bottle should be packed in the carry-on backpack). Food items attract unwanted wildlife into our camping areas. **This is an important safety rule.**
3. Each scout should have a watch in order to keep on his schedule. There will be times when the scouts must meet at certain places at given times. Leaders and Adults who are late cause disruption for the whole group. Being on time is a rule that is taken very seriously. Smart watches that need to be charged are not recommended. The scouts will not have the ability to charge any devices.

### Discipline

Good discipline is a key to a successful camp experience. The adult leaders and scouts all work together to support each other. One individual not following the rules causes discord for everyone. All discipline is handled by the scoutmaster. In the case a serious infraction of the camp rules, the scoutmaster may deem it necessary to send a scout home. Although we have never had to do this, the scout's parents will be contacted and arrangements will be made for the scout to leave camp. This will be done at the parent's expense.





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### Spending Money

All of the activities and camp fees are included in the summer camp fees paid by our scouts. The need for spending money will be for personal purchases, the camp store, merit badges, or souvenirs. We recommend from \$50- \$75 per scout for the trip. Additionally, we have found it to be a good practice for the scouts to place 1/2 of their money in a sealed envelope with their name on it. These money packages will be collected during the check-in time on Thursday Evening, July 18th. This encourages responsible budgeting and decreases the potential for losing all of one's money at one time. The water park does not accept cash. The troop will purchase a Prepaid Visa Card for lunch at the water park when returning from camp. The cards will be distributed upon arrival at the water park. The money to purchase the Visa Card will be collected from each participant during the Thursday night check in. Adults will be responsible for bringing their own credit or debit card in the park.

### Be a Good Example

During the trip, we not only will be representing our troop, but will be representing our chartering organization and our home town. We expect everyone to act politely and courteously and to set an example appropriate for a scout or leader.

### Check In and Schedule

**Thursday evening, July 18th**, will be the troop check-in evening. You may arrive any time between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. It will take approximately one hour to get everything done. Medications should be turned in at this time. At this time, we will check all paperwork, handle all final payments (including the \$25 for the Visa Card for lunch) that may be outstanding, and complete the final checklist for all boys and adults. Please note that all unpaid fees will be due at this time including any outstanding dues amounts (\$75.00 per year). It is also at this time that you may purchase Troop T-Shirts, pick up your nametags, and do final merit badge checks.

After checking in, we ask all of our parents to return to St. Joseph's parking lot at **5:30 A.M. on Friday July 19th**. **BRING YOUR DUFFLE AT THIS TIME**. Please do not be late for we will be organizing everything to go on the buses and will not have time to deal with late arrivals. Please bring your packed carry-on ready to go and be in full uniform. Upon arrival at the church, please check in at the check-in table to get your bus assignment and further instructions. **We will be leaving the church parking lot as close to 6:30 a.m. as possible. The buses will arrive at approximately 6:00 a.m. which will allow us to pack and leave on time.**

We will be returning to the church parking lot on Sunday, July 28th, between 1:30 and 2:30 P.M. We will use our X (twitter) account to notify our families when we have a more accurate arrival time. **Please do not plan on having your son call you upon his arrival**. All of the adults and leaders will want to leave as soon as possible. Therefore, we ask that our parents be waiting for us when we arrive.

### X (Twitter) / Instagram Account Notifications:

This year we will continue to communicate with our parents throughout the trip. If you have not already done so, we will be asking everyone to sign up for a X (Twitter) or Instagram account and subscribe to the Troop's notification page. An instruction sheet will be distributed at the check in for those without accounts. It is totally free and will save much time trying to notify everyone by phone. Notifications can be received on your email, cell phone text message, or both. It will be our intent to send messages throughout the week many of which will include pictures of the activities in which the boys are taking part. It's a lot of fun to keep track of our activities throughout the week. This is a totally free service. This has worked well for us these past several years and will continue to use the service to communicate. If you use a creative name identifier on X (Twitter) or Instagram, please let us know the name. This is a private account and we only allow members of our group as members. If we do not recognize the name as belonging to our group, it will not be accepted, and you will not receive updates and notifications.





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### Medicals & Permission Slips & Identification

Everyone must have a physical examination each year on record with the troop. If any adult leader or scout does not have an up-to-date physical on record with the troop, please contact Andy Reidler IMMEDIATELY (410-916-4083). The camp will not allow a scout to remain in camp without these forms. Please use the form on the Troop 497 website for this camp. Please make sure that you receive a physical from a doctor before we go. If you are unsure of the validity of the form, please contact us as soon as possible or check out the troop website [www.troop497.org](http://www.troop497.org) for detailed information and the necessary forms. If you have not already returned your son's medical form to us, please do so as soon as possible.

### Food Allergies/Special Dietary Requests.

If you have food allergies or special dietary requests for health, religious or other reasons, please follow the directions on the Troop website to notify the Troop immediately.

### Phone Calls and Mail:

We discourage the use of the phone to contact parents during our week at camp. Please encourage your sons to take postcards, letter paper, etc. so that he can send you updates on his week. Also, we encourage our parents to send letters and packages to our scouts while in camp. *It's a lot of fun to get called up at Mail Call!*

All Mail should be sent to:                  **Scout's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Troop #497 Texas, MD  
C/O June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation  
231 Ashford Center Road  
Ashford, CT 06278**

Please note that it takes several days for letters and even longer for packages to arrive at camp. Please plan accordingly.

### Emergency Phone Number:

During the first week of our trip, the emergency number for camp is (860) 429-9918. This number is for camp business and emergency use only. Please only contact the camp using this number in the case of an emergency. Cell phone service is extremely limited at camp and calls to Troop 497 leaders may not be received.

### Updating Contact Information:

Please update your contact information by July 10<sup>th</sup> by sending updated email addresses, phone numbers, and addresses to [moosemen@verizon.net](mailto:moosemen@verizon.net). If you are not certain we have the correct information then send it. We would like to have an up-to-date roster for distributing at check in. The email addresses are also used throughout the year to send important announcements including this letter. (We won't be sending email during summer camp – see the information on Twitter above.)

We have found over the years, that the better informed our parents are, the less problems that occur before the big trip. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Brad Boutilier, 410-914-7536 or Ken Krach, 443-465-9659. We will be more than happy to answer any questions that still remain unanswered. A full itinerary with our schedule and stops is attached to this letter for your review.

This letter has a lot of information and we thank you for taking the time to read its contents.  
We also thank all of you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Brad Boutilier, Scoutmaster





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### *Itinerary*

Thursday, July 18th	7:00-8:00 P.M.	Arrive for Check-In
Friday, July 19th	<b>5:30 AM</b> 6:30 A.M. 11:15 A.M. 1:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 5:00 P.M.	<b>Arrive Church Parking Lot ready to go</b> Depart for Camp Arrive at West Point Visitor's Center - Lunch West Point Bus/Walking Tour Depart West Point Camp Mattatuck, Plymouth, CT
Saturday, July 20th	6:00 A.M. 8:00 A.M. 11:30 A.M. 1:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.	Reveille / Breakfast on Bus Sub Force Base, Groton, CT Lunch - Sub Force Mess Hall Deep Sea Fishing, Waterford, CT Depart for Camp

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Saturday, July 27th	7:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. 4:30 P.M.	Reveille /Pack Up/Breakfast Depart Camp Lake Compounce Water & Amusement Park Arrive, St. Stanislaus Youth Center, Scranton, PA
Sunday, July 28th	7:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 1:30-2:30 P.M.	Reveille / Breakfast Depart for Home Arrive on Church Parking Lot <i>with Parents Waiting</i>

