



Scouting America  
Troop 497

## 2026 Summer Camp Information

Camp Rotary  
Clare, MI

### Dear Parents and Scouts:

Summer camp is just a 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 charter bus. In addition, we will also have trucks and trailers with our troop equipment. We will have a large group going to camp and will need everyone's cooperation in order to make the trip run smoothly. To make this trip enjoyable and as hassle free as possible, we will need the cooperation of every parent, leader, and Scout. Please take the time to read this letter to minimize any confusion or misunderstanding.

### Uniforms:

Each Scout and Leader attending the trip must have a complete "Class A" Scout Uniform. This includes a Boy Scout Shirt, Boy Scout Pants, Scout Socks, Troop Neckerchief, 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.*** White socks are not part of our Class A uniform. If a scout chooses to wear scout shorts, he must wear the green or green and red official Scouts socks. If he wears the long pants, he must wear dark or scout socks. Sandals, or other open toed shoes are not to be worn with the uniform. New scouts who have not yet received their name tag or hat will receive them at check in on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 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 coach buses to and from camp. The attached itinerary lists the estimated arrival and departure times for our stops during the trip. The equipment trucks` will accompany us to camp to alleviate putting all the equipment into the buses.

Scouts will be required to cooperate with the leaders and drivers on the bus. The troop will travel in full uniform unless specifically changed by the scoutmaster. The troop "Class B" T-shirt may be allowed sometimes, so wear it under the uniform shirt. Should a scout not have a troop "Class B" T-shirt, then the full uniform must be worn. The "Class B" shirt will be available for purchase at check in on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year the 2026 Car Wash T-Shirt may be used in place of a "Class B" shirt for our travel to camp. Scouts shall have a regular "Class B" shirt for our return trip to St. Joseph's.





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Each Scout and Leader should pack a day pack 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 trucks for the trip to camp.

The day pack should contain a change of water clothing (including water shoes), toilet articles, towel, uniform parts, a filled water bottle and other necessities. (Water clothing etc. is needed for the Whitewater Rafting). **Scouts may choose to wear a swimsuit under their uniform for Friday July 24<sup>th</sup>.** These day packs will be on the buses and placed in the areas under the seats or overhead. 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 during the day. Duffel bags will be stored below the buses and **WILL ONLY BE ACCESSIBLE DURING OUR OVERNIGHT STOPS AND IN CAMP.** Sleeping bags and pads should be packed in the duffel bag. Please mark all sleeping bags, clothing, 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 them to the shed on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 11am. Since space under the bus will be tight, we are asking people who can, to also bring their duffels and all guitars at this time to see what we can fit. Once the trailers are full, the rest of the gear will be put under the bus.

### **Whitewater Rafting Permission Form:**

Every scout and leader needs to follow instructions and the link on the Troop website to complete a permission form with the rafting company. Please print a copy of the completed form and bring it to check in.

### **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 (443-280-4268). The camp will not allow a scout to remain in camp without these forms. Please use the form on our website for this camp. Bring two copies of both the physical and your medical insurance card (front and back) to check in. 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.

### **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.





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### 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.
  - Cell Phones, IPODS or other MP3 players, Radios, TV's, Computer Games, or other electronic devices except cameras.
  - Material or items not appropriate for Scouting Activities.
  - Magazines or other Non-Scout Literature, with the exception of Summer Reading for school and/or age appropriate books.
  - Sheath Knives, Butterfly Knives, etc.

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!!!**

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. Food items attract unwanted wildlife into our camping areas. **This is an important safety rule.**
3. Each scout should have a watch to keep on his schedule. There will be times when the scouts have to meet at certain places at certain times. Leaders and Adults who are late cause disruption for the whole group. Being on time is a rule that is taken very seriously.

### 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.

### Be a Good Example

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





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### Spending Money

All camp fees and planned activities are included in the summer camp fee, with the exception of spending money for personal purchases, the camp store, merit badge items, or souvenirs. We recommend \$50 to \$100 per Scout. Half of each Scout's spending money should be sealed in an envelope with the Scout's name on it and turned in at check-in.

### Schedule

Thursday evening, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be the troop check-in evening. You may arrive any time between 7:00 and 8:00. 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 that may be outstanding, and complete the final checklist for all boys and adults. It is also at this time that you may purchase Troop T-Shirts, purchase cash cards, pick up your nametags, and do final merit badge checks. *Please do not bring your duffle bags to the check-in.*

Departure will be Friday, July 24, 2026 at 6:00 AM from St. Joseph's Parish Center. Scouts and Leaders should arrive no later than 5:30 AM in full uniform with their carry-on backpack ready to board. Please be on time so the troop can load efficiently and depart as scheduled.

***We will be leaving the church parking lot as close to 6:00 AM as possible.***

We will be returning to the church Parking Lot on Sunday, August 2nd, between 3:30 and 6:30P.M. We will use our Instagram 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.





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### 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 an Instagram account and subscribe to the Troop's notification page. We will no longer be using X "Twitter". Please use the following QR code to sign up.

Follow @Troop\_497 on Instagram



This 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. This is a totally free service. This has worked well for us these past many years and will continue to use the service to communicate.

### 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, (yes...we are going to ask them to write the old fashion way) etc. so that he can send you updates on his week.

If you have an emergency during camp and need to contact your Scout, please call the Camp Rotary Office at **(989) 386-7943**. This number should be used for emergencies only. During the travel days, please contact the Scoutmaster, Brad Boutilier (410) 914-7536.

Also, we encourage our parents to send letters to our scouts while in camp. ***It's a lot of fun to get called up at Mail Call!***

All mail should be sent using the following format:

**Scout's Name – Troop 497  
Ft Scott Campsite  
Camp Rotary  
3201 S. Clare Ave.  
Clare, MI 48617**

**Please note that mail may take several days to arrive. Do not send food or scented items.**





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### ***Updating Contact Information***

Please update your contact information by July 10<sup>th</sup> by sending updated email addresses, phone numbers, and addresses to [Troop497announcements@gmail.com](mailto:Troop497announcements@gmail.com) and copy [webmaster497@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster497@gmail.com). 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 Instagram 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. Please continue to check the Troop web site, [www.troop497.org](http://www.troop497.org), for the latest information. We also thank all of you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely

Brad Boutilier  
**Scoutmaster**  
[Boutilier497@gmail.com](mailto:Boutilier497@gmail.com)  
410-914-7536





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***Proposed itinerary***

**Friday, July 24th**

5:30 A.M. Scouts and Adult Leaders arrive at St Joseph Parish Center.

6:00 A.M. Pickup at St. Joseph's Parish  
100 Church Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030  
Travel to Ohiopyle, PA

6:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. Lower Yough rafting outfitter  
Estimated drive time: approximately 3 hours

9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. Rafting activity block

3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Travel to Columbus, OH  
Estimated drive time: approximately 3 hours 25 minutes

7:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Arrive Camp Lazarus  
4422 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio  
Overnight stay

**Saturday, July 25th**

7:00 A.M. Depart Camp Lazarus

7:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. Travel to Henry Ford Museum  
20900 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48124

10:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Museum visit and lunch  
Museum opens at 9:30 A.M.

1:30 P.M. – 5 P.M. Travel to Camp Rotary  
3201 S Clare Avenue, Clare, MI 48617

**Summer Camp, Camp Rotary**

**Saturday, August 1st**

8:00 A.M. Pickup at Camp Rotary  
3201 S Clare Avenue, Clare, MI 48617

8:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Travel to Fremont, OH  
Estimated drive time: approximately 5 hours 30 minutes

1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. Arrive Fremont Community Center area  
Overnight arrangements

**Sunday, August 2nd**

7:00 A.M. Depart Fremont, OH

7:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Travel to Cockeysville, MD  
Approximate travel time includes stops

2:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Arrival at St. Joseph's Parish Center  
100 Church Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030





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This is a proposed itinerary and is subject to change as we refine our plans.



