

National Scout Jamboree 2010: Questions and Answers.

Scouts and parents often have questions about what it will be like on the tour and at the Jamboree itself. Here are some of the ones that come up most frequently. You can count on having much more detailed and current information in the months ahead, as the Jamboree gets closer and we have more information from the National Jamboree Committee. Some of the information items here may also be subject to change as new information is received.

What uniforms and equipment are needed?

See the Jamboree personal equipment list, which is also posted on the GMC Jamboree website. It is recommended that each Scout have two official Summer uniforms due to the heat and activity levels. The Official Summer uniform shirt must be worn on tour, each day at assembly and at major functions at the Jamboree such as the Arena shows; Official Scout shorts must be worn every day of the entire trip, including each day at the Jamboree. The only exception to Scout shorts is a bathing suit for aquatics events. For the most part, the uniform at the Jamboree will be “Class B”. That is, Scout shorts, and T-shirts with any Scout-related patterns/insignia on them. Each Scout will be receiving a class-B T-shirt unique to the Green Mountain Council Contingent, as well as a baseball style contingent cap. Extra contingent T-shirts will likely be offered for sale. A GMC contingent jacket or fleece will also be provided. Non-Scout related clothing, such as shirts or hats, are not permitted.

There is a new “Centennial” Scout uniform—Do I have to buy new Summer uniforms if I already have a short sleeved uniform and scout shorts?

No, you do not have to buy new uniforms if you already have them. If you have the “old style” Summer uniform that is perfectly acceptable. But you will need two uniforms, to be sure. Some Scouts “borrow” Summer uniform parts from brothers or friends in their home troops who aren’t attending the Jamboree. Others with one short sleeve shirt decide to buy a new one just for the Jamboree, to keep after as a souvenir with all of their Jamboree insignia and patches on it. One thing to think about is that the Centennial supplex uniforms are much better suited to the high heat and humidity of the Jamboree than the old cotton blend ones.

What will be “new” at the 2010 National Jamboree?

This will be BSA’s celebration of its 100th Anniversary. It will feature the finest that Scouting has to offer in every way. The Opening and Closing Arena shows promise to be spectacular, better than any shows before, and that is saying something! There will be a new Order of the Arrow interactive show, “The Mysterium Compass”. Expanded pool facilities will be available for swimming, in addition to scuba. There will be a brand new Arts and Sciences Expo. A big time Mountain Boarding venue. A new trapshooting event. And all of the best from past Jamborees, including the Action Centers, National Exhibits, Merit Badge Midway, OA Native American Village, all of the aquatics events, rappelling towers, Brownsea Island, Boys’ Life, Fish Hook Lake, and more.

What will the Scouts need in the way of equipment that is not provided?

See the personal equipment list. Especially needed are good boots/walking shoes; “flip-flops” or other light shoe for walking just in the troop site; liner socks to prevent blisters; water bottles; sun block; a small packable umbrella; a day pack that can be taken on the bus on tour and around the Jamboree during the days. You will be spending very little time just “hanging out” in the troop site, so just think of items that you would need on a long hike, but with a lot of fun stops. A medium weight sleeping bag—rated 40 degrees or so, is recommended. In the early pre-dawn hours, it can get cool at the Jamboree, and even 50s feels cool when the day time temps are in the 90s with high humidity.

What camping equipment will be provided?

Our Jamboree tents are Eureka 4 man A-frame tents, which are well suited to Jamboree conditions, including rains and winds, and staying dry inside. The floor dimension of each tent is 7’2” x 8’9”. Two Scouts share a tent. If you are thinking of a cot, as opposed to sleeping pads, the cot must be with aluminum tubing legs (no wires or posts) and be low enough (less than 6 “ high) to fit inside of the tent without touching the walls. No extra long or large cots. They just won’t fit. Each Scout will be provided with a large duffel bag for gear. Footlockers aren’t allowed, they won’t fit in the tents. Adult leaders will have secure lockable storage for any Scout’s valuables to be safely kept. It is a very good idea not to bring anything of special or irreplaceable value, such as antique patch collections, or expensive cameras or electronics. Each patrol will have a large dining fly, picnic table, stoves, chuck box, and all necessary cooking and cleaning items.

Where will the Green Mountain Council troops be located at the Jamboree?

There are 21 Jamboree Subcamps, organized by Region. Each of the Subcamps has roughly 2,000 “residents”. We will be located in Subcamp 3, a very good location, right across the road from the Northeast Region Action Center. There will be 48 Troops in Subcamp 3, mostly from New York State from Long Island to New York City all the way to Buffalo. Subcamp 3 is well situated for access to the aquatics lakes, the Arena shows, and Merit Badge midway. It is quiet, without being too remote from the action. There will be a number of Green Mountain Council Scouters serving as staff in the Subcamp, so Scouts and leaders will see some familiar faces. Green Mountain Council has been assigned Jamboree Troop numbers 328 and 329.

Where will we be staying on our tour prior to the Jamboree?

Our plan is to stay in dormitories at Mount Saint Mary’s College, in Emmitsburg, Maryland on Thursday through Sunday nights, July 22–July 25, 2010. The Mount is located in a beautiful rural setting, 10 miles south of Gettysburg, and about one hour from both Baltimore and Washington, D.C. It is pleasantly cool there in the Summer evenings, the campus is about 1,400 acres, and our Jamboree Scouts have really enjoyed the “beach” volleyball courts near the dorms.

Each day our busses will head out in a different direction, one day to Washington, D.C., another day to Baltimore, and our plan is to spend the day at Hershey Park on Sunday July 24th, before we head to the Jamboree itself. Breakfast will be in the Mount cafeteria, lunch and dinner will be on the road, although one of the nights, we may have a pizza party on arrival back at the Mount. More details on those plans as we get closer to the Jamboree. The College website is found at www.msmary.edu

On the Tour, will the Scouts just be set out on their own each day?

In Washington and Baltimore, we will be together as a group or in small groups, never one Scout alone, to participate in activities. In exploring the monuments and museums on the D.C. Mall, the Scouts will be free to travel with a buddy or buddies, subject to checking in at our rendezvous locations during the day. The buddy system will always be observed, and during our tour, Washington, D.C. will be populated with thousands of Scouts. Younger Scouts, and any Scouts who wish, will be invited to travel in groups with the adult leaders to visit Explorers' Hall, the Mall monuments and museums, and of course we will have a great time together! At Hershey Park, the group and buddy system will also be observed, with check in or rendezvous times and locations.

How much money should each Scout bring? Is there a secure place for cash?

If the Scout is not a souvenir purchaser, \$200.00 should be an adequate amount of discretionary spending money. If souvenirs are to be purchased on tour or at the Jamboree, more spending money would be in order. It is strongly recommended that all but a small amount of cash be provided in travelers' checks, or in a debit card with a fixed dollar limit. For 2010 the BSA will be offering a "value added" card that can be purchased in advance and used by Scouts to make purchases at the Jamboree. There will be ATM machines located next to each of the three Trading Post locations, and at other Jamboree sites, so an ATM card might also be considered. Western Union money wire service is also available. Each Troop will maintain a "bank" from which spending money may be drawn at designated times each day, in accordance with parental instructions. A comprehensive souvenir and equipment catalog will be mailed to each Jamboree participant in January 2010, and most Jamboree souvenirs can be purchased by mail in advance of the Jamboree, and delivered well before we leave for the trip. The catalog is the best way to make sure that the Scout gets the souvenirs he wants, and reduces the need for taking large amounts of spending money.

How will Troop and Patrol Assignments be made? Will I be able to be in a patrol with my buddies from my home Troop?

The Jamboree Scoutmasters are working out the plan for assignments right now. Troop and Patrol assignments are carefully made by the Jamboree Scoutmasters to ensure the maximum diversity of Scouts, in terms of age, rank, and geography. The Jamboree is a very special, once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and camp with Scouts from all over Vermont, and many lasting

friendships are made. It is also a special opportunity for each Scout to reach out and learn about how Scouting is lived around the Green Mountain Council. Diversity of Patrol and Troop assignments is critically important for a good Jamboree experience. For these reasons, a Scout is not likely to be in a Patrol with a Scout from his home troop. Troop and Patrol assignment policy is actually intended to make sure that Scouts from the same home Troop are not in the same Jamboree Patrol. However, the more Scouts attending from the same home troop, the greater the likelihood that other Scouts from the same home troop will be in the same Jamboree Troop. For the most part, Scouts are free to “buddy up” with their friends from their home Troop to choose and participate in Jamboree activities each day, so as a practical matter, assignment to different Troops and Patrols will not affect the Scout’s ability to do things with his friends from home. Each of our Troops will be in the same Subcamp, a short walk apart if not right next door to each other, so friends can meet up each day to enjoy the Jamboree. However, a Scout will be missing a great deal if he does not take the Jamboree opportunity to make new friends and enjoy their company as well.

What will we eat at the Jamboree?

Jamboree meals are provided in generous portions. The meals include fresh foods that would be provided in any Summer Camp setting, or at home. Breakfast and Supper are served in the Troop site at designated times, and each Patrol is present and dining together. Jamboree lunches are available at a number of “kiosks” located around the Jamboree site, upon presentation of a lunch ticket. They are refrigerated, and include a sandwich, a drink, fruit, a snack and sometimes yogurt. The Jamboree site is vast, and Scouts have the freedom each day to choose which activities and exhibits they wish to participate in, so you don’t need to carry lunch, just stop at the nearest kiosk to pick it up when you are ready. Supper menus for Jamboree include meals such as: Beef Stew; Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers; Lasagna; Chicken Breasts in Gravy; Beef in Gravy; Chicken a la King; Salisbury Steak and Gravy; Hot Dogs; and Spaghetti and Meatballs. The supper menus routinely include fresh vegetables, provided either for salad or cooked. Breakfast menus included Cereal, juice, milk, pastries or muffins. On three of the mornings, eggs with ham, sausage, or as omelets have been featured. In addition to the meals that are provided as part of the fee, there are numerous snack bars around the Jamboree at which other foods can be purchased, such as hamburgers/hotdogs/pizza/ice cream. The food provided at the regular meals is in large quantities, and it is very good. There is no need to have to buy food to supplement it, although the Scouts from time to time might visit the Snack Bars if they choose. There is no refrigeration in the troop sites, but patrols are provided with a supply of ice daily for water/drink coolers issued to each patrol. If you’d really like to know about the menus and patrol food preparation at the Jamboree, check out the 2005 **Jamboree Patrol Menus and Cooking Instructions**, which you will find posted on the GMC Jamboree Website!

What about special diets?

If you keep Kosher, as part of religious practice, arrangements are made to provide Kosher meals. (We need to know, and make the arrangements in advance). If dietary restrictions are observed upon health care providers’ orders, such as for food allergies, medical waiver must

be sought to attend the Jamboree. There is no vegetarian menu, and it is suggested that arrangements be made in advance to provide non-perishable vegetarian items to supplement the Jamboree menu. As noted, each Jamboree meal includes certain non-meat items, such as fruits, vegetables, pasta, and rice. If you “just don’t eat” or like certain foods, such as eggs, chicken, salad, or hot dogs, you are out of luck. No special foods will be provided. Again, there are ample portions of everything, and if you don’t prefer an item on the menu, there is usually something else to eat. The Jamboree menu and foods are designed to be able to promptly serve large numbers of people at the designated times, so that the Scouts can make the most of Jamboree activities, reducing time given to Troop “mess duty”. There just isn’t enough time to tailor each meal to individual preference. The food is ample, it is good, and it serves most tastes well.

What about medicines?

All prescription medicines are given to the Subcamp Medical Staff upon health check in on arrival at the Jamboree. Scouts report to the Subcamp Medical Staff as required to receive their medications each day. There is a resident Subcamp physician, and the health center is staffed 24 hours a day. On the tour before Jamboree, the 2nd Assistant Scoutmaster in each troop is in charge of medicines and they are provided to the Scouts at the appropriate times.

What about electronics? Cell phones? Game-Boy and Nintendo?

Scouts may bring small, preferably inexpensive mp3s, or iPods with earplugs. Video games such as Game Boy, Playstations and Nintendo and the like are prohibited—they may not be brought to the Jamboree. Cell phones for Scouts are not permitted in our Contingent. Public phones are available, and the Jamboree emergency number for contact will be used. A prepaid phone card for Scouts is a great idea for easy calls home from the public phone banks. The Adult leaders will have means of communication as may be necessary, but limited to emergency situations. As to electronics, there is no electricity in the troop sites, and no way of charging electronic devices anyway. Leave them at home.

What other things are prohibited?

Please check the Jamboree Code of Conduct. Tobacco products, alcohol, regulated drugs without prescription are prohibited. Knives other than a standard folding pocket knife (less than 4" blade) are prohibited. Any prohibited items are immediately confiscated, and the Scout is subject to disciplinary action, including immediate expulsion from the Jamboree. (We will call parent or guardian to make arrangements to come and immediately bring the Scout home from the Jamboree).

What things can be done in advance to best prepare for the Jamboree?

Active participation in your home troop, and our Contingent meetings and activities will be the best preparation. This will also keep you “sharp” in remembering those items that we

always seem to forget for outings and wish that we had taken. Also, a regular program of modest fundraising activity will be helpful for each Scout to earn spending money and to pay the Jamboree fees. Youth leadership service is a terrific way to get a great deal out of the Jamboree experience without missing any of the fun and adventure. If there are major items of personal equipment that you need to get, such as uniforms, a sleeping bag, a daypack or boots, maybe these can coincide with Birthday or Holiday presents. If you begin to get your personal equipment and gear in order, you can see how it will all fit in, and the job of packing will be easier when the time comes.

What about visiting the Jamboree?

Family and friends are permitted to visit the Jamboree, and encouraged to do so. While the schedule may be subject to change, the Jamboree will probably be open to the public beginning on Wednesday, July 28, and continuing through Tuesday, August 3, from 9am to 5pm, with the exception of the evening arena show date when visitors may remain on the site to attend the show until 11pm. However, if you are planning a visit, please let us know before we leave Vermont, so that the Scout will know when you are coming. Otherwise, he may be off for the entire day at remote activities. Visiting in or following the busses on the Jamboree pre-tour is not recommended at all. Not a good idea. The Scouts will need to build relationships with other Scouts that are key to enjoying the Jamboree; the adult leaders will have special responsibilities and will not be in a position to deal with visitors during the trip itself. More information about visiting when it becomes available from National. Troop visits? Troops are permitted to visit, and do so. However, since they are not Jamboree participants, Scouts in visiting troops are not permitted to engage in the activities that Jamboree Scouts have registered and paid the fees for. The exhibits at the Jamboree are open to all visitors. There are also restrictions on approval of tour permits for Scout units visiting the Jamboree in terms of overnight stays in proximity to the Jamboree.