

A Celebration of food, fun and fellowship for Boy Scouts and Webelos Scouts



MERCER AREA DISTRICT



April 29 - May 1, 2005
Washington Crossing Historic Park, PA

Proposed events:

Professional Chef Demonstrations

Chili Cook-off

Box Oven Dessert Cook-off

Patrol Competitions

Cooking Demonstrations

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For updated information visit <http://mad-bsa.org/cook>

Information Sheet
Mercer Area Cookaree
Washington Crossing Historic Park, PA
April 29 to May 1, 2005

Summary: The Mercer Area Cookaree is a food-themed camporee, whose purpose is to promote good cooking habits within the patrol, reinforce the patrol method and provide scouts with new ideas and recipes for cooking in camp. This is not a Cub Scout event, but Webelos Scouts are invited to participate provided they are sponsored by a Troop. Since the competitive events are for Boy Scouts only, some stations will have a separate age specific activity for Webelos Scouts as required.

Preparation: Each Patrol should practice fire building using flint and steel, pioneering skills, first aid for cuts and burns and cooking pancakes.

Participation Items: Each Troop should bring: pioneering material to build cooking gadget; food and cooking equipment for the golden skillet competition; food and equipment for the adult chili cook-off; backpack with food and equipment for the adult/youth leader backpack cooking challenge.

Location: Washington Crossing Historic Park is located in Washington Crossing, PA. The Cookaree will take place in the McConkey's Ferry Section of the park at the Valley of Concentration area. This area is defined by a large circular drive with inner grassy expanse located between the Pennsylvania Canal and the Delaware River.

Driving Directions: Take Interstate 95 South across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. Take exit 51B - Taylorsville Road North (first exit in PA). Continue on Taylorsville road for approximately 3 miles. Turn right at Route 532 - General Washington Memorial Blvd. Continue on Route 532 for 2/10 of a mile and turn left into the park at the Newton Gate. Once inside the park follow the signs to the check-in area.

Boy Scout Check in: Scout Troops may arrive no earlier than 5:00 pm on Friday. Each Troop must send a representative to the Headquarters tent to check in their unit. Tour permits and a final roster of all participating unit members must be presented at that time. Troops will be assigned a campsite upon check in.

Campsite: The Boy Scouts will be camping on Friday and Saturday nights in the Valley of Concentration Area - a large grass field boarded by a circular drive. This is a low impact camping area; all units will adhere to the BSA's leave-no-trace principles. Individual campsite borders will be clearly marked and all campers will be required to stay within the boundaries of the campgrounds during the encampment. Access to potable water, latrines, first aid and the headquarters area will be on site. A lights-out curfew will be strictly enforced.

Webelos Overnight Camping: All Webelos Scouts must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, adult relative or friend and be sponsored by a Troop in order to camp overnight on Friday and/or Saturday night at the camporee. Webelos Scouts must register for the camporee with their sponsoring Troop instead of their Pack. Sponsoring Troops must include

all Webelos Scouts and accompanying adults in their roster and should help them with tents, camping gear and meals.

Parking: Vehicle parking for the encampment will be allowed on the grass between the paved area of the circular drive and the campsites. Drivers must obey all traffic signs and adhere to the posted speed limit.

Off-Limit Areas: Participants are required to stay within the encampment and camporee areas. Participants will not interfere with the normal recreational activity carried on within the remainder of the park.

Prohibited Items: The following items are strictly prohibited: real or toy firearms; sling shots; B-B guns; bows and arrows; "paint ball" guns; crossbows; real or toy throwing or stabbing weapons (except for pocket knives) or items which could be used as such; explosives; sheath knives; fireworks; model rockets; alcoholic beverages; narcotics; hazardous materials; liquid fuel and equipment that uses it. Scouts will not be allowed to bring electronic entertainment devices such as: gameboys, CD players, Mpeg players, palm pilots, radios, tape players (unless needed to participate in a camporee activity).

Campfires: No ground fires are permitted at the campsites. Campfires will be allowed only in raised half-barrels or raised grills. Ashes and any other fire remains must be packed out.

Dumpsters: NO dumpsters will be provided: PACK IN - PACK OUT

Friday Night Activities: The Friday night activity is to be announced and will begin at 8:30 pm.

Saturday Activities: Activities will take place in and around the encampment area. Maps will be provided to all adult and junior leaders showing the location of all the stations. The following stations will be open to all Boy and Webelos Scouts: The Perfect Pancake, Cave Man Cooking, Dutch Delights, One Pot Wonders, Box Oven Cooking, Clean Up Relay, Tastes Like Chicken, Thrill of the Grill, Fire Building Contest, Name That Spice, Grocery Store, Cooking Gadgets, First Aid for Cuts and Burns, Cracker Stacker, Leave no Trace Demonstration, Proper Equipment Cleaning, Tomahawk Throw. See the list of stations for details.

Professional Chief Demonstrations: A professional chief will be giving cooking demonstrations during the day and will be available for Scouts to achieve requirements for the Cooking Merit Badge. A schedule for the demonstrations will be posted at the event.

Site Inspections: Sites will be inspected for such things as, cleanliness, adherence to leave-no-trace principles, use of patrol method, health, sanitation and fire safety.

Adult Chili Cook-Off: Adult leaders are invited to participate in a chili cook-off. The ingredients may be prepared ahead of time, but the chili must be cooked on site. Finished chili must be brought to the headquarters area at 6:00 on Saturday for judging. All adult participants are invited to sample and judge each chili at this time. Following the judging, the winner of the chili cook-off will be determined by voice vote by all tasters.

Adult/Youth Leader Backpack Cooking Challenge: Adult and youth leaders are invited to participate in this activity in which all food, water, utensils, stove, etc, needed to cook a backpack meal must be stored inside a backpack. This activity will include the steps needed to cook a simple and light backpacking meal: unpacking, food preparation, stove lighting, cooking, eating, cleaning and repacking. Participants will be judged based on total time to perform all steps, meal quality and leave-no-trace adherence.

Trading Post: Candy, snacks and soda will be available at the Trading Post from 10:00 am until 4:00.

Campfire Ceremony: To be announced

Participation Awards and Prizes: All participants will receive a cookaree patch. Prizes will be awarded to patrols for top scores in the station competition. A prize will be awarded to the Troop with the top score in campsite inspection. Winners of the Golden Skillet, Chili Cook-off and Backpacking Challenge will each receive a prize.

Golden Skillet Competition: The theme for the golden skillet competition will be the "Patrol Chicken Cook-off". This meal shall include an chicken entrée, potato and carrots on the side and a dessert. Each participating patrol, with no adult assistance, must use the same set of ingredients and prepare and cook a patrol sized meal in camp using any manner they wish. For example, the entrée may be baked in a box oven, broiled in a dutch oven or grilled using coals. Other than the chicken, potatoes and carrots, participants have the option of using none, part or all of the other ingredients. The only exception to the standard set of ingredients are water, herbs and spices, which may be used without restriction. Dinners will be judged based on taste and presentation. One serving shall be provided to the judges no later than 6:00 pm on Saturday. The standard set of ingredients are: one 5-6 pound chicken, six medium potatoes, two medium onions, 1 pound of butter, 3 tablespoons of shortening, three cups of all purpose flour, two cups of cane sugar, 1 cup of brown sugar, one pound of carrots, two cups of milk, six eggs, one 29 ounce can of canned fruit and 3 cups of biscuit mix.

Religious Services: Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to participate in religious services on Saturday night at 8:00. Jewish, Catholic and Interfaith services will be offered at locations to be announced.

Cooking Merit Badge: Participating in certain stations will satisfy some of the requirements for the cooking merit badge. These stations will be identified as such. Scouts who intend to receive credit should contact a cooking merit badge counselor and have a blue card signed by their Scoutmaster and get each requirement signed off as they are satisfied.

Boy Scout Check Out: Troops may stay no later than 12:00 noon on Sunday. All campsites will be inspected prior to check out. Each Troop must send a representative to the camporee headquarters when they are ready for inspection. Once inspected, units will be checked out and receive their patches.