

The Where to Go Camping Guide

A guide by Wagion Lodge #6



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“... In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in the streets or villages...

in the woods we return to reason and faith.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Camper,

Camping is the backbone of the Scouting Movement. Since the early days of the Boy Scouts of America, young Scouts have been in the outdoors exploring it's beauty and all that Mother Nature has to offer. We are very fortunate here in the heart of the Laurel Highlands to have many camps and properties right at our fingertips. Although each facility is different; each has it's own attractions that make it unique from the others while still providing a quality program to the countless number of Scouts and Scouters who enter each weekend.

Dr. E. Urner Goodman the founder of the Order of the Arrow once said “The order is a thing of the Outdoors.” With this statement in mind Wagion Lodge #6 undertook the project to produce this guide and make it available to all units across the council. The Boy Scouts of America, through each and every Troop, Crew, or Team, strive to preserve open land for recreational use.

We must always remember to be responsible campers by leaving ever campsite better than we found it by leaving only memories and taking only pictures. By doing so, we ensure that future generations of Scouts will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors just as we have.

We would like to thank the many people who assembled, edited, and produced this guide. They worked hard, and collected everything needed to plan an outdoor adventure, with the hope that each unit could use it as the groundwork to provide an excellent outdoor program for the youth they serve. We charge you to use this directory in your home units by sharing with your youth members the wonders of the outdoors.

Thank you for all you do in Scouting,

Yours in Scouting,

Ethan Byers

Nathan Schuerman

Drew Colebank

Ethan Byers

Nathan Schuerman

Drew Colebank

2013 Promotions co-chairman

2013 Promotions co-chairman

2013 Lodge Secretary

Camp Conestoga

PENNSYLVANIA SCOUT CAMPS

OVERVIEW

At Camp Conestoga there are plenty of opportunities for your Scouts to experience the Scouting program at its very finest.

There are programs available for young and old Scouts alike. The new Scouts can become acquainted with Camp Conestoga and the summer camp experience in the Pathfinder Program. Older Scouts can participate in our COPE program. All of this and more provides a great opportunity for your Scouts to continue on their trail to eagle.

Outstanding facilities, dedicated and enthusiastic Camp Staff, diverse advancement opportunities, program features for first year campers and older Scouts all add up to adventures that will truly last a lifetime.



Contact Information

2 Garden Center Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-837-1630

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking



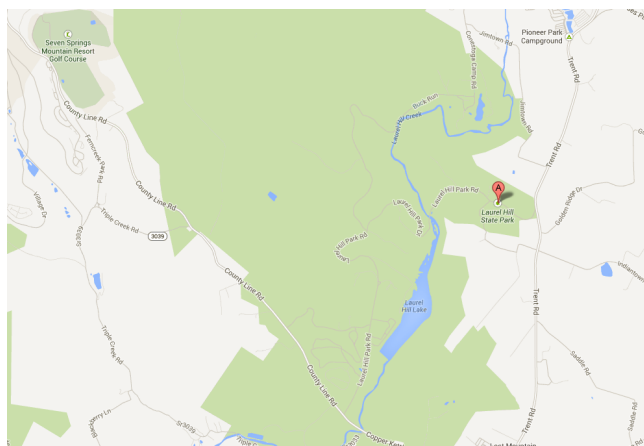
Directions

From I-76 Exit 110 (Somerset), drive west on PA 31 from Somerset for eight miles, turn left onto Trent Road and follow the directional signs to Laurel Hill State Park. The park may also be reached from I-76 Exit 91 (Donegal) by turning left on PA 31 east and traveling 14 miles. Follow the directional signs to the right turn onto Jim Town Road then follow directional signs to the Camp.

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.

Accommodations

- Camping Cabins
- Organized Group Tenting
- Showerhouses



Camp Tenacharison

PENNSYLVANIA SCOUT CAMPS

OVERVIEW

Camp Tenacharison is a more local camp owned by the Westmoreland – Fayette Council. This 300 acre spot of campground holds 3 buildings for trainings and/or cabin camping along with a full service garage for any tools to be signed out for service projects. It is a perfect campground for any sized troops and it's facilities are ideal for most kinds of events as well.



Contact Information

2 Garden Center Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-837-1630

Activities

- Biking
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking



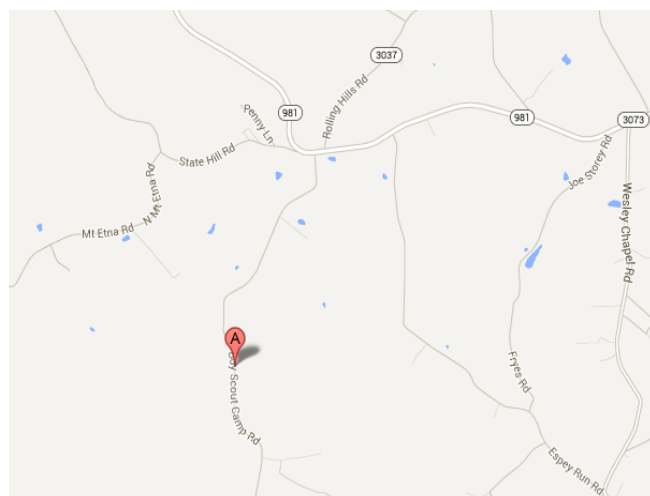
Directions

Camp Tenacharison is located off of PA 981 between Smithton and Mt. Pleasant.

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.

Accommodations

- Camping Cabins
- Organized Group Tenting



Keystone

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

The 1,200-acre Keystone State Park is great for day-trips and family vacations year-round. Camping, modern cabins, many trails and a lake are all within walking distance, providing an ideal setting for wildlife watching or outdoor adventures. The park is within easy driving distance from the Pittsburgh metropolitan area and its many attractions.



Contact Information

1150 Keystone Park Road

Derry, PA 15627-3679

(724)-668-2939

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding



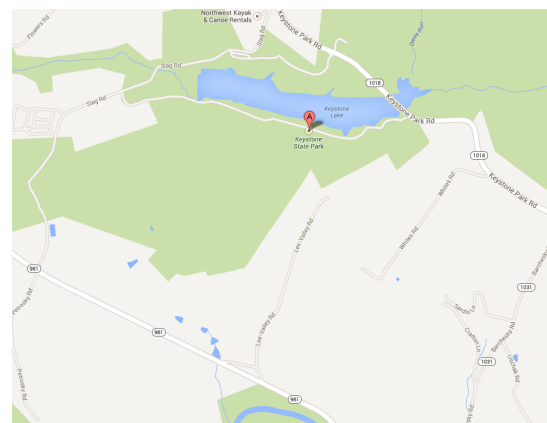
Directions

The park is in Derry Township, Westmoreland County, three miles from the intersection of PA 981 and US 22. The park office is on SR 1018 (Keystone Park Road). The campground and cabins are on Stone Lodge Road and can be reached from Slag Road (T 860)

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.

Accommodations

- Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Yurts



OVERVIEW

In the heart of the Laurel Highlands at an altitude of 2,600 feet, Kooser State Park attracts visitors year-round to its 250 acres of forest and the beautiful trout stream that flows the full length of the park.

The park's original design character was stamped by the Civilian Conservation Corps projects of the 1930s that established the existing lake and most of its use areas, its architecture and site details. The park's basic appeal lies in its intimate areas which are most suited for family outings and small groups. Picnicking, fishing, swimming, camping, cross country skiing and family cabins are the major park uses.



Contact Information

943 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501-5808

(814)-445-8673

koosersp@pa.gov

Activities

- Cross Country Skiing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Swimming



Directions

Kooser State Park is on PA 31 midway between the Donegal and Somerset turnpike exits, at the eastern foothills of Laurel Mountain Summit. Kooser State Park is a one-hour drive from Johnstown or Pittsburgh.

Accommodations

- Cabins
- Tent Camping
- Flush Toilets
- Showers
- Electric Hook-Ups



Laurel Hills

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

Laurel Hill State Park consists of 4,072 acres of mountainous terrain in Somerset County. The 63-acre Laurel Hill Lake is a focal point of the park. Laurel Hill is surrounded by thousands of acres of pristine state park and state forest lands. A trail system invites visitors to hike and explore the park and observe the diversity of plants and wildlife. Hemlock Trail passes through a beautiful stand of old growth hemlocks.



Contact Information

1454 Laurel Hill Park Road

Somerset, PA 15501-5629

814-445-7725

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding
- Snowmobiling



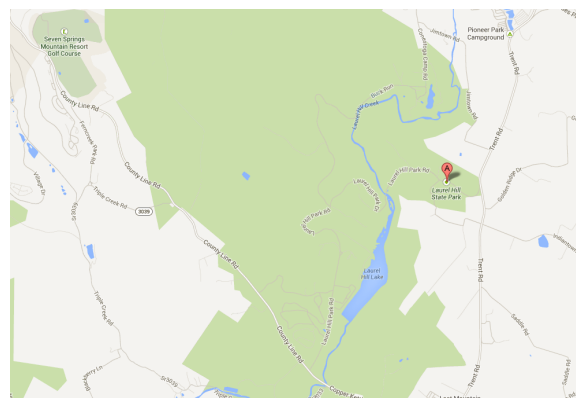
Accommodations

- Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Yurts
- Hiking Trails

Directions

From I-76 Exit 110 (Somerset), drive west on PA 31 from Somerset for eight miles, turn left onto Trent Road and follow the directional signs to Laurel Hill State Park. The park may also be reached from I-76 Exit 91 (Donegal) by turning left on PA 31 east and traveling 14 miles. Follow the directional signs to the right turn onto Trent Road then follow directional signs to the park.

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.



Laurel Ridge

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

The 13,625-acre Laurel Ridge State Park stretches along Laurel Mountain from the picturesque Youghiogheny River at Ohiopyle, to the Conemaugh Gorge near Johnstown. This large park spans Cambria, Fayette, Somerset and Westmoreland counties. The main feature of the park is the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, which provides the setting for a semi-wilderness Backpacking and day hiking experience.

One of the most exciting reasons to visit the park is for its scenery. Spring wildflowers dot the forest floor in early April followed by a vibrant green forest as leaf-out begins in late April. Mountain laurel blooms in June and rhododendron blooms in late June and early July. Come to the park in mid-October and witness fall color in all its glory. Winter is spectacular when the park is covered in a deep blanket of snow and the occasional great horned owl calls through the moon-lit forest.



Contact Information

1117 Jim Mountain Road

Rockwood, PA 15557-5454

724-455-3744

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking



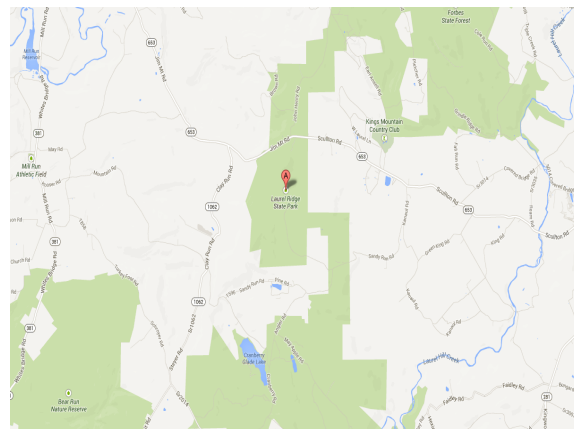
Directions

Laurel Ridge State Park is in Cambria, Fayette, Westmoreland, and Somerset counties, Pennsylvania.

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.

Accommodations

- Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Hiking Trails



Laurel Summit

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

This scenic picnic area is operated by the Bureau of State Parks. The 6-acre area offers picnic tables, a pavilion, water, and restroom. The area is 2,739 feet above sea level and several degrees cooler than surrounding towns. This area also provides trailhead parking for Spruce Flats bog and Wolf Rocks Trail. Laurel Summit is a carry in/carry out area. Please take all of your trash



Contact Information

c/o Linn Run

Rector, PA 15677-0050

(724)-238-6623

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Snowmobiling



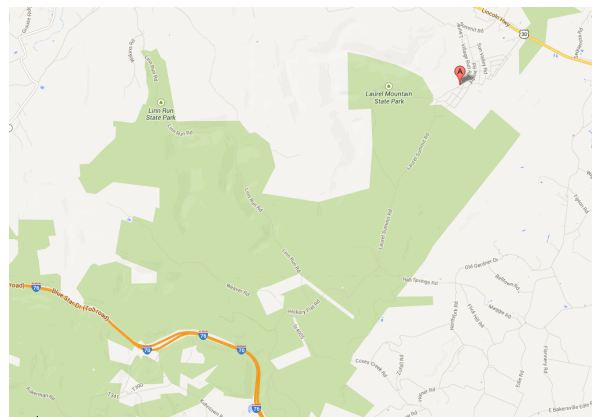
Directions

Laurel Summit State Park is in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, at the intersection of Linn Run Road and Laurel Summit Road.

Please note that the background maps are maintained by a variety of public sources and driving directions usually go to the nearest large road.

Accommodations

- Hiking Trails
- Organized Group Tenting



Linn Run

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

The varied topography and mixed hardwood and evergreen forest make the 612-acre Linn Run State Park a scenic place for picnicking, hiking and cabin rentals. Grove and Rock runs join to make Linn Run, an excellent trout stream that has a lovely waterfall, Adams Falls. Forbes State Forest borders Linn Run State Park and offers 50,000 acres of land for outdoor recreation.



Contact Information

P.O. Box 50

Rector, PA 15677-0050

(724)-238-6623

linnrunsp@pa.gov

Activities

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Snowmobiling

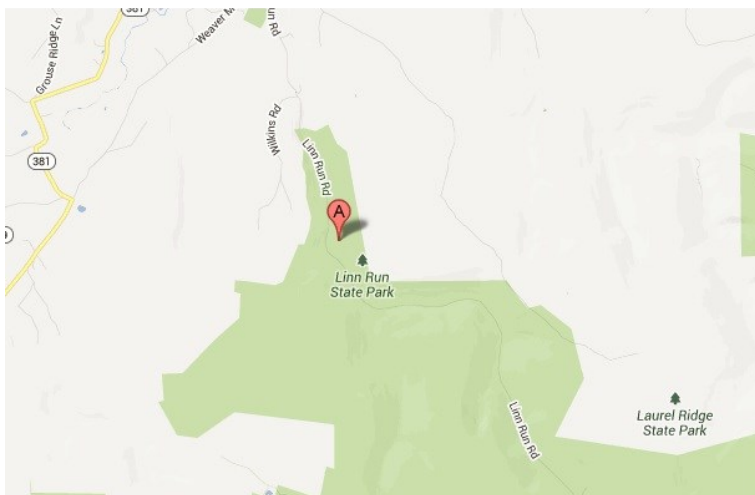


Directions

To reach the park from Ligonier, take US 30 east for two miles. At the intersection of PA 381, turn south for two miles. At the small town of Rector turn left onto Linn Run Road.

Accommodations

- Cabins
- Tent Camping



Ohiopyle

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

Located at the southern reaches of the Laurel Ridge, Ohiopyle State Park encompasses approximately 20,500 acres of rugged natural beauty and serves as the southern gateway to the Laurel Highlands. Passing through the heart of the park, the rushing waters of the Youghiogheny [yaw-ki-gay-nee] River Gorge are the centerpiece for Ohiopyle. The "Yough" [yawk] provides some of the best whitewater boating in the eastern United States, as well as spectacular scenery. Ohiopyle State Park is part of the protection and advocacy for this region by participating in the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI). This group is a partnership with landowners, community members, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders to protect the natural resources and bring community revitalization.



Contact Information

PO BOX 105

Ohiopyle, PA 15470-0105

(724)-329-8591

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding
- Snowmobiling



Accommodations

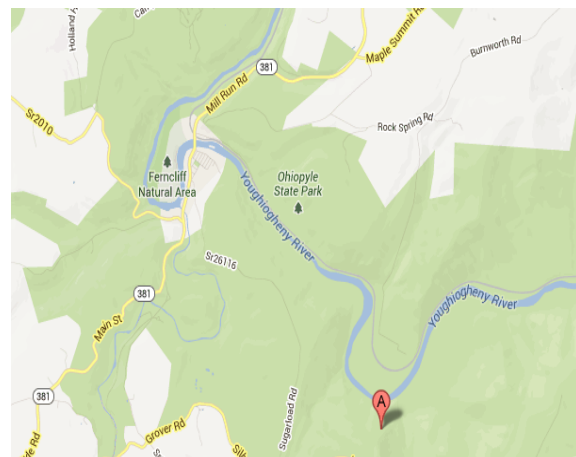
- Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Yurts

Directions

From the West: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 91, Donegal. Turn left onto PA 31 east. Travel about two miles, turn right onto PA 711 and PA 381 south. Travel ten miles to Normalville, turn left onto PA 381 south for 11 miles to Ohiopyle.

From the East: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 110, Somerset. Take PA 281 south 25 miles to Confluence. Continue three miles uphill and at the church, turn right onto Sugarloaf Road, SR 2012. Continue nine miles to Ohiopyle.

From the South (DC, MD, VA): Take I-270 north to Frederick, then I-70 west to Hancock, then Rt. 40 and I-68 through Cumberland. Take Exit 14 (Keysers Ridge) to Rt. 40 west to Farmington, PA. Turn right onto PA 381 north for eight miles to Ohiopyle.



Twin Lakes

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

Twin Lakes Park best represents the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's commitment to balance natural resources and public use. The park has received national recognition for its facilities and programs that are designed for use by all people. Stone paved walkways, three fishing decks, and modified picnic and play areas are a few of the accessible, barrier-free facilities available.



Contact Information

Donohoe Road R.D. #12, Box 2013

Greensburg, PA 1560

724-830-3950

Activities

- Biking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding
- Snowmobiling

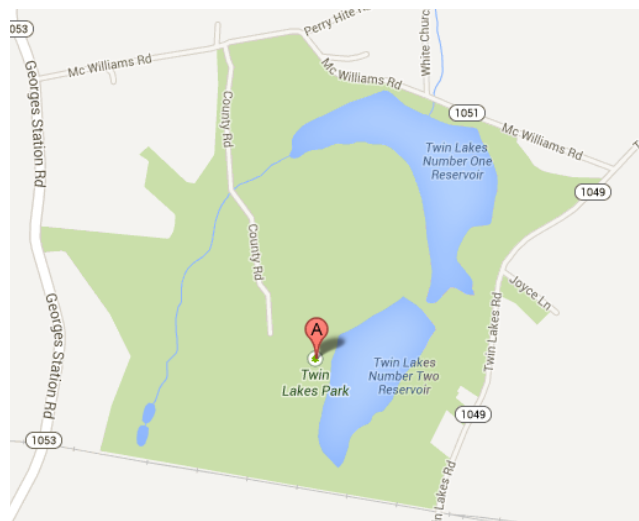


Directions

From Route 30, turn onto Donohoe Road at the light for Westmoreland Mall near Greensburg. (This is a right turn if heading West and a left turn when traveling East.) After turning from the highway, turn right to stay with Donohoe Road (passing the Toys-R-Us on your left). Continue straight through a traffic light and two stop signs. After the second stop sign, make a left at the sign for Twin Lakes Park. Follow the signs.

Accommodations

- Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Yurts



Yellow Creek

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

OVERVIEW

The 2,981-acre Yellow Creek State Park is in Indiana County along one of the first “highways” in the state, the Kittanning Path. This trail was used by the Delaware and Shawnee nations and by early settlers.

Today, visitors enjoy the sand beach, picnicking and educational and recreational Programs. The 720-acre Yellow Creek Lake is a destination for boaters and anglers. The lake and park are an important rest stop for migrating birds.

The park is named for Yellow and Little Yellow creeks,



Contact Information

170 Route 259 Highway

Penn Run, PA 15765-5941

(724)-357-7913

Activities

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Snowmobiling
- Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding

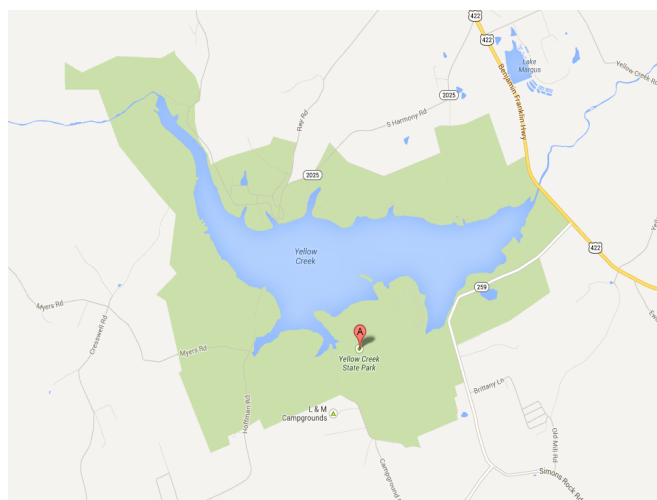


Directions

Yellow Creek State Park is along PA 422 between the towns of Ebensburg and Indiana.

Accommodations

- Cabins
- Organized Group Tenting
- Tent Camping
- Yurts



Lesser Known Campgrounds

OVERVIEW

While state parks and boy scout camps offer fantastic resources, there are a great many of additional campgrounds that can be utilized by troops. Smaller campgrounds not only offer a place to stay when visiting different attractions, but many offer different accommodations that make them the ideal place for a weekend outing.

Bear Ridge Campground

345 Mountain Trails Road
Templeton, PA 16259
(724)-822-6521

Benner's Meadow Run Camping

315 Nelson Road
Farmington, PA 15437
(724)-329-4097

Big Bear Lake Camplands

450 Big Bear Lake Road
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525
(304)-379-4382

Buttercup Woodlands Campground

854 Evans City Road
Renfrew, PA 16053
(724)-789-9340

Campground 70

824 Bentleyville Road
Charleroi, PA 15022
(800)-327-6053

Hickory Hollow Campground

176 Big Hickory Road
Rockwood, PA 15557
(814)-926-4636

Indian Brave Campground

159 Perry Highway
Harmony, PA 16037
(724)-452-9204

Lost Mountain Campground

195 Lost Mountain Lane
Rockwood, PA 15557
(814)-352-7310

Madison/Pittsburgh KOA

764 Waltz Mill Road
Ruffs Dale, PA 15679
(724)-722-4444

Mirror Lake Camping

112 Trout Run Drive
New Florence, PA 15944
(724)-235-2115

Lesser Known Campgrounds

Mountain Pines RV Resort

1662 Indian Creek Valley Road
Champion, PA 15622
(724)-455-3300

Nautical Mile Marina

530 Stone Avenue
Templeton, PA 16259
(724)-543-2988

Pine Cove Beach Club & RV Resort

1495 Route 481
Charleroi, PA 15022
(724)-239-2900

Pioneer Park Campground

273 Trent Road
Somerset, PA 15501
(814)-445-6348

Rivers Edge Campground

1101 Riveredge Road
Connellsville, PA 15425
(724)-628-4880

Scarlett Knob Campground

Box 44 Route 381 North
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
(724)-329-5200

Scottyland Camping Resort

1618 Barron Church Road
Rockwood, PA 15557
(814)-926-3200

Silver Canoe Campground

140 Silver Canoe Campground Lane
Rural Valley, PA 16249
(724)-783-6000

Tall Oaks Campground

544 Camp Riamo Road
Farmington, PA 15437
(724)-329-4777

Wheel-In Campground

113 Wheel In Campground Road
Shelocta, PA 15774
(724)-354-3693

Lesser Known Campgrounds

Woodland Campsites Incorporated

291 Gilmour Road

Somerset, PA 15501

(814)-445-8860

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park (Mill Run)

Route 381 839 Mill Run Road

Mill Run, PA 15464-0091

(724)-455-2929

For additional campground listings, or for more information on any of the camps listed here, visit:

www.gocampingamerica.com

For additional information regarding any of Pennsylvania's state parks, visit:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Guidelines For A Safe Outing

OVERVIEW

Camping trips with a troop can be relaxing, enjoyable, and even educational experiences. But none of this happens without a solid plan. Make sure you follow these guidelines when planning your next camping trip.

Adult Supervision

At least two adults need to be present during each camping trip, and at least one of those adults needs to be over the age of twenty one. Also, while additional parents may be attending, the two adults previously mentioned should be registered with the Boy Scouts, and have completed Youth Protection training.

Planning

A good plan is the foundation for any successful camping trip. Not only will you want to plan out the trips activities, menu, etc., but you'll also want to have a good plan for your trip in general. Make sure when you leave that people know when you're leaving, where you'll be going, and when you plan on returning. This way, should something happen, people will recognize when you don't return on time, and know where to look for you. Also, make sure you contact the campground or state park you'll be staying in ahead of time to ensure you're aware of any additional rules they have. For example, some campgrounds and state parks do not allow firewood to be brought into the campgrounds, to prevent introducing new species of insects.

Training

While you may not need any specific training for most activities, there are some in which you do. If your troop plans on doing aquatic activities, climbing, shooting, or other activities, you may need to be trained by the Boy Scouts first, to ensure the activity is being run safely.