



SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

64th Brandywine Baden-Powell Service Association

During the course of the year, the 64th Brandywine plans various fun and educational adventures, as well as service projects to benefit the community. Attached you will find a preliminary schedule of activities for our scout year. Please visit our website, 64thbrandywine.org for the latest updates to the calendar.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, camping, fishing, geocaching, bird watching, stargazing, cooking, volunteering, visiting museums, collecting, recycling, making crafts, building campfires, playing games, learning local history, marching in parades, and more!

LEADERS

All of our leaders are volunteers. In fact, the BPSA-US has no paid staff at all, all the way up to the Chief Commissioner! We rely on volunteers to plan, organize, support, supervise, and attend all our activities. If you are interested in joining as a scout leader, please see the [Scout Leaders and Volunteers](#) information sheet.

All scout leaders have had thorough, confidential background checks through the BPSA-US Headquarters.

PARENTS

Parents are welcome to participate in activities alongside their scouts. Section leaders, small group leaders, and assistants will be present on all adventures and service activities. This means that, strictly speaking, all events can be considered “drop off” in the sense that non-volunteer parents are not expected to participate. Leaders will let you know in advance if additional chaperones are required for an event.

ALL adults attending any overnight activity must complete a paid registration with BPSA as either Rovers or Adult Support. This ensures that all adults present have had background checks.

SIBLINGS

Non-scout siblings are welcome to participate in events except for those where the leaders explicitly mention it is not appropriate. Please remember that the level of difficulty and maturity for activities is chosen based on the age of the scouts. We will provide information prior to each event so that you may decide the appropriateness of sibling participation.

TRANSPORTATION

Every effort will be made to reduce the number of vehicles required to reach our event destination. In general, leaders will be available to car pool, and we may ask non-volunteer parents to pitch in. Where no group transportation options are available for your scout, it will be your responsibility to find transportation.

GEAR

Different activities will have different equipment requirements. Leaders will email families with any necessary requirements prior to each activity. If a scout needs to borrow items, we will do our best to find items to share.

UNIFORMS

Scouts should wear their uniforms to all group meetings and activities. Apart from the group necker, scouts are responsible for providing their own uniform. You can find uniform standards and badge placement guidelines for each section on the group website, 64thbrandywine.org.

A note about shoes: Appropriate footwear is a health and safety issue. Participants should wear socks and close-toed, sturdy shoes that fasten tightly. While they are comfortable for running and playing, sneakers are not good

for hiking or for working outdoors. When wet, they do not dry quickly, their soles can slip on soggy trails, and they do not provide any ankle support. We strongly recommend that you invest in a pair of good quality hiking boots.

SAFETY

Safety is our first priority. Scout leaders have been certified in infant, child and adult CPR as well as basic first aid. We will carry at least two first aid kits on all activities, as well as complete emergency contact information for all members.

Please recall that you have signed a medical release waiver, which releases all leaders and volunteers from liability, and also empowers us to seek medical attention for your scout in the extremely unlikely event that it should become necessary.

FUNDRAISING

Currently, we are focused on ensuring the most rewarding scouting program possible for our youth members. As such, we have not launched any major fundraising projects or donation campaigns. BPSA believes that scouts should focus on service to others. In the future, with our older scouts, we plan to begin fundraising by participating in service projects that benefit worthy causes in our community.

Long term, the group council also hopes to raise money through sponsorships, donations, or grants. We hope to begin collecting a stock of equipment that can be used by the group in future years, and to acquire liability insurance for "high adventure" activities.

If you are interested in helping us develop a fundraising strategy, or have experience in non-profit management, please contact the Group Scoutmaster.

COMMITTMENT

Lord Baden-Powell intended for Scouting to be not just one activity that kids filed alongside other pursuits such as music lessons and organized sports, but rather a way of life. Accordingly, the program offers activities for kids as young as three, straight into adulthood.

We are parents as well, and understand the commitment levels of children and their ever-changing priorities and interests. We would ask that you emphasize the importance of scout commitment to the program and actively encourage your scout to participate and practice what he or she has learned. Leaders will ask scouts to practice on their own time to fulfil badge requirements or gain proficiency in scouting skills. We encourage independent work! As a parent, your encouragement and enthusiasm are invaluable. We would ask you, whenever possible, to "get outside" with your scout to reinforce the passion for outdoorsmanship and the skills that we will instil.

We hope scouting will be a primary activity for your child. Not only will your scout have a better experience when they attend on a regular basis, but we rely and plan our activities assuming 100% attendance. With this in mind, we have purposely scheduled our outings for Sunday afternoons so as to not interfere with Saturday sport activities or religious observances on Sunday mornings.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child wants to play soccer, and that overlaps with scout activities. Can my child still join?

We plan our schedule far in advance to give you a true look at the commitment involved for the year. As mentioned, we have chosen Sunday afternoons to be as accommodating as possible to other activities. If your child misses meetings or activities, he/she will not get the full experience and may fall behind in earning proficiency badges and advancements. Ultimately, your commitment is your decision.

Two mile hikes? Yikes! What if my child can't make it?

Like the US Marines, we have a "no man left behind" policy and we have yet to cut a hike short because a scout couldn't make it. You'll be surprised what they can do if they're asked and motivated – and they will come home happy. Tired, but happy. We promise a good night's sleep on Sundays.