

Rock Climbing Campout - Annapolis Rocks **Saturday October 14 & Sunday October 15, 2006**

T-255's October Campout

What: Following up on last year's highly successful rock climbing trip, Troop 255 will scale Annapolis Rocks adjacent to the Application Trail, east of Hagerstown, Maryland. We will be combining rock climbing and rappelling. Afterwards we will be camping at Pogo campsite on the Appalachian Trail. Sunday, we will hike a section of the AT. For rock climbing instructors, we will be using same climbing company as last year, Nirvana Climbing Guides out of Point of Rocks, Maryland. They have much experience working with Boy Scouts. They will be providing us with an 8-hour program (2 hours longer than last year), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will also be working on Climbing Merit Badge at Troop meetings.

Rock climbing is open to all Scouts, age-appropriate friends and family. The aim is to have fun while learning and practicing safe climbing skills. Climbing will be kept within comfort level of individuals.

Who: All Scouts, parents and siblings accompanied by an adult are welcome on this trip.

Assemble: 7:00 AM Saturday at CCUMC.

Return: 3:00 PM Sunday at CCUMC.

Cost: \$100.00 for climb paid by internet to Nirvana Climbing. \$5 for transportation paid to Troop.



Register with Nirvana Climbing **by September 27:**

1. Log on to <http://www.nirvanaclimbing.com/>
2. Under "Climbing Instructions," click on "Course Sign-us."
3. Select "Outdoor Basic Skills" from down menu and click on "view Calendar"
4. You will be at the "Outdoor Basic Skills" calendar. In the upper right corner, forward month button so it reads October
5. Ignore the boiling plate referring to their program being at Great Falls, and click on either of the two green 9 am to 5 pm periods. If one is full, use the other.
6. At this point, fill in appropriate information including credit card data. You will be charged **\$100.00** per participant.

Release forms: After submitting information, you will receive an "Online Registration Confirmation" and attached files: Packing List, Release form, Client Information sheet, Medical Emergency Form. These are to be filled out by the October 10th Troop meeting. Scouts will be planning meals and equipment requirements at the October 10 Troop meeting.

RSVP: By Registration with Nirvana. Also, if you plan to join this trip, but not rock climb, please RSVP Rob Klein at rob.klein@montgomerycountymd.gov by October 10, 2006.

Schedule:

Saturday, October 14

7:00am Meet in CCUMC Church parking lot.

8:45am Assemble where I-70 and US 40 converge and with guides hike 2 miles to Annapolis Rock

9:45am Climbing instructions begin

5:00pm Climbing ends & equipment clean-up.

5:15pm Will either camp at Annapolis Rocks or start hiking the Appalachian Trail 1 mile to Pogo Memorial Campsite in the area of former Black Rock Hotel. Camping on both sides of Trail.

5:45pm Set up camp and begin supper

10:00pm Lights out.

Sunday, October 15

7:00am Wakeup.

7:00-8:00am Breakfast in camp area.

8:00-8:30am Clear camp site.

8:30am Begin 8 to 10 mile hike on AT.

1:30pm Depart for church parking lot, stopping for lunch.

3:00pm Arrive back at church

Permission Slips: Both Troop and Nirvana permission slips are required. Nirvana permission slip will be e-mailed with on-line registration.

Equipment: Scouts should bring the usual backpacking items. Refer to Troop web site at <http://www.t255.com> Two liters of water are a must as potable water may not be available, however, the Troop does plan to purify water from the streams, and supplemental water will be available at campsite.

Scots should pay attention to their foot gear and be sure they are properly equipped (e.g. tick soles and ankle support). Extra socks should be packed. You should be aware that the Appalachian Trail in Maryland will be farther north and at a higher elevation than Washington DC and so will usually be somewhat cooler and windier than home. You are reminded to dress in layers. Be prepared for rain and plan for a low of 30 deg at night & 50 to 60 in the day.

Class B Troop shirts encouraged.

Meals: A ready-to-eat lunch should be taken. Patrols will plan meals for Saturday dinner and cracker barrel and Sunday breakfast.

We will stop for fast food on trip home - bring money.

Directions to Trail head from CCUMC:

By car from CCUMC: About 60 minutes; mileage around 52.

1. MD 185 (Connecticut Ave) North to I-495 West.
2. From the Capitol Beltway take I-270 north approximately 31 miles to route 70 west. (70 west exits to the right)
3. Drive approximately 11 miles on route 70.
4. Take exit #42 (Myersville / Middletown Road) at the end of the exit make a right towards Myersville. There will be a McDonalds on your right.
5. Drive 0.7 miles and make a right on route 17 north. There will be a brown sign for State Parks. (The right turn is after the bank clock on the right hand side of the road.)
6. Drive down the hill until you come to a stoplight that is usually blinking.
7. Make a left at the light onto route 40 west and drive for 3 miles.

Park on the left side of the road at the parking area before the sharp turn to the right. (There is a large trailhead sign at the parking area.)

The trailhead is at the end of the parking area by the kiosk. We will assemble and follow the trailhead to the A.T. and travel north. **DO NOT** cross the long bridge that spans the highway, instead turn right. We will pass under the highway and start to ascend a short hill. Upon reaching the top you will turn left. After about 5 to 10 minutes there will be a split, we will stay to your right and the trail will start to bend and become steep. The total hike will take about 50 minutes.

There will be a sign for Annapolis Rocks and the spring on the left. We will follow the trail down to the left and camp only in a designated group site. Camping at the top of the cliff is prohibited.

We must obey all signs and use only established outhouses for human waste.

APPROVAL / PERMISSION SLIP

Approval/permission is granted by the parents/guardians of Boy Scout _____ for their son/Scout to participate in the activities of Troop 255, Chevy Chase, Maryland, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Approval/permission is granted to the adult members of Troop 255 to authorize treatment of the Boy Scout named above in the event of an accident or emergency. Adult members of Troop 255 that authorize treatment of the Boy Scout in the event of an accident or emergency shall be released from any or all liabilities.

Local and national tour permits will be obtained by Troop 255 when necessary.

This approval/permission is valid for the October 14 and 15, 2006 Rock Climbing/Appalachian Trail hike.

I can drive: _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, I can carry _____ scouts including my own.

I can attend: _____ YES _____ NO

Parent Signature

Parent Name (Print)

Date