

Caving
Saturday February 10 & Sunday February 11, 2007

T-255's February Campout

What: Troop 255 will be caving in Whiting's Neck and Indian Caves, outside of Martinsburg, West Virginia (near Harper's Ferry, about 1Hr from Chevy Chase). You will see stalactite, flowstone deposits, and cave coral. We have hired a professional guide (*Go-Adventure Sports*) for this activity. See <http://www.go-adventuresports.com/caving.htm> for more information about the caves we will be visiting.

Please Note: All equipment and instruction will be provided by *Go-Adventure Sports*. Scouts should bring a canteen of water, food that will not spoil, 3 AAA batteries and old clothing that they do not mind getting muddy. Bring a second set of outer clothes in a plastic garbage bag. These are to change into after the caving. The plastic bag can then hold your dirty caving clothes.

Suggested Clothing: Polypropylene or other non-cotton long underwear, wool socks, boots with good traction and ankle support, an insulating layer such as wool or fleece, a shell layer (water resistant) with abrasion resistant pants, and a small hip pack for water, food, and extra batteries. Please be sure to bring sturdy footwear (no sandals!).

Bring a bag lunch: We will eat lunch as we receive caving instruction outside the cave entrance.

That Evening. We will be sleep at the Harper's Ferry Youth Hostel (<http://members.aol.com/hiyb/hostel.html>) in bunk beds (sheets provided no sleeping bag is required). There will indoor facilities, and an outdoor camp fire in the evening.

The Next Day: we will hike (with day-packs) to a look-over above Harper's Ferry at Maryland Heights before returning home. This brings you out at the cliff above the railroad tunnel entrance facing Harpers Ferry. I believe the round trip is about 2 hours.

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

Assemble: 8:30 AM Saturday at CCUMC.

Return: 2:30 PM Sunday at CCUMC.

Cost: \$60.00 for caving, \$20 for the night accommodations, and \$5 for transportation = \$85 paid to the Troop.

Slots are available for up to 24 scouts/leaders on a first-come-first serve basis

Release forms: Please sign the attached release form (s): one for scouts and one for caving.

RSVP: By Please RSVP Tom Whitmeyer at tom.whitmeyer@verizon.net no later then February 3, 2007

Detailed Schedule:

Saturday, November 10

08:30 AM Meet in CCUMC Church parking lot.
09:45 AM Arrive at Harper's Ferry, meet tour guide at Exxon parking lot
10:00 AM Leave from gas station parking lot
10:35 AM Arrive at caving parking lot, unload and assign equipment, hike to cave
11:00 AM Safety Talk: Discuss accident potential, challenge by choice philosophy, roles, behavior expectations and consequences, etc...
11:05 AM Enter cave and guided exploration, instruction in cave formation and history of cave
02:00 PM Rotate to next cave or lower chamber
04:15 PM Exit caves and back to parking lot
05:00 PM Return to Exxon parking lot
06:00 PM Drive to Youth Hostel
07:00 PM Eat dinner
08:00 PM Out-door fire/ "Man-Hunt"
10:00 PM Lights out

Sunday, November 11

07:00 AM Wakeup
07:15 AM Breakfast
08:00 AM Clear sleeping area
08:30 AM Begin hike
01:00 PM Travel to church parking lot
02:00 PM Arrive back at church

For emergencies call Mr. Whitmeyer's cell phone at 240-997-5329.

Emergency Plan:

In the event that an caving emergency should arise, *Go-Adventure Sports* staff will be equipped with cell phones, and there is a telephone located 3 minutes walk away from the cave entrance. The nearest hospital is Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Charlestown, WV, which is 24 miles away. Medivac helicopter landing is designated in the pasture across the street from the cave entrance and the Shepherdstown Police Department (304) 876-6036 is 18 miles away.

The waiver must be complete and unedited, both front and back, prior to participation. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact *Go-Adventure Sports* at (240) 603-4150.

Eriq Powers, *Go-Adventure Sports*, (240) 603-4150

eriq@go-adventuresports.com, www.go-adventuresports.com

SCOUT 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 February 10 and 11, 2007 Caving/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