

Gettysburg Battlefield & Remembrance Day Campout **Saturday November 21 & Sunday November 22, 2009**

T-255's November Campout / Revised 11/16/09 – New Return Time 3 pm

Where: “Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was the site of the largest Civil War battle ever waged in the Western Hemisphere. The Battle of Gettysburg opened on July 1, 1863 and closed two days later with the climactic "Pickett's Charge". It resulted in a Union victory for the Army of the Potomac and successfully turned back the second invasion of the North by General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Over 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or captured making it the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. It was also a major turning point in the war. Historians have referred to the Battle of Gettysburg as the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy." It was the last major effort by Lee to take the fighting out of Virginia and into northern states. The Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg contains more than 7,000 interments including over 3,500 from the Civil War. It was here that President Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.” (National Park Service intro)

This campout will coincide with Remembrance Day – the annual memorial celebration of President Lincoln's deliverance of the Gettysburg Address. There will be hundreds, maybe thousands of re-enactors in period costumes – many on horseback. Events include a parade tracing Lincoln's path from the town train station to the National Cemetery and an illumination in the evening, in which candles are placed at each grave in the cemetery. Our Troop will help with the candle placement and cleanup. We will be camping at the Artillery Ridge Campground near Little Round Top, site of much fierce fighting. Most of the horse units and many re-enactors will also be staying at this campground.

Illumination <http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/events/remembrance-illumination.htm#>

Parade http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hMzG_jq2Gw

Campground <http://www.artilleryridge.com/campind.html>



Assemble: 8:00 AM Saturday at CCUMC.

Return: **3:00 PM** Sunday at CCUMC. Revised Time

Cost: \$15.00 (\$5 campground fee + \$5 fee for terrific new museum and cyclorama + \$5 transportation, unless parent driving). Make checks to Troop 255 BSA.

Emergency Contact: Mr. Rose's cell **301-807-6441**.

Bring: **Wear Full Uniform**. Ready-to-eat bag lunch and snacks for Saturday along with a day-pack for hiking Gettysburg. Saturday dinner is Patrol cooking of real food. Sunday breakfast Patrol decision. Sunday lunch bring money for stopover at fast-food restaurant. Be prepared with rain gear, and plan for temperatures as low as 30 degrees F. For camping gear see webpage: <http://www.t255.com/Pack%20Lists.htm>

Notify: Provide signed permission slip and check to **Scoutmaster Pierce no later than November 10**, if you will be attending.

You won't want to miss: Camping where the Union Army had its artillery park (reserve artillery); climbing the rocks of Little Round Top and Devil's Den; climbing the observation tower that overlooks the entire battlefield; perhaps a quick jaunt up Big Round Top; perhaps retracing the steps of Pickett's charge; and a visit to the extremely well-done, just-opened, visitor center and museum which features the totally restored 360 degree Cyclorama mural painted in 1883.

You can imagine the Confederate forces advancing up the Shenandoah Mountains where we frequently hike. Many of the forces came through Harpers Ferry and along South Mountain where we have backpacked many times. Most Union forces were bivouacked in our area (Silver Spring, Olney, Wheaton) when they got the call to close on Gettysburg because of the presence of a large force of Confederates. The 20th Maine Regiment, made famous in the movie Gettysburg, were located 34 miles south of Gettysburg when awakened with orders to march on Gettysburg. And march they did; 34 miles in wool uniforms, in the July heat, carrying everything they possessed. They were assigned the task of holding the extreme left of the Union line. Battle quickly ensued. Failure would have allowed the enemy to roll up the entire Union line with disastrous effects. We can stand on the very spot where the regiment's soldiers were deployed, arms-length apart, and imagine the attacking hordes. You can see where groups of pickets were placed further out to provide early warning of a force attempting an end run. Having marched all day with little water and no food, running out of water and ammunition, the 20th resorted to a desperate and little used tactic – a bayonet charge. It so freaked out the enemy that they turned and ran. The Union line was saved.

The Union high command was so impressed that the 20th Maine was rewarded by being moved to a "quiet" part of the line, where little activity was anticipated, so they could rest and recover. Unfortunately that quiet part of the line was the location where the famed Pickett's Charge took place.

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.

Necessary tour permits will be obtained by Troop 255.

This approval/permission is valid for the November 21 and 22, 2009 Gettysburg Campout in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

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