

## CAVING CAMPOUT 2018

**TRIP OVERVIEW:** Troop 200 will camp at the Thorn Spring 4H Camp Tent Sites near Franklin West Virginia. On Saturday morning scouts will meet up with Mr. Zook from [Wilde Guyde Adventures](#) and travel to Kees Caves. After the caving adventure and lunch, scouts will have the opportunity to hike on the North Fork Mountain ridge trail. On Sunday morning, scouts will have breakfast and a Scout is Reverent Service and Start Stop Continue. Scouts will stop for dinner on the way up on Friday and have lunch on the way home on Sunday.

**PLAN:** Trailer Packing (SPL, PL's & QM's) will be April 26 at 1900. This is in Activity Uniform.

SHOW TIME is Fri, April 27/1700 in Field Uniform with Activity T-Shirt underneath. Drive time is about 4-hours, depending on traffic. Vehicle assignments will be determined at the Campout PLC as required.

RETURN time is Sun, April 29/1500. We will leave immediately after breakfast and a Scout is Reverent and Start Stop Continue. We will stop for lunch on the way home. A call will be made to the parents picking up their scout if the time changes more than 15 minutes.

**ACTIVITIES:** The primary focus of the program will be an expedition into Kees Cave on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon scouts will have the opportunity to hike on the North Fork Mountain Trail.

The schedule will be finalized at the Campout PLC with SPL, QM, Patrol Leaders, and Troop Guides (Tuesday, April 24/1830 at St. Lukes). Questions regarding this schedule can be directed to the Senior Patrol Leader, Kenny Bristow or the CSM, Mr. Richardson.

### **Caving Saturday**

Scouts must bring **headlamps** and **dedicated warm caving clothes and shoes in a white plastic trash bag with their names written on them in Sharpie**. These muddy clothes will be returned in the bag. We will meet up with Mr. Lester Zook on Saturday morning at 0830 at the only traffic Light in Franklin, WV, at the BP station on the corner. He will be driving a white Ford Ranger pickup truck. We need 15 minutes travel time from the 4H camp to this rendezvous.

### **Saturday Afternoon Hike on North Fork Mountain**

The hike will be at the North Fork Mountain Trail in the Monongahela National Forest. From Franklin, we will drive West on Rt. 33 about 15 minutes to the top of the mountain. The road hairpins and heads down the west side, and there is an electrical utility station. Go about 100 yards beyond the station, there is a wider pull-off. The trail goes for 24 miles along the North Fork Mountain ridgeline, with great rock platforms and overlooks. We can walk as far as we want and then turn around. There are no natural water sources on this ridgeline so each scout will need to carry a minimum of 2L in a daypack.

**UNIFORM:** Field Uniform will be worn on Friday and Sunday. Patrol Leaders will conduct a uniform inspection prior to leaving (Field Uniform, neckerchief or BSA bolo, and subdued pants). When in doubt – follow the Troop Guidelines found on the Library tab of the website!

**FOOD:** Depending on the number of scouts that sign up, patrol(s) will be formed and meal plans will be devised by the designated grubbies.

**COST:** The event fee is approximately \$70.00 per Scout to cover transportation (fuel), guide services, and site costs (\$7/scout/night), for the weekend. Signing up on Final Friday is a commitment to pay. The grub master for each patrol will work out the cost per Scout for their patrol food – refunds are possible and may vary by patrol. Cost uncertainty is high due to the reason described below, but it should be more certain once we have a final headcount.

Cost for a guided caving trip is \$125 for a group of 3, and then \$25 for each additional person after that. If we have a group of 10 or more, then Wilde Guyde drops the \$125 starter rate and they will simply charge the \$25 per person.

**GEAR:** This will be a spring campout with unpredictable weather. Scouts should watch the weather forecast and pack for the weather accordingly. Every Scout should be sure to bring his Boy Scout Handbook (in a Ziploc bag), full rain gear, and cold weather gear, carryable WATER BOTTLE, mess kit, walking/hiking boots and extra boots. BE SURE TO LABEL GEAR! Also, don't forget to bring a set of clothes dedicated for the caving expedition and HEAD LAMPS with extra batteries. No caving clothes will be allowed into adult leaders' POVs, unless they are enclosed in a plastic trash bag.

**REGISTRATION:** The SPL will CALL their scouts for initial signup numbers. FINAL FRIDAY is on April 20 after signups are confirmed at the April 16 Troop meeting.

**PERMISSION SLIPS/MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Current BSA Medical Forms are required. Part A, B, and C must be dated on or after April 30, 2017. Any special medical information will be collected Friday before departure. Contact Mrs. Dyke if you have any questions.

Parents must sign the [Wild Guyde Permission slips](#), print them out and turn them into the CSM, Mr. Richardson by Final Friday. The medical portion of the WG permission slip does not need to be filled out if the scout's BSA Medical Forms; parts A, B, and C. The BSA medical forms are required.

**ADULT LEADERS & PARENTS:** Kenny Bristow Jr. is the SPL and Mr. Paul Richardson is the Campout SM for the weekend.

**QUESTIONS??** Check the website ([troop200.net](http://troop200.net)) for the most up to date info, call your PL, or email [scoutmaster@troop200.net](mailto:scoutmaster@troop200.net) or [spl@troop200.net](mailto:spl@troop200.net) \*\*