



BIKEPACKING EXPERIENCE

SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE | GUIDE TO ADVENTURE

2022 PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT



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Equipment, route details, skills questions etc.

Associate Director of Outdoor Adventures- Thom Merkle

Email Address- Thom.Merkle@Scouting.org

Programs- Polaris ATV Experience, Bikepacking Experience

Activities- Mountain biking, BMX biking, Skateboarding, ATV

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Half hour webinars to prepare leaders for their crew's high adventure experience will be held leading up to the high adventure season. Webinars will start on the **3rd Monday of the month at 8:00pm** starting in **March and continue through April**. Call in and login instructions will be sent out each month.

The webinars will involve a 15-minute program and a 15-minute question and answer session. The invites will go out each month to the Contingent Advisors and the Crew Advisors we have in our system for each crew. If you have others that you would like to add, please forward them the invite.

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- 👉 P dufk- Program Design and Planning Guide Review, Equipment and Gear and Campsites
- 👉 Dsub- Roles of Adult and Youth Leadership Positions & Pre-Arrival Packet

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The Crew size for this program is a minimum of 8 people and a maximum of 12. This includes the minimum 2 BSA registered adult leaders aged 21 years of age or older. Co-ed crews must have co-ed adult leadership with 1 adult leader of each gender over 21.

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Each reservation is given a unique expedition number that will look something like **609-A-BT** or **624-B-BT**. The first 3 digits refer to your group's arrival date, 611 = June 11th. The first letter refers to the number of groups we have arriving on that date, A = The first group to confirm a reservation for June 11th. B = the 2nd group to confirm a reservation for June 11th. BT stands for Bikepacking Trip.

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Summit participants attending the Bikepacking Experience with a Chartered Unit or Council Contingent must be a registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or Venturer who is or will be at least 14 of age by the time of arrival to The Summit Bechtel Reserve for their Experience.

NOTE Do not request or expect exceptions. Requirements for Summit participation cannot be relaxed.

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In preparation for the Bikepacking trip, your unit should be ready to ride 12-16 miles of trail per day. We suggest getting the crew out for regular mountain bike rides of at least 10-20 miles.

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Interaction with quality staff members is always an important facet of any camp experience.

- 👤 **Bikepacking Director** the Director will provide leadership for the Bikepacking staff and manage logistics. Sometimes the Director will be acting as one of the instructors and sometimes will be in the background as support.
- 👤 **Bikepacking Instructors** the Instructors will greet your group upon arrival, help you settle into your campsite for the first night, lead you through a comprehensive gear shakedown and get you prepared for departure on Monday morning. The instructors will be with you for the entire trip. #

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- 👤 Will be trained on the processes and operations of The Summit Bechtel Reserve.
- 👤 Has received thorough training on leading groups Bikepacking through the New River Gorge.
- 👤 Will provide a comprehensive equipment shakedown.
- 👤 Will lead crew through the check in process.
- 👤 Will prepare crew for the week ahead.
- 👤 Will work through the youth leadership of the group.
- 👤 Will be at the closing program on Friday to present the youth crew leader with their crew's patches.
- 👤 Will be focused on helping to make your crews experience memorable and positive.

The Bikepacking staff ARE NOT crew leaders. This is a youth led experience and the Bikepacking Staff are here to be a resource for information, specific skill instruction and to encourage leadership development in the youth.

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Your program experience is 7 days from arrival to departure. Night 1 and 6 are spent at the Summit in Basecamp. Nights 2 through 5 are spend in 3 different campsites along the journey.

- 👤 **Day 1** Arrival, orientation, and shakedown day where it's time to get familiar with The Summit and ready for your Bikepacking trip. At some point during the day, you will get fitted for a bike and go through a general skills assessment.
- 👤 **Day 2** We start the day with riding a few miles on our Low Gear trails and finish our morning ride with a Big Zip ride just before lunch. We then pack our bike bags and get ready for the first night of our journey.
- 👤 **Day 3** In the morning we ride from camp to the historic railroad town of Thurmond WV, which is on the banks of the New River Gorge. After some site seeing and visiting a few of the mining site ruins we make our way back up the mountain to our next camping site at our River Run property. There is a short service project planned for either this evening or tomorrow afternoon depending on time and weather.
- 👤 **Day 4** The Whitewater River Day on the Lower New River Gorge! The group will be shuttled back down to the New River put-in for a ½ day whitewater trip then brough back to River Run for a 2nd night of camping at the top of the gorge.
- 👤 **Day 5** This will be our longest riding day where we pass a few more old mine sites on our way to the Town of Fayetteville where our last campsite is located.
- 👤 **Day 6** The final day of riding where we get the chance to explore the Arrowhead Trail System that was built by 1500 OA volunteers in 2012. We will finish our morning by riding to a beautiful vista at Long Point then into the historic town of Fayetteville. After that, it's back to the SBR for some well-deserved R&R or evening programming.
- 👤 **Day 7** Departure Day

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Groups with personal vehicles should store all personal gear not taken on the trip in their locked vehicles. If you have temperature sensitive items or valuable items you don't wish to leave in your vehicle, work with the Staff to make safe and secure accommodations.

Groups traveling via planes, trains and shuttle vehicles will not have personal vehicles to store items. More extensive secure storage will be made available to these groups. Work with the Staff to make safe and secure accommodations.

Because of limited storage space all groups should limit as much as possible items that need secure temperature-controlled storage. Electronics would be a good example of these types of items.

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Regarding non-essential items like cameras, GPS units, binoculars etc. it is pretty simple: **If it's going to break your heart or your wallet to lose it, don't take it on the trip.** Any items like these that you decide to take with you make sure you have the protective equipment to keep them safe.

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While camping on the trip you will stay backpacking style tents. It is important to note that cots will not be at the Bikepacking campsites. Backpacking style sleeping pads are recommended. Tents, Water, Camping Gear, Food, and personal gear will be transported on your bicycle.

NOTE NO FOOD IS ALLOWED TO BE STORED IN YOUR TENT.

CAMPsites

There are several campsite options that will be utilized along the New River Gorge National River. The instructors and Crew Leader will discuss campsite options and amenities at each site to determine the best plan for the crew.

NOURISHMENT

You will receive three meals a day during your trip. Breakfast and Dinner will be prepared and consumed at the campsites. Lunch will be prepared at the campsite and consumed at some point during the day along the ride. Meals will typically be backpacking trail food with some perishables on the layover day. For Special Dietary Needs see section below.

We will use backpacking style stoves, pots and pans and basic kitchen cooking utensils at the campsites to prepare breakfast and dinner. Youth will prepare, cook, serve, and clean up meals under the guidance of the Staff and Adult Leaders.

You will need to provide your own mess kit. This should include Bowl, Knife, Spoon and/or Fork (or spork). We will have the pots, pans, "large kitchen" items etc., so no need for you to bring those. This doesn't need to be complicated or expensive, but it does need to last the duration of the trip. Check out this website for some inexpensive ideas. <https://scoutmastercg.com/a-really-highly-evolved-mess-kit-2/>

PERSONAL GEAR STORAGE

During your gear Shakedown, everyone will be handed a series of bikepacking bags to store their personal gear in. This will include Sleeping Bag, toiletries, clothing etc. Two of these are dry bags and the others are rain resistant. Everything should fit into these bags for the trip. Total space in these bags is about 30-40 liters, which is less than most expedition style backpacks and more like a lightweight backpacking style trip. Take this into account when packing your gear to bring along. You should bring along a hydration pack with capacity for at least 3 liters of water.

Should you have any medications that require cold storage we will not be able to accommodate those needs while on the trip. For all vital medications, it is highly recommended that you bring twice what you would need for the duration of the trip. One batch goes with you on the trip. One batch will stay with the Health Lodge at the Summit in case of any unforeseen accidents.

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The programs at the Paul R. Christen High Adventure are designed as HIGH ADVENTURE which means there will be a challenging physical aspect to the program.

A couple things you will be doing a lot of at The Summit is hiking and biking. The Summit is located in West Virginia, the MOUNTAIN STATE. This means that you will be riding and hiking trails of varying elevations and grades while at The Summit. Take this into consideration when selecting routes for your preparation rides. Brand new shoes hurt feet the worst. Break them in prior to arrival.

During your trip, you will ride about 12-16 miles a day. You can prepare for this by riding mountain bikes off-road 10-20 miles or on-road 20-40 miles at least once a week. There are 3 long steep climbs with about 1000 ft. of elevation gain along the route, so try riding up steep hills also. Some people will choose to get off their bikes and push up the long hills. This is completely okay.

If you do not have access to bikes or trails, then prepare by hiking, running, and doing core exercises. Hiking is always a great way to get in shape.

Remember the goal, when planning your physical preparation exercises try to do them as a group. This will accelerate the bonding experience and truly pay dividends when you are on your ride. Encourage participants to get up big hills, even if it means walking their bike.

Participants who want to attend The Summit but do not currently meet the BMI requirements listed in the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record should consult with their physician regarding a safe and healthy plan for weight loss.

A "Preparation Ride" is still a ride, and the safety precautions you take on any ride should be taken on your preparation rides. The following are some guidelines you should follow when riding as a group or with a buddy. #

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Review Appendix 1 for a detailed list of Equipment. The equipment is broken down into personal gear, crew gear and equipment provided by The Summit. Personal gear and crew gear are the responsibility of the participant and crew. **It is strongly suggested that label your belongings.** The equipment provided by The Summit will be issued upon arrival and checked back into The Summit at the end of the week. The Summit expects the same diligent care of our equipment that you will give to your personal and crew equipment.

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Flat soled mountain bike shoes are ideal. However, skate shoes or trainers will also work. Inappropriate footwear includes boots, sandals, and water shoes.

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One of the most important decisions you will make in preparation for your trip is what you bring to wear while on the trail. We hope for beautiful bluebird sunshine days for everyone during their ride, however Mother Nature sometimes has other plans. If you are appropriately dressed, you will stay as comfortable as possible in even the worst conditions. Below is some information and guidelines to support you when making decisions on your clothing selections.

The Bikepacking season from June to August is considered **summer** in the New River Gorge. Always check weather forecasts prior to arrival and adjust as needed.

NOTE Do not wear cotton items on the trip, such as socks, sweatshirts, or blue jeans. Cotton holds water and wicks warmth away from your body.

It is simple in the summer when the sun is out. The temperatures are warm so your main concern will be to protect yourself from the sun. A wicking t-shirt or jersey and a pair of nylon shorts is a good base layer. A long-sleeve synthetic shirt or light windbreaker is good to have in case of a sudden shower or temperature change. You will have room in your bags for your extra layer. A hat, sun block, sunglasses (must fit snugly), disposable camera and you are good to go.

Cycling specific clothing should include a pair (maybe 2 pair) of **chamois shorts**. These are padded shorts specifically made for cycling that will keep you comfortable for long days on the saddle. They can be worn either by themselves or under a pair of cycling shorts. We also encourage you to bring a pair of cycling specific full finger **gloves**.

Rain gear should include pants and a jacket. Cycling specific rain gear is ideal, but not necessary.

- 🐾 **Base Layer** Polypropylene, Capilene, Thermax and thermion are some of different types of synthetic long underwear that is available. Anyone who does anything outdoors should invest in a set. It is indispensable for hiking, biking, skiing, water sports, gardening or just staying comfortable in a chilly house. These fabrics are designed to wick moisture away from your body. They are hydrophobic, meaning they do not absorb water; rather they transfer it to your outer layers where it can evaporate keeping your core more comfortable. Silk long underwear is available and feels great, but it is not as effective as synthetics.
- 🐾 **Mid Layer** Next, you'll want to add a layer of fleece or pile. These are thicker and fluffier than your base layer and supply insulation and warmth. Made from synthetic fibers, they will not absorb nearly as much water as natural fibers. Wool provides some insulation when it gets wet but not as much. Cotton is an absolute no-no. It will make you cold. We guarantee it. Leave that sweatshirt at home or save it for snuggling into after your trip.
- 🐾 **Outer Layer** The purpose of this layer is to block the water. It can take several forms. Cycling rain jackets are ideal because they have an extra tail that prevents water from reaching your sensitive core. Waterproof-breathable (such as Gore-Tex) or coated nylon rain shells work well too. Ponchos will not work while riding.
- 🐾 **Socks and Hats** If your feet are warm, your whole body will be warm. We recommend lightweight cycling socks. The next best thing is wearing lightweight wool or synthetic socks. For your head, a lightweight cycling or skiing beanie will keep you warm. There will be room under your helmet for a thin hat.
- 🐾 **Safety equipment** The Summit provides all required program and safety equipment such as helmets, pads, PFDs, ear protection, harnesses, etc. Do not bring your own safety equipment. The Summit knows the history of the equipment being used.
- 🐾 **Closed toed shoes** All Summit activities require closed toed shoes for participation.
- 🐾 **The Summit Trading Post** We all know the motto of the BSA is **Be Prepared**. We also all know that no matter how hard you try someone is going to forget something. The Summit Trading Post will be stocked with many of the items on the equipment list that are crucial for participation. If the Trading Post is out of an item, The Summit staff will assist participants with purchasing crucial items from a retailer in the local area.
- 🐾 **Custom Crew T-Shirts-** In 2021, you will be able to order custom crew t-shirts directly from The Summit Trading post. Details on ordering and pricing will be released in January of 2021.

The Summit will provide bikes, bikepacking bags, maps, a dining fly, cooking equipment, water purification equipment, and a first aid kit.

- 🐾 You will need to bring 1 backpacking style **tent** per 2 campers. The tent will be carried by both campers, one will get the fly and poles, the other will have the tent and stakes.
- 🐾 You are required to bring your own hydration pack with capacity for at least 3 liters of water. If you desire, you can add more additional gear space by bringing a larger hydration pack.
- 🐾 You can bring your own equipment such as bikes, bikepacking bags, cooking equipment, etc. However, we cannot guarantee that our equipment will match up to your equipment, such as our bikepacking bags fitting appropriately on your bike.

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Code:

*- available at trading post

S- Share with buddy

F-Female participants

O- Optional

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	Codes	Check
Personal Clothing				
lightweight hat	1	for cool mornings and nights	O	
socks	2-3 pairs	Cycling specific socks are nice, but other thin wool or synthetic socks will do	*	
underwear	3	Moisture wicking, no cotton or nylon	*	
base layer	1	Moisture wicking, no cotton or nylon		
camp pants	1	lightweight, no heavy jeans	*, O	
cycling/chamois shorts	1-2	One or both, may be built together. Chamois are highly encouraged.		
rain pants	1	lightweight and sturdy, cycling specific is nice, but not necessary	*	
rain jacket	1	cycling specific is nice but not necessary	*	
lightweight mid-layer	1	wool or fleece pullover	*	
shirt - short sleeve	2	moisture wicking, no cotton	*	
sports bra	2	synthetic or wool	F	
cycling gloves	1 pair	full finger encouraged		
Personal Sleep System				
sleeping bag	1	less than 5 pounds packable in a compression sack	*	
sleeping pad	1	air or lightweight self-inflating, needs to roll or stuff instead of z-fold	O	
Footwear				
Flat-soled shoes	1	flat soled mountain bike shoes ideal, skate style shoes or sport trainers okay.		
Personal Equipment				
Backpacking style tent (2-person)	1	To be shared between 2 scouts. Light weight is best and consider YPT when pairing scouts		
hydration pack - 3 L bladder	1	Ideally a cycling specific hydration pack with capacity for at least 3 liters of water		
1-liter bottle	1	1 L or 32 oz. Water bottle, "Nalgene" style	*	
gal. zip lock bags	6-12	For organization and extra waterproofness		
small stuff sacks	2-3	pack/organize personal items	*, O	
bowl	1	deep bowl, lightweight material		
mug/cup	1	lightweight material	O	
spoon/spork	1	lightweight sporks are popular		
flashlight/headlamp	1	lightweight, durable, and extra batteries	*	
compass	1		*	
money	\$60			
lip balm	1	w/ SPF-25 or greater	*	
soap	1	Biodegradable	*, S	
toothbrush	1	trial size	*	
toothpaste	1	trial size	*, S	
deodorant	1	trial size		
camp towel	1	small, quick dry	*, O	
tampon/pads			*, F	

personal medication		enough for duration of trip		
sunglasses	1	durable and fit securely on face, need to stay on while riding over rough terrain	*	
watch	1		O	
camera	1	bring a memory card and extra batteries or a disposable camera	S	
whistle	1			
chamois cream/body powder	1		O	
notepad & pen	1		O	
Equipment Provided by Crew				
matches/lighter	3-4			
sewing repair kit	1			
backpacking stove	2-3	know how to use – 1 stove per 4 participants		
fuel bottle	2			
duct tape	1	small amount for trail repairs		*
spices		extra flavor for cooking	O	
nylon cord	3	50' x 1/8"		
sunscreen	2-3	SPF 25 or higher		*
insect repellent	2	no aerosol		*,
water purifiers/filters	1-2	optional	O	
multi-tool	1-2			
trowel/shovel	1			
toilet paper	1-2			
Issued By SBR				
map set	2			
Dining Fly	1			
nesting pot set	2-3			
cutlery kit	1			
hot pot tongs	1			
plastic trash bags	10			
water purification tablets 30 CT pack	10	1 tablet treats 1 L of water		
nylon rope 100' x 1/4"	1			
Water filter system	1	Mostly for emergencies, there is water at each campsite		
first aid kit	1			
red light	1	clip-on red blinking rear taillight w/ batteries		
Bike & set of bikepacking bags	1 per person	Bringing your own equipment is allowed, but please contact Wheeled Sports Program manager first		
Helmet	1 per person			