



Ockanickon Scout Reservation Parents' Guide 2020

Ockanickon Scout Reservation
5787 State Park Rd
Pipersville, PA 18947
Phone: 215-297-5290
www.ockanickon.org

Washington Crossing Council
One Scout Way
Doylestown, PA 18901
Phone: 215-348-7205
www.bsawcc.org

Welcome to Ockanickon Scout Reservation!

Hello Parents!

Sending your scouts to Ockanickon was a great decision! You will find that sending them to camp will be very easy. This guide was put together to help you along with your unit to prepare for their stay at Ockanickon. Ockanickon is one of the most enrolled Scouts BSA camps in the Northeast Region. This was no accident; we have a program for everyone to take part in. The diversity of our badges and activities offered are numerous. There's something for everyone here at Ockanickon.

We hope that the pre-camp planning process will be easy for you and your Scout(s). Please if questions arise use your troop leadership as a resource for reaching out to the council. This will help to alleviate the many calls and emails we get during the day.

We look forward to a great camping season with your scouts!!

Yours in Scouting,

Charles Kinsky
Program Director



Tips for Parents of First Time Campers

- 1) You both need time to adjust. One of the worst things you can say is “If you don’t like it, call me and I’ll come get you”. If they ask, “Will you miss me?” instead of just saying yes! Say “I can’t wait to hear about all of the amazing things you did!”
- 2) Packing tip ~ each outfit will very likely fit in a gallon-size plastic Ziplock bag. This will keep it dry if their bag falls out of the tent on a rainy day and gives them no excuse not to put on fresh underwear.
- 3) Mail out a letter before they even leave, keeping it positive. Don’t include things like “the house is lonely” or “I’m sad you’re not here”. Reassure them that you can’t wait to hear about their fantastic week.
- 4) Kiss them goodbye and leave quickly. Dragging out your departure is not good for your emotional stability or your Scout’s.
- 5) Your Scout’s summer camp experience is an opportunity for growth and independence! They will be stronger for it.

Camp Planning in 4 Easy Steps

Step 1: Read this Guide entirely. Even if your Scout has been to OSR before, there are always some changes and new programs that he or she will need to know about. This guide will explain many of those in detail. If it is your Scout’s first time, this guide will be invaluable.

Step 2: Get Organized. Organization before camp is critical. OSR offers a complex program - Scouts must make choices regarding what they want to accomplish during their time in camp and let their unit leader know early.

Step 3: Ask questions. If you are unsure of anything, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your unit leadership. Parents’ questions should be directed to Unit Leaders to streamline communications with Council Camp Staff.

Step 4: Help us help you. The OSR staff has built the camp’s reputation based on a very cooperative working relationship with parents and leaders. We will all work together to give your Scout the best possible experience at summer camp.

How to Contact Us

Due to the sheer volume of phone calls that come into our camping office, we ask that you attempt to use alternative methods for answering your questions before calling the Council Service Center. **Parents - we ask that you call a leader with questions, not the Service Center.** A leader who can ask several questions at once and reduce the number of calls is preferred and is a tremendous help in providing timely service. *As well, if your Scout is attending with his troop, all payments must be made through them. We do not accept any credit card payments for summer camp.*

If your Scout is coming without his/her troop (attending as a Provisional Scout), contact us by:

- 1) Our Web site, www.ockanickon.org, has extensive information, including this entire guide and more.
- 2) E-mail - The easiest way to get in contact with the camping department is to email Charles Kinsky the Program Director at Charles.Kinsky@scouting.org.
- 3) Telephone -The Council Camping Department can be reached at **215-348-7205, extension 307.**

Camp Arrival

Camp Orientation & Tour

A staff guide will meet your troop upon your arrival in Camp and accompany you to your campsite. All gear will be transported to the campsite at this time. A camp orientation tour will then be conducted by the Staff Guide. Everyone in the Troop is **required by National Standard** to participate in this tour even if they are veterans of Camp.

Medical Recheck

The Health Officer or a designee will review all medical forms and any medication during the first few hours the Scouts are in camp. If any Scout or adult has any special needs due to medical or physical disabilities, please notify the Health Officer and Camp Director at least 2 weeks prior to your arrival at camp.

Swim Check & Wristbands

A swim check and explanation of rules will take place at Aquatics. Rules will be enforced by Aquatics staff throughout the week. Buddy Tags will be issued at this time. Scouts and leaders will receive a wristband, which must be worn all week. Late arrivals will need to register with the camp office, turn in medical form, and receive a wristband and/or swim test.

Opening Campfire

The opening campfire, put on by the staff, is the final event of the day. It will begin in the campfire circle immediately following retreat.

Showers

Female Showers: There is a female only shower house next to the health lodge. There are also two unisex shower houses with all private shower stalls. One is next to the Climbing Tower and the other next to the Science Center.

Male Showers: There is a male only shower house attached to the pool. There are also two unisex shower houses with all private shower stalls. One is next to the Climbing Tower and the other next to the Science Center.

Latrines

Each campsite at OSR has a latrine in it with all private stalls. There is a public latrine next to the Palmer Lodge. There are also other public porta-potties placed behind the dining hall and by scoutcraft.

Flag Ceremonies

We have our daily muster at 8:15 am every morning. Troop are encouraged to come muster with the staff but are not required. At the end of the day at 6:15 pm, we hold our daily retreat. All troops are required to attend in the full field uniform.

Trading Post

Ockanickon's trading post is in front of Palmer Lodge. The Trading Post is fully stocked with plenty of snacks, games, toys, camping gear and OSR merchandise. There is no specific amount of money a Scout should bring to camp, but on the average, Scouts spend between \$35 and \$50. We do accept all major credit cards except American Express. We have a \$10 minimum for all card purchases.

Care Packages

Along with our trading post we also offer a care package program. Parents who wish to send their scout a care package can send them one through our trading post. You will be able to select what day it is to be delivered and the contents put into it. The online care package order form will not open until May 2. It will be located on the camp website, www.Ockanickon.org .

Leaving Camp During the Week

Anyone leaving camp during the scheduled camp session must sign out at the Camp Office. Scouts may not leave camp property with anyone who is not listed on their med form as being allowed to take the scout off property. Please understand when you are signing a Scout out from camp, a unit leader must be present, the scout must be present and the person taking scout off property must be present with ID. If all of these are not present, the Scout will not be permitted to leave camp.

Communications While at Camp

Telephone

Parents should not use the camp telephone for anything but emergencies or camp business. The camp number is 215-297-5290.

Cell Phones

Ockanickon does not have a cell phone policy. We leave this up to the discretion of the troop leadership. We are not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices. We do have a charging station for adult leaders in Totem Lodge.

Internet Access

There is no internet access available for scouts.

Mailing address

Mail is delivered Monday through Saturday. Each troop has a mailbox in the Camp office for incoming and outgoing mail. If you are planning on mailing items to your scout, it should be sent at least 3-4 days ahead of when you want them to receive it. All mail should be labeled as follows:

Scouts Name, Troop, Council, Campsite, Week Attending Camp
Ockanickon Scout Reservation, WCC
5787 State Park Rd
Pipersville, PA 18947



Rules of the Reservation

The Scout Oath and Law

Deliberate damage to camp property will result in the person or persons responsible being sent home immediately without return of fee in part or whole. The cost to replace damaged camp property may be included in the troop's bill upon or after checkout.

Heading Home

Parents should be in communication with their unit leaders about pick up time, which is generally immediately following the closing retreat Saturday. Scouts must pack their gear and be ready for inspection prior to parent's arrival. In case of issues, please touch base with your unit leader immediately to arrange alternate transportation for your Scout.

Visitors in Camp

Ockanickon has a very strict **NO VISITORS** policy. Parents are welcome to accompany the scout(s) on Sunday during drop off, and Saturday during pick up. Troops may be granted permission for other registered leaders and committee members to come to camp for a brief time to perform a board of review, troop meeting, court of honor or other troop-based activity. All visitors must have a scout purpose when in camp. All troop visitors must be cleared through the camp administration.



Packing List

In addition to the following, be sure to check specific requirements for Program and Merit Badges you are taking.

Recommended Personal Equipment

Backpack / footlocker / duffle bag

Sleeping bag

Field uniform (class A)

Swimsuit

Jacket / fleece / sweatshirt

Hiking Boots (waterproof)

Pants / shorts / zip-offs (6 days)

Rain gear / Sunscreen (non-aerosol only)

Shoes that can get wet (req'd if boating/rafting)

Sneakers or 2nd pair of boots

Socks (6 days +)

Underwear (6 days)

T-shirts (6 days)

Flashlight or headlamp & extra batteries

Insect repellent (non-aerosol only)

Merit badge prerequisites & pamphlets

Other essential toiletries

Pen / pencil / notebook

Scout handbook

Personal first aid kit

Soap / shampoo / deodorant

Toothbrush/toothpaste

Towels and washcloths

Spending money

Watch

Water Bottle / hydro pack



Medical Information

Medical Forms

All Scouts and adults are required to have a physical examination by a physician within 12 months prior to attending camp. Submitted forms must include immunization history, with inoculation dates. **Those without a completed medical cannot be permitted to stay for more than 72 hours or take part in high adventure activities (pool, lake, climbing, endurance crew, ATV cycling, mountain boarding and COPE) until we have the proper forms.** The BSA has an updated AHMR form as of 2019, the link can be found at www.bsawcc.org/resources/forms.

Health Lodge

OSR has a fully staffed health lodge that is in operation every day the camp is open. We have a Paramedic and two EMTs joining us this year on staff. They are supervised by our council medical supervisor who is a licensed Physician at our local hospital. Our council medical supervisor creates all the orders that the staff follow to deliver care. Our council medical supervisor is consulted on anything that falls out of those orders

Medications and Allergies

Everyone, youth or adult, who uses any medication (prescription or OTC), must ensure that they bring enough medication for their entire stay. **All medications for youth must be in their original containers.**

While in camp, all medications must be held either by the camp health officer or locked in a solid locking container by the troop leadership. Emergency medication, such as heart medication, inhalers, and EpiPen's can be held by individuals after being logged by the Health Office. Please ensure that your Scouts bring all their normal medications to camp. A week at camp is not the time to experiment with not taking medications. The adult leaders going to camp must familiarize themselves with each Scout's medical information. **Camp leaders must be familiar with any allergies or special health conditions.** Ensure that they are marked clearly on each Scout's medical form.

Allergies and Special Diets

Scouts who have allergies that require them to carry an EpiPen or inhaler should plan to do so at camp. If the scout brings an extra EpiPen or inhaler these should be stored for safekeeping in the Health Lodge. Scouts that need an alternate diet while in camp should complete the special diet and allergy reporting form online 2 weeks before their arrival to camp. This form can be found at this link <https://forms.ockanickon.org/view.php?id=38860> .

Please make sure your Scout knows they still need to check in with the food service director on the day of their arrival to confirm the information is correct.



Helping Your Scout Pick Merit Badges for Camp:

Choosing a merit badge to take while at OSR can be a tricky process. We offer so many options that it can be hard to decide. Look at our Merit Badge Schedule online at <https://bit.ly/31IVl5E> . All the merit badges are separated by department offered in and then by time. We recommend not pushing your scout to take more than 6 badges during the week. Allow them to have time to explore the camp and the experience other activities OSR has to offer. Once your scout decides what badges they want to take, you and your scout should look at our “2020 Merit Badges & Prerequisites” document at <https://bit.ly/3bohHmJ> . Confirm what, if any pre-reqs are listed for the merit badges your scout wants to take. If the badge is a lottery badge the lottery sign up will not open until after May 2nd. Please make sure to register for the lottery badge no later than 2 weeks before your arrival at camp. After that deadline the lottery will be drawn, and the email provided during the registration will be notified of the results. If you are planning to take Horsemanship Merit Badge or CPR, please note that these have extra cost involved with them. They will be listed separately, and you will need to pay the cost of the badge online during registration.

The Dan Beard Program:

Dan Beard is our 1st year camper program for new scouts. It is designed to give new scouts an opportunity to earn several rank requirements from Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class. It also gives the scouts a chance to earn Swimming Merit Badge. Those scouts who can complete the BSA Swim Assessment will take swimming merit badge. Those who are not able to complete it will take instructional swim during this time to work on their swimming ability to be able to pass the BSA Swim Assessment. They will be working in patrols and learning about different scout skills as well, such as fire building, knot tying, knife skills, axe skills, saw skills and first aid.

Dan Beard is an all-day program and scouts are required to attend both sessions during the day.

Ages and Stages

It is the goal of the Scouts BSA program to offer appropriate challenges for each age group. Participating in an activity well above or below a scout's ability level often leads to disappointment. When advising your scout(s) on which badges and activities to participate, please take into consideration the subject matter that is being covered in the badge and the ability level of your scout(s).

Provisional Camping

Here at Ockanickon we have a program called the Provisional Camper Program. This program allows scouts who can't attend with their whole troop to attend on their own. They will be housed with another pre-existing troop for the week. Scouts who wish to attend OSR more than once in the summer will receive a discounted rate for their stay. These prices can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/3bvDGbv>.

Partial Merit Badges

Sometimes at camp scouts are unable to complete the badges that they take. This could be for several reasons like missing a session, not completing pre-reqs or not being able to do a requirement. In these cases, scouts are issued a partial. This is a merit badge card that has the requirements completed signed off, but the ones not completed are left blank. If you scout receives a partial there are a couple ways to finish partials you can find a counselor close to home to finish the badge with. You can finish at another Scouts BSA camp you are attending, or you can make an appointment with the OSR Program Director to return before the end of the camping season to complete the badge. If you are going to schedule an appointment with the Program Director you should email him at Charles.Kinsky@scouting.org , or call the camp office and ask to schedule an appointment with the Program Director.

Admin Staff Contact:

Todd Warner

Camp Director

Todd.Warner@scouting.org

215-348-7205 ex 318

Charles Kinsky

Program Director

Charles.Kinsky@Scouting.org

215-348-7205 ex 307

Michelle Cathers

Reservations and Business Manager

Michelle.Cathers@Scouting.org

215-348-7205 ex 305

James McCabe

Assistant Camp Director Logistics

James.McCabe@Scouting.org

Please call Council Service Center

Josh Kuhns

Ranger

Josh.Kuhns@Scouting.org

Please call Council Service Center

Russell Abernathy and Christian Porcu

Assistant Program Directors

Program@Ockanickon.org

Please call the Council Service Center

