



FACT SHEET

The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve

The New River Gorge region of West Virginia will become home to a premier Scouting destination – offering a new high-adventure base and national leadership programs, and a permanent home to the National Scout Jamboree. The 10,600-acre site near Beckley, to be named “**The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve**,” will realize the vision of a national center of Scouting excellence. The development of the site is made possible by a \$50 million gift, the largest in BSA history, from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

“The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve” will help the BSA fulfill its mission of serving America’s youth for another 100 years, providing character-building opportunities, a respect and appreciation for the outdoors, physical fitness, and leadership development. With its extensive and diverse program offerings, the site will become a pinnacle of the Scouting experience.

About the National Scout Jamboree

The National Scout Jamboree is the BSA’s iconic event, and one of the most gratifying experiences a Scout can have. Since 1937, the jamboree has provided an occasion for Scouts from all backgrounds, faiths, cultures, and parts of the country to come together around shared values, and to gain invaluable learning experiences through adventure activities. A few facts about the jamboree:

- The jamboree is 10 days long, and occurs every four years. The celebration in 2010 was moved to coincide with the BSA’s 100th Anniversary.
- The jamboree program reflects the skills of Scouting — physical fitness, environmental conservation, our national heritage, and the true spirit of Scouting.
- A wide variety of activities are available during the jamboree, including rappelling, discovering scuba, kayaking, rafting and sailing, trap shooting, archery, bike-a-thons, buckskin games, confidence courses, conservation trail, and more.
- In 2005, the jamboree was attended by 29,000 Scouts, and 12,000 staff and leaders.

About BSA National High-Adventure Bases

The existing three national high-adventure bases at Philmont, Northern Tier, and Florida Sea Base are the foremost opportunities for excitement and adventure for Scouts. While experiencing the outdoor adventure of a lifetime, Scouts develop important leadership skills, engage in fellowship, and enhance their environmental stewardship. Each year, the high-adventure bases serve more than 50,000 youth – with 20,000 more wait-listed. A new high-adventure site in West Virginia not only helps to meet the tremendous demand for adventure activities, but provides the opportunity for completely new programs not offered elsewhere.

- Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts of America’s premier high-adventure base, challenges Scouts with more than 200 square miles of rugged New Mexico wilderness.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- The Northern Tier is located in one of the most remote and beautiful parts of the country, and offers canoeing, hiking, fishing, and winter camping around the lakes of northern Minnesota and southern Canada.
- At the Florida Sea Base, Scouts find snorkeling, scuba, boating, and beach camping among the many possibilities in the Florida Keys.

About the Site Selection Process

A national call for proposals for the new jamboree site elicited 80 proposals from 28 states. A three-phase, systematic review and assessment process lasting more than 18 months, aimed at finding the perfect location for realizing the vision for a world-class, national center of Scouting excellence. Among other criteria, potential sites were to:

- Have spectacular natural beauty
- Have water for recreational activities
- Be at least 5,000 acres and available for donation, long-term lease (100-plus years), or sale
- Be within 25 miles of an interstate or a four-lane divided highway
- Be within 150 miles of a commercial service airport with medium or large hub status
- Be in an area with adequate medical services
- Be accessible year-round via standard modes of transportation

About the Boy Scouts of America

Serving more than 4.1 million youth between the ages of 7 and 20, with more than 300 councils throughout the United States and its territories, the BSA is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. The Scouting organization comprises 1.2 million volunteers, whose dedication of time and resources has enabled the BSA to remain the nation's leading youth-serving organization. For more information on the BSA, please visit www.scouting.org.

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