

Update

Things are firming up on the Washington DC Trip!

The Planning Committee met again last night. We expect to have the final triplist, with itinerary, available by the end of the week.

Below are the highlight points discussed:

The trip will be open to families and siblings, with some conditions:

Adults attending the trip, *MUST be a paid BSA registered leader. An Adult Application will have to be submitted, and YPT Training completed for each adult attending the trip, who is not already a registered leader. Adults will be registered with Troop 81 as "Troop Committee Members," and their official Troop Position will be "Chaperone." This is to remain compliant with BSA Youth Protection Rules effective Sept 1, which require any adult attending an overnight event, be a registered BSA leader, and have a completed background check with YPT training.*

Siblings under the age of 18 *are welcome to join us on the trip, but must be of Scouting age (11 - 17 years old). This is designed to limit distractions of younger siblings, who need a different level of care, and attention, from the older scouts attending the trip. Any sibling attending is also required to have a parent attend the trip.*

The initial cost was set at \$800 per person, but with fund-raising and donations, we hope to knock that number way down.

That cost is based on 25 people, but if we have 36 people make the trip, that number goes down to \$425 per person!

Troop 219 has 11 scouts and adults committed to joining us on the trip. That makes that magic 36-person number MUCH easier to attain.

The Troop has already spent \$4,300.00 in deposits for the bus, and cabin at Camp Snyder. We need to start payments, in order to defray these costs from the Troop's account.

We would like to start collecting payments for the trip starting May 1, with the following payment schedule.

May 1: \$75.00 - Initial Deposit

June 1: \$100.00 - Second Payment

July 1: \$100.00 - Third Payment

August 1: \$100.00 - Fourth Payment

September 1: Remaining amount (if any)

As always, I am available anytime to answer questions.

Can't wait for October. This is going to be an amazing adventure for Troop 81.

Original Message

We wanted to update everyone on our planned trip to Washington DC over Fall Break. The planning committee has met over the past three months, and we have a lot of info to share. This is NOT a triplist. Some of the info below is tentative, and subject to change.

When: Sunday 10/01/2023 through Saturday 10/07/2023

Lodging: Camp Snyder, 6100 Antioch Rd, Haymarket, VA 20169

Transportation: Roadrunner Charter Bus (56 seats) / Washington DC Metro
Meals: Provided
Itinerary : TBD, but some items listed below
Cost: Approximately \$800 per person

Details:

When : Sunday 10/01 through Saturday 10/07, 2023

We decided that three days / 4 nights would not give us enough time to enjoy all the many available opportunities to the Troop. We originally planned to depart Tuesday 10/03, and return Saturday 10/07 (leave Tuesday / return Saturday). We have decided to extend the trip by two days, so we will have more time to do things. We will depart Sunday 10/01, and return Saturday 10/07.

Lodging: Camp Snyder, 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket VA 20169 -

<https://www.gotosnyder.org/>

We will be staying at a BSA Camp, located 20 miles from Washington DC. We will be staying in a group cabin. Each cabin has a large main room with 14 bunk beds that accommodate 28 as well as two private bedrooms with 2 bunk beds each. Each cabin holds up to 36 people. The dining and work area is in the center of the main room. A single restroom in each cabin adds an extra level of comfort. A nearby shower house is available for your use. *Linens are not provided.*

Transportation: RoadRunner Charters - <https://www.roadrunnercharters.com/coach-bus>

We will utilize a 56 seat charter bus from Roadrunner Transportation for most of our travel needs. The bus will STAY with the Troop, providing transportation to Washington DC, and the surrounding area, for the duration of the trip. This is a huge benefit, as we will have reliable / exclusive transportation available at all times. The troop will be responsible for the driver's hotel room during the trip.

Transportation: Washington DC Metro - <https://www.wmata.com/>

While we are in the District, all scouts will be issued a 3-day unlimited pass for the Washington DC Metro. This allows unlimited access to train and bus transportation to all the locations inside the District that we will visit.

Meals:

Breakfast and Dinner will be at the cabin in Camp Snyder. Lunch will be a sacked lunch prepared each morning, and carried in the Scout's daypack. The cabin has a kitchen for meal preparation. We only need to bring cooking gear. We will have one dinner at a buffet style restaurant one night (TBD where / when).

Itinerary: LOTS of options / Scouts to decide from a list of options, with a few mandatory choices.

A list of locations / activities will be provided to the Scouts on a future date, and they will vote for the places they want to visit. There are several stops however, which are automatic parts of the itinerary, because of their cultural / historical significance.

Locations we will visit include :

- The Capitol Building
- White House
- Changing of the Guard, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery
- Monuments Tour
- Smithsonian Museums

Locations / Suggestions that will be voted on by the Scouts include, but are not limited to:

Supreme Court
Manassas National Military Battlefield
Mt Vernon
National Archives
Smithsonian Annex at Dulles Airport
Ford Theatre

Cost: \$800 per person

We arrived at a tentative cost of \$800 per person, based on 25 scouts and adults making the trip. That cost could go UP (if we have less than 25 people), or DOWN (if we have more than 25 people). There are 56 seats on the bus, and the more we fill, the less expensive the trip will be per scout. We hope to set up a payment schedule soon. We are also working on Fund Raising ideas. We are making a deposit of around \$2500.00 for the charter bus sometime next week.. We paid for the cabin at Snyder today (\$1500.00) ***In regards to family members (Mom, Dad, siblings), more details will be forthcoming. There are BSA rules in place for Youth Protection, on any Scouting activity longer than 72 hours. We are working through the details of those rules.***

I want to thank Alan Messler, Sarah McBride, Monica Staley, Gary Edgemon, and Lana Edgmon for their hard work on the planning committee. They have done a GREAT job getting everything together.