

## **Tuscarora Trail (TT) & Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT)**

**Saturday December 10 & Sunday December 11, 2005** as of 11/29/05

**OVERVIEW:** - For your hiking/biking/camping pleasure, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Carlton, along with your Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), has chosen: (Drum Roll)...**For the first time ever the Troop will hike a section of the famed Tuscarora Trail (TT).** The TT is a 250-mile trail that traverses Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia, on the mountains west of the better-known Appalachian Trail (AT). The TT connects with the AT at the TT's northern-most and southern-most termini. We will hike the section that traverses the entire state of Maryland, where the state is only 7 miles across. For more on the TT: Mr. Tillman and Mr. Rose will bore us at the Saturday night campfire with the TT's history, future, and other interesting, or not-so-interesting lore.

But first, on Saturday, **another Troop first (for those who choose this option), we will warm up by biking the Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT).** The WMRT is a 20-mile paved bike trail, along the Potomac River, paralleling the C&O Towpath, on the right-of-way of the abandoned Western Maryland Railroad, from Great Cacapon to Fort Frederick (western-most Maryland defense in the French and Indian War). Saturday there will also be a hiking option on the C&O Canal Towpath. Everyone starts at the same place – Hancock, and ends up at the same place – Licking Creek Camp (a hiker/biker camp on the C&O Canal Towpath). This is a most excellent campsite at a point where the C&O Canal crosses Licking Creek on an aqueduct. At this narrow passage, where Licking Creek feeds into the Potomac River, Licking Creek is crossed by the C&O Canal, its Towpath, the WMRT, I-70, and US 40 (the first “National Highway” used by British General Braddock and Major George Washington to move west to engage the enemy in the French and Indian War.) – all within 200 yards.

### **On Saturday there will be two itinerary choices:**

1. Biking: Hancock to Great Cacapon to Hancock to Licking Creek Camp, 28 miles on the WMRT.
2. Hiking: Hancock to Licking Creek Camp, 8 miles on the C&O Canal Towpath.

**On Sunday** we will hike the Tuscarora Trail North from Licking Creek Camp (the Maryland/West Virginia border on the Potomac River) to Pennsylvania. Shortly after crossing the Mason Dixon Line (Maryland/Pennsylvania border) we will be picked up by vehicles and whisked away to lunch at an excellent fast-food place.

The Licking Creek hiker/biker camp is an excellent camp – like the one we stayed at for the November trip, only this will be smaller and private – most likely we will be the only ones there. There is a fire ring, porta-john, picnic table, and level grassed area for 30 tents. The water pump has been winterized (shut off) so we will need to provide our water. There is an interesting aqueduct at that point on the towpath. There is vehicle access a short distance away (0.66 mi west). Moderate firewood is available next to the camp, but a saw is a must to harvest this for a campfire.

**TRANSPORTATION FEE:** \$5 except for Scouts whose parents drive



**Assemble:** 7:30 AM Saturday at Chevy Chase United Methodist Church (CCUMC). **Please be on time – there is much loading to be done.** **Depart:** Immediately upon loading all people, bikes, and equipment.

**Return:** 3:00 PM Sunday at CCUMC

**Emergency contact: Mr. Rose's cell phone 301-807-6441**

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**APPROVAL / PERMISSION SLIP**

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Approval/permission is granted by the parents/guardians of \_\_\_\_\_ for their son/Scout to participate in the activities of Troop 255, Chevy Chase, Maryland, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Approval/permission is granted to the adult members of Troop 255 to authorize treatment of the person named above in the event of an accident or emergency. Adult members of Troop 255 that authorize treatment of the person in the event of an accident or emergency shall be released from any or all liabilities.

Troop 255 will obtain required local and national tour permits.

This approval/permission is valid for the December 10 & 11, 2006 Tuscarora Trail Outdoor Camping Activity.

I can drive: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

If YES, I can carry \_\_\_\_\_ scouts including my own.

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Parent Signature	Parent Name (Print)	Date
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Please provide names & telephone numbers below for contact in case of emergency, urgency, or change of plans.

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