GOING TO VISIT A NATIONAL PARK?

A Word from the Chief Scout Executive

A Handbook for Boy Scout Jamboree Leaders, Issued by National Park Service

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FOREWORD

All of us in the National Park Service are glad that the 1953 Jamboree is going to give a good many thousand Boy Scouts from all parts of America a chance to get acquainted with one or more national parks and monuments. They will find themselves welcome; and I am certain that the park rangers and naturalists and historians will be particularly eager to see that their young guests have memorable and interesting experiences in the parks.

A most important part of our job, as custodians of the great scenic and historic places of our country (they are actually the property of all Americans), is to protect them against injury and misuse. To do it, we have to count on the help of those who visit these places; considering their interest in the out-of-doors, Boy Scouts are looked upon as protectors of all the natural features of these areas—the rocks, the trees and plants, the animals, the natural wonders, which combine to make these places the great possessions that they are.

The other most important part of our job is to do what we can to enable people to enjoy their property. It is our purpose in this booklet to give Boy Scout leaders and, through them, Boy Scouts themselves some guidance that will help make their visits in the various areas of the National Park System as enjoyable and satisfying as possible. We hope it will be useful. We hope, too, that all Scouts will have a good time; that they will gain knowledge and understanding; and that they will get from their national park experiences a deeper love of their great country than they ever had before.

Conrad L. Wirth
Director, National Park Service
Member, National Council,
Boy Scouts of America
A WORD FROM THE CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

The National Park Service has over the years extended every cooperation to the Boy Scouts of America. Many thousands of our Scouts and Explorers have visited the national parks and have profited by their experience. The Director of the National Park Service, Conrad L. Wirth, is a longtime friend of Scouting and a member of our National Camping Committee. His Service manages some 180 areas throughout the United States and in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In the National Park System are places of spectacular scenery; unusual examples of almost every natural process; the crumbling homes of the people who lived in America long before Christopher Columbus; and some are intimately connected with important events of American history or with those who have shaped the Nation's course.

In going to and from the 1953 Jamboree, many Scouts are going to be able to visit one or more of these places of wonder and inspiration. The National Park Service has generously indicated its desire to see to it that all of our boys and leaders who visit the national parks have a pleasant, worthwhile experience. From the Director to the park ranger in his forest-green uniform, Park Service employees are our friends and will go out of their way to be of help to you.

I do want to state that in visiting these parks we have a responsibility to demonstrate to the National Park Service that Scouts are conservation-minded and that their behavior is in accordance with the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. Remember, each Scout in uniform represents the Scout Movement. We hope and anticipate that reports which we will receive from the various parks will fully demonstrate that our leaders and Jamboree Scouts were courteous, thoughtful of others, mindful of the principles and practices of Scouting, and staunch protectors of the woods and waters and wildlife which have been set aside for the enjoyment and inspiration of all of us, of today and tomorrow.

I am sure you will be delighted with this pamphlet and also that you will meticulously follow the advice contained therein.

Arthur A. Schuck
Chief Scout Executive
IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS

for Boy Scout groups planning to visit any national park or monument

Plans of many groups of Boy Scouts going to the 1953 Jamboree indicate that, going or returning, they will spend a day or more in a national park. At some of the parks there will undoubtedly be several thousand Scout visitors during a relatively short period. Because of this, it is very desirable that superintendents of parks which Scout groups will visit have as full information as possible, at an early date as possible, regarding the time at which groups will arrive, and how long their stay will be.

Each tour group leader (the person in charge of the entire group, and responsible for arrangements) is urged to write to the park superintendent, giving him the following information:

1. The name, tour group number as assigned by the Regional Director of Transportation, and point of origin of the group.

2. The number of Boy Scouts and Explorers and the number of leaders who will comprise the group.

3. Kind of transportation the group will use to reach the park--train, chartered bus, regular bus, airplane, or private automobile.

4. For groups planning to stay overnight in any park--whether they wish to occupy hotel, lodge, or cabin accommodations or intend to camp out.

5. What the group would like to do during its stay.

With respect to overnight stays in the park, it is important to remember that the Jamboree is being held at the height of the summer travel season; that overnight accommodations, meal facilities, and camping facilities are limited; and that, for those reasons, some parks may be unable to provide for all groups wishing to visit them. In some parks it will be possible to provide additional temporary camping space and facilities for Scout groups; in others, this may not be possible.

The Matter of Safety. Much of the area of most of the Western national parks consists of rough, wild land--rougher and wilder than many Scouts from the Midwest or East will have experienced before, and containing kinds of wildlife to which they are not accustomed. Scouts and their leaders should note the following suggestions and observe them with the utmost care while in the parks:

The animals of the parks have become accustomed to the presence of human beings, but they are not tame animals. Black and grizzly bears, elk, bison, antelope, deer, moose, and other large animals are
all dangerous if molested; watch them from a safe distance but by all means leave them alone. Park regulations prohibit feeding, teasing, or molesting them; the primary reason for the regulations is safety.

Trail trips should be undertaken only under competent adult leadership; it is particularly important that nobody, youth or adult, undertake a hike in rough or mountainous country alone. Since there is always the possibility of injury in such country it is important that there be someone to go for help.

Scout groups on hikes should stick to the trails. In almost all cases, persons who have become lost, or who have been seriously or fatally injured, have been those who have wandered off the trails.

When hiking, avoid all shortcuts, even little ones. National park trails have been laid out for comfort and safety and to prevent erosion. Shortcutting, even between sections of switchbacks, quickly wears new trails and invites erosion; such shortcutting frequently results in starting rocks in motion, endangering persons down slope. In all circumstances, avoid rolling or throwing rocks.

The leader of any Scout group which plans to do any mountain climbing should consult a park ranger before undertaking such a venture. With respect to climbs of certain difficult peaks, this is required; however, it is good sense for all prospective climbs. The rangers know the country; they are equipped to give sound advice, which may sometimes be just "Don't do it!" Tell the ranger where you intend to go, and when you expect to be back; long delays in returning past the scheduled time will put him on notice that assistance or a search may be needed.

At Grand Canyon, leaders should remember that the first part of a hike down from the canyon rim is the easier part, and should avoid descents so great that any of the party may find the effort of climbing back again beyond his physical capacity.

In many of the western parks, the altitude of campgrounds, hotels, and trails is a mile or more above sea level. It takes a little while for heart and lungs to accustom themselves to this change in altitude, so overexertion should particularly be avoided.

The National Park System and Conservation. Conservation is usually defined as "wise use." The wise use for which the national parks and monuments have been established and are developed and managed is enjoyment and inspiration—the special kinds of enjoyment and inspiration that come from acquaintance with the finest samples of our country's natural scenery and from the sites and structures that are most meaningful in our history.

The law which established the National Park Service in 1916 required that it administer the national parks and monuments in such ways as to "leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." So, in the splendid scenic areas, Nature rules and is left to do things in its own way; forests, plants, wildlife, soil, and rocks
remain undisturbed. For the most part, the only changes made are those which are necessary so that numbers of people may come to them and enjoy them.

Hunting, mining, grazing, the cutting of forests, the damming of streams—all these are processes which would change the look of the landscape and the "community of Nature." That is why hunting and mining and logging are prohibited; that is why grazing is being reduced as rapidly as possible; and it is why the National Park Service, and conservationists generally, oppose the frequent efforts to obtain authority to build dams in any of the parks or monuments.

The waters of our streams are being controlled in greater degree each year; our virgin forests are steadily disappearing before the axe and saw; most parts of the American landscape are subject to change. Almost alone, the national parks and monuments safeguard the kind of natural scene that our pioneer forefathers knew. The National Park Service hopes that, as boys, and later as grown men who will play their part in the government of the United States, the Boy Scouts will be among the foremost of the defenders of the splendid and awe-inspiring bits of "native America" that are found in the National Park System.

The Pleasant Way to Knowledge. Wide-awake people possess curiosity; and the national parks and monuments are great places to rouse curiosity. Visitors want to know something about the life of trees that are 3,000 or more years old; how the Grand Canyon was formed; how people lived who occupied our country a thousand years ago and left ruined cliff dwellings and pueblos behind them. They are interested in knowing something about birds or trees or plants or rocks which are unfamiliar to them.

The National Park Service has long recognized that it has an obligation to help visitors to see things of special interest, and to gain some understanding of what they see. Every park has its story, or many stories; the Service has an extensive and well-organized program—the interpretive program—intended to convey these stories to its guests. The typical Boy Scout certainly possesses curiosity; all visiting Scouts are particularly urged and invited to take advantage of the many easy and pleasant opportunities for learning which are offered in the parks.

Nearly all the areas have museums; some, such as Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Canyon, have several. Each deals almost wholly with the area in which it is situated. Not only are they interesting places to visit but in most parks they are good places to go first. A visit to the museum helps the visitor to know what to look for outside in the park itself.

The National Park Service employs many naturalists, archeologists, and historians; one of their important jobs is to act as leaders of walks or automobile caravans. These are leisurely and informal, and offer fine opportunities to gain an understanding of what lies along the way. A number of parks and monuments also offer self-
guiding trails. On some of these, signs beside the trail provide the kind of information the visitor seeks; on others, numbered posts are keyed into booklets or folders containing such information. Inquire about these activities, or look for notices of them, in the parks.

As you go about the parks, you will frequently notice exhibits along the roads and trails. They are all interesting and worth a stop. Each has its own little story to tell—of a nearby beaver dam, or a geyser, or an ancient tree, or a plant community—any of the many things in a park worth knowing about.

In many of the parks there are evening campfire programs, open to everybody—with community signing, illustrated talks, or motion pictures; and a good, informal time. There is a wide variety in these programs in each park, so that the visitor who stays for several days can take in a different program each evening.

The Men in the National Park Service Uniform. As you enter any national park, you will find yourself stopping at a "checking station" where there are one or more men in the National Park Service uniform, and wearing the badge of the park ranger; and you are likely to see these rangers at a number of different kinds of jobs before you leave. The naturalists, or historians, or archeologists who conduct the various phases of the "interpretive program" also wear the Service uniform with the stiff-brimmed, tall-crowned hat which especially distinguishes them from employees of other agencies. Some of these men are permanently employed; others are seasonal employees; but all have special training and special qualifications for the work they are called on to do. Rangers particularly need to be skilled outdoorsmen. Many of them have been called on to perform heroic and dangerous rescues; they are trained in fighting forest fires and in "bossing" fire crews; in some of the parks they carry on long winter patrols; and they do many other jobs.

The main job of the ranger, however, is to be of service to the visitor and to enforce the regulations which exist for the safety of the visitor or for the protection of the natural or historic features of the parks. When in doubt, look for somebody in the National Park Service uniform.
SOME WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

Nearly 100 of the areas administered by the National Park Service, including those of Alaska and Hawaii, lie west of the Mississippi. This booklet assumes that Boy Scout groups from the East or Midwest traveling to and from the Jamboree are principally interested in these western areas, and will take this opportunity to visit some of them rather than those nearer home which they are more likely to have other opportunities to see. We are, therefore, listing those areas west of the Mississippi which are within relatively easy reach of main highways or served by railroad or airline.

The National Park Service issues illustrated publications about nearly all of the areas here listed. In order that those who are to be in charge of Scout groups may satisfactorily plan their trips to areas administered by the Service, leaders are invited to obtain copies of these publications from the superintendents, whose addresses are given in parentheses in the list. Individual Scouts should not be encouraged to write for such publications, however; groups visiting any area will be supplied with reasonable quantities of them upon arrival.

The capital letters and the Arabic figures shown on the map of the western United States (Pages 8 and 9) correspond with those which appear at the beginning of the description of each area in this list.

At the end of each area description, the reader will note one or more small letters. The key to these letters is as follows:

- a - picnicking;
- b - camping;
- c - fishing;
- d - boating;
- e - swimming;
- f - guided walks or drives;
- g - self-guiding walks or drives;
- h - campfire programs;
- i - museum;
- j - meals;
- k - overnight accommodations in or near area;
- l - store carrying limited supplies; in or near area;
- m - gasoline purchasable in or near area;
- n - saddle horses or mules for rent.

National Parks

A Big Bend - 708,221 acres. Forested Chisos Mountains, surrounded by desert; Rio Grande canyons. (Big Bend National Park, Tex.)

B Bryce Canyon - 36,010 acres. Vast amphitheater filled with myriad of fantastic figures sculptured in soft rock by wind and water. (Springdale, Utah)

C Carlsbad Caverns - 49,448 acres. Largest, most spectacular caverns yet discovered in United States. (Carlsbad, N. Mex.)

D Crater Lake - 160,290 acres. Gigantic crater of extinct volcano, Mount Mazama, containing incredibly blue lake. (Box 672, Medford, Oreg.)
E  Glacier - 1,013,129 acres. Rugged peaks, many lakes, numerous high-country glaciers; part of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. (West Glacier, Mont.) a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n.

F  Grand Canyon - 6,145,809 acres. Most spectacular portion of 217-mile-long, mile-deep canyon, carved by Colorado River. (Grand Canyon, Ariz.) a, b, c, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

G  Grand Teton - 311,767 acres. Uplifted "fault-block" mountain range, rising steeply as much as 7,000 feet above Jackson Hole; numerous lakes. (Moose, Wyo.) a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

H  Hot Springs - 1,019 acres. Group of mineral springs, much used for treatment of certain ailments. (Hot Springs, Ark.) a, b, e, i, j, k, l, m.

I  Kings Canyon - 454,600 acres. Mountain wilderness, two enormous canyons, giant sequoias. (Three Rivers, Calif.) a, b, c, e, f, h, j, k, l, m, n.

J  Lassen Volcanic - 105,922 acres. Contains only recently active volcano in United States; many impressive volcanic exhibits. (Mineral, Calif.) a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

K  Mesa Verde - 51,334 acres. Numerous and extensive cliff dwellings and other evidences of prehistoric man. (Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.) a, b, c, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

L  Mount Rainier - 211,782 acres. Ancient volcano, bearing many glaciers; dense virgin forests, wildflower meadows. (Longmire, Wash.) a, b, c, d, f, h, i, j, k, l, m.

M  Olympic - 8,488,415 acres. Mountain wilderness; rain forests of giant trees; active glaciers; rare Roosevelt elk. (Box 591, Port Angeles, Wash.) a, b, c, d, h, j, k, l.

N  Platt - 912 acres. Cold mineral springs, including several bromide springs. (Box 379, Sulphur, Okla.) a, b, i.

O  Rocky Mountain - 259,556 acres. Magnificent section of Front Range of Rockies; 65 peaks above 10,000 feet. (Box 1086, Estes Park, Colo.) a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

P  Sequoia - 386,560 acres. High Sierra, including summit of Mount Whitney, highest peak in United States; magnificent groves of giant sequoias. (Three Rivers, Calif.) a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

Q  Wind Cave - 28,059 acres. Black Hills caverns with boxwork and calcite crystal formations; elk, buffalo herd; prairie dog towns. (Box 142, Hot Springs, S. Dak.) a, b, j.
Yellowstone - 2,221,773 acres. World's greatest geyser, hot springs, and mud volcano area; spectacular falls and canyon of Yellowstone River; one of world's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. (Yellowstone Park, Wyo.) a, b, c, d, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

Yosemite - 760,951 acres. High Sierra, Yosemite, and other inspiring valleys; spectacular cliffs, monoliths and waterfalls, the latter reduced or dry in summer; groves of giant sequoias. (Yosemite National Park, Calif.) a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

Zion - 94,081 acres. Deep, narrow, vertical-walled, highly colored canyon of Virgin River. (Springdale, Utah) a, b, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n.

National Monuments

1 Arches - 34,250 acres. Numerous arches and other extraordinary products of erosion. (Box 98, Moab, Utah) a, b, g.

2 Aztec Ruins - 27 acres. Ruins of great prehistoric Indian town. (Box 157, Aztec, N. Mex.) f, i.

3 Badlands - 154,119 acres. Eroded sedimentary deposits, containing numerous prehistoric animal fossils. (Box 72, Interior, S. Dak.) j, k, l, m.

4 Bandelier - 27,103 acres. Cliff and valley-floor ruins of homes of prehistoric Indians, in Pajarito Plateau canyons. (Santa Fe, N. Mex.) a, b, f, i, j, k, l, m, n.

5 Black Canyon of the Gunnison - 1,465 acres. Deep, sheer-walled canyon. (c/o Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.) a, b.

6 Cabrillo - .5 of an acre. Memorial to discoverer of San Diego Bay. (c/o Sequoia National Park, Three Rivers, Calif.)

7 Capulin Mountain - 680 acres. Symmetrical cinder cone. (Box 82, Capulin, N. Mex.) a.

8 Casa Grande - 473 acres. Ruined prehistoric adobe watchtower used by ancient Gila Valley irrigationists. (Box 518, Coolidge, Ariz.) a, f, i.

9 Cedar Breaks - 6,172 acres. Huge amphitheater eroded in 2,000-foot-thick Pink Cliffs. (c/o Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah) a, b, j, k, l, m.

10 Chiricahua - 10,695 acres. Wilderness of unusual rock shapes. (Dos Cabezas, Ariz.) a, b, f, i, j, k.

11 Colorado - 16,311 acres. Sheer-walled canyons, high monoliths, weird formations. (Box 157, Fruita, Colo.) a, b.
12 Craters of the Moon - 48,181 acres. Varied display of volcanic phenomena. (Box 188, Arco, Idaho) a, b, f, j, k, m.

13 Custer Battlefield - 765 acres. Site of Custer's land stand. (Box 116, Crow Agency, Mont.) i.

14 Devils Tower - 1,194 acres. Tower of columnar rock, 865 feet high. (Devils Tower, Wyo.) a, b, e, i, k, l.

15 Dinosaur - 209,784 acres. Rich fossil quarries; magnificent canyons reached only by rough, unimproved roads. River boat trips. (Box 37, Jensen, Utah) a, f, i, k, l, m.

16 Effigy Mounds - 1,000 acres. Outstanding Indian mounds in shape of birds and animals. (Box K, McGregor, Iowa) f.

17 El Morro - 1,279 acres. Inscription Rock, on which many early explorers carved names and messages. (El Morro, N. Mex.) f, g.

18 Fort Laramie - 211 acres. Site of fur-trade post and military post guarding Oregon Trail. (Box 278, Fort Laramie, Wyo.) f.

19 George Washington Carver - 210 acres. Birthplace of famous Negro scientist. (Diamond, Mo.)

20 Gran Quivira - 611 acres. Indian pueblo house mounds; ruins of two Spanish mission buildings. (Gran Quivira, N. Mex.) a, f, i.

21 Great Sand Dunes - 145,333 acres. Dunes, among largest and highest in United States. (Box 60, Alamosa, Colo.) a, b.

22 Homestead - 163 acres. Site of first claim under 1862 Homestead Act. (R.F.D. No. 1, Beatrice, Nebr.)

23 Jewel Cave - 1,725 acres. Limestone caverns; fine calcite crystal encrustations. (c/o Black Hills Areas, 1711 7th St., Rapid City, S. Dak.) f.

24 Joshua Tree - 557,935 acres. Joshua-trees, giant members of lily family; varied desert plants and animals, including desert bighorn. (Box 289, Twentynine Palms, Calif.) a, b.

25 Lava Beds - 46,239 acres. Unusual volcanic exhibits; principal site of 1873 Modoc Indian War. (Tulelake, Calif.) a, b.

26 Lehman Caves - 640 acres. Extensive caverns; stalactite and stalagmite formations. (Baker, Nev.) a, b, f, j, k.

27 Montezuma Castle - 783 acres. Well-preserved cliff dwelling, Montezuma Well. (Box 170, Camp Verde, Ariz.) a, i.

29 Oregon Caves - 480 acres. Beautiful limestone cavern. (c/o Crater Lake National Park, Box 672, Medford, Oreg.) a, f, k.

30 Organ Pipe Cactus - 330,690 acres. Sonoran desert with organ pipe cactus and many other desert plants found nowhere else in United States. (Box 38, Ajo, Ariz.)

31 Petrified Forest - 93,921 acres. Many petrified trees; Indian ruins; portion of Painted Desert. (Box 518, Holbrook, Ariz.) f, i, k.

32 Pinnacles - 1,419 acres. Spirelike rock formations, 500 to 1,200 feet high; caves; numerous volcanic features. (Pinnacles, Calif.) a, b, f.

33 Pipestone - 116 acres. Quarry from which Indians obtained material for peace pipes. (Box 371, Pipestone, Minn.)

34 Saguaro - 63,281 acres. Forest of giant saguaro cactus. (Route 8, Box 520, Tucson, Ariz.) a.

35 Scotts Bluff - 3,476 acres. Well-known Oregon Trail landmark. (Box 136, Gering, Nebr.) i.

36 Sunset Crater - 3,040 acres. Volcanic cinder cone. (c/o Wupatki National Monument, Tuba Star Route, Flagstaff, Ariz.) f.

37 Timpanogos Cave - 250 acres. Limestone cavern, noted for coloring and helictite formations. (R.F.D. No. 1, Box 287, American Fork, Utah) a, f, l.

38 Tonto - 1,120 acres. Well-preserved cliff dwellings. (Box 1088, Roosevelt, Ariz.) a, f.

39 Tumacacori - 10 acres. Historic Spanish mission church. (Tumacacori, Ariz.) a, f, i, j.

40 Tuzigoot - 43 acres. Excavated ruins of large prehistoric pueblo. (Box 36, Clarkdale, Ariz.) g, i.

41 Walnut Canyon - 1,879 acres. Cliff dwellings in caves under canyon ledges. (R.F.D. No. 1, Box 790, Flagstaff, Ariz.) a, g, i.

42 White Sands - 1,465,535 acres. Vast extent of white gypsum sand dunes; interesting plants and animals. (Box 231, Alamogordo, N. Mex.) a, f, i.

43 Whitman - 46 acres. Site of mission to Indians established by Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, and their massacre by Indians. (502 West Whitman Drive, College Place, Wash.) f.

National Recreation Areas

Administered by the National Park Service under cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation

45 Coulee Dam - 98,500 acres. Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake, formed by Grand Coulee Dam. No publication issued. a, c, d, e.

46 Lake Mead - 1,951,928 acres. Lake Mead, formed by Hoover Dam, and Lake Mohave, formed by Davis Dam. (Drawer I, Boulder City, Nev.) a, b, c, d, e, h, i, j, k, m.

47 Millerton Lake - 12,769 acres. Millerton Lake, formed by Friant Dam. No publication issued. a, b, c, d, e, j.

48 Shadow Mountain - 10,231 acres. Shadow Mountain Lake and Granby Reservoir, adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park. No publication issued. a, c, d.

Miscellaneous

49 Jefferson National Expansion Memorial - 83 acres. Commemorates U.S. territorial expansion. (Old Courthouse, 415 Market St., St. Louis 2, Mo.) i.


PLEASE

Help us to keep the parks clean, free from trash and litter. If there isn't a trash container handy in which to dispose of candy wrappers, fruit peelings, film cartons, and other things which "uglify" the landscape, please keep them until they can be disposed of properly.

A Scout is Clean