

Where to Go Cub Scouting

Guide to Planning a Great Cub Scout Year
Chester County Council BSA



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Foreword

This Where to Go Cub Scouting Guide for Chester County Council was written for my Doctorate of Commissioner Science project. A Commissioner is an experienced Scout leader who serves as a friend and mentor to other Scout units. Our family had a truly wonderful Cub Scout experience in Pack 215 in Downingtown, PA. We had many adventures and made lifelong friends there. We want your Cub Scout experience to be amazing and hope you will use this guide to plan great adventures for your Pack and Den. Thank you to Tamara Christensen for the idea for this guide, Melissa Pendill for the artwork and program ideas, and Misty Gonzalez for being an editor. – Nathan Christensen

Introduction

Youth enjoy and gain the most out of Scouting when they are out doing, seeing, and experiencing hands-on adventures. We want to encourage you to plan an active, outdoor, and FUN Den and Pack program where adventure is first and foremost. When that happens, the advancement comes naturally. There is a well-known catchphrase “Scouting is 75% Outing”. Youth lose interest in Scouting when we treat it like the school classroom.

Chester County Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves youth in Chester County, PA and the northwest corner of Cecil County, MD. This guide includes a variety of places and activities to include in your Cub Scout program, both in the Chester County Council area and the neighboring counties (Montgomery, Delaware, New Castle, Lancaster, and Berks) as well as Philadelphia and even a few further afield. We have tried to keep the drive time to one hour from any border of Chester County but given that Chester County alone is 759 square miles, the drive time could be further from where you live.

Please check with any venue on their programs, opening hours, fees, advance reservation requirements, and group tours prior to planning an event there.

This Where to Go Cub Scouting Guide makes extensive use of hyperlinks to connect directly with the venue’s website and information often buried deeper within the site that can be difficult to find such as Scout programs, group tours, and maps. From time to time, providers will change their website design resulting in broken links. If a link is broken, try going to the top-level address and then looking for the information. Also please report any broken or incorrect links to Nathan Christensen at nechris@yahoo.com.

We surely have not thought of every possible place in our area to go Cub Scouting. If you’ve found another great venue that you would like to share with other leaders please email your suggestion to Nathan Christensen at nechris@yahoo.com.

We will post updates to the guide as we accumulate changes and additions



How to Use this Guide

This “Where to Go Cub Scouting” guide provides many ideas on places to go and things to see and do that align with the Cub Scouting program. Use these ideas as resources to plan your Pack and Den programs along with your family adventures.

Cubmasters and Pack Leaders

Pack leadership should hold an annual program planning meeting to plan their Pack events for the upcoming school year (next 12 months). In addition to planning the regular Pack meeting Cubmasters and Pack Leaders should consider the following:

- Camping Trips – how many Pack family camping trips is our Pack going to plan? Which seasons – fall, winter (cabin), and/or spring? Will the camping trips be for one night or two nights? How do we offer the opportunity to go camping within the first 30 days of joining? What activities do we want to do? Where do we want to go? What weekends can we get reservations for? Do we have a BALOO trained leader for each event?
- Overnights – do we want to plan a pack overnights to one of the many museums or other venues in our area that offer Scout overnights? When can we get reservations?
- Summer program – what week are we planning to go to Cub Scout resident (overnight) camp? What summer outdoor events are we going to hold – hikes, biking, aquatics, field trips, rocket launch, etc.? Note that three are required to qualify for the [Summertime Pack Award](#). Are we going to do a big trip? See this Bryan on Scouting article “[Focus on fun, family and the future: Six tips for Cub Scout summer activities](#)”.
- Other events - Are we going to plan any other Pack events during the year, in addition to or in lieu of our regular Pack meetings? Fall hayride/corn maze, sporting, or venue event? Do we want to start a Pack hiking club? Are we going to participate in the Scouting religious observances?
- Council events – Are we going to attend any of the Chester County Council Cub Scout events in place of or in addition to running our own? What events are being held this year and do they interest us?
- Service projects – What Pack service projects are we going to do? Who are we going to do them for? Our chartered partner? Our community?

Through participation in these activities all Cub Scouts should strive to earn the [Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award](#) each year. This guide provides resources to assist with these requirements:

- Participate in a nature hike in your local area
- Participate in an outdoor activity such as a picnic or park fun day
- Attend a pack overnights
- Complete an outdoor service project in your community
- Complete a nature/conservation project in your area
- Earn the Summertime Pack Award
- Participate in a nature observation activity
- Participate in an outdoor aquatic activity
- Participate in an outdoor campfire program
- Participate in an outdoor sporting event



- Explore a local city, county, state, or national park.

Webelos and Arrow of Light Den Leaders

Webelos and Arrow of Light Den Leaders should plan an annual Den program and consider the following:

- Scouts BSA Camping Trips - When and where are the Webelos invitational camping trips hosted by the Scouts BSA Troops in our area? Which one(s) are we planning to go to?
- Webelos/AOL Den Camping Trip – Are we going to plan a den camping trip? When and where? Do we have a BALOO trained leader?
- Council Events for Webelos - Are we going to attend the Council Klondike Derby or Scouts BSA Camporee? Do we need to build a Klondike sled?
- Adventures – what elective adventures are we planning? What field trips do we need to plan for to complete the required and elective Adventures?
- Just for Fun – what activities do we want to do as a Webelos/AOL Den just for fun?

Den Leaders

Den Leaders should plan an annual Den program and consider the following:

- Adventures – what elective adventures are we planning? What field trips do we need to plan for to complete the required and elective Adventures.
- Just for Fun – what activities do we want to do as a Den just for fun?

STEM Nova Mentors

Cub Scouts has an optional STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program for the Wolf level and up consisting of 11 different [Nova awards](#) and 2 [Supernova awards](#). The Nova awards build on the [level specific adventures](#).

Does our Pack or Den want to offer the Nova or Supernova program? Do we have a leader willing to be Nova mentor or Supernova counselor? If so they need to complete the [registration and training requirements](#). Which Nova awards do we want to offer? What field trips are required?

Parents

Parents may also want to take advantage of this guide to use as a resource for planning their own family adventures. There are many more ideas in this guide than can be incorporated into a Pack or Den plan.



Safety and Insurance

Age Appropriate Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America has developed [age-appropriate guidelines](#) for Scouting activities. Cub Scouts spans a wide range of age and maturity – from kindergarten into fifth grade. Please familiarize yourself with the age-appropriate guideline chart and what activities are appropriate your age/grade of Cub Scouts. The chart splits Cub Scouts into four buckets: Lions, Tigers, Wolves/Bears, and Webelos/Arrow of Lights. In all cases Lions and Tigers are with an adult partner.

The Boy Scouts of America has issued the following guidance for activities not listed in the chart:

“Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.”

Safety

The Boy Scouts of America publishes and regularly updates a [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). Pack and Den leaders should become familiar with this document to understand both guidance on conducting safe activities and to understand any prohibited activities.

Youth Protection

All registered leaders in Chester County Council are required to complete the online [Youth Protection Training \(YPT\)](#) course annually. It is available online at my.scouting.org. We recommend that all parents in your Pack who plan to attend camping trips, field trips, and other outings also take this training so that they understand the policies and barriers to abuse.

Certificates of Insurance

When a venue requires a certificate of insurance (COI), units may request a COI from Chester County Council using this [form](#). Be sure to specify the requirements from the venue. Please plan ahead to allow time to process the request.

Waivers

Many venues will require that each participant or parent/guardian sign a liability release or hold harmless waiver. Plan ahead with the parents of your Cub Scouts to distribute and collect the signed waivers to ensure smooth check-in at the venue.



Camping

Camping is the #1 reason youth join the Cub Scout program. Each Pack should plan a regular camping program. We encourage fall and spring family tent camping trips and a winter cabin camping trip. Additionally, during the summer, we strongly recommend attending the overnight summer camp program at Camp Ware. Leaders should become familiar with the guidelines for [Cub Scout camping](#). At least one leader attending the camping trip must be trained in [BALOO](#) (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation). This training course is taught in a blended learning format with an online prerequisite module followed by an overnight camping course regularly offered by Chester County Council. Please see [Upcoming Training](#) and [Council Calendar](#) for details.

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to camping:

	Tiger	Required adventure	Tigers in the Wild	Participate in an outdoor pack meeting or pack campout campfire.
	Wolf	Required adventure	Call of the Wild	Attend a pack or family campout
	Bear	Required Adventure	Bear Necessities	Attend a daytime or overnight campout with your pack of family
	Arrow of Light	Required Adventure	Outdoor Adventurer	
	Webelos & Arrow of Light	Elective Adventure	Castaway	

Boy Scouts of America Council Camps

BSA Councils, each serving a designated geographic area, have one or more Council owned and operated camps. In southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Maryland and Delaware there are several Council camps close to our area. These camps all offer weekend camping during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. In the summer they host resident overnight camps.

Reservations are made online through the Council's web page and reservation system which varies by Council. Most Councils use either Doubleknot or Tentaroo, and you will need to create an account. Each council opens reservation for the following twelve months during the summer so check their website and plan early to get the weekend/site you want. BSA Council Camps usually have a rifle (BB gun) and archery range that you can rent for a block of time if you have the required BSA rangemaster certification (offered at Camp Ware during summer resident camp). Note that you must reserve a



Camping



weekend camping trip or register for a Council event to be permitted on a BSA Council Camp property; you cannot “drop in” to take a hike as you would at a public park or preserve.

BSA Council Camps are staffed by a volunteer Campmaster during the weekend camping season. Upon arrival you check-in with the Campmaster and provide a roster of participants and then prior to departure the Campmaster will inspect your campsite or cabin. In some camps, there is a weekend Campmaster program that you can choose to participate in if it interests you.

We recommend camping at Camp Ware once a year to get your Scouts familiar with the camp and excited about attending the summer resident overnight camp there.

Horseshoe Scout Reservation - Camp Ware

Lancaster County – Peach Bottom, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#)

Camp John H. Ware, 3rd with 300 acres is [Chester County Council](#)'s primary Cub Scout camping venue on the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Camp Ware has three cabins – Macaleer Lodge, Sloan Lodge, and Lawrence Lodge. There are 7 campsites – 2 with Adirondacks and 5 with tent platforms. Regular tents can be pitched in any site as well. See [Camp Ware Facilities](#) for more details. Camp Ware has a BB gun range, slingshot range, and archery range that can be used with appropriate certifications or when the camp has staffed a rangemaster. The Octoraro Creek, which has great fishing, runs through the reservation and is the boundary between Camp Ware and Camp Horseshoe. A swinging bridge connects the two camps. The green trail along the Octoraro and camp boundary makes for a nice hike.

Horseshoe Scout Reservation - Camp Horseshoe

Cecil County – Rising Sun, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Camp Horseshoe with 1000 acres is [Chester County Council](#)'s primary Scouts BSA camping venue on the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Camp Horseshoe has five cabins available for weekend camping – Rothrock, Roberts, McIlvaine, Browning, and Schramm. There are three campsites with Adirondacks, six campsites with stockades, and 7 sites for tent camping (five campsites + Campcraft and Trailblazers). See [Camp Horseshoe Facilities](#) for more details. Historic highlights of Camp Horseshoe include a [Mason-Dixon Line marker](#) and [Buzzard's Rock](#). Horseshoe has several color-coded hiking trails (red, yellow, and blue), a disc golf course, and a gaga pit. A second suspension bridge crosses the Octoraro to a more remote section of camp containing the blue trail.

Rodney Scout Reservation

Cecil County – North East, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Rodney Scout Reservation with over 900 acres is [Del-Mar-Va Council](#)'s primary Scouts BSA camping venue. Rodney is located on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The Camp has 12 cabins, 4 bunkhouses, and numerous tent camping sites. There are Campmaster programs offered each weekend – check the website for their schedule and to see if the program is age-appropriate for Cub Scouts.

J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation

Lebanon County – Newmanstown, PA



Camping



[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation, also called Camp Mack, has over 1,100 acres in the Furnace Hills. It is one of [PA Dutch Council](#)'s two camps. Camp Mack has 5 cabins and 11 campsites. Camp Mack's Alley Action Center feature a BMX pump bike track and a BB range.

Broad Creek Scout Reservation
Harford County – Whiteford, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation with 1,688 acres is [Baltimore Area Council](#)'s primary Scouts BSA camping venue. The reservation has three camps: Oest, Saffran, and Spencer. Weekend camping reservations can be made at Camp Oest and Camp Saffran. Camp Spencer is currently being used by the YMCA. There are numerous cabins and campsites that can be rented for weekend used. The camp has an extensive hiking trail network and there is an old-growth hemlock forest in "The Hemlocks" section of the camp. The [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) traverses the camp.

Musser Scout Reservation
Montgomery County – Pennsburg, PA

[Website](#)

[Camp Delmont Location](#) [Camp Garrison Location](#) [Camp Hart Location](#)

[Camp Delmont Map](#) [Camp Garrison Map](#) [Camp Hart Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Musser Scout Reservation is [Cradle of Liberty Council](#)'s close-in camp consisting of over 1,400 acres along Unami Creek. It consists of three camps: Camp Delmont, Camp Garrison, and Camp Hart. Camp Delmont is the original camp having opened in 1916 and has a more rustic feel. It is also home to the Council's Nelson Training Center. Camp Hart is the Council's current Cub Scout summer resident camp. Camp Garrison opened in 2000 and has four themed areas devoted to weekend Cub Scout Camping – Fort Akela, Safeguard Castle, Native American Village, and the USS Cradle of Liberty. Across the reservation are 30 [cabins and campsites](#) that can be reserved. This [guide](#) has further details and pictures including the themed areas at Camp Garrison.

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation
Schuylkill County – Schuylkill Haven, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#)

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation is [Hawk Mountain Council](#)'s only camp. The 700-acre reservation has two camps, Camp Meade (Boy Scouts) and Camp duPortail (Cub Scouts), and a man-made lake known as Lake Nalaheman. The Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation trail system has a connector to the Appalachian Trail. Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation is just over an hour drive from [Knoebels](#) and makes a great base for visiting the amusement park.

Camp Ockanickon
Bucks County – Pipersville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#)



Camping



Camp Ockanickon is [Washington Crossing Council](#)'s camp. Camp Ockanickon's 240 acres are adjacent to [Ralph Stover State Park](#) across Tohickon Creek. The camp was named Ockanickon to honor the Lenni Lenape Indian Chief Ockanickon who assisted with the exploration of Bucks County. Camp Ockanickon has 4 cabins and numerous Adirondack and tent campsites.

Scout Unit Properties

Camp Jarvis

Chester County – Devon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Camp Jarvis is a 9-acre wooded property owned by the Devon Troop 50. Scout units can rent the cabin or tent camp on the property. The site has a great campfire ring. Camp Jarvis is located close to [Valley Forge National Historic Park](#).

Troop 73 Valley Forge Scout Campground

Chester County – Phoenixville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Troop 73 maintains a Scout campground on the grounds of the [Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company](#) with three wood campsites, dedicated heated bathroom facilities, and water sources onsite. The campsite is a half mile from [Valley Forge National Historic Park](#).

Troop 191 Scout Cabin

Chester County – Avondale, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Troop 191 has a 5-acre wooded property with a cabin and tent sites. Scout units can rent the cabin or a campsite on the property.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The [Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#) (DCNR) offers camping at state parks and forests. Many Pennsylvania state parks offer organized group tenting and group cabin camping. The group tenting season is from April to mid-October. Reservations can be made between 11 months and 2 days in advance. [Fees](#) are based on a per campsite per night fee based on site capacity. See PA DCNR [Organized Group Camping](#) for reservation details.

Evansburg State Park

Montgomery County – Collegeville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#) [Recreation Guide](#)

Evansburg is a 3,349-acre park along Skippack Creek featuring 6 miles of hiking trails, fishing, and a permanent [orienteering course](#). The Freidt Visitor Center, in a 1700s farmhouse, interprets the life of German Mennonite farmers along with the natural history of the park. Splashing in the creek is great fun. The park offers organized group tent camping. A visit to Evansburg State Park can be combined with the a horseback trail ride at [Red Buffalo Ranch](#).



Camping



Fort Washington State Park

Montgomery County – Fort Washington, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park and Trail Map](#)

[Recreation Guide](#)

Fort Washington is a 493-acre park that takes its name from the temporary fort built by George Washington's army in the fall of 1777 before heading to Valley Forge. The Wissahickon Creek flows through the park. The park offers 3.5 miles of hiking trails, a permanent [orienteering course](#), a disc golf course, and fishing in Wissahickon Creek. There is an organized group tenting area. [Historic Hope Lodge](#) operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is nearby. The park has a "Hawk Watch" observation deck to observe the migration of 16 species of hawks from September 1 – October 31.

French Creek State Park

Chester County / Berks County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park and Trail Map](#)

[Recreation Guide](#)

French Creek is a 7,916-acre park located in the [Hopewell Big Woods](#). The park has two lakes: the 68-acre warm water Hopewell Lake and the 22-acre cold water Scotts Run Lake. The park surrounds the [Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site](#). There are over 35 miles of hiking trails and the [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) runs through the park. The park has a [disc golf course](#), a permanent [orienteering course](#), a swimming pool (see Aquatics chapter), fishing, and a boat concession. The park has numerous organized group tent camping sites as well as cabins.

Ridley Creek State Park

Delaware County – Media, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park and Trail Map](#)

[Recreation Guide](#)

[Additional Trail Maps](#)

Ridley Creek is a 2,606-acre park with gently rolling hills along Ridley Creek. The park contains the [Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation](#). There are 13 miles of hiking trails including a 4-mile multi-use trail. The park offers organized group tent camping. There is catch and release fly fishing along Ridley Creek. The park also has a permanent [orienteering course](#). Chester County Council nature and conservation expert Gary Stolz works seasonally at the park offering interpretive programs and nature hikes.

Susquehannock State Park

Lancaster County – Drumore, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park and Trail Map](#)

[Recreation Guide](#)

Susquehannock is a 224-acre park overlooking the Susquehanna River. There are 5.6 miles of trails with two scenic overlooks. The park has four organized group tent camping sites. Stop by the nearby [Lock 12 Historic Site](#) just across the river to see one of the most well-preserved locks of the old Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. You can also combine a camping trip here with a field trip to the [Indian Steps Museum](#).



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Many Maryland state parks offer organized group camping. Scout units are required to have obtain a [Youth Group Pass](#) which is valid for two years. To obtain the youth group pass you must submit a proof of tax-exempt status and copy of your unit's charter.

Elk Neck State Park

Cecil County – North East, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#) [Trail Guide](#)

Elk Neck is a 2,369-acre state park along the Chesapeake Bay. There are 12 miles of hiking trails. The park contains the Turkey Point Lighthouse on a 100-foot bluff overlooking the bay. The park has four organized group tent camping sites in the youth group area. The sites are in an open field. Note that part of the park is closed due to damage by a 2019 tornado while downed timber is harvested.

Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area

Cecil County – North East, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#) [Youth Group Camping](#)

Fair Hill is a 5,656-acre multi-use natural management area on land that was purchased from the DuPont family. The park has over 80 miles of trail and is popular with mountain bikers and equestrian riders. The park also offers fishing along Big Elk Creek. The park has two youth group camping sites. The separately operated [Fair Hill Nature Center](#) is within the park and offer group/Scout programs. The Foxcatcher Farm covered bridge is in the park. Fair Hill is also home to the [Cecil County Fair](#) and the [Fair Hill horse races](#).

Delaware State Parks

[Delaware State Parks](#) offer primitive (tent) camping for youth groups. See their [Group Camping](#) page for reservation details. There is a specific procedure for each park. The camping fees are per person. Delaware State Parks charge a [per vehicle fee](#) for admission. Some parks may provide vehicle passes as part of a group camping reservation. Delaware State Parks offer [Scout programs](#) at several parks.

Brandywine Creek State Park

New Castle County – Rockland, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#) [First State NHP Brandywine Valley Map](#)

Brandywine Creek is a 933-acre state park. Its namesake Brandywine Creek flows through the park and offers fishing. Much of the park was a former DuPont family estate and dairy farm. There are three nature preserves that are part of the park, two within the main park (Tulip Tree Woods and Freshwater Marsh) and the third a satellite area (Flint Woods). The park has over 14 miles of hiking trails and hosts an [18-hole disc golf course](#). There is also a nature center that provides interpretive programs and guided hikes. The park is adjacent to the 1,300-acre [Brandywine Valley](#) unit of the First State National Historical Park. Numerous unmarked trails run through the park and the adjacent lands that are used by hikers and mountain bikers. A National Park stamp is available at the Brandywine Creek State Park visitor center.



Camping



Lums Pond State Park

New Castle County – Bear, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Lums Pond is a 1,790-acre state park. Its namesake, the 200-acre Lums Pond, originally built to fill the locks for the [Chesapeake and Delaware Canal](#), offers fishing and paddling. The park has 15 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails as well as a disc golf course. There is also a nature center that provides interpretive programs and guided hikes. The [Sunset Stables](#) equestrian center located onsite offers pony programs for younger children and trail rides for ages 10 and up. There is a [remote-controlled aircraft field](#) in the park where you can match members of the Delaware R/C club fly. The [Go Ape adventure park](#) is located onsite. Its Treetop Journey course is appropriate for Cub Scout age youth.

White Clay Creek State Park

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

White Clay Creek is a 3,647-acre state park on the Pennsylvania border. White Clay Creek, part of the [National Wild and Scenic Rivers System](#), flows through the park offering fishing. The park has over 37 miles of hiking trails. The famous [Arc Corner Monument](#) of the Mason-Dixon Line is in the park. Pennsylvania DCNR's [White Clay Creek Preserve](#) borders the park to the north. The blue-blazed [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) goes through the park. The park also has an [18-hole disc golf course](#).

Chester County Parks

Chester County [Department of Parks + Preservation](#) has organized group tenting at three of its county parks. Reservations can be made by calling the park office. Fees are based on the total number of campers – see [Group Camping](#).

Hibernia Park

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#)

Hibernia is a 900-acre county park containing the 94-acre Chambers Lake offering boating and fishing. The West Branch of the Brandywine Creek and Birch Run flow through the park offering further fishing opportunities. The park has 6 miles of hiking trails and 2 organized group tenting sites. There is a permanent [orienteering course](#) in the park. The [Hibernia Mansion](#) located in the park is open for [tours](#) on Sundays. It was an ironmaster's mansion redesigned to emulate an English country house. The park was the site of an iron forge. Hibernia County Park has hosted the Chester County Council 100th Anniversary Camporee and other Scouting events.

Nottingham Park

Chester County – Nottingham, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#)

Nottingham is a 731-acre county park containing one of the largest [serpentine barrens](#) on the east coast. [Serpentine](#) is a rare light green rock. The park has feldspar and serpentine quarries as well as numerous chromite ore mines. There are remnants of a chromite ore processing plant used to support munitions



Camping



in World War I are along Black Run in the park. The serpentine barrens was designated a [National Natural Landmark](#). The park has 5 miles of hiking trails, an 18-station fitness trail, and one organized group tenting site (adjacent to pavilion #3).

Warwick Park

Chester County – Pottstown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#)

Warwick is a 535-acre county park containing woodlands, meadows, and wetlands and is located in the [Hopewell Big Woods](#). French Creek flows through the park. The park's forest was used for charcoal in the 18th and 19th centuries and remains of the iron industry including charcoal hearths can be seen along the park's trails. The park has an ADA accessible deck for fishing along French Creek. There are numerous miles of hiking trails in the park including an Iron Heritage interpretive trail and an Adirondack tree ID trail. The [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) traverses the park. There is one organized group tenting site northwest of the volleyball court. Pennsylvania's only surviving Fink Truss bridge is in the park.

Other Camping Locations

Several other public landowners or private venues offer great opportunities for Cub Scout camping. In addition to these venues, there are a few locations listed in other sections of this guide that offer camping in addition to their primary program.

- Historic Sites – Daniel Boone Homestead, Fort Mifflin, Washington Crossing Park
- Nature Centers – Delaware Nature Society sites, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Myrick Conservation Center, Stroud Water Research Center

Blue Rocks Family Campground

Berks County – Lenhartsville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#) [Campground Map](#)

The Blue Rocks Family Campground occupies over 100 acres in the eastern Pennsylvania wilderness. The name comes from the 0.5-mile long boulder field, with rocks of Tuscarora quartzite, on the south slope of Blue Mountain that visitors can explore. The campground has a swimming pool, fishing pond, fire truck rides, playground, video arcade, horseshoes, and a vintage car collection. Blue Rocks offer [group rates](#) for Scout groups. Adventurous and fit hikers can ascend the hiking trails from the campground to the Pinnacle and Pulpit Rock, two of the most iconic viewpoints along the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania.

Camp Sankanac

Chester County – Spring City, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Camp Sankanac is a ministry of BCM International. The Camp partners with parents, churches, and schools in providing a unique outdoor learning environment for children and adults to deepen their walk with God. Camp Sankanac rents a variety of facilities including cabins and campsites. The Camp is along French Creek and offers fishing there and in a private pond. They have a variety of camp program features.



Camping



Coventry Woods

Chester County – Pottstown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Coventry Woods is a 688-acre forested preserve in the [Hopewell Big Woods](#). There are over 10 miles of trails. The preserve also has an organized group tenting site that can be used by Scout groups. Note that there are six different parking areas and access points to the preserve.

Muddy Run Park

Lancaster County – Holtwood, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Muddy Run is a 700-acre park and campground owned by Exelon Power Corporation in concert with its [Muddy Run Pumped Storage](#) hydroelectric facility. The park has a 100-acre lake with boat concession, hiking trails, a challenging disc golf course, and an [Information Center](#) about the Muddy Run facility. The park has 3 youth group tenting sites. The park also hosts the [Ryan Observatory at Muddy Run](#).

Paradise Farm Camps

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Scouting Programs](#)

Paradise Farm is a 600-acre private camp. The camp has numerous cabins and campsites. Valley Creek flows through the property and there is a fishing pond. Paradise Farm offer Scout rentals. The Chester County Council Cub Scout Camporee (C5) is often held at Paradise Farm Camps.

Philadelphia / West Chester KOA

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Campground Map](#)

This KOA (Kampgrounds of America) is located on the banks of the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek. It offers a swimming pool, fishing, mini-golf course, jump pad, gaga ball pit, and gem mining. There are numerous tent camping sites. KOA has special [Scout](#) rates.

Treasure Island

Bucks County – Pipersville, PA

[Website \(Friends of TI\)](#) [Website \(TI Outfitters\)](#) [Location](#) [Camp Map](#)

Treasure Island is a former Boy Scout property and was once the oldest continually operating Boy Scout Camp in America dating back to 1913, until its closure in 2009. The island sat dormant for over a decade until it was purchased by a local family in 2018. With the help and support of former Treasure Island scouters and staff, this national treasure was brought back to life as a camping and outdoor recreational venue for the public to enjoy. In the summer Treasure Island Outfitters offers a commercial camping experience. In the spring and fall, the Friends of Treasure Island offer free Scout camping, including Cub Scout family camping. Treasure Island is only accessible via barge so all your gear and food must be carried with you. This requires planning and may not be suitable for all Cub Scout groups. Treasure Island is the birthplace of Scouting's national honor society, the Order of the Arrow, and a [self-guided historic tour](#) is available. The free camping slots fill up quickly so reservations well in advance are required.



Camping



Trexler Nature Preserve

Lehigh County – Schnecksville, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park Guide](#)

[Trail Map](#)

[Zoo Map](#)

A bit further afield to the north, the 1,108-acre Trexler Nature Preserve, operated by Lehigh County, was created by General Trexler to protect bison, elk, and white-tailed deer. The preserve has over 20 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. [Valley Mountain Bikers](#) maintain some of the best [mountain bike trails](#) in the area at Trexler Nature Preserve. Jordan Creek flows through the park and offers fishing. Two covered bridges span Jordan Creek. The Trexler Environmental Center offers interpretive programs. A highlight of the visit to the preserve is seeing the American Bison and Rocky Mountain Elk Preserves. The Trexler preserve is divided into three ranges (areas). The northern range hosts the mountain biking trails. The central range has the bison and elk herd, the environmental center, and the Scout group campsite. Contact the Lehigh County Parks for campsite reservations.

The [Lehigh Valley Zoo](#) is located within the preserve. The zoo has over 325 animals representing 125 species and is participating in 22 species survival programs. The zoo has group rates and tours. The zoo is in the central range.



Hiking

Hiking as a den or pack is a fun activity that promotes fitness and connects the Scout with nature.

Some packs have had great success starting a Pack hiking club. See this [Bryan on Scouting article](#).

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to hiking:

	Tiger	Required adventure	Tigers in the Wild	Go for a short hike with your den or family and carry your own gear.
	Wolf	Required adventure	Paws on the Path	Go on a 1-mile hike with your den or family. While on the hike, find three different kinds of plants, animals, or signs that animals have been on the trail.
	Bear	Required adventure	Fur, Feathers, and Ferns	While hiking or walking for one mile, identify six signs that any mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, or plants are living near the place where you choose to hike or walk.
	Webelos	Required Adventure	Webelos Walkabout	With your Webelos den or with a family member, hike 3 miles.
	Arrow of Light	Required Adventure	Outdoor Adventurer	

The requirements for the retired [Hiking belt loop and pin](#) can provide further ideas for incorporating hiking into your program.

All the venues listed above in the Camping section provide hiking trails. Additionally, many sites listed in other sections of this guide (historic sites, nature centers, botanic gardens) offer great hiking trails.

Pennsylvania DCNR

Scouts and families may consider ordering a [Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport](#), a 135-page spiral bound book, to learn about the state parks/forests and record passport stamps when visiting. It is modeled after the National Park Service’s passport program. Other nearby state parks and forests that offer hiking include:

Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary
Chester County – Nottingham, PA

[Website \(William Penn State Forest\)](#)

[Location](#)

[Trail Map](#)



Hiking



Goat Hill is a 602-acre unique ecosystem ([serpentine barrens](#)) and wild plant sanctuary that is part of the William Penn State Forest and co-owned with [The Nature Conservancy](#). Visitors can hike the 3-mile Rose Trail. Goat Hill is very close to Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

Marsh Creek State Park

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location \(West Launch\)](#) [Trail Map](#) [Recreation Guide](#)

Marsh Creek State Park is 1,784-acre park containing the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake. The park has 19.5 miles of hiking trails that are also very popular with mountain bikers and equestrian riders. The west boat launch parking is the best location for accessing the park's trails. The park also offers boating (see Aquatics section of this guide) and fishing. The park has multiple access points so ensure you are selecting the correct access point and parking area for your planned adventure.

Norristown Farm Park

Montgomery County – Norristown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#) [Trail Guide](#)

Norristown Farm is 690-acre park containing a historic farm that has been operating continuously since colonial times. The park has 8 miles of mostly paved multi-use trails. There is an interpretative nature trail featuring tree plantings of historic significance. The park also offers a bird watching area and fishing on Stony Creek and Kepner Creek. Enclosed within the park is a trout hatchery operated by the [Stony Creek Anglers](#). The [Farm Park Preservation Association](#) has a visitor guide for enjoying the park.

White Clay Creek Preserve

Chester County – Landenberg, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#) [Recreation Guide](#)

White Clay Creek is a 2,072-acre preserve in three parcels along the Pennsylvania-Delaware border that was donated by the DuPont company. Its namesake, White Clay Creek is a [National Wild and Scenic River](#). Two of the parcels adjoin Delaware's [White Clay Creek State Park](#). The preserve has several hiking trail and blue-blazed [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) goes through the park. See this [guide](#) to learn about the geology of the area. There are several historic buildings on the preserve including the London Tract Baptist Meeting House built in 1729.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Elk Neck State Forest

Cecil County – North East, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Elk Neck State Forest is 3,571-acre parcel of land situated in central Cecil County consisting of four separate tracts of land. The [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) traverses the State Forest. There are over 10 miles of hiking trails. There is an arboretum within the State Forest that has a [tree identification trail](#).

Rocks State Park

Harford County – Jarrettsville, MD



Hiking



[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Rocks State Park features 855 acres of rocky forest land. Primary attractions at Rocks State Park include the King and Queen Seat and Kilgore Falls. The main section of the park includes 3.5-miles of hiking trails and access to Deer Creek, which is ideal for fishing, wading, and tubing. The park's two satellite properties, Falling Branch (home to Kilgore Falls) and Hidden Valley, are a short drive from the main park.

Susquehanna State Park
Harford County – Jarrettsville, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Susquehanna State Park is a 2,753-acre park along the Susquehanna River. The Rock Run Historic District is covered in the Historic Sites section. There are over 15 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. The [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) traverses the State Park.

Natural Lands Trust

[Natural Lands Trust](#) is a non-profit land conservation organization with headquarters in Media, Pennsylvania, dedicated to the management, protection, and conservation of eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey's native forests, fields, steams, and wetlands. Natural Lands Trust has been closing their preserves one day a week for maintenance and prevention of overuse so please check their schedule before going.

Binky Lee Preserve
Chester County – Chester Springs, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Binky Lee is a 112-acre preserve of former agricultural land that is being re-forested. The preserve has 3 miles of hiking trails.

Bryn Coed Preserve
Chester County – Chester Springs, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Bryn Coed is a 520-acre preserve that includes a Pennsylvania Champion white oak, the headwaters of Pickering Creek, and several Bald Eagle nesting spots. Nine miles of hiking trails meander past 19th century stone farmhouses, historical ruins, and other remnants of the land's agricultural past.

ChesLen Preserve
Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location \(North Parking\)](#) [Location \(Lenfest Center\)](#) [Trail Map](#)

ChesLen is a 1,282-acre preserve that contains woodlands, meadows, farm fields, and stream valleys. The preserve has over 9 miles of hiking trails. The West Branch of the Brandywine Creek flows through the preserve. The [Star Gazers' Stone](#) commemorating the temporary observatory that built during the surveying of the Mason Dixon Line is a short hike from the north parking lot on Route 162. The Lenfest



Hiking



Center is located at the preserve and regularly hosts programs. Located in the preserve is a [Potter's Field](#) cemetery from the Chester County Poorhouse.

Crow's Nest Preserve

Chester County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Crow's Nest is a 712-acre preserve that is part of the [Hopewell Big Woods](#). French Creek flows through the park. The preserve has 9 miles of hiking trails and a visitor center open by appointment only.

Peacedale Preserve

Chester County – Landenberg, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Peacedale is a 222-acre preserve containing hayfields, meadows, and woodlands as well as two tributaries to Big Elk Creek. The preserve has 3 miles of hiking trails

Sadsbury Woods Preserve

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Sadsbury Woods is a 508-acre preserve that is the largest remaining, unfragmented woodlands in Chester County with 6 miles of trails. Buck Run flows the park and there is an upside-down bridge on the Purple Loop trail so be prepared to get your feet wet.

Stroud Preserve

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Stroud is a 571-acre preserve that contains grasslands, working farmlands, and woodlands. The East Branch of the Brandywine Creek flows through the park. There are over 9 miles of trails that are shared with equestrian riders. The stone farmhouse in the preserve was built in 1740 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The preserve is used as a study site by the [Stroud Water Research Center](#).

Willisbrook Preserve

Chester County – Malvern, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Willisbrook is a 126-acre preserve consisting of woods and grassland meadows, including just over 20 acres of a rare ecosystem known as the Sugartown Serpentine Barrens, with 3 miles of trails.

Chester County Parks

The [Chester County Department of Parks + Preservation](#) operates six parks in the county. Three of the parks (Hibernia, Nottingham, Warwick) are covered in the Camping section. Chester County also has two undeveloped preserves that were formerly silting basins located in East Coventry Township along the Schuylkill River – Sanatoga County and Linfield County Preserves.



Hiking



Black Rock Sanctuary

Chester County – Phoenixville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Black Rock Sanctuary is a 119-acre park containing one of woodlands, meadows, and wetlands along the Schuylkill River. The park is the site of a former silting basin transformed into wetlands. There is a 0.8 mile ADA accessible [interpretive trail](#) along with other hiking trails.

Springton Manor Farm

Chester County – Glenmoore, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Springton Manor Farm is a 300-acre park that has been in agricultural use since the early 1700's. The park has a demonstration farm including the Great Barn that hosts the Family Farm Museum. Indian Run flows through the park. There is a nature trail with interpretive signs around the pond.

Wolf's Hollow County Park

Chester County – Atglen, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Wolf's Hollow is a 569-acre county park that lies along the uppermost reaches of the Octoraro Creek. These natural features provide beautiful bluffs where visitors can overlook the creek and glades of mountain laurel. Nearly ten miles of trails wind through varied topography, providing hikers with routes ranging from moderate to challenging.

Open Land Conservancy

The [Open Land Conservancy](#) is a non-profit organization that has preserved 470 acres of land in the great valley area across eight preserves.

Airdrie Forest Preserve

Chester County – Paoli, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Airdrie Forest is a 75-acre preserve consisting of consisting of mature forest and 3 miles of hiking trails.

Cedar Hollow Preserve

Chester County – Malvern, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Cedar Hollow is a 67-acre preserve consisting of meadows, woods, and rock formations. Cedar Hollow Run and Valley Creek flow through the preserve.

Diamond Rock Preserve

Chester County – Malvern, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Diamond Rock is a seldom visited 67-acre preserve with 110-foot oaks, mountain laurel, rock formations, and steep slopes that abuts an old quarry. The preserve is on Diamond Rock Hill, namesake



Hiking



for Chester County Council's Diamond Rock District. The Diamond Rock Preserve is accessed from the [Horse-Shoe Trail](#). There is no parking lot so study the maps closely on where to park before you visit.

Local Township Preservers

All the local townships and boroughs in Chester and adjacent counties have a local parks department. Please check your local township website for local parks with hiking trails. This section highlights a few interesting local township preserves.

Bondsville Mill

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map and Brochure](#)

Bondsville Mill is a 47-acre park that where grist mills have been operating along Beaver Creek since the 1700's. The wool mill ruins you can see today date from 1841. There are 2 miles of hiking trail in the park. See the Bondsville Mill Committee page off the website for even more information.

Harmony Hill Nature Area

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location \(Skep Level Road\)](#) [Trail Map](#)

Harmony Hill is a 240-acre nature area featuring 7 miles of hilly trails along the East Branch of Brandywine Creek and the East Branch Brandywine paved trail. The trails are also very popular with mountain bikers. There are parking lots on Skelp Level Road and Harmony Hill Road. The Gibson Covered Bridge crosses the Brandywine next to the Harmony Hill Road parking lot. Harmony Hill is adjacent to the [Sugars' Bridge Nature Area](#) and the [M. John Johnson Nature Center](#). The 2-mile [Hogs' Hollow](#) Trail through Paradise Farm Camps property can also be accessed from the Skelp Level Road parking lot.

Okehocking Preserve

Chester County – Newtown Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Okehocking is a 180-acre preserve with 7 miles of trails. It is part of the original land grant from William Penn to the Okehocking band of the Lenni Lenape Indians. Ridley Creek flows through the park. There is a self-guided [interpretative trail](#).

Brandywine Conservancy

The [Brandywine Conservancy](#) protects and conserves the land, water, natural, and cultural resources of the Brandywine-Christina watershed. Hiking on their preserves requires you become a [member](#) of the Brandywine Conservancy (annual fee).

The Laurels Preserve

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)



Hiking



The Laurels is a 771-acre preserve of which nearly 500 acres are hardwood forest. Doe Run and Buck Run flow through the preserve. The preserve is formerly part of the Buck & Doe Run Valley Farm property that was owned by King Rach of Texas. The preserve is home to two covered bridges – the Speakman #2 Mary Ann Pyle Bridge across Buck Run (built in 1881) and the Hayes Clark Bridge across Doe Run (originally built in 1874, rebuilt in 1971).

The Waterloo Mills Preserve

Chester County – Devon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Waterloo Mills is a 170-acre preserve along Darby Creek with over 3 miles of trails. Doe Run and Buck Run flow through the preserve. The preserve contains historic ruins including remnants of a mill race, wetlands, and mature forest.

Willistown Conservation Trust

The [Willistown Conservation Trust](#)'s mission is to preserve and manage the open land, rural character, scenic, recreational, historic, agricultural and natural resources of the Willistown area and nearby communities. Willistown Conservation Trust operates three preserves along with a community farm and conservation center. Regular [community programs](#) are offered.

Ashbridge Preserve

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Ashbridge is a 55-acre preserve along the main branch of Ridley Creek and has a 1.35-mile hiking trail.

Kirkwood Preserve

Chester County – Newtown Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Kirkwood is an 83-acre preserve along Crum Creek with 2.7 miles of hiking trails.

Rushton Woods Preserve

Chester County – Newtown Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Rushton Woods is an 86-acre preserve along Indian Run with 2 miles of hiking trails. The preserve contains the [Rushton Farm](#) and [Rushton Conservation Center](#).

French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust

The [French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust](#)'s mission is to preserve land in northern Chester County. The trust directly owns and operates two preserves.

Great Marsh Preserve

Chester County – Glenmoore, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)



Hiking



Great Marsh is a 500-acre preserve of woodland wildlife habitat. There is a 3-mile loop trail.

Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve
Chester County – Glenmoore, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve is a 108-acre preserve that is recognized as a birding “hot spot” by the Audubon Society. The ruins of the historic Warwick Furnace are located on the preserve. There is a 1.25-mile trail. See the tabs on the website for a trail map and the history of Warwick Furnace.

The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County

[The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County](#) (TLC) conserves land in southern Chester County and has preserved 1,500 acres to-date. TLC owns five public preserves and supports the [Bucktoe Preserve](#) in partnership with The Delaware Nature Society. The [Marshall Bridge Preserve](#) is covered under the Marshall Steam Museum and Auburn Valley State Park in the Historic Sites chapter of this guide. The 180-acre [Little Elk Creek Preserve](#) is currently being developed for recreational use. The TLC will conduct [Scout and custom programs](#) for youth groups. The [Kennett Greenway](#) is a planned 14-mile loop to connect these preserves with together with Kennett Square.

Chandler Mill Nature Preserve
Chester County – Avondale, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Chandler Mill Nature Preserve is a 45-acre preserve with 1.5 miles of hiking trails. Bucktoe Creek and the West Branch of Red Clay Creek flow through the preserve. [Historic Bucktoe Cemetery](#) is located on the preserve and is the final resting place for at least nine members of the United States Colored Troops who served in the Civil War. The historic Chandler Bridge built in 1910 is also in the preserve. TLC’s HQ and Nature Center are housed in the preserve. The Nature Center offers [environmental education programs](#).

Marshall Mill Preserve
Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Marshall Mill is a 40-acre preserve with 1.5 miles of hiking trails and a tributary of Red Clay Creek. It also preserves the historic Marshall Mill House built in the 1850’s for an employee of the Marshall Brothers paper mill.

New Leaf Sensory Garden
Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

New Leaf Sensory Garden is an 11-acre preserve that focuses on introducing younger children to nature. There are several interactive features on-site including a cairn-building station, texture tiles, bamboo wind chimes, a story walk, a pollinator garden, and an apiary to learn about bees. There is a 0.7-mile nature trail.



Hiking



Stateline Woods Preserve

Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Stateline Woods is an 82-acre preserve with 4 miles of hiking trails, a tributary of Red Clay Creek, and a 300-year old Oak tree.

Oxford Area Foundation

The [Oxford Area Foundation](#)'s mission is to protect and restore critical natural areas and waterways for public benefit, and to educate the community to create a legacy of a healthy, sustainable environment for future generations.

Glenroy Preserve

Chester County – West Nottingham Township

[Website](#)

The Oxford Area Foundation is actively transforming 577 acres of land off PA Route 272 N in West Nottingham Township, Chester County, PA, into a nature preserve. Miles of trails will be accessible to the public for hiking. The Preserve will promote, educate, and encourage environmental awareness in Southern Chester County and increase natural sustainability. Anticipated grand opening is set for late summer 2021.

Lancaster County Parks & Lancaster Conservancy

The [Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Department](#) operates six parks and three trails in Lancaster County. The Lancaster Conservancy operates 47 preserves in Lancaster, York, Chester, and Dauphin Counties. One combined park / preserve close to Chester County is highlighted below. For those wanting to go further afield Lancaster Conservancy has several preserves along the Susquehanna River that are traversed by the [Conestoga Trail](#).

Money Rocks County Park & Welsh Mountain Preserve

Lancaster County – Narvon, PA

[Website \(Money Rocks\)](#) [Website \(Welsh Mountain\)](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Money Rocks is a 349-acre park in the Welsh Mountains of eastern Lancaster County. It is best known for its spectacular spine of boulders called Money Rocks. The park is contiguous with Lancaster Conservancy's 940-acre Welsh Mountain Preserve. There are over 7 miles of hiking trails between the two parks. Be sure to hike the overlook trail in Money Rocks to the rock formation and the overlook trail in Welsh Mountain Preserve for a great view.

New Castle County Parks

Iron Hill Park

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)



Hiking



The 335-acre Iron Hill Park has an extensive trail system and an 18-hole [disc golf course](#). The park has numerous historic sites and hosts the [Iron Hill Science Center](#). The [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) traverse the park. You can easily combine a visit to Iron Hill Park with the nearby Cooch’s Bridge battlefield and [Pencader Heritage Museum](#).

Middle Run Valley Natural Area

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Middle Run Valley Natural Area is an 860-acre New Castle County-owned park that Delaware Nature Society manages to benefit biodiversity. There is an ongoing reforestation project and more than 50,000 trees have been planted in the last 30 years. Middle Run features 10 miles of mountain biking and hiking trails through forest, fields and rolling hills. The park trails adjoin those on the White Clay Creek State Park creating some of the longest trails in Delaware. There is a 1-mile interpretive [Birding Trail](#). The natural area is very popular with birders with over 190 species having been spotted.

State Game Lands

The [Pennsylvania State Game Lands](#) are operated by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission. There is only one State Game Land property within Chester County. Secondary recreational use such as hiking is permitted on State Game Lands. Please be aware of the [hunting season](#) and always wear orange.

State Game Lands 43) (St. Peters Village Rocks Trail)

Chester County – St. Peters, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

St. Peters Village is a historic village along the banks of French Creek. You can hike along the boulder-strewn creek, wade to cool off, and check out the interesting graffiti. The hiking trails are part of the easternmost of the three parcels of the 2,545-acre State Game Lands 43. AllTrails.com has a [suggested route](#). After exploring the creek grab a snack at [St. Peters Village Bakery](#) or play pinball at the [Village Arcade](#).

Other Hiking Trails

The following hiking areas are a bit further afield but offer great hiking opportunities.

Birdsboro Waters

Berks County – Birdsboro, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map \(TrailForks\)](#)

Birdsboro Waters is an 1,800-acre preserve held under conservation easement by the state to protect the Hay Creek Watershed. Hay Creek, an exceptional quality trout stream flows through the preserve. Birdsboro Waters has over 30 miles of trails used for hiking and mountain biking. The [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) traverses the preserve. Birdsboro is best known for its [rock climbing](#) in the old quarry which can be interesting to watch while on a hike. Recommended for experienced hikers.



Hiking



Governor Dick Park

Lebanon County – Mt. Gretna, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Maps](#)

The Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick is a 1,105-acre park on a forested mountain that used to provide timber to make charcoal for the iron industry. There is a 66-foot high observation tower that will let you see into five counties. Climbing the tower requires ascending a series of short ladders. There are 14 miles of hiking trails. There is a 315-foot ADA-accessible boardwalk through the trees, a 0.4-mile interpretive nature trail, and a permanent orienteering course. The park has an environmental education center and offers [Scout programs](#). The park is a popular venue for bouldering. The [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) runs through the park.

Ringneck Rocks County Park

Bucks County – Upper Black Eddy, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Ringneck Rocks is a 128-acre county park known for its boulder field. Bring a hammer and make your own music on rocks. An eight-acre geologic wonder, the Ringneck Rocks boulder field consists of primordial igneous diabase boulders that resonate when struck by a hammer. Bucks County's largest waterfall is also here.

Wissahickon Valley Park

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Wissahickon Valley is a 2,042-acre park that is the largest remaining untouched woodlands in Philadelphia. Wissahickon Creek flows through the valley. There are 50 miles of trails in the park. Forbidden Drive is a multi-use flat gravel trail along the creek. Wissahickon Valley is a [National Natural Landmark](#).

Long Distance Hiking Trails in our Area

There are several long-distance hiking trails that pass through our area. While hiking them in full is not age-appropriate for Cub Scouts you can take advantage of them to hike short sections.

Horse-Shoe Trail

The yellow-blazed Horse-Shoe Trail runs 140 miles from Valley Forge National Historic Park towards Harrisburg to connect with the Appalachian Trail at Stony Mountain. Chester County Council's Horseshoe Trail District takes its name from the trail. A guidebook and set of maps can be purchased from the [Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy](#). A 17 mile stretch of the trail through Warwick County Park, SGL 43, Crow's Nest Preserve, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, and French Creek State Park has been designated a [National Recreational Trail](#).

Mason-Dixon Trail

The blue-blazed Mason-Dixon Trail runs 199 miles from Chadds Ford, PA through Delaware and Maryland crossing the Susquehanna River and then up through Pennsylvania. In our area the trail runs through



Hiking



White Clay Creek Preserve, White Clay Creek State Park, and Iron Hill Park. A guidebook and set of maps can be purchased from the [Mason-Dixon Trail Club](#).



Bicycling

Bicycling can be a fun den or pack activity. While there are no bicycling specific requirements in the various adventures, a bicycling adventure can satisfy an outdoor activity requirement. Youth generally learn to ride a bike between the ages of three and eight so you will likely find a range to skill levels in your Cub Scouts. Once you understand the ability level of your Scouts you can select an age-appropriate distance and grade. Also understanding your Scouts' bikes is important. At Cub Scout age you will find a mix of bikes – those with gears (mountain bike) and those without gears (BMX bike or beginner bike). Riding a trail with hills is not usually appropriate for bikes without gears.

Chester County Council's Camp Ware has a BMX course that part of the program during summer Cub Scout Overnight Camp.

The requirements for the retired [Bicycling belt loop and pin](#) can provide ideas for incorporating bicycling into your program.

Bike Rodeo

A bike rodeo can be a great way to teach your Cub Scouts about bicycle safety and bicycling. You can run a bike rodeo in your school parking or in a nearby park. See this [article](#) from Scouting magazine on how to run a bike rodeo.

Chester County and Nearby

Chester Valley Trail

Chester County and Montgomery County – Exton, PA to King of Prussia, PA

[Website \(Chester County\)](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Chester Valley Trail is a paved 14.7-mile multi-use trail extending from Exton, PA near the Walmart in Main Street at Exon east to Gulph Road in King of Prussia. There are numerous trail access points and parking lots. The 701-acre [Exton Park](#) on Church Farm Road is the primary access point provided by Chester County with over 90 parking spaces. The trail, built on the former Chester Valley Railroad, is flat and has various historical interpretive signs along the way. It also goes through [Battle of the Clouds Park](#) in Frazer. Ongoing expansion of the trail eastward to the Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown and westward to Downingtown is underway.

East Branch Brandywine Trail

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#)

The Brandywine Trail is a paved 2.5-mile multi-use trail along the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek. There are three parking lots / access points – US 322 by the trestle bridge, Harmony Hill Road, and Skelp Level Road at US 322. Note that there is one hill that some Scouts may have to walk their bikes up. There are also numerous mountain bike trails accessible from the paved trail in the Harmony Hill Nature Area.

Paoli Pike Trail

Chester County – Goshenville, PA

[Website](#) [Trail Map](#)



Bicycling



The Paoli Pike Trail is a recently opened 1.95-mile trail along Paoli Pike in East Goshen Township extending from Reservoir Road to Line Road. It includes the trail system in [Applebrook Park](#) and connects to [East Goshen Township Park](#). The trail also connects to the [East Goshen Blacksmith Shop](#) where you can see a blacksmithing demonstration.

Perkiomen Trail

Montgomery County – Oaks, PA to Green Lane, PA

[Website](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Perkiomen Trail is a 20 mile mostly crushed stone trail from the Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks to Green Lane Park in the north. The trail follows the former rail bed of the Perkiomen Line of the Reading Railroad. The Perkiomen Trail has numerous connectors including one to Evansburg State Park. A great ride is the 6-mile “Audubon Loop” combining the Perkiomen Trail, John James Audubon Center trail, and the Schuylkill River Trail.

Schuylkill River Trail

Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties

[Website \(General\)](#) [Website \(Chester County\)](#) [Website \(Montgomery County\)](#)

The Schuylkill River Trail is a planned 120-mile trail from Frackville in Schuylkill County through Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties Philadelphia. Today 75 miles of crushed gravel and paved trail is open to the public (not all contiguous). In northern Chester County, a 5.75-mile stretch is open from Parker’s Ford to Phoenixville. The bridge connection from Phoenixville to Mont Clare in Montgomery County was recently opened. From Mont Clare you can ride 26.3 miles to downtown Philadelphia. In Montgomery County the trail connects to the Perkiomen Trail, John James Audubon Center Trail, and via a bridge to the trail system at Valley Forge National Historic Park. A section of trail is under construction from Parker’s Ford to 422 and a bridge crossing to Pottstown.

Struble Trail

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Struble Trail is a 2.6-mile paved multi-use trail that parallels the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek built on the former Waynesburg Rail line. The trail is very flat. There is fishing along the Brandywine but note that special regulations apply. The remains of the historic [Dowlin Forge](#) are along the route. Just to the north of Dowlin Forge the Struble Trail connects to the Uwchlan Trail and further along is a connector to Dowlin Forge Park. Along the southern part of the trail you will find nature interpretive signs for the trees (Eagle Scout project). In Downingtown Borough the trail connects to an additional trail segment in The Ponds / Kardon park and it is a short sidewalk ride from there to Kerr Park. The trail at Kerr Park connects to Johnstown Park allowing you to create a longer route.

Uwchlan Trail

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website \(Circuit Trails\)](#) [Website \(Uwchlan Township\)](#)

The Uwchlan Trail is a 2-mile paved multi-use trail that parallels Shamona Creek from the Struble Trail at Dowlin Forge Road to the intersection of Pennypacker and Milford by the Pennypacker Country Club. The trail has some hills. There are historic interpretive signs along the trail highlighting the iron industry.



Bicycling



The trail runs through Jones Pond and Shamona Creek Parks. Riding the Uwchlan Trail can be combined with the Struble Trail. The north end can be further extended by riding on the designated sidewalk network of trails in Uwchlan Township.

North

Union Canal Towpath Trail

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#)

[Trail Map](#)

The Union Canal Towpath Trail operated by Berks County Parks and Recreation is a 4.5-mile crushed gravel trail that follows Tulpehocken Creek and is designated as a [National Recreation Trail](#). A 1.8-mile connector trail links the Union Canal Towpath Trail with [Blue Marsh Lake](#). The trail follows the original towpath of the Union Canal operated from 1828-1885 that connected Reading on the Schuylkill River to the Susquehanna River. There are historic sites along the route and the website also has an audio tour you can download. The [Berks County Heritage Center](#) is along the trail.

South

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail

Cecil County – Chesapeake City, MD to New Castle County – Delaware City, DE

[Website](#)

[Trail Map](#)

The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail is a 14-mile trail along the [Chesapeake and Delaware Canal](#), which is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The 45-foot wide and 35-foot deep canal is one of the world's busiest with container ships destined for the Port of Baltimore. The [C&D Canal Museum](#) with a replica lighthouse is located in Chesapeake City (not open on weekends). 5,000 acres of land along the canal is preserved in a wildlife conservation area managed by the [Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife](#). A bike ride on the trail could be combined with a visit or camping trip to [Lums Pond State Park](#).

Jack A. Marckell Trail

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE to New Castle, DE

[Website](#)

[Trail Map](#)

The Jack A. Marckell Trail is a 7.9-mile trail connecting the Wilmington Riverfront to Battery Park in historic New Castle. The trail was completed in 2018 and there are numerous amenities. The trail starts from the [DuPont Environmental Education Center](#) in Wilmington.

Northern Delaware Greenway Trail

New Castle County

[Website](#)

[Trail Map](#)

The 10.4-mile Northern Delaware Greenway links [Bellevue State Park](#) and [Brandywine Park](#) and the City of Wilmington through a series of trails that travel some of the most beautiful landscapes in Delaware. The trail also includes [Alapocas Run State Park](#) and [Fox Point State Park](#). The Northern Delaware Greenway Trail is the longest, oldest, existing, off-road trail in Delaware. It has attained national recognition as an "National Recreation Trail."



Bicycling



West

Enola Low Grade Trail

Lancaster County – Quarryville, PA

[Website \(Quarryville Section\)](#) [Trail Map](#) [History](#)

The Enola Low Grade Trail is a 29-mile crushed gravel trail from Atglen, PA to the Susquehanna River. The trail is under management of the various townships it passes through and conditions may vary. The Martic Forge Trestle was recently re-opened and the Safe Harbor Trestle work is expected to be completed October 2021. Recommend starting location is in Quarryville riding west as the section from Quarryville to Atglen is unimproved.



Parks

Local community parks can provide a great place to hold Cub Scout events. A guide and map to the municipal parks of Chester County is located [here](#).

Activities at Local Parks

Disc Golf

Several parks across our area have 9 or 18-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf can be a great outdoor activity for your den or pack.

Fishing

Fishing is another great Cub Scout activity. Many local parks have a pond or stream that is suitable for fishing. See the Fishing chapter for further information.

Raingutter Regatta

A raingutter regatta is a classic Cub Scout event. The Cub Scouts build miniature sailboats and then race them under wind power (Cub Scouts blowing into the sails) down two rain gutters setup side by side. See this [video](#) for more details. The sailboats can be made from either BSA kits or crafts supplies.

Rocket Launches

A park with a large open field is a great place to host a rocket launch or rocket derby. There are several styles of rocket launches:

- Model rockets – see Estes Rockets’ [Rocketry in Youth Programs](#) for details on how to run an age-appropriate model rocket event.
- Water bottle rockets – see Scout Life magazine’s [article](#) on water bottle rockets to get you started including safety. There are numerous Internet resources to assist you.
- Film canister – there are numerous Internet resources such as this [one](#) to assist you.

Sports

Cub Scouts can provide an opportunity to expose Scouts to a variety of different sports. At a local park you can play [badminton](#), [baseball](#), [basketball](#), [flag football](#), [kickball](#), [soccer](#), [ultimate frisbee](#), and [volleyball](#). See the links for the retired Cub Scouts Sports belt loop and pin program for ideas.

Local Parks of Note

Anson B. Nixon Park

Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park Map](#)

Anson B. Nixon is a 106-acre park operated by the Kennett Area Park Authority. The park has two fishing ponds (stocked for spring trout rodeos) and an 18-hole disc golf course. The park has hosted numerous Cub Scout Day camps over the years.

East Fallowfield Community Park

Chester County – East Fallowfield, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park Map](#)



Parks



East Fallowfield Community Park is a 62-acre park operated by the East Fallowfield Township. The park is the site of numerous Eagle Scout projects, has a pond, and has over 5 miles of trails. The ruins of a Cold War era bomb shelter are on one of the trails. There is a [nature guide](#) available for the park. The park is the site of one of the 2021 Chester County Council Cub Scout Day Camps.

Kerr Park

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Kerr Park is a 45-acre park operated by the Downingtown Borough Parks & Recreation Department. The East Branch of the Brandywine Creek flows through the park and offers great fishing. The park has a trout hatchery, a skate park, and numerous athletic fields. A paved trail connects the park to the Downingtown Log House and Johnsontown Park. The park has hosted numerous Cub Scout Day camps over the years.

Oakbourne Park

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park Map](#)

Oakbourne is a 106-acre park operated by Westtown Township. The park contains the historic [Oakbourne Mansion](#) and Water Tower built in the late 1800's as a summer house. The has several miles of hiking trails, sports fields, a council ring that can be used by Scout groups for campfires, and an [arboretum](#). The park has hosted numerous Cub Scout Day camps over the years.



Navigation Activities

Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting activity invented in 2000 where you use a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver to find a hidden container called a geocache. Geocaching is a great activity to get outdoors and exploring. Participants in the hobby hide geocaches, create a description, and post it on a website for others to find. Each geocache has rating of difficulty to find from 1-5 (easy to hard) and the same for terrain. The geocache consists of a container with a logbook to sign.

To get started, create a free account on Geocaching.com. Then download the free app to your Smartphone. Alternately you can use a GPS receiver and enter the coordinates. When you find the geocache you log your find on the website. The website has introductory videos and guides.

Nearly all the camps, parks, trails, and museums in the guide have geocaches hidden at them. It can be a great activity to do while hiking, biking, or camping. Other geocaches are hidden in urban environments where you use an element of stealth while searching for them.

As your interest in geocaching increases you may want to consider a premium account on geocaching.com (cost \$30/year) that opens many more geocaches and additional features.

There are a variety of geocache types including:

- Traditional – a container hidden at the coordinates
- Mystery – a puzzle to be solved ahead of time or in the field to get the coordinates
- Multi-cache – a geocache that has more than one stage to find
- Virtual – a geocache without a container highlighting a monument or other point of interest
- Earthcache – a “virtual” geocache that highlights a geologic feature of the earth and involves learning about it
- Adventure Lab – the newest type of geocache where you find a series of virtual caches typically highlighting local history or points of interest. Adventure Labs have their own app.

Geocaching can make a great Cub Scout Den or Pack activity. This [guide](#) describes how to setup a Cub Scout geocaching event. The [Geocaching merit badge](#) for Scouts BSA youth has a requirement to teach Cub Scouts about so reach out to your local Troop for assistance if needed.

Chester County Council maintains a “[Cache to Eagle](#)” series of geocaches that highlight Eagle Scout projects in our Council. There are 12 geocaches plus a bonus final geocache. Scouts who find them all, record the code words for each, and turn in the log sheet at the council service center receive a special patch.

Letterboxing

Letterboxing, invented in England in 1854, is similar to geocaching but without the high-tech components and GPS. Letterboxers hide a container with an artistic stamp, inepad, and logbook and then post clues about how to find them. Each Letterboxer creates (or purchases) their own artistic rubber stamp to use to stamp the logbook in the letterbox that they found it.

Clues are posted on two different website [Letterboxing NA](#) and [AtlasQuest](#). While letterboxing is not as popular as geocaching, it remains an active hobby.



Navigation Activities



Geocaching has a type of geocache called a letterbox hybrid that combines the two hobbies. Creating a letterbox stamp and finding a letterbox can make for a great den activity. See this website for [letterboxing resources for Scouts](#).

Orienteering

Orienteering involves using a map with the assistance of a compass to find navigational markers on a course across diverse terrain. A specially prepared map and clue sheet is provided. Orienteering was invented in Sweden in 1886 and is now a worldwide competitive sport.

In our area we are fortunate to have the [Delaware Valley Orienteering Association](#) (DVOA) which is one of the most active clubs in the country. DVOA regularly host orienteering meets around the area and at many of the parks in this guide. There is a discounted rate for Scouts to participate at their events. DVOA regularly hosts beginner events with a training session. The beginner events and “white” or easiest level courses are suitable to older Cub Scouts. Check DVOA’s [event schedule](#). DVOA hold an annual Scout orienteering event at French Creek State park in early May called the [Mid-Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championship](#) (MASOC). There is an event section for Cub Scouts at MASOC with an age appropriate course. DVOA has also held in the past a night orienteering event at the Myrick Conservation Center that was fun for Cub Scouts.

For more information on orienteering with Scouts see [Scoutorienteering.com](#) and the retired [map and compass belt loop and pin](#).



Aquatics

Aquatics are a great activity especially in the summer months. The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to aquatics:



Tiger

Elective
adventure

Floats and
Boats

Show how to enter the water safely, blow your breath out under the water, and do a prone glide.



Wolf

Elective
adventure

Spirit of the
Water

Visit a local pool or public swimming area with your family or den. With qualified supervision, jump into water that is at least chest-high, and swim 25 feet or more.



Bear

Elective
adventure

Salmon Run

Visit a local pool or swimming area with your den or family. Go swimming or take a swimming lesson.



Bear

Elective
adventure

Salmon Run

Demonstrate correct rowing or paddling form.

Webelos /
Arrow of Light

Elective
adventure

Aquanaut

Attempt the BSA swimmer test. Learn and demonstrate two of the following strokes: crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, or elementary backstroke.



Demonstrate how to correctly fasten a life jacket that is the right size for you. Jump into water over your head. Swim 25 feet wearing the life jacket. Get out of the water, remove the life jacket, and hang it where it will dry.



Webelos /
Arrow of Light

Elective
adventure

Aquanaut

If you are a qualified swimmer, select a paddle of the proper size, and paddle a canoe with an adult's supervision

Scout leaders supervising unit aquatics activities are required to take Safe Swim Defense for swimming and Safety Afloat for boating training programs and certifications. They are available online at my.scouting.org.

All Scouts should be swim tested per the Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat guidelines prior to participating in aquatics activities.



Aquatics



Cub Scouts are permitted to participate in paddle sports (canoe, kayak, rowboats, raft, pedal boats, Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP)) on calm or gently flowing water. Lions and Tigers must be with an adult partner.

Scouts who have not passed the swimmer test are limited to participating in the following boating activities:

- Multi-person craft during outings or float trips on calm water with little likelihood of capsizing or falling overboard
- Row or pedal a fixed-seat rowboat or pedal boat accompanied by a buddy who is a swimmer
- Paddle or ride in a canoe or other paddle craft with an adult swimmer skilled in that craft as a buddy.
- Ride as part of a group on a motorboat or sailboat operated by a skilled adult.

This [Bryan on Scouting article](#) provide more information on “the right way to take your Cub Scouts swimming and boating”.

Boating

Boating, especially paddle sports, is a great outdoor activity for Cub Scouts to start learning on the lakes and gently flowing creeks in our area.

If using your own canoe, kayak, or other boat you may need a launch permit depending on the body of water you will be on and where you will be launching from. Boating in Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests require a valid [boat/launch permit](#) from either the DCNR or the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Launching from a PA Fish and Boat Commission launch ramp or boating on a PA Fish and Boat Commission managed lake requires a boat/launch permit from the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

No permits are required in Delaware or Maryland.

Wearing of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) at all times is a BSA requirement. It is also the law in all three states for children twelve and under.

Blue Marsh Lake

Berks County – Leesport, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Park Map](#)

Blue Marsh Lake, northwest of Reading, is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A 98-foot high 1,775-foot long dam controls flooding on Tulpehocken Creek. Blue Marsh Lake is 1,148 acres surround by 5,200 acres of land and 36 miles of trails. There is a visitor center, 3 boat launch areas, and a swimming area (note: no lifeguards on duty). The Stilling Basin, where water is released from the dam, is a popular fishing area and has a universally accessible fishing platform. [Blue Marsh Rentals](#), located a short distance from the lake offers canoe and kayak rentals. They will drop you off/pick you up from the lake. The Blue Marsh Creek Trail is a 29.7-mile multi-use mixed surface trail extending around that lake that is a [National Recreational Trail](#).

Brandywine Creek

Chester County and New Castle County



Aquatics



The [Brandywine Creek](#) is a tributary of the Christina river that flows through southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Delaware. It starts as two branches, the East and West, on the slopes of Welsh Mountain. The West branches flow for 33 miles and the East branch for 27 miles before their confluence about 10 miles south of Coatesville. The Brandywine Creek then flows another 20 miles to the Christina River. The Brandywine creek is a gently flowing meandering creek that is ideal for beginners. However, there are several small dams along the river that require a portage and close adult supervision.

Outfitters along the Brandywine Creek that rent canoes, kayaks, and tubes as well as provide shuttle service include:

Northbrook Canoe Company – located in West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Canoe/Kayak Map](#) (then click to view map)

Brandywine Outfitters – located in Coatesville, PA – note that while Brandywine Outfitters has a Zipline and Adventure Park it is age-appropriate for Scout BSA youth, not Cub Scouts.

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Wilderness Canoe Trips Inc. – located in Wilmington, DE – all trips end at Thompson Bridge at Brandywine State Park.

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Canoe/Kayak Map](#) [Tubing Map](#)

Chambers Lake at Hibernia County Park

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Chambers Lake is a 94-acre lake located at Hibernia County Park. Chambers Lake is a water supply reservoir and regional flood control facility of the Chester County Water Resources Authority. There is a boat ramp but no boat rental.

French Creek State Park

Berks County – Elverson, PA

[Website \(Boating\)](#) [Website \(Boat Rental\)](#) [Location](#)

French Creek State park offers boating on the 68-acre warm water Hopewell Lake and the 22-acre cold water Scotts Run Lake and there is a boat launch on each lake. French Creek Boat Rental rents on Hopewell Lake from their main location and a satellite location. They rent single and double kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, 2-person paddleboats, and rowboats.

Green Lane Reservoir

Montgomery County – Green Lane, PA

[Website \(Boating\)](#) [Website \(Boat Rental\)](#) [Location](#) [Map](#)

Green Lane Reservoir is an 814-acre lake owned by Aqua PA that permits boating through an agreement with Montgomery County. Boats used on the reservoir must go through a quarantine process, so renting is the best bet. Green Lane Boat Rentals, located at the Hill Use Day Area in [Green Lane Park](#), rents single and double kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.

Marsh Creek State Park

Chester County – Downingtown, PA



[Website \(Boating\)](#) [Website \(Boat Rental\)](#) [Location \(Boat Rental\)](#)

Marsh Creek Lake at Marsh Creek State Park is a 535-acre lake. The park has boat ramps on both the East and West sides of the lake. Marsh Creek Watersports rents single and double kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, 2-person paddleboats, and rowboats.

Muddy Run Park
Lancaster County – Holtwood, PA
[Website \(Boat Rental\)](#) [Location](#)

Muddy Run Park has a 100-acre lake with a boat launch (fee) and a boat rental. The boat dock rents canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats.

North East Creek
Cecil County

The North East Creek is a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. The area of the creek near the town of North East, MD is protected and provides calm waters.

Outfitters along North East that rent kayaks and SUP’s as well as provide offsite drop-off service include:

Bay Venture Outfitters – located in North East, MD
[Website](#) [Location](#)

Octoraro Reservoir
Lancaster County – Kirkwood, PA
[Website](#) [Location](#)

The 650-acre Octoraro Reservoir is owned by the Chester Water Authority (CWA). Boating is available via Jim’s Live Bait and Tackle which operates a boat launch (fee) and boat rental. Jim’s rents canoes, kayaks, and rowboats.

Schuylkill River and Canal
Chester County and Montgomery County

The Schuylkill River begins at its headwaters in the mountains near the tiny coal-region town of Tuscarora, PA and flows southeasterly for 137 miles through Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester, and Philadelphia Counties on its way to its confluence with the Delaware River. The [Schuylkill River Water Trail](#) website provides guidance to paddlers. In our area paddling on the 2.5-mile Oakes Reach Canal between Mont Clare and Oaks is great for beginners. It can be combined with a loop on the river that requires a short portage called the [Lock 60 loop](#). The [Schuylkill Canal Association](#) has a [map](#) of the general area. While there visit the [Schuylkill Canal Park](#) to see Lock 60. The [Lock Tender’s House](#) is open on special occasions.

Port Providence Paddle rents canoes, kayaks, and tubes.
[Website](#) [Location](#)

Phoenixville SUP rents kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.
[Website](#) [Location](#)



Aquatics



Speedwell Forge Lake

Lancaster County – Honey Brook, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Speedwell Forge Lake is a 106-acre impoundment managed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission for boating and fishing. There is a boat ramp. [Kayak LANco](#) offer kayak tours (rental included).

Struble Lake

Chester County – Honey Brook, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Struble Lake is a 386-acre impoundment managed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission for boating and fishing. There is a boat ramp but no boat rental.

Swimming Pools

Chester County Sports Arena Pool

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Chester County Sports Arena has an 80x40 outdoor pool with a water slide that can be rented for large group outings. From time to time it also open for public swim – check their [Facebook page](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

French Creek Pool

Berks County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

French Creek Pool is a 24,000 square foot outdoor pool that includes a spacious shallow area for young children to swim and splash around in. The pool overlooks Hopewell Lake in [French Creek State Park](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Marsh Creek Pool

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Marsh Creek Pool is an L-shaped ADA accessible outdoor pool located at [Marsh Creek State Park](#) on the east side of the lake. It also has a splash park and a pavilion. There is an admission fee (\$).

St. Mary of Providence Center Pool

Chester County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The St. Mary of Providence Center has a public indoor Olympic-sized pool available for open swimming or group rental. There is a fee (\$).

YMCA of Greater Brandywine

Chester County



[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The YMCA of Greater Brandywine is an association of the 8 YMCA locations in Chester County. Each YMCA had an indoor and/or outdoor pool. Some units have been able to rent pool time from their local YMCA for a unit swim. Contact your local YMCA to see if this option is available.

Lake Swimming

Blue Marsh Lake

Berks County – Bernville, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Blue Marsh Lake (see full description in Boating) has a swimming beach in the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. Note that there are no lifeguards on duty so you will need to provide your own.

Mt. Gretna Lake & Beach

Lebanon County – Lebanon, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Mount Gretna Lake & Beach is a family-owned property that has eight acres of beach, recreation lawn and picnic grove adjacent to the mountain stream–fed Lake Conewago. There are lifeguards on duty. They have inner tube, canoe, and kayak rentals. There is an admission fee (\$).

Aquatic Parks

Dutch Springs Aqua Park

Lehigh County – Bethlehem, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Dutch Springs Aqua Park is at a 50-acre spring-fed lake. It is an exciting water playground that features inflatable attractions of all shapes and sizes that are easy and fun for kids and adults. Dutch Springs rents kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and paddleboats. Dutch Springs also offers overnight camping. There is an admission fee (\$).

Guppy Gulch

York County – Delta, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Guppy Gulch is a private camp catering only to organized youth groups. A former slate quarry, the 15-acre freshwater reservoir boasts inflatable slides, climbing walls, a zipline, a rodeo pier, bumper boats, kayaks, paddleboards, and jungle-gyms for kids and adults alike on which to challenge and enjoy themselves. Guppy Gulch also offers overnight camping. There is an admission fee (\$).



Fishing

Fishing has long been a favorite Cub Scout activity and we have some great fishing in our area.

Fishing Licenses

Pennsylvania

A valid Pennsylvania fishing license is required of persons age 16 and over to fish or angle for any species of fish. An adult who assists a child (15 years of age and under) by casting or retrieving a fishing line or fishing rod is not required to possess a valid fishing license provided that the child remains within arms' reach of the assisting adult and is actively involved in the fishing activity. An adult may assist a child by baiting hooks, removing fish from the line, netting fish, preparing the fishing rod for use, and untangling the line without possessing a valid fishing license. An adult is required to possess a fishing license if they intend to set the hook for the child. Additionally a Trout Stamp is required if fishing for trout, fishing in Class A wild trout streams (e.g. Valley Stream), or fishing in [stocked trout waters](#) from March 1 – May 31. Non-residents can purchase 1, 3, or 7-day tourist licenses. Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#) or at a [local issuing agent](#).

Maryland

A valid [Maryland fishing license](#) is required or person age 16 and over. Non-residents can also purchase a 3-day or 7-day license. Fishing licenses can purchased from the online [COMPASS portal](#).

Delaware

A valid [Delaware fishing license](#) (click on the Fishing tab) is required or person age 16 and over. Non-residents can also purchase a 7-day license. A Young Angler Trout Stamp is required for 12-15-year old's if trout fishing. Fishing licenses can purchased from the online [DNREC portal](#).

Fishing Regulations

Pennsylvania

[Pennsylvania fishing regulations](#) including seasons, minimum size, daily limit should be understood by anglers fishing in Pennsylvania and are also available in a downloadable [pocket guide](#). In our area Big Bass Regulations apply at Blue Marsh Lake, Chambers Lake, Hopewell Lake, Marsh Creek Lake, and Nockamixon Lake. Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations also apply at Blue Marsh Lake and Chambers Lake

Maryland

[Maryland fishing regulations](#) including seasons, minimum size, daily limit should be understood by anglers fishing in Maryland.

Delaware

[Delaware fishing regulations](#) including seasons, minimum size, daily limit should be understood by anglers fishing in Maryland.

Conducting Den and Pack Fishing Programs

The [BSA Fishing Program site](#) has program support materials including a guide to Cub Scout fishing and information about the Take Me Fishing program.



The [BSA Certified Angling Instructors](#) website has additional information on [Cub Scout fishing](#) and training opportunities.

Fishing at Public Lakes, Ponds, and Streams

All the lakes in the boating section above provide excellent fishing opportunities. The numerous streams in our area and their tributaries referenced in the camping and hiking sections also provide great fishing. The Chester County Water Resources Authority has useful maps on the [watersheds](#) in Chester County and the [fishery designation](#) of each. Local preserves and townships parks also have fishing ponds.

The PA Fish & Boat Commissions provides [Lake Improvement Maps](#) for all of the lake in the boating section showing where structures to improve fish habitats that can be used to identify the best fishing locations.

Commercial Fishing Locations

Kurtz Fish Hatchery

Chester County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

[Kurtz Fish Hatchery](#) is a family-owned business that sells fish for stocking and is a live bait wholesaler who operates 24-hour live bait vending machines in our area. They have a 28-acre private lake (no fishing license required) that is available for fishing at a daily rate. They also rental fishing tackle and sell live bait.

Limestone Spring Fishing Preserve

Lebanon County – Richland, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Supplied with artesian spring water from a 19th century limestone quarry, Aqua-life Inc.'s [Limestone Springs Trout Hatchery and Fishing Preserve](#) offers recreational rainbow trout fishing daily all year round as well as trout stocking and food service trout products year-round. Limestone Springs has a Scout for Trout program offering free admission to Scouts in uniform on certain days. No fishing license is required. There is an admission fee (\$). They offer rentals, bait, and fish cleaning.

Trout Rodeos

Several clubs in our area offer trout rodeos for children in the spring in newly stocked streams. They may also offer bass or catfish rodeos. Check their website for date and location.

[Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club](#)

[West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association](#)

[Chester Valley Sportsman Association](#)

[Stoney Creek Anglers](#)

[Brandywine Red Clay Alliance](#) & [Kennett Park Authority](#)

[Pine Forge Sportsman Club](#)



Historic Sites and Museums

The Chester County area has a long history with numerous historic sites and museums to visit. The history covers the Lenni Lenape and Susquehannock Native Americans, the founding and colonization of Pennsylvania by William Penn, the American Revolution, the Industrial Revolution with iron and steel making, our agricultural heritage with grist mills, the area’s rivers and canals, the Civil War and Underground Railroad, and modern military history.

Several of the museums offer Scout programs and Scout overnight events. These are highly recommended.

The following adventures are aligned to historic sites and museums:



Tiger

Elective
adventure

Tiger Tales*

Visit a historical museum or landmark with your parent, guardian, or other caring adult.



Bear

Required
adventure

Paws for
Action

Find out where places of historical interest are located in or near your community, town, or city. Go and visit one of them with your family or den.

* This adventure is being retired on May 31, 2022.

The following Cub Scout Nova award require a visit that can be accomplished with the sites listed in this chapter:



Uncovering the Past

Visit a place that has items that have been excavated, such as a museum, dig site, historical society, etc. Talk to someone who works there about the displays.

Chester County and Nearby

The following historic museums and sites are located in or very close to Chester County.

American Treasure Tour

Montgomery County – Oaks, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

American Treasure Tour is an Americana museum located in a 100,000 square foot former tire factory. There are collections of restored self-playing orchestras, gangs of life-size clown statues, countless stuffed animals hailing from carnivals and promotional campaigns, decade’s worth of movie posters, grandfather clocks, porcelain dolls, nutcrackers, signs, and almost anything else one could imagine from the last century or more of cultural memory. There is even a full assortment of vintage automobiles. There is an admission fee (\$).

Antique Ice Tool Museum

Chester County – West Chester, PA



[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Antique Ice Tool Museum displays one of the world's largest collection of tools and vehicles used in the "natural" ice trade in a restored 1834 stone bank barn.

Brandywine Battlefield Park

Delaware County – Chadds Ford, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Brandywine Battlefield Park, operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, interprets the Battle of the Brandywine fought between the Continental Army under General George Washington and the British Army under General Sir William Howe. The forces met here as Howe moved to take Philadelphia, then the American capital, and fought the longest single-day battle of the Revolutionary War. There is a museum with an 18-minute film and tours of the Benjamin Rush House (Washington's HQ) and the Gideon Gilpin House. The park offers school tour programs that would be appropriate for Cub Scouts. There is an admission fee (\$). The Brandywine Battlefield preservation also offers a self-guided driving tour that covers other sites associated with the battle in Chester County including the [Birmingham Friends Meeting House](#), [Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery](#), [Sandy Hollow Heritage Park](#), [Osborne Hill](#), the 113-acre [Birmingham Hill Preserve](#), and [Trimble's Ford](#).

Brinton 1704 House

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Brinton House was built in 1704 when Pennsylvania was still a colony of Great Britain. The Brintons were Quakers, and William Brinton, Sr. (1635 – 1700) moved to the colony of Pennsylvania with his wife and son to escape religious persecution in England. William Brinton, Jr. (1670 – 1751) built the 1704 House in Pennsylvania for his growing family. It is one of the oldest and best restored houses in the United States. The House is open for tours seasonally.

Chadds Ford Historical Society

Delaware County – Chadds Ford, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Chadds Ford Historical Society has a visitor's center and three pre-revolution buildings including John Chadds House. During the late 1730's and 1740's when John Chadds operated a ferry service across the Brandywine, the crossing place became known as "Chadds Ford". The Society has a variety of [youth group tours](#). The Society also offers [Escape Brandywine](#), a historically-themed escape room. While in the area visit the nearby [Christian C. Sanderson Museum](#), housing a variety of local artifacts.

Chester County Historical Society

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) is the official county history museum and history education center covering the history of the country since it was founded in 1682. There is a large permanent exhibition space along with rotating exhibits. The museum is open Thursday – Sunday. The museum has school and youth group tours with hands-on activities. There is an admission fee (\$).



Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation

Chester County – Newtown Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation is a living history site located at Ridley Creek State Park (see the Camping section earlier in this guide). It is a 112-acre site that interprets 1760-1790 farm life in southeastern Pennsylvania. Colonial Plantation offers a special Scout program – [The Scout Colonial Experience](#). The plantation is currently open on weekends. There is an admission fee (\$).

Daniel Boone Homestead

Berks County – Birdsboro, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Daniel Boone Homestead is a 579-acre site operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is the site of the legendary pioneer’s birth in 1734. Visit the Boone House, barn, blacksmith shop, and sawmill. The site also has a permanent [orienteeing course](#). The Daniel Boone Homestead has offered organized group tenting in the past – check with the Homestead for current availability.

Downingtown Log House

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Downingtown Log House built circa 1701 is operated by the Downingtown Borough Historic Commission. It is open occasionally for tours, check the Downingtown Borough [webpage](#) Events or call the Borough to arrange a private tour.

Fricks Locks Village

Chester County – East Coventry, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Fricks Locks Village is a modern-day ghost town. The village became important in 1832 when locks were built on the Schuylkill Canal there. The village declined in the mid-1920’s on closure of the canal. In 1960-1970 Exelon acquired the land as part of their Limerick nuclear generating plant and it became a ghost town. Under agreement with Exelon the well preserved village can be visited by [guided tours](#) provided by East Coventry Township.

Historic Marshallton

Chester County – Marshallton, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Friends of Martin’s Tavern along with the [Marshallton Conservation Trust](#) maintain several historic buildings in the village Marshallton, a crossroads in the Revolutionary War, including Martin’s Tavern and the Blacksmith Shop. There is a heritage center with information about the village and the Battle of the Brandywine. There is an audio tour available on the website.

Historic Oxford

Chester County – Oxford, PA



[Website](#) [Location](#)

Oxford, founded in 1754, has one of the largest historical districts in the state on the National Registry of Historic Places. A self-guided [Walking Tour of Historic Oxford](#) is available, and it has a [Companion Guide for Children](#). The tour begins at The Ware Mansion built in the 1880's. The Mansion was bought in 1926 by John H. Ware, Jr., father to the namesake of Camp Ware, and has a [fascinating history](#).

Historic Sugartown

Chester County – Malvern, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Historic Sugartown is a remarkably intact and restored 19th century rural crossroads village. Group tours are available that include the General Store, Carriage Museum featuring a circa 1800 Conestoga Wagon, 1805 Quaker Farmhouse, Book Bindery, and the Bank Barn.

Historic Waynesborough

Chester County – Paoli, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Historic Waynesborough is the ancestral home of Revolutionary War hero General Anthony Wayne and is now a museum. Reservations are required for a tour and there is an admission fee (\$). The tour begins with a video and then a visit to the mansion.

Historic Yellow Springs

Chester County – Chester Springs, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Historic [Yellow Springs](#) is a historic spa village that was the site of the first American military hospital commissioned by George Washington. You can tour the ruins of the hospital. Historic Yellow Springs consists of 11 historic buildings over 145 acres. You can take a self-guided tour or arrange a Scout [group tour](#). Today the village is a center for the fine arts.

Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

Chester County – Phoenixville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Historical society of Phoenixville has a small museum in the former Central Lutheran Church. Displays include artifacts from the Native American Lenni Lenape, the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company, and the Schuylkill Navigation Company.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

Berks County – Elverson, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is operated by the National Park Service. The 848-acre park showcases an “iron plantation”- an early American landscape of industrial operations from 1771-1883. Start your tour at the visitor center with a film. Then take a self-guided tour of the iron furnace community and visit the farm program. In the fall you can pick apples from the historic orchard (fee). The [Junior Ranger](#) program is great for Cub Scouts. Before your visit don't forget to download the



Historic Sites and Museums



Hopewell Furnace app for iPhone or Android. Hopewell Furnace is adjacent to French Creek State Park and is a great option to combine with a campout there. There are numerous hiking trails that are part of the French Creek State park trail system. Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport](#) stamp.

Kennett Underground Railroad Center

Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC) is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to telling the stories of Underground Railroad sites and participants in this area. The KURC offers both guide bus tours and self-guided driving tours that visit documented Underground Railroad sites, historic homes, and Quaker Meetinghouses while learning about local abolitionists and anti-slavery activity in the Kennett Square area. The tour also presents the contributions of local African Americans and their faith communities in the quest for freedom from slavery. There is a tour fee/donation requested (\$).

Lower Swedish Cabin

Delaware County – Drexel Hill, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Lower Swedish Cabin is a historic Swedish-style log cabin. The cabin may be one of the oldest log cabins in the United States. It was likely built sometime between 1640 and 1650 by Swedish immigrants who were part of the New Sweden colony. During the 17th century, Swedish immigrants used the cabin as a trading post with the local native Americans.

Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Valley State park

New Castle County – Hockessin, DE (also listed as Yorklyn, DE)

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map \(Auburn Valley\)](#) [Trail Map \(Marshall Bridge\)](#)

Just across the Pennsylvania border in southern Chester County is Delaware's newest state park, Auburn Valley, with 320-acres. The park preserves the former home and estate of the Marshall family as well as portions of the family's former mills alongside Red Clay Creek. Tours of Auburn Heights, the Marshall family mansion built in 1897, are available. The [Marshall Steam Museum](#) houses the largest collection of operating steam cars in the world. The museum contains historic [Stanley Steamers](#). The Museum's collection also includes a 1/8-size steam locomotive that runs on tracks around the estate called the Auburn Valley Railroad. Auburn Valley State Park is adjacent to The Land Conservancy for Chester County's 80-acre [Marshall Bridge Preserve](#) which is accessed through the State Park. There is a Mason-Dixon line marker at the border. Visitors can hike the trails in both preserves. There is an admission fee (\$) for the park and for the mansion/museum tours.

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is located at the site of the former Lukens Steel Company where America's first female industrialist transformed the iron works. At the Museum you can see exhibits inside the Lukens Executive Office Building, the former office space for company executives, and the 120" Mill Motor House, that supplied electricity to run the 120" Rolling Mill complex. In the Motor



Historic Sites and Museums



House are the Guppy submersible, two historic fire trucks and a historic ambulance. The indoor exhibits explore the steel making process, steel products, and the history of the American steel industry. You can also see steel products outdoors on the museum grounds including a narrow-gauge locomotive, a submarine sonarsphere, and the Steelworkers Memorial which features a steel trident from the World Trade Center Twin Towers. Guided tours of the two ironmaster's homes are available. The museum offers [group tours](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Newlin Grist Mill

Delaware County – Glenn Mills, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Newlin Grist Mill was built in 1704 to grind grains and sell flour products. The historic mill sits in a 160-acre park with over 8 miles of trails.

Paoli Battlefield Historical Park

Chester County – Paoli, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Battle of Paoli also known as the Paoli Massacre was fought here on September 20, 1777. The 40-acre battlefield has remained pristine farm field and woodlands untouched since the Revolution. A ¾-mile trail with interpretive signs tells the story of the battle. Next to the park is the 23-acre [Paoli Memorial Association](#) where there is a gravesite for soldiers from the battle and two monuments. Also on the Paoli Memorial Association property is the [Malvern Memorial Cabin](#), home to several Scout units.

Pottsgrove Manor

Montgomery County – Pottstown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Pottsgrove Manor exemplifies the restrained elegance of early Georgian architecture popular with wealthy English gentry during the mid-18th century. Built in 1752 for John Potts, ironmaster and founder of Pottstown, the mansion was situated on a nearly 1,000-acre plantation, which by 1762 included the town of "Pottsgrove." The mansion is open for guided tours as well as candlelight tours. There is an annual Colonial May Fair at the manor.

Primitive Hall

Chester County – Glenn Mills, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Primitive Hall is a handsome manor house which stands today much as it did when it was constructed by Joseph Pennock in 1738. Joseph Pennock was active in the affairs of the Province, both in the Pennsylvania Assembly (Legislature) and as a Justice. Contact the Foundation in advance for tours.

The Mill at Anselma

Chester County – Chester Springs, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark, is a grist mill built in 1747. Operated by The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Education Trust, the mill and homestead provide a hands-on educational



Historic Sites and Museums



experience. There are also several miles of hiking trails at the site. The mill offers [group tours](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

The Schuylkill River Heritage Center at Phoenixville

Chester County – Phoenixville, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Phoenix Iron Company Foundry, built in 1882, is home to the Schuylkill River Heritage Center. The center houses historic artifacts and large murals that showcase the industrial legacy of the Schuylkill River. Visitors can watch a video to learn about the region. The Phoenix Column Bridge at the Foundry that crosses French Creek was a sample bridge to promote sales. The Heritage Center is on the Schuylkill River bike trail.

Valley Forge National Historic Park

Montgomery County – King of Prussia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Trail Map](#)

Valley Forge is the site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of the Continental Army. The park includes 3,500 acres of monuments, meadows, and woodlands. The [Junior Ranger](#) program is a great activity for Cub Scouts. Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport](#) stamp. Start at the visitor center and watch the orientation film. Touring the [9-stop encampment](#) via the 10-mile loop is the highlight of the trip. Touring via car is recommended for first time visitors but it can also be hiked or biked. Stops includes Washington's Headquarters and the Washington Memorial Chapel. There is an audio tour that can be downloaded and a cell phone guide at each stop. The park has 35 miles of hiking trails of which 19 miles can also be biked. The 6.6-mile Joseph Plumb Martin Trail is a great biking experience connecting major historic sites in the park. The bike trail system also connects to the Schuylkill River Trail. Older Cub Scouts can hike the 10-mile [Valley Forge Historical Trail](#) and earn the medal (\$). A guidebook is required. The 5-mile Mount Misery – Mount Joy loop is a great loop along which you can explore the natural spring and ruins of the [Colonial Spring Bottling Plant](#). The [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) eastern terminus starts in the park. Scouts can also participate in the [Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger](#) program and earn a certificate and patch.

Philadelphia and Environs

Philadelphia and its neighbor across the river in Camden host some impressive museums including many related to the founding of our country.

Battleship New Jersey

Camden County – Camden, NJ

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial provides an amazing interactive experience with one of the largest battleships ever built. The USS New Jersey saw action in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and then was later recommissioned in the 1980's. The Battleship New Jersey offers student/Scout days and [group tours](#). It also offers [Scout overnights](#) where you eat in the crew's mess, sleep in the enlisted bunks, and have a fun-filled program. There is an admission fee (\$)



Betsy Ross House

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Betsy Ross House is said to be where the seamstress and flag-maker Betsy Ross lived when she is said to have sewed the first American Flag. The Betsy Ross House, operated by Historic Philadelphia, tells her story and that of the American Flag. Group tours are available.

Eastern State Penitentiary

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Eastern State Penitentiary, once the most famous and expensive prison in the world, is now a museum that interprets its history and criminal justice reform. There are both self-guided audio and guide-led tours. The museum offers [group/school tours](#). The museum does not recommend visits for youth under the age of seven due to the subject matter. The museum also offers Scout Days focused on Scouts BSA aged youth and Architecture merit badge. There is an admission fee (\$).

Elfreth's Alley Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Elfreth's Alley, named after an 18th century blacksmith, is a historic street and National Historic Landmark. There are 32 houses on the street, which were built between 1703 and 1836. The Elfreth's Alley Museum is located at #124 and 126. The Museum preserves the 18th-century home of a pair of dressmakers. Restored to its appearance in the Colonial era, exhibits in the house and tour guides interpret the life of the house and alley's residents in that era.

Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Learn about Edgar Allan Poe, a famous American writer known for his tales of mystery and the macabre, by visiting the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site. Poe lived in this house for several years. The [Junior Ranger](#) program is a great activity for Cub Scouts. Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport](#) stamp. Activities onsite include finding hidden clues in the exhibits, solving puzzles, and posing with the raven.

Fort Mifflin

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Fort Mifflin is a Revolutionary War era fort located on Mud Island just south of Philadelphia adjacent to the Philadelphia airport. American troops defending the fort helped hold off the British resupply mission so General Washington's Army could escape to Valley Forge. During the Civil War the fort was used as a military prison. It also saw some service during the two world wars and was decommissioned in 1953. Fort Mifflin offers [Scout programs](#) - both day and overnight camping programs – as well as a variety of educational and paranormal programs.



Historic Rittenhouse Town

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Historic Rittenhouse Town, sometimes referred to as the Rittenhouse Historic District, encompasses the remains of an early industrial community which was the site of the first paper mill in British North America. Historic Rittenhouse Town is located in the southern part of Wissahickon Valley Park (see description in the Hiking section). Tours are available and you can learn about papermaking. There is an admission fee (\$).

Independence National Historic Park

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park Map](#)

The Independence National Historic Park includes the Independence Visitor Center, the Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall (ranger-led with timed entry tickets), the New Hall Military Museum, the Ben Franklin Museum and Printing Office, the Portrait Gallery in the Second National Bank, and numerous other buildings and sites of historic importance to our country. The [Junior Ranger](#) program is a great activity for Cub Scouts – there are 3 different programs along with an Independence Junior Ranger app (iOS only). Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport](#) stamp. Scouts can send a postcard with the [postmark](#) Ben Franklin used when he was postmaster at the [Franklin Post Office](#). You can also walk in [Ona Judge's footsteps](#). Older Cub Scouts can hike two different [historical trails](#) – the Ben Franklin Trail and the Philadelphia Freedom Trail – and earn the medals (\$). A trail guidebook is required.

Independence Seaport Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The highlight of your visit to the Independence Seaport Museum are tours of the Cruiser Olympia, the oldest steel warship in the world launched in 1892, and the submarine Becuna, built in 1944. Inside the museum is a reconstruction of the schooner Diligence from 1797. There are various nautical exhibits featuring the Delaware River and Philadelphia's connection to the sea. [Group Tours](#) are available. The Independence Seaport Museum has previously offered Scout programs and overnights. Check with the Museum for current availability.

Museum of the American Revolution

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Museum of the American Revolution, which opened in 2017, uncovers and shares compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America's ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government. The Museum offers [youth group tours](#).

Penn Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Historic Sites and Museums



Explore amazing art and artifacts from ancient Egypt, Greece, Italy, Mesopotamia, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and more at this world-renowned museum. The highlight of the collection is a 3000-year old 50-ton Sphinx. The Museum offers a special [Global Art Scout Badge](#) and offers [40 Winks with the Sphinx](#) youth overnights.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Visit the house where wounded Polish freedom fighter Thaddeus Kosciuszko lived and hear how this brilliant military engineer designed successful fortifications during the American Revolution. The [Junior Ranger](#) program is a great activity for Cub Scouts. Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport](#) stamp. Activities onsite include finding hidden clues in the exhibits, solving puzzles, and posing with the raven.

East

Pennsbury Manor

Bucks County – Morrisville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Pennsbury Manor, a 43-acre estate on the Delaware River operated by the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission, is the colonial estate of William Penn, founder, and proprietor of the Colony of Pennsylvania, who lived there from 1699 to 1701. [Group tours](#) are available that include a video, the Seeds of a Nation exhibit, William Penn's Manor House, and the Kitchen House. Scouts can earn the [William Penn Historical Trail](#) Patch and Medal. There is an optional compass course.

Washington Crossing Historic Park

Bucks County – Washington Crossing, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park Map](#)

The 500-acre Washington Crossing Historic Park preserves the site where George Washington crossed the Delaware. The visitor center has a museum and video about the historic event that took place here and there are numerous restored Colonial buildings. Group tours are available. The nearby 125-foot high Bowman's Hill Tower was built in 1930 to commemorate what may have been a lookout post for Washington's troops. The Park offers [Scout camping](#) sites. Older Cub Scouts can earn the [Washington Crossing Historic Trail](#) patch and medal by hiking the 8.6 mile trail and learning about the park's history. The [Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park](#) Trail connects the two sections of the Park.

North

Joanna Furnace

Berks County – Morgantown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Historic Sites and Museums



The Joanna Furnace complex was an iron furnace that operated from 1792 to 1901. It is now preserved as a historic site and operated by the [Hay Creek Valley Association](#). Group tours are available. Don't miss the annual [Hay Creek Festival](#).

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Mid-Atlantic Air Museum located at the Reading Airport preserves and interprets the history of aviation, including military aviation, and the Mid-Atlantic region's contribution to it. Their collection of aircraft includes pioneer aircrafts (pre-WW 1), golden-age aircraft (between WW 1 and WW 2), WW 2 military aircraft, post-war civilian aircraft, post-war civilian aircraft, and classic airlines. Several are undergoing active restoration. There is an admission fee (\$) that includes a guided tour. Group tours are also available. The Museum hosts an annual [World War II Weekend](#) each year.

No. 9 Coal Mine and Museum

Carbon County – Lansford, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Quite a bit further afield is the No. 9 Coal Mine and Museum. Anthracite coal is a very important part of Pennsylvania's history. The No. 9 Coal Mine was opened in 1855 by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The mine featured miles of tunnels and went as far as 800 feet below the surface. It operated for 117 years. After touring the museum, visitors tour the mine where they ride by rail 1,600 feet into the mountain and then take a 600-foot guided walking tour. Visitors can examine the original 700-foot deep mine shaft, walk the "mule-way" (where young men guided the mules between the different levels of the mine), and see a miner's hospital cut into solid rock.

Reading Pagoda

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Reading Pagoda is a historic landmark and a symbol of the City of Reading for more than a century. Built atop the south end of Mount Penn and anchored to the mountainside with 16 tons of bolts, the Reading Pagoda was built in 1908. It is a 7-story wood building that was originally a luxury resort. There is a Japanese bell made in 1739 at the top. From the top there is a 30-mile panoramic view.

Reading Public Museum

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Reading Public Museum has displays featuring science and civilizations, a planetarium, and a 25-acre arboretum. Galleries feature a variety of topics from art, armor, and artifacts of world civilizations, to natural history and the cultures of Native Americans and Pennsylvania Germans. The Reading Public Museum has an extensive [Scout program](#) including scheduled public workshops, private workshops, and overnights. Group visits to the planetarium are also available.



South

First State National Historic Park

Delaware – various

[Website](#)

First State National Historical Park consists of six individual sites that are spread throughout the state of Delaware. Together these sites tell First State National Historical Park's story and can be visited in any order. The sites include Brandywine Valley (covered in the Hiking section), Fort Christina, Old Swedes Historic site, New Castle, and two sites further afield in Dover. The [Junior Ranger](#) program is a great activity for Cub Scouts. Don't forget your [National Park Service Passport stamps](#).

First State National Historic Park – Fort Christina

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

It was here, along the banks of the Christina River, in 1638, that the first Swedish and Finnish American settlers aboard the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip landed and settled the first American Swedish colony called New Sweden. This site is open seasonally and tours start at the white tent of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation.

First State National Historic Park – Old Swedes Historic Site

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church was constructed 1698-1699 to serve the Swedish community that remained in the English colony of Pennsylvania after Swedish Lutheran missionary Erik Björk arrived in 1697. Before that the site was a burial ground for Fort Christina. Group educational visits are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

First State National Historic Park – Historic New Castle

New Castle County – New Castle, DE

[Location](#)

While in New Castle, stop in at the Visitor Center at the Arsenal operated by the [New Castle Historical Society](#), take their audio walking tour or a guided walking tour, and then visit the [New Castle Court House Museum](#). Scouts can earn the [New Castle Historic Trail Medal](#) by completing the trail in this [guidebook](#).

Fort Delaware

New Castle County – Delaware City, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Fort Delaware, located on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River, was originally built in 1859 to protect the ports of Wilmington and Philadelphia. During the Civil War it was used as a prisoner of war camp. During your tour of the fort you can see Civil War living history interpreters and watch the firing of the Columbiad cannon. Visitors take a ferry to the island from Delaware City. The Pea Patch Island Nature Preserve contains a heronry where herons, ibises, and egrets nest. Fort Delaware has previously offered Scout overnights during the summer months – check their website to see when this program may be



Historic Sites and Museums



offered again. There is an admission fee (\$). Located next to the ferry in Delaware City is [Fort DuPont State Park](#). An ambitious group of Webelos could complete [A House Divided Historical Trail](#) to learn more about the Civil War.

Hagley Museum and Library

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Located on 235 acres along the banks of the Brandywine, the Hagley Museum is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802. This example of early American industry includes restored mills, a workers' community, and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and Environmental Center

Harford County – Havre de Grace, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum preserves and interprets the maritime skills and cultural heritage of the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Chesapeake Bay region. There is an admission fee (\$). You can also visit the nearby [Concord Point Lighthouse](#) and [Havre de Grace Decoy Museum](#). A National Park passport stamp is available at the Havre de Grace Visitor Center.

Historic Ships in Baltimore

Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Historic Ships in Baltimore has a collection of several impressive ships that can be toured: the USS Constellation (Sloop-of-Ware), US Coast Guard Cutter 37, LV 116 Chesapeake (Lightship), and the USS Torsk (Submarine). [Group tours](#) are available. [Overnight adventures](#) are available on the Constellation, Torsk/Lightship, and the Coast Guard Cutter, each with a unique program. There is an admission fee (\$).

Kalmar Nyckel

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Discover the remarkable story behind the Kalmar Nyckel and experience Delaware's rich maritime history at the Copeland Maritime Center. Take a river cruise or pirate cruise on the Kalmar Nyckel tall ship, a full-scale replica of the original Swedish colonial ship. Note that the ship does move between ports (Wilmington, New Castle, Bristol (PA), and Kingston (NY)) so please check the sailing schedule ahead of time. There is a fee (\$).

Pencader Heritage Museum

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Pencader Heritage Museum interprets the history of the far western portion of New Castle County and the site of Delaware's only Revolutionary War battle, the [Battle of Coch's Bridge](#).



Historic Sites and Museums



Rock Run Historic Area and Steppingstone Museum

Harford County – Havre de Grace, MD

[Website \(State Park\)](#)

[Website \(Rock Run\)](#)

[Website \(Steppingstone\)](#)

[Location](#)

The Rock Run Historic Area and Steppingstone Museum are both located in [Susquehanna State Park](#). The Rock Run Historic Area consists of several historic features. The Rock Run Grist Mill was built in 1798. It has been partially restored featuring a working water wheel and operational millstone. Corn grinding demonstrations are held on weekends during the summer. The Carter-Archer House is a 14 - room stone structure built in 1804. Other historic features include the Jersey Toll House, a section of the Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal, the Stafford Flint Furnace, and the site of Lapidum, a settlement dating to 1683. The Steppingstone Museum preserves and interprets the rural heritage of Harford County. Group tours of the museum are available.

The Bee Hive

Cecil County – Elkton, MD

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Bee Hive, operated by [Elk Creeks Preservation Society](#), is an 18th century industrial complex located close by the Little Elk Creek in northeastern Cecil County Maryland. During colonial times the Bee Hive furnished nearby mills with a store and tavern, workers, and a commercial cooper shop, among other things. It was also on the main route from Philadelphia to Baltimore and would have served as a meeting point and resting place for traveler. Don't miss their apple butter! The Society holds an Apple Buter Festival each fall.

Upper Bay Museum

Cecil County – North East, MD

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Upper Bay Museum displays hunting, boating, and fishing artifacts native to the upper Chesapeake Bay. Trace the history of the waterfowl hunter through the exhibits of outlawed gunning rigs and skillfully carved decoys. Follow the progress of Bay boating and fishing with many displays of model boats, nets, marine engines, and work boat stoves.

West

American Military Edged Weaponry Museum

Lancaster County – Intercourse, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The American Military Edged Weaponry Museum has one of the country's most comprehensive collections of U.S. military knives and related artifacts. The knives include pikes, swords, sabers, fencing bayonets, bowie, knuckle, and trench knives. Also, on display are other weapons and artifacts from the Spanish-American War through Desert Storm. There is an admission fee (\$).

Ephrata Cloister

Lancaster County – Ephrata, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)



Historic Sites and Museums



Since its start in 1732, the Historic Ephrata Cloister has attracted visitors fascinated by the community's unique lifestyle that allowed the creation of incredible architecture, original music, significant publications, and remarkable art. Originally, Ephrata was a retreat from worldly distractions where devoted members followed a disciplined life designed to prepare them for a heavenly existence. The museum is operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. [Group tours](#) are available.

Indian Steps Museum

York County – Airville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Indian Step Museum, near the Susquehanna River, showcases a large collection of Native American artifacts housed in an arts and craft style cabin built in 1912. There is a one-mile hiking trail on the property with a waterfall. There is an admission fee (\$).

Lancaster History

Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Lancaster History offer guided tours of [Wheatland](#), the beloved home of 15th U.S. President James Buchanan, a 24-minute movie on Buchanan's America, museum exhibits, and an arboretum. Group tours are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum, operated by the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission, is a 100-acre living history museum dedicated to sharing the history and material culture of the Pennsylvania Germans from 1740-1940. Landis Valley welcomes groups to come and explore historic buildings, period gardens, heritage breed livestock, traditional craft and cooking demonstrations, costumed interpreters, and tour guides. Additional hands-on activities are available for a fee (\$).

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

Lancaster County – Strasburg, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania educates the public regarding the Commonwealth's rich railroad history, discovering the relevance of railroads in building the nation and the role of today's railroads in our lives. The museum is home to 100 railroad cars and rolling stock. [Group tours](#) are available. The museum also offers the Railroading merit badge to Scout BSA youth. A visit here can be combined with a train ride on the [Strasburg Railroad](#).

Zimmerman Center for Heritage & Native Lands Heritage Trail

York County – Wrightsville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map and Guide](#)

The Zimmerman Center for Heritage is the headquarters of the [Susquehanna National Heritage Area](#) and serves as Pennsylvania's Official Visitor Contact and Passport Station for the [Captain John Smith](#)



Historic Sites and Museums



[Chesapeake National Historic Trail](#). While visiting you can earn your [Susquehanna River Junior Ranger](#) badge. The Center has a small museum with Visions of the Susquehanna River art collection, Susquehannock Indian artifacts, and a river history exhibit. They also offer interpretive programs. The Zimmerman Center is the south trailhead for the Native Lands Heritage Trail, a one mile trail through [Native Lands County Park](#), the location of the last known settlement of the Susquehannock Indians. The [Mason-Dixon Trail](#) runs through the park.



Art Museums

Our area has some great art museums, especially in Philadelphia where a few are world-class.

The following adventures are aligned to art museums:



Tiger

Elective
adventure

Stories in
Shapes

Visit an art gallery or a museum, explore an art website, or visit your library.



Webelos

Elective
adventure

Art Explosion

Visit an art museum, gallery, or exhibit. Discuss with an adult the art you saw. What did you like?

The following Cub Scout Nova award require a visit that can be accomplished with the sites listed in this chapter:



Fearful Symmetry

Visit a place where symmetry is important (such as an art exhibit, building site, or printer).

Chester County and Nearby

Berman Museum

Montgomery County – Collegeville, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College houses over 4,000 paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, decorative, and cultural objects representing a broad array of art historical genres. Explore over 80 outdoor sculptures across the 170-acre campus in a self-guided or free tour.

Brandywine River Museum of Art

Delaware County – Chadds Ford, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Brandywine River Museum of Art showcases the art of the Wyeth family - American art and the landscape of the Brandywine Valley. The museum is housed in a renovated nineteenth-century mill with a dramatic steel and glass addition that overlooks the Brandywine River. Along the river there are native plant gardens and animal sculptures. The River Trail connects the museum to the [Chadds Ford Historical Society](#). This museum guides highlights [visiting with children](#). Tours are available to the [artists' studios](#): the N.C. Wyeth House & Studio, the Andrew Wyeth Studio, and the Kuerner Farm. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Chester County Art Association

Chester County – West Chester, PA



[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Chester County Art Association (CCAA) is a small non-profit dedicated to educating, inspiring, and connecting the people of Chester County to and through the arts. The CCAA offers children/family classes and hosts regular exhibits and shows in their West Chest galleries.

Wharton Esherick Museum

Chester County – Malvern, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Wharton Esherick Museum celebrates and preserves the legacy of American artist Wharton Esherick, who worked primarily in wood to create furniture, furnishings, utensils, interiors, buildings and more. A National Historic Landmark for Architecture, his hilltop studio/residence, with more than 300 of his works on exhibition, has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there. There is an admission fee (\$).

Philadelphia

Barnes Foundation

Philadelphia County - Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Barnes Foundation has one of the world's greatest collections of impressionist, post-impressionist & modern art. The collection includes works by Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, van Gogh, Seurat, and more. Group tours are available. There is an admission fee (\$) but children are free.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia County - Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Philadelphia Museum of Art, located along the Schuylkill River, houses more than 240,000 objects, highlighting the creative achievements of the Western world and those of Asia, in more than 200 galleries spanning 2,000 years. Don't miss the arms and armor gallery. The museum is famous in popular culture for the role it played in the Rocky movies. The eastern steps have become known as the [Rocky Steps](#) and there is a statue of Rocky at the museum. Stop by the nearby Treehouse in the Sky for views of the river. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Philadelphia's Magic Garden

Philadelphia County - Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Philadelphia's Magic Garden is a non-profit folk-art environment that features mosaics in a mixture of indoor and outdoor space. Group tours are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Rodin Museum

Philadelphia County - Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)



Art Museums



The Rodin Museum has the largest collection of sculptor Auguste Rodin's works outside of Paris. The museum houses nearly 150 bronzes, marbles, and plasters by Rodin. He is widely considered the father of modern sculpture. The best-known of Rodin's works, The Thinker, sits outside the museum in the entry courtyard. There is an admission fee (\$).

East

Glencairn Museum

Montgomery County – Bryn Athyn, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Glencairn, a castle-like home built between 1928 and 1939, now serves as a not-for-profit museum of religious art and history. The Glencairn Museum is currently offering a [Family Adventure for Kids](#) based on the Middle Ages that is perfect for Cub Scout aged youth. There is also a [Children's Photo Scavenger Hunt](#). Guided tours are available.

South

Delaware Art Museum

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Delaware Art Museum has over 12,000 objects focusing on American art and illustration. Don't miss the outdoor sculpture garden. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).



Nature and Science

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to natural history museums, nature centers, science and technology museums, and zoos:

	Tiger	Elective adventure	Sky is the Limit	With your den or family, visit a planetarium, observatory, science museum, astronomy club, or college or high school astronomy teacher.
	Bear	Required adventure	Fur, Feathers, and Ferns	Visit one of the following: zoo, wildlife refuge, nature center, aviary, game preserve, local conservation area, wildlife rescue group, or fish hatchery.
	Webelos / Arrow of Light	Elective Adventure	Adventures in Science	Visit a museum, a college, a laboratory, an observatory, a zoo, an aquarium, or other facility that employs scientists.
	Webelos / Arrow of Light	Elective Adventure	Into the Wild	Visit a museum of natural history, a nature center, or a zoo with your family, Webelos den, or pack.
	Webelos / Arrow of Light	Elective Adventure	Into the Woods	Visit a nature center, nursery, tree farm, or park, and speak with someone knowledgeable about trees and plants that are native to your area.

The following Cub Scout Nova awards require visits that can be accomplished with the sites listed in this chapter:



Science Everywhere	Visit a place where science is being done, used, or explained, such as one of the following: zoo, aquarium, water treatment plant, observatory, science museum, weather station, fish hatchery, or any other location where science is being done, used, or explained.
Tech Talk	Visit a place where technology is being designed, used, or explained, such as one of the following: an amusement park, a police or fire station, a radio or television station, a newspaper office, a factory or store, or any other location where technology is being designed, used, or explained.
Down and Dirty	Visit a place where earth science is being done, used, explained, or investigated, such as one of the following: cave, quarry or mine, geology museum or the gem or geology section of a museum, gem and mineral show, university geology department, TV or radio station



Nature and Science



Nova WILD!	meteorology department, weather station, volcano or volcano research station, or any other location where earth science is being done, used, explained, or investigated. Visit a place where you can observe wildlife. Examples include parks (national, state, and local), zoos, wetlands, nature preserves, and national forests.
Out of this World	Visit a place where space science is being done, used, explained, or investigated, such as one of the following: observatory, planetarium, air and space museum, star lab, astronomy club, NASA, or any other location where space science is being done, used, explained, or investigated.
Up and Away	Visit an observatory, research facility, or a museum that highlights flight, aviation, or space.

Chester County and Nearby

American Helicopter Museum & Education Center

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The American Helicopter Museum and Education Center has over 35 aircraft on display – helicopters, autogyros, drones, and more. The museum is open Friday – Sunday. The museum has age-specific group tours appropriate for Cub Scout age youth. There is an admission fee (\$).

Elmwood Park Zoo

Montgomery County – Norristown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Zoo Map](#)

Elmwood Park Zoo currently maintains a collection of over 100 species that hail from all over the globe. Highlights of the collection include giraffes, zebras, bald and golden eagles, jaguars, and red pandas. Other species in the collection represent significant wildlife conservation success stories, such as the American bison, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and American alligator. The Zoo also has the [Treetop Adventures](#) course. There are several different courses and the Cub Climb would be appropriate for Cub Scout age youth. There is an admission fee (\$) for the zoo and supplemental fees for the Treetop Adventures and other special programs.

Green Valleys Watershed Association

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location \(Welkinweir\)](#)

The Green Valleys Watershed Association (GVWA) serves the population of northern Chester County, whose watersheds are in the top tier of streams in Pennsylvania for water quality and scenic beauty. The GVWA is based at [Welkinweir](#) (see more info in the Botanic Gardens and Arboreta chapter). They offer [Scout programs](#) at Welkinweir including a Discover Nature at Night program. There is a fee (\$).

John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove

Montgomery County – Audubon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)



The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is situated on the farm where 18-year-old John James Audubon lived when he first came to America from France in 1803. Here, he developed a technique for drawing birds "from life" and became one of the world's best-known wildlife artist. His work *The Birds of America* helped inspire the formation of the National Audubon Society. The site includes the historic three-story farmhouse, built in 1762, miles of nature trails along the Perkiomen Creek, and a brand-new building, featuring indoor and outdoor exhibits focused on birds, art, and conservation. There is a [Tenderfoot Trail](#) for younger children. The center offers regular guided bird walks and other programs. There is an admission fee (\$) for the museum building.

Myrick Conservation Center

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Myrick Conservation Center is the headquarters of the [Brandywine Red Clay Alliance](#). The center is on a 318-acre preserve that is open for hiking. The center offers numerous [Scout programs](#). There is a campsite and historic barn available for Scout group camping. There are also numerous general Cub Scout age [environmental programs](#) to choose from. The Myrick Conservation Center is the venue for Troop 52's annual Ken Trimble Cub Day program open to all Cub Scouts.

Lanchester Landfill

Lancaster County – Narvon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Lanchester Landfill is a 600-acre property with 160 acres of landfill along with recycling that serves 49 communities in Chester County and is operated by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority. The facility offers [guided tours](#) during the week. The site has a 4-mile [nature trail](#) that is open on Sundays.

Mather Planetarium

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The 63-seat Mather Planetarium is operated by the Department of Earth & Space Science of West Chester University. The Planetarium offers Group Shows. The one-hour show consists mainly of a tour of the current night sky that includes pointing out several of the prominent constellations visible at night and some of the mythological stories behind them, the Moon, the planets, and the Sun. There is a nominal admission fee (\$).

Riverbend Environmental Education Center

Montgomery County – Gladwyne, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Riverbend Environmental Education Center sits on a 30-acre preserve along the Schuylkill River. There are hiking trails open to the public that also connect to the [Bridlewild Trails](#). The center offers a variety of [Scout programs](#) and Scouts can tent camp or sleep in the barn. Riverbend also offers a broad range of [education programs](#).

Stroud Water Research Center

Chester County – Avondale, PA

[Website](#)[Location](#)[Campus Map](#)

Since 1967, Stroud Water Research Center has been leading the effort to produce innovative solutions for preserving and restoring fresh water. The center offers extensive [Scout programs](#) including boots-in-the-water stream studies, service projects, and the [Science Everywhere Nova Award](#). The programs are free of charge thanks to the [Thomas P. Bentley Muddy Boots Fund](#). Overnight programs are available with tent camping or staying the research center meeting house.

Philadelphia and Environs

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)[Location](#)

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is a leading natural history museum dedicated to understanding the natural world and inspiring everyone to care for it. Highlights of the visit include the Dinosaur Hall, with a Tyrannosaurus Rex, wildlife dioramas, and the live butterfly exhibit. The Academy offers a Scouting overnight program called [Night at the Museum](#). [Groups visits](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Adventure Aquarium

Camden County – Camden, NJ

[Website](#)[Location](#)

The Adventure Aquarium, formerly the New Jersey State Aquarium, has 2 million gallons of aquariums and over 15,000 aquatic creatures. Highlights include Hippo Haven, Penguin Park, Piranha Falls, and the Shark Realm. The Aquarium offers special [Scout rates](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Fairmount Water Works

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)[Location](#)

Situated on Schuylkill River between Boat House Row and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Fairmount Water Works opened its doors in 1815 as the sole water pumping station for the City of Philadelphia and was decommissioned almost a century later, in 1909. It is a National Historic Landmark, Civil Engineering Landmark, and [Mechanical Engineering Landmark](#). The Fairmount Water Works is now an environmental education center focusing on water. The interpretative center offers tours including a boat tour. Self-guided tours are also available with a mobile app. The center also hosts a freshwater mussel hatchery. [Scout group rates](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Franklin Institute

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)[Location](#)

Founded in 1824, the Franklin Institute is a science museum and the center of science education and research. Highlights include The Giant Heart, Your Brain, Electricity, Changing Earth, Amazing Machine, and SportsZone. The institute is also home to the Holt & Miller Observatory featuring 5 telescopes. Visitors can also watch shows in the Planetarium and IMAX theater. The [Ben Franklin National Memorial](#) is in the Rotunda. The Franklin Institute has [Scout programs](#) including worksheets for requirements that



can be completed in the museum, group visits, and a Scout overnight camp-in. There is an admission fee (\$).

John Heinz at Tinicum National Wildlife

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Heinz Refuge operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is a 993-acre refuge protecting 350-acres of freshwater tidal marsh, the largest remaining in Pennsylvania. It was America’s First Urban Refuge when created in 1972. There are 10 miles of hiking trails some on boardwalks. There is a wildlife observation tower. Canoeing and kayaking is permitted, and fishing is allowed in designated areas. The refuge visitor center has environmental education programs and you can schedule youth group visits. Youth are encouraged to participate in the [Junior Duck Stamp program](#), a national art competition. The [Friends of Heinz Refuge](#) have previously offered a Scout award.

Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion is Philadelphia’s newest science museum. It features a 7,000 square foot tropical butterfly pavilion, insects and arachnids, honey bees, and a chrysalis chamber. The insectarium offers [group tours](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Philadelphia Zoo

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Philadelphia Zoo was the nation’s first true zoo chartered in 1859 and opening in 1874. The 42-acre Philadelphia Zoo is home to nearly 1,300 animals, many rare and endangered. Highlights include the PECO Primate Reserve and the Big Cat Falls. Check out the Zoo360 experience, overhead mesh see-through trails for the animals, and KidZooU, a learning center for children. The zoo also hosts the WildWorks ropes course that has a tykes course for younger children. [Scout group programs](#) with a special Scout guidebook are available. [Scout overnights](#) are also available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Please Touch Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Please Touch Museum is a children’s museum dedicated to learning through hands on activities. The Please Touch Museum’s exhibits are targeted to children ages 8 and younger making this is suitable activity for Lions and Tigers. Riding the Carousel is a highlight of any visit. [Group visits](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Science History Institute

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Nature and Science



The Science History Institute collects and shares the stories of innovators and of discoveries that shape our lives with a focus on preserving and interpreting the history of chemistry, chemical engineering, and the life sciences. [Group tours](#) are available.

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum is one of the world's greatest collections of racing sports cars. The Museum celebrates the history and evolution of these magnificent machines. Assembled over 50 years by Dr. Frederick Simeone, the Museum contains over 75 historically significant cars including Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Bugatti, Mercedes, Jaguar, Bentley, Porsche, Aston Martin, Corvette, Ford, and more. The Museum has its own smartphone app, be sure to download it before your visit. The Museum also offers STEAM learning programs. There is an admission fee (\$).

Wagner Free Institute of Science

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Wagner Free Institute of Science is a natural history museum. Founded in 1855, it is a rare surviving example of a Victorian era scientific society. The Wagner Institute's nineteenth century exhibit hall – a soaring three-story space – houses an extraordinary collection of natural history specimens including mounted birds and mammals, fossils, rocks and minerals, insects, shells, dinosaur bones, and the first American saber-toothed tiger, discovered on a museum-sponsored expedition to Florida in 1886. The Institute offers a [Scout program](#) focused on geology.

East

Palmyra Cove

Burlington County – Palmyra, NJ

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Palmyra Cove is a nature preserve that hosts a STEM and Environmental Education Center. The 250-acre preserve on the banks of the Delaware River has 9.5 miles of hiking trails. Habitats include wetlands, woodlands, meadows, wild creek and river shoreline, and a freshwater tidal cove after which the park is named. The 2,000-square foot Center, known as the Institute for Earth Observations, has interactive exhibits. The endangered peregrine falcon nests on the nearby Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and can be observed via a webcam.

North

Da Vinci Science Center

Lehigh County – Allentown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



The DaVinci Science Center’s mission is to bring science to life and lives to science. The Center has many hands-on science exhibits including Animation Station, Hurricane Simulator, and the Robot Dinosaur. One of the most popular exhibits is the Tunnel Experience where visitors crawl through a 72-foot maze-like tunnel in complete darkness. The DaVinci Science Center offers [group and Scout field trips](#) as well as virtual [Scout programs](#). The DaVinci center also has Webelos and Arrow of Light [Scout overnights](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Berks County – Kempton, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Founded in 1934, Hawk Mountain is the oldest and largest, member-support raptor conservation organization in the world. The 2,600-acre sanctuary, which has been designated a [National Natural Landmark](#), is one of the best places in northeastern North America to view the annual autumn hawk migration. The Sanctuary has over 8 miles of hiking trails including a connector to the Appalachian Trail. There are several boulder fields accessible via the River of Rocks Trail. The Visitor Center is home to many programs, lectures, and hands-on workshops, as well as the interactive history display, Wings of Wonder gallery, and the bird feeder watch station. After your visit check out the nearby [Cabela’s](#) in Hamburg, PA. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary also has a [Scout overnight program](#) where you can tent camp or sleep in Adirondacks. There is a fee (\$) to hike on the trails.

National Watch and Clock Museum
Lancaster County – Columbia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

At the National Watch and Clock Museum you’ll find a fascinating collection over 12,000 clocks, watches, specialized tools, and other items related to timekeeping. This is the largest horological collection in North America. Horology is the science of timekeeping.

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center
Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Park and Trail Map](#) [Recreation Guide](#)

When hosiery baron Jacob Nolde acquired this area in the early 1900s, a single white pine grew amid meadow vegetation. Inspired by this tree, the German-born Nolde hired an Austrian forester to create a coniferous forest. As the plantations grew, they formed a “luxury forest” and his son built a Tudor-style mansion in 1926. The property was acquired by the Pennsylvania DCNR and is now an Environmental Education Center. Nolde Forest encompasses more than 725 acres of deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations. A network of 10 miles of trails makes the center’s streams, ponds, and diverse habitats accessible to students and visitors. The Center offers regular [education programs](#).

South

Brandywine Zoo
New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Zoo Map](#)



The Brandywine Zoo is a 4.7-acre zoo along the Brandywine River that opened in 1905. The Zoo features animals from the tropical and temperate areas of North and South America, Asia and Africa. The Zoo offers [Cub Scout programs](#) and [Scout days](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Delaware Nature Society

[Website](#)

The Delaware Nature Society’s mission is to connect people with the natural world to improve our environment through education, conservation, and advocacy. The Society manage over 2,000 acres of land, including four nature preserves, and operates four educational sites (three of which are in our area). The Delaware Nature Society offers [Scout programs](#) including overnights at all of its locations.

Delaware Nature Society – Ashland Nature Center

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The Ashland Nature Center serves as the Delaware Nature Society’s headquarters with 130 acres of woodlands, meadows, marsh, the scenic Red Clay Creek, and 4-miles of nature trails to explore. The Center features educational programs, a picnic area, visitor center, and overnight lodge. Discover wildlife at the hawk watch, butterfly house, bird banding station, bird blind, and hummingbird haven. There is an admission fee (\$).

Delaware Nature Society – Coverdale Farm Preserve

New Castle County – Greenville, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

The 377-acre Coverdale Farm Preserve is comprised of 200 acres of rolling countryside that is a nature preserve and a 177-acre working farm that showcases regenerative agriculture methods. The Farm Preserve offers weekend programs as well as hayrides.

Delaware Nature Society – DuPont Environmental Education Center

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) is located along the Christina River and on the edge of the [Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge](#). The refuge is 212 acres of freshwater tidal marsh adjoining the Christina River and is home to wildlife such as American Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, American Beavers, dragonflies, river otters, and Eastern Painted Turtles. DEEC features a Visitor Center with panoramic river and marsh views, a 10-acre ornamental garden, a quarter-mile handicap-accessible pond loop extending into the marsh, and trailhead access to the [Markell Trail](#). Scouts can earn the [Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Award](#).

Iron Hill Science Center

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Iron Hill Science Center, operated by the Delaware Academy of Science, has exhibits on the Lenape people, rocks and minerals, a fluorescent rock room, a taxidermy collection, under the sea, and



Delaware’s prehistoric sea life. The Science Center is located in [Iron Hill Park](#) (see Hiking section of this guide). As part of the site are the Iron Hill School, formerly housing the museum, constructed in 1923 which was one of more than 80 schools for African-American children built between 1919 and 1928 as part of philanthropist Pierre Samuel du Pont’s “Delaware experiment.” The site was mined for jasper by early Delawareans and then for iron by European settlers in the early 1700’s. The Iron Hill Science Center also offers extensive [Scout programs](#). Iron Hill hosts the annual Iron Hill Museum Archaeology & Heritage Festival. There is a nominal admission fee (\$).

Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory

New Castle County – Greenville, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory (MCAO) is focused on astronomy education at all levels while maintaining an active program of astronomical research. The observatory has a 24-inch Herr telescope, a du Pont refractor telescope, a planetarium, and an educational classroom. [Group tours](#) are available for Scout groups or you can visit on a family night. There is an admission fee (\$).

Plumpton Park Zoo

Cecil County – Rising Sun, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Plumpton Park zoo is home to over 180 animals, half of which have been taken in from owners that could no longer keep them. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

West

Conowingo Dam

Harford County – Conowingo, MD (visitor center) & Darlington, MD (dam, Fisherman’s Park)

[Website](#) [Location \(visitor center\)](#) [Location \(Fisherman’s Park\)](#)

The Conowingo Dam is a hydroelectric generating station across the lower Susquehanna River between Cecil and Harford counties. At the Conowingo Dam Visitor Center visitors can learn about the history of Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station, the role of hydroelectricity as a renewable clean energy source and the ecology, wildlife and recreational activities that exist in the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed. After learning about the dam at the visitor center drive down to [Fisherman’s Park](#) so see the dam and watch for bald eagles, blue herons, and ospreys. It is one of the best spots to see bald eagles. Check out this [birding guide](#) for more information. From the south end of the park you can hike the 2.2-mile Shure’s Landing [Wildflower Trail](#) along the river.

Lancaster Science Factory

Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Lancaster Science Factory is a hands-on, interactive science center for children in Pre-K to 8th grade and their families where they can explore science, engineering & technology principles. The Lancaster Science Factory offers [Cub Scout programs](#) including badges, the Lancaster Science Factory Commemorative Science Patch, and [overnights](#). Cub Scouts are free while family members pay the group rate.



Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
Lancaster and Lebanon Counties – Stevens, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Trail Map](#)

Middle Creek, operated by the PA Game Commission, is a 6,254-acre wildlife management area. Middle Creek is especially noted for the thousands upon thousands of ducks, geese, and swans to stop here during their annual migrations. A 756-acre propagation area has been set aside as a sanctuary for nesting waterfowl. In 2010 Middle Creek was designated a Globally Important Bird Area. The visitor center which hosts the PA Game Commission’s Conservation Museum tells the story of conservation in the state. A variety of educational programs including for Scouts are available. Middle Creek has over 8 miles of hiking trails. Additionally 8 miles of the [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) traverses the wildlife management area. Waterfowl [migration](#) peaks in February and early March year. Fishing and non-motorized boating (summer months only) is permitted in the non-restricted areas of the 360-acre impoundment. A [driving tour](#) with an [MP3](#) or AM Radio audio tour is also available.

North Museum of Nature and Science
Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The North Museum has collections of ornithology, paleontology, entomology, vertebrates, botany, archeology, geology, and marine life. There is also a live animal room. Exhibits include a Lego Lab, Coding Corner, a full-size dinosaur model, and Nanoscience. The Museum has a Planetarium showing several movies. [Group visits](#) are available. There is a admission fee (\$).

Wolf Sanctuary of PA
Lancaster County – Lititz, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

For nearly 40 years, the Darlington Family has offered refuge to gray wolves and wolf-dogs. Originally created as a private rescue, Wolf Sanctuary of PA has grown into an educational facility. The 80-acre preserve is home to the Wolves of Speedwell. You can only visit the Sanctuary on a guided tour. There is an admission fee (\$). Nearby are Lancaster County’s [Speedwell Forge Park](#) which has a hiking trail and the PA Fish and Boat Commission’s [Speedwell Forge Lake](#) where you can fish.



Botanic Gardens and Arboreta

With a tradition of horticulture going back 300 years, Philadelphia is [America's Garden Capital](#). Visit more than 30 public gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes, all located within 30 miles of downtown. A [passport](#) is available where you can collect stamps, stickers, code words, and staff signatures, and draw your own pictures at each of the gardens.

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to botanic gardens and arboreta:



Wolf

Elective
adventure

Grow
Something*

Visit or research a botanical or
community garden in your area.



Webelos /
Arrow of Light

Elective
Adventure

Into the
Woods

Visit a nature center, nursery, tree
farm, or park, and speak with
someone knowledgeable about
trees and plants that are native to
your area.

* This adventure is being retired on May 31, 2022.

Chester County and Nearby

Chanticleer

Delaware County – Wayne, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Chanticleer, a pleasure garden, is a forty-eight-acre botanical garden built on the grounds of the Rosengarten estate. It is considered one of the great gardens in the region. Chanticleer is derived from the French word for rooster, "chanticleer". The entrance gate is crested with carved stone rooster and other references to roosters can be found throughout the estate. There is an admission fee for adults (\$).

Jenkins Arboretum

Chester County – Devon, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Jenkins Arboretum is a 46-acre botanic garden that preserves natural tranquil woodlands for community enjoyment, showcases native plants and a world class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas.

Longwood Gardens

Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

[Garden Map](#)

Longwood Gardens is a 1,077-acre botanic garden that is considered one of the premier display horticultural gardens in the United States. Longwood has native and exotic plants and horticulture (both indoor and outdoor), events and performances, seasonal and themed attractions, as well as educational lectures, courses, and workshops. There are 20 gardens in 4.5 acres of heated greenhouses. Longwood Gardens was donated by Pierre DuPont and his weekend house, originally built in 1730, is onsite.



Longwood uses timed admission tickets. Group tickets and tours are available including [Scout programs](#). There are several [venues](#) in the garden such as the treehouse targeted for Cub Scout age youth. Longwood has one of the largest [organs](#) in the world and a 62-bell [carillon](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Stoneleigh

Montgomery County – Villanova, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Garden Map](#)

Stoneleigh: a natural garden is a 42-acre property managed by Natural Lands Trust. It is a former family estate that now celebrates the beauty of native plants and the importance of biodiversity. The Tudor Revival mansion at Stoneleigh now serves as home to the [Organ Historical Society](#). Guided group tours of the house and gardens are available (fee).

Tyler Arboretum

Delaware County – Villanova, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Arboretum Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

The 650-acre Tyler Arboretum is a place of natural beauty and history dating back to the time of William Penn. Tyler Arboretum has several Pennsylvania state champion trees, treehouses, a butterfly house, an edible garden, and a fragrant garden. Outside the deer gates there are 17 miles of hiking trails on 500 acres of the property. Tyler Arboretum offers groups tours and has offered Scout programs in the past. There is an admission fee (\$).

Welkinweir

Chester County – Pottstown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Arboretum Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Welkinweir is a 224-acre oasis of natural beauty located in the [Hopewell Big Woods](#), featuring a 55-acre arboretum and historic estate house, as well as ecologically diverse wetland, meadow, and woodland habitats. Welkinweir is Old English for “where sky meets water.” Groups tours are available and include the estate house. There is suggested donation for entrance. The [Horse-Shoe Trail](#) connects to Welkenweir.

Philadelphia

Bartram’s Garden

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Bartram’s Garden is a 50-acre public garden and National Historic Landmark, situated on Lenape territory on the banks of the tidal Schuylkill River. The garden was founded by John Bartram, considered America’s first botanist, in 1728. The garden has several notable trees dating from colonial times including Franklinia, or the Franklin Tree, named after Bartram’s friend Ben Franklin, which is now extinct in the wild. Bartram’s original house, garden, and greenhouse still stand. Visitors can also fish in the river or launch their own boat. Bartram’s Garden also has a free boating program on Saturdays. [Bartram’s Mile](#) of the [Schuylkill Banks](#) trail project goes through the garden.



Morris Arboretum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Arboretum Map](#)

The 92-acre Morris Arboretum is part of the University of Pennsylvania and the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is bordered by Wissahickon Creek. There is an [Arboretum Adventure](#) for children as well as a Tree Adventure. The Morris Arboretum has the only remaining freestanding Victorian fernery in North America, originally built in 1899. [Springfield Mills](#) and the Miller’s Cottage, which date back to 1761, contain the most complete inventory of original flour mill works and related machinery of any mill in the area and can be visit as part of a group tour. The [Garden Railway](#) is a highlight for children. A variety of [tours](#) are available including group tours. There is an admission fee (\$).

Shofuso Japanese House and Garden

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Shofuso, also known as Japanese House and Garden, is a traditional 17th century-style Japanese house and garden located in Philadelphia’s West Fairmount Park on the site of the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Shofuso was built in 1953 as a gift from Japan to American citizens, to symbolize post-war peace and friendship between the two countries. This historic site and museum include a hill and pond garden with a tiered waterfall, island, and koi fish, a tea garden featuring a traditional tea house, and a courtyard garden leading to a bathhouse. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

South

Nemours Estate

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Nemours Estate, created in 1910 by Alfred I. DuPont, comprises an exquisite, 77-room mansion, the largest formal French gardens in North America, a chauffeur’s garage housing a collection of vintage automobiles, and 200 acres of scenic woodlands, meadows and lawns. There is an admission fee (\$).

Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Garden Map](#) [Trail Map](#)

Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts, with nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America since 1640. The collection is displayed in the magnificent 175-room house, much as it was when the family of founder Henry Francis du Pont called it home. Winterthur is also 1,000 acres of protected meadows, woodlands, ponds, and waterways. The 60-acre garden, designed by du Pont, is among America’s best, with magnificent plantings and massive displays of color throughout the year. Winterthur has several miles of hiking trails. There is an admission fee (\$).



Community and Government

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to community and government:



Tiger	Elective adventure	Family Stories*	Visit your public library to find out information about the heritage of some of your family members.
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Tiger	Elective adventure	Tiger: Safe and Smart	Visit an emergency responder station or have an emergency responder visit you.
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Tiger	Elective adventure	Tiger Theater*	Watch a play or attend a story time at a library.
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Wolf	Elective adventure	Hometown Heroes*	Visit a community agency where you will find many heroes. While there, find out what they do.
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Bear	Required adventure	Paws for Action (Duty to God)	With your school or den, visit a local sheriff's office, police station, or fire department OR talk with a fire safety officer or law enforcement officer visiting your school or den.
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Bear	Elective adventure	Forensics	Visit the sheriff's office or police station in your town.
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* This adventure is being retired on May 31, 2022.

Citizenship, Culture, and Religion

African American Museum in Philadelphia

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The African American Museum in Philadelphia is the first institution built by a major United States city to house and interpret the life and work of African Americans.

Faith and Liberty Discovery Center

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Faith and Liberty Discovery Center explores the relationship between faith and liberty in America from its founding to today, by illuminating the influence of the Bible on individuals in key historical and personal moments. [Group visits](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).



Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Medal of Honor Grove Map](#)

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge mission is to create and build an understanding of the spirit and philosophy of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. They have an educational program for students and teachers. You can visit the Freedoms Foundation campus and [take a tour](#) of the many impressive sculptures, monuments, and memorials. The 42-acre [Medal of Honor Grove](#), which has a section for each state, honors those you received the highest honor in the Armed Forces of the United States. There is an admission fee (\$).

National Constitution Center

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The National Constitution Center is a nonprofit institution devoted to the Constitution of the United States. The center is an interactive museum and a national town hall for constitutional dialogue, hosting government leaders, journalists, scholars, and celebrities for public discussions. [Group tours](#) are available. The Constitution Center regularly holds [Scouts Days](#) – check their schedule for Cub Scout programs vs. Scouts BSA merit badges. There is an admission fee (\$).

National Liberty Museum

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The National Liberty Museum illuminates the strength and fragility of liberty and presents the stories of people whose positive actions inspire us to protect and advance liberty for all. There is an admission fee (\$).

National Museum of American Jewish History

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH), a Smithsonian affiliate, presents educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore, and celebrate the history of Jews in America. The NMAJH is for everyone and you will explore American history through the lens of what one particular immigrant group and religious minority has experienced. The NMAJH encourage all visitors to consider their own heritage and identity and to think about how different communities shape and are shaped by America. [Group programs](#) are available for 3rd grade and up.

Scout Religious Observances

Your local place of worship

Each year the BSA Committee on Religious Relationships sponsors a special Scout religious observance.

In February of each year is [Scout Sunday](#) for Christian religions. Scouts wear their uniform to the Sunday church service and offer often recognized. The Scout Shop sells a patch to recognize Scouts who



participate. For Packs sponsored by churches this a way to show your support to your chartered organization.

Similarly is February is a [Scout Shabbat](#) for Scouts of the Jewish faith. Patches are available from the Scouting for Jewish Youth website.

Scout Jumuah is also held for Scouts of the Muslim faith. The [National Association of Muslim Americans on Scouting](#) site.

Emergency Services and Public Health

Chester County Department of Emergency Services

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) manages the EMS system in Chester county including operating the Chester County [9-1-1 Center](#). The also provide community education on emergency preparedness. You can [request a program](#) – either 911 Center tour or a presentation at a community event. The DES has three costumed characters that can attend events: Wally the Wise Guy, Eddie the EMT, and Chester the 9-1-1 Bear.

Chester County Department of Public Health

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Chester County Health Department offers a variety of Community Education programs where they come to community events. See the Community Education tab on their website. Relevant programs for Cub Scouts include hand washing, Lyme disease prevention, and nutrition.

Law Enforcement

Cecil County Sheriff

Cecil County – Elkton, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Cecil County Sheriff offers community education programs and onsite tours through its [Community Resources Unit](#).

Chester County Sheriff

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Chester County Sheriff offers a variety of [Community Education](#) programs where presenters come to community events. Programs include their K-9 unit, McGruff Safe Kids, and Chester County’s own [Think S*A*F*E*](#) program geared toward Cub Scout age youth. In the past the Sheriff’s office has offered onsite tours.

Chester County Local Township and Borough Police

Chester County



This [website](#) lists the local law enforcement agencies in Chester County and their contact information. Most local police departments will provide tours and presentations to Scout groups.

Pennsylvania State Police

Chester County

[Website](#) [Location \(Avondale\)](#) [Location \(Embreeville\)](#)

Troop J of the Pennsylvania State Police serves Chester, Lancaster, and York counties. In Chester County there are stations in Avondale and Embreeville. The [Community Services Unit](#) will make presentations to community groups on a wide variety of topics.

Libraries

Chester County Library System

Chester County

[Website](#) [List of Libraries](#)

The Chester County Library System (CCLS) operates 18 libraries with its main branch in Exton. Children can obtain a library card when accompanied by a parent. See the main web page for events.

Local Government

Philadelphia City Hall

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

City Hall is the nation’s largest municipal building with 14.5 acres of floor space. Topped with an iconic statue of William Penn, the 548-foot tower is the tallest masonry structure in the world without a steel frame; it was the tallest building in Philadelphia until 1987. Visitors can join [guided tours](#) to learn about the building’s history and view the city from above from the open-air observation deck. While you’re in Center City visit the nearby iconic [LOVE Park](#).

Money

Visiting the US Mint in Philadelphia would be a great field trip to go with the Wolf elective: Adventures in Coins.

US Mint Philadelphia

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#) [Tour Guidebook](#)

The nation’s first mint, the US Mint Philadelphia Facility produces coin and medal dies. It mints circulating coins, numismatic products including annual uncirculated coin sets, commemorative coins as authorized by Congress, and medals. The mint offers [self-guided tours](#) that take about 45 minutes.

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA



[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has an exhibit titled Money in Motion. Learn the history of currency in our country from the 13 colonies to present. See a rare \$100,000 bill and learn how to detect counterfeit money. Group of 10 or more require reservations.

State Government

Pennsylvania State Capitol

Dauphin County – Harrisburg, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Pennsylvania State Capitol houses the legislative chambers for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Harrisburg chambers for the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania, as well as the offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. You need to book a tour in advance on the website. There is also a free mobile app that can be downloaded.



Service Projects

Performing community service, also called service projects, has always been a core part of the Scouting program at all levels.

Scouting for Food

[Scouting for Food](#) is the BSA's national annual good turn conducted by BSA Councils and Scout units across the country. Chester County Council organizes a Scouting for Food drive in partnership with the [Chester County Food Bank](#) each fall providing collection bags and patches for Scouts who participate.

Summer of Service

[Summer of Service](#) is the BSA's new community service initiative. Join Scouting families across the country in a spirited Summer of Service! As we have throughout our history, Scouting families are answering the call to work together in service of the greater good. From public health drives, to caring for the environment, to assisting neighbors in need, Scouts have always been a force for positivity and goodness in our communities. Now more than ever, our world needs that Scouting spirit once again.

Messengers of Peace

Started in September 2011, [Messengers of Peace](#) is a global initiative designed to inspire millions of young men and women in more than 220 countries and territories to work toward peace. Using social media and other Scouting networks the initiative lets Scouts from around the world share what they've done and inspire fellow Scouts to undertake similar efforts in their own communities. The initiative is inspired by the World Scout Committee, administered by the [World Scout Bureau](#), and driven by youth volunteers worldwide. Units completing a Messenger of Peace service project can purchase the Messenger of Peace ring that goes around the World Crest patch on the uniform.

Pack and Den Projects

Packs and dens should plan service projects. Ideas include:

- Litter clean-up at a local park
- Conservation projects such as tree planting for any of the local land conservancies or public lands
- Visiting elderly residents in a nursing home (example Christmas caroling)
- Supporting our US military service men and women
- Placing US flags on veteran graves for Memorial Day (contact your local American Legion or VFW post)



Sports

Visiting a sporting event or arena show can be a fun den or pack event. Most of the professional sports team and venues offer Scout nights. Contact their group sales office to get on their mailing list and find out when the next Scout night is. Some of the Scout nights at outdoor stadiums also include overnight camping on the field after the camping. Attending a sporting event can range from a local high school game, to a collegiate team, to one of the minor or major league professional teams in our area.

The following Cub Scout advancement requirements are aligned to sports.



Wolf

Elective
adventure

Paws of Skill

Visit a sporting event with your family or your den.

College Sporting Events

Collegiate athletics offer a variety of men’s and women’s sports that can make for a fun den outing. Some local universities with strong athletic programs are listed below.

St. Joseph’s University Hawks

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

Temple University Owls

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

University of Delaware Blue Hens

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#)

University of Pennsylvania Quakers

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#)

Villanova University Wildcats

Delaware County – Villanova, PA

[Website](#)

West Chester University Golden Rams

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#)

Professional Sporting Events and Arena Shows

Lancaster Barnstormers

Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)



Sports



The Lancaster Barnstormers are a professional baseball team that is a member of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball, a "partner league" of Major League. They offer [Scout nights](#) including a sleepover on the field with a movie after the games.

Philadelphia Phillies

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Philadelphia Phillies are a Major League Baseball team that plays at Citizens Bank Park. The Phillies offer [Scout Nights](#) and group discounts. Check out [The Yard](#), the interactive kids' experience while you are at the game.

Philadelphia Union

Delaware County – Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Philadelphia Union are a professional soccer club competing in Major League Soccer. They play in the 18,500 seat Subaru Stadium. A group package called the [Union Scout Package](#) is available.

PPL Center

Lehigh County – Allentown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The PPL Center is an arena that is home to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. They also host a variety of arena shows. [Minsi Trails Council](#) from time to time partners with the PPL Center to offer Scout Nights.

Reading Fightin' Phils

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Reading Fightin' Phils are a minor league baseball team that play at the 10,000 seat FirstEnergy Stadium. They have in the past offered Scout nights and Scout sleepovers where you camp on the field after the game – sometimes in partnership with [PA Dutch Council](#) and [Hawk Mountain Council](#).

Wells Fargo Center

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Wells Fargo Center is a multi-purpose arena that serves as the home of the Philadelphia Flyers of the National Hockey League, the Philadelphia 76ers of the National Basketball Association, and the Philadelphia Wings of the National Lacrosse League. The Wells Fargo Center offers various [Scout opportunities](#) for professional sports games and arena shows such as Disney on Ice and the Harlem Globetrotters.

Wilmington Blue Rocks

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Sports



The Wilmington Blue Rocks are a minor league baseball team associated with the Washington Nationals that play in Frawley Stadium. They have in the past offered Scout nights and Scout sleepovers where you camp on the field after the game.



Other Adventures

There are many other great adventures that Cub Scout can have that are aligned with the Scouting program. Please note that activities that involve targeting another person are prohibited in the Scouting program including laser tag, paintball, and dodgeball.

Adventure and Bounce Parks

Bounce U

Chester County – Exton, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Bounce U is an indoor bounce house and fun zone. They offer [Scout Events](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Treehouse World

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Treehouse World is an adventure park with tree houses and various adventure activities. Treehouse World offers group events and [Scout nights](#). Be sure to pick activities that are age-appropriate for your Cub Scouts. There is an admission fee (\$).

Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Delaware County – Glen Mills, PA & Montgomery County – Oaks, PA & New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location \(Glen Mills\)](#) [Location \(Oaks\)](#) [Location \(Newark\)](#)

Sky Zone is a trampoline and bounce park. Sky Zone offers [group events](#). There is an admission fee (\$).

Urban Air Adventure Park

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Urban Air is a trampoline and bounce park. Attractions include Battle Beam, Tubes Playground, and a Warrior Course. Urban Air offers [Group Events](#) with special rates and packages. There is an admission fee (\$).

Amusement and Theme Parks

Crayola Experience

Northampton County – Easton, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Crayola Experience is where the magic of Crayola comes to life! With 65,000 square feet of attractions, the Crayola Experience has 27 hands-on attractions and unique experiences, such as: star in your very own coloring page, name and wrap your very own Crayola crayon, embark on a 4-D coloring adventure, and learn how crayons are made in a live manufacturing show. The Crayola Experience offers [Scout events](#) and overnights. There is an admission fee (\$).



Other Adventures



Dorney Park

Lehigh County – Allentown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom is an amusement and water park. The park features seven roller coasters, other adult and children's rides, and a waterpark, Wildwater Kingdom. Dorney Park offers a variety of [Youth Programs](#).

Dutch Wonderland

Lancaster County – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Dutch Wonderland is a theme park designed for families with young children in mind. Dutch Wonderland has over 35 fun-filled rides and attractions, Duke's Lagoon water play area, prehistoric themed Exploration Island, and live entertainment. They offer the [Scout'n About](#) program for Scout units that includes a special patch. There is an admission fee (\$). Dutch Wonderland has an onsite family campground, [Old Mill Stream](#).

Hersheypark

Dauphin County – Hershey, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Hersheypark is a family-themed amusement park originally founded in 1906 by Milton S. Hershey as a leisure park for the employees of Hershey Chocolate Company. Today the 121-acre has 76 rides, a water park, and zoo called ZooAmerica. The [Hersheypark Camping Resort](#) provides onsite camping and offer [Scout discounts](#). From time to time various BSA Councils in Pennsylvania may offer promotion codes for discounted tickets. There is an admission fee (\$).

Legoland Discovery Center

Montgomery County – Plymouth Meeting, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

LEGOLAND® Discovery Center is the ultimate indoor LEGO playground includes 12 unique LEGO® attractions and activities including themed LEGO play zones, 1 interactive ride, a 4D Cinema showing 3 different movies, MINILAND Philadelphia, Racers Build & Test and more. [Group visits](#) are available. The Center has previously featured Scout month where you can purchase further discounted tickets; check their [Facebook page](#) for event announcements. There is an admission fee (\$).

Sesame Place

Bucks County – Langhorne, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Sesame Place is a children's theme park and water park based on the TV show that is suited to younger Cub Scouts. [Scout Group tickets](#) are available and there is a special [Scout patch](#) that can be earned. There is an admission fee (\$).



Archery

Archery is limited to Council/District Outdoor Programs such as summer resident camp at Camp Ware. Specific details are described in the [Cub Scout Shooting Sports Manual](#).

Lancaster Archery Academy

Lancaster, PA – Lancaster, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Lancaster Archery Academy is one of the largest Archery training centers on the East Coast. They offer youth training programs as well as US Archery Instructor Certification. Their Discovery Archery program is appropriate for Cub Scouts age youth. Lancaster Archery Academy meets the standard for BSA archery programs as their staff are certified USA Archery instructors. They offer and [programs for Scouts BSA aged youth](#).

Arts and Crafts

Black Sheep Pottery

Montgomery County – Skippack, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Art Den offers canvas and pottery parties as well as working with wet clay. There is a fee (\$).

Color Me Mine

Delaware County – Glen Mills, PA & Wayne, PA

[Website \(Glen Mills\)](#) [Location \(Glen Mills\)](#) [Website \(Wayne\)](#) [Location \(Wayne\)](#)

Color Me Mine is a chain that offers a variety of canvas and pottery painting parties. There is a fee (\$).

Fired Up Pottery

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Fired Up Pottery is located at [United Sports](#) and offers clay and canvas classes and parties. There is a fee (\$).

Learning Allegro

Chester County – Glenmoore, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Learning Allegro offers canvas workshops. There is a fee (\$).

The Art Den

Cecil County – Rising Sun, MD

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Art Den offers canvas and pottery parties as well as working with wet clay. There is a fee (\$).

The Painted Plate

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Other Adventures



The Painted Plate offer children’s canvas and pottery parties. There is a fee (\$).

Bowling and Arcades

Devon Lanes

Chester County – Devon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Devon Lanes is a 24-lane bowling alley with automatic scoring. Bumpers and children’s’ bowling ramps are available. There is also a game arcade. There is an admission fee (\$).

Neverland Virtual Reality

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Neverland Virtual Reality is a virtual reality arcade. They have 100’s of VR games and experiences to choose from including educational titles. They offer group events. There is an admission fee (\$).

Palace Bowling & Entertainment Center

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Palace Bowling offers automatic scoring lanes, bumpers that be can be set per player, and a video arcade. Palace Bowling offers [youth events](#) and can include pizza and soft drinks. There is an admission fee (\$).

Round 1 Bowling and Amusement

Chester County – Exton, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Round 1, located in [Exton Square Mall](#), offers arcade games, bowling, billiards, karaoke, ping pong, and darts. There is an admission fee (\$).

Caves

Pennsylvania is fortunate to have a variety of caves that Scouts can visit. Touring a cave makes for a memorable Scout activity while also learning about geology and cave ecology. Cub Scouts are encouraged to visit commercially operated caves and follow their guidelines. Leaders should reference [Cave Safely Cave Softly](#) for more information. Non-commercial “easy caves” with no access control, such as those in parks where people of all abilities are allowed uncontrolled access, may also be suitable for Cub Scouts.

Crystal Cave

Berks County – Kutztown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Crystal Cave, known for its milky white crystalline formations, is Pennsylvania’s first show cave. The one-hour tour includes a movie about the history and geology of the cave followed a guided visit into the



Other Adventures



cave 125 feet underground. Other activities at the cave include a historic museum, gemstone panning, a mini-golf course, and a hiking trail. Crystal Cave offers [group rates](#) for Scout units. There is an admission fee (\$).

Indian Echo Caverns

Dauphin County – Hummelstown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Indian Echo Caverns, near Hershey, is a limestone cave along Swatara Creek that is a commercial show cave. The 45-minute guided tour highlights the cave formations along with its history and geology. There are special [group tour](#) activities available. There is also the Discovery Barnyard petting zoo and gem mining. There is an admission fee (\$).

Lincoln Caverns

Huntingdon County – Huntingdon, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

A bit further afield, Lincoln Caverns makes a great summer destination. Lincoln Caverns has two crystal caverns, Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks, with a wide variety of cave formations (speleothems). Lincoln Caverns caters to Scout group with a variety of Scout programs and offers Scout group camping onsite. There is an admission fee (\$).

Lost River Caverns

Northampton County – Hellertown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Lost River Caverns is a limestone cavern that has a crystal-clear river flowing through it. The river is named “Lost” because the source and mouth of the river have yet to be discovered. The cavern provides a 45-minute tour. The Gilman Museum onsite has a collection of gems, minerals, and fossils. Outside the cavern is a nature trail and picnic area. Group tours are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Climbing Gyms

Delaware Rock Gym

New Castle County – Bear, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Delaware Rock Gym is an 11,000 square foot indoor climbing gym. [Group events](#) are available.

Downingtown Rock Gym

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Downingtown Rock Gym, formerly known as Vertical Extreme, has 10,000 square feet of indoor rock climbing, offering bouldering, top rope, and auto belays. They provide rock climbing experiences for all ages and abilities. Downingtown Rock Gym has a [group package](#). They also offer [Scouts BSA programs](#).



Gravity Vault

Delaware County – Radnor, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Gravity Vault is a 16,000 square foot state-of-the-art indoor climbing facility. They offer extensive Scout programs. From the [Program page](#) select Scouts.

Philadelphia Rock Gyms

Chester County – Malvern & Montgomery County – Oaks

[Website](#) [Location \(Malvern\)](#) [Location \(Oaks\)](#)

Philadelphia Rock Gyms (PRG) has five indoor climbing gyms in the greater Philadelphia area. PRG's location in Coatesville has closed. PRG offers [group packages](#) including Scout specific programs. They also host overnights in the gym (fee in addition to the climbing package).

Reach Climbing

Montgomery County – Bridgeport, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Reach Climbing is a state-of-the-art indoor climbing facility located at The Factory at Reach. They offer [Scout programs](#) and rates.

Reading Rocks

Berks County – Reading, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Reading Rocks is an 8,000 square foot indoor climbing gym. They offer [Scout programs](#) and rates.

Fair and Festivals

Chester County Balloon Festival

Chester County – Kennett Square, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Chester County Balloon Festival is a non-profit organization with portions of the proceeds going to the Chester County Hero Fund and other local youth community groups. The 3-day festival highlights over 20+ hot air balloons taking flight twice per day, balloon glow featuring Special Shaped Balloon Rodeo, untethered and tethered balloon rides, and a walk-thru balloon. There is an admission fee (\$).

PA Ren Faire

Lancaster County – Manheim, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

At the PA Ren Faire experience the adventure of jousting knights and royal delights with colorfully costumed villagers and merrymakers ready to make your visit an unforgettable experience. Musical, stunt and theatrical performances, magic acts and comical mud beggars are just a few of the many daily shows! Immerse yourself in the days of Merrie Olde England, steeped in the allure of bygone days and knights.



Philadelphia Flower Show

Philadelphia County – Philadelphia, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation’s largest and longest-running horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world’s premier floral and landscape designers.

Farms, Orchards, and Corn Mazes

Cherry Crest Adventure Farm

Lancaster County – Strasburg, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Cherry Crest Adventure Farm has a wide variety of activities on their farm in spring, summer, and fall. Attractions include a corn maze, baby chick hatchery, discovery barn, bee barn exhibit, and numerous fun activities. There is an admission fee (\$).

Highland Orchards

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Highland Orchards has 200 acres under production. They grow a wide variety of crops, including rhubarb, strawberries, sweet cherries, sour cherries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, sweet corn, pumpkins, and apples. You can [pick your own](#) fruit and vegetables. Highland Orchards offers [field trips](#) in the spring and fall. You can also schedule [hayrides and campfires](#). Don’t miss their apple cider donuts!

Hurricane Hill Farm

Chester County – Coatesville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Hurricane Hill Farm has one of the largest corn mazes in the area with a unique design each year. There is an observation tower in the maze. Hurricane Hill also has farm animals, a corn slide, a corn cannon, a cow train ride, John Deere pedal tractors, and a hayride out to the pumpkin patch. There is an admission fee (\$) and they offer group discounts.

Linvilla Orchards

Delaware County – Media, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Linvilla Orchards is a 300-acre family farm dedicated to agriculture, entertainment, and education. Linvilla Orchards has numerous attractions including a fishing pond, indoor mini golf, barnyard animals, pony rides, hayrides, train rides, and much more. They have year-round events including a family fishing derby.

Milky Way Farm

Chester County – Chester Springs, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)



Other Adventures



The 103-acre Milky Way Farm is a historic dairy farm that has been home to the Matthews family for four generations. Milky Way Farm offers a one-hour [tour](#) during evening feeding time when families can assist with cow and calf feeding, collecting of eggs, feeding of goats and sheep, and watching the cows being milked by robot. Milky Way Farm will tailor the tour for Scout groups working on specific badge requirements. There is a tour fee (\$). Milky Way Farm also offers a Fall Harvest event. Don't forget to stop for ice cream at their Chester Spring Creamery after your tour.

Factory Tours

Harley-Davidson

York County – York, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

A bit further afield to the west you can tour the vehicle operations at Harley-Davidson. Journey through the facility that produces the Sportster®, Softail®, Touring and CVO™ families of motorcycles and LiveWire™ electric motorcycles.

Herr's Snack Factory Tour

Chester County – Nottingham, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Take a guided tour of the live manufacturing line at Herr's Snack Factory. There is a tour fee (\$).

Turkey Hill Experience

Lancaster County – Columbia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

At the Turkey Hill Experience learn how ice cream is made, sit in a milk truck, milk mechanical cows, and learn about the people and culture of Turkey Hill Dairy. Make your own ice cream creation at the Taste Lab and iced tea at the Tea Discovery. [Group tours](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

Historic Railroads

Colebrookdale Railroad

Berks County – Boyertown, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Colebrookdale Railroad offers a 2-hour trip in the Secret Valley between Boyerstown and Pottstown on a steam locomotive along the Manatawny and Ironstone Creeks. The train trip passes through much of the iron industry heritage of our area. There is a fee for the train trip (\$).

Strasburg Railroad

Lancaster County – Ronks, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

The Strasburg Railroad is the oldest continually operating railroad in the United States since 1832. The railroad offers 90-minute trip in the Amish countryside. Group pricing is available. Various special events



Other Adventures



are offered including Christmas trains. There is a fee for the train trip (\$). The [Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#) is located across the street.

West Chester Railroad

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The West Chester Railroad operated by the West Chester Historic Rail Association offers 90-minute round trips between Market Street in West Chester and the village of Glen Mills in Delaware County. The route is part of the old Pennsylvania Railroad central division on the West Chester and Phoenixville branch. There is a fee for the train trip (\$).

Wilmington and Western Railroad

New Castle County – Wilmington, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

The Wilmington and Western Railroad travels 10 miles through the Red Clay Creek Valley to Hockessin and then returns. You will travel in an antique passenger coach pulled by a steam or early diesel engine. The railroad opened in 1872 traveling between Wilmington and Landenberg, PA to service the mills along the Red Clay Creek. There is a fee for the train trip (\$) and a group discount is available.

Horseback Riding

Sheeder Mill Farm

Chester County – Spring City, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Sheeder Mill Farm is a family run farm, in its 4th generation. They have horses and ponies for all levels and ages as well as English and Western saddles. All rides are guided along scenic trails that wind along the French Creek, dirt roads, wooded areas and streams. Their specialty is teaching safe, effective skills and proper balanced riding. Extra time is spent with timid riders or those who require extra help

Sunset Valley Farm

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Sheeder Mill Farm offers group introductory lessons as well as [Scout Programs](#).

Ice Skating

Ice Skating can be a fun Den or Pack activity. See the now retired [Ice Skating](#) belt loop for ideas.

Ice Line Quad Rinks

Chester County – West Chester, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Ice Line Quad Rinks is a state-of-the-art ice-skating facility, providing ice skating, figure skating, and ice hockey with four NHL regulation ice rinks. There is public skating and ice skate rental. Ice Line Quad Rinks also offers lessons. There is an admission fee (\$) to skate.



Indoor Skydiving

iFLY

Montgomery County – King of Prussia, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

iFLY offers an indoor skydiving experience. It is open to all ages, no experience required. iFLY has partnered with the BSA on the [Up and Away](#) STEM Nova Award. iFLY offers [Scout programs](#), both group rates and the opportunity to earn the Nova award combined with the indoor skydiving experience. There is an admission fee (\$).

Music

Bach to Rock

Delaware County – Wayne, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Bach to Rock is a music studio that offers children’s music parties including rock, karaoke, rock city, and DJ. There is a fee (\$).

Roller Skating

Chester County Sports Arena

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Chester County Sports Arena has an over 13,000 square feet of space for both inline and quad skates. They also have roller hockey. Chester County Sports Arena has an outdoor mini golf course that can be booked for group outings and a swimming pool (see Aquatics section). There is an admission fee (\$).

Skiing, Snowboarding, and Snow Tubing

Winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing are a great way to get outdoors during the winter. Be sure to review the BSA guidelines on [Winter Activity Safety](#). Note that helmets are required for downhill skilling and snowboarding.

The [Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association](#) offers a [4th and 5th grade snow pass](#).

Bear Creek Mountain Resort

Montgomery County – Schwenksville, PA

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Bear Creek Mountain Resort offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing. They have 21 ski runs, 6 snow tubing lanes, a ski school, and offer night skiing. [Groups packages](#) are available.



Other Adventures



Spring Mountain Adventure

Montgomery County – Schwenksville, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Spring Mountain is the closet ski resort to our area. They offer downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing. They have 8 ski runs, 6 snow tubing lanes, a ski school, and offer night skiing. [Group rates](#) are available.

Sport Centers and Mini Golf

Boulder Falls

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Boulder Falls is an 18-hole mini golf course located at the United Sports Training Center. Boulder Falls features a cascading waterfall with winding streams flowing into fountain ponds. [Groups rates](#) are available for Scout groups. There is an admission fee (\$).

Grand Slam USA

Chester County – Malvern

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Grand Slam U.S.A. has over 30,000 square feet of indoor family fun. Attractions include batting cages, glow in the dark mini golf, ninja obstacle course, basketball court, gaga pit, arcade games, spaceball trampoline, and nine square in the air. [Group rates](#) are available. There is an admission fee (\$).

United Sports

Chester County – Downingtown, PA

[Website](#) [Location](#)

United Sports is a multi-use sports complex with a 127,000 square foot indoor facility and 11 outdoor fields. There is an indoor Fun Zone, rock wall, and gymnastics area. United Sports offers customizable [youth group events](#) including overnights.

Vince's Sport Center

New Castle County – Newark, DE

[Website](#) [Location](#)

Vince's has indoor baseball and softball batting cages, two miniature golf courses, and a huge video and ticket arcade.

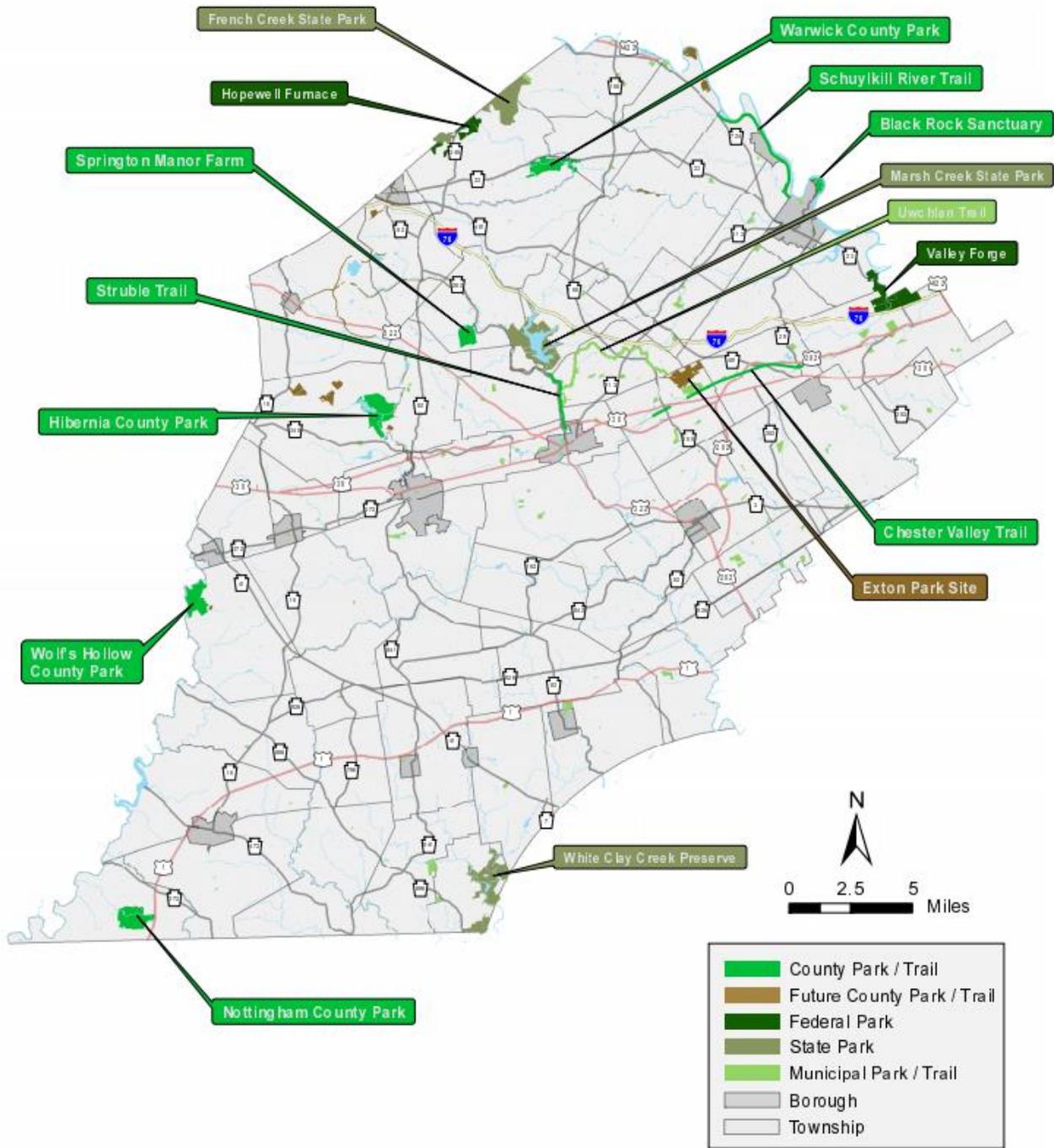


Maps



Maps

Federal, State, and County Parks in Chester County

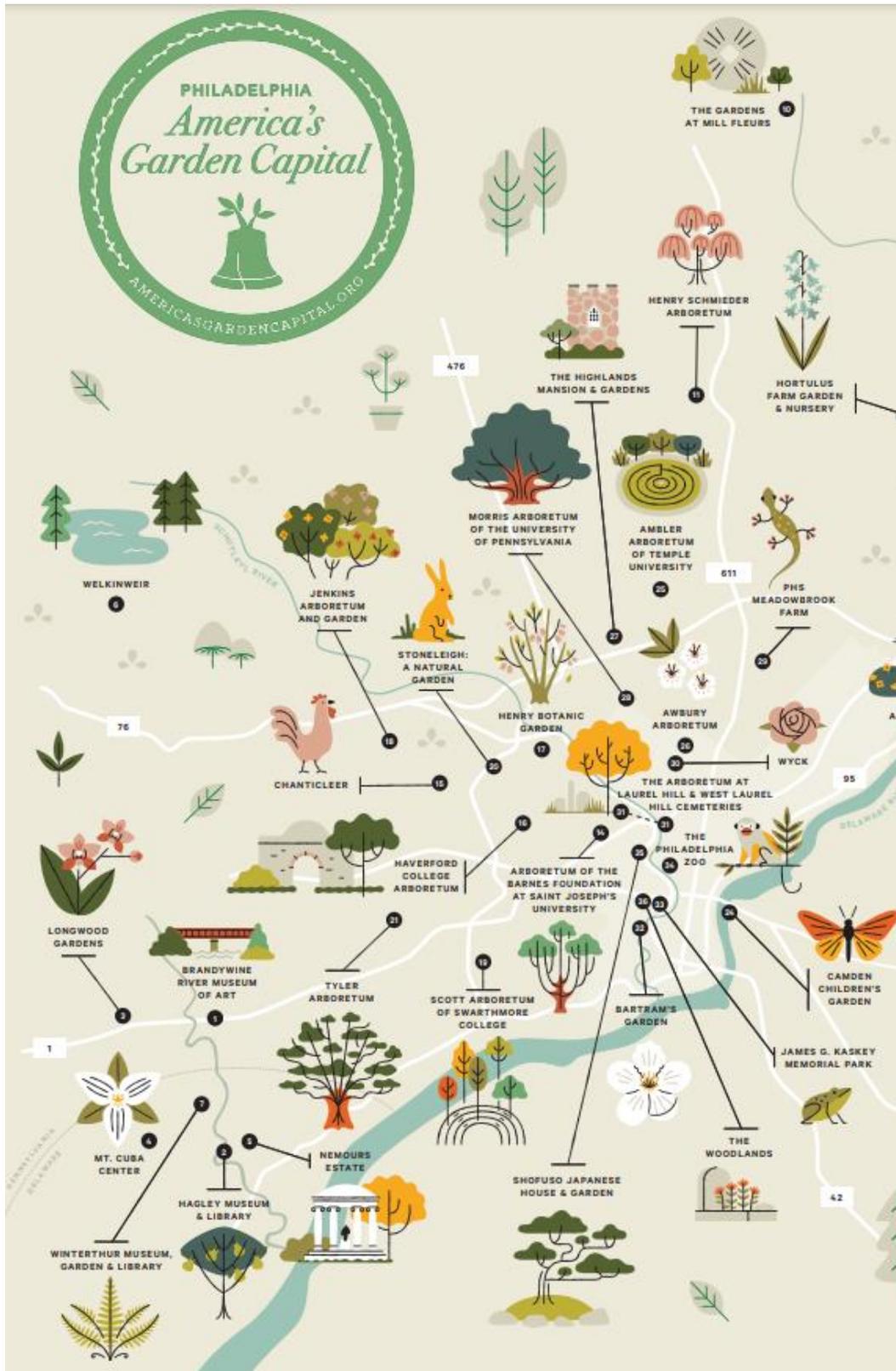




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Botanic Gardens and Arboreta





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