



BOY SCOUT TROOP 26

AVON, NEW YORK

Chartered by the Avon Rotary Club to strengthen the character of our youth, since 1933



Attention Troop Voyageurs,

This spring and summer is going to be a great time to do a lot of canoeing with Troop 26. Not only will we be doing our regular Canoeing Practices at Conesus Lake and our annual Memorial Day Weekend excursion, but we are also looking at offering Canoe Training (different than the Canoe Practices) on Conesus Lake or another suitable venue, and a high Adventure Canoe Excursion in the Adirondack Mountains for the Venturing Patrol (boys aged 14 or older). This year for the Memorial Day Weekend excursion we will hopefully be returning to Pine Creek in Pennsylvania, but if the water level is insufficient for canoeing then we will be traveling to Oak Orchard in Medina where the water comes from the Erie Canal and is adequate for canoeing all season (Pine Creek has not been navigable the last three out of four years in late May due to low water levels). There are also numerous hiking and biking opportunities available to those that will not be canoeing, both in Pine Creek and Oak Orchard.

The Adirondack Adventure will be a High-Adventure weekend excursion into the Adirondack Mountains. The intent is to offer a 4 to 5 day trek in the Adirondacks similar to 2007's High Adventure Birchbark Expedition. Nature will give us an ideal opportunity to help mold our young Scouts into strong, confident, and resourceful people who can work towards a goal with their peers, and who can become good stewards of our natural environment. Our trek will include at least one crew of 9 participants, and if there is enough interest then we will plan for a second crew of 9 (as of this year, we are allowed only 9 campers per campsite in the Adirondack Mountains). We may also have the younger Scouts join the crew for a day or two.

To adequately prepare for safe adventures, all participants must have adequate canoe training and experience. The Adirondack participants also need to know what to pack and how to pack it. The following table outlines the requirements for novice and experienced paddlers for the various events. Everyone may participate in any of the training and practice events that are scheduled, as long as they pass the swim test. However, if you are unable to attend an event that is required for participation please contact me as other options may be available, but there are no guarantees that a make-up will be offered.

	Venturing (TBD)	Pine Creek Derby (May 25)	Adirondack Expedition (TBA)
<i>Eligibility requirements:</i>	<i>Experienced Paddlers, Age 14+</i>	<i>All Scouts & parents with adequate ability</i>	<i>First Class, Age 13+</i>
TBD (Wed) –Troop Physicals, 7pm	Optional ¹	Optional ¹	Optional ¹
April 3 (Fri) – Swim test, Canoe Safety Training, Middle School Pool, 5:45 - 7:00pm	All participants must attend one session²		
April 24 (Fri) – Swim test, Canoe Safety Training, Middle School Pool, 5:45 - 7:00pm			
April 22 (Wed) – Safety Afloat Training, Scout House, 7–8:30pm	Required ⁴	Required ⁴	Required ⁴
Canoe Expedition for the Venture Patrol's Experienced Paddlers (no specific event is planned, arrange with Mr. Feller if desired.)	X		
May 6 (Wed) – Canoe Practice, Conesus Lake Outlet, 6–8:30pm	Novice paddlers must attend all sessions⁶, while experienced paddlers need only attend two sessions⁵		
May 13 (Wed) – Canoe Practice, Conesus Lake Outlet, 6–8:30pm			
May 20 (Wed) – Canoe Practice, Conesus Lake Outlet, 6–8:30pm			

	Venturing (TBD)	Pine Creek Derby (May 25)	Adirondack Expedition (TBA)
May 18 (Mon) ~Tentative date~ – Canoe Derby Trip Preparation at the Scout House		Required	Suggested
May 22-24 (Fri-Sun) – Canoe Derby (Biking and Hiking may also be available)		X	Suggested
Canoe Training Certifications on Conesus Lake, details TBA – request must be made with Mr. Feller for interested parties		Suggested for Novices ⁶	Required for Novices ⁶
Date TBA (Sat) – Adirondack Expedition Troop Shakedown, Scout House, 9am–1pm			X
Date TBA (Fri-Mon) – 6am, Adirondack High Adventure			X

NOTES:

1. **Heath History Evaluation:** All Scouts and adults must provide an annual doctor's medical evaluation to participate in the Troop's physical activities. Health Histories are also required for summer camp and BBX high adventure trip. If unable to attend, then a physical must be performed by the Scout's physician and turned in to Troop before the Swim Test.
2. **Swim Tests:** All Scout and adult canoeing participants must pass an annual BSA Swimmer (blue) swim test. Those who cannot continuously swim a minimum of 4 lengths of the school swimming pool will not be allowed to canoe. Participants are required to attend one of the two Swim Test/Canoe Safety Training in its entirety held at the Middle School Pool.
3. **Swimming Merit Badge:** Scouts who pass the swim test and who do not have Swimming Merit Badge must paddle in a canoe with an adult. Scouts should make every effort to earn Swimming Merit Badge at summer camp or through their school swim teacher/coach.
4. **Safety Afloat:** All Scout and adult canoeing participants must participate in the Safety Afloat training.
5. **Experienced Paddlers (any event):** Must participate in 2 of 3 scheduled Wednesday evening Canoe Practices as a skill refresher. Experienced paddlers have canoe training certification (alternatively Scouts may have Canoeing Merit Badge).
6. **Novice Paddlers (any event):** Must participate in all 3 scheduled Wednesday evening Canoe Practices. Inexperienced paddlers, both Scouts and adults, must participate in the weekend Canoe Training (~12 hours) and the Canoe Practices to earn canoeing certifications. Fee = \$30, includes canoeing manual and patch. Novice Paddlers will be monitored throughout the events to accurately assess participation abilities. Participation in canoe training does not automatically guarantee your ability to participate in this year's river paddling excursions.
7. **Adirondack Expedition Voyageurs:** Must also participate in all special Expedition training and shakedown clinics prior to the expedition.
8. **Venturer's:** This patrol consists of boys aged 13 or older with a good amount of experience camping, hiking, and canoeing with our Troop. These boys often go on High Adventure outings that would not be feasible for younger, less experienced Scouts. A Scout's readiness to participate with the Venturer's is completely at the discretion of the Scoutmasters.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Jim Yencer

226-9171

Jim.Yencer@frontiernet.net