

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

MERCER AREA DISTRICT

THE RADIO PATROL MYSTERY

BOY SCOUT CAMPOREE WITH INVITED WEBELOS SCOUTS



Camping: October 5-7, 2012, Rosedale Park

Activities: October 6, 2012, Washington Crossing State Park

Orienteering, Geocaching, Radio Fox Hunting, Codebreaking, And Other Great Activities

The theme of this event is to solve a mystery using modern technology and traditional Scout skills. The highlight objective for each patrol will be to complete an outdoor challenge called a Radio Patrol Mystery Course. Completing a Mystery Course is optional, but we expect nearly every patrol to attempt one. There will be four Mystery Course levels: (1) orienteering only; (2) orienteering and geocaching; (3) orienteering, geocaching, and radio fox hunting with an amateur radio receiver only; (4) orienteering, geocaching, and radio fox hunting with an amateur radio transceiver (licensed operator required).

It is not required that a patrol do the geocaching element or the radio fox hunting element to complete a Mystery Course, but patrols are encouraged to do as many elements as possible to experience the full range of features that will be offered at this event. Each participating Boy Scout Patrol is particularly encouraged to have at least one Boy Scout with an Amateur Radio Operator (ham) License. Special opportunities will be offered in 2012 for Boy Scouts plus adult leaders, and parents or guardians to earn licenses. In addition to the Mystery Courses, we expect that the regular activity stations will include geocaching and radio fox hunting so that patrols without their own equipment will be able to receive instructions and to practice some basic techniques.

Each patrol will need to bring a compass and a Morse code table to participate. In addition for Mystery Course levels 2-4, a patrol will need a GPS device or GPS-enabled smartphone. For levels 3-4, a patrol will need a directional antenna. For level 3, a patrol will need a 2-meter receiver or transceiver. For level 4, a patrol will need a 2-meter transceiver and a Boy Scout with a ham license. Webelos Scout Patrols will have special courses and can have adult help including adults with ham licenses.

The Radio Patrol Mystery website <http://mad-bsa.org/fall2012/> will provide updated information on the event including resources and training in orienteering, geocaching, radio fox hunting, directional antenna construction, amateur radio licensing, and codebreaking.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Mystery Courses as well as the regular activity stations and camping. To volunteer to help or ask questions, email Steffen at radiopatrol@mad-bsa.org