



Order of the Arrow Summit Experience Information for Participants

Program Overview

You will be with the fellow members of your OASE crew for the duration of the program. For part of your experience, your crew will be building trails and camping together in the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. The remainder of the program will be spent at the Summit Bechtel Reserve and the surrounding area where your crew will participate in several high adventure activities.

There is a short hike to the remote campsite, therefore your gear for the workdays will need to be carried in a backpacking style backpack. From the campsite, there is a short hike to the worksite and back each day.

Leadership and Supervision

Your crew will be under the direct supervision of two Summit staff members with the title of Foremen. They are experienced Scouters and Arrowmen who are skilled and trained in areas such as conservation, camping, and first aid. After the workdays are completed, they will also assist your crew in planning and carrying out your Summit adventures. Their job is to provide direction as well as make the program both safe and enjoyable for all participants.

Equipment and Clothing

Carefully review the Packing List, which is also included in this Participant Packet. Before departing to the National Park, your Foremen will conduct a gear shakedown. This is to ensure the crew brings only the things to the park that are necessary for workdays. The remaining items will stay in tents at on-site campsite. In addition, we will have lockable storage for smaller valuable items such as phones, wallets, cameras, earbuds, etc.

Be sure you have a good pair of work gloves, rugged and broken-in hiking boots (waterproof is best), and work clothes (including a work shirt and long pants made of a heavy material such as denim or canvas). These items are required and must always be worn at the work site! A smaller daypack is recommended for carrying your lunch, rain gear, sunscreen, and water each day.

Additionally, please bring your full BSA field uniform and your OA sash. You will also need swim trunks and water shoes (tennis shoes are acceptable, just be aware they will get wet). These items, plus anything else not necessary for the workdays, will stay at the Summit during the workdays.

The Summit will provide all tents, cooking gear, water and food necessary for the duration of the program. As an option, you are welcome to bring extra spending money if you would like to purchase a hot lunch or souvenirs during one of the off-site program days. If you do not wish to do so, the Summit will provide a sack lunch. The Summit also has a trading post, which you are welcome to bring spending money to purchase Summit souvenirs.

Cell Phones and Electronics Policy

Participants will not be permitted to bring cell phones or other electronic items with them to the National Park for workdays. Rain is very common in West Virginia during the summer and there is a high risk of water damage to electronic items!

Cameras are permitted. However, it is OASE policy that participants are on God's time during their time at The Summit. If their camera displays the time or date, the staff will change it so they can remain on God's time until they depart. Our staff will also carry a crew camera for pictures and videos of the crew, so it is recommended that you leave all cameras at home.

Additionally, there are no charging or dry storage facilities in the park. There is also no cell service. We will provide dry, lockable storage for participants' electronic items in the Summit office building for the duration of the program. The Summit is not responsible for lost or damaged electronics should participants choose not to use our lockbox! OASE staff will carry Summit radios and National Park Service radios in case of emergencies.

Showers

Showers are available at the Summit for the adventure days. Be sure to bring personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and razors). Unfortunately, there are no shower facilities in the National Park during workdays, so we recommend bringing a bandana or two to wet with water during this portion of the week. Please do not bring deodorant, shampoo, hairspray, etc., with you to the National Park because the scent will attract bears. These items must be left at the Summit.

Expedition Number

Your crew will have an expedition number (ex: OASE 704). If the first day of your session starts on July 4, your expedition number will be OASE 704. If it starts on August 1, it would be OASE 801. Please use this in any correspondence and mark your gear accordingly.

Personal Fitness

OASE is a physically demanding adventure. You will be expected to hike and build trail during the first few days, and may be expected to rock climb, mountain bike, and paddle a whitewater raft during your adventure. Adequate water and rest breaks will be provided, but participants will need to be in sufficient physical shape! It is recommended to practice hiking and work out before arriving at the Summit. Walking just a few miles each week while carrying a 30-pound pack goes a long way to adding to the enjoyment of the adventure! Be prepared!

Uniforms

While we are in the Scott Summit Center area, a Scouting field uniform is required to be worn. The BSA field uniform consists of your respective field uniform shirt, BSA shorts/pants, a belt, BSA socks and adequate walking shoes/boots. It is important that we all look clean and sharp together as a crew when we are with other Summit participants and staff. You will need to bring your OA sash to the Summit; however, it will not be worn until later in the week. Your Foremen will tell you when the sash is appropriate.

Insurance

The Boy Scouts of America carries accident and sickness insurance coverage for Summit participants from the time they leave home until they return home. This policy is secondary to a family policy that might be in effect. The name and policy number of your family's insurance needs to be written on the annual health and medical record.

Medical Policy

Bring your completed annual health and medical record form to the Summit (parts A, B and C signed by a physician)! Please do not mail it in with any of your information! The hardcopy form will be collected when you check in on your arrival day. Ensure your parent's and physician's signatures, as well as insurance information (if any), are on the form. The form is sent along with other documents in this packet.

The Summit has a medical facility that is staffed 24 hours a day. They are prepared to treat any medical emergencies that may occur during the summer. The Foremen are trained in Wilderness First Aid and will have a first aid kit with them throughout the experience. Though your crew will be staying in the National Park for some of the experience, your crew's Foremen will have Summit radios to contact EMS and program leadership in the event of an emergency.

Any medications listed and not listed on the medical form will be collected by the Foremen upon arrival to the Summit. They will be stored with the Foremen for the entire experience and will be only given out if listed on the medical form or with pre-approved parent or guardian permission. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Participants who have a prescription Epi-pen will be allowed to carry it on their person during the experience and they should notify the Foremen of its location in case of an emergency.

Meals, Dietary Restrictions and Food Allergies

When called by program leadership, please notify them of any possible food allergies or dietary restrictions and make sure they are listed on the medical form. We have a set menu for each week and participants are expected to eat what is provided. We will try to accommodate any allergies or dietary restrictions to the best of our ability. If there are any dietary restrictions that our menu does not accommodate, participants must bring their own food including three breakfasts, four lunches and three dinners.

It is important that you eat the provided food during the experience. Over the course of the week, you will be partaking in strenuous activities and your body needs proper fuel to recharge. This means eating the provided food at every meal, even if you may not like it. Failure to properly eat may result in your removal from the experience due to health concerns.

Behavioral and Disciplinary Policy

As a member of the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow, you must hold yourself to a higher standard. As a participant of the Order of the Arrow Summit Experience you have been chosen to represent your troop and lodge at the national level. It is imperative that during the experience you will conduct yourself in a manner that reflects the scout oath and law. You will refrain from using any inappropriate language, comments or gestures, and will treat your fellow participants and staff with respect. If situations arise, they will each be looked at individually and a decision will be made by the Program Director and Assistant Director.

Program Fees

Participant cost for OA Summit experience is \$400. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 was due with your application. The additional \$375 is due with the return of your acceptance notice. Cancellations made at least four (4) weeks prior to your scheduled arrival date will be eligible for a refund of the second part of the payment. Your \$25 deposit is non-refundable. There is no fee for shuttle transportation from Yeager airport for OA Summit Experience participants. Please refer to the “Arrival at the Summit” section for more information on travel.

Arrival at the Summit

You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the Summit.

- Private Vehicle - Private vehicles can be driven directly to the Ruby Welcome Center at the Summit. Check-in will occur between 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM of the day your session begins. Check-in will happen inside the main building.
- Airplane - Commercial flights to Yeager Airport (CRW) Charleston, West Virginia. Shuttle service is *only* available to the Summit from Yeager Airport. There is a free shuttle provided by the Summit from the airport to the Summit and back. Please log your travel plans on the National Order of the Arrow Event Registration System on which you registered for OASE. We will communicate this information to the Summit’s transportation department. Participants planning on flying in should also plan to arrive the Saturday before their program begins (ex: if the participant’s program begins on June 21, the participant should book their flight to Yeager for June 20). For families in need of lodging for any reason, please consider staying at the Gene H. Yamagata Lodge or Family Adventure Camp; two great on-site accommodation options for the public.
- If you are arriving by train, bus or a different form of transportation, please communicate that to program leadership when you receive your pre-experience call.

It is important that you update your travel plans in NOAERS so the staff can ensure participants arrive safely and on time.

- Login to NOAERS and click “My Events” in the upper right-hand corner.
- Click on “OA Summit Experience 2024” and your name under “My Attendees.”
- Click on the “Travel” button on the left-hand navigation menu.
- Click the “Add” button to add a new record. Complete all required fields
 - If you are driving, please enter your approximate time to arrive at Ruby Welcome Center

- If you are flying, please enter your flight scheduled arrival/departure time. Do not add additional time to your arrival or departure times.
- If you are flying with a connection, please only enter the leg of your trip that arrives or departs in Yeager Airport
- Ensure both an “Arrival” and “Departure” record are recorded.

Please make sure travel plans are booked and information is updated in NOAERS by May 27th, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding travel, please contact Nate Wells, OA Summit Experience Director.
(812) 350-7030; wells.nate.03@gmail.com

Departure from the Summit

Plan to leave on the day your program ends. If you arrived by plane, you will be notified of the departing shuttle’s time and pick-up location by the Experience Director. If you are departing by private vehicle, you can be picked up at the Ruby Welcome Center between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM.

If you are departing by plane or train, please book a departure no earlier than 2:00pm on the Sunday of departure to allow for travel time to the airport or station.

Directions to the Ruby Welcome Center (arrival and departure location)

55 Hazel Ruby Lane, Mt. Hope, WV 25880

Emergency Messages

The Summit will have a landline monitored 24 hours a day: 304-465-2900. This number should be used for emergencies only! Tell the operator your child is with the Order of the Arrow program.

OA Summit Experience Merchandise

If you are interested in purchasing OA Summit Experience merchandise, please visit tradingpost.oa-bsa.org and click on the high adventure tab.