

# **Adopt-A-Campsite Unit Guidebook**



**Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation**

Dear Scouting Unit,

Thank you for your support of the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation (HMSR). We are looking for ways to make our camp more welcoming for the people who use our facility. We need volunteers who want to help our camp grow into the kind of camp that we all want it to be. We are asking for units who want to make our camp a place of fellowship and respite, a place that can help grow and nurture your unit to be the best it can be as well as a place you can enjoy.

What can you do to help create that place here at HMSR? To allow your own personal touch and still maintain a standard level of quality, we are asking that you work with the Camp Ranger before beginning a project to make sure this aligns with the vision of HMSR.

As part of our Boy Scouts of America National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) inspections, we look at our sites and list items that need to be fixed, improved, or replaced. Below are some of the things we look for:

- Grounds free of trash.
- Conservation projects in or around the campsite.
- Prepare a campfire circle.
- Trail maintenance and brush control.
- Level tent platforms to make sure they are safe and comfortable.
- A flagpole and bulletin board.
- A pavilion free of leaves and debris.
- A latrine that is clean and swept.
- Paint pavilion and latrine as needed.
- Build and repair picnic tables and log seating by the campfire.
- Report to the Ranger or Campmaster any aspects of the site that need additional attention and care.

This is just the beginning of a list that ends only with your creativity. To allow your own personal touches and still maintain a standard level of quality, we ask that you please work with the Camp Ranger who will seek approval from the Camp Committee as well as Property and Maintenance Committee before a project may begin. Thank you for considering this adoption! Please review the information in this guidebook and when you are ready to adopt, simply follow the directions in the section labeled...*How does it work?*

Thank you for all you do for the Scouts in your life and Happy Camping!!

Michele Bement  
Council Program Director

Kevin Huneke  
Camp Ranger

## Adopt-A-Campsite Program

### Purpose:

Maintaining excellent facilities for Scouts and Scouters is a top priority for HMSR and the Hawk Mountain Council. This program will help us achieve the goal of building and maintaining Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation and additionally help Scouting Units and their Scouts have an enjoyable time on the reservation. This program will help instill a sense of ownership and pride in our reservation and its facilities as well as encourage attendance at HMSR and use of our property. This program will also help us be responsible Scouts by being good stewards of our environment. The projects worked on by units will also meet the volunteer hour requirements for advancement, build skills, and create a renewed sense of ownership and enthusiasm within the Pack, Troop, Crew, Post or Ship.

### What are the benefits for the Unit?

- You will have the pleasure of knowing you made a difference at HMSR and made the camping experience better for others.
- Through fellowship and team-work you will strengthen your unit while learning important stewardship, building and conservation skills.
- Scouts would earn service or conservation hours towards advancement.
- Units will be allowed use of your adopted campsite twice during the months of September-May with approval as available, free of charge.
- District events **CANNOT** be used for a free weekend.

### How does it work?

1. Re-adoption is open Aug.1. Open Adoption (which is for anything that was not re-adopted/not adopted) starts Sept.1.
2. Contact the Hawk Mountain Program Director Michele Bement at [michele.bement@scouting.org](mailto:michele.bement@scouting.org) or the Camp Ranger Kevin Huneke at [kevin.huneke@scouting.org](mailto:kevin.huneke@scouting.org) to check availability of sites for adoption.
3. If a campsite is available that you or your unit would like to adopt, and you agree with conditions outlined in the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement, you will then review and sign the agreement.
4. After signing the agreement return it to Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation at [michele.bement@scouting.org](mailto:michele.bement@scouting.org) or mail to 402 Blue Mountain Rd, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 Attention: Adopt-a-Campsite, Lodge and Program Area.
5. Your Agreement will be reviewed and approved by the Properties & Maintenance Committee, Council Program Director, and Camp Ranger. This review could take up to 4 weeks.
6. Communicate with the Camp Ranger to begin work on your campsite.
7. Once projects are submitted, the Camp Ranger will work with the Properties and Maintenance Committee, Council Program Director, and other related Camp Committees for final approval.

This program can be customized at the discretion of the Camp Ranger, Council Program Director, and the Council Camping Committee to include adopting other areas of camp such as buildings, trails, or program areas.

### **Conservation-minded:**

As you maintain and improve your campsite, here are conservation-minded ways you can help mitigate impacts to the environment so that we can provide a pristine camping experience for generations of Scouts to come:

- Control of non-native or Noxious Weeds
- Erosion control
- Trail improvements (switchbacks, railings, bridges, signs, rest stops seats)
- Wildlife habitat construction (bat and bird houses, pocket meadows for deer bedding, brush piles for small animals, grouse stands, fish habitats)
- Brush free fire zones (clean up debris in forested areas, thinning, and pruning)

### **Eligible Campsites:**

- Cacoosing
- Cayuga
- Daniel Boone
- Davy Crockett
- Iroquois
- Lenape
- Mahantango
- Maxatawny
- Mohawk
- Navesink
- Ontelaunee
- Perkiomen
- Seneca
- Shawnee
- Shenandoah
- Tanglendam
- Tamaqua
- Te Tau Ken (TTK)
- Tulpehocken
- Tuscarora

## Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement

Unit "Adopting" the Campsite Agrees to:	Hawk Mountain Council Agrees to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the campsite to the specifications required by Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation and the Hawk Mountain Council.</li> <li>Dedicate at least eight (8) hours of work per person annually to perform maintenance, repairs, and improvements to campsite repair/improvement. *</li> <li>Understand and abide by the Terms and Conditions outlined in this Agreement which are in effect for as long as the unit adopts their site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow the use of your campsite twice during the months of September-May with approval as available, free of charge.</li> <li>Provide guidance to the unit as they complete the work to the campsite, lodge, or program area.</li> <li>Give unit priority for use of their "adopted" campsite during summer resident camp each year. **</li> </ul>

\*Units must schedule both workday & weekend based on the finalized agreement. The work needs to be performed between September 1 and May 31 of each year. \*\* The use of the adopted campsite for the summer camp is not a guarantee. Every effort will be made to honor this request. A unit waives their priority for adopted campsite if their summer camp reservation is not in by November 1st of the following summer camp year.

### Additional terms and conditions for Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement:

- Adoption of a campsite does not imply any form of ownership or special privilege or legal rights. Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, including campsites, is owned, and operated by the Hawk Mountain Council, BSA.
- Units that have adopted a campsite are required to follow the standard procedures for reserving the use of the campsite for weekend camping, summer camp, and all other occasions.
- All BSA safety rules and standards, as well as camp-related rules, must always be adhered to. All equipment and tools will be in safe working condition. Power equipment will be operated by properly trained and authorized adults. Scouts will not be allowed to climb above shoulder height. Chainsaw use is prohibited except for individuals who meet the requirements outlined in [BSA Chainsaw Safety](#) and validated by the Camp Ranger.
- Misconduct by unit participants while at Camp; including but not limited to violation of these rules, terms, and conditions or vandalism, may result in termination of the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement.
- The Hawk Mountain Council is not responsible for damage to the campsite done by others who use the Reservation.
- The Hawk Mountain Council maintains the right to de-activate, relocate, remove, or rename a campsite.
- All projects must be pre-approved by the Camp Ranger, Council Program Director, and the related Camp Committees.
- Units are encouraged to supply materials for use in projects, provided that the materials meet the requirements specified and approved by the Camp Ranger and the Council Program Director. The Hawk Mountain Council may supply some of the necessary project materials, provided the purchase has been pre-approved by the Council Program Director.
- The Hawk Mountain Council reserves the right to discontinue this program at any time.

Unit Type & Number:			
Contact Person:		Unit Position:	
Mailing Address:			
City, State Zip:		Phone Number:	
Email Address:		Alt. Number:	

Our unit will adopt \_\_\_\_\_ campsite, lodge or program area at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation. We agree to the guidelines stated in the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement. Here are the weekends we would like to reserve to do the work are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of HMSR

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date