

# Valley Forge Encampment & Visit to Philadelphia February 14-17, 2014

*“...unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place ... this Army must inevitably ... Starve, dissolve, or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can.”*

*General George Washington*

***VALLEY FORGE.*** The name evokes the images of George Washington kneeling in a snow-veiled forest praying for God’s blessings, while shivering, rag-tag soldiers – their feet bound in bloody rags and their coats tattered and worn – look on in desperation, hoping their leader will help them survive the winter and the next engagement with the British. The narrative and images of a rag-tag and demoralized Continental Army hunkering down in Valley Forge over



the winter of 1777-1778 come to the fore when we hear the name of that hallowed ground, and yet they are only partly true. Like many good legends told of weaker opponents defeating stronger ones, the story we are all told of Valley Forge when we are young is only half the story. The other half is equally if not more important.

For it was in Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 where that desperate Continental Army, demoralized after suffering numerous defeats against the more numerous and better trained and equipped British Army, determined to achieve a victory, prepared for the spring and summer fighting seasons ahead, and thus emerged stronger and more ready for action than it had been entering the valley. It is from Valley Forge that the army under General Washington emerged in June to go on to

battlefield victories at Monmouth, New Jersey and against British-held forts in present-day Indiana and Illinois and beyond.

Drawing on these two images of Valley Forge, Troop 349 will encamp with thousands of other Scouts from other troops in the region, and focus its activities in two areas: 1) Practicing camping in cold weather conditions; and 2) Gaining an appreciation for the vital importance of Valley Forge in our Revolutionary War history.

This year's encampment will also specifically look at the role the legendary American cavalry officer, Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, III, played in the Revolutionary War. We will all learn about him during the pilgrimage to Valley Forge all day Saturday, February 15. On Sunday, February 16, we will conduct a 9.1-mile hike around Valley Forge to view the various monuments there, as well as cabins and revetments. Those who complete the hike will earn the Valley Forge Historic Trail medal.

After the historic encampment at Valley Forge concludes, we will spend Sunday night warming up at Camp Musser, and then will move Sunday morning to Philadelphia, where we will watch a film on the importance of Philadelphia in our attainment of independence from Great Britain; view the Liberty Bell and gain an appreciation of its importance as a symbol of our country; tour Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were debated and signed; take a short walking tour around Independence Hall, and see where Ben Franklin is buried; and enjoy an authentic Philly cheesesteak lunch before departing for home.

This will be a good opportunity for our younger and new Scouts to focus on their Tenderfoot, Second and First Class requirements (including knot-tying, first aid, cooking and the proper handling of the knife, axe and saw), and for our older and more experienced First Class, Star and Eagle Scouts to teach these requirements, as well as develop an appreciation for the benefits that come from teammanship and proper, sustained training. *The aim is to go into Valley Forge over the weekend and come out a more cohesive, better trained and better prepared troop than we were entering the site. This would be in keeping with the experience our forefathers underwent over 230 years ago.*

### **Friday, February 14, 2014 (Valley Forge Encampment)**

1600 Depart the American Legion  
2000 Arrive at encampment check-in site and register  
2000-2100 Fellowship fire  
2100 Senior Patrol Leaders' Meeting  
2130 Meeting of Uniformed Adults  
2300 Taps and Lights Out  
Overnight at Encampment Site.

### **Saturday, February 15, 2014 (Valley Forge Encampment & Pilgrimage)**

0600 Reveille  
0600-0700 Breakfast  
0700 Flag Raising Ceremony and troop call out  
0700 Take bus from encampment site to Valley Forge for day events.  
0840 Opening at amphitheater.  
0915 Move to first program station.  
0940-1700 Rotate through program stations.  
1700 Take bus back to encampment site.  
1730 Catholic Mass  
1800 Ecumenical Service  
1830 Retreat and troop report  
1830-1945 Supper  
2000-2045 Heritage campfire  
2130 Meeting of SPLs/Uniformed Adults and Cracker Barrel  
2200 Patch swap  
2300 Taps and Lights Out  
Overnight at Encampment Site.

### **Sunday, February 16, 2014 (Historic Trail & Overnight at Camp Musser)**

0700 Reveille  
0700-0815 Breakfast  
0815-1000 Break camp and check out  
1000-1500 Hike Valley Forge Historic Trail  
1500 Depart for Camp Hart  
1600 Arrive at Camp Hart and set up in Perry Long and Korman Lodges  
Overnight at Perry Long and Korman Lodges.

**Monday, February 17, 2014 (Philadelphia Program)**

0700 Reveille, breakfast and clean-up of lodges.  
1000 Depart for Philadelphia.  
1100-1500 Tours of Independence Hall, Liberty Bell & Other Sites  
1500 Depart for Falls Church  
2000 Arrive in Falls Church

**Nearest Medical Facility to the Valley Forge Campsite**

Phoenixville Hospital

140 Nutt Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 983-1000

1.5 miles from the Valley Forge Encampment Campsite

**Nearest Medical Facility in Philadelphia**

Hahnemann University Hospital

230 N. Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 762-7000

1.35 miles from Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell



Independence Hall



The Liberty Bell

**BSA TROOP 349, FALLS CHURCH, VA  
PERMISSION SLIP**

Event: Valley Forge Encampment & Tour of Philadelphia Historical Sites

Location: Valley Forge National Historical Park & Philadelphia, PA

Date: February 14-17, 2014

As the parent or legal guardian of: \_\_\_\_\_

- I give my permission for him to participate in this outing with Troop 349.
- I will provide transportation. Out  Back  Both   
Including driver, my vehicle holds \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- Name(s) of Parent(s) planning to attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent cell #: \_\_\_\_\_
- My Scout understands: All travel is in Class A uniform  
No electronics permitted (iPod, MP3, cell phone, etc)
- Funds attached: \$100 per participant (covers food, lodging, mileage, registration)

I give permission to the uniformed adults of Troop 349 to render first aid. In the event of emergency, I give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader-in-charge, to hospitalize, order anesthesia, order injection, or secure other medical treatment, as s/he determines to be appropriate. I further agree to hold Troop 349 and its uniformed adults blameless for any mishaps that may occur during this outing, except for clear acts of negligence or non-adherence to BSA policies and guidelines.

In case of emergency, I can be reached by phone at: \_\_\_\_\_ or: \_\_\_\_\_

If I cannot be reached, contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_

My son:  Has the following medical condition(s) that uniformed adults must be aware of:

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- Has no medical condition.
- Requires the following medication(s) that uniformed adults must supervise and assist in administering (also provide time & quantity):  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Takes no medication

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian)

**DUE WITH PAYMENT TO JULIE CUSTER BY JANUARY 21, 2014.**

## Cold Weather Packing Checklist

Note: This list is in addition to clothes worn to campout.  
Wear your Class A Scout uniform for travel.

Remember: “Cotton Kills” & “Always pack for one season *colder* than now.”

### *Sleeping Gear:*

- Backpack or duffle bag (lined w/plastic bag to keep contents dry)
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow Case (to be stuffed with your down jacket or clothing)

### *Clothes:*

- Winter coat or vest
- Warm cap
- Gloves or mittens
- Sunglasses
- Pants
- 2 Long sleeve shirts
- Class B shirt
- Class B fleece or vest
- 2 Underwear
- Long underwear, top & bottom
- 2 pair wool or acrylic socks
- Hiking boots or walking shoes (no open-toe sandals)

### *Safety, Kitchen & Toiletry, Miscellaneous:*

- Personal 1st Aid Kit (BSA Handbook p. 289)
- Water bottle, filled
- Pen/pencil & pocket-sized notepad
- Scout Handbook
- Book for reading
- Whistle on neck lanyard
- Compass with a base plate
- Toiletry kit (hand soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, comb, small towel)
- Toilet paper (half a roll in a Zip-Lock bag)
- Flashlight/head lamp & extra batteries (keep easily accessible in backpack)
- Two garbage bags (for storage of items; for trash cleanup at end of campout)
- Camera