

Adopt-A- Campsite/Cabin Unit Guidebook



For Use by Units
Adopting a Campsite/Cabin
In the Cradle of Liberty Council

Dear Scouting Unit,

We are in need of people who want to help revitalize Musser Scout Reservation at any of its three camps; Delmont, Hart, and Garrison. We want our campsites and cabins to be the place that you can come and enjoy, a place of fellowship and respite, and a place that can help grow and nurture your unit to be the best it can be.

How can you help improve a campsite or cabin?

- Clean the ground of debris and trash - This gives the site a pristine beauty that will make us all proud
- Weed wack and mow the campsite or cabin grounds
- Complete a conservation project in or around the campsite or cabin
- Clean up/prepare the campfire ring(s)
- Perform trail maintenance and brush control
- Repair and level the tent platforms making them safe and comfortable
- Perform maintenance on the cabin
- Build a gateway and entrance sign
- Repair or build a flag pole, tool rack and bulletin board
- Build picnic tables, log seating, and/or a shelter
- Improve the latrine
- Stain/Waterproof the tables
- Make a plaque telling the story of the name of the campsite
- Report to the Camp Ranger or Campmaster any aspects of the site that need more attention and care

This is just the beginning of a list that ends only with your unit's creativity. In order to allow your unit's personal touch and still maintain a standard level of quality, you will work with our Camp Ranger before beginning a project. This will help ensure all projects align with the goals of Musser Scout Reservation and the Cradle of Liberty Council.

Not ready to fully adopt an entire cabin or campsite? Sign-up for a project and schedule a weekend stay for your unit. We can work with you to make your unit a part in revitalizing this incredible camp!

Thank you for considering this adoption! Please review the information in this Guidebook, and when you are ready to Adopt-a-Campsite/Cabin, simply follow the directions in the section labeled...*How does it work?*

Thank you for all you do for Scouting, and Happy Camping!

Ted McDonald
Camping Chairman

Ranger Lynn
Camp Ranger - Musser Scout Reservation

Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Program

Purpose:

Maintaining excellent facilities for scouts and leaders is a top priority for Musser Scout Reservation and the Cradle of Liberty Council. This program will help us achieve the goal of building and maintaining Musser 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 campsites/cabins. It will encourage attendance at and use of our property. Being good stewards of our environment is a responsibility of all Scouts, and this program will help improve the environmental health across Musser Scout Reservation. The projects will meet volunteer hour requirements for advancement, build skills and create a renewed sense of ownership and enthusiasm within the Pack, Troop, Crew, or Ship.

What are the benefits for the Unit?

- You have the pleasure of knowing you made a difference in the reservation and made the camping experience better for others.
- You will strengthen your unit through fellowship and teamwork while learning important stewardship, building and conservation skills.
- Your Scouts could earn service or conservation hours towards advancement. You will be allowed use of your campsite or cabin twice during the months of September-May with approval as available, free of charge.

How does it work?

The first step is to contact the Musser Scout Reservation Camp Ranger Lynn at Brian.Lynn2@scouting.org to check availability of sites for adoption. If a campsite or cabin is available that you or your unit would like to adopt, and you agree with conditions outlined in the Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Agreement, you will then review and sign the agreement. Then return it to Ranger Lynn at Brian.Lynn2@scouting.org or 5505 Upper Ridge Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073.

After your Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Camping Committee and Camp Ranger, you will begin working with the Camp Ranger to begin work on your campsite or cabin. This program can be customized at the discretion of the Council Camping Committee to include adopting other areas of camp such as buildings, trails, or program areas.

Conservation-minded:

Thousands of campers enjoy Musser Scout Reservation each year, and considering the years of use that Delmont, Hart, and Garrison have sustained, this agreement can help direct us in how we manage our campsites and cabins. Here are the ways continued use impacts our Reservation and campsites/cabins:

1. Vegetative Impacts
 - Loss of vegetation cover
 - Compositional change

- Spread of non-native species
 - Tree damage and root exposure
 - Tree cutting and loss of regeneration
 - Loss of shrubbery
2. Soil Impacts
- Loss of organic litter
 - Loss of organic soil
 - Soil compaction
 - Decrease in soil moisture
 - Soil erosion
3. Wildlife Impacts
- Habitat alteration
 - Wildlife distribution and harassment
 - Modification of wildlife behavior
 - Displacement from food, water, and cover
 - Reduced health and reproduction
4. Water Resource Impacts
- Increased turbidity and sedimentation
 - Oil and gas from engines
 - Soaps (phosphates)
 - Fecal wastes (giardia)
5. Social Impacts
- Litter
 - Aesthetics
 - Loss of Wilderness and Isolation

These impacts are a departure from natural conditions and can alter the natural environment. These impacts can threaten resource protection and are expensive to repair. As you maintain and improve your campsite or cabin, here are conservation-minded ways you can help mitigate these impacts so that we can provide a pristine camping experience for generations of scouts to come:

- Control of non-native or Noxious Weeds (Japanese Stiltgrass, Privet, Wineberry, Bittersweet, Japanese Honeysuckle, phragmites [Common Reed], Spicebush, and Grapevine)
- Seeding and sowing of grass seed (seed should be approved by COL Conservation Committee. Some common grasses, i.e. Fescue, are considered invasive)
- Erosion control
- Reforestation/Regeneration (plant/transplant trees, plant and care for a small nursery, close of unneeded areas and trails) should be approved by COL Conservation Committee.
- 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)

Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Agreement

Unit "Adopting" the Campsite Agrees to:	Cradle of Liberty Council Agrees to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the campsite/cabin to the specifications required by Musser Scout Reservation and the Cradle of Liberty Council Dedicate at least eight (8) hours of work annually to perform maintenance, repairs and improvements to campsite/cabin repair/improvement. * Understand and abide by the Terms and Conditions outlined in this Agreement which are in effect for one (1) year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the use of your campsite or cabin twice during the months of September-May with approval as available, free of charge. Provide guidance to the unit as they complete the work to the campsite or cabin.

***Units must schedule at least one work day/weekend the unit is going to work with this Agreement. The work needs to be performed between September 1 and May 31.**

Additional terms and conditions for Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Agreement:

- Adoption of a campsite/cabin does not imply any form of ownership, special privilege or legal rights. Musser Scout Reservation, including campsites/cabins, is owned and operated by the Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA.
- Units that have adopted a campsite are required to follow the standard procedures for reserving the use of the campsite/cabin for weekend camping, summer camp, and all other occasions.
- All BSA safety rules and standards, as well as camp-related rules, must be adhered to at all times. 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 policy 20-136 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/Cabin Agreement.
- The Cradle of Liberty Council is not responsible for damages to the campsite or cabin done by others who use the Reservation.
- The Cradle of Liberty Council maintains the right to de-activate, relocate, remove or rename a campsite or cabin.
- All projects must be pre-approved by the Council Camping Committee and the Musser Scout Reservation Camp Ranger.
- Units are encouraged to supply materials for use in projects, provided that the materials meet the requirements specified and approved by the Council Camping Committee and Musser Scout Reservation Camp Ranger. The Cradle of Liberty Council may supply some of the necessary project materials, provided the purchase has been pre-approved by the Director of Outdoor Adventures.
- The Cradle of Liberty 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 or cabin at Musser Scout Reservation. We agree to the guidelines stated in the Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Agreement. This Agreement was reviewed and approved by the unit committee on this date _____.

Signature of Contact Person

_____/_____/_____
Date

Signature of Committee Chair

_____/_____/_____
Date

Adopt-A-Campsite/Cabin Agreement

Eligible Campsites and Cabins:

Delmont Cabins		
Delmont Campmaster Cabins (1 - 4)	Castle Rock	Dan Beard
Gren Day	Knollbrook	Lucian Maxwell
OA Lean To's	OA Totem	Pioneer Lodge
Pioneer Dining Hall	Schweiker	Sevier
Delmont Shelter	Spark Lodge	Woods Lane
Delmont Campsites		
Algonquin	Campsite 1(Renamed)	Campsite 2 (Renamed)
Campsite 3 (Renamed)	Lake Front	Twin Cedars
Mohawk	Wilbur	Delaware
Hart Cabins		
Dick Smith	Gold Stag	Green Turtle
Korman	Perry Long	Red Fox
Yellow Bear	Cozy Lodge (needs to be renamed)	Park Lodge (Old Health Lodge)
Hart Campsites		
Dick Smith	Gold Stag	Green Turtle
Hawk	Owl	Pheasant
Red Fox	Turkey	Yellow Bear
Staff Area		
Garrison Activity Areas		
Safeguard Castle	Fort Akela	Native American Village
Handicraft Pavilion	Ship – USS Cradle of Liberty	