

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICHIGAN CROSSROADS COUNCIL TROOPS AND CREWS TO CAMP WITH CANADIAN SCOUTS

International Committee, Michigan Crossroads Council BSA

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Michigan Crossroads Council (MCC) Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts can have great international Scouting experiences at a low cost by camping with Canadian Scouts and Venturer Scouts. During the 2024-5 program year, you can do that by participating in a weekend international camporee near the USA-Canada border, spending a weekend at a Scouts Canada camp, or participating in a week-long Scouts Canada jamboree or high adventure camp. Use this document and its links to learn about opportunities for your troop or crew to camp with Canadian Scouts. Your discussion and decision about participating in one of these events during a September through August program year plus the following September and October should be part of the annual planning for that program year. In selecting a camporee or jamboree, be sure to consider the extra planning required for an event in Canada and the driving time. The driving time to some weekend camporees listed here requires Michigan Scouts to miss school and Michigan adults to miss work the Friday the camporee begins.

This is one of three companion documents that are available in the International Scouting section of the Michigan Crossroads Council website at <https://michiganscouting.org/international-scouting> The other two are:

- **DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR MCC CONTINGENTS DRIVING TO AND FROM ACTIVITIES IN CANADA**
- **HOW A CONTINGENT FROM AN MCC TROOP OR CREW CAN MEET SCOUTS CANADA REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR EVENTS**

If the BSA-Scouts Canada event your troop or crew decides to participate in is in the U.S., you can plan for it like you plan for any other weekend campout. You don't need the other two documents. On the other hand, if the event is in Canada, there are additional steps you will need to take:

- to prepare to cross the USA - Canada border into Canada and back into the USA.
- to satisfy Scouts Canada's requirements for a BSA troop or crew to participate in one of their events.

In that situation, the other two documents will be important in planning your trip.

Once a troop or crew makes the decision to travel to Canada and participate in a Scouts Canada event, a team should be selected to plan the trip using the information in those documents and to develop a trip budget and an expected cost per participant. As new members join troops and crews and Cub Scouts make commitments to cross over into troops, they and their families should be informed of these plans. Adult and youth participants in a trip to a Scouts Canada event, the adults who will serve as drivers on the trip and the vehicles they will drive, and the truck or vehicle and trailer combination that will carry equipment must be confirmed several months before the trip.

OVERVIEW OF SCOUTING IN CANADA

BSA is a member of WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement) <https://www.scout.org/> There are two WOSM-affiliated Scout Associations in Canada, the English-speaking Scouts Canada <https://www.scouts.ca/> and the French-speaking l'Association des Scouts du Canada. <https://scoutsducanada.ca/>

L'Association des Scouts du Canada units are almost all in Quebec, so MCC units interact with Scouts Canada units. BSA and Scouts Canada are both open to boys and girls and each has an all-girl counterpart, the Girl Scouts of the USA <https://www.girlscouts.org/> and the Girl Guides of Canada <https://www.girlguides.ca/web/> that is a members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) <https://www.wagggs.org/en/>

The Scouts Canada sections are:

- Beaver Scouts - ages 5-7 - A unit is a "colony."
- Cub Scouts - ages 8-10 - A unit is a "pack."
- Scouts - ages 11-14 - A unit is a "troop."
- Venturer Scouts - ages 15-17 - A unit is a "company."
- Rover Scouts - ages 18-26 – A unit is a "crew."

A Scouts Canada "Scout Group" usually has units in several sections similar to one MCC charter partner having a BSA pack, a BSA boy troop, a BSA girl troop, and a BSA Venturing crew all with the same unit number.

USA - CANADA CROSS-BORDER WEEKEND CAMPOREES - There are currently 7 annual weekend international camporees near the USA-Canada border that are within a reasonable driving distance of the Michigan Crossroads Council. They are listed below by season of the year. A camporee with its name in **green** is always held in the USA. A camporee with its name in **red** is always held in Canada. While some Scouts Canada camporees invite BSA Cub packs to cross the U.S.-Canada border and participate in the camporee, this is not a BSA Guide to Safe Scouting approved activity for BSA Cub Packs. To get a good idea of driving time to a camporee, enter the place the camporee is held in google maps or a similar program and add an estimate of border crossing time. Fees for camporees in Canada are stated in Canadian \$. To find the U.S. \$ equivalents, search the web for the current exchange rate between U.S. \$ and Canadian \$.

SPRING CAMPOREES

CanAm Camporee - held annually on the weekend that contains the 1st Sunday in May, May 3 to 5 in 2024, at Camp Attawandaron near The Pinery Provincial Park on Lake Huron. CanAm 2024 registration is now open. For information and to register, go to <http://www.attawandaron.com/> and click on CAMPOREE INFORMATION

Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee (DIBC) – the largest BSA Scouts Canada camporee near Michigan - held annually on the weekend that contains the 2nd Sunday in May (Mother's Day weekend), May 10 to 12 in 2024, at Camp Bel near Dorchester, Ontario. Their website has been changed to <https://www.dibccamp.com/> For information, go there and click on REGISTRATION PACKAGE

SUMMER CAMPOREE

Join-In Jamboree - held annually in August, Friday, August 2, to Sunday, August 4, or Monday, August 5, in 2024, at Camp Samac in Oshawa, Ontario, near Toronto. There is an optional food plan and the possibility of arranging to stay there after the event is over for sightseeing and outdoor activities in Toronto and in other parts of Ontario. The website at <http://www.joininjamboree.ca/> shows the wide variety of activities. Registration is open now.

Make the Join In Jamboree part of a weeklong troop trip.

From the website: "We have confirmed a group from the UK are coming in 2024. We are actively reaching out to contacts from Scouts BSA and others to join us. Tell us when you are coming to Canada, we will help you plan your trip, make reservations AND assist with transportation. We can arrange longer stays at Camp Samac in cabins or tents. We can help with everything from grocery shopping to onsite activities and off-site visits to tourist sites."

Camp site amenities

Summer camping at Lake Samac means, archery, pellet shooting, access to an Olympic sized swimming pool, camping on well-maintained grounds, obstacle courses, hiking trails, and more. Camp sites have access to fresh municipal water and flush toilets. Sites have campfire rings and tenting under trees or in the open field.

FALL CAMPOREES

Scout Brigade of Fort George Fall Campaign - held annually on the 3rd full weekend in September, Sept. 20 to 22 in 2024, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario - Reenacts a War of 1812 battle with Canadian Scouts playing British and Canadian soldiers and American Scouts playing American soldiers.-Go to <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/> , move your cursor to “Program Information,” and click on “Scouts BSA.” There is a *Boys Life* video showing the SBFQ at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So-a6mZl8fc>

International Scout Rally (formerly Hessel International Scout Rally) - held annually the 3rd weekend of September, Sept. 20 to 22 in 2024, at Chippewa County Fairgrounds, Kinross, Michigan, in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. – Information is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/864654561716342/>

Genesis Ventmoot - held annually on the 2nd weekend in November, Nov. 13 to 15 in 2024, at Camp Bel near Dorchester, Ontario, the same location where DIBC is held, for Venturing crews, Sea Scout ships, and contingents of Venturer-age Scouts - The website is at <http://genesiscamp.ca/>

WINTER CAMPOREE

Scout Brigade of Fort George Winter Campaign - Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario - “Join us every winter for the Winter Campaign and bunk right inside the Fort! You'll stay in the blockhouse and eat your meals in historic Navy Hall down by the river.” - Go to <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/> The statement at the top that announced the March 3, 2024, Winter Campaign is: “We are looking forward to the first SBFQ Winter Campaign since 2020! Winter Campaign information and photos are at <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/program-information/winter-campaign/> 2024 prices and registration information are on the right side at <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/registration/> with instructions on how you could register at the bottom.

A WEEK-LONG SCOUTS CANADA WILDERNESS CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Haliburton Scout Reserve - almost 5000 acres in Central Ontario - 23 semi-wilderness sites with space for 8 - 60 campers per site. Each of these sites is accessible by water only. For information, go to <https://www.scouts.ca/camps/haliburton-scout-reserve.html> and scroll down. There is a Haliburton video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45qos6gkiyA>