DAY TRIPS FROM MUSSER



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OVERVIEW: MUSSER SCOUT RESERVATION

Musser Scout Reservation is ideally located for exploring the city of Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

In 1915 Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council purchased 35 acres of land upstream from Sumneytown and the following year an additional 75 acres was acquired. Camp Delmont was named after the two counties that made up the original Delmont Council (DELaware and MONTgomery Counties Council, later known as The Valley Forge Council). At one point the camp was known as Camp Cedar. Summer Camp was first held there in 1916. The camp is recognized as one of the oldest Boy Scout camps in the United States.

In 1930 Philadephia Council acquired land adjacent to Delmont – named Camp Hart. Following the merger of the two councils in 1996 Camps Delmont and Hart were combined as the Musser Scout Reservation. This reservation is known as the Musser Scout Reservation, in honor of long-time Scouting supporter Warren V. "Pete" Musser.

The Musser Scout Reservation is located along the Unami Creek on over 1,400 acres of Marlborough Township, Pennsylvania. It is part of the largest contiguous forest in southeastern Pennsylvania. It now includes Camp Hart, Camp Delmont and Camp Garrison. The council's newest camping facility – Camp Garrison – opened in 2000 with four themed camping areas and is entirely devoted to Cub Scout weekend camping. Camp Hart is the home of the Council's Cub Scout summer resident program. The camps are extensively used for weekend programs by units, districts and the council. The Cradle of Liberty Council, Natural Lands Trust, Montgomery County Lands Trust and Montgomery County signed a conservation easement permanently protecting over 1,200 acres of the Musser Scout Reservation. The easement is a perpetual, legally binding agreement to remove certain rights from the property owner. The effect of conservation easements is to provide permanent protection from future development while leaving the land in private ownership.

Short-term unit camping at Cradle of Liberty Council Camps will be available annually from the weekend following Labor Day through the preparations for summer camp . Additional weekends and mid-week openings may be available on request. Availability and reservations can be made on line at www.colbsa.org

Please contact the Camping Department with any special requests. The Guide to Weekend Camping Opportunities provides a full description of our council camps and can be viewed at https://www.colbsa.org/year-round-camping-reservations/cabin-campsite-rentals.html

There are many destinations and attractions that can be visited when staying at Musser as well as numerous activities that can be enjoyed – from winter sports to hiking and biking. The purpose of this guide is to give a brief overview of days out from Musser, along with links for additional information, in order that units can tailor their visit to their needs.

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The Musser Scout Reservation is situated about 45 miles North West of Philadelphia, approximately a one hour drive (traffic dependent) OR you can drive to Lansdale and take the train (SEPTA R5 route – check times and prices at www.septa.org



Visitphilly.com says: "Were Benjamin Franklin, the city's first museum patron, to come back to 21st Century Philadelphia, he would marvel at what he had started. Philadelphia's museums are small and massive, historic and modern, interactive and exclusive, eccentric and unexpected. There are grand places like The Franklin Institute Science Museum and those that are intimate, like the Polish American Cultural Center Museum. There are the irreverent, like The Philadelphia Insectarium, and the specialized, like the Philadelphia Athletics Museum."

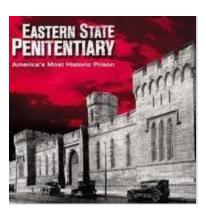
The website – www.visitphilly.com - is a great resource for links to visiting the Philadelphia area.

Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA also offers two historic trails that Scouts can complete on their visit to Philadelphia: "The Freedom Trail" and the "Benjamin Franklin Trail". Booklets can be purchased for \$1.00 plus shipping from the council office (please call 610-688-6900), or ordered from the online store at: INSERT LINK

A brief description of Philadelphia museums is detailed below with links to each attraction's website for ease of planning.



The Philadelphia Museum of Art: sits majestically on a rise at the end of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The vast collections of this temple of art make it the third-largest art museum in the country, and an absolute must-see on the city's cultural circuit. Among its impressive holdings in Renaissance, American, Impressionist and Modern art, some standouts include a great Rogier van der Weyden altarpiece, a large Bathers by Cezanne, a room devoted to Philadelphia's own Thomas Eakins, and Marcel Duchamp's notorious mixed-media Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors (The Large Glass), exactly as the dada master installed it. Upstairs, breathe in other cultures and times through over 80 period rooms, from the medieval cloister to the Indian temple. http://www.philamuseum.org/



Eastern State Penitentiary: The Penitentiary set the standard for penal reform, with its soaring, castle-like Gothic architecture and its founders' Quaker-inspired belief that solitary confinement could reform criminals. The 11-acre prison even had central heat, running water and flush toilets before the White House! A Who's Who of the underworld – bank robber Willie Sutton, who staged a breakout in 1945, and Al Capone, who furnished his cell with antiques, rugs and oil paintings – both served time here.

Tours include a look at life inside the prison's historic cell blocks, Al Capone's restored 19th-century cell, stories of inmate escapes, and critically acclaimed art installations. The annual "Terror Behind the Walls" tours – running select nights from September until November – are one of the region's premier Halloween events.

http://www.easternstate.org



The Franklin Institute: An innovator in designing hands-on exhibits before "interactive" became a buzzword, The Franklin Institute is as clever as its namesake. Its eminently touchable attractions explore science in disciplines ranging from sports to space. Highlights include The Sports Challenge, which uses virtual-reality technology to illustrate the physics of sports; The Train Factory's climb-aboard steam engine; Space Command's simulated earth-orbit research station; a fully equipped weather station; and exhibits on electricity. Films assume grand proportions on the Tuttleman IMAX Theater's 79-foot domed screen; galaxies are formed and deep space explored in North America's second-oldest planetarium, which reopened in 2002, sporting the continent's most advanced technology. Don't miss the 3D Theater and the indoor SkyBike.

http://www2.fi.edu

Academy of Natural Sciences: discoveries that rocked the world then and now share four floors of exhibit space in this family-friendly museum that showcases the Academy's remarkable collections. The fully constructed *Tyranosaurus rex*, one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs, towers over Dinosaur Hall,



also home to fossils from the Hadrosaurus foulkii, discovered in New Jersey in 1856. You can climb inside a *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull, try on horns and claws, and dig for fossils. Multitudes of butterflies from Kenya, Costa Rica and Malaysia flit around you in a simulated tropical rain forest. Large game animals acquired in the 1920s and 1930s are mounted in 3-D painted dioramas that replicate their natural habitats; for Philadelphians of that era, this was their first sighting of an Indian tiger or a wildebeest.

http://www.ansp.org

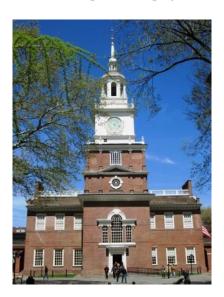


Battleship New Jersey: At 887 feet of armor-plated steel, the 45,000-ton Battleship New Jersey dominates not only the New Jersey waterfront, but also American naval history. Winding through tight, narrow companionways, visitors see the communication center, officers' and enlisted men's mess halls and sleeping quarters, which range from small private rooms for senior officers to even smaller cots stacked atop each other for enlisted men. The dimly lit Combat Engagement Center displays radar and sonar tracking stations, while videos show the launch of Tomahawk missiles. A highlight of the tour is the turret where 2,700-pound shells were loaded and fired. Best of all, some of the tour guides served active duty on the "Big J" and are more than happy to share their personal experiences.

Through World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf War, the Iowa-class Battleship New Jersey earned an unprecedented 19 Battle and Campaign Stars for outstanding service. As technology changed, the ship's equipment changed, too. Today the battleship is preserved how it was when it was decommissioned for the fourth and final time in 1991. Visitors can travel back to an earlier time in the battleship's history on the 4D flight simulator's "Seahawk" program, which re-creates a WWII era dogfight over Iwo Jima. Open daily April – December and Friday – Monday, January – March

http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org

Independence Hall: Independence Hall is open 365 days a year. Hours vary by season. Tickets are required for admission. Free, walk-up tickets are available for pick up at the Independence Visitor Center on the day of your visit starting at 8:30 a.m. Arrive early — during the busy season, tickets are often gone by 1 p.m. To guarantee a ticket and to avoid waiting in the walk-up ticket line, consider purchasing timed tickets in advance, either by phone or online. Independence Hall is located at the south side of Chestnut Street between 5th and 6th Streets. http://www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm



Independence Seaport Museum: The museum, dedicated to exploring the maritime history of the Delaware River, the Delaware Bay and tributaries, opened on Philadelphia's waterfront in July 1995 after more than 35 years of rich history as the Philadelphia Maritime Museum. In 1996, the museum assumed responsibility for the OLYMPIA and BECUNA, which are both designated as National Historic Landmarks.

http://www.phillyseaport.org



With historic vessels to board, a ship's hull to rivet, and cargo to unload with miniature cranes, Philadelphia's maritime museum conveys what the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers have meant to the city over the years. Along with displays that chronicle the city's contributions to naval and commercial maritime history, there are exhibits about what makes boats float, the China trade and local small craft.

Berthed right outside are the OLYMPIA, the nation's oldest floating steel warship (1892), most famous for being Admiral Dewey's flagship during his Spanish-American war victory in Manila Bay, and the BECUNA, a classic World War II submarine that fought battles in the South Pacific. Workshop on the Water is a working boat shop where you can watch artisans building and restoring traditional wooden boats.

Independence Visitor Center: Located in Independence Mall at 6th and Market Streets, the Independence Visitor Center is the perfect place to begin your visit to the Philadelphia region. The Visitor Center is just a stone's throw from some of Philadelphia's most popular attractions, including the new Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center. After stopping at the Independence Visitor Center, you will know where to go, what to see and how to get there. http://phlvisitorcenter.com

Pizza Brain – the world's first pizza museum! According to Guinness World Records, Brian Dwyer possesses the world's largest collection of pizza memorabilia. Lucky for all pizza fans, his restaurant doubles as the world's first pizza museum, complete with pizza-related vinyl records and pizza-bearing action figures, from Homer Simpson to Spider-Man. The brick-oven pies are as quirky as their home, with names like Forbes Waggensense and Felix Huppert. www.pizzabrain.org



National Constitution Center: It's only four pages long, but the U.S. Constitution is among the most influential and important documents in the history of the world. The 160,000-square-foot National Constitution Center explores and explains this amazing document through high-tech exhibits, artifacts, and interactive displays. The Kimmel Theater, a 350-seat star-shaped theater, features "Freedom Rising," a multimedia production combining film, a live actor and video projection on a 360° screen to tell the stirring story of "We the people." Then experience it yourself: don judicial robes to render your opinion on key Supreme Court cases, and then take the Presidential oath of the office. In Signers' Hall, where life-size bronze figures of the Constitution's signers and dissenters are displayed, visitors can choose to sign or dissent. One of the rare original public copies of the Constitution is on display.

www.constitutioncenter.org

United States Mint

Even though the U.S. capital moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in 1800, the manufacture of coins and medals has stayed primarily in Philadelphia for the past two centuries. Though there are mints in Denver and San Francisco, at least half of the nation's circulating coins and most of the commemorative medals are struck in this building; check the coins in your pocket for the trademark "P" that indicates its origin.

Visitors get to watch operations on the mint floor – from high above and behind protective glass, to be sure. Interactive displays depict the many presidential and honorary commemoratives designed and made here. You'll also see early mint and coining equipment and rare and historic coins.

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/?action=philadelphia

History The first U.S. Mint opened in 1792 at 7th and Arch Streets, only two blocks from the current facility; it was the first new government structure in the new country. George Washington, who lived nearby, was said to have donated his own silver to make some of the first coins. The current building, opened in 1969, is the fourth Philadelphia Mint.

Rodin Museum: The greatest hits of the famed 19th-century sculptor are all here – bronze casts of *Eternal Springtime*, *The Gates of Hell, The Burghers of Calais*, and, of course, *The Thinker*. Bold, energetic and emotionally intense, these works are set in a temple-like building down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which administers the collection.



All told, you'll find more than 120 of the French master's sculptures here, as well as a fascinating collection of drawings, paintings and studies. The variety of works on hand offers the perfect opportunity to contrast and compare the ways in which Rodin used and re-used the same stances, and even body parts, throughout his work. www.rodinmuseum.org

The African American Museum: in Philadelphia was among the museums to open during the 1976 Bicentennial celebration and is notable as the first museum funded and built by a city to help preserve African American culture. Located just a few blocks away from the Liberty Bell, the museum's modernistic public sculptures, "The Whispering Bells" and "Nisaka," are distinctive landmarks in the downtown historic district. With a diverse collection of fine and folk art, photographs, memorabilia and costumes, this museum in Philadelphia's historic district traces the experiences and contributions of African-Americans from the kingdoms of Africa through to the present. The museum's exhibits tell the story of African American life, focusing on topics such as family life, the visual arts, entertainment, politics, and sports. www.aampmuseum.org

The museum currently houses four galleries and an auditorium, each anchored by one of three dominant themes: the African Diaspora, the Philadelphia Story, and the Contemporary Narrative.

As an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the museum often links its exhibits to national and international trends. The museum's gift shop is stocked with a wide selection of books and videos, African textiles, and African American jewelry and prints.



The Liberty Bell Center The center is open year round, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended hours in the summer. http://www.nps.gov/inde/liberty-bell-center.htm

No tickets are required for admission to the Liberty Bell; however, visitors must go through security screening to gain entrance to the center.

The Experience

The Liberty Bell has a new home, and it is as powerful and dramatic as the Bell itself. Throughout the expansive, light-filled Center, larger-than-life historic documents and graphic images explore the facts and the myths surrounding the Bell.

X-rays give an insider's view, literally, of the Bell's crack and inner-workings. In quiet alcoves, a short History Channel film, available in English and eight other languages, traces how abolitionists, suffragists and other groups adopted the Bell as its symbol of freedom.

Other exhibits show how the Bell's image was used on everything from ice cream molds to wind chimes. Keep your camera handy. Soaring glass walls offer dramatic and powerful views of both the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, just a few steps away.

Outside Philadelphia



Valley Forge National Historical Park

http://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm

Cradle of Liberty Council offers the Valley Forge Historical Trail booklets for sale (\$3.50); please contact the council office to purchase (610-688-6900). They can also be purchased at our online store INSERT
LINK

The Experience

With more than 3,600 acres of rolling hills and well-worn trails, Valley Forge is now a magnet for runners, bicyclists and picnickers as well as history buffs.

The vast expanse of open space links the Schuylkill River Trail to the Horse Shoe Trail, turning the park into a major hub in a 75-mile system linking Philadelphia to the Appalachian Trail.

Yet the monuments, statues and buildings that evoke more than 225 years of American history give this expanse of nature a palpable sense of the past, making it a favorite destination for families.

Valley Forge and the Revolutionary War

Of all the places associated with America's War for Independence, none convey the suffering, sacrifice and ultimate triumph of our nation more than Valley Forge. No battles were fought here; no bayonet charges or artillery bombardments took place. Nonetheless, some 2,000 soldiers died – more Americans than were killed at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown combined.

Valley Forge is the story of an army's epic struggle to survive against terrible odds, hunger, disease and the unrelenting forces of nature.

Rows of cannons in Artillery Park; the soldiers' log huts; and earthen fortifications around the rim of the park are silent reminders of the past.

With the British army occupying Philadelphia, Continental commander George Washington had to find a place to encamp for the winter. He chose what seemed to be a strategic high-ridged area to the West. The winter was fierce, and 2,000 men died without a shot fired, yet they emerged in mid-1778 to win significant battles.

Though no military battle was fought here, the six months in Valley Forge, with its heavily-rationed supplies and awful winter, were among the roughest for the Continental Army during the entire war.

Today

The refurbished Welcome Center displays a new exhibit, "Determined to Persevere," utilizing Revolutionary War artifacts to tell the story of life during the winter encampment. You can touch muskets, and see how even General Washington lived in tough conditions.

The outbuildings, some authentic, like Washington's Headquarters, and some replicated, like the Muhlenberg Brigade huts, bring that pivotal winter to life. Like no other Revolutionary War site, Valley Forge suggests the arduous spiritual and physical experience the Continental army went through on its way to eventual victory.

Today, Valley Forge is a lush, 3,600-acre expanse of rolling hillsides dotted with flowering dogwood trees. Washington's original stone headquarters has been restored and furnished, and statues and monuments throughout the park remind visitors of our national heritage.

Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, Doylestown



Harvard-educated Henry Chapman Mercer built his storybook stone mansion with its turrets and balconies from the inside out, without using blueprints. Modeled after a 13th-century Rhenish castle, it has Gothic doorways, 32 sudden stairways, dead ends, and 44 rooms, each in a different shape.

The ceilings and walls are embedded with handcrafted tiles from Mercer's kilns at the adjacent Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, along with ancient tiles from around the world. His collection of books, prints and Victorian engravings are preserved in this 1910 home, whose stark concrete exterior belies the ornate eccentric style of the interior. Fonthill, an American architectural treasure, was recently featured on the A&E program "America's Castles." www.mercermuseum.org



Fort Mifflin Tours at the facility focus on a Revolutionary War battle and Fort Mifflin's strategic location in the Delaware River at the mouth of the Schuylkill River. Situated on about 40 acres, a complex of approximately eight buildings survives with signs of the bombardment by British forces of 1,000 cannon rounds every 20 minutes. www.fortmifflin.us

On display are British-produced Brown Bess rifles and other war instruments. There's also a store retailing various artifact replicas and even Colonial-style candies. Annual reenactments and other activities are punctuated with ghostly tales and the hum of airliners from the nearby Philadelphia International Airport.

History

Fort Mifflin is the oldest fortification continually used in the U.S. Almost 350 Americans died in November 1777 when British forces relentlessly bombed the place from ships. But the Americans' valor at Fort Mifflin (named for General Thomas Mifflin who became Pennsylvania's governor known for standing up against Virginia slave catchers) gave George Washington time to regroup at Valley Forge. The facility during the Civil War held civilians, as well as Confederate and Union prisoners.

Other Information: Open March 1 – December 1, Wednesday through Sunday

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site



http://www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm

Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American industrial landscape from natural resource extraction to enlightened conservation. Operating from 1771-1883, Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation.



http://www.americanhelicopter.museum

The American Helicopter Museum and Education Center is the nation's premier aviation museum devoted exclusively to helicopters. We collect, restore and display historic aircraft and chronicle the origin and development of rotary wing aircraft.

Each year the Museum hosts thousands of visitors, school groups, families and senior citizens. Tourists of all ages from the U.S and abroad come here to witness the history and the future of the helicopter.

Appropriately the Museum is located in suburban Philadelphia where two of today's major helicopter manufacturers have their roots, and where much of the earliest development of helicopters in the U.S took place.

Currently, the Museum displays over 35 civilian and military helicopters, autogiros and convertaplanes. The exhibits span the history of rotary wing aircraft from the earliest helicopters to the latest addition to our nation's defense, the V-22 Osprey.



The Perkiomen Trail is approx. 20 miles long and the northern end starts in Green Lane Park and follows the route of the Perkiomen Creek to Oaks, for most of its length it uses the former rail bed of the Perkiomen Line if the Reading Railroad. The trail connects many public parks and historic sites among them Lower Perkiomen Valley Park, Central Perkiomen Valley park, John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove and Pennypacker Mills. It is used for biking, walking, jogging, horseback riding and cross country skiing.

The Montgomery County website has information about access and parking, points of interest and trail connections: www.montcopa.org

Trail specifications:

Length 20 miles, Width 10-12 feet, Surface: crushed stone and a few paved sections.

WINTER SPORTS



BEAR CREEK SKI RESORT, Call 1-866-754-2822 | 101 Doe Mountain Lane | Macungie, PA 18062 |

www.skibearcreek.com

Skiing & Snowboarding

Enjoy skiing or snowboarding on over 86 acres of slopes, trails, and terrain parks at Bear Creek Mountain Resort. The mountain offers something for every level of skier or rider, from the beginner area served by a carpet lift and triple chair, to three progressive terrain parks with a wide variety of freestyle features, to the 50% slope of Sasquatch, the most challenging black diamond trail. With 100% snowmaking capabilities, lighted trails, an inviting mountainside lodge, and a distinctive resort hotel, we're the perfect location for your next winter vacation!

Holidays and Hours

• Monday through Friday: 9am-10pm

Saturday, Sunday and Resort Holidays: 8:30am-10pm

 Resort Holidays: Dec. 25, 2013 through Jan. 1, 2014, Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2014

Vital Statistics:

Top elevation: 1100'Vertical Rise: 510'

• Lifts: 3 quad chairs, 1 triple chair, 2 carpet lifts

Beginner Trails: 30%Intermediate Trails: 40%

Expert: 30%

Total Slopes, Trails, and Parks: 21

Skiable Acres: 86Snowmaking: 100%Lighted Trails: 100%

SPRING MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, 757 Spring Mountain Rd, Spring Mount, PA 19478

www.springmountainadventures.com

Spring Mountain is the mountain where everyone begins their family tradition of Skiing, Snowboarding or Snow Tubing. There simply is no better place to make the most of winter. Spring Mountain has <u>8</u> <u>trails</u>, two snow tubing runs, six lifts, and two terrain parks - plus we're just around the corner!

And when there isn't snow on the ground at home, Spring Mountain always has snow for you. Our state-of-the-art snow guns make all of the snow you'll need, even without Mother Nature's help.

If you or any member of your group don't have equipment, don't worry we have it all for you. Our rental area can provide you with the latest in: skis, ski boots, snowboards, snowboarding boots, and helmets.

Plus if you need lessons we have a variety of programs designed to meet your abilities and help you take your skiing and snowboarding skills to new levels.

BLUE MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, 1660 Blue Mountain Dr, Palmerton, PA 18071 www.skibluemt.com

Blue Mountain is the home of Pennsylvania's highest vertical drop. And with 39 slopes to challenge your skills, you'll never run out of trails and thrills. All season long.

Experts will want to jump in the 3,000 foot Double Black Diamond Trails like Challenge or Razor's Edge, plus our glade trails Sleepy Hollow and Blue Baumer. Beginners and intermediates will enjoy Burma Rd, Lazy Mile and a cruise through Paradise. Whatever your skill level, you'll find your sweet spot here.

And don't forget to visit our 6 unique Terrain Parks! With miles of awesome trails and features for freestylers, carvers and tricksters.