

## Welcome to Trout-O-Ree 2022!

On the weekend of **April 1-3**, the Scouts of the Prince William and Patriot Districts will head to the Trout-O-Ree. Trout Town, the semi-mythical municipality, will rematerialize to meet all your



fishing needs. And then there's the Mega-Bonus Prize: The State of Virginia's Trout Heritage Day events will be held on Saturday morning at the Rose River pavilions. And don't forget our own fishing derby, Conservation Merit Badge Midway, and ... a climbing wall!? Stay safe, remember the Outdoor Code, and have a troutastic time!

**Directions:** Take I-66 West to Route 29 South at Gainesville. Stay on Route 29 South until 7 miles south of Culpeper. Take a right on to Route 609. Stay on Route 609 for 9 miles. Take a right on Route 231 North. Travel 1/2 mile and take a left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles until you see the Scouts directing you to the camping area across the road from Graves Mountain Lodge.

**Cost:** Just **\$25** a head for the weekend if paid before March 28. Just \$30 after March 28 and only \$5 a day for non-campers.

### The Program Stuff

**Fishing Regulations:** There are **FOUR** great trout waters to fish: the Rose River, the Robinson River, the Catch & Release Pond, and the Pay Pond.

**The Rivers:** Fishing on the Rose and Robinson Rivers is not permitted before 9 a.m. on Saturday. **The Rose River is open ONLY to Scouts aged 12 and under.** The Robinson River is **OPEN TO ALL**, regardless of age. Scouts age 16 and older who fish the Robinson River or (on Sunday) the Rose River, must have a **fishing license with TROUT STAMP**, which you can purchase on-line (<https://dgiflicense.virginiainteractive.org>), at most sporting goods stores, and at the Syria Mercantile (see the map you receive at check-in).

**The Ponds:** The two ponds are open to fishing to Scouts and Trout-O-Ree participants of all ages. See notes below for each.

**The Pay Pond:** ... Is open at your Troutmaster's discretion. Scouts should have money-in-hand to pay for the cost of any trout caught. No wading. Yes, trout caught in the Pay Pond may be counted in the Fishing Derby. Scouts

fishing the Pay Pond **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**. If you hook it, you must keep it. No throwing 'em back at the Pay Pond. Them's the rules

**The Catch & Release Pond:** ... Is open to all Scouts. Only single-hook, artificial lures and flies may be used. All trout must be released as quickly as possible after being measured. No wading. Scouts who mishandle fish will be asked to leave. Know that some of the biggest trout to be caught at Trout-O-Ree lurk in the depths of the Catch & Release Pond. Pro tip: Bring a net.

**Creel Limit:** The creel limit is **SIX TROUT**; however, few Scouts will consume more than one trout. **A Scout is Conservation-minded: Limit your kill, don't kill your limit.** If you are a successful angler and have caught a couple but still want to keep fishing, think about using your mad fishing skills to catch a monster-sized trout at the Catch & Release Pond.

**Saturday Lunch:** How your patrol does lunch is totally up to you. There will be **food vendors serving lunch for purchase** at the pavilions on the Rose River.

**We Feed the Bears (metaphorically):** Troutmasters and any other adult leaders can pick up a free hot dog, chips and a Coke at any time on Saturday at the headquarters cabin (marked Lower Cabin on your map). They are required to use the rocking chairs on the Scoutmasters' porch and must share fish tales of outlandish proportions in between bites.

**Conservation Merit Badge Midway:** Take one of the amazing conservation - related merit badges! We will have sessions led by Merit Badge Counselors for more than a dozen of them. Times vary, so you could even squeeze in two. BUT, space is limited so to ensure that you've got a seat, sign up for merit badges through the registration website - <https://www.scoutingevent.com/082-PWDTroutoree2022>.

**Fishing Merit Badge Sessions:** No pre-registration necessary for this one, but we'd appreciate it. Both sessions will be held at the Fishing Merit Badge Area on the Rose River. Counselors will have multiple stations set up, so Scouts can focus on just a few of the skills they need, or complete the whole badge!

Merit Badge Counselors will work with Scouts with an eye towards completing the badge on Saturday. However, Scouts who come prepared with a knowledge of knots, fishing regulations, etc., will be best positioned to get it done.

Scouts who have already caught a fish should bring a note from their Troutmaster confirming that they have done so (a picture of your catch is a good idea; please know what kind of fish it is). Otherwise they should do their best to catch a fish later in the day or on Sunday morning, and then find a counselor for signature. On Sunday, the Fishing Merit Badge Counselor can be found drinking coffee at the Trout Town Hall next to the flags so, yeah, you've got another chance to get some requirements signed off.

Here are some additional tips from the Master Fishing Merit Badge Counselor that will help you towards completion of this most awesome merit badge:

*“In order to do as much fishing as possible during the Trout-O-Ree, let’s try to finish as many requirements as possible beforehand. Please take a look at the merit badge pamphlet – you can buy it on-line or at the Scout Store at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Springfield or Bethesda. We will review requirements 1, 2, 5 & 6 with you. We will discuss requirements 4, 7 & 8. From there you can go fishing at the Trout-O-Ree to finish requirements 3 and 8. Requirement 4 (knots) is by far the most difficult requirement but, it can be mastered if you practice, practice, practice!” – Mr. Shanahan*

**Fly-Fishing Merit Badge:** You should have registered in advance through your troop for this one. Forgot to do this, but otherwise prepared to commit the time required? Please see Mr. Layton at the Friday night cracker barrel.

This merit badge class is a **serious, all-day introduction** to the wonderful sport of fly-fishing. Please arrive at the flags **by 7:30 a.m.** If you have equipment, please bring it. Scouts interested in getting a jump on the badge can visit Mr. Layton in the Troop 1196 campsite.

**Fishing Derby:** Catch a fish and you are IN! **Scouts should have their catch measured at Stinky Skaja’s Fish Cleaning Shack.** Fish measurers will also be available at the Catch & Release Pond for those who will be throwing ‘em back. Award will be given to most fish catchingest patrol and most fish catchingest Webelos den, as determined by total length of fish caught. Individual awards will be given for biggest fish. **Measurers will also be available at the Catch & Release Ponds.**

**Stinky Skaja’s Fish Cleaning Shack:** Just downwind of the Town Hall of Trout Town, you can get fish cleaning assistance at this Trout-O-Ree institution!

**Trout Heritage Day Events:** The special celebration of all-things-trout is open to the public AND Scouts! There will be a variety of indoor and outdoor demonstrations along the Rose River youth fishing area. The fly-casting pool and animal scat displays are not to be missed! Note that there will be food vendors serving lunch – a consideration for your menu planning. We need additional adult supervision at the venue, so please consider sending a few parents and leaders in that direction.

**Orienteering Challenge Course:** Open all day Saturday. Just ask for the clues at the Trout-O-Ree Trading Post.

**Climbing Wall:** Yes! Come defy gravity. This is available as an open program opportunity all day on Saturday.

**Archery Range:** Yep, we’ve got that. Come get in touch with your inner William Tell. This is available as an open program opportunity all day on Saturday.

**Slingshot Range:** We got that too.

**Gaga Ball Thunderdome:** Epic.

**Volleyball:** We've got you covered there too.

**Pancake Flipping Contest:** Not far from the Town Hall of Trout Town, this is where you can come show off your mad pancake skills!

**Campfire Program:** Have a patrol that has a great skit? Come to the Friday cracker barrel and ask about getting them on the program for Saturday night! Your patrol didn't get it together until Saturday? See the Trout Town Mayor at the Trout Town Hall to be added to the program. **Arrowmen are encouraged to wear their sashes.**

**OA Stuff:** We got that too. Unit leaders who have Scouts to be included in the "call out" (the New Age version of a tap out) must coordinate with Chapter at the Friday Leaders' Meeting. The OA tap – er – call out is a solemn ceremony, so we request that Scout leaders assist their units in providing noise discipline during the event. And we have a **Brotherhood Walk** on Saturday afternoon (meet at the flags at 1 p.m.). Check in with the Chapter Chief on Friday if interested.

**Saturday Cracker Barrel:** All OA members and adult leaders interested in learning more about the OA are invited to the **Saturday night OA and Troutmasters' Cracker Barrel**. This will be held immediately following the campfire at the Trout Town Hall.

**Flags:** Flag raising and lowering on Saturday will be handled by the incredible Scouts of Troop 581. Troops are asked to assemble with their guests for Saturday evening flags NLT 7:30 p.m. Units will go directly from the flag lowering to our epic campfire. Interested in doing the flag raising on Sunday morning? See the Mayor of Trout Town at the Trout Town Hall.

**Get a Clue:** Got questions? We got answers. Come visit the Mayor of Trout Town, Connor Leigh, and his Deputy Mayor, Joseph Gallagher, at the Town Hall for all your informational, entertainment, or program needs.

### **The Camping Stuff**

**Friday Check-in:** Will be totally painless. As you head NW on Rt. 670, you will turn right into the camping area. Look for signs, orange cones, and helpful Boy Scouts. As you enter Trout Town, you will see the Trout Town Comptroller at the check-in booth to receive your maps, schedules, patches, YPT wristbands, and directions to the secret spot where all the trout are as long as your leg.

Please bring a roster of all who will be in camp. Each unit should maintain all medical forms for all attendees (Parts A & B). Troutmasters should provide payment upon arrival if their unit has not pre-paid.

**Early Arrival!** Prince William County Schools are OFF on Friday! That means you can cajole your troop into an early arrival on Friday. Just check-in per normal, enjoy the first pick of campsites, and start your adventure early. The stables, Pay Pond, and Catch & Release Pond are all open. The Old Rag Mountain and White Oak Canyon trails are just a few miles away.

**Parking:** Please drop off gear in your site and then move all vehicles to the designated parking areas. Vehicles must be out of the camp sites and off the main road before sunset. Ask any Trout-O-Ree staff if you need help finding the parking area (pro tip: it's not right next to your tent). The good news is that our parking areas really are pretty close to the camp sites.

**Friday Cracker Barrel:** Please send your Senior Patrol Leader and a unit leader to the cracker barrel. You will learn about all the stuff that's already in this guide, any program changes, OA tap – um – call out procedures, and our passionate plea to move your fishing mobile to the parking area.

**Emergency Medical Services:** There is a first aid station next to the flags. If you need additional medical assistance, Culpeper Regional Hospital is just 15 minutes away in Madison. The street address is: **634 S Main St, Madison, VA 22727-3084**. Take Rt. 670 southeast to Rt. 231 South to North Main Street in Madison.

**Uniforms:** ... are required for the Saturday evening campfire, Jewish services, Catholic mass, and the Scouts' Own religious service. The Trout-O-Ree on Saturday will be a high-visibility event, so **we strongly encourage wearing troop tee shirts and/or "class B" uniforms during the fishing events on Saturday.**

**Buddy System:** Please assign buddies, in advance if possible. We are camping and fishing over a big footprint of land that is open to the public. Maps will be provided to unit leaders which must be distributed to Scouts and other participants. Fishing boundaries on the Rose and Robinson rivers will be marked with yellow tape and the Trout-O-Ree boundaries are evident. Still, we ask that the buddy system be used at all times. Scouts outside of the main camp without buddies close by, especially when near the water bodies, will suffer extraordinarily boring fishing stories from self-proclaimed fishing experts before being returned to their campsites.

**Water Safety:** The Robinson and Rose Rivers are relatively shallow. Nonetheless, units are requested to help provide safety during the Fishing Derby hours on Saturday. We are requesting assistance from responsible adults to monitor the Catch and Release Pond and a deep spot on the Rose River. **Note**

**that these supervision measures will NOT be in place on Sunday.** All Sunday fishing will require supervision provided at the unit level.

Please advise your Scouts that **wading is not permitted**. However, recognizing that wet feet are inevitable, please advise all Scouts to bring plenty of socks and a change of footwear.

The fruit orchards and several other areas are off limits, as noted on the Trout-O-Ree maps provided to unit contacts at check-in. **Please provide these maps to all Scouts and adult leaders.**

**Camp Fires:** ... Are encouraged! This is a situation where ground fires are totally acceptable. Rocks are in short supply in most sites, so if you have a portable fire ring, you want to bring it. If you build a ground fire, please obliterate the fire ring and spread out the ashes. Go to the Trout Town Public Works Department if you need to borrow a rake or shovel. There **is** a rock pile near the Pay Pond side of the camping venue where you may procure rocks for a fire ring.

**Fire Wood:** We will have a limited supply piled near Trout Town. There is plenty of dead wood in the vicinity. Bring a bow saw and a Scoutmaster who needs some exercise.

**Water:** We have access to **two water spigots**: one near the fish cleaning station and the other at the corner of the barn where you first come on to the property. The spigot for the fish cleaning station may be utilized during core fish cleaning hours. To maximize your patrol's time on the water, **the Trout Town Service Team will collect and refill your water containers after breakfast and before dinner**. However, if you have some Scouts who purport to be bored, then the trek across the campground with full water container is an activity available 'round the clock. **Please do not wash fish, dishes, Scoutmasters or Scouts at either of these two taps.**

**Garbage Collection:** The Trout Town Maintenance Men will pass through your site after all meals with the Trout Town Garbage Truck. Please secure your garbage bags to avoid spillage in the truck.

**Port-a-Jons:** ... Are neither water park rides nor fish head dumping facilities. Scouts found using them as such will be provided with cleaning gear and plenty of time to provide better public hygiene for all. And – oh yeah – pick up the seat and practice good marksmanship. A Scout is Clean.

**Bears:** We've got those! Our camping area is used continuously throughout the year and no sightings of bears have ever occurred in this field since the mid-1600's. And yet they are sighted regularly nearby. A lot. Help keep our sleeping bags bear-free by reducing the smell-ables left in camp and by being "bear aware." Food should be stored in enclosed vehicles and trailers. Food should never be brought into tents. Garbage should be removed from campsites every evening or placed inside of an enclosed vehicle. **In the unlikely case of a bear**

**sighting, please report this to Trout-O-Ree staff at the Trout Town Hall or the Lower Cabin immediately.** Additional information on bear safety can be found at [http://www.nps.gov/shen/naturescience/bear\\_safety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/shen/naturescience/bear_safety.htm)

Please secure all pic-a-nic baskets.

**Trading Post and Mercantile:** Cool patches, bait, drinks, snacks and Scout stuff can be purchased from the Trading Post located in the heart of Trout Town. Stop by and enjoy the conversation!

Fishing equipment, fishing licenses and trout stamps (required for all age 16 and older), drinks, ice, food, camping equipment, spark plugs and sundry agricultural supplies can all be purchased at the Syria Mercantile, about 200 yards south of our campsite. Consider patronizing this store, as they are great supporters of the Trout-O-Ree.

**Lodging:** Got some parents who love Scouts, but camping ... not so much? Graves Mountain Lodge has a variety of rooms, suites, cabins, cottages and dormitories to suit every Scouter's needs. And their restaurant is outstanding! Check out their website at: <http://www.gravesmountain.com/>

**The Basics of Trout Fishing and Trout Cooking:** We got that too! In fact, we put all of it on the next two pages. That way you can print up just those two pages and share with your Scouts, Scouters, Trout Anglers, Trout Chefs, and all your Trout Town Friends and Neighbors!

## Trout Fishing Tackle Basics

In general, the rule of thumb for trout fishing tackle for youth is KISS: Keep It Simple Scouts. Remember that trout fishing at the Trout-O-Ree is all about light tackle – please leave the tuna fishing and surf casting equipment at home. Most fish caught at the Trout-O-Ree will be in the 9- to 12-inch range (easily less than a half pound). Fish caught from either pond may be a little bigger. Maybe even a lot bigger!

**Encourage Scouts to mark their fishing gear with their names.** Every Trout-O-Ree leaves us with an overabundance of unclaimed fishing gear.

Rods and reels: Fishing rod and reel combinations labeled “light action” or “ultra-light action” are fine. A rod that can handle fish up to six pounds is fine, anything heavier is too big. Reels may be of the open-faced spinning design, but it is best that the Scout practice casting it first. The traditional close-faced, rod-reel combinations are fine too (e.g., the Zebco 202); however, they tend to be pre-rigged with line that is too heavy for trout fishing. See below for line recommendations and re-spool if necessary. **PRO TIP:** Remove all hooks from rods before stowing in a vehicle.

Fishing line: Line rated for **six pound test** is a good choice. Avoid gimmicky lines with “armor coatings” or those labeled “extra tough.” They tend to be too stiff. Our personal preference is Trilene XL. Putting fresh line on Scouts’ reels is a great troop meeting activity AND a great opportunity to teach the Arbor Knot!

Hooks: Stick with **size 6 or (better) 8 hooks**. It is hard to beat the Eagle Claw Classic bait hooks (model 181). Avoid treble hooks (3 points) and “snelled” hooks (hooks with a length of heavy fishing line already tied on; also known as leaders).

Stringers or creels: Don’t have one? Make a stringer out of ¼-inch rope or a stick (pass through gills of fish you plan to eat). One-gallon Zip-lock bags work OK, but be careful about leaving them in the sun. Take your catch to the Cleaning Station within a few hours. Put cleaned fish on ice until you are ready to eat.

Bobbers and weight: You can catch plenty of fish without them, but some find that putting bobbers and split-shot on their line make it easier to cast, especially if you are using a close-faced reel. In both cases, smaller is better. Avoid split shot larger than “BB” size. Keep your bobber at least two feet from your hook and split shot at least a foot from your bait.

Bait: Worms! Dig your own **worms** from the garden or purchase trout worms in the sporting goods section of WalMart or Dick’s. **Smaller is better.** Avoid the full-sized night crawlers – these tend to be larger than most trout. Look for the worms labeled “Trout Worms.” Other good choices are canned corn and PowerBait (corn-shaped PowerBait is fantastic). Bait will be available for



purchase at the Trout-O-Ree. The key: get your baited hook in the water and let it sit there for a good long while; up to a minute or more.

Knots: **Learn the improved clinch knot.** This is the only knot you need to know for almost all fishing situations.

Tackle boxes: Not really necessary for trout fishing. Wear a jacket with big pockets and put the small amount of tackle you will need in a small plastic box.

## Pan Frying Trout

The recipe below is the simplest, most delicious way to prepare trout of up to about 14 inches in length. Before you begin, see the Scout leaders at the fish cleaning station for instruction and assistance in cleaning your catch.

Equipment:           Frying pan (cast iron is recommended)  
                          Spatula  
                          Couple of plates  
                          Aluminum foil  
                          Patience

Ingredients:           Trout  
                          Flour  
                          Pinch of salt  
                          Any kind of fat (butter, bacon fat, Crisco, or any cooking oil)  
                          Lemon (optional, but oh so good)

After cleaning the trout, pat it dry with a paper towel. Melt some butter or fry out a liberal amount of bacon fat. Place about one cup of flour in a dish or bowl and add a little salt to the flour. Roll the trout in the mix. Shake off the excess. Sautee the trout slowly until they are crisp and nicely browned. Do NOT use high heat – keep it at low-to-medium and closely monitor your flame. Trout flesh should separate from the bone easily once it is cooked through. Place the hot trout on a dish lined with paper towels to absorb the grease. Eat your catch while it's still hot. Serve with sliced lemon for those who want it. Do NOT squeeze lemon juice into a hot pan (unless you plan to throw away your pan).

### **De-boning a Fried Trout**

Separating cooked trout meat from the bones is easy once you know how to do it. Simply use a fork to hold one side of the trout close to the plate while lifting the whole skeleton away from the meat with your other hand. Flip over and do the same for the opposite side. This is even easier if your trout is small enough to cook with the head on: just hold flesh down on your plate with a fork, grab the head, and lift away!

## **Reading Material for the Troutmaster Who Drank Too Much Free Coffee at the Lower Cabin**

**Trout-O-Ree History:** Long ago, in the before-time, Trout-O-Ree was conceived as an idea to do something fun and different. And to get away from our typical congested camping areas. Since 2012, it has been held in alternate years (2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018). In 2020 a disturbance in The Force caused Trout Town to materialize in Sri Lanka, precluding a Trout-O-Ree in Virginia.

**Trout Town:** It harkens to several great fishing towns. For example, Roscoe, NY is considered the birthplace of American fly fishing and is also known as Trout Town, USA. Missoula, MT is the setting for *A River Runs through It* by Norman Maclean and is still a great trout fishing town. But Trout Town is an ephemeral location that embodies Scout Spirit and hospitality and is dedicated to helping Scouts have a great trout fishing adventure.

**The Trout:** Nearly all of the fish caught are rainbow trout, a native species of the western US. They are stocked in Virginia because they are relatively easy to catch, they put up a sporting fight, and they taste great. On rare occasion, a Scout may catch a brook trout. These are Virginia's only native trout and can be identified by the remarkable black and green camouflage pattern on their backs as well as the beautiful red spots surrounded by blue halos on their sides.

**The Weather Tradition:** While we've always had plenty of decent weather for fishing, crazy weather events are an important tradition at Trout-O-Ree. In 2012, we had a massive downpour on Saturday evening that lasted no more than 20 minutes, but resulted in the less stalwart troops scurrying for the comfort of home. In 2014, there was a Friday night wind event that sent a few dining flies into the mountains, never to be seen again.

The most extreme weather occurred in 2016. By then we had established the Trout Town Weather Service which alerted us to incoming tornadic activity. In the midst of dinner, the storm warning flag (black square on a red background) was raised and Trout Town was evacuated. A hearty band remained overnight in the Headquarters Cabin. In the morning, they set to the task of righting overturned outhouses. In 2018, Trout-O-Ree was postponed two weeks due to cold and snow. The moral of all these stories? Bring your rain gear.

**Our Benefactors:** Graves Mountain Lodge, run by the Graves family, has been the site of all Trout-O-Rees to date. The Graves family has been using this property since the 1857. A family member and fallen Confederate soldier is buried on one of the hilltops. But the Graves family settled this area long before that. Their predecessor was Capt. Thomas Graves who sailed the *Mary and Margaret* to Jamestown in 1608. More details are on the Graves Mountain Lodge web site. If you happen to see any of the Graves family or the staff, be sure to thank them for their extraordinary hospitality.

**Order of the Golden Trout:** Did you know that Dave Seitz, Ed Shanahan, Irwin Lazar, Wally Skaja, George Layton and Jim Kern have helped put on Trout-O-Ree every single year that Trout Town has appeared? Please thank them!

## Trout-O-Ree 2022 Program

### Friday

4:00 – 9:00 p.m. Check In  
 8:30 SPLs' and Troutmasters' Cracker Barrel – Trout Town Hall  
 9:30 Taps – Lights Out – Silence Please – Trout Dreams!

### Saturday

6:30 a.m.	Reveille	<b>Open Program</b> 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  Climbing Wall Archery Slingshots Trebuchets Gaga Ball Pancake Flippin' Trading Post Fish Cleaning Fishing Derby
6:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
7:00 – 11:30	Fishing Derby / Trout Heritage Day Events	
7:30	Flag Ceremony / Mayor of Trout Town	
8:00 – 11:30	Fishing Merit Badge	
	Fly-Fishing Merit Badge (meet at flags)	
9:00	<b>Robinson River:</b> Open to all ( <b>age 16+ must have fishing/trout license</b> )	
	<b>Rose River:</b> Open ONLY to Scouts 12 years-old and under	
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00 – 4:30	Fishing Derby Fishing Merit Badge Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Conservation Merit Badge Midway OA Brotherhood Walk – Meet at Trading Post	
5:00 – 6:30	<i>Dinner</i>	
6:45	Jewish Scouts' Service (fire ring)	
7:30	Flag Lowering Ceremony (all units meet at flags in uniform) Epic Campfire – See Trout Town Deputy Mayor Joseph Gallagher anytime Saturday if you have a skit, song or cheer. Find him at the Town Hall. Order of the Arrow Tap – er – “Call Out”	
9:00	OA and Troutmasters' Cracker Barrel – Trout Town Hall	

### Sunday

6:30 a.m. Reveille  
 6:30 *Breakfast*  
 8:00 Scouts' Own Services (Protestant at fire ring; Catholic Mass by Lodge)  
 6:00 – 11:00 Open Fishing  
 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. Check Out: Please request site inspection at Town Hall before departure

Sunrise – 6:58 a.m.

*See the map for event locations*

Sunset – 7:37 p.m.