



Chippewa District Troop Open House

Sunday October 11, 2020

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Illinois

New Event Rules due to COVID Restrictions (August 23, 2020)

The Chippewa District Troop Open House is an optional event designed to give Scouts BSA Troops within the Chippewa District an opportunity to describe their troop to visiting Webelos scouts (both male and female). The event will be promoted to all Webelos within the District. Troops will provide information that is important to differentiate their troop from others to help the Webelos and their parents decide where to bridge in the spring.

The event is intended to be an outdoor event. This will enable scouts to participate in an outdoor activity while maintaining social distancing rules. It will also give visibility to the community that Scouting continues despite the COVID 19 pandemic.

The State of Illinois has imposed restrictions on group gatherings due to the pandemic. Cantigny Park has informed us that we will need to limit our participation into cohort groups that must maintain a count of 50 people or less at all times. They will provide us with 5 areas that will be roped off with a single point of entry/exit so that we can track the total number of participants at any time to ensure the 50-person limit. Since attendees will consist of both troop members and prospective Webelos and their parents, the number of troops and the number of prospects will be limited. Here is the overall plan:

- Each cohort will generally consist of up to 6 stations. Each cohort will be organized according to general town/area within the District so that Webelos can visit troops they are most likely to choose within one cohort. These will be as follows:
 - West Naperville/Aurora/Bolingbrook (old Indian Prairie area)
 - East Naperville/Lisle Woodridge (old Thunderbird area)
 - West Chicago/Winfield/Warrenville/Wheaton/Glen Ellyn (old Chanonee area)
 - Lombard/Villa Park/Elmhurst/Bensenville/Addison (old Potawatomi area)
 - Carol Stream/Glendale Heights/Streamwood/Roselle/Itasca/Wooddale/Hoffman Estates (old Northern Trail area)

- Each Troop will be allowed to bring no more than 4 people per station, likely consisting of 2 adult leaders and 2 youth. Different staff can be present at different times, but the 4-person limit must be maintained.
- Male and Female troops from the same sponsor organization are encouraged to split their 4-person allocation into two sets consisting of one leader and one scout each. This would enable more units to be represented in the cohort.
- Troops will bring a table and display material to set-up within their cohort. Pop-ups/rain flies are allowed in case of inclement weather. Trailers may be parked in the parking lot, but they will not be within, or immediately adjacent to, the exhibit area.
- Troops are encouraged to bring poster boards and other viewable material to help describe their unit. In accordance with COVID exposure minimization recommendations, scouts will not perform activities that involve touching unclean or un-sanitized objects, and no literature will be dispersed to minimize touching/contact. Units are recommended to create QR code links to information about their unit so attendees can access the site using their personal phones.
- A total of 24 Scouts BSA youth + adults will be allowed per cohort. Each cohort would accommodate between 6 troops (minimum) and 12 troops (maximum with M/F unit split sharing).
- A total of 26 Webelos + parents will be allowed into each cohort at the same time. We will register the Webelos for timed entry during the day, allowing for 1-hour time slots. There will be 5 one-hour time slots: 11:00 am, Noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:00 pm. Under this plan, we should be able to accommodate up to 65 Webelos/parent combinations per cohort.
- We ask the troops to provide one additional scout volunteer who can help as gatekeeper to the cohort. They will keep track of the attendees within the cohort to ensure we stay within the 50-person limit.
- All participants will wear a facemask and maintain social distancing throughout the event.
- Scouts in uniform and their families will receive free admission to Cantigny Park, which will otherwise be open to the public. Participants may visit the grounds separately from the event.
- Overall, we remain subject to State of Illinois COVID rules for public gatherings which could force the event to be cancelled.

Under this plan, we will accommodate between 30-60 troops and up to 325 Webelo/parent combinations total. We realize that there are many more troops in Chippewa District than the space provided can accommodate. We will take a show of interest from troops who wish to participate, then allocate them to the cohorts based upon sign-up date. The deadline to sign-up is September 20.

We will then advertise the units planning to attend to all Chippewa District Webelos. In addition, we will give the attending Webelos access to a full list of all troops within the Chippewa District so they can be aware of all their choices.

Sign-up is now available via links found under the Activities page at the District website: www.ChippewaDictrict.org .

If you have any questions, please contact event organizers as shown below.

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