

Memo To: Unit leaders

From: Dave Linthicum, O' Day coordinator *Contact me before Nov. 13 (DaveLinthicum@earthlink.net) if you have questions not answered below or by our attached event schedule, both also at www.baltimorebsa.org/orienteering .*

Thanks for registering. We're looking forward to another fun day of orienteering (O') for Boy/Girl Scouts (no Cubs/ Webelos), Venturing Crews, leaders, & parents on Sat., Nov. 16 at Camp Oest, Broad Creek Mem. Scout Res.

Oh yes....we'll squeeze in lots of awards, patches for all, & some learning about navigation skills too!

Has your troop signed up for the chicken-pit beef lunch deal offered each year?...Your troop will need to either bring bag lunches or buy in advance these great hot lunches.... email pitbeefsale@gmail.com (before Nov. 6.)

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If you're **camping** (Fri. &/or Sat. nights) you must have prepaid for camping online already... if you forgot, email me (exact number of campers not important until Nov. 16.) Quiet hours are **11 to 6**. Arrival on Friday any time from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m....Check in with us at our HQ: Oest Bunk House (a few yards from the Oest parking lot) where we'll assign a site; you can't sign up for a particular site early. Water, rest rooms, pavilion, picnic tables, and fire ring available; you'll need to share some with the other unit(s) in your site, but the sites are large. We're responsible for the orienteering program only (that's Sat. 8 to 4:15.) Otherwise unit leaders are in charge.

Vehicles other than trailers **may not be at the campsites** except at initial arrival & final departure when ONE car can drop off gear, then return to the parking lot. Don't drive past fences/gates into a campsite; thanks!

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Those **not camping** Fri. night may arrive as early as sunrise (~**7 a.m.**) on Sat. Registration & issuing of maps/info starts at **8:00** a.m. when you fill in a new form on which you may substitute names &/or increase your total number (@\$7 each) &/ or decrease it (no refund.) (*If you like (& to save time), come to our HQ porch **before 8 to get that new form** & to get copies of our self-guided Map Walk & a couple maps to review in advance.*)

After 8:00, you &/or your SPL should "Be Prepared", with the helpful tips in our Map Walk page in your first packet, to lead our short "**some-compass, more-map!**" instructional hike for your troop to #'s 1 to 5 on their maps.

If you arrive after 9:15 a.m. you won't have time for some self-guided instructional activities for beginners. That would be unhelpful. We're **rain or shine**, so bring raingear & zip lock bags!

Everyone <18 is eligible for our 120+ individual awards. A minimum of 2 youth is required per troop/crew. No more than three per troop in our "Super-Advanced" category, and you'll need to justify why each is qualified.

*At our optional **9:30 meeting for leaders with questions**, any two troops with <10 scouts each can combine for the p.m. event to make it more fun and to be eligible for our main troop award.*

Most parents and adult leaders have fun each year doing our beginner or intermediate O' courses too....but they need to be paid/ registered (by Sat. a.m.) to receive maps & patches. Two-deep adult supervision is required. Your Scouts should always be under adult supervision (unless out on an O' course)...Thanks! If you have special-needs youth, email Dave, or note on Sat. on your form whether adults will *help* them or just *accompany* them.

At **10:00** you'll hear a call from us as usual for help from adults (no skill required) willing to spend 1.5 hours in the woods helping us "monitor" a part of a Route O' course marked with streamers. Please impress upon your Scouts the importance of not tampering with course markers, or the competition and fun will be ruined for everyone, a problem that we've not had for years.....Thanks to all!

All Scout pairs do competitive events (starting at **10:30**) on their own!....After 10:30, **NO help** anywhere, any time from adults or parents (or other Scout pairs out on courses)! But, until then, you'll want to teach all you can:

The fun "Head to Head" O' that you *might* do (on your own) in the a.m. is cross-country O' & thus counts for one of the three merit badge Req. 7a courses; the other two we'll do later in the day. We don't "sign off" any requirement, but it's an ideal time to learn & earn, with some later follow up, requirements 4 a-b, 4 d-f, 6c, 7a, & 10 of the orienteering merit badge! The first half of First Class Req. 4a is also covered. No GPS use!...though much of our event is also relevant to Geocaching and Search & Rescue Merit Badges (Dave has those booklets with him.)

Our veteran staff is looking forward to seeing you Sat. Nov. 16!

Things to bring: Each Scout, parent, and adult leader should bring 3 gallon-sized zip lock bags (to protect maps from rain/sweat), a pencil, a red pen (for marking on your map...ink is best, a sharp red pencil next best, and felt tip is worst)...a water bottle, lunch, a snack, at least a Class B Scout uniform (wear it!) with a spare dry pair of shoes & socks, & shirt, and rainy weather gear. Each pair of Scouts should bring a compass, a watch / cell phone for time-keeping, & a whistle (to use only in emergencies.) Each troop brings at least 2 large trash bags, one for carrying out trash, one for recycling. [Cars, bikes, GPS's, radios are not allowed in O'. Cell phones are optional, with emergency calls to adults only. Troop leaders should have the cell numbers of their participants if you allow phones, & they should have his. No reception in parts of camp.

Directions: North on I-95 through Baltimore to Exit 80 (where you go left at the end of ramp) onto MD 543 for 1.9 miles. At the light, turn right on Rt. 136 north. After 10.1 miles (that's 0.9 miles after crossing U.S. Rt. 1), turn right at the flashing light (in the town of Dublin) on Rt. 440 for a block, then turn left on Castleton Rd. After 1.5 miles, turn left on Day Rd. for a block; turn right on Robinson Mill Rd. (camp signs will help for those last three turns) for 1 mile to the **Camp Oest** parking lot (on the left) within sight of our Oest HQ bldg. (where you **check-in.**) The address is 1837 Robinson Mill Rd., Darlington, MD 21034. The parking lot is at 39 degrees 41.1 minutes North and 76 degrees 15.65 minutes West.

It's a total of 40 miles & ~55 minutes from the I-95 tunnel in Baltimore to Camp Oest.

Our schedule, hot lunch info, driving directions, 2023 results, & more are posted at www.baltimorebsa.org/orienteering; printing the schedule out and bringing it with you can be helpful, along with a copy of the pairs from your online registration.