

Scouts BSA Adventure Day 2023 – Top Secret!

When: Sat. April 15. 8am – 2pm

Where: Red Gate Woods, Archer Ave. Lemont, IL between Willow Springs Rd and Rt. 83.

What: All patrols will start with a short hike in the Red Gate Woods to see and learn about the historical beginnings of the WWII Manhattan Project and the site of one of the earliest atomic pile and nuclear reactor. After the short historic hike, Patrols will then be able to participate in one of three hike/bike activities selected ahead of the event. After lunch Scouts will participate in an erosion prevention service project on trails at Red Gate Woods that will count toward Scout Conservation Service Project hours.

Adventure Choices:

1. Patrols will continue on a 5 mile hike through the Palos Forest Preserve, returning to Red Gate Woods where they will be able to work on a trail maintenance/erosion prevention Service Project guided by the Chicago Area Mountain Bike Riders (CAMBR). Scouts will eat their own lunches on their return to Red Gate.
2. Patrols will continue from the 1 mi introductory hike and embark on a Mountain Bike ride on Easy and Intermediate Mountain Bike trails inside the Palos Forest Preserve, returning to Red Gate Woods for the CAMBR trail maintenance service project.
3. Patrols will hike to the Manhattan Project sites in Red Gate Woods and then return to the Red Gate Parking lot where bikes will have been left on or in leader's cars. Patrols and leaders will drive 2.5mi to the Cal Sag Trail Trailhead for a ride of up to 15 miles (7.5mi out and back) along the Cal Sag Canal on a paved Cook County Bike Path to Palos Park. After the ride patrols will put their bikes back on leader's cars and return to red Gate for lunch and the CAMBR trail maintenance service project.

Timeline/Schedule

8:00am Leaders and Scouts Check-in

8:30am- 9:30am All Scouts participate in the Manhattan Project Hike/Tour

- 1. Red Gate Pavillion – Short Orientation talk on the history of the site and its role in WWII. During the war this was a top secret site and home to the world's first nuclear reactor at Site A.
- 2. Walk to a station explaining the basic science of nuclear energy
- 3. Walk to Site A – The site of the historic Atomic Pile and Nuclear Reactor
- 4. Walk to an explanation of how the site was cleaned up between the 1960's and now
- (Cal Sag Trail Riders will walk back to their cars)

9:30 - Noon

- 5. 5 mile Hikers and Mountain Bikers will hike or ride on designated routes with stops to learn about:
 - The Civilian Conservation Corps, the work they did and the structures they built in the Palos Forest Preserve
 - Glacier geography that created the hills they will hike and ride over
 - Ecology of the area
 - Possible explanation and show and tell on the prescribed burns rangers do in the palos Forest Preserve
- Return to Red Gate Woods at Noon for lunch and the CAMBR Trail Maintenance/Erosion Prevention service project.

Cal Sag Ride

- Riders arrive at the Cal Sag Trail head at 10:30. Ride 10:30 – 12:30 and return to the Red Gate Woods Service project at 1:00 pm.

Scouts will need to provide their own Lunches, Water and Snacks for their hike or bike ride. Scouts who plan to ride will need to wear helmets and provide their own bicycles from home.