



Trail to Troop Overlook Participant Guide Condensed Edition

1. Welcome

Welcome to Trail to Troop 2026! This guide contains everything Arrow of Light leaders, Scoutmasters, parents, and participants need to know to prepare for the weekend. Trail to Troop is designed to help Arrow of Light Scouts experience Scouts BSA before crossover by camping with troops, participating in Trail Stops, and building friendships across Mountaineer Area Council.

2. Quick Reference

Topic	Information
Camping Check-In	Friday after 5:00 PM • Welcome Center
Day Only	Saturday 8:30 AM • Dining Hall
Opening Flags	Saturday 9:00 AM
Medical Forms	Parts A & B required for every youth and adult
Meals Included for Camping	Sat Lunch & Dinner, Sun Breakfast & Lunch
Day Only	Lunch
Uniform	Class A for Flags & Scouts' Own; Class B otherwise
Questions	Event Staff

3. Weekend at a Glance

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 After 5:00 PM Camping Check-In Opens	 8:30 AM Day Only Check-In	 8:00 AM Breakfast & Morning Flags
 Camp Setup	 9:00 AM Opening Flag Ceremony	 9:00 AM Scouts' Own Service
 8:00 PM Leader Meeting	 9:15 AM Trail Stops Begin	 12:00 PM Lunch & Official Check-Out
 11:00 PM Quiet Hours	 12:00 PM Lunch	 2:00-4:00 PM Camp Mountaineer Trunk or Treat
	 1:00 PM Trail Stops Resume	 4:30 PM Pumpkin Drop
	 3:00 PM Day Only Participant Check-Out	
	 Afternoon Programming (Troop Activities & Free Time)	
	 6:00 PM Dinner	
	 7:30 PM Campfire Program	
	 11:00 PM Quiet Hours	

4. Choose Your Adventure

Camping	Day Only
AOL Scouts, AOL Leaders, Troops. Camp Fri-Sun with troop. Includes four meals, campfire, Trail Stops, Trail Log, patch.	AOLs, Troops, Non-Scouts grades 5-18 with adult. Saturday Trail Stops, lunch, Trail Log, patch.

5. Arriving at Camp

Camping participants check in at the Welcome Center after 5 PM Friday Check in at Welcome Center. Campers may drive to campsites. If arriving after 8PM, check in at dining hall. Parking available at: campsites, shower house, and above Medical Building. *reserve spaces for medical officer and emergency vehicles.

Day Only participants park at the Top of the Hill and check in at the Dining Hall. Every AOL and Non-Scout receives a Trail Packet containing the schedule, map, menu, camp map and Trail Log.

*Accessible Parking available at Dining Hall

6. Camp with a Troop

For those registering to camp, Arrow of Light Scouts and their registered adults will camp with participating Scouts BSA troops. Contact Information will be shared prior to the event so Troops and AOL adults can coordinate plans. Troops are encouraged to include AOLs and AOL leaders in planning, campsite setup, cooking, games, campfires, cleanup, and conversation. Saturday breakfast is coordinated by each troop. The goal is to build relationships and help every Scout find the troop that feels like home!

7. Saturday on the Trail

Arrow of Light Scouts, Arrow of Light leaders, non-Scout youth, and their accompanying adults will be assigned to Trail Groups and "walk the trail" together throughout the day.

Along the way, groups will visit **Trail Stops**—hands-on, troop-led activities that showcase what makes each Scouts BSA troop unique. Participants will meet Scouts and Scoutmasters, learn new outdoor skills, ask questions, and experience the personality and traditions of different troops. It's the perfect opportunity to discover which troop feels like the best fit after Arrow of Light crossover or when joining Scouting for the first time.

Trail Stop rotations will be determined after troop registration is finalized and may vary based on the number of participating troops and attendees.

To earn the official **2026 Trail to Troop Patch**, visit at least **three Trail Stops**, participate in each activity, and collect a troop representative's signature in your **Trail Log**.

8. Around Camp

Participants will be provided a map of Camp Mountaineer which will include locations of Trail Stops, Medical, Trading Post, parking, electricity access, etc.

9. Keeping Scouting Safe

Medical Forms A & B are required for every participant. Two-deep leadership and the buddy system are required. All registered adults must have current Youth Protection Training. Report concerns immediately to event staff. Follow camp parking rules, Leave No Trace principles, and weather guidance.

10. Packing

Camping: tent, sleeping bag, pillow, clothing, rain gear, flashlight, water bottle, toiletries, and medications.

Day Only: comfortable clothes, water bottle, rain gear, notebook, Medical Forms, comfortable shoes.

(Class As are encouraged at flag raising and lowering and at Scouts Own.)

The weather in West Virginia can fluctuate drastically during the day, especially in October. Prepare for the anticipated weather and plan accordingly.

11. Trail Stops

Trail to Troop weekend is designed to connect AOL Scouts to Troops in Mountaineer Area Council. Troops will lead activities and welcome AOLs and non-scouts interested in joining Scouts BSA to participate. Each Troop is different and enjoys different Scouting activities. This is your opportunity to showcase your Troop and recruit potential new Scouts.

Activities may include climbing, fishing, cooking, wilderness survival, STEM, pioneering, fire building, first aid, drones, geocaching, etc.

We encourage you to reference the AOL electives and consider choosing one of them to offer as your Trail Stop! AOL Den Leaders often have to focus mainly on requirements during the abbreviated Scouting year.

Question	Answer
Can troops choose their activity?	Yes! Contact Frankie early to avoid duplicate Trail Stops.
What if it rains?	Prepare alternate activities; schedule may adjust.
Can parents attend?	Yes. No younger siblings.
Can troops participate without camping?	Yes! Register Day Only and host a Trail Stop!
Are pets allowed?	No.

12. Final Thoughts

The AOL year is exciting, and it goes by quickly! We hope every AOL leaves excited and wishing crossover was tomorrow! We hope every AOL Den Leader leaves knowing that they gave their Scouts an amazing opportunity and that their year just got a lot easier! And we hope that every Scoutmaster and Troop walks away with new contacts, potential new recruits, and the satisfaction that you made AOLs excited about Scouts BSA!

Thank you for being part of Trail to Troop 2026. We'll see you on the trail!