

Troop 63, BSA
St. Mark United Methodist Church
465 Paxson Avenue
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

NJ State Police Camporee

The BSA's Jersey Shore Council and the NJ State Police are hosting what promises to be an exciting camporee on October 5 - 7, 2007 at the NJ State Police Academy in Sea Girt, NJ. Previous events have included demonstrations of helicopters, bomb squad hazardous materials (HazMat) response units, a command unit bus, patrol cars, motorcycles, and airboat rides on a small lake near the Atlantic Ocean beach. Nearly 40 programs on law enforcement subjects were offered, such as the rappelling rides given by a search and rescue team, which put Scouts in a body harness and sent them sailing down a line from a 30-foot classroom building roof. The high-tech computer weapons in the firearms training simulators gave players a chance to test their aim. Visitors could walk through the nearby state police forensic laboratory, looking through windows into the locked rooms where toxicologists and other scientists work. Scouts could take a polygraph test, watching the lie detector while they asked each other questions. In other classrooms, merit badge counselors and troopers worked together to help Scouts on the Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, Fingerprinting, and Traffic Safety merit badges.

Our troop has reserved places for 12 Scouts and 4 adults, so registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. If there is sufficient interest in this event, we will attempt to secure more spots, but we can't promise they will be available. Please return your permission slip to Mr. Cilino by June 14th, along with \$32.00 for each camper (\$25 to Jersey Shore Council for registration and tee-shirt, \$7 for food). **This payment is non-refundable**, unless another camper wants to take your place after all of the places have been filled.

We will depart from St. Mark Church at 6:00 PM, Friday, October 5
We will depart from Sea Girt at approximately 9:00 AM, Sunday, October 7

Permission Slip

_____ has my permission to go camping with Troop 63 at the NJ State Police Academy in Sea Girt, NJ on October 5 – October 7, 2007. I understand that all activities have some inherent risk. I give permission to the leaders of the above unit to render First Aid, should the need arise. In the event of an emergency, I also give permission to the physician, selected by the adult leader in charge, to hospitalize, secure proper anesthesia, order injection, or secure other medical treatment, as needed. I further agree to hold the above named unit and its leaders harmless for any accidents that might occur during this outing except for clear acts of gross negligence or non-adherence to BSA policies and guidelines.

In case of emergency, I can be reached at _____ or _____
If I cannot be reached, please contact _____ at _____

Tee-shirt sizes: _____

- [] I will be attending the weekend as the Adult for my son's patrol.
- [] I can drive _____ Scouts and their gear there on Friday Night.
- [] I can drive _____ Scouts and their gear back on Sunday Morning.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent or Guardian

Excerpts from May-June 2005 Scouting magazine article on October 2004 camporee

One of Scouting's most unusual camporees was held over a weekend last October at the New Jersey State Police Academy in Sea Girt. The state police joined with the BSA's Jersey Shore Council and four other local councils in New Jersey to host what promises to be a recurring event—a camporee with activities that focus mainly on law enforcement.

The idea for the camporee started with State Police Major Frank Rodgers, an Eagle Scout and executive board member of the Jersey Shore Council. The goal would be to introduce Scouts to the work of the state police and encourage them to consider a career in the agency. Did it succeed? "I thought it was great," Major Rodgers said afterward, noting that 6,100 Scouts had attended. "I've never had so much positive feedback from any other event in my career." He added that "lots of boys became enamored with the idea of joining the state police. Hundreds of boys asked about it."

All day Saturday, Scouts and Scouters were involved in activities with about 300 troopers (of a total force of 2,700), plus many volunteers from Emergency Search and Rescue teams.

The New Jersey State Police calls itself "the most diverse law enforcement agency in the nation" and did a lot to live up to that billing. Boy Scouts, Venturers, and leaders enjoyed demonstrations of helicopters, bomb squad hazardous materials (HazMat) response units, a command unit bus, patrol cars, motorcycles, and airboat rides for visitors on a small lake near the Atlantic Ocean beach. Horse-mounted troopers reminded the Scouts that not all state police rely on mechanized transportation.

Nearly 40 programs on law enforcement subjects were offered. A few were pure fun, like the rappelling rides given by a search and rescue team, which put Scouts in a body harness and sent them sailing down a line from a 30-foot classroom building roof.

The firearms training simulators were among the most popular offerings. The high-tech computer weapons gave players a chance to test their aim without firing a real weapon.

Another popular area was criminal and civil identification. "They've seen 'CSI' on TV, and they want to know how this compares to the show," said Detective John Ryan of the State Police Central Crime Scene Investigation Unit. "Since that show came out, juries expect more, and the public is more educated on what they think we do." The show is accurate on some things, Ryan noted, but on others "'CSI' takes a half-hour to do things that might take weeks or months in real life."

Visitors could walk through the nearby state police forensic laboratory, looking through windows into the locked rooms where toxicologists and other scientists perform tests and write reports. These staff experts later testify in court for police agencies across New Jersey.

Again and again, state troopers displayed exceptional rapport with their young visitors. Skillful in this area were the half-dozen troopers standing beside patrol cars and talking with Scouts about their equipment and highway safety.

In academy classrooms, Scouts could see the work of composite sketch artists who draw faces of suspects, missing persons, and dead bodies based on descriptions, blurry photos, and bodies in the morgue. One of the two sketch artists, Detective Sgt. Michael Bair, said they make "mug shots" for all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey. "Last year we did about 430 sketches [which led to] 135 identifications that we know of," he said.

In the same room, Scouts could take a polygraph test, watching the lie detector while they asked each other such questions as, "Did you ever steal anything?" (They decided that the polygraph could indeed determine if someone is not telling the truth.) In other classrooms, merit badge counselors and troopers worked together to help Scouts on the Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, Fingerprinting, and Traffic Safety merit badges.

Between classes, the Scouts visited with former astronaut Mario Runco Jr., who spent a year as a New Jersey State trooper in 1977-78 before joining the Navy and becoming a meteorologist and oceanographer. For NASA, Runco made three trips into space from 1991 to 1996. The boys also got to meet Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Reserve Affairs) Col. Harvey C. Barnum Jr., USMC (Ret.), a Medal of Honor recipient.

A big arena show climaxed the day's activities.

"This camporee has been the most impressive event I've seen in my 27 years with the agency," Col. Rick Fuentes, state police superintendent, announced to the Scouts assembled in bleachers facing the grandstand.

A highlight was the entrance of 50 troopers who were Eagle Scouts. The Scouts and leaders cheered them wildly.



NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Camporee







“Saluting Our Veterans”

October 5, 6 & 7, 2007

**at the New Jersey State Police Academy
Sea Girt, New Jersey**



Earn your Merit Badge in

-  ✓ **Crime Prevention**
-  ✓ **Traffic Safety**
-  ✓ **Fingerprinting**
-  ✓ **Emergency Preparedness**
-  ✓ **Citizenship in the Community**
-  ✓ **Citizenship in the Nation**

citizen★corps



For additional information, or to request an information packet, contact the New Jersey State Police Office of Public Information at (609) 882-2000 ext. 6514, your local Boy Scouts of America council, or visit www.njsp.org and click on the camporee icon.