



Orienteering @ the Pig Gig - 9/11/10

Orienteering Activities

Many scout leaders really picture a *compass course* when hearing “*orienteering*”. But a **real** orienteering course challenges a scout to use map reading skills to figure out the fastest way to get from point A to point B. Yes, the compass can be critical for orienting the map, and handy for taking an occasional bearing; however, the real skills are reading the topography, identifying landmarks and collecting features, figuring out the smartest route, and knowing those catching features that get you back on course, all in an effort to get there first! One quickly learns that the straightest path may not be the fastest route. They don't call it *cunning running* for nothing.

So, first and foremost, we are offering troops the chance to do some of this real orienteering. The courses provide an opportunity for fun, fitness, skill building, camaraderie and time spent in the great outdoors. Hard to beat that combination, especially when it's at Camp Tuscazoar!

For those with more advanced skills, the chance to compare times or scores against other scouts will add in some friendly competition. The merit badge is just icing on the cake (*see next page*).

We will have some real experts with us, members of the Northeastern Ohio Orienteering Club (NEOOC - <http://www.neoc.com/default.asp>). NEOOC run courses throughout northeast Ohio from early spring to late fall. NEOOC members compete both regionally and nationally. Consider attending one of their events before or after you join us. NEOOC's booth at the Great Trails Jamborall was one of the hottest spots at Camp Manatoc.

Troops are encouraged to pack or prepare quick lunches that will allow the scouts to return to their orienteering activities as soon as possible. Don't forget, when all the orienteering is complete, all participants are invited to the Kimble dining hall for the Pig Gig feast!

There will be a cracker barrel for scoutmasters, SPL's and patrol leaders on Friday night for those who come in for the weekend.

There will be a campfire Saturday night for the entire camp. In addition to songs, skits and cheers, the best scores and times will be announced!

Contact the Camp now for your advance reservations!

On-site registration begins Friday night, and again on Saturday morning about 8 am, with the opening flag ceremony about 8:45am, and the Orienteering starting at about 9am.

Check the Camp Tuscazoar website for more details as they develop!

<http://www.tuscazoar.org>



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The Orienteering Merit Badge

Refer to the MB book (or <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Orienteering>) for requirement details. Scouts will have the opportunity to complete Requirements 1 – 7 while at Camp. Completing even these 7 requirements will require some hustle, so please note that work can be done ahead of time to lighten your load that day. A MB counselor will be present!

Req. 1 – Standard first aid requirements for outdoor MB's. If the scoutmaster confirms that the scouts have, within the previous 3 weeks, adequately reviewed this material, credit will be given. Otherwise, troops will attend a station reviewing this material.

Req. 2 – Troops will attend a station covering this material.

Req. 3 – Standard compass instruction for most scouts. If the scoutmaster confirms that the scouts have, within the previous 2 weeks, adequately reviewed this material, credit will be given. Otherwise, troops will attend a station reviewing this material.

Req. 4 – Troops will attend a station covering this material.

Req. 5 – Should take about 15 to 30 minutes at a scout meeting or outing. If the scoutmaster confirms that the scouts have recently determined their walking and running pace per the MB instructions, credit will be given. Otherwise, troops will attend a station.

Req. 6 – Troops will attend a station covering this material.

Req. 7a – This is where the rubber meets the trail!

There will be at least three separate “cross country” courses set up. Scouts by patrol, will have the opportunity to complete two of these courses, from about 9 am to about 2 pm. The goal will be to enjoy and learn, but shooting for the best time will not be discouraged.

There will be a mass start on a “score course” at approximately 3 pm for everyone. Scouts will hit the course in pairs or by patrol. And again, there's nothing wrong with trying for the high score.

Req. 7b – There will be group meetings to complete this requirement.

Requirements 8-10 – These are “take-home” assignment for your scouts, providing them with the opportunity to share what they have learned with the rest of your Troop, or with another local Troop or a nearby Pack. It's “program”, ready to incorporate into one of your next meetings or outings! Arrangements can be made with the MB counselor for follow-up to sign off on the MB once requirements 8, 9 and 10 have been completed.

There may also be NEOOC club events where some of 7 through 10 can be accomplished.

Scouts should come prepared, with at least one whistle and one compass per pair/patrol.

Maps will be provided.