

Northern Light District 2024 Spring Camporee “Railroading”



May 17 - 19, 2024
Mill Pond Recreation Area
West Newbury, MA



2024 Northern Light District Railroading Camporee



When: May 17 – 19, 2024

Camping site: Mill Pond Recreation Area
693 Main Street
West Newbury, MA

Cost: \$20.00 per person.

Participants: Limited to Scouts BSA youth and leaders in the Northern Light District with a cap of 210. Limit of four adult leaders per unit. All adults must be registered leaders.

Program: Railroading

NOTE: The specifications and rules which follow are subject to change, especially the Saturday schedule. Any changes will be published as soon as possible.

Any questions may be directed to the Northern Light District Boy Scout Activities Committee at nldsactivities@comcast.net or by calling Committee Chairman Paul Taylor at 603-819-1897.



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Registration – Total youth participation is capped at 210. Youth registration is for Scouts BSA level Scouts and leaders from the Northern Light District only. Units from outside of Northern Light District can be put on a waiting list in case there is room. Please email nldbsactivities@comcast.net if you wish to be on the waiting list.

Check-in -- All units must check in upon arrival. All units MUST submit a roster of all participants and note the location where in camp that they have set up their camp. A copy of the registration form can be used as a unit's roster. Scoutmasters should inform event staff of all changes to that roster.

Campsite Parking – All vehicles must be parked in the parking lots as directed by event staff. No parking will be allowed in camping areas. Unit Trailers will not be allowed in the camping area. Tow vehicles for trailers must be unhooked from the trailers and moved to the parking area.

For each vehicle, units will be given a form on which they will show the owner's name, phone number and unit number. The completed form must be put on the dashboard of each vehicle while at Mill Pond Recreation Area. This will aid event staff in contacting the driver should the car need to be moved or any other problem arises.

Campfires – All campfires at the camping area must be off of the ground, absolutely no ground fires allowed.

Water – All units must bring their water for their campsite. There is nowhere in the camp to get water. If more is needed, contact a staff member, and a water run can be done.

Smoking – No one under the age of 18 is allowed to smoke. Those 18 and older who wish to smoke must do so out of the sight of any youth. While on MBTA property, there is absolutely no smoking.

Camping Area -- Camping sites will not be assigned; units are welcome to set up most anywhere in the designated camping area. Be courteous to other units when setting up your campsite.

Trash -- Units must take all trash out of camp with them - carry in, carry out.

Leader Meeting and Cracker-barrel -- This is an absolutely mandatory meeting for Scoutmasters and SPLs beginning at 9:00 PM on Friday at Camporee Headquarters. Any unit not in camp overnight must send representatives to this meeting.

On Saturday, attendees will travel to the Bradford Commuter Rail Station to ride a MBTA Commuter Rail train from Bradford to the MBTA Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility in Somerville, MA. Upon arrival, participants will go to their first activity according to the schedule. Those starting at the MBTA facility at 32 Cobble hill Road, will board a bus to go to that location.

At this time, units will be responsible for the transportation from the camping area to the Bradford Railroad Station and return.

Many of the stations will cover some, but not all, requirements of the Railroading Merit Badge. Scouts who wish to work on the merit badge should review the requirements for that merit badge prior to attending. Having a worksheet with them would be advantageous. Scouts will have to contact a Railroading Merit Badge counselor to complete the badge.

Uniforms – All Scouts and leaders must wear their Class A uniforms during the Saturday program. Long pants must be worn.

Footwear – All participants must wear sturdy footwear - preferably work boots or hiking boots. No sneakers.

NOTE: Scouts or leaders who do not follow the above requirements concerning uniform, pants, and footwear will not be allowed to take part in the event.

Meals – As usual, meals will be the responsibility of each troop. Note in the schedule that travel to the train station on Saturday will begin at 7:30 AM, so troops should plan their breakfasts early or to be brought onto the train. It is absolutely necessary that we adhere to the schedule.

All participants should bring a bag lunch on Saturday. No coolers. There will be 40 minutes scheduled for lunch.

It is recommended that units prepare easy to make dinners for Saturday due to the time that we will be arriving back at the camping area.

Backpacks – All participants are encouraged to carry a daypack with them. However, no more than one daypack per person. All daypacks must remain with its owner at all times.

Groups – During the Saturday program, the participants will be divided into seven groups, each denoted by color. Each participant will be given a marker to wear that is the color of his group. Nobody is to leave the group, except to go to a rest room. The Buddy System and Youth Protection policies must be followed at all times.

Commuter Rail Workers – The areas being visited will be operational. Workers are not to be disturbed unless they volunteer to speak with participants.

Mobile phones – All are asked to put cell phones on silent while on MBTA property. Some areas are critical to not have cell phones “ringing” or to have anybody talking on one. It will be safer and more courteous to not have cell phone sounds going on.

Photography – Participants may take photos while on MBTA property. However, they are not to photograph the workers without their permission. Nor are participants to leave their group to take photos.

Saturday Night Campfire -- It is planned to have a traditional campfire on Saturday evening. All units are asked to perform a skit or lead a song. Units are to submit their plans for the campfire to the host troop representative.

Model Kits – It is hoped that each Scout will receive an HO scale model railroad freight car kit. Assembly of this kit will satisfy Railroading Merit Badge requirement 8a (2).

Schedule

Friday, May 17

5:00 PM Units begin arriving and set up camps

9:00 PM Leader meeting and Crackerbarrel

Saturday, May 18

7:30 AM Begin travel to Bradford Rail Station

8:10 AM Load onto Train

8:20 AM Train departs Bradford

9:00 AM Train arrives at the MBTA Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility.

9:20 AM Groups go to first station

9:30 AM – 10:10 AM First Period

10:20 AM – 11:00 AM Second Period

11:10 AM – 11:50 PM Third Period

11:50 PM – 12:30 PM Lunch and Bussing to other building
(eat lunch before bussing)

12:30 PM – 1:10 PM	Fourth Period
1:20 PM - 2:00 PM	Fifth Period
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	Sixth Period
3:00 PM – 3:40 PM	Seventh Period
3:45 PM	Begin loading onto Train
4:10 PM	Train departs for Bradford
5:00 PM	Train Arrives Bradford and participants go back to camp.
6:40 PM	Scouts arrive back at camp and have dinner
9:00 PM	Campfire

Sunday, May 19

Overnight units pack up and depart.