

Transatlantic Council, BSA

Presents the

Normandy Camporee:

The 75th Anniversary of D-Day
and the Battle of Normandy



12-14 April 2019

Welcome

We are thrilled that you are interested in attending the Normandy-Omaha Beach Camporee. This will be the 9th camporee in our council's history and it is special in that we are commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings and Battle of Normandy. For many youth and their families this has been an unforgettable experience and we hope to continue this tradition by providing our Scouts, leaders, and families with more experiences they will remember for the rest of their lives.

As this is the first version of the guide, the text is in "black." As we revise the guide, you will easily be able to track changes because they will be noted in "red" like this.

The camporee has taken on a bit of a "legend" and we are happy that over the years we have acquired a reputation of being a premiere scouting event. However, the success of Normandy is not the "event." It is the personal experiences that youth, and adults have during the weekend. Some are touched by the private moment of walking through the American Cemetery, others by the campfire on the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach, others by ceremonies, others by walking at Pointe du Hoc. Our goal is to offer the potential for meaningful experiences that will touch our youth and help them to understand the magnitude of what happened on June 6, 1944 and the battle to defeat Fascism. More than a battle we hope that youth understand how the sacrifices made by our "Greatest Generation" have influenced the world we live in today and that they will lead tomorrow.

We invite you to join us, but do not sit back and wait to be "wowed." Throw yourself into the history, read before you come, help your youth to understand through film, newsreels, and books so that they understand the history and can in turn be moved by the moment.

Pray for good weather. We go on regardless but like any site with many outdoor activities the camporee is more meaningful when you are comfortable.

Please read the guide and if you have questions please ask. The event is a work in progress and there will certainly be twists and turns in the organization between now and April 2019. Join our Facebook page - *Normandy Camporee 2019 on Omaha Beach* at <https://www.facebook.com/Normandy-Camporee-2019-on-Omaha-Beach-1956192351324123/> or browse our website at <http://tac-bsa.org/camping/normandy/>. We will do our best to update both frequently.

Vince Cozzone
Retired Scout Executive, Normandy Event Organizer
Transatlantic Council, BSA

Background

In April 1994, the Charlemagne and Mayflower Districts hosted a 50th Anniversary Commemoration Camporee near Omaha Beach. The event was for Scout troops and was eventually opened to the rest of the Transatlantic Council. The event proved to be such a great experience for the families that attended that a decision was made to hold this camporee every five years. Due to the requests from our Scouting families, we now conduct this event every three years. Our aim since has been to provide the opportunity for a memorable experience to all our Scouting families. This Normandy Camporee will mark the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings and will be the last commemoration that will include World War II Veterans. It will mark the 25th Anniversary of the first TAC Normandy Camporee. We will highlight areas that have been challenges in the past.

We are proud to announce our Honorary Chairman for the Camporee is Monsieur Leon Gautier, who landed on Sword Beach (Ouistreham, Colleville-Montgomery), on June 6th, 1944 with the French Commandos.

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9on_Gautier_\(militaire\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9on_Gautier_(militaire))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsauPzbpS7o>

Event Information

Registration will begin at 13h00 on April 11 and the last formal activity will end at 10:30 on April 14.

The camporee staff will be available as of 16h00 on Wednesday afternoon, April 10 and will be able to assist you with your set-up location. If you wish to come earlier no staff will be on site but arrangements may be made (you may have to move once the staff arrives to the location designated for your group, although where possible we will try to keep you where you are located). Arrangements may be made to stay past Sunday. *The campground expects us to collect all fees relating to the event so if you are coming early or staying late please register with the council office only.*

Who may attend and parent attendance requirements: This event is open to all registered youth and their families in the Transatlantic Council, or in any unit, district or council in the Boy Scouts of America. We welcome participation from Girl Scouts. The event organizer is the Transatlantic Council and questions should be directed to the Transatlantic Council only.

The event is also open to UK Scout Association units, French Scouting units, and invited guests. In fact, any Scout from any country is welcome to attend!!!

For those units camping and participating with the Transatlantic Council, you will need to follow BSA rules (many of those highlighted on the following pages).

All Transatlantic Council units that wish to participate must have completed the recharter process with Transatlantic Council. *Units in a lapsed or dropped status will not be permitted to participate.*

Units will follow BSA policies on parent participation as well as youth protection guidelines. BSA rules require that any adult participating in an event greater than 72 hours must be youth protection trained.

Information on Youth Protection can be found at:
<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Guide to Safe Scouting and Camping can be found at:
<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss03/>

Location & Facilities



We will be using two campgrounds to support the event that are located about 20kms apart - Camping Port'land and Camping Omaha Beach.

We have booked the campgrounds for our event and all registration, reservations etc. will only be accepted through the Transatlantic Council.

You can choose your campground but in the event we fill a campground we will inform you that we have changed your assigned site. Families are not obligated to camp together with your unit though many families wish to stay near to their unit. If Packs and Troops wish to be at the same campsite you will have to communicate your intent with each other and with us and we will do our best to accommodate you. We understand that parents of Cubs and Scouts will want to be at a single location.

We will not have a wait list for camping as we can accommodate all who wish to participate.

If you do not have camping gear designed to handle rain and wind and you see the forecast is for rain and wind, please make other arrangements. There are no events at the campsites so if you need to book a hotel to enjoy the experience that is excellent.

Camping Port'land <https://www.camping-portland.fr/>

One of our camping locations is Camping Port'land on a bluff not far from the sea in the town of Port en Bessin-Huppain. It is located across the street from the Omaha Beach Golf Course and Mercure Hotel (very well sign posted). Maps and directions are part of the attachments. This is a 5-star campground located about 10 km from

the American Cemetery and 12 km from Bayeux. This is the same campground we have used and that has been well-liked by our Scouters since 2008. The camp does have running water, restroom facilities, showers, a restaurant, and indoor pool. The campground is beautifully landscaped, and sites are already laid out. There are some large open areas for larger units who wish to camp. The amount of space allocated to each unit will be proportionate to the number of people who register.

The camp manager is friendly and supportive. There is a fine family restaurant that you can reserve for meals. Families need to be prepared for cold, damp weather. We will do all we can to provide a warm welcome.

Camping Omaha Beach <http://www.camping-omaha-beach.fr/en/>

This campground is a 3-star campground recently renovated by the new ownership team. This has extensive camping areas and more limited bungalows. This campground has access to Omaha Beach and has good facilities. There is a small shop and coffee bar on site. It also has a friendly team ready to greet you and will do all they can to make your stay a good one.

Bungalows at both campsites

Understand that bungalows are rented by individuals and are **NOT to be included in unit fees or membership counts**. The fees paid for the bungalows include lodging, camporee fees, and the Messengers of Peace Dinner on Saturday evening.

We do have bungalows for rent on the campsites which are now fully booked. We keep a wait list of 10% of the available bungalows at Port'land as the list for Omaha is complete. We seem to always have last minute cancellations and we would rather have the bungalow for another family. Payment questions and availability can be sent to tac-program-802@scouting.org.

There are a total of 100 bungalows at Camping Port'land and 65 at Camping Omaha Beach. The difference is that the 100 bungalows at Port'land are always available to rent and so are more standardized for rental. The bungalows at Omaha are primarily owned by individuals who make them available for the weekend, so they are more lived in. If there are any issues with a bungalow we can make substitutions.

The six person bungalows have 1 double bed, 2 rooms with 2 individual beds each, and a sofa bed that sleeps 2, along with kitchenette, shower, and toilet.

The four person bungalows have 1 double bed, 1 room with 2 individual beds, and a sofa bed that can sleep 2 along with a kitchenette, shower, and toilet.

The 7 and 8 person bungalows use sofas as beds and we only charge the camp fee for those individuals and do not increase the cost of the bungalow.

You will need to bring sheets, towels, food, pillow cases.

Cooking There are no ground fires. You can use burn barrels as long as they are raised sufficiently off the ground that the heat does not burn the grass. There is no wood in the area to gather for fuel. The event director has assured the owners of the camping area that there will not be burn marks on the ground and that the turf will not be dug up. Units leaving any burn marks will be assessed a minimum of \$50 to cover

turf damage upon check out (the amount depends on the extent). We are strongly encouraging the use of propane stoves. If units have US type stoves, they should make sure that they have sufficient quantities of propane for the weekend as it is not available locally (or make sure that they have a US to European converter valve so local gas can be used). The last time we did this event, units that were short were helped by units that had extra in the best of Scouting traditions.

Dogs in Camp: No dogs are permitted to stay in the campsite but are allowed to stay in the Bungalows. Since we are in close quarters, youth and adults who have allergies or fear dogs should not have to worry. When walked, dogs must be on a lead and you must use your doggy pooper scooper.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO ALCOHOL AT BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EVENTS. PLEASE TELL YOUR PARENTS! ANY ADULT OR YOUTH CONSUMING ALCOHOL ON THE CAMP PREMISES WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

Money Matters & Registration

Registration opens 1 December 2018. It is by unit and not by individual. If you are the only person going in a unit then yes, you are “a” unit. Units need a Normandy Coordinator. Units can add youth and individuals to their totals and units should not tell their families to register individually then select different campgrounds options etc. There are no 100% refunds so all mistakes have an associated fee (they do for TAC as well). It is easier to add the “maybes” then to register them and then deregister them.

REGISTRATION CENTER and PROGRAM SUPPLY CENTER

Unit coordinators should first stop at the TAC Registration and Program Supply Center located in Sainte (Ste) Honorine des Pertes now called Aure sur Mer. It is the Socio-Cultural Center located on the D 514 (route d’Omaha) F 14.520 Aure Sur Mer



We will publish our Supply Center Hours at a later date. We will have Re-enactors from the First Infantry Division (Big Red One) setting up a World War II camp for your youth, leaders and families to visit and to participate in activities. (included in fees).

If arriving after 10 p.m. please go directly to your site to set up and we will handle registration the following day.

You Arrived in Normandy Now Where Do You Go???

- You are in a Bungalow: Go directly to the campground where your bungalow is at. Please check before you leave so that you know where your bungalow is. However, we will have a list at each campground and registration center.
- You are in a hotel: Go directly to the hotel and register. You do not have to register with the Transatlantic Council. You will need to meet your unit coordinator for patches, nametags, Messengers of Peace dinner tickets. We will be distributing them to the unit coordinator/representative and not individually.
- You are camping: Go directly to the campsite and we will show you to your assigned area. Please know which campground you are going to (Port'land or Omaha); we will know where your unit is camping. You will have to meet up with the unit coordinator/representative for your patches, nametags, and Messengers of Peace dinner tickets.
- **YOU are the UNIT COORDINATOR or REPRESENTATIVE...THANK YOU**

Go to the Registration Center at Ste. Honorine des Pertes, (Aure sur Mer) before 2200 hours (10 p.m.) and pick up your packet that includes patches, Messengers of Peace dinner tickets and name tags for your unit. Most units have a designated time to meet up if they are not camping or staying in the same location or if by bus they stop first at the registration center.

After 10 p.m. (2200 hours) go directly to the campground where you are staying and get set up. Stop by between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Registration Center or see your Commissioner (assigned on site) to see if we can make alternative arrangements.

We will provide a phone number for you to call if you have trouble on your way to the camporee.

You do not have to worry about distribution to members in your unit staying in bungalows. They have a packet from when they arrived.

FEES

The Normandy Camporee costs \$80.00 per person camping, and \$40.00 per person attending the event and staying elsewhere.

If you wish to stay extra nights, then the cost is \$15.00 per person per night within the campgrounds. That is a reduction of \$5.00 from the 2011 costs as we hope you will take the time to visit the area.

The fees are per person. We would never penalize a Scout by charging him or her and then everyone else goes free. (We would have no scouts attend). The fee includes a patch for everyone and all the costs that are associated with running a large scale event of this nature.

There is a unit fee of \$100.00 to cover the costs of flower arrangements for the American Cemetery and unit recognition items. If you absolutely do not wish to lay a wreath at the Sunday ceremony (if you are leaving, please don't), please let us know. The charge without the wreath is \$25.

These fees cover an event patch, camping reservations, sanitation, trash removal, administrative costs, and program fees. These are substantial. It costs over \$400,000 to put on this event and the fees do not cover the costs as we will depend on subsidies to deliver a quality program.

This fee does not include: admission to any museums and food.

All fees should be paid with the registration link or through your unit account (option on the form).

Please contact your District Executive if you would like to make a bank transfer to cover the fees. Note to UK units and friends - we no longer maintain a Sterling account. We only accept US Dollars and Euros.

The on-line registration link will be published in newsletters, sent via e-mail to those expressing interest, on the web-site and probably first on our two Facebook pages, TAC Nation and Normandy Camporee 2019 on Omaha Beach. We will publish the link on December 1, 2018 as long as the move to the new credit card provider remains on the current time schedule.

The fee for the bungalows includes all camporee fees. There are no additional fees to be paid if you book a bungalow.

This event is open to all families, but we wish to receive a unit registration form and not individual family forms, or den or patrol forms. We need to have a unit point of contact with an alternate in case we need to communicate any additional information. At the event the point of contact is responsible for paying any additional fees.

We will distribute everything when your unit registers at the camporee. Patches, program guides, and everything you need when you check-in. We will prepare packets for each bungalow with their patches, program guides etc. so those numbers will not be within your total for your unit but they will have the information.

We anticipate between 3,500 and 4,500 participants. If no other families in a unit are planning on attending, then we will accept individual application forms. We want everyone who would like to attend to feel welcome. However as soon as we see a 2nd form from a unit we will be asking for the point of contact. Not having a volunteer from your unit to act as a coordinator does not mean that we will do it for you. As you can imagine with everything that we do in our council from Klondike to Day Camp to Summer Camps, OA, Conferences that this creates a huge additional work load. We will all work together to support you, but we need your help and cooperation as well as it is easier to deal with 200 units than 4,500 individuals.

We are an admin staff of 1 part-time and 1 full time team members and a total team of 9 putting on a world class event of significance. We are Scouters (our admin staff exhibit a scout attitude) but there will come a point when we just can't keep up with the volume of questions. Common questions will be on the website and of course there will be special situations that we haven't considered and we will work with you.

Refunds

- Camps may have a non-refundable fee component. These are not negotiable.
- All participation cancellation notices and refund requests must be submitted in writing. Verbal agreements are not final.
- Camp refunds will be assessed a 15% administrative fee of the total amount due until January 31, 2019; a 25% fee until March 15; after March 15, 2019 refunds will not be considered. This applies to the number of individuals for which reservations have been made. Reservations can be transferred between individuals within the same unit but payments must be handled between the parties, not by the Council.
- Cancellations due to medical emergencies or other such unforeseen circumstances will be given the utmost consideration in favor of the registrant for any exceptions to this refund policy.
- Refunds will be processed within 30 days after the close of the event, with funds being deposited into the Unit Account for unit payments.

*if the camp is cancelled by the council, this will not apply.

Registration Deadline: 1 March 2019

Thanks to our units respecting this important deadline, we were able to determine in 2008 that we needed space for an additional 600 campers. Had our units not kept to the deadline, we would not have been able to find additional space, toilets, and dumpsters. In 2011, we knew that we would have 500 fewer and that we did not need to reserve additional space and the logistics planned were sufficient for the numbers. In 2014 having the numbers in February enabled us to secure an additional campground. In 2017 we were able to reduce the number of port-a-potties and tents based on attendance.

It is great to have you do this early as families know if they wish to attend or not. We know there will always be last minute changes.

Additional youth and families can register after the deadline. We will endeavor to make sure every unit has ample space but last minute large group reservations do cause logistic problems, so please send in what you have no later than 1 March and then if you need to add a few more families that is much easier than a new reservation of 160 people a few days before the event. Also if an overflow camping area needs to be booked, those units who register after 1 March (or who increase their numbers substantially) will be using the overflow camping area regardless of when you arrive.

Unloading & Parking

This will be the first area where real world threats meet the running of the camporee. We can no longer allow buses to enter the campsite. All buses will off-load in the parking lot and gear will be transported by van to the campsite. (Scouts can also hike some gear in.). Parking will be determined by security conditions established at the time. We will have everyone park as close as they can. The campground roads are narrow and there are lots of youth right by the roads, but we plan to do all we can to keep everyone safe even if it may seem inconvenient.

Parking cannot impede fire trucks or other emergency vehicles from reaching a site in the event of an emergency. All roads must be kept clear.

Vehicles will be issued a parking pass that can be used throughout the event.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE GRASS

Travel to Program Areas & Pack up on Sunday

With the expected large number of participants, we need to keep safety in mind at all times with the vehicles in camp. When drivers check in they will be given directions on driving within the campground and to the various events. We wish to avoid gridlock with vehicles coming into and leaving the site. Please adhere to the rules that are given. They will be designed to make it as easy as possible for everyone to get to where they want to go. We will do all we can to prepare for the worst traffic scenario.

For travel to the camp-wide program activities please keep in mind that everyone will be going at relatively the same time. What might be a normal 15 minute trip from the campground to the American Cemetery on your own may take a bit longer. Allow plenty of travel time from the campground to all the activities.

For check-out on Sunday, once your site is packed up please go to the registration area and a Commissioner will make sure that your site is in an acceptable condition. Only then should vehicles be brought onto the site to load up. Once loaded up, the unit should depart the campground immediately (or proceed to the line waiting to leave).

Security During the day and most of the evening on Saturday and Sunday morning most people will be away. Commissioners will roam the site watching for people who should not be in our camping area. Units are free also to leave adults behind to watch their property, but in no case should a scout be left back at the site for security.

Each site and area has their own security and safety issues. Staff is not responsible for child supervision. At Port'land dangers include a pond in the center and little ponds throughout the site that are great for the curious. There is a back gate that leads to town. At Vierville, there is a bunker that attracts youth and a steep path to the sea. Of course as much as we want to limit cars and driving through the site at night, that will happen and everyone needs to be vigilant.

A fact is we live in a world where we must be vigilant against terrorist threats. Part of your costs are used to hire private security. The French police have a long history in this area of protecting visitors and have done an amazing job with us. We also take our own security seriously. You will be issued badges that are required for access to events and yes that does annoy the families that don't want to pay the \$40 per person who wish to stay in a hotel and then show up and talk their way into the event. We will issue invitations to the local population that will be managed by the mayors of the towns whose sites we visit. We will have information on what to do in certain scenarios for you at registration and we ask that you review it. Our motto is "Be Prepared." We take seriously everything from hurricane type winds and heavy rain to threats that we have all seen on the news. Keeping everyone safe is important and although we have no guarantees, we do pledge to take your safety seriously.

School

From 1994 to 2017 every school gave an excused absence based on what the scouts would experience during the weekend. Several of the schools did have the Scouts make a report to their classmates about the weekend in return for the excused absence. For many schools, this will be during spring break.

Travel

Use a software program for Port en Bessin (near Bayeux).

We do not recommend leaving after school on Friday (except maybe for Troop 112 in Paris) as you will arrive very late. Night driving on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar areas is very difficult. For units going around Paris, Friday night on the Peripherique (Ring Road around Paris) can be an absolute nightmare (as it can be at just about any other time as well). We do recommend that you try to be at Paris before 4 p.m. and the earlier the better. It is Spring Break for French schools.

For units traveling on the motorways (autoroute, autobahn), these roads in France are toll roads. You should have euros or have credit cards to pay for the tolls. For a car traveling from Germany to Normandy, you should have around 90 euros for each way.

Van drivers, military bus drivers etc. may want to consider booking a hotel for Saturday night to get a better night's sleep. It is a long drive on a busy weekend for all of us so the more rest that you are able to get, hopefully the safer the journey home will be. For your travel day as well, I know in some cases that it cannot be avoided but working all day and then driving Scouts to Normandy can be just too much. Drive safely and use common sense.

Camping Port'land Address

Chemin du Castel

F 14.520 Port en Bessin-Huppain

+33 (0)2 31 51 07 06

For those using a GPS, there is a dirt road that runs alongside the campground that many GPS units think is a really neat road. Best bet is to follow signs to Mercure Hotel, Omaha Beach Golf Course and then turn at the intersection where one turns left (coming from Caen) to the hotel and RIGHT to go to the Campground (large sign!) The best way is the route D 514 (La Haut de la Côte) and Turn Right (coming from Caen) at the traffic light at Chemin du Sémaphore.

Camping Omaha Beach Address

Rue de Herod

14.710 Vierville

It is well sign posted but everything is hard to find in the dark. It is on the outer edge of Vierville on a bluff overlooking the beach. We will also have BSA signs. The GPS works fine for this.

There are about 20 kms between the two camp sites.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO ALCOHOL AT BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EVENTS. PLEASE TELL YOUR PARENTS!

Military Vehicles in France

The rules change so please check with your transportation office before you commit for the trip.

If we are traveling by train what is the closest rail station and are there buses to the campground?

The closest train station to Port en Bessin and Vierville is Bayeux. There are no local buses to take you to the campground. There is a local bus private bus company that we can put you in contact with if you have a large group. Otherwise we are dependent on scout volunteers who have cars to bring you to the campground. There is also no public transportation in the area to visit the sites.

Do you have spaces on a bus that you are trying to fill?

Are you trying to find a way to Normandy ?

We will post on TAC Nation and the Normandy Beach Camporee pages on Facebook information where families and units might want to share transportation.

Flowers We are including wreaths in with the unit fee this year. When units have had the option most ordered wreaths and those that didn't wish that they did and sent us scrambling on Saturday. If you absolutely don't want a wreath to lay at the Sunday ceremony (if you are leaving prior to the ceremony, please don't), then just let us know with the application form. The unit fee is then reduced to \$25.00.

We will also be looking for 50 volunteers to go to Bayeux and help pick tulips that we will use at the US Cemetery on Sunday. The tulips are raised by the local Lion's Club and we make a donation to support cancer charities in return for the flowers. We feel that this is a way of making an impact.

Program Supply Center

The Program Supply Center will change from a warehouse to a store and will feature special Normandy Camporee items, as well as BSA supplies. The shop will be open most of the weekend. We will accept MasterCard and Visa, US Dollar Checks, Dollars, and Euros.

If you have orders that you would like us to bring, they must be placed by March 31 so we have time to pack the order and to bring it with us. **The Program Supply Center will be closed for business from 8 to 23 April (includes Easter holiday).**

The Program Supply Center will be at the Socio-Culturelle Center on route d'Omaha in Ste. Honorine des Pertes (Aure-sur-Mer)

Once we have placed our custom design orders for Normandy, we will allow units to pre-purchase merchandise online. We anticipate Normandy T-shirts, Sweatshirts, neckerchiefs, coins, lapel/hat pins. Once we have sold out however, we are sold out, and will not be taking orders to mail out later. Most custom design articles take a minimum of 8 weeks.



le Bleuet de France

The “Bleuet” (or Cornflower)

Each Scout and Leader will be presented with a cornflower when you receive your registration packet. The cornflower is the French flower of remembrance and a symbol that we will not forget those who gave their lives for freedom, or the sacrifices made by families on behalf of freedom. That is why it is incorporated into our event patch and should be worn the entire weekend and especially at the ceremony on Sunday

For questions on programs and logistics, please contact:

Vince Cozzone
Email: bsanormandy@gmail.com
Cell Phone : +32 (0)476 31 75 55
US Phone: 610 616 3934

Camporee Program

Thursday: April 11, 2019

All day Early Bird Arrival and Set-up

Friday: April 12, 2019

All day Unit Registration and Set-up

1830-2230 1940's Dinner Dance at Le Liberty* Ste. Honorine des Pertes
(Aure sur Mer) near the Socio-Culturel Center on route d'Omaha)

*Join us for an adult only (21+) gourmet dinner prepared by a Michelin starred chef, with music and entertainment. The price is \$100 for individuals and \$175 for couples. Cost includes meals, beverages, dessert, and entertainment.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissParamount.Pinup/>

There will be a Friends of Scouting presentation as the costs cover only the costs of the evening and we hope all who wish to attend may give according to their abilities. Staff will be dressed in uniforms dating from the 1940's and photos, fun, galore.

Tickets will go on sale on 1 December or you can pre-order at the Council Service Center at tac-program-802@scouting.org

Dress is business casual or of course 1940's (ok even 50's dance attire). Just come ready for a good time. It's family!!!

2130 Venture Cracker-Barrel at Omaha Beach Campground

Join us at Camping Port'land with all Venture Crews and youth Venture Age 14-20 from our international partners for fellowship and friendship. Our goal is that the Venture Crews and local French Scouts may team up to visit and participate together on Saturday.

Saturday: April 13, 2019

Important Tide information

High Tide	Low Tide
3:12 a.m.	10:25 a.m. (water starts reaching beach at 12:15 p.m.)
4:29 p.m. (16.29) recedes from beach by 17:30	23:03 (11:03 p.m.)

0630 Gathering of OA Vigil Members at St. Laurent sur Mer Monument, Omaha Beach, (open to all OA Vigil Members in all BSA Lodges).

0730 Transatlantic Council Executive Board Breakfast at Camping Port'land

All day – 1645 Unit Activities and Visits

Examples: Normandy Trail, Pointe de Hoc, Mere Ste Eglise, Utah Beach, Memorial Museum in Caen, Bayeux, Arromanches. You can start as early as you want. **There is no formal opening ceremony.** We do this so that we try as much as possible to not have everyone moving in the same direction at the same time.

We will have an opportunity for up to 300 participants to help clean up the beach at Gefosse Fonteney between Grandcamp Maisy and Isigny sur Mer. It will be from 10 a.m. to noon from drop off to pick up. There is no parking on site but will have parking in town and a turnaround points for vehicles. Participants will register via the program form (not yet created) and bring their own trash bags (heavy duty), gloves, and be responsible for safety.

Map of Gefosse Fonteney - <https://www.google.be/maps/place/G%C3%A9fosse-Fontenay,+Frankrijk/@49.2937722,-1.1672432,12z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x480b7561638f0871:0x40c14484fbcece0!8m2!3d49.3653302!4d-1.083326>

There will be an opportunity for a limited number of Scouts to assist with tulip picking for the ceremony on Sunday. That would involve meeting at Camping Port'land at 09:30 a.m. and going towards Bayeux to work with the local Lion's Club to pick enough tulips for the Sunday ceremony at the American Cemetery. There is a chance if the weather forecast calls for poor weather that the Lion's Club will pick the tulips during the week.

1430-1530 NYLT and Wood Badge reunion and information fair at Vierville Community Hall (address to be provided, across the street from the sea, and the National Guard Monument). Open to all Wood Badgers, NYLT staffers and participants and those interested in our 2019 courses at Gilwell.

1600-1700 Eagle Scout Reception at Vierville Community Hall - Open to all Eagles and the parents of Eagles at the Camporee. We will honor those who will be presented their badges on Omaha Beach later that day.

1700 Messengers of Peace Dinner in Vierville sur Mer, just below the Camping Omaha Beach campground. We will serve a paella dinner (chicken, traditional, and vegetarian) for all those who register for the dinner. The tickets are \$3.50 per person before the camporee and \$8.00 per person at registration (if

available). The meal is sponsored and costs \$15 with rentals and service and food. We encourage you to participate and meet our international scouts and other youth attending the camporee.

For Security Reasons please not bring large backpacks to the meal and the campfire. We have to screen all of them. Diaper bags and things that you must have, please bring them and show them as you enter the area. Thanks!

1915 Campfire on Omaha beach

Highlights:

- Arrow of Light and Webelos to Scout Crossover (Youth should have both) *This is for 2nd year Webelos who are crossing over in the Spring (or have crossed over) 2019 to Boy Scouts.*
- Heroism Awards
- Order of the Arrow Call Out
- Silver Awards for Venturing/Top Leadership Awards partner organizations (Girl Scout Gold Award)
- Remarks from BSA Leadership
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor - *For Eagles who have had their Board of Review in the 75th Anniversary year of 2019*
- Closing

You may want to bring a shelter and set it up on the beach (it will be clear but will need to be taken down before the campfire otherwise the tide will wash it away)

You may want to bring tables and chairs. In other words you can make this as comfortable as you want it to be. Please also invite other scouts to sit and to be with you (with adult permission).

We plan on having trash containers and port-a-potties. It might help to have some garbage bags just in case. I doubt that unless we bring every garbage container in a 30 km radius that we will have enough at each location.

A thought...you may want to consider having a mini-pack/troop/crew recognition ceremony either before the ceremony at Vierville, or Saint Laurent before the campfire on Omaha Beach.

Sunday: April 14, 2019

0900 Closing Ceremony at American Cemetery, starts promptly at 09h00 with everyone already in place

When you arrive, go immediately to the location around the tidal basin at the Cemetery. There will be no parade. Every unit (not just TAC units) should have a flag bearer. The flag bearers will line the area around the Memorial Statue.

Each unit should have one youth member to present the flowers on behalf of their unit. They will be coached by staff when to move forward and what to do. Yes, you

can have an adult take pictures, and if you really need two people to carry the wreath you can do that too.

The ceremony will close with each family or small group receiving a tulip to have a private ceremony at a grave of their choice. We will order approximately 1 flower for every 4 participants. Those will be distributed at the end of the ceremony.

Safe Drive Home

Forms that we will ask you to complete

- Roster of all youth and adults attending in your unit with cell phone number (youth and adult). Mandatory for registration with local police
- Activity Plan of where you plan to visit on Friday and Saturday, so we can plan for parking, traffic, and security
- Number of privately owned vehicles and/or buses that your unit will have (for planning for parking)

Once you register we will send you a document that can be filled in for each participant and placed in the lanyard that you will be issued when your unit coordinator registers.

Area Hotels

Staying in a Hotel - We are glad you are in Normandy and for families without camping gear or even camping gear for April in Normandy it is a really smart move. Please try to stop by the campground and see if there are any changes in the program.

If you do not wish to stay in a hotel then the tourist office in Bayeux (www.bayeux-tourism.com) also lists what are called Chambres de Hôtes. These are bed and breakfasts and can run from very reasonable to expensive.

Websites can help you find a hotel within your budget. The area would be in and around Bayeux, Port-en-Bessin, Vierville and towns in between. Arromanches is not as close as it looks on a map you would need 30 minutes usually to get to sites.

Bayeux

There are a large range of hotels in the town. It is the largest town in the area

Port en Bessin/Bayeux Information is available in English on Bayeux's website at <http://www.bayeux-tourism.com>.

You can also use this site for trip planning:

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/normandy-tourism-109-2.html>

If you do not wish to stay in a hotel then the tourist office in Bayeux (www.bayeux-tourism.com) also lists what are called Chambres de Hôtes. These are bed and breakfasts and can run from very reasonable to expensive.

Program Opportunities for Saturday (Free Time)

Normandy Historic Trail

The Transatlantic Council Normandy Historic Trail is a popular choice for this weekend activity. The trail stretches from the American Cemetery at Colleville sur Mer to the beginning of the cliffs in Vierville along the beach. One may no longer hike on the bluffs overlooking the beach due to dangerous conditions. The hike other than tide conditions is basically flat and can be completed in 2 to 3 hours depending on the age and experience of the people on the hike. (It could take all day too). Although you cannot hike from Vierville to Pointe du Hoc safely, visiting Pointe du Hoc and learning about what happened there is part of the Normandy Historic Trail as the original walking trail was from the American Cemetery to Pointe du Hoc.

Please take the time to visit and read the inscriptions on the many monuments in the area.

Please pay attention to the tide schedule when it is published. Basically the tides work on 4 six hours cycles. At high tide the water comes up to the road and there is no beach. The tide also comes in very fast and not in a straight line. One should not hike either 90 minutes before nor after the published high tide schedule.

There is a Normandy Historic Trail Patch available for purchase for those who complete the trail. The patch costs \$5.00. Patches can be pre-ordered so they are at Normandy. We will have this on our registration form. Even if you are already registered you can purchase the patches by using the form again. It is great to award the patch on Omaha Beach or Pointe du Hoc.

Note about Normandy Historic Trail

When one reads the word "trail" one of course thinks of hiking. For most of the morning on Saturday (and Friday) the trail from Vierville to Colleville is covered by the tide. There is a sidewalk from Vierville to St. Laurent (not far) and towards Colleville (US Cemetery), that one can walk. The trail was originally designed when one could walk the cliffs overlooking the beaches. Those have been closed since 2001 due to erosion. The Normandy Historic Trail is completed by visiting Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery and Pointe de Hoc. This can be done by foot where possible and by vehicle. **It is prohibited to walk on the road from Vierville to Pointe de Hoc. Two cars can barely pass on the road and it is the scene of several pedestrian and vehicle accidents (buses, and cars driving too fast). The important part is the history and learning about what happened on D-Day,**

MUSEUMS and LOCAL AREA TOUR SITES

Things to do

We work with the local tourist bureau on trying to obtain discounts as we have them we will publish them. This list is by no means all-inclusive. There are always museums opening that have wonderful displays or shows a unique part of Normandy and the battle. I visited one in Ouistreham with M. Leon Gautier that showed the work of Colonel Kiefer and the 4th Commando Group from their time in the UK through the landing and the rest of the Battle of Normandy

<https://www.calvados-tourisme.co.uk/en/discover/museums.php>

<http://www.manche-tourism.com/museums>

1st Infantry Re-enactors at Registration Center at Ste. Honorine des Pertes (Aure sur Mer)

Please stop by and see the World War II camp created by a dynamic group traveling from the UK. They plan on interactive displays and is great while you shop at our store or handle registration.

American Cemetery at Colleville sur Mer.

Besides hosting our closing ceremony, there is a wonderful visitor center that is free and provides an overview to World War II and also many personal stories of the men buried at the Cemetery. It is well worth the visit and often times on Sunday with trying to leave, there is not enough time to make the visit.

Pointe de Hoc, Grandcamp-Maisy

This is the site of where the Rangers scaled the cliffs to capture an important site. The cannons on the site could endanger both the Omaha and Utah beach landings as well as battleships providing supporting fire. It was a great feat of skill and courage. Learn about it by visiting the site, and the new Visitors Center.

1)Saint Laurent-sur-la-Mer: Omaha Beach Landing Museum

" les Moulins " - Avenue de la Libération 14710 SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER

Phone: (33) 231 219744

Fax: (33) 231 927280

Email: musee-memorial-omaha@wanadoo.fr

Site: www.musee-memorial-omaha.com

Description: Located actually on Omaha Beach, this 1200 m2 museum has a fine collection of uniforms, arms, vehicles and personal effects.

This museum is directed by the mayor of Saint Laurent and a great friend to our event. Normally there has been free admission to Scouts upon presentation of their badge

Several displays, maps and photos together with a film of witness accounts from American veterans will throw more light on the landings at Omaha Beach and the raid on Pointe du Hoc. Military hardware also includes a landing craft, Sherman Tank and a 155mm Long Tom gun, the only one in Normandy. Open daily from 03-16 to 05-15 : 09h30 - 18h30.

2)Pointe du Hoc and Ranger Museum

Quai Crampon 14450 GRANDCAMP-MAISY

Phone: (33) 231 923351

Fax : (33) 231 229995

Email : GRANDCAMP-MAISY@wanadoo.fr

Description: Location of the 2nd Ranger Battalion scaling rugged cliffs to capture strategic gun emplacements. This was an important element to the success at Normandy as the guns from the Pointe du Hoc could easily reach both Omaha and Utah beaches. You will never forget what courage and bravery, teamwork and training to scale the cliff. There is a wonderful visitor center that opened in 2005. 18 minute video, Models symbolizing the courage of the young American soldiers

involved in its storming, the famous Pointe du Hoc was one of the strongholds in the German fortifications and was taken by force on the morning of 6th June by Colonel Rudder's "Rangers". The site, full of emotive memories, has been completely redeveloped; its impressive appearance bears witness to the intensity of the battles. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 02-15 to 05-15 : 13h00 - 18h00.

3)Arromanches 360 Theater and Arromanches Landing Museum

Chemin du Calvaire - BP 9 14117 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS (360 Theater)

Phone: (33) 231 223030 / 223431

Fax : (33) 231 223355

Email : contact@arromanches360.com

Site : www.arromanches360.com

Description: Theater - This is a 360 degree theater. You will be plunged into the middle of the D-Day action. This theater has received great reviews from visitors to the Normandy area. There are local experts often on site to describe the battle. " The Price of Freedom ", an outstanding film, is shown on 9 screens in the round. A mixture of pictures of the D-Day Landings in 1944 and of Normandy as it is today, you will find this 360° film show an unforgettable experience.

This was a bit too much for my children when they were 10 years old with the booming canons (Vince note)

Two shows per hour at 10 and 40 minutes past the hour. Open 1010 until 1640 hours.

Place du 6 Juin 14117 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS (Landing Museum)

Phone: (33) 231 223431

Fax: (33) 231 926883

Email : info.arromanches@normandy1944.com

Site : www.normandie1944.fr

Museum - The permanent landing exhibition is located in front of the very remains of the extraordinary artificial port. Models, diorama, a film, etc. Open year round, except from 01 to 22 January. Hours: 0900 to 1800, doors close 30 mins before closing time.

4)Sainte Marie du Mont: Utah Beach Landing Museum

Utah Beach 50480 SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT

Phone: (33) 233 715335

Fax: (33) 233 719236

Email: musee@utah-beach.com

Site: www.utah-beach.com

Description: The Normandy Landing Museum opened for the 50th anniversary in 1994. It is an outstanding museum that captures the essence of the D-Day landings. Located opposite the beach on the UTAH site, this museum uses archives and souvenirs to recount the military and engineering exploit of the American landing at UTAH. This museum also has an excellent reputation.

5)Longues Battery

Office de Tourisme Intercommunal Bayeux Bessin 14400 LONGUES-SUR-MER

Phone: (33) 231 214687 or 0231 512828

Fax: (33) 231 512829

Email : longues@bayeux-tourism.com

This German artillery battery, which gave the Allied ships a pounding on the morning of 6th June, is the only coastal battery to have kept its guns, giving an impressive picture of what an Atlantic Wall gun emplacement was really like. Open all year

round. Guided tours from Easter to September. Very impressive (Easy drive toward Arranches) Scouts will love the bunkers/observation posts with guns intact. Open daily year round.

6)Vierville sur-la-Mer: Omaha Exhibition

Phone: (33) 231 224366

Description: This museum was completely refurbished in 1994 and has become one of the premier museums in the area. Open from April to September 1000 to 1200 and 1400 to 1900 hours daily and is right near the campsite Omaha Beach

7)Courseulles-sur-Mer: Juno Beach Museum

Voie des Français Libres - BP 104 14470 COURSEULLES-SUR-MER

Phone: (33) 231 373217

Fax: (33) 231 378369

Email : contact@junobeach.org

Site : www.junobeach.org

Description: The only Canadian Museum on the Landing Beaches, the Juno Beach Centre explains the role of Canada in the Second World War as well an insight into Canadian culture.

8)Caen: Memorial for Peace Museum

Esplanade Général Eisenhower - BP 55026 - 14050 CAEN

Phone: (33) 231 060645

Fax : +33 2 31 06 06 70

Email : resa@memorial-caen.fr

Description: An original idea, the history of our century from 1918 up to today. This trip through history is followed by three audiovisual shows which invite the visitor to reflect upon peace. A completely documented center completes this museum which is unique of its type in France. 20 years of the Memorial of Caen, an exceptional year to relive and understand our History! Between friends or in family, live this unique experience in Europe of a journey which will drive you in the heart of the history of the XXth century. During the school holidays, come to discover our full of life visits , free animations of 45mn in the route for families

9)Benouville: Museum of Airborne Troops & Pegasus Bridge

Avenue du Major Howard 14860 RANVILLE

Phone: (33) 231 781944 / 446254

Fax : (33) 2 1 781942

Email : memorial.pegasus@wanadoo.fr

Site : www.normandy1944.com

Description: The "Pegasus Bridge" Museum retraces the historic hours of D-Day (6 June 1944) and the capture of Benouville bridge by British paratrooper troops. At dawn on 6th June, 1944 the first allied troops arrived in Ranville-Bénouville. You can come and relive their story and learn about their heroic combat to liberate the region.

The museum contains hundreds of authentic objects, all emotive souvenirs, and features the famous Pegasus Bridge which was the first bridge to be liberated on the French mainland. An actual-size model of a glider from that period is also exhibited in the museum's grounds.

10) Sainte Mere Eglise: Museum of Airborne Troops & Church

Phone: (33) 233 414135

Description: The town of Sainte Mere Eglise was liberated by US Airborne troops in the early hours of 6 June 1944. The town church was made memorable in the film "The Longest Day" by Actor Red Buttons who portrayed the Airborne trooper whose parachute was suspended by the church steeple. (The paratrooper survived the ordeal and John Steele was a frequent visitor until his death at Ste Mere Eglise).

11) Bayeux: Battle of Normandy 1944 Memorial Museum

Boulevard Fabian Ware 14400 BAYEUX

Phone: (33) 231 514690

Fax: (33) 231 514691

Email: bataillenormandie@mairie-bayeux.fr

Description: Retraces the military and human history of the Battle of Normandy from 6 June to 22 August 1944. Located in the first town in France to be liberated, this museum presents entirely new displays to offer a better understanding of this decisive action in the liberation of Western Europe. Open 16 March to 31 May and 01 September to 15 October from 0930 to 1230 and 1400 to 1830 hours. Summer hours: Open 01 June to 31 August from 0900 to 1900 hours. Winter hours: Open 16 October to 15 March from 1000 to 1230 and 1400 to 1800 hours.

12) Quistreham: Commando 4 Museum* MUSEUM with Leon Gautier, Legion d'Honneur and Honorary Chair

Place Alfred Thomas 14150 OUISTREHAM

Phone: (33) 231 966310

Description: Museum dedicated to the French Commando Unit that retook the seaside town of Quistreham. The museum retraces the epic story of the first commandos to land on Sword Beach at dawn on 6th June, including the Franco-British commando and French Commandant Philippe Kieffer.

13) Saint-Come-Du-Mont - Dead Man's Corner Museum

2 Village de l'Amont 50500 SAINT-CÔME-DU-MONT

Phone: (33) 233 420042

Fax: (33) 233 420042

Email: carentan.101@orange.fr

Site: www.paratrooper-museum.org

Description: At the point where the men of the 101st Airborne Division encountered the Green Devils (the German paratroopers of the 6th Fallschirmjager Regiment) for the first time you can get an insight to the horror of the battle for Carentan on the site which has remained largely intact.

14) Radar Museum

Route de Basly 14440 DOUVRES-LA-DÉLIVRANDE

Phone: +33 231377443 / 0231362424

Fax: +33 2 31 36 24 25

Description: The first museum devoted to the history of radar in the former German radar station at Douvres, where two remarkably preserved bunkers and an original

layout help you to understand the role of radar and how the technique was developed. Open from 1/07 to 31/08

15) Musee du 6 Juin 44

Place Fulbert-de-Beina 61300 L'AIGLE

Tel. : +33 2 33 84 16 16

Fax : +33 2 33 84 94 94

Email : patrimoine@ville-laigle.fr

Site : www.ville-laigle.fr

Description: This museum plunges you into the hard realities of the Second World War via its presentation of the decisive events of the Battle of Normandy and full-size wax models using actual voices.

16) ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS: Disembarkment Museum

Description: Located right in front of the actual vestiges of the artificial harbour (Mulberry B), this museum is devoted to the incredible feat of technology achieved by the British in building and setting up the artificial harbour. Models, a diorama, video show.

17) Bayeux: Centre Guillaume le Conquerant - Bayeux Tapestry Museum

Rue Nesmond

Phone: (33) 231 512550

Description: From a different era and different battle, the Bayeux tapestry is perhaps the most famous in the world. The 230 foot long tapestry depicts the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Woven by the women of the Norman court, it is a wonder of early medieval Europe. Audio guided tour in six languages.

18) Omaha Museum, Colleville

This is a relatively new museum just across the street from the traffic circle that leads to the US Cemetery. It has an impressive collection of World War II weapons, uniforms etc.

Mont St. Michel This is one of the wonders of the world and remains an impressive site. It is a full day trip with two hours (by car) travel in both directions. It is a memorable experience and if you have extra time in Normandy, it is well worth the journey. I have found with walking through the "town" and to and from the actual site that it is a full day. However, if you visit fast you could turn off and visit Utah Beach on the way or returning from Mont St. Michel.

Unit Courts of Honor/Pack Meeting Ceremonies

Some units have conducted awards ceremonies, courts of honor, within the unit during the day at a location that is special to them. This practice is highly encouraged