



## THE SUMMIT BECHTEL FAMILY NATIONAL SCOUT RESERVE FACT SHEET

### Overview

Located in the New River Gorge region of West Virginia, the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve (or, SBR, for Summit Bechtel Reserve), sits on more than 14,000 acres of forested mountains spanning parts of Fayette and Raleigh counties. The facility shares more than 13 miles of border with the New River Gorge National River and its 70,000-plus acres of managed wilderness.

Through its one-of-a-kind facilities and intense outdoor programs, the Summit Bechtel Reserve takes young men and women to the limits of what they think they can do. The site is the home of the National Jamboree, which was founded in 1937 and is held every four years, as well as the James C. Justice National Scout Camp, the John D. Tickle National Training and Leadership Center, the Rex W. Tillerson Leadership Center and the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base. The BSA's three other national high-adventure bases are the Florida Sea Base in Islamorada, Florida; Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico; and Northern Tier in Ely, Minnesota.

The Summit Bechtel Reserve serves as the site of the 24th World Scout Jamboree, which is being jointly hosted by the three North American National Scout Associations: Scouts Canada, Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Boy Scouts of America.

### History

Plans for SBR began in 2007, when BSA leadership began looking for a new home for the National Jamboree. After reviewing more than 80 sites in 28 states, the BSA chose the property in West Virginia in 2009. The Summit project was initiated through a generous donation of \$50 million from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the Stephen Bechtel Fund. Large gifts from Jim Justice, the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust, Ed and Jeanne Arnold, Terrence and Peggy Dunn, J. Brett Harvey, the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation, Mike and Gillian Goodrich, and Philip Condit helped build much of the reserve, as well as CONSOL Energy and AT&T. [Many other donations](#) have been contributed as the facility has grown.

### High-Adventure Activities

Since the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base opened in the summer of 2014, high-adventure at the Summit Bechtel Reserve has added a new dimension to the Scouting experience for thousands of youth members. The base offers 11 programs within three program categories:

- The [Summit Experience program](#) is a seven-day/six-night program consisting of half-day, introductory-level experiences at each of the nine SBR high-adventure venues, as well as a half-day service project.
- [Focused Programs](#) allow Scouts and Venturers to dig deeper into those high-adventure activities that interest them the most, while giving them time to experience other elective activities.

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Adventure opportunities include:

- [The River](#) – Whitewater kayaking and rafting on both the Upper New River and the legendary Lower New with its world-renowned Class III — Class V whitewater.
  - [Helmets & Harnesses](#) – Climbing, rappelling, and more at the largest and most extensive man-made climbing, challenge course, and canopy tour venue in the world.
  - [The Marksman](#) – Shooting sports and archery programs ranging from trap shooting and compact clays to 3-D archery targets and sporting arrows, where participants take aim at moving targets.
  - [Tires & Trails](#) – Mountain biking on 36 miles of forested trails.
  - [Berms & Bars](#) – BMX biking and at one of the world’s largest facilities.
  - [Ramps & Rails](#) – Skateboarding at The Park, which features introductory, transition, street, and bowls sections, as well as a training area with mini ramps, banks, quarter pipes, and a foam pit for practicing aerial tricks.
- [Advanced Programs](#) provide the opportunity to reach advanced skill levels in a single high-adventure skill set, including advanced climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and photography.

All Summit high-adventure programs are centered on the Summit’s core mission areas: adventure, sustainability, leadership, and service.

### **Sustainability**

For more than a century, the BSA has been a leader in conservation and sustainability, which balances environmental stewardship, economics, and people to ensure what we are doing today can be sustained into the future. The Summit Sustainability Pledge program includes the Sustainability Treehouse — a self-contained structure demonstrating sustainable practices — and Reach the Summit, a guided hike focusing on Leave No Trace principles. This one-of-a-kind Scouting facility has been built with sustainability front and center:

- *Energy.* The Summit Bechtel Reserve employs a number of solar- and geothermal-powered systems. Deep beneath the site’s Goodrich Lake, there are heat exchangers that help manage the temperature of buildings and water.
- *Materials.* Wherever possible, SBR relies on reusable materials, which will help keep the jamboree from filling up local landfills.
- *Preservation.* A full 10 percent of the Summit has been dedicated as a nature preserve. The jamboree isn’t only a place to meet Scouts from all over; Scouts just might meet some of their favorite wildlife since we’re preserving their habitat.
- *Resources.* The Summit is built to use less water, to reuse water as much as possible, and to filter and clean water as it goes back into the environment.
- *Transportation.* The Summit was designed for Scouts, not cars or trucks. Thus, walking and biking are the primary modes of transportation at the jamboree, while the noise and emissions reductions will also make the jamboree safer.

### **More Information**

To learn more about the Summit, please visit [www.summitbsa.org](http://www.summitbsa.org).