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World Scout Jamboree Will Be Wild and Wonderful

W. Scott Sorrels

Co-Chair, 2019 World Scout Jamboree
Jamboree Chair, Boy Scouts of America

W. Scott Sorrels serves as Co-Chair for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, and as Jamboree Chair for the Boy Scouts of America. He is an attorney practicing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Sorrels is a recipient of the Boy Scouts' 2011 Silver Buffalo Award for service to youth at a national level.

With nearly 30 years of experience in corporate investigations, securities litigation, regulatory and enforcement matters, Mr. Sorrels also represents officers and directors at public and private companies and principals at financial institutions, accounting and law firms who face U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) enforcement actions, Department of Justice investigations and criminal prosecutions and complex civil litigation.

Frequently engaged by audit or special committees representing the board of directors at public or private companies, Mr. Sorrels investigates Private Securities Litigation Reform Act violations, whistleblower allegations, financial reporting fraud, breaches of fiduciary duty, and officer and director misconduct.

He founded and has co-chaired the Georgia Institute for Continuing Legal Education advanced seminar program "Securities Litigation and Regulatory Practice" for the past 20 years.

Mr. Sorrels received his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University.

Scouts, from every corner of the world, will soon have the experience of a lifetime at The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia. With The Summit, the Scouts have created a world-class, high-adventure camp; the State of West Virginia has received an economic boost; and the world has an up-close view of everything wild and wonderful the Mountain State has to offer.

The Summit will host the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. That means that, for the first time in 52 years, the global Scouting extravaganza will be held in the United States. (The 1967 World Jamboree was held in Farragut State Park in Idaho.) It also marks the first time since the 1983 World Jamboree in Calgary, Canada, that a North American site has been host. Though the Jamboree will be held in the United States, the selection isn't just a win for the Boy Scouts of America. The 2019 bid was a joint effort among three Scout organizations: the BSA, Scouts Canada, and Asociación de Scouts de México.

The World Jamboree is aimed at 14- to 17-year-old Scouts, who attend as groups called contingents. These contingents are encouraged to meet other Scouts from different cultures, religions and countries, ultimately learning that strangers can become friends. The event is supported by thousands of international adult volunteers.

The Summit, located near Beckley, West Virginia, is the BSA's fourth national, high-adventure base, and it already has been named the permanent home of future national Scout jamborees. The first National Boy Scout Jamboree was held on the site in 2013. Located in the New River Gorge region of West Virginia, The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve sits on 10,600 acres of forested mountains adjacent to more than 70,000 acres of the New River Gorge National River area.



News that the site will host the 24th World Jamboree is a big boost for the base – and for Scouts and Scouters who will help welcome the world.

Approximately 220 countries and territories in the world have Scout associations, and youth and adults from these countries and territories will have the opportunity to attend the 2019 World Scout Jamboree and experience the natural beauty of West Virginia.

Scouts who attend the 2019 World Scout Jamboree at The Summit will, for the first time at a World Jamboree, be able to participate in whitewater rafting, rock climbing and mountain biking, in addition to the unique cultural event that is a World Scout Jamboree.

The Summit Center, which features 100 acres of exhibits, zip lines, BMX courses, a skateboard plaza, ropes courses, a 3,500-foot boardwalk and more than 60 climbing, rappelling and bouldering stations, is also home to the Sustainability Treehouse. Standing 126 feet tall and featuring 4,000 square feet of



The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve is located in Fayette and Raleigh Counties and shares a five-mile boundary with the New River Gorge National River.

interactive exhibits, the treehouse serves as the centerpiece of Scouting's commitment to leave the world a better place.

The Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base features mountain biking, shooting sports and zip lines, in addition to the monster whitewater rafting and world-class climbing offered by the region's natural landscape. Programs at this adventure base will include The Summit Experience, which will give first-time visitors a chance to experience all The Summit's high-adventure areas.

Adventure Valley consists of 200 acres of world-class climbing, mountain biking and zip lining. Representing one component of the adventure program for the jamboree, Adventure Valley is a core activity area of The Summit's ongoing high-adventure programs. Adventure Valley will feature The Rocks, one of the largest man-made climbing facilities in the world; The Ropes, a network of zip lines, balance beams, cargo nets and other challenges, facilitates the development of self-confidence, teamwork, physical fitness and communication skills; The Zip, a 5.45-mile area of zip lines that helps The Summit rank among the top sites in the world for total mileage; and Low Gear and High Gear, two mountain biking adventure areas that provide more than 36 miles of varied mountain biking trails.

Thrasher Mountain is home to The Park, The Trax, The Pools and The Cloud. The Park, at more than 100,000 square feet, ranks as one of the largest outdoor skateboard facilities in the world. The Trax, designed and constructed by the designer for ESPN's X Games, is one of the largest BMX facilities in the world, with more than 273,000 square feet of outdoor BMX areas. The Pools' aboveground swimming pools and lakes were the locations for water activities at this year's Jamboree, and The Cloud held activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

West Virginia and The Summit eagerly look forward to welcoming the world of Scouting to The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in 2019. ▽