

SEQUATCHIE VALLEY INSTITUTE AT MOONSHADOW Information for Scout Leaders

Every day is Earth Day at the Sequatchie Valley Institute at Moonshadow, a community that is a model of environmental sustainability. Scouts of all ages are welcome at Moonshadow, where technology, ecology, biology, art and sustainable living come together. SVI, with 350 acres of forests and trails, edible landscapes integrated into the forest ecosystem, and solar-powered hand-crafted structures built of native materials, is a living laboratory. Children and adults learn about the natural history of the forest, discover how to grow their own food, and find out how people can live a simple, fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle.

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES: Plan for travel time (1 hour from Chattanooga) and about 2 to 5 hrs at Moonshadow. At this time, we prefer to limit numbers to about 30 per group. Tours include a guided 1.5 mile forest hike, a look at the solar structures, a walk through the gardens and orchards, and visiting with the llamas. Bring lunches and drinks. Scouts will carry all their trash away with them. Sustainable packaging is encouraged. After lunch, we will facilitate badge-earning activities with leaders. Please call ahead to arrange specific activities. We also have a crafts gallery with crafts made by our staff. Prices for items start at \$3.00.

BADGES: Each Scout will receive our official Sequatchie Valley Institute badge. We can arrange for other badge activities as desired. Please contact us for specifics.

COSTS: Cost of the complete tour plus afternoon activities is \$8-10/scout including the SVI badge. Leaders are free. Donation of \$5 from accompanying parents is appreciated.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS: We can arrange overnight low-impact camping trips for groups of 12 or less. Call for details

WHERE ARE WE LOCATED? The Sequatchie Valley Institute (SVI) is located 18 miles north of I-24, just off Rt. 28 near Cartwright, between Whitwell and Dunlap. Travel times are about 1 hour from most locations in Chattanooga, 2-1/2 hours from Knoxville and 2-1/2 hours from Nashville. See below for details.

PREPARATION: Scouts will be walking on forest trails and should wear long pants and walking shoes (clothes may get dirty!). A backpack will be useful for a water bottle and journal. They may wish to bring insect repellent, hats and rain jackets if the weather is bad. We may reschedule you if it's pouring! They will need a notepad and pencil for badge activities and to make a journal of the day's activities. Please divide your troop into groups of around 8-12 before your arrival.

ARRIVAL: On arrival at SVI, scouts will become part of a "tribe" with their own forest guide. Tribes will be given the name of a forest tree, and will be given a wooden name tag. A naturalist guide will then accompany each tribe up the forest trails. **HIKING IS FUN!** There will be numerous stops along the way for observations and discussions (and rests!). These will include:

*Get acquainted with Hicks Creek at the parking area: What is a "ford"?

*Walk across the bridge high above the creek. It's built from recycled guard rails.

*Visit Grandmother's round house--it's heated by the sun!

*How was coal mined on this mountain? Find out how coal was transported down the incline rail. What is coal used for?

*Observe the trees--find your tribe's tree. How big are they? Are there any holes in them? What lives in the holes? Why are the pine trees dying?

*Would you want to build your own road? How do we prevent erosion on the roads and trails? Why is the carpet out in the woods?

*What birds, insects, or other animals do you see?

*What did the North American Indians find in the forest for food, building, and medicine?

MOONSHADOW, A HOUSE RUN BY THE SUN: Tribes will then arrive at this home and office run completely by electricity from the sun. Moonshadow, built by hand from the rocks and logs of the mountainside, is passive solar, which allows heating by the sun in winter. Observations will include:

*Where does the electricity come from? A model house with a tiny solar panel will demonstrate the process of photovoltaics and passive solar design.

*Look at the solar panels. What makes them move?

*Where do we get electricity when the sun doesn't shine?

*Would you like to carry wood for the fireplaces in winter?

*The logs and rocks used to build Moonshadow were all carried from the surrounding land. Would you like to do that much work for a house?

*The water comes by gravity from a spring! How does that work?

*What does "sustainable living" mean? Do you live sustainably?

GARDENS FOR KIDS: Tribes will walk through the gardens, discovering new smells, tastes, and colors in our "edible landscape"--yes, you can touch and smell everything! (These activities will vary depending on the season, although there is always something happening.)

*How do bugs fit into the garden? Are they always bad? Look for good bugs.

*Trace the web of life in the gardens.

*How do lizards and frogs help us?

*Why are there so many flowers?

*Take home a sample of your favorite sweet-smelling herb.

ANIMALS OF MOONSHADOW: Learn how to pet the llamas. Look for lizards around the houses.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: Ponds, both large and small, provide homes for many creatures. Watch for dragonflies and frogs.

MUD DAUBER: Every kid's dream is this fairy story house built of mud. Get muddy as you learn how to build with mud!

LUNCH TIME: Take your own sack lunch for a peaceful surrounded by ancient trees. We hope you didn't bring a lot of packaged items. Be sure to take home your waste to reuse or recycle.

BACK HOME: Don't forget what you did! Write down your experiences in your journal. What did you learn that you can use at home? How could you make your own home and your own life more self-sustaining and less damaging to the natural world? Can you design a solar house? Try it!

For more information, contact:

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HOW TO GET HERE: From Dunlap: Take Rt. 28 toward Whitwell. Travel 7 miles to Cartwright Loop, just past a small store, and before Cartwright Automotive. Turn right on Cartwright Loop and go 0.7 mi. to Box # 1233. We will have an SVI sign at the mailbox. Turn in and park. You will be met.

From Jasper: Take Rt. 28 toward Dunlap. Proceed north on Hwy 28 (you will pass through Whitwell). About 8 miles past Whitwell, just after the Sequatchie County sign, watch for Cartwright Automotive, a white and red building, on the left. Turn left just after that on Cartwright Loop. Go 0.7 miles to Box #1233 and an SVI sign. Turn in and park. You will be met.

From North Chattanooga: Take Hwy 111 from Soddy-Daisy to Dunlap. Turn left at the ramp exit and drive through Dunlap. At the last light, take the right fork, which is Rt. 28 (passes by the schools and BiLo). Travel 7 miles to Cartwright Loop, just past a small store, and before Cartwright Automotive. Turn right on Cartwright Loop and go 0.7 mi. to Box # 1233. We will have an SVI sign at the mailbox. Turn in and park. You will be met.

From East Chattanooga, downtown, and UTC: You may come via Interstate 24 toward Nashville. Take exit 155 to Dunlap. Proceed north on Hwy 28 for 18 miles (you will pass through Whitwell). Just after the Sequatchie County sign, watch for Cartwright Automotive, a white and red building, on the left. Turn left just after that on Cartwright Loop. Go 0.7 miles to Box #1233 and an SVI sign. Turn in and park. You will be met.

The Sequatchie Valley Institute is a non-profit organization whose mission is to offer society an opportunity to experience and learn about living in harmony with nature by providing:

- a dynamic model residence and learning center
- education, research, art, land conservation and restoration; and
- a vision for attaining a sustainable future

