

Pack 1530 "Get Out and About" Den Activities Idea List - Local

LOCAL	COMMENTS	CONTACT INFORMATION (URL OR PHONE # FOR MORE INFO)
Air and Space Museums	Both Downtown and Dulles are outstanding museums -- well laid out and full of great exhibits. Dulles museum has a parking fee (\$15).	http://www.nasm.si.edu/
Apple Picking	Stribling Orchard has pick-your-own apples and peaches, market store, bakery and historical buildings. Hartland Orchard is nearby, with pick-your-own raspberries, cherries and blueberries, in addition to slightly fewer varieties of apples and peaches. Butler's Orchard is a great option in Germantown, MD, for apples and raspberries.	http://www.striblingorchard.com/ http://www.hartlandorchard.com/ http://www.butlersorchard.com/
Billy Goat Trail Hike	A great outing in Potomac, MD, for spring or fall. Lots of variety, with trails in woods, over rocks, and along the river. Incredible views.	http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/misc-locations/billy-goat-trail,1025763.html
Bureau of Engraving and Printing	A top tourist site in DC...see money being made! Open M-F, except Federal holidays and week between Christmas and New Year's Day.	http://www.moneyfactory.gov/ http://www.moneyfactory.gov/tours/washingtondcours.html
Burke Lake Park	888 acres w/a 218-acre lake -- fishing, boating, rowboat rental, tour boat rides, camping, a miniature train, a carousel, outdoor volleyball courts, an ice cream parlor/snack bar, picnic areas with grills, playgrounds, ultimate Frisbee course, and miniature golf.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelake/
Carlyle House Historic Park	Located in Old Town Alexandria across from City Hall. You can take a guided tour of this 250-year old mansion.	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park
Cherry Blossoms	Seasonal: Late March-early April. A great afternoon downtown, including a picnic lunch on the Mall. Beware the crowds!	http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/
Claude Moore Colonial Farm	Great living history programs run by the park service. Good demonstrations of pre-Revolutionary War farm life and some hands-on activities.	http://www.nps.gov/clmo/
Colvin Run Mill	A working mill with living history shows. Site includes four buildings on 36 acres and offers a wide range of interpretive programs and demonstrations for people of all ages. Guided tours of mill and Miller's house are offered six days a week throughout the year. Scout programs for Bear Cub Scouts by reservation (703-759-2771).	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/scouting.htm
Cox Farms	A nice getaway, particularly in the fall for the haunted hayride, slides, rope swings, and corn maze spread across 90 acres.	http://www.coxfarms.com/
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	A good local getaway to see a lot of nature and a little history. Park includes Walney Visitor Center (natural and cultural exhibits), Middlegate Complex, Cabell's Mill, Walney Pond, historic ruins, hiking trails and picnic grounds. Organized Forester and Naturalist programs for Webelos. Contact Anthony Bulmer (Naturalist/Historian Senior Interpreter) to set up a conservation service project, such as spreading new mulch on trails .	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl/scouts.htm Anthony Bulmer: 703-631-0013, anthony.bulmer@fairfaxcounty.gov
Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Scout Programs	FCPA has many programs designed to help scouts complete rank advancement achievement requirements at 9 different locations: Cub Run RECenter, Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, Frying Pan Park, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Green Spring Gardens Park, Huntley Meadows Park, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Riverbend Park, and Sully Historic Site. Special classes can be arranged on request, with minimum of 8 boys.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-scouting.htm
Fishing Derbies	New Horizon Bass Anglers (NHBA) and Potomac Bassmasters of Virginia (PBV) sponsor free fishing derbies during the summer. NHBA has derbies at Lake Fairfax. PBV has a derby at Burke Lake. These are great events for Cub Scouts to work on their fishing belt loops or pins. There is plenty of angling assistance. Rods and reels are available, at no charge, for those who don't have one. Bait is provided for free. Licenses are not needed for the kids.	http://www.nhbayouthfoundation.org/derbies.html http://www.potomacbassmasters.com/childrens.htm
Frying Pan Park	A good local getaway to see a lot of nature and animals. Park includes a working farm, wagon rides, country store, playground, horse barns, equestrian center, and a little history. Organized scout programs with pre-paid reservations.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/scouts.htm

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George Mason Athletics	Regular scout nights with discounted tickets. Groups ordering 20+ tickets can get a discount.	http://gomason.cstv.com/ http://gomason.cstv.com/tickets/2010Promotions.html http://gomason.cstv.com/tickets/09-group-tickets.html http://gomason.cstv.com/auto_pdf/p_hotos/s_chools/gema/sports/m-soccer/auto_pdf/ScoutDaySoccer
Glen Echo Park	Ride the restored 1921 carousel. Visit the puppet theatre, playground and enjoy other kids activities.	http://www.nps.gov/glec/ http://www.glenechopark.org/
Great Falls Park	There are some incredible views and good hikes along the river. Bring a picnic lunch too. Junior Ranger program available.	http://www.nps.gov/grfa/ http://www.nps.gov/grfa/forkids/
Gunston Hall	Historic home and plantation of George Mason. Tours and activities. Plantation Detective Patch Program for Cub Scouts (reservations required).	http://www.gunstonhall.org/ http://www.gunstonhall.org/education/scouts.html
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park	In Fairfax. Idea #1: Outdoor challenge course and zip wire. Boys love it, but only for 5th graders (Webelos II). Idea #2: Environmental education (all ages)	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock_overlook http://www.adventurelinks.net/
Hidden Oaks Nature Center	Hands-on nature center, trails, and wooded play area. Offers programs to satisfy Wolf, Bear and Webelos achievements. Just off Beltway (Exit for Route 236)	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks/scouts.htm
Home Depot	Home Depot has been a great supporter of Cub Scouts. If you call them, they will do a hands-on workshop for the boys on the first Saturday of the month, first thing in the morning.	http://www.homedepot.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/THDStoreFinder?List=List&zip=22124&distance_1=10
Ice Skating	Always a great afternoon getaway for cubs. Reston Town Center has ice skating in its central pavilion. There are also rinks in Fairfax (Fairfax Ice Arena) and Reston (SkateQuest).	http://www.restontowncenter.com/pavilion.html http://www.fairfaxicearena.com/ http://www.skatequest.com/
International Spy Museum	Definitely one for the older boys, but it is a very good museum. The self-guided nature of the museum and moderate crowd size means you need extra adults to keep an eye on the boys. Discounted tickets, special scout day and overnight programs available for scouts.	http://spymuseum.org/ http://spymuseum.org/groups/scouts Call 202-654-0943
Krispy Kreme	Krispy Kreme? Yep. At the Alexandria store on Richmond Highway, you can arrange a tour early in the morning and see how the donut factory works and get a sample hot off the machines!	http://www.krispykreme.com/ http://maps.google.com/maps/place?cid=10635733069668571827&q=Krispy+Kreme+alexandria 703-768-1002
Lake Accotink	493 acres w/a 55-acre lake, wetlands and streams. Canoe, rowboat and pedal boat rentals. Fishing, tour-boat rides, mini golf course, antique carousel, snack bar, pavilion shelters (reservations encouraged), picnic areas with grills, playground, 4-mile hiking/biking trail and 2 open play fields.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/
Leesburg	Rich in history and small town charm, Leesburg is a nice afternoon getaway. Closer than you may think (take the Greenway). Consider taking the ferry at White's Ferry for an unusual diversion.	http://www.leesburgva.gov/
Madame Tussauds Wax Museum	Located at 1001 F Street NW, Washington, DC. Group rates for 15 or more: \$11.50/child and \$13.50/adult. To schedule your group for a visit, contact the group sales department at 888-923-0334 or groupsales@madametussaudsny.com.	http://www.madametussauds.com/washington/ http://www.madametussauds.com/Washington/Planyourvisit/Groups/Group/
The Mall and Museums	Museum of Natural History, Museum of American History, Air and Space Museum, National Archives, Supreme Court, White House, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Capitol, Union Station.	http://www.nps.gov/nama/ http://www.si.edu/ http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/dc-visitors-guide.html
Manassas National Battlefield Park	Preserves the sites of the First and Second Battles of Manassas. Offers a wide array of activities, scenic vistas, historic sites and walking trails to interest the casual visitor or true Civil War history buff. Visitor Center includes museum, bookstore and orientation film. Scouts can earn a patch (in gift shop) by completing activity sheet.	http://www.nps.gov/mana/
Maryland Athletics	Scout Days with discounted tickets for Scouts and their families.	http://www.umterps.com/marketing/football-promo.html http://www.umterps.com/tickets/baskbl-group-tickets.html Call 301-314-7014 or e-mail mdsportsmarketing@umd.edu
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens	95 acres of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections. Gardens include walking trails, lakes, and a picnic area.	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens

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Mini Golf	There are a number of mini golf places to go -- Centreville, Reston, etc. The kids cannot get enough. Recommend Woody's (Perils of the Lost Jungle) on Route 7 in Herndon. Mini golf is also available at Algonkian Regional Park, Upton Hill Regional Park, Cameron Run Regional Park, and Oak Marr Rec Center.	http://woodysgolf.com/perils-of-the-lost-jungle/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/minigolf/ http://www.nvrpa.org/park/main_site/content/search_by_activity
Mount Vernon (George Washington's Home)	Packed with history and natural beauty. New education center is great for kids! Free for uniformed scouts between Nov. 1 and Washington's birthday (3rd Monday of February). Call ahead to participate in wreath laying ceremony. Follow scouting trail for patches/pins (available in gift shop). George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill located 3 miles away.	http://www.mountvernon.org/ http://www.mountvernon.org/visit/plan/index.cfm/pid/41/
National Building Museum	A unique museum in DC, with different events all the time. They have specific Cub Scout activities designed to help qualify the boys for certain achievements. Online prepaid registration is required for Scout Activity Days. Free Discover Engineering Family Day is held in February.	http://www.nbm.org/ http://www.nbm.org/families-kids/scouts-and-youth-groups/ http://www.nbm.org/families-kids/scouts-and-youth-groups/cub-scout-programs.html
National Children's Museum	New museum opens at National Harbor in 2013. Small Launch Zone location cannot accommodate organized groups of 5 or more.	http://www.ncm.museum/
National Geographic Museum	Another opportunity unique to our area. A small (read manageable with a group of kids) sort of natural history museum. Photographic exhibits and changing interactive exhibits.	http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/locations/center/museum/ http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/locations/city/washingtondc/
National Zoo	The zoo has many activities and programs, but it is always good for a day trip. The Metro goes right there. Admission is free. Scout Snooze is an overnight (6 PM-9:30 AM) camping program on Lion/Tiger Hill for children 6 and up. One adult per scout group must have a FONZ household membership. No more than 20 participants are allowed per overnight.	http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ActivitiesAndEvents/Activities/ShoreRoar/ScoutSnooze.cfm
Newseum	Junior Reporter package for scouts, includes admission, activity guide, patch, certificate and Be A TV Reporter ticket. Must be reserved 2 weeks prior to event date. \$20/participant with minimum of 10 people.	http://www.newseum.org/ http://www.newseum.org/education/special-offerings/scouts-and-youth-groups/
Oakton H.S. Athletics - Football Game	You could do the Redskins, but for Cubs, the Oakton Cougars home town team is just as good, and it costs just a few bucks and is 10 minutes away!	http://oaktonathletics.org/
Old Town Alexandria	There are many historic places to visit in Alexandria -- Old Town, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Christ Church and Cemetery, Apothecary Museum, The Lyceum, Gadsby's Tavern, waterfront, etc. Lots of ice cream parlors too.	http://oha.alexandriava.gov/ http://visitalexandriava.com/
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail	Great views on C&O Canal trail [Roosevelt Island to Beltway], which is usually not too crowded.	http://www.nps.gov/pohe/
Potomac Nationals Baseball	We like this getaway because it is lots of fun for the boys, and it is easy to keep an eye on them. Be sure to exercise the Den before you go to your seats! Scheduled Scout Nights include a pre-game scout parade, post-game fireworks, a movie after the game, and chance to camp out on the field.	http://www.potomacnationals.com/
Potomac Overlook Regional Park	Nature center, nature trail, hikes and programs. Located in Arlington.	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook
Prince William Forest Park	15,000 acres of forestland, creeks, and nature walks (and longer hikes if you want). Just 30 miles south of DC on I-95. Fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife watching. Junior Ranger program available.	http://www.nps.gov/prwi/
Riverbend Park	Riverfront park in Great Falls. Forest, meadows, and ponds. Hiking trails, visitor center, picnic area, row boat rentals, fishing rod rentals. Prepaid reservations are required for all scout programs. Call 703-759-9018 to register.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/scouting.htm
Runnymede Park	58-acre community nature park. Walk along Sugarland Run Stream. Look for wildlife. Located at 195 Herndon Parkway in Herndon.	http://www.visitherndon.com/attractions.html#parks http://www.restonpaths.com/Runnymede/ Nature walks available by calling 703-435-6800, ext. 2113.

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Sky Meadows State Park	Offers a peaceful getaway on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Activities include hiking, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, primitive camping, and nature and history programs.	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/sky.shtml
Sully Historic Site	An oasis of the past, completed in 1799 by Richard Bland Lee. House, original outbuildings, representative slave quarter and gardens. Guided tours highlight early 19th century life. Organized programs for Webelos, Bear, Wolves and Tiger Scouts can be reserved.	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/ http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/scouting.htm
Temple Hall Farm Regional Park	Nearly 300 acre working farm, just outside Leesburg. Can pre-arrange group tours and have the kids feed and care for the animals and do a little gardening.	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/temple_hall_farm To schedule a group program, call 703-352-5900.
Theodore Roosevelt Island	A surprisingly nice park right in the heart of the metro area. (You've passed it 1000 times -- it's next to the Roosevelt Bridge!) Great hike through hills and marshes (boardwalks), plus a little history of the island. (It used to be the place to party in DC!) Only accessible from northbound lanes of GW Memorial Parkway.	http://www.nps.gov/this/
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Visitors Center	Who'd have thought maps could be so much fun! At the USGS Visitors Center in Reston, you can find maps that display where earthquakes occur, political maps, locations of volcanoes around the world, topographic maps, maps with shipping lanes, etc. You can also find handouts on how to read map symbols (schools, churches, boundaries, trails, rivers, swamps, etc.) They have a great education program and are a resource for teachers everywhere (not to mention kids doing research!) A great place for scouts to work on their Geology elective. Guided tours should be scheduled in advance.	http://www.usgs.gov/visitors/ http://www.usgs.gov/visitors/scouts.asp For more information or to schedule a tour call 64-VISIT (703-648-4748).
W&OD Railroad Trail	Pick a section and bike the distance you want. Nice to end up in Herndon or Vienna where there are convenient ice cream shops!	http://www.nvrpa.org/park/w_od_railroad
Walker Nature Education Center	The Nature Center is located on 72-acres of hardwood forest, bisected by Glade Drive. Features include: Nature House, two miles of loop trails, native plant trail, picnic pavilion and tables, campfire ring, outdoor displays and interpretive signs, demonstration gardens and meadows, pond, Glade Stream Valley, Snakeden Branch stream's entrance to 44-acre Lake Audubon. If bringing a group to the nature center, please call ahead to arrange your visit. The Nature Center conducts a variety of on-site and outreach programs for people of all ages, including Scout programs for Forester and Naturalist.	http://www.reston.org/ParksRecreationEvents/Nature/WalkerNatureEducationCenter/GeneralInformation/tabid/645/Default.aspx http://www.reston.org/ParksRecreationEvents/Nature/NaturePrograms/ScoutYouthGroups/tabid/453/Default.aspx
Washington National Cathedral	An architectural gem. Stone-carving workshop in the crypt. Climb the 333 steps inside the central tower. See a movie and pictures of how the cathedral was built. Groups of 13 or more require a reservation.	http://www.nationalcathedral.org/visit/ http://www.nationalcathedral.org/visit/moreToDo.shtml
Washington Post	Guided tours, for groups of 10-25, of printing plant in Springfield, VA are available by appointment only. (One of the few manufacturing facilities in the region.)	http://postfun.washingtonpost.com/post/entry/plant-tour-reservations http://www.washpost.com/gen_info/quickfacts/map_springfield.shtml http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGSvadNt7g
Washington Nationals/Wizards/Capitals Harlem Globetrotters Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus	Take the den (with parents to help corral the kids) to a professional sports game at Nationals Park, Verizon Center or Patriot Center. The Nationals host Scout Days where Scouts receive patches and discounted seats. Watch the Capitals practice at Kettler Capitals Icomplex, on the roof of the Ballston Commons Mall. The Harlem Globetrotters usually play games in early March. The circus usually has shows in March and April.	http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/ Contact Bree Parker (202) 640-7646 or bree.parker@nationals.com for Nationals tickets. http://www.nba.com/wizards/ http://capitals.nhl.com/ http://capitals.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=42973 http://www.verizoncenter.com/tickets/group_request.shtml Contact Jill Buxbaum at (202) 292-1982 or jbxbaum@monumentalsports.com for Wizards tickets. Contact Alan Fontane or Ashley Miller at (202) 661-5061 for Harlem Globetrotters, Monster Jam, or Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus tickets.
Wegmans	Scouts, ages 6-8, prepare fresh veggie recipes to earn "eat well live well" veggie patch. \$12/child or \$144 minimum, for 90 minute class.	http://www.wegmans.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?productId=392722&storeId=10052 http://www.wegmans.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/StoreDetailView?storeId=10052&productId=347798 Call Wegmans Consumer Affairs at 1-800-WEGMANS ext. 4760 to learn more and schedule a class.