

## HISTORY, TRADITIONS, AND HERITAGE

OSR sits on 1,400 pristine acres, in the heart of the NY Catskill Forest Preserve, with elevations reaching over 2,000 feet. Our location inside the "blue line" gives us the unique opportunity to truly know the great outdoors. Our Orchard Lake, with its native trout and other exciting fishing, combined with our rugged land and trails, makes OSR the prime place for a Boy Scout Summer Camp Program. The property on which the reservation is located has a long and rich history, which begins with the Lenni-Lenape Indians. They used the Sun Trail to go from the Hudson River to the Delaware. Later that same trail was enlarged by John Hunter and in 1815 became known throughout the area as the Hunter Road. Since it was the first road in the area, many traders and farmers made great use of it. In the 1880's, the property became one of the favorite fishing spots of the area, and a man named Stoddard Hammond built a large manor house on the property. He created Orchard Lake and a fish hatchery for trout fishing, in the 1890's. The Orchard Lake Club was established shortly thereafter, to enjoy the excellent trout fishing, noted in early 20<sup>th</sup> century fishing magazines.



By the turn of the century, what is now the Al Nassau area of the reservation was then a small town consisting of five houses, a logging camp, and a mill for the Resherif Lumber Company. To this day, the foundations of the houses and mill can be seen.

During the "Roaring 20's", the area was the property of the New York Trout and Skeet Club. Many people came to the area from the city to fish and vacation. During WWII, due to the rationing of gasoline, the club was forced out of business. When put up for sale in 1942, the club was bought by Mr. Charles R. Vose for \$20,000. He used it as a private retreat until 1955 when the Nassau County Council bought the property, with the help of a donation from Mr. Alfred H. Capery. Many generations of Scouts and Scouters have enjoyed the property since its purchase and the establishment of the base camp in 1956.

## DIRECTIONS

- Take the Cross Island Parkway north to either the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge;
- Pay toll and follow signs to the Cross Bronx Expressway (CBE) westbound to the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87) Exit north;
- Follow the Major Deegan Expressway north, which becomes the NYS Thruway at the NYC line;
- Follow the NYS Thruway to NY Route 17 west at exit 16; (note - Woodbury Commons, a major shopping outlet complex is the exit immediately after entering Route 17)
- Follow NY Route 17 to exit 96, Livingston Manor; Turn left from the exit ramp onto DeBruce Road;
- Follow DeBruce Road about 2.2 miles to Grooville Road and make a left (there is a sign for OSR);
- Follow Grooville Road about 4.5 miles to the entrance of the camp. Bare left at the camp sign, go past the ranger's house, and follow the dirt road, down to the main parking lot - there is a 10MPH speed limit in camp... Check-in at the Administration Bldg.

**Onteora Scout Reservation**  
**3 Old Hunter Road**  
**Livingston Manor, NY 12758**

- **Take the Throgs Neck Bridge to the Cross Bronx Expressway to the UPPER LEVEL of the George Washington Bridge.**
- **Once on the bridge, move over to the two right lanes.**
- **At the end of the bridge, take the first exit onto the Palisades Interstate Parkway, heading north.**
- **Stay on the Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 18, bearing left onto Route 6.**
- **Follow Route 6 over the mountain, where it will merge into Route 17.**
- **Take Route 17 to Exit 96, Livingston Manor, and exit there. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto DeBruce Road.**
- **Follow DeBruce Road for about 2.2 miles, and turn left onto Grooville Road. (There is a small sign for Onteora on the right side of the road, and a church on the far left corner.)**
- **Follow Grooville Road about 4.5 miles, to the entrance to the camp (on the left).**
- **Go through the entrance gates to the camp, and follow the camp road to the main parking lot and admin building. Park there.**