

## **Jamboree History**

Written by Jason Baldrige

Thursday, 01 December 2011 21:29 - Last Updated Thursday, 26 January 2012 20:17

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### **History of the**

#### **National Jamboree**

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement, created the idea of holding a large encampment of Scouts and leaders to celebrate Scouting in England. He called it a jamboree.

Since 1937, the Boy Scouts of America has held a national Scout jamboree for Scouts and leaders of Boy Scout councils throughout the United States. More than 650,000 Scouts and leaders have hiked the trails, paths, and roadways since the first jamboree was held at the base of the Washington Monument on the Mall in our nation's capital.

Since that time, 16 national Scout jamborees have been held. Four were held in the western United States at Irvine Ranch, California (1953); Colorado Springs, Colorado (1960); and Farragut State Park in Idaho (1969 and 1973). Five have been held in Pennsylvania at Valley Forge (3: 1950, 1957, and 1964) and Moraine State Park (2: 1973 and 1977). Beginning in 1981, Caroline County, Virginia, and Fort A. P. Hill were the site for the National Jamborees.

The new home for the National Jamboree is the Bechtel Summit in West Virginia.

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The 1st National Jamboree was scheduled for Washington, D. C. for August of 1935. The invitations went out and Scouts from across the country prepared for this great event marking the 25th anniversary of Scouting in America. An outbreak of polio early in the summer caused the cancellation of the Jamboree. It was rescheduled and held in the summer of 1937. If you look at the Jamboree emblem on the poster, you will see the center device is the capitol dome. This theme is matched by the background illustration on the poster.

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President Truman and the other men in the photo were also attending a three game baseball series between the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals.



President Harry S. Truman addressed the Jamboree at Valley Forge at the Boy Scout Jamboree in 1957.