



Hungarian Scouts of Cleveland, Ohio

The nearly 300 **Hungarian scouts** in the Cleveland area learn all the traditional skills of scouting but also are familiarized with the history, customs and traditions of Hungary. It is a prerequisite for all members to speak Hungarian. Most also read and write in Hungarian. All meetings (on Friday nights), outings and camps are held with only the Hungarian language spoken. Scouts 14 years old and older can join the **Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble**. These scouts meet every Tuesday night and specialize in learning the dances and songs of Hungary among other crafts and skills. To help with language skills, and to learn the geography, ethnography and history of Hungary, the **Hungarian School** has classes on Monday nights. Most scouts attend classes for up to 10 to 12 years from pre-kindergarten to high school age.



Evening campfires are always a highlight at camp.



Cleveland's scout troops are members of the worldwide **Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris** (Latin for outside of) which consists of about 4,000 scouts in 70 troops in 12 countries. In 1945-46, young Hungarian scout leaders who fled Hungary after World War II formed the first troops outside the country in the refugee camps of Austria and Germany. Soon after, they formed troops in Australia, South America, Canada and the U.S.

The first Hungarian scout troop in the United States was established in Cleveland, Ohio in the spring of 1951. By the fall of that year there were two boys' troops, one on the east side of the city in the **Buckeye Road** neighborhood and one on the west side in the **Ohio City** area. A girls' troop formed in 1952 and split into two troops in 1957 in the same neighborhoods. All the boys and many of the older girls also are registered with the **Boy Scouts of America**. Today, meetings are held at the **Hungarian Scout Center** and **St. Emeric Church** near Cleveland's downtown West Side Market.





The Cleveland troops are supported by the **American Hungarian Friends of Scouting (AHFS)**. They hold three large fundraising events a year: an awards banquet in February, a debutante benefit ball in May and a Hungarian Scout Festival on Sunday of Labor Day weekend. They also own the **Teleki Scout Park** named after Pál Teleki, Prime Minister of Hungary 1920-21 and 1939-41 and the first Chief Scout of Hungary. Located in Ashtabula County in NE Ohio, the park has a small lake and is ideal for primitive camping.

The AHFS also maintains the 4,200 sq. ft. **Hungarian Scout Center** located on the property of St. Emeric Hungarian Roman Catholic Church. The building is used for scout meetings, Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble practices, classrooms for the Hungarian School, lectures, conferences, celebrations and small performances.



Hungarian scouting is not just about camping.



The scout patrols in Cleveland participate in a **camporee patrol competition** every Memorial Day weekend to test their scout skills against other Hungarian scout troops from cities in the eastern U.S. and Canada. The camporee is held at the 100+ acre **Sándor Sík Scout Park** owned by the Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris near the town of Fillmore in western New York State. In July, a two-week long **Hungarian school and camp** and in August a ten-day **leadership training camp** is held there for patrol leaders, assistant scoutmasters and scoutmasters. Besides the occasional troop camp in the summer, this campsite has also become the home of **Hungarian scout jamborees**, held every five years. On these occasions, nearly 1,000 Hungarian boy and girl scouts from around the world gather in fellowship to share in their heritage.



For more information:

- AHFS website: www.csbk.org
- Folk Ensemble: www.clevelandregos.org
- Hung. School: www.magyar-iskola-cleveland.org
- HSAinExteris: www.kmcssz.org

