



December 15, 2016

Mr. Charles “Wick” Moorman
President & Chief Executive Officer
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
60 Massachusetts Ave., NE
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Washington, DC 20002-4285

Mr. Moorman:

As you may be aware, Amtrak has been the first and last step in adventures for Scouts over the years. The Southwest Chief Service has transported thousands and thousands of them to the Philmont Scout Ranch (outside Raton, NM). Many units also use Amtrak to travel to other adventure destinations, or just to see parts of the country.

Starting in 2017, Scouts will begin to utilize the Cardinal to travel to the National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. The Jamboree is held every four years and in 2019 the Summit will host the World Scout Jamboree. These Jamborees and the other annual adventure opportunities at the Summit will continue to add to the growing list of visitor destinations in Southern West Virginia. The Boy Scouts also believe that increasing number of Scouts and visitors will utilize the Cardinal to travel to and from the Summit as others have over the years to Philmont and other destinations.

Representatives of the Summit were warmly welcomed by the Amtrak staff in Washington 2011, in anticipation of the inaugural 2013 Summit Jamboree. Unfortunately, a bridge crucial to transporting Scouts from the train station to the Summit was taken out of service and prevented significant use of the Cardinal during the Jamboree. That issue has been resolved and a number of units and staff are planning on using the Cardinal to travel to and from the Jamboree next summer.

BSA representatives have been working with Amtrak’s marketing department to secure a group rate for Scouts, staff and others traveling by train to the Jamboree. We will be promoting the option to use Amtrak in pre-Jamboree information sent to participants. Moreover, the recommendation to consider using the train will encourage use of Amtrak on routes across the nation. Our representatives are also working with the Chicago operations team to arrange for bus transportation from the Amtrak stations in the New River Gorge to the Summit to make the experience as convenient as possible for those arriving by rail.





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As noted, the Summit is adjacent to the New River Gorge National River, a unit of the National Park Service. The location was selected by the BSA as it provides access to over 70,000 acres of recreational area, in addition to the BSA's over 13,600 acres at the Summit and in the surrounding area.

BSA representatives attended the 'Amtrak Cardinal Conference' in Cincinnati on September 23. As such, the BSA is aware of the obstacles to the Cardinal running daily on a *permanent* basis. However, the Jamboree period next July provides a unique opportunity to attract visitors to travel by train to the Jamboree and the New River Gorge area. I hope Amtrak will consider the opportunity to take advantage of the Jamboree window to operate daily service on the Cardinal and to work with local tourism representatives to maximize this unique opportunity. I know I speak for all when I say that enhanced service would be a welcome addition offering the possibility of increased ridership and visitors to the New River Gorge.

Finally, accept my personal thanks for Amtrak's support of Scouting adventures at the Jamboree, Philmont and across the nation. And I want to personally invite you to visit the Jamboree as my guest so that you can see first-hand the potential of the Summit and New River Gorge area.

Sincerely yours,

Michael B. Surbaugh
Chief Scout Executive

CC: Senator Joseph Manchin, III
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Representative Evan Jenkins
Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor-Elect Jim Justice
Commissioner Amy Goodwin, WV Dept of Tourism
Mr. Derek Bauman, All Aboard Ohio
Mr. Elmer Coppoolse, Greenbrier
Mr. Mark Murphy, Amtrak
Mr. Donald J. Stadtler, Amtrak

