



Special Interest:

District

- Camp Cards – pg 2
- Friends of Scouting – pg 3
- District Award of Merit – pg 6
- Annual District Elections Meeting – pg 6
- OA Elections – pg 7

Advancement

- Eagle Palms – pg 10

Council/National

- JTE – pg 12
- Girls in Boy Scouts – pg 13
- High Adventure Camps – pgs 16-18

Training

- Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills – pg 22

Quick Calendar:

- Nov 4 – SFF Bag Distribution
- Nov 4-5 – Siege of Mafeking
- Nov 8 - Roundtable
- Nov 11 – SFF Bag Pickup
- Nov 18 – Life to Eagle Training
- Nov 30 – Recharter Turn-In
- Dec 13 – Roundtable
- Dec 14 – Annual District Business Meeting
- Jan 10 – Roundtable
- Jan 27-29 – Freeze-o-ree

Newsletter Key:



Cub Scout Interest



Boy Scout /
Venturing Interest



For Everyone



New Article

Goose Creek District Newsletter



November 2017

Volume 9, Issue 4



from Bobwhite Blather <https://bobwhiteblather.com/what-about-training/>

What about training?

- Cub Scouts recruited? Check.
- Dens formed? Check.
- Leaders volunteered? Check.
- Applications submitted and filed? Check.
- Dens are meeting? Check.
- Training completed? Ummm....Something's missing here.

It seems like in the hubbub and rush to get our Cub Scout dens cranked up and running again, families invited and involved, pack meetings held, popcorn sales organized, supplies, handbooks and uniforms obtained and den programs up and running, that one essential aspect of Cub Scouting – the one that tells you how to do it – is frequently ignored.

- Oh, I don't need to go to training – I've been doing this for a couple years now.
- I've coached Little League. How much different could Cub Scouts be?
- I'll just follow along in the handbook. It's all there, right?
- I took my Youth Protection Training – why do I need even more training?
- I don't have time for this – I'm pretty busy.

These and more are the excuses you're likely to hear from your leaders if you press them on the issue of training. Consider, though, how things have changed and how easy it is to get trained. Many of us will remember having to get up on a Saturday morning and drag our tired selves to a church or school in a nearby town for training (I sure do – I trained in our district for many years). Now, training is as close as your computer or laptop, with all the Cub Scout leader training modules available online.

To answer those objections:

- Some may think they don't need to re-do training once they've taken it. It's true that most of the training repeats from year to year, but taking the pertinent modules from a different perspective (say, as a Webelos den leader) can shed new light on your position and its responsibilities.
- Scouting is unlike other youth activities, so our volunteers need specific knowledge in order to deliver the promise that Scouting offers our youth.
- The handbook outlines the Adventures but doesn't give you the background and the logical flow and how to run a den or pack and how advancement works and how to wear the uniform and how to plan for fun and how to work with boys.
- While Youth Protection Training teaches you how to keep Scouts safe, leader specific training concentrates on helping you do your job as a den leader, Cubmaster or committee member.
- Training is an investment in time. By learning how to do your job, you'll do it better and more efficiently than without it. Training will pay back dividends in a better program for your Scouts.

Your leaders should complete position training as soon as possible. The longer they wait, the less the chances are that they'll actually complete it. Ideally, they should be trained before they meet with youth, so they'll know how to get off on the right foot and chart the right direction for their dens.

Finally, consider whether parents would want their sons to be led by a Little League coach who doesn't know the rules of baseball, or a music teacher who can't read notes. Parents expect that their sons' leaders have some knowledge about what they're doing. Training helps it go smoothly and can instill excitement in the den and the Scouts – and the families too.

So complete your training and make sure your fellow leaders are trained as well. Every Scout deserves a Trained leader!

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek



District Executive Minute



Greetings All,

While this will likely take more than a minute to read, I thought it an appropriate title for this. I want to take a moment and share some things with you all. This has been a good year for us here in Goose Creek. We have had great events for the Scouts. From the District Pinewood Derby, to Day Camp, to the Webelos-O-Ree. If you didn't make it to these this year, I highly recommend them! We will have even more events next year!

We have had an increase in fundraising! YAY! I cannot thank you all enough. We had an amazing Good Scout Evening, which set the record in our District for money raised for a Special Event. We increased our Friends of Scouting Pledges, and we are getting closer and closer to reaching our Popcorn goals! That being said, let us not rest on this because we have done well. Let us strive for more in the coming year. Let us reach new heights on all of this because by doing so, we provide what every scout deserves. An AMAZING program.

We are so very close to a membership increase for the second straight year. That would be an accomplishment we can all be proud of and it wouldn't be possible without everyone's input and effort. If you still have applications, please get them to me! If you want to recruit more kids, let me know and I will support you in whatever way I can!

Let's finish this year strong and set ourselves up for an amazing 2018!!

Yours in Scouting!
Ray Posluszny



2018 Camp Card - Helping Scouts Earn their way to Camp!



National Capital Area Council is pleased to announce the "Camp Card" fundraising program for 2018. People who buy the card for \$5 from Scouts get recurring discounts from several area stores. This year Goose Creek will get a special Camp Card that lists Harris Teeter as the supermarket instead of Safeway (which only exists in eastern Loudoun).

This initiative is designed to help Scouts earn their way to Summer Camp and Day Camp. Units participating in the program will earn up to 50% commission, (\$2.50) on each \$5 Camp Card they sell. The 50% commission is contingent on closing the settlement account no later than April 1st. Mid March will be an opportunity to turn in money and get more cards, or turn in cards. This program is RISK FREE, simply return any unsold cards. Lost cards are assumed as sold and charged the \$2.50 rate.

To sign up just talk to our District Executive



Friends of Scouting



It is that time of year again to begin thinking about Friends of Scouting! Please begin thinking about when you want to have your presentation for 2018. You can begin scheduling these for December Through April. We are accepting this information as soon as you have it, so please get it to Dimitri or Ray Posluszny ASAP!

If you made a pledge for 2017 and have yet to pay it, or have only paid a partial amount, please pay that as soon as you are able! Pledges are great, but payments are even better! Please let Dimitri or Ray know if you have any questions!!



Scouting for Food – Recording Service Hours



Please remember as we do Scouting for Food the next two weekends that each unit needs to track the number of service hours they put in (both for putting out the bags and picking them up), the number of youth participants and the number of adult participants. Then, the units should ...

- Send the number of youth and the number of adult volunteers to the SFF Coordinator (at SFFGooseCreekDistrict@GooseCreekDistrict.org).
- Enter the volunteer hours into *Journey to Excellence* to meet their annual goals.

The district SFF Coordinator will submit the unit food weights, and the number of youth/adult participants to Council.



Are you Prepared for Rechartering



It's November and all units should now be in the process of completing their recharter. At this time you should:

- Have all unit leaders check their Youth Protection Training dates to make sure that none expire by January 1, 2018.
- Know who your Chartering Organization Head is, which usually isn't the same person as the Chartering Organization Representative. Know when they are available to sign the final recharter.
- Have logged into Internet Recharter, even if only to test your access and learn the system.
- Start to collect the registration/insurance fees for your Scouts

Remember there will be no insurance Fees for Lion and Tiger adult partners: Lion and Tiger adult partners will not pay the \$6 insurance fee as originally planned during charter renewal. Updated Internet Rechartering will only compute the insurance fee for paid members. **This is a change from what was published in the Charter Renewal Handbook and on the face of Transmittal Envelopes.**

All unit recharters need to be turned in by November 30. If you are having problems please talk with your Unit Commissioner to contact the district commissioner if you cannot reach your Unit Commissioner.



Merit Badge Counselor Rechartering



Just as units must recharter every year so must the district, and that means we not only have to get the listing of all of our committee members and commissioners ready, but also the listing of our merit badge counselors (MBCs). With about 600 MBCs in the district this would be a daunting task but we do have a way to make this easier.

All MBCs currently registered with the district, **and that have their YPT training current as of January 1, 2018** (i.e. it doesn't expire before this date), will be automatically registered for next year. Anyone without current YPT will be dropped from the roster and will need to send in a new MBC application, after retaking YPT, in order to be added back into the list.

Double Your Donation to NCAC



In just five minutes, you could double your donation or get paid for volunteer hours! Employee Matching Gifts are donations a company makes to match its employees' charitable contributions and community service. Find out if your company participates in one of these programs and double your gift's impact on local Scouting:

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=7068075&msgid=200916&act=L9L5&c=1518147&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fdoublethedonation.com%2Fncacbsa>



Membership Update



Thanks to all of our Units that are showing membership growth over last year! The listing below are all the units that have grown over last year. If you are not seeing your unit on this listing and want to be recognized, please reach out so we can help you do a recruiting event! If you have applications to turn in, please contact our District Executive, Ray Posluszny (Raymond.Posluszny@scouting.org) at any time!

Pack 39	Troop 58	Troop 997	Crew 711
Pack 71	Troop 533	Troop 1106	Crew 962
Pack 786	Troop 663	Troop 1159	Crew 1168
Pack 905	Troop 743	Troop 1167	Crew 1907
Pack 997	Troop 761	Troop 1168	
Pack 1148	Troop 786	Troop 1173	Post 1041
Pack 1152	Troop 953	Troop 1430	
Pack 1483	Troop 962	Troop 1550	
Pack 1550	Troop 966	Troop 1576	
Pack 1576	Troop 966	Troop 1907	
Pack 1737	Troop 969	Troop 2010	
Pack 2010	Troop 970	Troop 2011	
Pack 2013	Troop 982	Troop 2012	



Silver Beaver Nominations



This national award is the highest form of recognition that a local council can bestow on an adult volunteer. Established in 1931, the Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to people within a BSA local council. A recipient must be a registered adult volunteer member of the BSA and show significant service and leadership in three areas:

- Boy Scouts,
- Youth programs other than Boy Scouts, and
- The community.

It is extremely important that the nomination form includes information about all three of the service and leadership areas. The Council review committee can base their decision only on the submitted documentation and missing or ambiguous information often means that a deserving person does not get the award.

The nomination form is available at: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-103_WB.pdf.

The nomination form and supporting information packet for the Silver Beaver award should be placed in a sealed envelope with "Silver Beaver Nomination" on the outside and either delivered or mailed to the Marriott Scout Service Center ONLY. All nominations MUST be received at the MSSC no later than NOVEMBER 30 of this year. The person being nominated should not be told that a submission has been put in for them.

Note from the District Committee: If you are submitting a nomination for a person who is a great Scouter that you think deserves recognition for their Scout involvement the chances of them receiving the award is minimal. If you are submitting it for a person who is not only a great Scouter but who is also involved in other youth programs (preferably as a leader), and does work in the community then you've found the person the Council committee is looking for.

If you would like to have your submission previewed by previous Goose Creek Silver Beaver recipients prior to submitting it to council then email a copy to Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org by Nov 20th. The purpose of this preview is not to decide which nominations should be sent in, but to identify where you should provide additional information or clarification to maximize the chances of the person receiving the award.



Loudoun County High School Musical



The Loudoun County High School music theater department is performing the musical *All Shook Up, The Music of Elvis Presley*. It will be performed at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, on Nov. 30, Dec 1, and 2 at 7:00pm each evening.

Each year, they offer discounted tickets (\$8 for a minimum group of 10) and fun patches (\$2 extra) (and really good seats!) to all troops/packs/crews that purchase tickets in advance as a group. The troops will be seated together in the best available seats when their order is received.

To order go to: <http://www.raiderdrama.com/tickets.html>



District Award of Merit



The District Award of Merit is the highest award that can be given to a Scouter at the District level and also the only "non-square knot" in the knot award group. Unlike the training-based awards like the Scouter's Key, districts are restricted in how many they can award each year. The ratio is simple: one award per 25 units in a district. So with Goose Creek currently having over 100 units, we can do up to 5 awards.

Nominees must:

- Be registered Scouters (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Venturing).
- Have given "noteworthy service to youth," either inside or outside of Scouting—or both.
- Have gone beyond the duties of their volunteer position.
- Maintain a positive attitude and work in cooperation with the district and council.

Note: The nature and value of "noteworthy service to youth" may consist of a single plan or decisions that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time.

You can't nominate yourself, but if you know anyone who should be considered for this award, the PDF application can be downloaded at: .

www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf

Submissions must be sent in to Steve Wolfson, SteveWolfson@Verizon.net, by December 1.



Goose Creek District Annual Meeting Elections



The district annual meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 PM at the Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 W Market Street, Leesburg. At that time, the nominating committee will present for election the Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large. To facilitate an orderly process, nominations from the floor will not be accepted at the time of election. Elections will be held for the following positions:

DISTRICT CHAIR
 VICE CHAIR - MEMBERSHIP
 VICE CHAIR - FINANCE
 VICE CHAIR - PROGRAM
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (subject to council approval)

Who is eligible to vote:

- Charter Organization Representatives
- Registered district members-at-large
- Registered council members-at-large residing in the district

Our newly-elected officers and members-at-large take office immediately following the district annual meeting. Please come to the annual meeting to help elect our officers.



Order of the Arrow - Unit Elections



The annual OA Unit Election season runs from November 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018. Troops and Teams may hold only one election per season and it is recommended that the election be held prior to April 1, 2018. This will allow all elected candidates to be able to attend the Goose Creek Chapter Ordeal the weekend of April 27-29, 2018. If you wish to have Arrowmen visit your Troop prior to your election, to discuss the OA with your Scouts, please contact the Goose Creek Chapter Chief (ChapterChief@goosecreekdistrict.org). If you would like to schedule an OA Election, Scoutmasters should send an email to the Vice-Chief for OA Elections (gc_oa_election_request@goosecreekdistrict.org) and provide the following information:

- Scoutmaster Name; email address; phone number
- Troop OA Representative Name
- Troop Number
- Troop Meeting Location & Time
- Requested Election Date
- Alternate Election Date (In case of inclement weather)

The Vice-Chief for OA Elections will confirm the receipt of your request and confirm your election date within one month after receiving your request.



Troop 998 Leesburg Arrow of Light Scouts Invitation



Troop 998 in Leesburg is hosting an Arrow of Light event on Monday Nov 13th at Leesburg United Methodist Church at 715-815 pm. Come meet our Troop, take a look at our schedule of activities, get some of your AOL requirements signed off. Our patrols will have stations set-up to help you complete requirements for rank. Ask questions about how are troop is run and see if it might be a good fit for you.

If you plan on attending please let Dale Chidester (Scoutmaster, dchidester2@verizon.net) know so they can make sure they are ready for you.



Troop 1941's Open House



Come explore Troop 1941 at our open house. Learn what it is like to be a Boy Scout and see what exciting adventures are planned for the next year.

Date: December 11, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Farmwell Station Middle School

44281 Gloucester Pkwy, Ashburn, VA

Who's Invited: All Webelos and their families.



Webelos Open Houses



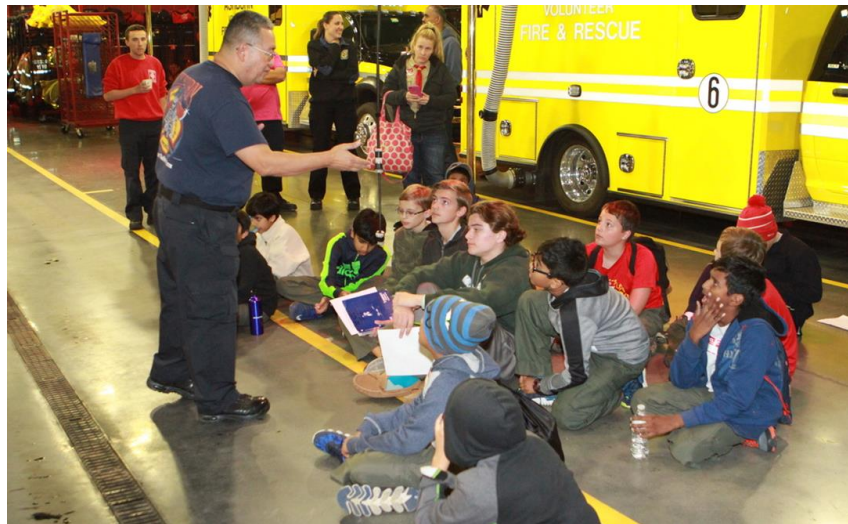
If your unit is holding an Open House, or another type of special event, for Webelos and would like us to announce it in the newsletter please let us know (Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org). We would be glad to put it in.



Ashburn Night at the Firehouse



Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department with the assistance of Troop 1941 held a Merit Badge Event this past Friday evening. 60 Scouts from 12 Troops attended the event. They had the opportunity to earn the Safety, Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness Merit Badges..



Missing Article



We always have space reserved in the newsletter for articles about our units and Scouts but only a few units have sent us any information about what they have been doing. There must be other units out there that have been doing something besides having meetings. We know that Eagle projects have been completed and we expect that some units have had anniversaries or someone who got a special award.

This newsletter should be as much about our Scouts as it is about events coming up. And to do that we need your help. If your unit, den, patrol, crew, or Eagle Scout has done a special service project, gone somewhere different, camped somewhere unusual, or had a special event, we'd like to hear about it and we think the rest of the district would too. What you've done might just be the spark another unit needs to enhance their own program.

We don't require a long article, just a few sentences, and maybe a picture. You don't have to be a great writer, after all, most of us aren't great readers.

When you do have something to brag about please send it to Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org. Please try to have it submitted by the 20th of the month so it can go out in our draft version to the proofreaders. We can take articles later than that but no promises on it making the newsletter being put together (but it not it will be in the next).

Important Note When Paying for On-line Registrations



Starting January 1, 2018 units will no longer be able to pay for on-line applications using their unit account. All applications must be paid for with a credit card.



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen
Lodge Website: www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA



OA Supports Scouting for Food



This year the Goose Creek Chapter of the Order of the Arrow will be working at the "LINK Against Hunger" food drop off location in Sterling, VA. The drop off point will be at Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church at 46833 Harry Byrd Highway. Arrowmen are needed to assist in unloading vehicles, weighing food donations, and sorting food. We will be working from 8:00AM - 1:00PM on Saturday, November 11th. Arrowmen who can help should wear their Class "A" uniform and their OA sash. Please come and help for an hour or the entire time. If you need additional information, please contact the Goose Creek Chapter Chief (chapterchief@goosecreekdistrict.org).

“Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Jason Birsic – Troop 1154
Garrett Culbert – Troop 1910
Ryan Elarde – Troop 1920
William Gabaldon – Troop 58
William Hartnett – Troop 1154
Evan Heidorn – Troop 712
Chase Lopez – Troop 961
Dustin Loving – Troop 163
Chance McQuaid – Troop 961
Alexander Oppenheimer – Troop 163
Rohan Parikh – Troop 58
Andrew Pedroza – Troop 58
Joshua Tilghman – Troop 956
Connail Wilcomb – Troop 997

That's 98 Eagles so far this for Goose Creek



BSA to allow Current Eagle Scouts to Receive Eagle Palms Retroactively



All current Boy Scouts — even those who completed their Eagle Scout board of review before Aug. 1, 2017 — are now entitled to receive Eagle Palms for merit badges earned before their Eagle board of review.

Previously, only those Scouts with an Eagle board of review date on or after Aug. 1, 2017, were eligible for these Eagle Palms. Now all current Eagle Scouts can receive Palms for additional merit badges earned before their board.

This is a revision to the change announced Aug 1, 2017.

What's new affects young men who became Eagle Scouts and who had not passed their 18th birthday before Aug. 1, 2017. Now those current Eagle Scouts can immediately apply for and receive Eagle Palms for merit badges earned before their board of review.

FAQs about the change

These answers were provided by the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

Q: Can an Eagle Scout who successfully completed his board of review before Aug. 1, 2017, but turned 18 on or after Aug. 1, 2017, apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: Yes, any Eagle Scout who completed his board of review before Aug. 1, 2017, but had not turned 18 before Aug. 1, 2017, is eligible to receive Palms under the revised requirements. Example: Bruce had earned 26 merit badges when he completed his Eagle board of review on July 1, 2017. He turned 18 on Aug. 2, 2017. Even though he is now 18, he is eligible to receive a Bronze Palm to represent the five additional merit badges he earned before his board of review.

Q: If a Scout earned Eagle rank before Aug. 1, 2017, and then turned 18 years old before Aug. 1, 2017, can he apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: No. Any Eagle Scout who turned 18 before Aug. 1, 2017, is not eligible to receive Eagle Palms under the new provision.

Q: Can merit badges earned after an Eagle board of review but before Aug. 1, 2017, be applied toward receiving Palms under the new provision?

A: No. Only merit badges earned before a Scout's Eagle board of review can be used in applying for Eagle Palms under the new provision.



After the Pack meeting a young Wolf Scout went up to the Cubmaster and handed him a \$5 bill.

"What's this for?", asked the Cubmaster.

The Scout replied, "My Den Leader says we are supposed to help others in need. And my dad says that you are the poorest Cubmaster he's ever seen."



Life to Eagle Training



The final “installment” of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek in 2017 will be the Saturday after we’ve completed the Scouting For Food Campaign; November 18.

These training conferences are primarily targeted for the Life-to-Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level – but are by no means limited to same. Life Scouts and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well. The key goal is to get each of the unit Eagle Advisers up to speed on changes to the process, and some of the district-level mechanics of same. That way, they can help share the message to the Life Scouts in their units on a more frequent basis.

Date: November 18, 2017

Time: 10:30 - 2:15

Place: Lovettsville Library, Meeting Rm (pending Library confirmation)

We’re targeting another 3-4 Life-to-Eagle Seminars in 2018, and are currently aiming for the months of Jan/Feb, April, July & Sep. Locations and times are all “TBD” pending confirmation of meeting room availabilities.

Also, if you ARE a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit, and have not attended one of these within Goose Creek within the last 2 years, you really should make an attempt to do so. Lots of things have changed over the years, and even the long-standing and experienced L2E Advisers will learn something new.

What is an Eagle Scout Service Project Coach



At the bottom of the Eagle Scout Project Workbook Contact Information page (Proposal Page B) is a block to enter the Project Coach. While many fill this information in with the name of their troop’s Eagle mentor/advisor, that is not the person whose name should be entered here.

A Life to Eagle “mentor” or “advisor” is usually a person appointed by the troop to help a Scout through the entire Eagle process and is not an official BSA position.

An Eagle Scout Service Coach is designated at the council or district level and provides guidance, coaching, and consulting to the Scout on how to successfully plan and execute a project that will fulfill requirement 5.

In effect, the Project Coach is a Subject Matter Expert on the type of project being done and that is their only role in helping the Scout.

Just as units work on a day to day basis in the rest of the advancement program, so should units provide the day to day mentoring to help Scouts through the service project process. Designated coaches, with their expertise and objective perspective, should supplement assistance from the unit. They should not supplant unit efforts.

At the moment, our district does not have a listing of Project Coaches and we would like to rectify that. If you would like to become a Project Coach please email Alan Steiner (Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org) to start the process. This is not a ‘for my unit only’ position, and does not mean the coach has to actually be involved in doing each of the projects. You are a resource, encouraging the candidate to fully plan his project, secure resources, and to make wise decisions.

The list of Project Coaches will only be given out to the District Eagle Representatives so that they can suggest which coaches a Scout should contact once they have approved the project.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org



2018 Journey to Excellence



It's rechartering time for just about everybody, and with it comes our annual self-evaluation, the Journey to Excellence.

With us since 2011, this program allows units to assess how they are doing compared to how high-performing units operate. It's a set of eleven guidelines (nine for Venturing crews) along with a means to evaluate each item from basic to outstanding.

Each year, we look back on how we served our Scouts in the previous twelve months. It's also a good time to look ahead to the next twelve and see where we can tweak and improve. The 2018 scorecards are available now.

Every year since the inception of the Journey to Excellence program, the national committee that oversees it has made some changes. This has caused troops and packs to shift their focus slightly in these areas to concentrate on the items that the scorecard measures.

The good news for 2018 is that the committee seems to have arrived at a winning formula, for there no changes for packs, troops, or crews.

The complete set of scorecards for 2018 can be found at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence/scorecards/2018.aspx including those for ships, teams, posts, and councils and districts as well.

The JTE website has lots of other great information, including guidebooks (which replace the spreadsheets used in past years), a glossary, frequently-asked questions, service hours tracking, and council-specific planning tools.

Make sure your unit is using this valuable tool. Check with your unit commissioner if you have any questions about how to complete the form or to get his or her approval on your scorecard.

Remember: Service hours for JTE only count if they have been entered into the system. For how to do this go to: www.ncacbsa.org/advancement/unit-service-hours/



Wreaths Across America



Help place Veterans' Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our American heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16, 2017

There is no sign-up required, and there is no age limit—simply show up if you would like to participate. We encourage families to come together.

Additionally, event details will be available at <http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/volunteer-at-arlington/>, and on the following Facebook pages:

www.facebook.com/ArlingtonWreaths
www.facebook.com/WAAHQ

Please check out the "Events" tab on these links for all the details.



BSA to Welcome Girls into Scouting Programs



The Boy Scouts of America's volunteer-led board of directors unanimously approved a plan to welcome girls and young women into all Scouting programs.

The historic move means boys and girls will soon experience the values-based, life-changing, Instagram-worthy moments offered in all of Scouting's programs — from Cub Scouting all the way to Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout.

Cub Scouting will be available to girls beginning in 2018. A program for girls ages 11 to 17 will be announced in the coming year for projected introduction in 2019 and will enable young women to work toward Eagle.

How this will affect your pack

When girls join Cub Scouting in 2018, beginning at age 5, packs across the country may welcome them right away.

An existing pack may choose to recruit girls or remain an all-boy pack. When creating a new pack, a chartered organization may form an all-boy pack, an all-girl pack or a pack of girls and boys.

Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls. Cub Scout packs, meanwhile, can include any combination of all-boy or all-girl dens. The choice is left to individual pack leaders in consultation with their chartered organization.

This hybrid model builds on the benefit of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

Some big things won't change. Activities, rank advancement requirements and Youth Protection policies remain the same. Uniforms will remain the same, too, though the fit and styling may change.

Existing program content and activities are appropriate for boys and girls alike, so there's no need to change anything there. Education experts have evaluated program content and confirmed the relevancy of the program for young women.

As always, great volunteers like you can tailor the activities to meet the developmental needs and abilities of your kids.

What about Youth Protection? The policies match existing rules in place for the Venturing program for young men and young women. When a Scouting activity includes both boys and girls, there must be both female and male leaders present. At least one of those leaders must be registered as an adult member of the BSA.

How this will affect your troop

A program for girls age 11 to 17 will be announced in the coming year with a projected introduction in 2019.

Using the same curriculum as the current Boy Scouts program, this will allow participating girls to work toward — and earn — Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. Eagle Scout requirements will be the same for young men and young women.

Girls who are in the fourth grade in 2018 will surely want to cross over into the next phase of their Scouting journey once they complete their time in Cub Scouts. Rest assured there will be such a program in place when the time arrives. And it will be awesome.



Submit Your Questions for a Sit-Down with the Chief about Girls Joining Scouting



You have questions, he has answers. Bryan Wendell, the editor for BSA's blog, will be holding a sit down meeting with the Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh to talk about this change.

Using the form at Bryan's site (<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/10/30/submit-questions-sit-interview-chief-scout-executive/>), submit your questions now for his sit-down interview with Chief to talk about the BSA Board of Directors' historic decision to welcome girls into Scouting.

He'll record the conversation on video, and will share that video on his blog next week.

Broadly, he wants to ask the Chief how our movement got here and where we're headed next.

But he knows you, as dedicated adult volunteers, have specific questions you'd like answered. Please share them using the form. All topics are welcome. He'll take your most frequently asked questions directly to our Chief.



2018 Goshen Summer Camp Staff Applicant



Every year, the seven camps and programs which make up the Goshen Scout Reservation employ close to 250 highly motivated individuals to participate in the experience of a lifetime. If you are 14 years of age or older by this summer, you could be a part of something huge!

Interviews will be the first two Saturdays in January.

Please call or email Goshen Reservation Director Phil Barbash at (301) 214-9195 or Philip.Barbash@scouting.org with any questions.



2018 Camp Snyder Staff Applicant



Camp Snyder is seeking friendly, outgoing, fun and responsible individuals age 15 and up to be program wide Camp Counselors, and age 18 and up to lead our Fort, Big Dig, Ship, Nature, and Handicraft program areas. We are looking for age 18 and up to direct BB and Archery ranges. 21 and up to be Camp, Program and Aquatics Directors.

Contact Camp Snyder for more information. Phone: (571) 248-4904, Email: Camp.Snyder@Scouting.org



NYLT Training



NYLT (Impeesa) is the National Capital Area Council's presentation of the National Youth Leadership Training. The objective of our NYLT program is to equip our young people with leadership skills to help them succeed in their scouting program and in LIFE. NYLT brings together scouts from all over the Council to learn and practice the leadership techniques in a risk free, scout friendly environment. The Scouts learn and practice leadership skills and styles together.

While it remains the responsibility of the unit leaders to train the youth leaders, this course is designed to supplement the adult leaders' role in the training process. NYLT skills build on the fundamental leadership skills presented in the unit basic leadership training in their home unit. This training conference has six specific objectives:-

To give participants the confidence and knowledge to run their unit.

- To give participants the most contemporary, successful, and useful leadership tools available and allow them to "experiment" with them to help them better relate these skills to their unit responsibilities.
- To give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with Scouts from other scouting programs.
- To create an atmosphere where Scouts will experience Scouting at its best.
- To enhance the relationship between the participant and their adult leaders. • To have fun!

In order to attend the course each participant must certify that they have now (or will have by January 1st) met the following qualifications to attend NYLT:

- Attained First Class Rank if in Boy Scouts
- Completed Unit Leader Training
- At least 14 years of age (or 13 with the Course Directors approval), Youth 12 years of age and younger will not be able to attend
- Home Unit Leader approval

2018 Course Dates

WINTER NYLT - Camp Snyder, 13 – 15 January 2018 (Martin Luther King Weekend) and 17 – 19 February 2018 (Presidents Day Weekend). Both sessions must be attended. Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-nyltwinter>

SUMMER NYLT – registration opening in January 2018

17 – 22 June 2018

24 – 29 June 2018

29 July – 3 August 2018

5 -10 August 2018

Cost - \$250.



Media Company seeks Expert on Scouting, Outdoor Adventure for New TV Show



Scouters, are you ready for your big break? A media company is looking for experts in the world of Scouting, outdoor adventure and survival skills to serve as possible talent for a TV show.

The company is AMS Pictures, based in Dallas. They've created award-winning shows for channels like the Food Network, HGTV, Reelz Channel and more.

For their next project, they're looking for a man or woman who is a credible expert on Scouting and the outdoors. Adults from anywhere in the country are welcome to apply.

Questions to ask yourself

- Are you an authority figure on a wide range of topics?
- Do you have experience or a background in teaching?
- Are you a published author in a specific field?
- Do you have a blog or social media account with thousands of followers?
- Does your educational background or work experience make you an expert in a particular field?

If you answered yes to any of those questions — and you have a larger-than-life, TV-ready personality — send a photo of yourself and links to your work or portfolio to devcasting@amspictures.com

Note that AMS Pictures only accepts submissions by e-mail. They ask that you don't call or send anything in by snail mail.



Florida National High Adventure Sea Base



Not even the strongest hurricane ever recorded can keep the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base down for long.

Yes, even after Hurricane Irma dealt a punishing blow to the Florida Keys in September, the Florida Sea Base is open for business this fall and beyond. In fact, cleanup went so well that the BSA is allowing the American Red Cross to house displaced residents at one of its facilities.

Sea Base registration and lottery info

2018: The lottery for 2018 trips was held Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, 2017. Unclaimed trips are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be viewed at this site:

<https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x8709747c4>. Units cancel reservations from time to time, so check back regularly if you don't see the trip you want.

2019: Yes, it's time to start thinking about 2019. Slots for 2019 will be allocated using an online lottery, open from 9 a.m. ET on Jan. 23 to 5 p.m. ET on Feb. 13, 2018. You can enter the lottery by logging onto www.bsaseabase.org/. There's no advantage to entering early; as long as your entry is submitted during the window you're good. Winning units will be notified in early March 2018.



Northern Tier National High Adventure Program



Paddle your way to an experience of a lifetime in Minnesota and Canada at the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program.

During their 6- to 11-night journey of 50 to 150 miles, Northern Tier crews follow in the footsteps and paddle tracks of 1800s French-Canadian voyagers.

After loading their canoes with gear for the entire journey, Scouts and Venturers explore millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests and fascinating wetlands in Northern Minnesota, Northwest Ontario and Northeast Manitoba.

In the winter, Northern Tier emerges from a blanket of snow to offer the BSA's premier winter high-adventure program. It's called Okpik, and it challenges Scouts and Venturers to learn how to thrive in subzero temperatures, travel across frozen wilderness lakes and construct their own sleeping structures out of snow.

Because Northern Tier's demand often exceeds available space, spots are allocated using an online lottery system.

Northern Tier registration and lottery info

2018: The lottery for 2018 spots occurred in January 2017. However, some spaces are still available — especially in August 2018. Go here <http://ntier.org/Reservations/2018Registration.aspx> to see details; look for the link marked "Click Here for Trip Availability."

2019: The 2019 Northern Tier registration lottery opens at 9 a.m. Central Time on Jan. 2, 2018. It closes a week later: 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Jan. 9, 2018. Go here www.ntier.org/reservations.aspx to enter or go here www.ntier.org/Reservations/2019lotteryinformation.aspx to learn more about the lottery process.

Great Outdoors Webelos and Boy Scout EXPO



When: Nov 18, 10 am – 3 pm

Activities include Air Gun Shooting ranges, Archery, Tomahawk throwing, rock wall climbing and elements from the COPE Challenge Course.

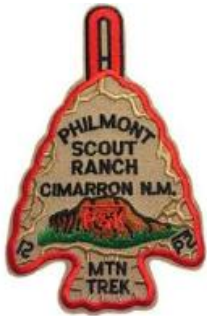
We plan to have vendors from around the area showcasing recreational activities of all kinds. Learn about kayaking, canoeing, skiing, white water rafting, rock climbing, shooting, archery, hiking, and backpacking option in the area. Meet staff from area stores that carry equipment to meet your outdoor adventure needs.

Units are encouraged to camp with us Friday and Saturday night to take full advantage of all that the Great Outdoors event has to offer.

Registration at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-GreatOutdoors>, fee is \$10.



Philmont Registration and Lottery Info



2018: The online lottery for 2018 slots closed in 2016. However, select slots are open for seven- and 12-day treks. Go here www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/Expeditions/AvailableSlots.aspx for a live look.

2019: Slots in 2019 will be allocated through an online lottery. The lottery window opens at 9 a.m. MDT on Oct. 25 and closes at 11:59 p.m. MST on Nov. 15. The lottery-based registration process gives everyone an equal chance at some of Philmont's most popular adventures, most notably seven-day treks throughout the summer and 12-day treks in June. Interested? Register during the lottery window to give your crew the best chance. Enter the lottery at this link: <https://registerphilmont.org/entry/2019>

No crew? No problem!

If schedules or other factors prevent you from getting a whole group to Philmont, that's no problem.

Scouts and Venturers can register for Individual Treks. This is a great way to experience Philmont without a crew — and meet lifelong friends. Individual treks typically have wider availability than seven- or 12-day treks, and participants become strong candidates for future Philmont staff positions.

Register for 2018 treks and learn more at this link:

<http://philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/IndividualPrograms.aspx>

VenturingFest 2018



As you may know, VenturingFest 2018 will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) from July 1st-6th, 2018 to celebrate Venturing's 20th birthday! Join us for quick access to the latest activities at the Summit, social events with Venturers from across the nation, an incredible birthday celebration, and the opportunity of a lifetime!

VenturingFest 2018 is a special Scouting event at SBR that's open to registered Venturers, Scouts and adult leaders across the U.S. This six-day high-adventure festival invites participants to explore the best the SBR has to offer. We're talking rock climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, water sports, shooting sports, zip lines, challenge courses, and so much more!

Registration & Payment

YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE: \$500*

ADULT REGISTRATION FEE: \$400*

Fees include meals (Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast), campsite (w/tents, showers, dining flies, tables & Wi-Fi), and all program equipment, with exception of the optional ½-day whitewater rafting trip. (Fee for this is TBD)

For more information go to: www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest/

VFW: Scholarships for Scout-aged Youth



In achieving the mission and vision of the VFW, the VFW is the Chartering Organization to more than 1,000 Packs, Troops and Crews nationwide. They have several, annual scholarship awards that recognize outstanding youth and adults.

The following youth opportunities must be submitted through a local VFW Post: (Use the links to get full details, obtain an application, and in some cases review previous winning entries.)

Voice of Democracy www.vfw.org/VOD/

Eligibility: Any grade 9-12 student

Description: The premier youth scholarship program of the VFW. It gives students a chance to extol the virtues of democracy and experiment with the technologies of radio broadcasting. The first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

Due Date: Nov 1

Patriot's Pen www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

Eligibility: Any grade 6-8 student

Description: Challenges entrants to reflect on American history and their own experiences based on a patriotic theme. The first-place winner receives \$5,000.

Due Date: Nov 1

VFW Wood Badge Scholarship Program

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Relationships/VFWWoodBadgeScholarship.aspx

Eligibility: VFW adults attending Wood Badge

Description: Through a cooperative effort with the Boy Scouts of America, the VFW national headquarters offers Wood Badge scholarships to assist selected chapter members in acquiring skills that will better equip them to serve the youth of their communities.

Except for the Wood Badge adult scholarship, VFW membership by a parent is NOT required for youth application to a scholarship program.

2019 World Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia



The 24th World Scout Jamboree will be held at the BSA's new permanent Jamboree home: the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. It's actually co-hosted by three Scout organizations: the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada and Asociación de Scouts de México.

A World Jamboree in our country is a once-in-a-generation event. The 2019 World Scout Jamboree will be the first held in North America in 36 years and the first held in the United States in 52 years.

Some 50,000 Scouts and Scouters from 167 different countries are expected at the event, to be held July 22 to Aug. 2, 2019. They'll meet people from around the world while enjoying SBR's world-class adventure offerings.

The BSA contingent will include 10,000 people — the largest contingent the BSA has ever sent to a World Jamboree. The total will encompass Scouts/Venturers, adults and staff.

Even though the BSA's presence at the World Jamboree will be large, we'll make up only one out of every five people at the event. That means approximately 80 percent of Jamboree attendees will be from one of more than 160 other countries planning to attend.

How to be a youth participant or adult leader

Max number: 7,200 youth participants in 180 units. Each 40-person unit will have four adult leaders and 36 youth.

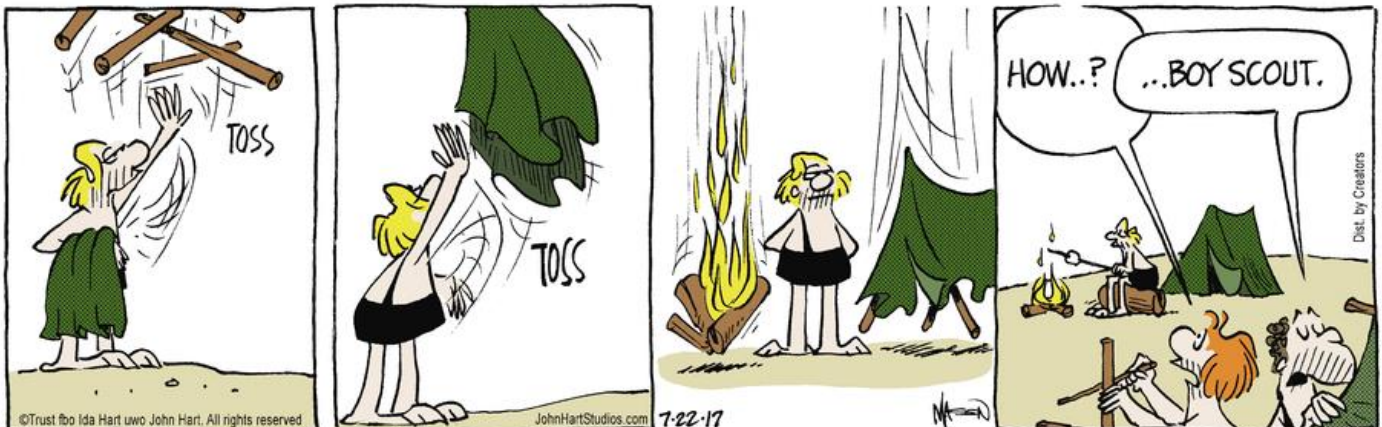
Youth eligibility: Ages 14 to 17 by the first day of the Jamboree. This date is set by the World Scout Jamboree hosts, not the U.S. contingent leadership. That means your birthday has to fall between July 22, 2001, and July 21, 2005. (Born before July 22, 2001? Try to attend as an adult or IST member.)

Adult eligibility: As is true with National Jamborees, prospective World Scout Jamboree leaders will fill out an application. Approval and a final decision will come from the U.S. contingent leadership.

Cost: To be announced, but will be similar to the cost of attending a National Scout Jamboree at SBR. The World Scout Jamboree cost will include transportation, and, to keep costs down, there will be no pre- or post-Jamboree tour.

How to register: Keep an eye on the U.S. contingent website:

<https://wsj2019.us/>



On-Line Resource of the Month



Cubcast is a monthly media file, typically audio or video, featuring a variety of how-to and information topics for Cub Scouting leaders and parents. Sync Cubcast to your iPod, iPhone, Android phone, or favorite MP3 player before your next commute, and watch the miles fly by as your knowledge of the Cub Scout program grows. Or, if you prefer, listen to it right from your computer at home.

To get Cubcasts go to www.Scouting.org/ScoutCast.aspx and select CubCast along the bottom strip of the video display area. On the right side of the display is an 'Archives' button that will let you select previous podcasts.

Equipment / Gear / Tips



Dealing with a 'Kitchen Nightmare'



Not every Scout is the next Alton Brown (who, by the way, was a Boy Scout), so those on KP duty could be left with a heap of greasy pans and pots blackened with what was supposed to be food. Here are a couple of tips for cleaning up:

For burned pots and pans that prove next to impossible to scrape the "black" encrusted on the bottom, place the cookware back on the burner. Pour in a cup of water and a cup of vinegar, and bring it to a boil. Remove the pan and toss in two tablespoons of baking soda. Empty the liquid and scour the pan. This should help bring the pan's interior back to its former shiny glory.

To clean a greasy cast iron skillet sprinkle kosher salt and use a paper towel to wipe it clean. The salt acts as an abrasive, helping remove food and grease from sticking to the pan.

Always remember "Leave No Trace" principles when cleaning dishes: dispose of soapy dishwater at least 200 feet from any water source, camps or trails. Use biodegradable camp soap. Strain food bits out of dishwater and trash them. Grease and oily water should be packed out.

Books/Apps



God Made Me Special!!!!



Ryan Farrell, a Scout in Troop 125, Carmel, Ind., has Tourette syndrome. He and his family know how baffling the disorder can be, and to share his story with others, Ryan wrote a book, *God Made Me Special!!!!*

Ryan's book was a project of Children Writing for Children, an organization which produces works written by children on "specific subjects which explore the causes and consequences of today's social problems."

God Made Me Special!!!! includes Ryan's account of his life with Tourette syndrome, from the disorder's early stages through successful diagnosis and treatment, and his school experiences through the sixth grade. His mother, Karen, and younger brother, Nicholas, also contributed chapters.

Training Opportunities



Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills



This course is aimed at all adults working with older youth regardless of program (Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or Explorer). This training IS NOT recommended for Cub Scout leaders. All participants must have completed Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, as well as the position-specific training for their program area (Venturing or, Varsity or, Boy Scout) prior to attending this course and be able to meet physical requirements of the BSA Annual Health & Medical Record.

The target audience is leaders planning High Adventure treks at backcountry venues not supported by BSA infrastructure; however, units planning to attend High Adventure bases supported by BSA will find this course useful, inasmuch as unit shakedown will, most likely, take place in venues not supported by BSA infrastructure.

Part 1 — Addresses ways to effectively work with older youth and covers the detailed preparation and planning that must be done before you go out including risk management. Summarizes the personal and crew equipment used for lightweight camping. Plans are also made for the weekend overnight session.

Part 2 — Participants will practice core leader skills for the outdoor program — Leave No Trace, navigation (map & compass plus GPS), terrain awareness, expedition menu planning and food preparation, stove and stove maintenance, wilderness first aid issues, expedition health and hygiene, team building. Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills is offered by the Council Training Committee as an optional follow-on to the basic course, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

2018 Spring Course - \$45

Classroom: Sat. 10 March from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at

Scientist Cliffs Community (Alder Rd and Acacia Rd) 3500 Alder Rd, Port Republic, MD

Overnight: Sat. 21 April, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 22 April, 1:30 PM

American Chestnut Land Trust 676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

2018 Fall Course

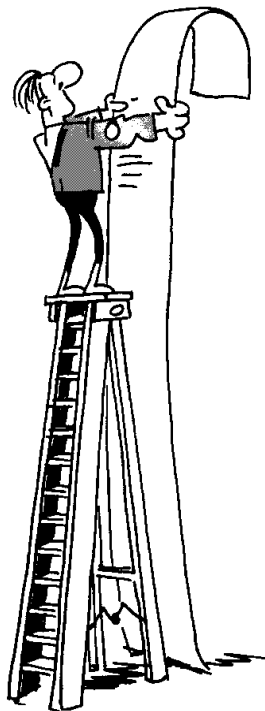
Classroom: Sat. 29 September from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at

Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308

Overnight: Sat. 21 October, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 22 October, 1:30 PM

Camp William B. Snyder 6100 Antioch Rd, Haymarket, VA

District Calendar



November 2017

4 **SFF Bag Distribution**
 4-5 **Siege of Mafeking**
 6-7 School Holiday
 8 Roundtable
 8 OA Chapter Meeting
 11 **SFF Food Pickup**
 15 District Committee
 18 **Life to Eagle**
 30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**

December 2017

13 Roundtable
 13 OA Chapter Meeting
 14 **Annual District Business Meeting**
 18-31 School Holiday

JANUARY 2018

1 Holiday
 10 Roundtable
 10 OA Chapter Meeting
 15 MLK Jr. Day
 24 District Committee
 27-29 **Freeze-o-ree**
 29 Moveable School Holiday

FEBRUARY 2018

10 Scout Sabbath
 11 Scout Sunday
 14 Roundtable
 14 OA Chapter Meeting
 19 President's Day
 24 **University of Scouting**
 28 District Committee

MARCH 2018

1 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
 10 **Pinewood Derby**
 14 Roundtable
 14 OA Chapter Meeting
 21 District Committee
 26-30 Spring Break

APRIL 2018

2 Student Holiday
 9 Student Holiday
 11 Roundtable
 11 OA Chapter Meeting
 13-15 **Spring Camporee**
 25 District Committee
 27-29 **OA Spring Ordeal**

MAY 2018

9 **Program Launch**
 9 OA Chapter Meeting
 23 District Committee
 28 Memorial Day

June 2018

11 Roundtable
 11 OA Chapter Meeting
 13 Last Day of School
 27 District Committee

July 2018

4 Independence Day

August 2018

8 Roundtable
 8 OA Chapter Meeting
 22 District Committee

September 2018

3 Labor Day
 12 Roundtable
 12 OA Chapter Meeting
 26 District Committee

October 2018

8 Columbus Day
 10 Roundtable
 10 OA Chapter Meeting
 24 District Committee