



# Goose Creek District Newsletter



December 2018

Volume 10, Issue 5

## Special Interest:

### District

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### Advancement

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### Training

- University of Scouting – pg 19

## Quick Calendar:

- Dec 12 – Roundtable
- Dec 19 – District's Annual Business Meeting
- Jan 9 – Roundtable
- Feb 3 – Scout Sunday
- Feb 8 – Scout Jumuah
- Feb 8 – 10 – Freeze-o-ree
- Feb 9 – Scout Sabbath

## Newsletter Key:

 Cub Scout Interest

 Boy Scout /  
Venturing Interest

 For Everyone

 New Article



from Michael Surbaugh, the 13th Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America,  
<https://scoutingwire.org/the-value-of-unplugging/>

## The Value of Unplugging

I recently saw a [study](#) that looked into the technology habits of children, and some of the results really got me thinking about the benefits of the Cub Scouts experience. This study showed that on average, children between 5 and 8 now spend almost three hours each day in front of a screen. Similarly, 42 percent of children under 9 have their own tablet device, up from just 1 percent in 2011.

While there is no definitive rule for the right amount of time a child should spend engaging with technology, most researchers and pediatricians agree that limiting screen time is better for cognitive and social development. This is why I'm glad Scouting can be a place where kids spend time sharing fun, real-world experiences with their peers and families.

By introducing children to new experiences, the Cub Scouting program helps capture their creativity and encourage exploration. Cub Scouts offers many ways for kids to practice having low-tech fun: going on outdoor adventures, creating cars and rockets through derbies or helping the community through service projects. These experiences not only pay off in terms of development, but they also may start habits or hobbies that last for a lifetime!

Technology has an important place in all of our lives, though, so we also want to educate young people about how to use technology safely. This is why we offer the Cyber Chip program starting in Cub Scouts. Each year, young people can access age-appropriate lessons on topics such as cyber bullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming and identity theft. It's a good way to ensure children can experience the benefits and avoid the downsides of devices, while encouraging families to have important conversations about technology.

I hope Scouting family members of all ages will consider making a habit of regularly unplugging to spend screen-free quality time with friends and family. Getting device-free time can require intention and discipline, but it's a wonderful way to remind ourselves that technology is merely a tool that should facilitate our relationships and interests, not define them.

## District News

District Website: [www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek](http://www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek)



### Scouting for Food – 2018 Results



Unfortunately, the Scouting for Food (SFF) campaign for 2018 was down by about 21% from last year (77,127 pounds compared to 97,442 pounds! To see your unit's weight total please go to <http://www.ncacbsa.org/goose-creek/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/11/2018-SFF-Consolidated-Weigh-ins-all-8.pdf> .

In the meantime, please don't forget that we need you all to either enter your volunteer counts (# of adults & # of youth) on the Council website, or simply tell our SFF Coordinator ([SFFGooseCreekDistrict@GooseCreekDistrict.org](mailto:SFFGooseCreekDistrict@GooseCreekDistrict.org)), and he'll do it for you. If you opt to enter it yourself, please note that the SFF Coordinator have already entered your individual weights, so to avoid double-counting, do NOT enter your food weight; just enter a zero (0) . thus ensuring that what he entered over the last few days will remain as it should be.

Recall as well, you should have already logged the volunteer hours (for both Saturdays) into the Journey to Excellence site. What Council needs aren't the hours, but simply the number of "bodies" (# of adults and # of youth) who collectively helped out over the two SFF weekends from your unit.

Thank you all again. And if you do have some ideas on how to improve things for next year (besides complaining about the post-it notes which has already be mentioned, a lot), PLEASE send them our way with an email to [SFFGooseCreekDistrict@GooseCreekDistrict.org](mailto:SFFGooseCreekDistrict@GooseCreekDistrict.org).



### District Award of Merit



The District Award of Merit is a council award presented by Districts in the same manner that the Silver Beaver is a national award presented by councils. The award is available to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the District level. It is the highest District award that can be given to a Scouter and the only "non-square knot" in the knot award group.

Nominees must:

- Be registered Scouters.
- Have given "noteworthy service to youth," either inside or outside of Scouting—or both. 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.
- Consideration will be given to the nominee's Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that Scouting position.
- Maintain a positive attitude and work in cooperation with the district and council.

Please submit your nomination on the attached form to Steve Wolfson, [stevewolfson@verizon.net](mailto:stevewolfson@verizon.net) by December 15, 2018. Subject Line: District Award of Merit. The award form can be found at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf>



## Goose Creek District Annual Meeting Elections



The district annual meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19 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(s) – MEMBERSHIP, FINANCE, 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.



## Goose Creek District Committee



Goose Creek District is always looking for a few good Scouters to help keep the scouting program going in our district.

The Goose Creek District Program Committee is in need of Scouters willing to help coordinate events such as Spring Camporee, Webelo-ree and Scouting for Food. For more information please contact Steve Wolfson at [stevewolfson@verizon.net](mailto:stevewolfson@verizon.net)

The Goose Creek District Committee also has open spots for Membership and Communications. For more information please contact Jim Bonfils at [JimBonfils@icloud.com](mailto:JimBonfils@icloud.com) or Ben Litten at [Ben.Litten@scouting.org](mailto:Ben.Litten@scouting.org).

It takes a strong committee to deliver meaningful and robust programs to our scouts. Please consider stepping up at a District level. Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM at Leesburg United Methodist Church (same place as Roundtable).



## Webelos Open Houses



Troop 761 invites Arrow of Light Scouts, parents and Scout Leaders to an Open House on Monday, December 10th from 7:00-8:30pm. We are chartered and meet Mondays at the National Recreation and Parks Association in Brambleton at 22377 Belmont Ridge Road (detailed directions available on our website). Information about Troop 761 will be provided to parents & Scout Leaders, while visiting Scouts will participate in activities with Troop 761 Scouts.

To assist with planning, it would be helpful to have a response on how many Scouts + adults may attend from your Pack. It is not required to have an exact headcount -- we would simply like your best guess so that we can plan refreshments. Please reply to [webelos@troop761.org](mailto:webelos@troop761.org).



## District Spring Camporee – New Date



The GCD Spring Camporee has a new date - March 29-31, 2019.

Sorry for any difficulties this might cause to individual unit calendars.

Watch for more information soon, or announcements at the coming Roundtables.



## Missing Articles



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.

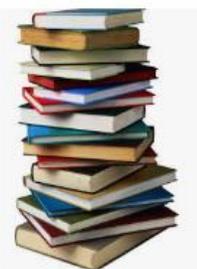
This newsletter should be as much about our Scouts as it is about events coming up. And to do that we need your help. If your unit, den, patrol, crew, or Eagle Scout has done a special service project, gone somewhere different, camped somewhere unusual, or had a special event, we'd like to hear about 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](mailto:Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org). Please try to have it submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 will be in the next).



## Boy Scout Roundtable Library



Here is a link to a newly consolidated Google Drive library containing content of the monthly Goose Creek District Scouts USA/Boy Scout Roundtables from 2015 to the present. Past years RT's are bound in a volume for that year, present year (2018) has each month's folder still shown on the shelf.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yfya1WpfjQE5JHD2WUMYs7S1BuG6a3Vw?usp=sharing>

## 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](mailto:Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org)). We would be glad to put it in.



## “Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen  
Lodge Website: [www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA](http://www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA)



### Order of the Arrow – High Adventure Opportunities



The Order of the Arrow is Scouting’s National Honor Society. Its activities are fun and educational, and they provide opportunities for leadership and service. This article focuses on the opportunities for fun and service at BSA high adventure sites, with a reduced cost in comparison to the normal program at the same sites.

The first high adventure opportunity for Order of the Arrow members is in our own backyard at the Goshen Scout Reservation. Our Order of the Arrow lodge sponsors the Goshen Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (“GOAT Crew”), which engages Order of the Arrow members in a program of service, education and fun at Goshen. The crew members perform important service at Goshen, but also have educational opportunities in outdoor ethics, backcountry skills, and the adventure of the Lenhok’sin Trail camp. The 2019 cost is \$170 for a two week program; the cost of the 12 day program is \$140. Scouts must be age 14. All participants must meet strict health and physical fitness requirements.

An Order of the Arrow web site (<https://oa-bsa.org/high-adventure>) provides a convenient source of information and registration for the opportunities at the national high adventure destinations (Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base, and Bechtel Summit). The Bechtel Summit requires participants to be age 14 on the day the program starts and under 18 years old on the day it ends. The other sites require participants to be 16 on the start day and under the age of 21 on the end date. All participants must meet the strict health and physical fitness requirements for the facilities. Some crews are co-ed, others are male or female only.

The cost for these educational, service, and fun activities are a steep discount from the normal cost of a trek. OA crew members pay \$500 at Sea Base, \$325 at Philmont, \$250 at the Bechtel Summit, and \$200 at Northern Tier. These costs are for 2019, are subject to change, and exclude transportation to the site.

One of the purposes of the Order of the Arrow is to “Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.” Members have plenty of opportunities to do exactly that, and service is a worthy method of leadership. The Order of the Arrow high adventure activities are a worthwhile way of achieving this purpose, but also in having fun while doing so.

### Order of the Arrow - Unit Elections



The annual OA Unit Election season runs from November 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019. Troops and Teams may hold only one election per season and it is recommended that the election be held prior to April 1, 2019. This will allow all elected candidates to be able to attend the Goose Creek Chapter Ordeal the weekend of May 10-12, 2019. 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](mailto:ChapterChief@goosecreekdistrict.org)).

If you would like to schedule an OA Election please register at <https://alexstuck.wixsite.com/goosecreekoaelect>



## 2019 OA Dues are Due



2019 is right around the corner, which means it's time to begin looking towards next year's events filled with fun and fellowship. To attend any OA event or wear your sash and lodge flap, you must be a current dues-paying member of our lodge.

In addition to dues, the Lodge Passport allows you to attend Lodge events next year at a great, discounted price. The \$100 cost of the 2019 Passport includes your 2019 dues, a cool patch, and entrance to the Lodge Banquet, Spring Fellowship, and Fall Fellowship.

Please see our lodge website, [www.ncacbsa.org/program/order-of-the-arrow/](http://www.ncacbsa.org/program/order-of-the-arrow/) to complete your online registration and to learn more about our plans for the upcoming year. If you have any questions or concerns about annual dues or the Lodge Passport, please send us an email at [membership@wipit470.org](mailto:membership@wipit470.org)

## "Onward and Upward" On the Advancement Trail



## New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

**Matthew Carroll** – Troop 2012

**Caleb Crooks** – Troop 1430

**David Denice** – Troop 1158

**Kevin Denice** – Troop 1158

**William Farrell** – Troop 163

**Nathan Hammond** – Troop 711

**Aditya Jain** – Troop 2010

**Jash Lal** – Troop 1430

**Mark Moore** – Troop 997

**Mark Morton** – Troop 997

**Alexander Pierce** – Troop 1154

**Matthew Schuler** – Troop 572

**Ben Soltis** – Troop 711

**Richard Strickland** – Troop 711

**Carter Tarbet** – Troop 743

**Matthew Thomas** – Troop 997

**Christopher Tidmore** – Troop 163

## Eagle Scout Rank Application Approvals from Council



NCAC has undergone some personnel changes. With respect to the Pre- Board of Review review for Eagle Scout Rank applications, please send them to [082NCAC\\_EagleCert@scouting.org](mailto:082NCAC_EagleCert@scouting.org) after your District Eagle Advancement Representative has reviewed and initialed the application.



## Life-to-Eagle Training



Mark your calendars for January 19 for the first 2019 offering of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek.

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:** January 19, 2019

**Time:** TBD

**Place:** TBD Library, (pending confirmation from Loudoun County Public Library)

Also, if you ARE a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit, and have not attended one of these in 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.



## Barriers to Abuse's Effect on Merit Badge Counseling and DER Meetings



The Barriers to Abuse (new YPT program) say that there must be two registered adults present for all Scouting activities and meetings. In getting additional information from National we found that this does apply to meetings with Merit Badge Counselors and District Eagle Representatives (DER) for Eagle project approvals.

For merit badges this means that all group meetings (i.e. classes) must have a second registered adult present for the entire meeting.

For individual meetings with a merit badge counselor or a DER a second registered adult or the parent of the Scout MUST be present.

## 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 (MBC). 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, 2019** (i.e. it didn'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.



## Merit Badge Pow Wow



This year's Merit Badge event, known as the Pow Wow Merit Badge Event, is for all Scouts desiring to earn merit badges and will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019.

For the past several years well over one hundred to two hundred scouts from across the region and some from other states have attended this yearly event where they are able to meet the requirements of several required merit badges and additional badges as well.

The day long session is cost free and allows scouts to earn up to 3 merit badges. This year's Merit Badges include these Eagle required badges: Citizenship in the Community, Nation and World; Communications; Emergency Preparedness; Family Life; First Aid; Personal Fitness and Personal Management.

And several non-Eagle required badges including: Genealogy, Energy, and Crime Prevention.

We are currently looking for additional merit badge counselors who can participate in these sessions.

The 2019 event will be held at the Riverside High School (19019 Upper Belmont Pl, Leesburg, VA 20176)

More information regarding start time and registration will be available in a few weeks.

The planning committee is seeking volunteers to help in the execution of the upcoming 2019 event who will then be prepared to assist in the preparation of the 2020 event.

For additional information including counselors for 2019 or potential venues for 2020, please contact: Elizabeth Esper, [elizabethesper@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethesper@yahoo.com)

## Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Recognition



The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution serving Northwestern Virginia invites you to recognize your Eagle Scout with a letter and certificate of recognition for their Court of Honor. Application is easy but can take 4-6 weeks for delivery due to the approval process.

Please provide the following information when ordering a letter and certificate:

1. Scout's Full Name:
2. Scouts' Troop Number:
3. Date for Court of Honor (if known):
4. Name/position of person requesting letter and certificate (for accounting purposes):
5. Address for mailing letter and certificate:

You may address all requests and inquiries to:

Robert Fagan  
 Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)  
 Chapter Chairman, SAR Scouting Activities  
 Email: [rjfm1f99@hotmail.com](mailto:rjfm1f99@hotmail.com)

## Meet with the District Advancement Committee Chair



If your unit (Pack, Troop, or Crew) would like to have the District's Advancement Chair, Alan Steiner, come to your unit or committee meeting for a chance to talk about advancements, or even about how the district committee works, please send him an email at [Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org](mailto:Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org).

There is no presentation involved, no request for donations, no request for help, just a simple sit down with him answering your questions.

## Council / National News

Council Website: [www.NCACBSA.org](http://www.NCACBSA.org)



### Camp Cards



The Camp Card fundraising program is back! Camp Cards help Scouts earn their way to summer camp, day camp, and high adventure treks. Units participating in the 2019 program will earn 50% commission (\$2.50) on each \$5 Camp Card they sell.

This program is risk free – you can simply return any unsold cards! The 2019 sale will run from February 1 to May 15. To sign up please go to [www.NCACBSA.org/CampCard](http://www.NCACBSA.org/CampCard). Cards will be distributed at the February Roundtables.

Keep your eye out to see which great vendors we have locked in for you in 2019! In addition to the coupons you see on the card, you also get access to thousands of other coupons through the Entertainment discount network. This gives units more options when selecting locations for show-and-sell opportunities.

For more information email [CampCard@NCACBSA.org](mailto:CampCard@NCACBSA.org)



### Wood Shop Opens at Camp Snyder



Looking for a great place to work on your Eagle Project? Would your Pack or Den like to hold a Pinewood Derby clinic? Would you like to add a service project to a weekend camping event? Camp Snyder is pleased to announce the opening of its new wood shop. The wood shop is fully outfitted and with approximately 1200 sq. ft. of floor space and 150 sq. ft. of work benches, there is ample space to handle projects of all sizes.

If you have questions or would like to visit the shop, please contact Phil Barbash at [Philip.Barbash@Scouting.org](mailto:Philip.Barbash@Scouting.org)



### How do the Barriers to Abuse Apply to Transportation



An adult may not drive or be alone in the car with a Scout unless that Scout is their own child. An adult may drive two or more Scouts.



## STEM Scouts



STEM Scouts is a national pilot program from the Boy Scouts of America, focused on fun ways for girls and boys to learn more about STEM subjects. Through hands-on activities delivered directly to the unit, this 26-week program is ultimately designed to be challenging, thought-provoking and, especially, fun.

How is the program delivered?

- The 26-week curriculum, designed and vetted by STEM educators, unfolds in modules that each address a single topic, such as chemistry or gravity, over several meetings. The activity materials for all meetings are shipped directly to the unit.
- At each meeting, STEM Scouts explore a hands-on activity, they rotate through different roles to learn leadership and cooperation, they discuss and apply the Scout Oath and Law, and they feature a STEM innovator or STEM professional who inspires the youth.

Who can join?

- The program is open to 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, split in three division: grades 3-5, 6-9, and 9-12.
- Starting a new STEM Scouts lab (unit) requires a minimum of 5 youth and 3 adults.
- The unit fee is \$40; adult fee is \$25 and youth fee is \$200 (includes all activity materials)

Go to [www.NCACBSA.org/STEMscouts](http://www.NCACBSA.org/STEMscouts) for more about this program.



## Akela Chess Tournament



Under the direction of Roger Claff and Peter Snow, Powhatan District has hosted a Chess Classic for a decade! This year, they are expanding the Chess Classic to be Council-wide. This is a tournament with 5 rounds; Scouts need to register for their age appropriate bracket.

For registration and additional tournament rules, please visit [www.NCACBSA.org/STEM](http://www.NCACBSA.org/STEM)

February 2, 2019 – Scouts BSA (youth from grades 6-12) in Herndon, VA

February 9, 2019 – Cub Scout (youth from grades 1-5) in Rockville, MC



## 2019 STEM University



This event is for youth and adults. Adults may select from several of the following classes: Nova Counselor & Supernova Mentor Training, STEM Scouts, BSA STEM Roadmap to Success, CubScouts Science, and how to organize a large STEM event. Youth are invited to display their Supernova projects at our Einstein's Science Fair, or attend the hands-on activities rotations. The registration page will open in January 2019 on [www.NCACBSA.org/STEM](http://www.NCACBSA.org/STEM).

★ SAR - Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Historical Essay Contest



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all Eagle Scouts (under 19 years of age) interested in the American Revolution to participate in the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Award. The contest is open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their nineteenth birthday during the year of application (application year is the calendar year, 01 January to 31 December.) The year that the Eagle rank was awarded is not restricted. College plans do not have to be completed in order to receive the award. Three cash awards are given: As the National First Place Winner - \$10,000; Runner-up - \$6,000; 2nd Runner-up - \$4,000. You may apply more than one year if you meet the age requirements but no more than \$10,000 total may be granted to any one Eagle Scout. Prizes and recognitions may also be awarded at the Chapter and State level. Entrants need complete only one application - the one for the Chapter competition. The application of the Chapter winner is forwarded to be used in the State and National competitions as appropriate.

The application consists of three parts:

- 1) Eagle Scout Contest Application Form
- 2) Four Generation Ancestor Chart
- 3) 500 word Patriotic Themed Essay

A complete set of rules, along with the application for both the applicant and the sponsoring SAR members, can be found at

<https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/arthur-m-berdena-king-eagle-scout-award>

The competition is conducted in three phases, local (Chapter), State (Society), and National. The competition for our area is conducted by the Colonel James Woods II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

(<http://coloneljameswood.virginia-sar.org/>)

Application Form Instructions: Form must be filled out on computer. You may save this form to your computer. Sections I and II are completed by filling in the blanks. Sections III through VIII may be completed by using as many lines as needed. Or, you may use additional pages as required to reply. Please put Applicant's name at top of each of those pages. Please indicate by Roman numeral and category what is referred to in your addendum. Contest Application including Application Form, Four Generation Ancestor Chart, and Essay limited to eleven (11) pages total. Print this document, obtain required signatures, and scan/email with the Four Generation Ancestor Chart and Essay to local SAR Chapter Eagle Scout Chairman (Colonel Robert Fagan, USA (Ret) [rjfm1f99@hotmail.com](mailto:rjfm1f99@hotmail.com))

Deadline for submission 31 December 2018.

### Wreaths Across America



On Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 8:30 AM, Wreaths Across America will be at Arlington National Cemetery (and other national cemeteries) to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

For additional information and to register (no fee is required) go to <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/volunteer-at-arlington/>.



## Look Up for Awe-Inspiring Views



If you live in the middle of a big city, you're regularly missing out on incredible views of our galaxy that appear overhead every night. Light pollution washes out many astronomical objects: the Milky Way galaxy, the Triangulum Galaxy, star clusters and constellations. The farther away you get from the city lights, more magical lights begin to dominate the nighttime sky.

Such awe-inspiring sights can also inspire your Scouts to learn more about the universe. Tigers learn about what they can see in the *Sky is the Limit* elective adventure. Webelos Scouts also study the night sky in the *Adventures in Science* elective adventure; they can also build a model solar system, go to an observatory and launch a model rocket. Scouts can pursue the Astronomy merit badge. Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venturers can earn the STEM Nova and Supernova awards, which have astronomy options. And Explorers can examine astronomy as a career.

You can ignite that fascination by taking your Scouts to places where they can see a plethora of stars. While the national high-adventure bases are great options for nighttime viewing; you can try finding a place closer to home, too. Visit a nearby observatory or find a place to camp under a "dark sky." The International Dark-Sky Association certifies places that have truly dark skies, away from light pollution. Here are the two closest to us (for a more complete list of U.S. sites go to <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/11/02/get-scouts-out-of-town-for-inspiring-views/>):

**Staunton River State Park** – [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/staunton-river#general\\_information](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/staunton-river#general_information)

Staunton River State Park is a 2,400 acre property situated squarely in the heart of southern Virginia (Scottsburg, VA), about 25 miles north of the North Carolina border. Its landscape of forests and meadows along the banks of the Dan and Staunton rivers are popular with outdoor enthusiasts of all stripes. In addition to various recreation opportunities, the Park offers overnight accommodations in campgrounds and historic cabins built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. In recent years the Park management became aware of the appeal of the site's naturally dark nighttime character and began welcoming visitors specifically coming to take advantage of viewing its dark night skies. The Park first hosted the Staunton River Star Party in fall 2011; the 2014 edition attracted 140 participants from around the region.

**Cherry Springs State Park** – [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CherrySpringsStatePark/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CherrySpringsStatePark/Pages/default.aspx)

Due to its exceptionally dark skies, Cherry Springs State Park is one of the best places in the eastern U.S. for stargazing. Situated at 2,300 feet above sea level in the largely undeveloped 262,000 acre Susquehannock State Forest, the Park's "Astronomy Field" offers an unobstructed 360-degree view. Cherry Springs is open year-round and 60 to 85 nights each year have ideal conditions for observing. Each year the park hosts two major star parties, which attract several hundred astronomers for several nights.

### Observatories/Planetariums

For a listing of sites within 75 miles of Washington, D.C., go to <http://astronomyindc.org/places.shtml>



## Paul R. Christen High Adventure Base at Summit Bechtel Reserve



Choose your own adventure at the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. With world-class venues for BMX, skateboarding, whitewater rafting, shooting sports, rock climbing, “bikepacking” and more, there’s more adventure at SBR than any young person could pack into a week.

**Summit Experience** – This is the sampler platter.

It’s the only program that lets you try all of SBR’s high adventure activities: skateboarding, BMX, shooting sports, archery, high ropes courses, climbing, mountain biking, canopy tours and an aquatic activity (kayaking and/or stand-up paddleboarding). Each group will perform a half-day service project and get a thrilling ride down the 3,100-foot Big Zip.

**Focused programs** – This one’s for Scouts and Venturers who know what they want. It lets participants focus in for three days in a single program area. The fourth day is a full-day elective activity in an adventure area. The fifth is a service project and ride down the Big Zip. Focus areas include:

- **Helmets & Harnesses:** A day of climbing at SBR’s man-made climbing facility, a day of climbing on natural rock in the New River Gorge and a half-day each on SBR’s high ropes and canopy tour program areas.
- **Berms and Bars:** BMX riding and skill development at the second-largest BMX facility in the U.S.
- **Ramps & Rails:** Skateboarding skill development at the second-largest skate park in the U.S.
- **The Marksman:** Three days trying multiple shooting-sports disciplines, including shotgun, high-powered rifle, pistol, archery and crossbows.

**Treks** – Trek programs take advantage of one of the greatest natural resources in the eastern United States: the New River Gorge. Scouts and Venturers will camp in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains either along the river or off the trail overlooking the gorge.

Spaces are still available for 2019 programs, though some weeks are full and others are filling fast. The 2019 schedule is abbreviated so SBR can host the 2019 World Scout Jamboree — the first on U.S. soil since 1967.

Registration for the 2020 season, running from mid-June to the end of August, is now open.

Find pricing and the latest availability info at this link:

[www.summitbsa.org/programs/national-high-adventure-base/high-adventure-registration/](http://www.summitbsa.org/programs/national-high-adventure-base/high-adventure-registration/)



## Safety Questions?



To learn the safe, proper way to use a pocketknife, climb a mountain or navigate whitewater, Scouts can crack a handbook or flip open a merit badge pamphlet.

But where should adult leaders turn for guidance on topics like health forms, age-appropriate activities and BSA insurance? They should start at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/), where the BSA has posted answers to questions leaders ask most.



## Clearing Up Common Questions About What We Wear



Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell was a stickler for correct uniforming. In *Aids to Scoutmastership*, he explained why: “Smartness in uniform and correctness in detail may seem a small matter, but has its value in the development of self-respect and means an immense deal to the reputation of the movement among outsiders who judge by what they see.”

These days, many packs, troops and crews have a more relaxed stance on uniforms. No Scout is turned away or publicly admonished because he or she isn't wearing the right thing. But in an effort to keep the uniform, well, uniform, we present these common conundrums.

### What's the field uniform?

It's what most people think of as the Scout uniform. It includes the uniform shirt; switchback pants, shorts, girls' skort or girls' roll-up pants; belt; socks; and, depending on your program, cap and neckerchief. (For Lions, the official uniform is a T-shirt and optional cap.)

### What's the activity uniform?

It's appropriate for informal occasions. It's the same as the field uniform, with a Scouting T-shirt or polo shirt replacing the uniform shirt and neckerchief. (Sometimes you'll hear this unofficially called “Class B” and the field uniform called “Class A.”)

### Can neckerchiefs be worn with the activity uniform?

Yes — and also with nonuniform clothing. That change was made to bring the BSA in line with other Scout associations around the world.

### What are the pant options for girl Cub Scouts?

Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelos who wear the blue Cub Scout uniform can choose from switchback pants, shorts, roll-up pants and skorts. Webelos who wear the khaki uniform can choose from pants and shorts. (Additional uniform options for girls in the khaki uniform are expected to be available in 2019.)

### How can girls with ponytails wear Cub Scout caps?

All current Cub Scout rank caps, with the exception of Webelos, are adjustable to allow for a ponytail. The Supply Group is planning to release similar caps for Webelos soon.

### Is the uniform required at boards of review?

No. According to the Guide to Advancement, it's preferable for the Scout or Venturer to be in full uniform (or at least in as much of it as he or she owns) and that the uniform be as correct as possible. Otherwise, the candidate should be clean and neat in appearance, and dressed appropriately. A board of review cannot reject a candidate solely for reasons related to uniforming or attire. Similarly, Sea Scouts appearing before a bridge of honor are encouraged, but not required, to wear the Sea Scout dress uniform.

### Where can I learn more about the placement of patches?

Check the Guide to Awards and Insignia at [www.scouting.org/resources/info-center/insignia-guide/](http://www.scouting.org/resources/info-center/insignia-guide/). You can also put your uniform together at [www.scoutshop.org/uniform\\_builder](http://www.scoutshop.org/uniform_builder).



## Share the Bethlehem Peace Light



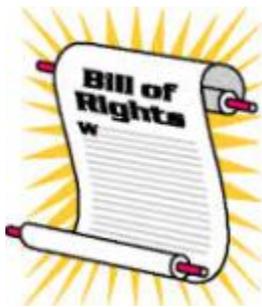
In early December, each year, a young girl or boy from Austria travels to Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus. During a solemn ceremony at the Grotto of Christ's Birth in the Church of the Nativity, a candle is lit at the eternal flame and placed in a special lantern. Many local people, including Scouts and Guides from the State of Palestine and Israel, are present and some accompany the ORF Peace Light to Tel Aviv airport from where it is flown to Austria.

For the last 25 years, representatives of Scout and Guide associations from Europe and beyond have been gathering in Vienna, Austria, to light their own candles from the Peace Light Lantern and carry it back to their local communities, including our Council Headquarters.

If you would like to Share the Bethlehem Peace Light come to the Marriott Scout Center (9190 Rockville Pike Bethesda, MD 20814) at 1PM Saturday, December 15, 2018. Bring a container with which to safely transport the flame back to your community.

For more look to <https://www.scout.org/node/21837>.

## 2018-19 We the Students Essay Contest



Each year, the We the Students Essay Contest gives high-school students in grades 8-12 from across the U.S. a chance to share your perspective on a trending topic.

This year's prompt is: What are the essential qualities of a citizen in your community in 21st century America?

This year we are asking you to dig deep and make your scholarship essay personal. A citizen comes in many shapes and sizes. Some serve their community by voting and participating in political events. Others serve through entrepreneurship or philanthropy. We want to know what you think makes a good citizen in your community. We encourage you to bring emotion, creativity, specific examples (including current events), and well-researched facts into what you write. A good essay will demonstrate how citizenship is not an abstract idea, but is, in fact, action inspired by constitutional principles. We can't wait to see what citizenship looks like in your community!

Awards:

- 1st Place – \$5,000 and a scholarship to our Constitutional Academy in Washington, D.C.
- Runners Up – Six prizes at \$1,250 each
- Honorable Mentions – Eight prizes at \$500 each

For more details, and to and submit your 500-800-word essay before February 14, 2019 go to: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/>

## 2020 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 will offer a lottery for 2020 summer reservations and 2019-2020 Okpik winter reservations. Registration for the lottery will be open from Tuesday January 8, 2019 until Tuesday January 15, 2019.

- Entry into the lottery will open at 9:00 am CST on Tuesday January 8 and will close at 5:00 pm CST Tuesday January 15.
- Enter the lottery online at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org).
- Crews selected for a Northern Tier Trek will be notified by email by Feb 1, 2019.
- Crews selected in the lottery will need to submit their \$800 per crew deposit by Feb 22, 2019.
- Any crews not selected will be notified by Feb 1 and a list of alternate dates will be provided.
- Available trips after lottery will be opened on a first-come, first-served basis on Feb 15, 2019.
- Only one entry per unit will be accepted. If there are duplicate entries for a unit, those entries will be discarded. Please designate only one individual to make a lottery entry.
- Additional details may be found at [www.ntier.org/lottery](http://www.ntier.org/lottery)

### Top Ten Excuses for Getting Lost on a Hike



10. I lost my cell phone reception and couldn't get Google Maps.
9. I was chased by squirrels and lost the trail.
8. I wanted to test my survival skills.
7. I have a negative sense of direction.
6. Hey, this was a wilderness hike, so that's where I went.
5. I was following my Scoutmaster.
4. I was using my handy dandy combination compass / refrigerator magnet.
3. The setting sun was in my eyes and I couldn't tell which way west was.
2. I was talking on my cell phone and took a wrong turn.
1. There's moss all around that tree!

## Florida National High Adventure Sea Base



The Florida National High Adventure Sea Base is a unique Scouting program that offers aquatic programs found nowhere else. Whether your interests lie in sailing, scuba diving, rustic camping on an undeveloped barrier island, fishing or a combination of all, this is the place for your Troop, Team, Crew, Sea Ship or Explorer Post. The Sea Base serves around 13,000 participants annually.

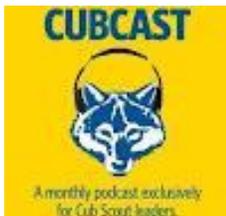
Scouting's most complete aquatic facility offers a variety of water activities from scuba diving to sailing "Tall Ships". All of our participants have the opportunity to swim, snorkel, and fish among the most beautiful coral reefs in the northern hemisphere.

Yes, it's time to start thinking about 2020. Slots for 2020 will be allocated using an online lottery, open in mid-January till mid-February. You can enter the lottery by logging onto [www.bsaseabase.org/](http://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 2020.

## Podcasts



### CubCast – December 2018 - Get Ready for the Pinewood Derby®!



You're probably busy with end-of-year and holiday preparations, but, pinewood derby time will be here before you know it. If you haven't started planning yet, we've got you covered. We were lucky enough to get Matt Gaor, the event chair of New York's Pinewood Derby World Championship for the last four years. With his leadership, the event went from only 125 participants for the first year up to 350 racers and 2,000 attendees this year. Even if you have started your planning, we bet you'll pick up an extra tip or two.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/Cubcast/2018.aspx>



### CubCast – November 2018 - The Lions Program



Loyal listener, @Howard\_Chalmers had some questions about changes to the Lions program, now that it's no longer a pilot program, but a bona fide, real-life program of the BSA. Christine McDanal the Council Lion Champion for the National Capital Area Council in Washington, DC. Will assist us with everything we need to know about the new Lions program. So, if you're a Lions' Den Leader or Cubmaster who now has Lion dens in your pack meeting, joins us for all the updates now that Lions have moved from pilot program to a full-fledged BSA program.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/Cubcast/2018.aspx>



## ScoutCast – December 2018 - Scouts BSA Frequently Asked Questions



The new Scouts BSA program—in case anyone out there hasn't already heard—means girls will be allowed to join Scout troops in February 2019. This is a big change to our already fantastic organization, so naturally the questions have been pouring in. We've gathered a list of the most frequently asked questions and joining us is the woman with all the answers—April McMillian. April is the department manager of Program Development here at the BSA National Service Center and will help us get the right answers to all those burning questions.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/Scoutcast2018.aspx>



## ScoutCast – November 2018 - Crossover for Adults



This month's episode stems from a tweet we received asking if we could have an episode not on youth who cross over from Cub Scouting to Scouts BSA but on adults who cross over from Cub Scouting to Scouts BSA. And we agreed that would make for an interesting discussion. So, we invited Steve Bowen back to the show. You may remember Steve from the November 2014 show where we discussed the development of merit badges. In addition to being on the National Merit Badge Subcommittee and other national committees, Steve has served as both a Cubmaster and a Scoutmaster, so we look to him for guidance on this topic.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/Scoutcast2018.aspx>

## On-Line Resource of the Month



ARE YOU READING ADVANCEMENT NEWS YET? To get yourself started, here's where to check it out:

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/GuideToAdvancement/Advancement\\_News.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/GuideToAdvancement/Advancement_News.aspx)

ADVANCEMENT NEWS is the official e-newsletter of the BSA's National Advancement Committee and National Advancement Team – It's written by volunteers for volunteers!

If you're a council or district advancement chair or committee member, or associated with the path to Eagle, this is a "must read" for you! But, no matter what your volunteer (or professional!) position in Scouting, you'll want to stay current and you'll enjoy browsing back issues in the Advancement News Archives.

To subscribe, just shoot an email to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line; and include your name, email address, and council name in the body of the message.

## Training Opportunities

### University of Scouting 2019



**When:** February 23, 2018

**Where:** Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA

**Registration:** Opens Jan 2, 2019 - [www.ncacbsa.org/training/university-of-scouting/](http://www.ncacbsa.org/training/university-of-scouting/)

University of Scouting is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. It is the only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Sea Scouting, District Operations, and Council). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouting, and Adventure and leadership training for Venturing and Sea Scouting; Electives courses applicable across the Scouting programs, and District operations courses. For 2019 we will be offering over 150 classes in five colleges – truly something for everyone.

- The College of Cub Scouting provides a wide variety of courses from pack administration to planning for an outdoor program.
- The College of Boy Scouting provides an exciting variety of troop, patrol and outdoor planning supplemental courses to help manage the challenges of a great troop experience.
- The College of Adventure Scouting is an interesting combination of courses for those who wish to learn more about Scouting's "senior" level programs and the challenges of an active high adventure experience.
- The College of Elective Programs offers many "general studies courses" that cut across all the programs. Just about everything from diversity and special needs to using technology can be found in the Elective Programs.
- The College of District Operations provides training to district committee members and Scouters with an interest in district operations. While no degree is conferred, those who take the required three courses are awarded the District Scouter Training Certificate and "Trained" patch

Standalone Courses are those that are BSA national syllabus courses such as VLSC(Y), VLSC(A), VALST, or are courses that lead to certification recognized and/or needed by the BSA. Note that standalone courses do not meet any degree requirements in any College.

**BALOO** – Due to the NEW Training Requirements of BALOO we can no longer offer a one day class.

## 2019 National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)



NYLT 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.

The course is presented primarily using a Boy Scout model as the vehicle which allows all attendees to see how leadership skills fit into the scouting program. These leadership skills are applicable to all scouting programs.

### Why have NYLT?

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!

**Dates:** January 19-21 and February 16-18 (must attend both weekends)

**Where:** Camp Snyder

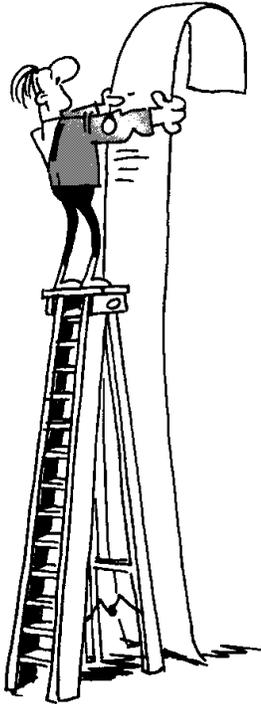
**Cost:** \$250 (until Dec 11, 2017 when the cost goes to \$300)

**Registration:** <https://scoutingevent.com/082-22670>

In order to attend the course each participant must certify that they have or will have by January 19, 2019 met the following qualifications to attend NYLT

- Attained First Class Rank if in Boy Scouts
- Completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, Crews, or Ships.
- At least 14 years of age by the course start date (or 13 years of age with the Course Director's approval) All participants 13 years of age must contact the Course Director at [farr.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:farr.scouts@gmail.com) before registering online.
- Home Unit Leader approval.

## District Calendar



### December 2018

12 Roundtable  
 12 OA Chapter Meeting  
 19 **Annual District Business Meeting**  
 21 Winter Break Starts

### January 2019

1 Holiday  
 9 Roundtable  
 9 OA Chapter Meeting  
 18 Moveable School Holiday  
 21 MLK Jr. Day  
 23 District Committee

### February 2019

3 Scout Sunday  
 8 Scout Jumuah  
 8-10 **Freeze-o-ree**  
 9 Scout Sabbath  
 13 Roundtable  
 13 OA Chapter Meeting  
 18 President's Day  
 27 District Committee

### March 2019

9 **District Pinewood Derby**  
 13 Roundtable  
 13 OA Chapter Meeting  
 27 District Committee  
 29 School Holiday  
 29-31 **Spring Camporee**

### April 2019

1 Student Holiday  
 10 Roundtable  
 10 OA Chapter Meeting  
 15-19 Spring Break  
 24 District Committee

### May 2019

1 **District Court of Honor**  
 8 **Program Launch**  
 8 OA Chapter Meeting  
 10-12 **OA Spring Ordeal**  
 22 District Committee  
 27 Memorial Day

### June 2019

7 Last Day of School  
 12 Roundtable  
 12 OA Chapter Meeting  
 17-21 **Goose Creek Day Camp**  
 17-20 **Goose Creek Twilight Camp**  
 26 District Committee

### July 2019

4 Independence Day

### August 2019

14 Roundtable  
 14 OA Chapter Meeting  
 28 District Committee

### September 2019

2 Labor Day  
 11 Roundtable  
 11 OA Chapter Meeting  
 25 District Committee

### October 2019

9 Roundtable  
 9 OA Chapter Meeting  
 14 Columbus Day  
 23 District Committee

### November 2019

2 **SFF Post-it Note Distribution**  
 9 **SFF Food Pickup**  
 13 Roundtable  
 13 OA Chapter Meeting  
 27 District Committee  
 30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**