**Upcoming Events (Training Events in RED)**

**August**
- 25  District Committee Mtg, 7:30pm, 199 North Place, Frederick, 21701  
  david.place@Scouting-cmd.org
- 26  District Eagle Board by appointment only, contact nfeldser@comcast.net

**September**
- 8  Roundtable at the Walkersville Watershed beginning at 6:15pm. Bring a dish to share. See details below.
- 10  Commissioner’s Meeting, 7:30pm 199 North Place, Frederick  
  contact cmdcommissioner@aol.com
- 11-13  **Woodbadge**, contact margie.egan@scouting.org
- 12  **Fall Super Training**, contact Colby Child mudrat@erols.com
- 22  District Committee Mtg, 7:30pm, 199 North Place, Frederick, 21701  
  david.place@Scouting-cmd.org
- 23  District Eagle Board by appointment only, contact nfeldser@comcast.net

**October**
- 1  **Registration deadline for Outdoor Leader Skills Training (IOLST)**, AlanAshley@cedarville.edu
- 8  **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training (IOLST)**, AlanAshley@cedarville.edu
- 9-11  Webelos Mountain
- 10-12  **Woodbadge**, contact margie.egan@scouting.org
- 13  Roundtable (Boy Scout/Cub Scout/OA) 7:15pm at LDS Stake Center,  
  199 North Place, Frederick.  
  **Training at RT**: CSLST, BSLST, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat,  
  Climb On Safely or Trek Safely. Training sessions made available by contacting mudrat@erols.com
- 15  Commissioner’s Meeting, 7:30pm 199 North Place, Frederick  
  contact cmdcommissioner@aol.com
- 23-25  **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training**, AlanAshley@cedarville.edu
- 28  District Eagle Board by appointment only, contact nfeldser@comcast.net

**SCOUTER PICNIC AT SEPTEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

The annual Scouter Picnic will be held at the September 8 Roundtable at the Walkersville Watershed. Food serving will begin at 6:15 PM. Cost is $5.00 per person. Each Scouter should also bring a side dish to share. The District will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, plates, cups and utensils. This year our colleagues from the Appalachian Trail District will be joining us. Advance registration is required by email to CMDCommissioner@aol.com. Please use “Picnic” in the subject line. Registration cut off will be Saturday, September 5.
I hope all units got to spend quality time in the outdoors this summer, especially at a long term Scout camp. The slogan from a few years ago that “Scouting is outing” continues to apply to our program.

As you have heard me say many times, while direct contact leaders have been enjoying the outdoor experience with Scouts, your Commissioner’s Corps has been hard at work in providing necessary support to our infrastructure activities. One of these is the dreaded R word – RECHARTER. At August Roundtable, Recharter Plans for the 2015 effort were placed in all unit mailboxes. It is critically important that units now begin to think about and plan for recharter because our window opens on November 1 and essentially closes by December 23. New this year, unit leaders of record (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, Skipper and Crew Advisor) will be mailed recharter packages by the national BSA office on October 1. The package will include the Internet Rechartering access code, 2015 Handbook, Charter Renewal Agreement and the turn in envelope. Units should be identifying the recharter point person, conducting adult and youth membership inventories, checking Youth Protection Training currency, and identifying adult leaders courses needed for position in the 2016 charter year. Recharter is not easy, but with advance planning and maintaining a good humor, we can get through this season with minimal difficulty.

A lot of great Scouting events are coming up for the fall. Popcorn sales have kicked off, a District Super Training Day is planned on September 12, Join Scouting Nights, Troop Open Houses, Webelos Woods, Scouting for Food and so many other great activities for our youth and adult leaders are just around the corner. This is a great time to be in Scouting.

Don’t forget the annual Scouter Picnic will be held at the September 8 Roundtable at the Walkersville Watershed. Food serving will begin at 6:15 PM. Cost is $5.00 per person. Each Scouter should also bring a side dish to share. The District will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, plates, cups and utensils. This year our colleagues from the Appalachian Trail District will be joining us. Email advance registration is required to CMDCommissioner@aol.com. Please use “Picnic” in the subject line. Registration cut off will be Saturday, September 5.

I am still seeking a Scouter interested in serving as the Unit Commissioner for the 1998 units.

One final thought - just this week, I saw the new BSA web site just for Cub Scout programs, which links everything a Pack or Den Leader needs to be successful in providing a worthwhile and fun experience for our Cub Scouts. Check it out at CubScouting.org.

Yours in Commissioner Service,

Bill Desmond
District Commissioner
Calling All Boy Scouts – Earn Special Patches and Certificates Through Service Projects at Catoctin Mountain Park

Would you like to earn special patches for 10 hours of service improving trails or helping control invasive plants? If so, please join Catoctin Mountain Park in a Volunteer Service Series from mid September through the end of November.

Volunteer Trail Maintenance and Barberry Brigade crews will work every Saturday and Sunday from September 11 through November 29 with the lofty, but attainable goal of completing or eliminating the current trail maintenance backlog and removing visual signs of Japanese Barberry within 100 feet of all park roads and trails. Everyone contributing 10 hours towards Japanese Barberry control will receive a special Barberry Brigade patch. Boy Scouts who contribute 10 hours towards any service project in Catoctin Mountain Park will be recognized with a certificate and a Scout Ranger Patch. Scouts who contribute 10 hours removing Japanese Barberry have the added benefit of earning a certificate, and both patches.

The Trail maintenance team will begin work at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, when individuals and groups are invited to spend a portion of the day working in the forest to help stabilize trails. As always, enthusiasm is more important than skill or past experience as qualified National Park Service personnel will lead and mentor trail maintenance teams working to correct high priority trail issues.

The Barberry Brigade will gather at 1 pm to mount a frontal attack on what has been called the "least reversible of all human impacts on the ecosystem." This impact is the spread of alien invasive plants that are re-populating the forest and squeezing out native plants that provide food and habitat for native animal species. Catoctin Mountain Park hopes to lessen the impact of the problematic Japanese Barberry through citizen involvement in the “Barberry Brigade.”

The Barberry Brigade will literally rip plants from the soil. While plants will be pulled manually, volunteers will learn how pulley systems can make the process less laborious, easier on the back and good way to have fun while learning about simple machines. Barberry Brigade volunteers who contribute 10 or more cumulative hours towards barberry control will be rewarded with a special patch.

Volunteers must wear long pants and closed toed shoes and are encouraged to bring adequate water and snacks. Insect repellent and sun screen may add to personal comfort. Guidance, gloves and tools are provided. Each work session will last approximately 3 hours. Volunteers are invited to work at either or both sessions as their schedule permits.

Sessions will be repeated on Sunday, with Barberry Brigade activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. The trail maintenance crew will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Participation for each session will be limited to one organized group or 25 people. Please call Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Mills at 301-663-9399 or email her at debbie_mills@npg.gov to learn more, or to claim a date for your troop. Life Scouts take note, trail maintenance and Barberry projects can be modified to meet the requirements for an Eagle Project.
Why not make it a weekend? The Poplar Grove Youth Tenting Area has 3 sites accommodating 25 people per site. Reservations for Poplar Grove can be made at www. Recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

Activities on September 26 will celebrate National Public Lands Day. The October 3 sessions support the regional Day to Serve program. Individuals working on National Public Lands Day will receive a voucher good for free admission to any NPS unit. Participants on The Day to Serve will receive a special certificate.

![ emblem and patch images]

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Mills to see how Scouts can earn both patches and a certificate by contributing 10 hours of service to Catoctin Mountain Park

**Where to go Camping** submitted by Bill Desmond
Amangamek Wipit Lodge #470 Order of the Arrow has put together an 81 page guide to camping in our area including High Adventure camping. To view the entire document, go to: [https://app.box.com/s/8kjp2iwa3zscj79qyqlefsj3gvyri9wk](https://app.box.com/s/8kjp2iwa3zscj79qyqlefsj3gvyri9wk)

**Super Training Day** submitted by Colby Child
Super Saturday Training: Saturday, September 12, 2015. There will be training offered for all areas of Scouting: Cubs, Scouts, Varsity, Venturing and Chartered Organization Representative. For questions, please contact Colby Child mudrat@erols.com.
Frederick Regional Dance submitted by Damon Allen
The LDS young men and young women have invited all the Venturing Scouts in Frederick County to the youth dance on August 22nd at the Stake Center (where we hold Roundtable). This dance will be casual in dress, and there won't be dance instruction this time. There will be some refreshments. A flyer for the event is below.

We are welcomed to share this information with your Crewmembers. There is no admission cost for the dance.

If your Crews have further questions, let me know.
Paul Smith
(301) 748-2929
Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills submitted by Dave Place

The Fall Course dates are:
Classroom: Sat. 9/26 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA
Overnight: Sat. 10/24, 7:00 AM thru Sun. 10/25, 1:30 PM at Camp Highroads, Middleburg, VA

Questions: ask the NCAC BCOLS Coordinator, Dominick Caridi, at 703-625-4196 or DscScouting@aol.com

Registration is now open on the NCAC website — just click on the BCOLS title on the Banner on the home page of the council website.

Below is a short description of the course. Click on the link below for an excerpt from the Patriot District’s newsletter that’s worth reading!  https://app.box.com/s/fktxjou61d0lr4g4xfgv7gto2xavktav

Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS)
This course is aimed at all adults working with older youth regardless of program (Venture Patrol, Varsity Scout, Venturing Crew, or Explorer Post).

The target audiences are leaders planning High Adventure treks at back country 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 shakedowns will, most likely, take place in venues not supported by BSA infrastructure.

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. Its goal is to provide adult leaders with an overview of such topics as:

- Working with Older Youth
- Leadership Team-building & Development
- Personal Hygiene & Introduction to Wilderness First Aid
- Risk Management
- Terrain Awareness & Land Navigation
- Cooking & Clean-up
- Leave No Trace Awareness
- Crew Equipment Needs
- Equipment Maintenance & Water Treatment
- Personal Equipment Needs
- Resources
- On-the-trail Tips

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills Training
Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, which is required training for Scoutmasters and ASM's, will be offered under the following schedule:

- 10/8/15, Thursday evening - initial training topics will be presented, patrols will be formed, and patrols will plan for the overnight experience
- 10/23-10/24, Friday through Saturday - training will be completed through an outdoor camping experience

Registration deadline is 10/1. Contact AlanAshley@cedarville.edu with questions or to register.
You Can Impact Youth for Life
Simply by Promoting their Opportunities

BSA has established a unit-level position of Religious Emblems Coordinator ("REC") for the purpose of encouraging all youth to earn the emblem of their faith. To support this initiative, Catoctin Mountain District will issue a complimentary Unit REC position patch (pictured above) to the first 20 units who respond by contacting District REC, Alan Ashley, at AlanAshley@cedarville.edu or 240-409-6610 (voice or text). In addition, anyone assisting in the recruitment of a Unit REC will receive a promotional patch (pictured below). Just let Alan know of your efforts.

Information about the role of the Unit REC can be found at the following websites:
http://www.praypub.org/rec/
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/newsletter/spotlight/10_2013_religious.aspx
New Grade Guidelines for God and Family Program
submitted by Alan Ashley
P.R.A.Y. has expanded the grade guidelines for the God and Family program from grades 4 & 5 to include 6th grade. Here are the updated grade guidelines:

God and Me, grades 1-3
God and Family, grades 4-6
God and Church, grades 6-8
God and Life, grades 9-12

These grade guidelines allow for an overlap between the God and Family and God and Church programs. Sixth grade is a transitional time for school children, and this overlap will allow congregations to choose the appropriate program to meet the needs and maturity level of these middle school young people. This change does not impact our grade guidelines: children are to enter at their appropriate grade level and not go backwards to earn younger awards.

The P.R.A.Y. brochure has been updated to reflect this change (click here for the updated flyer), and the God and Family workbooks will be updated at the next printing.

Click here for the complete eligibility guidelines for P.R.A.Y.
http://www.praypub.org/god_country/eligibility.htm

God and Life Course for Highschoolers and Above
Submitted by Alan Ashley
A God and Life course has been scheduled as noted below. Youth throughout the District are welcomed to participate, including sisters, brothers, and friends. This course is the Religious Emblems curriculum for several Protestant and independent Christian denominations (e.g., AME, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of God, CMA, and many others). But the course is open to anyone in the age range who is interested in attending. For additional information on this course or to register, please contact Alan Ashley at AlanAshley@cedarville.edu or 240-409-6610 (voice or text).
Age range: A) Any youth in grades 9-12 and
     B) older youth that are still registered as a youth member in a Troop, Crew, or Ship
Cost: $0
Dates: 6 Thursday nights - 9/10, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 12/3
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: People's Baptist Church, 6648 Carpenter Road, Frederick
Instructor: Pastor Kent Ramler who has done a great job with Religious Emblems over the last 5 years. The course will be well worth your time.
Awards: Patches, pin, certificate, medal, and name printed in the Scouter Digest

If you have a different faith tradition, please contact Alan Ashley as noted above for assistance with locating the applicable curriculum.
The Shangri-La Detachment 118 of the Marine Corps League recently presented a $10,000 check to the National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America towards the purchase of the Walkersville Watershed to be used by the Boy Scouts as a new council camp. Here, League Commandant Ron Layman presents the donation to Les Baron with several of the Detachment Officers looking on. The camp will be used for various functions including the training of tomorrow’s leaders. The Marine Corps League also provides academic scholarships to children of Marines and former Marines.

**Pictured left to right:** Carl Lenhart, Ron Layman, Les Baron, Walter Rooney, “Bing” Baugh

*Photo by Rich Golling*
Thank You from Eagle Scout submitted by Norm Feldser

Each year at the District Dinner, a scholarship is given out to one of the Eagle Scouts for that year. One of the stipulations of receiving the scholarship is that the Eagle will write a thank you note and have it published in The Blue Blaze. Below is the thank you note for the 2015 Eagle Scout Scholarship recipient.

Hello Mr. Feldser

I am writing to thank you for awarding me with the District Eagle Scout Scholarship. Especially considering recent tuition increases and financial aid cuts at the University of Maryland, any money I can get is a great help.

I'm pursing a BA in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Computer Science (just like you told me to during my Eagle board of review). My first employment goal after graduation is to secure a position at SpaceX, which will be very difficult to do, given that they only take on the best of the best. In order to help my odds, in addition to getting a high GPA, I will likely be working at Maryland's Space Systems Lab, the director of which I am in correspondence with. Our SSL is one of the premier collegiate labs in the country, and the only one to house a neutral buoyancy facility. Hopefully this will help me gain the experience and connections needed to obtain my employment goals! And if not, at least it will be fulfilling work that will satisfy the drive for exploration that I first realized in Boy Scouts.

Anyway, thanks again for awarding me this scholarship, and also for all the help and guidance you provided me with on my road to Eagle. It means a lot to me.

Trevor Hemby

Service Opportunities in Catoctin Mountain Park submitted by Magaly Green

Here is a summary of trail projects that need to be completed at Catoctin Mountain Park.

Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, MD is seeking help from Boy Scout Troops interested in completing trail work. Projects will reduce soil erosion on the trails of our park by controlling the flow of water. For example, you could install water bars, a check dam, or a french drain to redirect water off of the trail. Another option is removing invasive plants, such as barberry, from the trails.

Projects will be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays between 8 am and 4 pm beginning August 1st. Groups of 5-15 individuals will be best. If interested please contact Mike Englar at todd_englar@partner.nps.gov.
STEM Learning Opportunities submitted by Scott Rippeon

I recently received the email below and thought this might be something of interest to your Cubs. If you already received this email directly from Sylvan, my apologies for the double mailing. Best wishes, Scott Rippeon STEM coordinator, CMD

My name is Laura Forman and I am the Education Director at the Sylvan Learning Center in Frederick, MD. As a Scout leader, I know that fostering your Troop’s academic skills is probably very important to you, and you may be looking for some educational content for your Troop meetings.

We have some great new enrichment programs for kids in grades 1-6: Robotics using LEGO®, Coding for Kids and Math Edge. We could have a Sylvan teacher attend and teach a FREE Robotics, Coding and Math class at one of your next meetings!

These are fun, motivating programs that give kids an edge in school and help them develop STEM skills in a super fun way! The kids will have a blast doing all the fun activities, which include:

• Creating and animating robots using the LEGO® WeDo™ software used in our Robotics course
• Learning basic coding concepts to see just how easy computer programming can be in our Coding course
• Having a blast practicing math skills with our Math Edge worksheets
• Receiving a special offer on our new STEM programs!

We would provide all of the materials for the class, so we would just need your help coordinating the date, time and space. If you’re interested, just give me a call! I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks!

Laura Forman
Director of Education
Sylvan Learning Center
75 Thomas Johnson Drive
Frederick, MD 21702
(301) 662-2727
slcfdk@traed.com
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2015 • NOON

SCOUT OVERNIGHTER!
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Overnight Camping on Campus

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Light Breakfast Provided
BOY SCOUT SPORTS MERIT BADGE:
Maryland Student-Athlete and
Strength & Conditioning Coaches
will discuss in detail the first three requirements
(also directly relevant to many Cub Scout rank requirements and belt loops)

TERPS VS. BULLS — DISCOUNTED GROUP SEATING:
ONLY $20/person. Those wishing to just attend the game
and Sports Merit Badge discussion pay only $15.
Halftime parade around Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium.

TROOP/PACK ORDER DEADLINE: Friday, Sept. 11

For more information or to order your group tickets
and register for Scout Day, please visit umterps.com/boyscouts
or contact Pete Thompson (301-405-8112, pthompso5@umd.edu).
Parking passes can be purchased through
Pete Thompson at 301-405-8112.
ADVENTURING BLURB
FREDERICK COUNTY VOA
SUMMER 2015

MEETINGS

Frederick Co. VOA
3rd Tuesday, 6:30-7:15 pm
Frederick Church of the Brethren
Jun 16
Aug 18
Sep 15
Oct 20
Nov 17
Dec 15

NCAC VOA
1st Tuesday 7-9 pm
NCAC, Bethesda
Jul 7
Aug 4
Sep 1

Frederick Co. Venturing Forum
3rd Tuesday 7:20-8:20 pm
Frederick Church of the Brethren
Jun 16
Aug 18
Oct 20

District Round Table
2nd Tuesday 7 - 9 pm
LDS Stake and Church of the Brethren
Jun 9
Aug 11
Sep 8

ACTIVITIES

June

June 16: Youth Officers Needed for FCVOA
Allenonthelake@gmail.com, Rich_golling@yahoo.com
Youth Officers are needed to plan and regulate the Frederick County Venturing Officers Association. Youth need to be registered in the Venturing Program and show an interest in obtaining leadership skills by serving on the FCVOA. Positions open include: President, VP of Administration, VP of Program, and Treasurer. Contact Damon Allen or Rich Golling for more information.

June 16: Venturing Forum
Allenonthelake@gmail.com, Rich_golling@yahoo.com
The next Frederick County Venturing Forum will take place on June 19 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren starting at 7:15 PM. Learn about the new leadership positions of the Frederick County VOA. The forum will be held at the regular meeting location.

Summer

Summer: Camp Meade
www.hmocbsa.org
Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation’s Camp Meade is open to Venturers to experience a unique summer adventure! Venturers can choose from 7 different weeks for their adventure! Go online and check out the program available.

Summer: V-Week
www.fcacbsa.org
Camp Slaughter is hosting a V-Week for all Venturers from 2-8 August! ATV Driving, Project COPE, Wilderness Survival, Leave No Trace, and Adventure Outposts are just a few of the many available programs for youth this summer! Go online and register!

Summer: Venturing @ Goshen
Gary.Carroll@scouting.org
Goshen Scout Reservation has special programs available for Venturers during the Summer! In one week, youth can work on various requirements for the new Venturing Awards! In a two-week stay, youth can complete nearly half of the Ranger Award Requirements! Youth can decide to attend as an individual or in a group. The youth decide what activities they wish to participate in and have an adventurous summer! For more information and to register, contact Gary Carroll as soon as possible.

Summer: Eagle Base
www.lhcbsa.org
The Laurel Highlands Council’s Eagle Base High Adventure program is open to all Venturers throughout the summer! Participants can register as individuals or as an entire Crew. Full week and half week programs are offered! All equipment is provided. So participants only need to bring their personal belongings. Go online to check out the program.

FRIENDS

All Crew officers are encouraged to join us to plan activities! Contact: Damon Allen, Advisor: allenonthelake@comcast.net

TRAINING

June 21-26, July 12-17, and 26-31: NCAC National Youth Leadership Training (IMPEESA)
http://www.ncacbso.org

The National Capital Area Council will be hosting three separate National Youth Leadership Training Courses known as IMPEESA or NVLT. Each session is a week long where each participant: Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts learn the necessary skills to be efficient leaders within their respective unit(s). The youth will learn about setting a Vision, establishing Goals, as well as Planning. Participants will also learn about solving problems, using the EDGE method, and making Decision. Participants must be 13 years of age, Venturers and Sea Scouts must be under 21 years old to be able to attend the course. For more information on course fees and to register, go online to the NCAC Website.
International Scouting News Submitted by Shawn Youngberg
The August issue of International Scouting News is available at
https://app.box.com/s/pmctg6lh08ylqempytg02465ml6qp36z

CAMP AIRY WAS GREAT by Jim Sundergill
This was the 56th season for Camp Airy BSA. The merit badge program operates for one week at the end of the summer. It is held at the Strauss Foundation’s Camp Airy facility (hence its name) near Thurmont. It was nationally accredited by the BSA in 1995 and has been accredited every year since then.

This year there were 200 campers and over 150 staff. Experts in their respective fields teach each merit badge class assisted by older Scouts. Campers and staff stay in the cabins at Camp Airy and eat in the large dining hall.

Each year there is a theme decided upon by the staff. This year’s theme was Pirates. There were Jolly Roger flags and on Friday (Aug. 14) the staff wore an assortment of fantastic costumes. In addition to providing an outstanding merit badge program, the theme made the camp a whole lot of fun for everyone.

If your Troop hasn’t been to Camp Airy in the past, you should definitely consider it for 2016. A word of caution though, the camp fills up early, so you should make your reservations as soon as possible for next year.

Damon Allen as Captain Nigel Wolly.

Disclaimer
The Catoctin Mountain District only posts advertisements/information which may be directly related to Scouting, however the inclusion of such advertising/articles does not suggest nor imply endorsement of any such product, person or company.

Please encourage every one of the leaders and adults in your unit to sign up for The Blue Blaze so we can improve the communication of Scouting information in our District. The process is easy. Just use the link at the left, fill in the blanks and you will be on the distribution list. If you find you are not getting The Blue Blaze mailings even though you signed up, just go back