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- Jun 13 Roundtable
- Jun 18-22 District Day Camp
- Aug 8 Roundtable
- Sep 12 Roundtable
- Sept 22-23 Webelos-o-ree

Newsletter Key:



Goose Creek District Newsletter

June 2012

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The Pivot Point



One troop is led by adults, one is led by the Scouts.

What's the difference? At the risk of oversimplifying the answer the difference is focus.

Troops run by adults are focused on results. Troops run by Scouts are focused on process.

I accept that between the two extremes of fully adult and fully youth led there are many shades of grey but I think the basic conclusion of focus hold up.

Adults are more experienced and more capable of producing results, of posting good numbers. I readily admit that if you want reliable good results it is best to have adults lead things.

If we are focused on the process of Scouting – that set of opportunities and experiences that shape the lives and character of Scouts – we will see both results and achieve the aims of our work.

The pivot point between the two approaches to Scouting is whether or not we understand and value the process.

Understanding and valuing results is easy; do requirements and earn badges, go camping and rack up nights camping, recruit Scouts and grow in number.

Understanding and valuing the process is quite a bit more subtle. When Scouts set their own course, when they learn to work together to make things happen they are participating in the process of Scouting. The results of the process are not easily measurable, we can't express them numerically and so it takes a trained eye to detect them.

The newsletter staff is taking the month of July off, the next district newsletter will be August 2012.

Enjoy summer camp!

District News

District Website: www.GooseCreekDistrict.org

Fill the Bus... with FOOD!



On June 9, 2012 Goose Creek would like to fill a bus or two or more with food for the food banks we support in the area. This event is nothing like the November Scouting For Food. The boys will not be handing out fliers and bags door to door. We will have buses at various locations to be filled with food. Loudoun Transit has agreed to help with these efforts and will provide the buses and also deliver the food. The buses being used are not the big tour buses. They are the one used by Loudoun Regional Transit.

The boys role will be to help collect the food brought to the bus and put it on the bus. Once the time frame is finished it will then be delivered to the Food Banks. We will need boys and adults to go to the food banks to help unload the food. The only area assignment that will be given depends on where your unit is from. They will go to the store(s) where we have buses located and help there. After the food is delivered the boys are done. We would collect food for about two hours. 10:00am - 12:00pm then deliver it.

At this point we need to know if anyone (individuals, packs, troops) has any interest in helping with this event so that we can determine the number, and location, of the buses needed. Please call Stacey Noll (Goose Creek Scouting for Food Coordinator, StaceyNoll@NollCentral.com).

Fall Join Scouting Night



It's Official, It's Official, It's Official....

Fall Join Scouting Night (JSN) is Wednesday September 19, 2012 from 7-8pm.

Mark your calendars because as the schools slide into summer, the training and preparation for JSN get under way. Continuing the strong tradition of welcoming boys of all ages into Cub Scouting, Chris Goda will be leading Goose Creek District in making this year better than last year. New collateral, new ideas and improved training across Loudoun County to reach as many volunteers as possible.

Registered JSN Volunteers will begin receiving JSN newsletters directly in early June, continuing monthly as training dates and sites are finalized and we reach Wednesday September 19, 2012.

Let's make JSN this year the best year yet....!!!!!!

Goose Creek's First Scout LNT Trainer



The Council's first BSA Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer course for Scouts was conducted during an LNT campout, 31 March – 1 April, at the Rockville Izaak Walton League. Scouts reviewed LNT guidelines, learned how to teach LNT principles, and applied their new knowledge and skills in practical exercises throughout the weekend. Twelve Scouts and Venturers from several Maryland and Virginia units earned their BSA LNT Trainer certification. Congratulations to Eagle Scout George Birsic (Troop 1154), who is Goose Creek District's first qualified Scout LNT Trainer.

Webelos-o-ree 2012



This fall (Sept 22-23) our District will be holding our 8th annual Webelos-o-ree, an overnight camping event, at Meadowkirk in Middleburg VA. This camping event is designed to introduce Webelos and their parents to the fun Scouting adventures ahead and to help make the transition into Boy Scouts exciting. Participation in the Webelos-o-ree is open to all those that will be fourth and fifth grade Webelos in September.

The Webelos-o-ree starts off with an opening ceremony Saturday morning and wraps up Sunday after chapel services. Activities will be run by our own Boy Scout troops and can include such things as: Fire building, cooking, monkey bridge, BB shooting and/or archery, a campfire run by the Boy Scout Order of the Arrow, and much more. For the adults we'll provide plenty of Scout leaders to answer questions about camping, joining Boy Scouts, and camping equipment. We will also hold a Webelos to Scout orientation for 2nd year Webelos and an Introduction to Webelos meeting for 1st year Webelos and their parents.

A full information/registration packet will be posted on the District website in August.

High Adventure Opportunities



2013 NCAC Philmont Provisional and Unit-Crew Opportunities: NCAC has space on its three 2013 Philmont contingents: P709 (7/7-21) and P716 (7/14-28) are standard trips estimated at \$2100 per person and include an extra day for rafting and other activities. P723 (7/22-8/4) is an economy trip estimated at \$1800 per person. Unit-crews should apply using the fax in unit application (www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=1988&id=10 7214). All provisional and unit crews will travel together under arrangements made by NCAC. For more information, see www.boyscouts-ncac.org/highadventure or contact Dave Talbott at Dave.Talbott@uspto.gov, 301-933-0048 or Wes Haynes at Wes.Haynes@scouting.org, 301-943-8376.

2013 NCAC Florida Sea Base Opportunity: NCAC is sponsoring a Coral Reef Sailing Contingent, S717, leaving Washington on July 17 and returning on July 23 at an estimated cost of \$1600 per person. An application is available at www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=1988&id=10
7213. For more information, contact Dana Abrahamsen at DAbrahamsen@ftc.gov, 703-280-9782 or Wes Haynes at Wes.Haynes@scouting.org, 301-943-8376.

Troop Participation in the Webelos-o-ree



Over the years we have heard from several troops that one reason that they don't participate in the Webelos-o-ree (Sept 22-23 at Meadowkirk in Middleburg) is that they already have enough Webelos joining their troop and don't need to do another recruiting event. What the troops who do participate, and keep coming back, found is that this is <u>not</u> a recruiting event; it's a chance for their Scouts to teach skills to others. Teaching others is the best way to really acquire deep knowledge of an area. By sharing their skills, Scouts retain their knowledge better and provide service to others.

At the Webelos-o-ree each troop selects a different activity/skill that their Scouts teach the Webelos and their parents during a morning and afternoon session. Troops may elect to either camp at the event (there is space for 7-8 troops to stay over) or to just come in for the day to run their activity. And the cost? Nothing! There is no registration fee for Boy Scouts, even if they camp. The only thing required is a service project to help keep the event running (starting cooking fires, cleanup, food prep, etc.).

If your troop is interested in participating in this year's Webelos-o-ree, even if you were at last year's, please contact *GCProgram@verizon.net* so that we can coordinate the activities to be run and see what space is available for camping.

Goose Creek Patchboard



Since mid 2006 Goose Creek has maintained a board with a patch from each district event that we have run and is brought out for display at several events during the year.

Now while the board is pretty impressive we would like to see if we can make it even better by back filling in those years prior to 2006. If you have a patch from any Goose Creek district event (camporee, derby, Freeze-o-ree, Webelos-o-ree) prior to 2006, or a patch from either the 2006 Freeze-o-ree or Pinewood Derby that you would like to donate to the board please contact Alan Steiner (GCProgram@verizon.net) or bring it to a district Roundtable.

Mother Goose & Grimm



"Onward and Upward"

On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagle Scouts:

Ross Baigis – T1158 Chandler Beardsley – T2970 Aaron Branch – T1910 Michael Campbell – T1550 Kristopher Fortier – T761 David Garber – T711 Matthew Newberry – T2970 Charles Palmiotto – T950 Tyler Raffensperger – T1910 Arjun Vinayak Sastry – T997 Nathan Whipple – T1154 Brenden White – T982

Eagle Scout Congratulatory Letters



Earning the Eagle Scout Award is something to write home about — literally. Politicians, astronauts, celebrities, and other recognizable figures have been sending hand-signed letters to new Eagle Scouts for, well, a 100 years.

The very first congratulatory letter was sent in 1912 when the first Eagle Scout, Arthur R. Eldred, received a note from James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive. Today, parents and Scout leaders can request these scrapbookworthy keepsakes from pretty much anyone with a mailbox.

But who is known to respond, and how do you contact them? And when do you send off these requests anyway? To help you solve this problem, Bryan Wendel, senior editor of *Scouting* magazine has written a short article on how to request congratulatory letters: http://blog.ScoutingMagazine.org/2012/05/02/how-to-request-congratulatory-letters-for-your-eagle-scout/

National Advancement Team on Twitter



The BSA national Advancement Team now has a "Twitter" account. We're sending out a few "tweets" every week addressing some of the questions we're regularly asked—another way to help Scouters understand the national advancement policies and procedures, and the rationales behind them.

Folks can follow the Advancement Team on Twitter at "@AdvBSA" or "BSA Advancement Team."

They can also link to the GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT, the EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT WORKBOOK, "Advancement News" Archives, and the Eagle Scout Rank Application at:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx

Council / National News

Council Website: www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org

New Chief Scout Executive



The Chief Scout Executive Selection Committee announced it has chosen **Wayne Brock** as the next Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. On Sept. 1, 2012, he'll take office and become just the 12th chief in the BSA's 102 years.

Brock, an Eagle Scout, currently serves as Deputy Chief Scout Executive/Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Scout Executive is the top paid professional in Scouting. He isn't the most-public face of Scouting — that distinction goes to the Scouts themselves — but he serves an invaluable role in guiding the massive Scouting movement into the future.

If the BSA were a corporation, the Chief Scout Executive would be our CEO. His task is to work alongside his volunteer counterpart — the National President — to lead 1,100 National Council employees, 5,800 local council employees, and almost 1.2 million adult volunteers who serve more than 2.6 million youth across the nation.

The BSA already announced that another Wayne, **Wayne Perry**, a Silver Buffalo Award winner and member of the board of directors for the Seattle Mariners baseball team, will serve as the next National President.

BSA's Tool-Use Guidelines



When it comes to service projects, nobody does it better — or safer — than the Boy Scouts. But before you gather equipment for your next Good Turn, ask yourself some questions:

- Can my 14- and 15-year-old Boy Scouts use lawnmowers and string trimmers to cut the grass at the local church?
- Can my 16- and 17-year-old Venturers use a chain saw and log splitter to cut firewood for elderly residents?

In this case, the answer is no and no.

That's why it's critical to follow the **Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations**

(http://scoutingmagazine.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/age-guidelines-2012.pdf), a new document that details how old Scouts should be to use certain hand tools and power tools at service projects (including Eagle Scout service projects).

BSA Policy Statement on Political Activities



Boy Scouts of America policy prohibits Scouts from participating in political activities. BSA membership applications, under Program Policies, state: Citizenship activities are encouraged, but partisan political activities are prohibited.

Uniformed unit members and leaders may participate in flag ceremonies at political events and may lead the Pledge of Allegiance; however, they should retire after the ceremony and not remain on the speakers' platform or in a conspicuous location where television viewers could construe their presence as an endorsement or symbol of support. In addition, photos of candidates or Scouts in uniform or BSA marks and logos are not allowed in political campaign materials of any kind. Leaders must be alert to situations that would imply that the BSA favors one candidate over another. Strict observance of our long-standing policy against the active participation of uniformed Scouts and leaders in political events is mandatory.

New LDS Scouting Handbook Available Online



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has recently updated its Scouting Handbook for Church Units in the United States. It is only available online—please follow the following link access and download the handbook:

www.lds.org/service/serving-in-the-church/aaronic-priesthood/leader-resources/scouting?lang=eng

NCAC Islamic Committee on Scouting Ramadan Camporee



The National Capitol Area Council Islamic Committee on Scouting (NCACICS) will hold its first Ramadan Camporee at Camp William B. Snyder just for Boy Scouts July 21-22nd. The event is designed to have Boy Scouts from all over the DC Metro area to come together using the patrol method to have a morning and afternoon of Scouting activities followed by an evening of Islamic activities to help kick start the month of Ramadan, Scouting-style.

Programs will include several "just for fun" activities, handicraft merit badge activities, campfire, and several Islamic programs to mark the beginning of Ramadan including an opportunity to begin work on the Islamic Religious Emblem. The communal breaking of fast or Iftar will take place along with all daily prayers, including an opportunity to participate in the special Tarawih prayer as a capstone event.

Cost: \$20.00 per Scout \$10.00 per Adult

Registration Open: June 1 – July 10. A \$5 late fee will apply to all registrations after June 30th.

Contact E-mail: NCACCamporee@IslamicScouting.org

For additional information: http://NCAC.IslamicScouting.org

A Blast from the Past - In Code



Get ready to dot-dot your I's and dash your T's.

This May the Boy Scouts of America released the Morse Code Interpreter Strip, an official patch for Scouts and Scouters who can demonstrate their ability to "speak" this special language.

Morse Code joins languages like Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Sign Language, and several others as interpreter strips available for wear on Scout uniforms (above the right pocket).

To get a typical interpreter strip, you must carry on a five-minute conversation, translate a two-minute speech, write a letter in the language, and translate 200 words from the written word.

But Morse Code, a vital communications tool during World War II, doesn't really work with those requirements. So the BSA team crafted new ones:

- Carry on a five-minute conversation in Morse Code at a speed of at least five words per minute.
- Copy correctly a two-minute message sent in Morse Code at a minimum of five words per minute. Copying means writing the message down as it is received.
- Send a 25-word written document in Morse Code at a minimum of five words per minute.

ARRL Field Day



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the United States. Each year, more than 35,000 amateur radio operators gather with their clubs, their friends, or by themselves to operate their radios as an emergency preparedness exercise or a public relations demonstration. It's also a great way for ham radio clubs to have fun and get on the air contacting other stations.

This year's ARRL Field Day is June 23–24. This event is a great way to connect with local amateur radio operators to open the discussion about getting them involved in the upcoming Jamboree-on-the-Air. It is also a wonderful activity for your Scouts or Venturers to introduce them to the fun and technology of amateur radio.

You can locate the events near you by using the online locator map (www.arrl.org/field-day-locator). The ARRL (www.arrl.org) is the national organization for amateur radio. The BSA and ARRL signed a memorandum of understanding in early 2011 recognizing their work together that began in 1918 with the introduction of the Wireless merit badge, now called the Radio merit badge.

For more information contact Jim Wilson, K5ND, national JOTA organizer, at **Jim.Wilson@scouting.org**

Take the NCAC Scouting Challenge!



Have you heard about the NCAC Scouting Challenge? It's a fun, dynamic way to earn your activity and merit badges while showing your commitment to being "Prepared. For Life."

The Challenge covers four areas:

- Challenge 1: I'm Prepared
- Challenge 2: I'm Eco-Friendly
- Challenge 3: I'm Fit
- Challenge 4: I'm Connected

There are separate requirements for every age level, so Scouts can continue to work on the Challenge throughout their entire Scouting career. A Scout who completes all four challenges receives a truly unique patch and develops the skills that he'll need to be successful. Read more about this exciting new program at www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/challenge and see if your unit is up for the Challenge!

Washington Nationals Scout Days

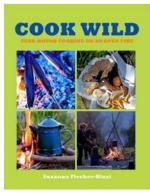


The Washington Nationals will be hosting their popular Scout Days again this season. The Nationals are already off to a great start – especially at home games – and have one of the best pitching staffs in the league. Be part of the excitement:

- Sunday, July 8 (vs. Colorado Rockies)
- Saturday, August 18 (vs. New York Mets)
- Sunday, September 23 (vs. Milwaukee Brewers)

For more information visit www.nationals.com.

Cook Wild



Everything tastes better in the open air, around a fire. Here are 100 recipes to inspire you to venture outdoors and eat wild all year round. From the simple dishes that sustained our ancestors to feasts fit for modern foodies, the book draws from a rich repertoire of traditional cooking methods and recipes that have been passed down to this day. Whether it's Lebanese flatbread, hot smoked trout, chicken wrapped in clay, or waffles, chocolate bananas and Transylvanian tree cakes, all are simple and don't need special tools. The author has years of experience of cooking outdoors and the recipes, arranged by season, are easy to follow for both beginners and more seasoned campfire chefs.

With clear instructions on selecting wood and making a fire, a range of ovens and cooking methods and even suggestions for wild ingredients to forage, this is a book for anyone who wants to enjoy the thrill of cooking outdoors, with woodsmoke, companionship and fresh air to sharpen the appetite.

Available at Amazon.

Competitive Underwater Swimming Events Are Not Permitted



As summertime swimming activities continue and youth become more comfortable in the water, it's not uncommon for their water games to become more challenging and competitive. For qualified supervisors of Safe Swim Defense activities, for parents watching their children in the water, and for youth participants themselves, hyperventilation has been cited as a factor in numerous drowning incidents.

Breathing is triggered by a buildup of carbon dioxide rather than the depletion of oxygen. Holding your breath is an important stage in learning to swim, and the ability to swim underwater is an important skill for snorkeling and lifesaving. However, repeated deep and rapid breathing, or hyperventilation, before underwater swimming can result in a loss of consciousness by delaying the urge to breathe.

Contestants in underwater swimming events may be especially prone to this danger because, under the stress and excitement of competition, they may ignore their own built-in urge to breathe. In such cases, the swimmer may have little or no warning that he or she is about to pass out.

Caution anyone who is obviously breathing heavier than normal before they swim underwater. Because of concerns with hyperventilation, competitive underwater swimming events are not permitted in Scouting.

ScubaJam Virginia 2012



What: The ScubaJam Virginia program was created to provide a great SCUBA diving experience to BSA registered youths, boys and girls, ages 11-20. The event has been created by interested divers representing dive shops, scuba training operations, and various BSA Troops and Venturing Crews.

Where: Lake Rawlings, VA (in Rawlings, VA; roughly 1 hour south of Richmond)

When: Labor Day Weekend Aug 31 - Sept 3

Cost and Registration: www.scubajam-va.org (Note: ScubaJam is not a BSA sponsored event but rather an event provided for BSA Units and Crews).

Prerequisites:

- Youth must be 11 -20 years of age
- Hold an Open Water Certification Card or be under the training supervision of a current and insured Scuba Instructor (Non Divers are welcome to camp and snorkel. Or better yet – get certified before you arrive!); and

Be registered with a participating BSA Troop or Crew or other youth group.

You might have been a Scouter too long when:



- You cannot walk by a piece of trash without picking it up.
- You can't remember which hand to shake with in the office on Monday morning.
- People don't recognize you when you're not in uniform.

Snorkel and Scuba Patch Workshops





Earn your Snorkeling Patch, then your Scuba Patch in two individual Workshops at Claude Moore pool. Each Workshop is taught by PADI instructors and divemasters and upon completion of each workshop, Scouts will earn a certificate that their Troop can then award along with the patches. We recommend taking the Snorkeling workshop as a prerequisite to Scuba. These two programs are an excellent way to give younger scouts who are thinking of attending Sea Base an introduction to scuba. Kids 8+ and Adults are welcome! (BSA Swim test is given at each session, so it is not necessary for scouts to re-fresh their annual swim test prior to coming to our workshop).

When: June 16, July 14, July 28, Aug 11, Aug 25

Fee: \$45 for snorkel, \$59 for scuba and INCLUDES ALL GEAR! **Where:** Pool Sessions are held at Claude Moore Pool in Sterling. **For additional Information and to register:** *www.nvasports.org*

Scuba Merit Badge Workshops



SeaBase Bound and have already earned your PADI open water certification? Do not miss your opportunity to earn your Scuba Merit Badge. Bring your PADI and Blue Cards, and we will work as a group on the remaining 5 requirements. Workshops are held at Sterling Silver Scuba Shop on Church in Sterling.

When: June 21, July 26, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18

Fee: \$35

For additional Information and to register: www.nvasports.org

Open Water Certification Scuba Camp



This is the real deal - upon successful completion students will receive the PADI Jr. Open Water Diver or PADI Open Water Diver (ages 15+) Certification. The first three days are academic sessions at our onsite classroom and shallow water skill dives conducted at a local pool. The last two days are four open water dives conducted at Lake Rawlings Scuba Park (includes one overnight tent campout). Transportation between classroom/pool and to/from the scuba park is included. Ages 12-18 (ages 10-11 may participate in Open Water Scuba Camp if they are Master Seal Team members and have instructor recommendation). Scuba gear and tent provided.

We recommend you sign up for the snorkel and scuba patch workshops before the open water camp, to gain extra experience and comfort breathing underwater.

When: July 9-13 and Aug 6-10

Where: Sterling Silver Scuba Shop, Claude Moore Rec Center, Lake Rawlings

Fee: \$695, includes scuba gear, camping/food. Does not include

masks/fins/snorkel (but available to rent)

For additional Information and to register: www.nvasports.org

Scuba Certification and Scuba Diving Merit Badge



What: PADI open water scuba certification and the BSA Scuba Diving merit badge. The class is limited to 24 students.

Who: For any scout-aged youth at least 11 years old and adults. Participants younger than 15 years old will receive PADI Junior Open Water Diver Certification. 15 years and older receive PADI Open Water Diver Certification.

When/Where:

- Orientation (Camp Snyder) Aug 5 1-3pm
- Class/pool sessions (Camp Snyder) Aug 18 & 19, 9am-5pm
- Open water training dives (quarry in Fredericksburg) Aug 25 & 26
- Scuba Diving merit badge counseling session (A.B. Sea's Diving in Fairfax Station) – Aug 26, 4-6pm

Cost: Scuba certification class and merit badge session - \$450 (includes all equipment); Scuba diving merit badge session only - \$5

Registration deadline: July 30

To register or for more information: www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics or contact Mike Meenehan (703) 400-2176 MMMeenehan@cox.net.

Scuba BSA



Scuba BSA introduces participants to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with scuba diving, encourages aquatics activities that promote fitness and recreation, and provides a foundation for those who will later participate in more advanced underwater activities.

The Scuba BSA experience contains two parts – Knowledge Development and Water Skills Development. During the first part, participants learn basic dive safety information and overview skills to be used during their water experience. The Water Skills Development session introduces essential dive skills, such as mask clearing, regulator clearing, and alternate air source use.

This is an introductory, try-it scuba experience. It does not result in certification for diving on your own. It is not the BSA Scuba Diving merit badge. Many people decide to go on and take a certification course after trying scuba.

The one hour Scuba BSA sessions start hourly at 2, 3, 4, and 5pm. This is for any Boy Scout or leader. Maximum of 8 participants per one hour session. Preregistration is required, each participant must complete a medical questionnaire.

All you need to bring is your swimsuit and a towel!

When: June 19, Camp Snyder pool.

Cost: \$25 (includes all equipment)

Registration deadline: June 11

To register or for more information: www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics or contact Mike Meenehan (703) 400-2176 MMMeenehan@cox.net.

Letters to Camp



As your camper begins his or her stay at summer camp, you are about to embark upon one of the greatest adventures of being a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, cousin, or friend. The adventure? Writing letters to camp of course! "Whoa – LETTERS to camp?" You say? Letters in an age of 140-character micro-thoughts on Twitter?" Letters in a time of shrt txt msgs to ur kids? ...In an era of cell phones, Androids and iPhones? ...Instead of Web pages with pictures? Text letters in the age of YouTube? ...Instead of Facebook? (Seeing a trend here?) Yes, LETTERS.

Letters to your camper at summer. Letters to camp are special. Special in part because they're so different from the rest of our electronic experience. Even more important, letters to camp are special because they build a unique bond between you and your camper. And in an era of instant – but fleeting – gratification, your letters will become a lasting legacy of the special relationship that binds you and your camper.

First and foremost, your letters to camp provide support, and they really do help your camper to have a great summer. To be independent, to learn new skills, to meet new kids. While your camper is at camp, letters to camp will be your main source of support. And time and again, camps tell parents that their letters can even mitigate homesickness.

But letters are also about a dialog and a relationship between you and your camper. Yes, you build a relationship through support but also by asking questions in your letters. By showing you care. And they build a strong relationship through your campers all-too-infrequent responses, each of which you'll treasure.

You may be thinking that you're not a great writer or that you don't have anything important to say. No matter. Letters to camp express who you are, and your bond with your camper. You don't need to impress your camper (don't even try). Keep your letters genuine, keep them easy to follow, keep them real, and your camper will appreciate them.

Finally, letters to camp provide humor and a brief respite from the busy days at camp. Whether you tell funny jokes, share amusing stories, use fill-in-the-blank letters or CampLibs (really), or just write your letters in an unusual way (say from your dog's perspective), letters to camp will amuse your camper.

And don't forget that your letters to camp give campers a warm feeling during mail call or rest hour. They provide the latest news, encouragement, humor and so much more. Letters to camp show you care. Your camper will appreciate them, and you'll feel great. Go ahead – write a letter today, and begin the great adventure with your camper.

Notes: Never, never, NEVER write to tell your Scout that you miss him. This will often cause a severe case of homesickness and will not be appreciated by the adults at camp who must now deal with it. Be supportive, be caring, but do not trigger emotions about what they are missing at home.

Remember, if the Scout is only going to be gone only a week you may need to write and mail the letter before they actually leave, or give it to one of the leaders going for delivery later.

On-Line Resource of the Month



Welcome to *TrailCooking.com* and *FreezerBagCooking.com*

Spend any amount of time in the outdoors and you have probably found that mealtime is full of trade-offs. Do you choose foods that fuel your body or foods that satisfy your taste buds? Do you spend the extra time to prepare a real meal or grab a protein bar on the go?

Freezer Bag CookingTM minimizes these trade-offs by changing the concepts of traditional outdoor food. It offers simplicity, convenience and variety, then whirls them together with the philosophies of lightweight outdoor adventuring. The cooking gear needed is minimal, lightweight and can be bought, found or even made. Meals are prepared at home and put into zip top freezer bags. When ready to eat, the meal is prepared in and eaten out of the freezer bag. Mealtime becomes fast, effortless and cleanup is as easy as licking your utensil and sealing the zip top bag. Also, with meals portioned into individual freezer bags, making meals for multi-day trips, families or a group is painless.

So whether you like to be fancy with your food or keep it simple, Freezer Bag CookingTM and our one pot recipes can be your ticket to better eating and enjoyment of your outdoor experience.



Training Opportunities

Adult Training Requirements for 2012



The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America has set the training requirements for all units to re-charter in 2012. For 2012 all Direct Contact Leaders must be trained in their positions. This means that if a leader has direct contact with a youth (i.e. outings, meetings, etc.) then they will have to be trained for their position. This includes all Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Crew Associate Advisors and their assistants, all Den Leaders (Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos) and their assistants, and any other registered leaders that have contact with youth.

For a listing of the training required for leaders please go to: www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Adults/Training/Trained%20Lead er.aspx

Notes:

- New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering. It must be renewed every 2 years
- This Is Scouting is no longer required, it is now supplemental training.
- Fast Start training is no longer required.

Paddle Craft Safety Training



Float trips are popular Boy Scout and Venturing activities. Safety Afloat awareness training provides guidelines for safe float trips and is required of unit leaders, but does not provide the skill training mandated by those guidelines. BSA Paddle Craft Safety expands Safety Afloat training to include the skills, as well as the knowledge, needed for a unit leader to confidently supervise canoeing or kayaking excursions on flat water. Persons completing the training should be better able to assess their preparation to supervise paddle craft activities. The training is open to any registered adult leader, Scout, Venturer, or Explorer who is age 16 or older. The training must be conducted by a council approved instructor, takes roughly eight hours and is valid for three years.

Registration is \$25 and classes are held at the Hylton Training Center, Camp William B. Snyder 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket, VA 20169. Classes will be held:

June 30 registration deadline: June 22 Oct 27 registration deadline: Oct 19

To register or for more information: www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics or contact Mike Meenehan (703) 400-2176 MMMeenehan@cox.net.

BSA Swimming & Water Rescue



Training for BSA Swimming & Water Rescue provides BSA leaders with information and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies during unit swimming activities. The BSA recommends that at least one person with this training is present to assist with supervision whenever a unit swims at a location that does not provide lifeguards. This training is open to any registered adult leader, Scout, Venturer, or Explorer who is age 16 or older. The course takes approximately eight hours and is valid for three years.

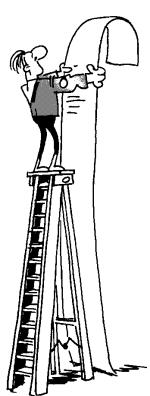
Although the training is consistent with training provided professional life-guards, the Swimming & Water Rescue course is not a lifeguard training course and is not a substitute for BSA Lifeguard training for summer camp aquatics staff. On the other hand, this course addresses important information that may not be covered in generic lifeguard training programs such as: preventive measures, including the buddy system and swim classification tests; how to set up a safe swim area in diverse situations; the use of non-standard rescue equipment; and emergency action plans in remote settings. Therefore, BSA leaders with lifeguard training from other agencies are encouraged to complete this course prior to supervising unit swim activities in remote settings. A 'challenge' option is provided to foster crosstraining of individuals with training from other agencies.

Registration is \$25 and classes are held at the Hylton Training Center, Camp William B. Snyder 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket, VA 20169. Classes will be held:

July 28 registration deadline: July 20 Sept 29 registration deadline: Sept 21 Dec 8 registration deadline: Nov 30

To register or for more information: www.boyscouts-ncac.org/aquatics or contact Mike Meenehan (703) 400-2176 MMMeenehan@cox.net.

District Calendar



June 2012

- 2 Soda Bottle Rocket Derby
- 8 Last Day of School
- 13 Roundtable
- 14 Venturing Forum
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 18-22 **District Day Camp**
 - 27 District Committee

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 6-8 Snyder Resident Camp
- 16-19 Snyder Adventure Days
- 20-22 Snyder Resident Camp
- 23-26 Snyder Adventure Days
- 27-29 Snyder Resident Camp
- 29-30 Boy Scout Week at Camp Snyder
- 30-8/2 Snyder Webelos Camp

<u>August</u>

- 3-5 Snyder Resident Camp
- 6-9 Snyder Adventure Days
- 8 Roundtable
- 9 Venturing Forum
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 10-12 Snyder Resident Camp
 - 22 District Committee
 - 27 First Day of School

September

- 3 Labor Day
- 12 Roundtable
- 13 Venturing Forum
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 19 Join Scouting Night
- 22-23 Webelos-o-ree
 - 26 District Committee

October

- 6 Training Boy Scout Leader Specific
- 8 Columbus Day
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 Venturing Forum
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 13 Training Den Chief
- 20-21 *Training IOLS/OLSWL*
- 20-21 JOTA/JOTI
 - 24 District Committee

November

- 2-4 NCAC Venturing Hike-o-ree
 - 3 Scouting for Food Bag Distribution
- 5-6 Student Holiday
 - 8 Venturing Forum
 - 8 Commissioner RT
- 10 Scouting for Food Bag Pickup
- 14 Roundtable
- 15 District Committee
- 17 PowWow
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 12 Roundtable
- 13 Venturing Forum
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 19 District Committee
- 24 Winter Break Starts

January 2013

- 1 Winter Break Ends
- 9 Roundtable
- 10 Venturing Forum
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 18 Moveable School Holiday
- 19 Training Boy Scout Leader Specific
- 21 MLK Jr. Day
- 23 District Committee
- 25-27 Freeze-o-ree

February

- 10 Scout Sunday
- 13 Roundtable
- 14 Venturing Forum
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 16 Scout Sabbath
- 18 President's Day
- 23 Univ. of Scouting
- 27 District Committee

March

- 4 AOL Recognition Ceremony
- 10 Roundtable
- 11 Venturing Forum
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 25-29 Spring Break
 - 27 District Committee

April 2012

- 1 Moveable School Holiday
- 6 Training Den Chief
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 Venturing Forum
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 13 Training Boy Scout Leader Specific
- 19-21 Spring Camporee
 - 24 District Committee

May

- 4 Cubmobile Derby
- 4 Training Boy Scout Leader Specific
- 8 Program Launch
- 9 Venturing Forum
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 12 Mother's Day
- 18-19 Training IOLS/OLSWL
 - 22 District Committee
 - 24 District Award Banquet
 - 27 Memorial Day