



Goose Creek District Newsletter



February 2014

Volume 5, Issue 7

Reprinted from www.scoutmastercg.com, November 8, 2013



Scouting's Positive Rite of Passage

Carrying backpacks for the first time, Scouts leave the familiar comforts of home and strike out on the trail. Following flashlight beams through unknown territory, they arrive at the campsite with their friends. Tents are set up, a fire is lit and they gather around trying to shake off the cold.

They talk excitedly about tomorrow's climb over a mountain peak to the destination on the other side. They strain their imaginations in anticipation, careful to mask the uncertainty and vulnerability they feel in the volume and bravado of the conversation. Excited anticipation and the fear of the unknown make it hard to sleep that night.

In the morning, the Scouts are up and on the trail. The day unfolds in a series of struggles and challenges that strain their backs and minds. By late afternoon, they reach the campsite on the other side of the mountain. Tired, relieved to drop their packs, they are aglow with a sense of accomplishment. They made it through! They overcame their doubts and fears, they encouraged and helped one another along the way; and now they have arrived.

Our backpacking Scouts have been through a 'rite of passage'. The term may be familiar but it bears explaining. A rite of passage has three stages:

1. Separation – Leaving the familiar comforts of home for a new challenge.
2. Transition – Enduring a period of uncertainty and vulnerability.
3. Accomplishment – Reaching the goal.

Understanding these stages helps us guide young people on a journey through the series of experiences and challenges that lead to adulthood. We may be familiar with a given experience but it's new to our Scouts. They are encountering new physical, mental and spiritual challenges. They have voluntarily separated themselves from the familiar and entered into a transitional state subject to their own fears and uncertainties.

Every young person wants to belong to something larger than themselves, to gain acceptance, to be identified as a full member of the group. This desire is so strong, so instinctual, that it blurs the lines between good and bad. Young people are desperate to fill this void whether the group coerces them to negative, destructive behavior like a street gang, or positive, constructive activities like Scouting,

We are familiar with the movie stereotype of a demanding, harsh, insulting, military officer who berates and rides his recruits. We may even have been subject to this sort of thing. As Scouters, we never stoop to hazing, harshness and discouragement. How you experienced of rites of passage will inform your reaction; perhaps you received support and affirmation; perhaps you met with discouragement and harshness. Our instinctive reactions may be positive or negative. As Scouters we check our negative instincts and champion positive, affirming, encouraging rites of passage.

Some rites of passage end in clear outward symbolism like the ceremonial presentation of a badge. Some are more subtle transitions that we mark with words of affirmation in recognition of a Scout's progress. We are never harsh or disapproving, but unfailingly supportive and understanding. Even when the going is tough, or our Scouts efforts look less than encouraging, we maintain a positive outlook. Scouters trade discouragement for honest praise. We trade demeaning, abusive hazing or 'initiations' for ceremonies that honor accomplishment.

How we express honest encouragement is vitally important; it is not simple platitudes or disingenuous praise. To be honestly encouraging we strive to understand the scale of the challenge from each individual Scout's perspective. Bold, outgoing, and enthusiastic, or shy, meek and fearful, we never belittle or demean a Scout's effort, even in jest. What we intend as good-natured chiding may be received as a devastating blow. We put the best face on every step forward and support each Scout's effort towards the goal.

Special Interest: District

- District Court of Honor – pg 2
- AOL Recognition Ceremony – pg 3

Advancement

- Life to Eagle – pg 8
- Upcoming Rank Requirement Changes – pg 9-10

Council/National

- JTE – pg 13
- Scouts Driving – pg 15
- LNT Trainer Course – pg 17

Training

- Univ. of Scouting – pg 26

Quick Calendar:

- Feb 1-2 – Freeze-o-ree
- Feb 2 – Scout Sunday
- Feb 8 – Scout Sabbath
- Feb 12 – Goose Creek Court of Honor
- Mar 1 – District Pinewood Derby
- Mar 6 – AOL Recognition Ceremony
- Mar 8 – Life to Eagle Training
- Mar 12 – Roundtable
- Apr 9 – Roundtable

Newsletter Key:



Cub Scout Interest



Boy Scout /
Venturing Interest



For Everyone

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

Goose Creek Court of Honor



All Goose Creek Scouts, Scouters, and families are invited to the 2014 annual District Court of Honor to be held on Wednesday, February 12th, 2014, at 7:30pm, at the Leesburg United Methodist Church, to recognize and celebrate our District Award of Merit recipients, our 2013 Eagle Scouts, the Chairman's Award, the Baden-Powell Key 4 Award, Journey to Excellence Awards, Vigil Honors, and the new Robin L. Hayes Leadership Award.

Plus we'll recognize each unit's Volunteer of the Year – nominated by you!

Please note that our Court of Honor is being held in lieu of our February Roundtable.

District Championship Pinewood Derby



The 2014 Goose Creek District Championship Pinewood Derby hosted by Venture Crew 7070 is March 1, 2014. And, returning for a third year, Leesburg's family restaurant Chic-fil-A. All participating scouts at this championship event will receive an event patch and a coupon redeemable for a free 4-piece chicken meal at the Leesburg Chic-fil-A location. The top three rank and overall winners will received prizes provided by Leesburg Hobbies & Collectibles. Please support these businesses in Loudoun County that support the Goose Creek Boy.

The Derby will take place on March 1, 2014 at Tolbert Elementary School and is open to all Unit Event Winners placing 1st thru 3rd in all ranks including Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelo 1 and Webelo 2. (15 possible scouts) Returning this year, the "Cow Cub" rank will be eligible to race against the Chic-fil-A Cow, which took home 1st place honors in last years event. This class is open to all Cub Scout age siblings, or younger, of entrants.

Unit Leaders: Scouts can register individually, or as a unit

On-line registrations is now open. Registration can be accessed from the <http://www.ncacbsa.org/group/GooseCreek>. Please have you scouts pre-register to facilitate the registration process the day of the event. Registration fees will be collected at the event. Any questions can be directed to Steve Wolfson at stevewolfson@verizon.net.

Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony



The 12th Annual Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony will be conducted by the Order of the Arrow (OA) on Thursday March 6, 2013 at 7:00, location TBD. This very impressive Ceremony is presented by the Goose Creek OA ceremony team, wearing handcrafted native Powhatan Indian regalia.

This event does NOT replace your own pack Arrow of Light ceremony, nor will the Webelos receive their actual Arrow of Light patch at the ceremony. The Ceremony honors their achievement in a unique way by the older Scouts who are waiting to welcome them into their troops and all of the fun and adventure they will have along the Trail to Eagle Scout! The Webelos will receive a special OA-Arrow of Light Ceremony badge, designed by the OA chapter for this event.

Registration will be required to attend this event though there will be no registration fee. Information on how to register will be available in February.

Experienced Scouters Needed!



The Commissioner Corps needs experienced adult Scouters to mentor units in Goose Creek District. We presently have 26 Unit Commissioners for our 127 chartered units. Our goal is for a minimum of 50 Unit Commissioners. YOU can help!

What Does A Unit Commissioner Do?

1. The commissioner is a friend of the unit. He or she is an advocate of unit needs.
2. The commissioner is a representative. The commissioner helps represent the ideals, the principles, and the policies of the Scouting movement.
3. The commissioner is a unit "doctor." When problems arise, and they will even in the best unit, they act quickly. They observe symptoms, diagnose the real ailment, prescribe a remedy, and follow up on the patient.
4. The commissioner is a teacher. They teach not just in an academic environment, but where it counts most—as an immediate response to a need to know.
5. The commissioner is a counselor. As a Scouting counselor, they will help units solve their own problems.

What Is Expected Of A Unit Commissioner?

1. Stay connected with Unit Leader and Committee Chair monthly.
2. Keep the District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner informed on the health of the unit.
3. Assist the Unit in rechartering on-time and earning Journey to Excellence.
4. Attend all meetings of District Commissioner Staff.
5. Become trained as a Commissioner.

For more information, and to volunteer, contact

Kurt Struder
 Goose Creek District Commissioner
 Tel: (703) 999-7948
 email: kurt.laing.struder@gmail.com

Goose Creek Day/Twilight Camp Dates



As the holiday season descends upon us and you begin formulating your summer plans, we want to formally announce the dates for the 2014 Goose Creek Day/Twilight Camp. The theme this year is *Cub Scout Investigations – Detectives*

When:

Day Camp: June 16-20th

M-Th, 9AM – 4PM.

F, 9AM – 2PM

Twilight Camp: June 16-19th

6:30PM – Dusk

Where: Morven Park (41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg, VA)

Cost:

- Register by April 18 - \$165
- Register by May 16 - \$185
- Register after May 16 - \$205

Units should be identifying their “Pack Coordinator.” Registration for Day and Twilight camp is done as a unit – not individually like Camp Snyder. Your Pack’s Camp Coordinator will gather all the registration information, fees, and required paperwork; then register the unit on line. They will also coordinate adult “Den Walkers” who will escort the boys at camp. Remember, the ratio is 1 adult to 5 Scouts. Tiger parents cannot be counted in that ratio. Den Chiefs are encouraged to attend but cannot be counted as a Den Walker.

If your unit would like a camp promotion at an upcoming Pack meeting, please let Dave Carty at david.carty@goosecreekdistrict.org know and he’ll make sure to get a District representative out to your unit to talk about the exciting camps that Goose Creek offers – either Day or Twilight camp. Camp Snyder offers a multitude of options for units. Goshen delivers awesome Webelos advancement camps.

If you’re interested in serving on staff for Day Camp this year, we’d be glad to have you. Help us make a boy’s week something they’ll remember and cherish for years to come. Please contact Dave if you’re interested in volunteering. Adults serving on staff for the week are entitled to a free youth registration. As always – siblings are welcomed.

If you know Boy Scouts who would like to serve on Jr. Staff, please let Dave know who they are. We have many exciting stations for them to work at during the week. Boys who volunteer at camp for the entire week can earn service hours. Boy’s over the age of 14 are eligible for a \$75.00 Goshen camp credit to help defray the cost of camp. Girls are also encouraged to join our youth staff. We accept girls 13 and over and issue service hours that can be used for the Girl Scouts or school.

We look forward to seeing you all at Day camp in June.

Scout Service – Troop 1941



Troop 1941 is making their mark in and around the Tri-State area. This new Boy Scout Troop in Ashburn, VA has placed a focus on being a "troop of excellence." The boys have adopted a troop moto of "Where I Choose.." (promoting the fact that the boys plan and run the troop, with adult guidance.)

The boys decided that every December they will focus on a "Service/Award" theme. This year they decided to help the homeless in DC. On a Friday evening in December they all met together and each brought an item for their giveaway bags. The 100 bags included a sandwich, water, garbage bag, scarf/mittens and a candy cane. They took a few hours to assemble them and also create handmade Christmas cards to go with them. Hours later they were ready to go.

Saturday morning they drove two vehicles into DC. The first two parks they visited were empty. They quickly became concerned that they would be eating sandwiches for weeks. Then they rolled up on 2 parks with approximately 600 people each. The adult leaders kept the crowd controlled while the boys distributed the bags. Every boy had "deer in the headlights" eyes. This was an overwhelming but very beneficial experience for these boys.

The cutest moment was when one of our scouts offered a meal bag, candy cane and Christmas card to a gentleman. The man took the bag and candy cane but asked, "Buddy, will you hold onto that card for me?" The scout held onto it tight. When one of the older boys asked him why he was holding onto a card he informed them that he was holding it for a man that is coming back for it. The older scout politely informed the scout that the man wasn't coming back, he just didn't want it, sweet innocence of a young scout.

Once they ran out of bags (we had a few cards left over) a woman came up and said, "I know you are out of bags but can I have one of these Christmas cards? That is all I want." This made the boys feel good that they spent the time making them.

After distributing their bags in DC, they gathered at a parents home to work on a Merit Badge, then bake Christmas cookies and cook dinner for their families. Later the families (parents and siblings) joined them for dinner, crafts and games. This was a nice "holiday" reward after a great day of service.

The boys have asked the adults to amend their current year calendar to include this service again at Easter time. They have already decided they will be increasing their bags to 400 and this time to include Easter Eggs.



New State Park in Loudoun



Governor Bob McDonnell announced that his administration has reached an agreement that will result in a 600-acre state park in Loudoun County, in Neersville, VA, next to the Blue Ridge Environmental Conservatory Center.

"Thanks to the generosity of several outstanding Virginians, the state will be able to add a scenic new park to its award winning state park system," Governor McDonnell said. "I want to commend Robert and Dee Leggett, whose foundation acquired land that became the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in Loudoun County and will benefit future generations as a Virginia State Park."

Located in western Loudoun County, the Old Dominion Land Conservancy of Purcellville has reached an agreement with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to donate 600 acres of woodlands and pasture to the Commonwealth for development of a state park. The conservancy received the land from the Leggett Foundation. The property includes historic farmsteads, deep woods and wildflower meadows, and borders the Appalachian Trail. Much of the land witnessed action of Mosby's Rangers and others during the Civil War.

"Through the work of the Leggett Foundation and now the Old Dominion Land Conservancy, lands of both natural and historic significance have been preserved in an area of the state where such lands are rapidly disappearing," said McDonnell. "Because of their most recent efforts many of these lands will be available to future generations as a Virginia State Park."

The ODLC has signed agreements with the Commonwealth to donate the land for use as a state park. The transaction giving the Commonwealth final ownership is expected to close later this year.

Scouting for Bricks™



Troop 39 of Purcellville invites you to joining them for their 2nd Annual Scouting for (LEGO) Bricks event! 100 exhibitors, 20 vendors selling many unique LEGO-related items, "May the Fourth Be With You" photo ops with real, life-sized Star Wars Stormtroopers, the Washington Area LEGO train club, Mindstorms LEGO Robotics clubs and much MORE!

If you are aged 10-adult and interested in exhibiting your LEGO MOCs (my own creations) please check out the exhibitor tab on their website and sign-up to display with them!

When: May 3-4, 2014 ~ 11 am - 5

Where: Heritage High School ~ Leesburg, VA

Cost: \$5 admission

Website: www.scoutingforbricks.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scouting4bricks

Twitter: www.twitter.com/scouting4bricks

Contact Us: Email: ScoutingForBricks@gmail.com

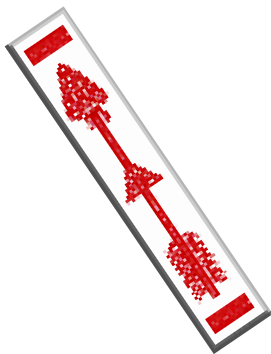
Scouting for Bricks™ is NOT affiliated with the LEGO® Group.



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

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

Newest Vigil Members



At the recent lodge banquet Amangamek-Wipit Lodge recognized two of our Goose Creek Arrowmen as part of its newest Vigil Honor members. The Vigil is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting. The Vigil Honor is a mark of high distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen, who by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office.

Nicholas Freeman has served as OA Troop Representative, an active Ceremonialist, Vice Chief of Inductions, attended NOAC 2012, received Honors for his portrayal as Meteu in Pre-Ordeal, is a member of the Lodge Health and Safety team, and a member of Troop OA Elections team.

Reed Jones has served as Vice Chief of Ceremonies, Area Vice Chief, Troop OA Election team member, Troop OA Representative, an active member of Lodge Health and Safety committee, active ceremonialist, and NOAC Honor Ceremonialist.

Also at the banquet **Brad Scales**, Goose Creek's former OA Chapter Advisor and currently our District Advancement Chair, was presented with the Founders Award, a service recognition award for those who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the OA on a sectional, regional, or national basis over a period of years

Are you getting Chapter Communications?



All Goose Creek Arrowmen are welcome to join the Chapter's Yahoo Group, giving them access to an abundance of things like Calendar info, directions to upcoming events and even a peek at "Lost-and-Found" items (from prior/recent OA events). If you are NOT getting automated reminders of upcoming meetings (or fun events like our night of bowling last September), please visit the website, and ask to join. (When doing so, please be sure to provide your name, and unit so we can verify your 'Arrowman status'. Our Yahoo Group website is here ...

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/GooseCreekOA470/info>. (Alternatively, send an email to the Chapter Adviser (Bobbie Scales, scalesbobbie@yahoo.com), and request access.)

Order of the Arrow Elections Guide



The OA Election season is upon us. Each unit is allowed to have one election during that time. In order to be put on the ballot, the youth must be at least First Class, have 15 nights of camping in the last 2 years with 5 of those nights being a long term camp (think summer camp), and must have the Scoutmaster's approval. Adults may be nominated by the committee. You may nominate 1 adult per 3 boys elected. The adults have the same camping requirements as the youth.

To schedule an election, the Scoutmaster must email our Vice Chief, Ben Gerhart, at bbgerhart@gmail.com, with at least two dates. Please do this at least three weeks in advance of your earliest date so that we can have enough time to get an election team together and you have enough time to fill out the forms that Ben will email you. You must use the forms that Ben sends you. National will no longer accept anything from Troop Master or the forms used in previous years. Please make sure to have the forms filled out completely before the election team arrives. If you are not ready for the election when the team arrives we might have to reschedule your election. If you are nominating an adult, please make sure that the form is filled out completely as well. If it isn't it won't be accepted.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either our Vice Chief – Ben Gerhart, or our Chapter Advices – Bobbie Scales (ScalesBobbie@yahoo.com) for answers. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to seeing you at your unit's election.

“Onward and Upward” On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagle:

Kevin A Cloninger - Troop 1550
Eric James Crisp - Troop 1158
Henry Eli Jesionowski - Troop 1158
Matthew C Jones - Troop 982
A. Michael Nerantzis - Troop 998

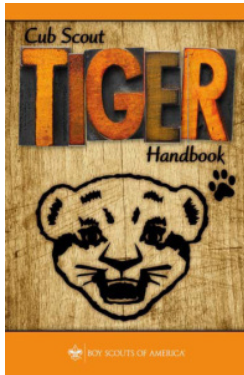
Life to Eagle Training



This training is primarily targeted for the Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level – but are by no means limited to same. Life Scouts and their parents are invited to attend. 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.

Saturday, March 8 ... Ashburn Library, Room D, 1-4 PM

Upcoming Changes to Cub Scouting in 2015



Improved activities, easier-to-understand advancement and some sweet-looking handbooks — yes, Cub Scouting is about to get even better than before.

After finding that current achievements are overly passive in nature, activities lack connection to the missions of Scouting and the advancement model is too complicated, the Boy Scouts of America's volunteer task force created a new and improved Cub Scout program that will debut in May 2015. By the 2015-2016 Scouting year (which, for most packs, begins in August or September 2015), all packs will use the new requirements.

What is changing:

- Switch to Scout Oath and Scout Law, retiring of Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack. Cub Scouting will keep its current Cub Scout motto, sign, salute and handshake.
- Tiger Cubs becomes simply "Tiger" with new image
- Arrow of Light will no longer require earning Webelos
- Activities will be more active, more aligned with Aims/Mission
- Advancement will be simplified
- Academics & Sports program will be discontinued (as of May 2015)
- Current immediate/elective recognition devices will be replaced
- One Den Leader Guide per rank

Cub Scout Adventures

New Cub Scout content will be broken into a series of "adventures," which Cub Scouts (individually and as part of their den) will experience while working on their badge of rank. Once a Cub Scout has completed the six core adventures, including one Duty to God adventure, and one of his/his den's choosing he will have earned his badge of rank.

In addition to the adventures required for rank advancement, there will be 13 additional elective adventures that members of the den may earn. Each adventure is designed to take roughly three den meetings to implement, one of which may be an outing, ranging from attending a sporting event as a den, to taking a hike, to visiting a museum or going on a campout. At the conclusion of each adventure, a recognition device is awarded.

The authors also created a series of elective adventures in addition to the adventures required for rank advancement. This allows dens to create and customize a program for the interests of the boys in the den as well as create the opportunity for a year-round Cub Scout program. To see the adventures, check out this PDF:

http://scoutingmagazine.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/new_cub_adventure_program_mg.pdf

New Cub Scout handbooks

What's a new program without new handbooks? The volunteer task force used considerable research with parents, adult leaders and, most importantly, Cub Scouts themselves, to create new handbook covers that are inspired by the concept of wood-burning. They look great and, just as important, look like one cohesive design throughout all four ranks in Cub Scouting.

Upcoming Changes to Boy Scouting in 2016



Boy Scouts rank requirements will see some changes in January 2016.

- Scout becomes a rank
- Service at all ranks (conservation-related at Life)
- Health eating/habits requirements
- Some reordering in Tenderfoot to First Class
- Physical fitness at each rank, Tenderfoot to First Class
- Outdoor ethics – Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly
- Weather safety, risk assessment and mitigation
- Duty to God incorporated in requirement to show Scout Spirit

The current plan is that Scouts who have joined prior to January 2016 may continue using the old requirements in 2016. Starting January 2016 all Scouts must use the new requirements, regardless of rank.

One-Stop Shopping for News on What's Changing in the BSA and When



New Cub Scout handbooks are just part of the story.

Keeping up with one BSA program change after another (after another) can feel a little like drinking from a fire hose.

It doesn't have to.

Just consider scouting.org/programupdates your one-stop shop for promotional fliers, training information and the latest news about changes coming in 2014, 2015 and 2016 in Venturing, Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting.

The fliers are especially useful for leaders who want something tangible to distribute to educate parents about changes to BSA programs.

17 Ideas for Planning the Webelos Craftsman Projects



The Webelos Craftsman activity badge is one of the favorite of all the activity badges. The boys have an opportunity to make very fun projects, and they learn valuable new skills in the process.

But Webelos Craftsman projects takes time to complete—especially if you pick a project that is a little more advanced. However, don't let that deter you from doing the fun projects that the boys really want to do. Yes, a craft stick picture frame is much easier to make than a cool Pinewood Derby car display, but which one will the boys still have 6 months from now? Which one will help him learn skills he doesn't already have?

To help you in planning CubScoutIdeas.com has listed 17 ideas for planning the project: <http://cubscoutideas.com/2179/17-ideas-for-planning-the-webelos-craftsman-projects>

Who Can Purchase Merit Badges?



It is BSA policy that all rank advancement and merit badges must be reported in order for them to be purchased. This is explained in the Guide to Advancement in topic 4.0.0.2.

Advancement is one of the most important measures of success in Scouting. If reporting is not required then advancement is under-reported. Unreported merit badges also causes difficulties in verification of the Eagle Scout Rank Application.

"Proof" that a merit badge has been earned comes from producing the printed report generated by Internet Advancement that shows the merit badge. Councils do not have the authority to require that a certain person in the unit purchase merit badges or that "blue card" copies be submitted, if that's what is happening.

Unsung Heroes No More: Watch Eagle Scout Moms Get Their Due



Aren't Scout moms the greatest? Every den meeting led, patch sewed, ride provided, skinned knee doctored, smelly shirt washed, campout attended and advice dished out reinforces the point that Scouting wouldn't exist without them.

And few of the boys who make it to the Eagle Scout rank do so without a mom or motherly figure in their lives. I know I never would've earned Eagle without mine.

So isn't it time we gave Eagle Scout moms a proper thanks?

That's what the creators of the LDS church's "A Century of Honor" celebration in Salt Lake City must have thought when they wrote "Ma, You Earned Your Eagle," a song that celebrates the "ever-faithful mom"

As the name implies, the song acknowledges that although the young man wears the badge and medal, his mother's Eagle Scout journey deserves its own celebration.

To hear the song and to get the lyrics go to:

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/01/21/unsung-heroes-no-more-watch-eagle-scout-moms-get-their-due/>



Council Advancement and Recognition Committee News



- Eagle Scout Rank Application (ESRA)** – Please note also that there are now two acceptable versions of the ESRA form being accepted at the Council office, and available on the National Advancements Team website; one for 2013 & one for 2014.
 - If ALL of your dates for Requirements 1-6 on the ESRA are before 1/1/14, then you must use the 2013 version of the ESRA. Conversely ...
 - If ANY of your dates for Requirements 1-6 on the ESRA are after 12/31/13, then you must use the 2014 version of the ESRA
- NCAC Eagle Scout Procedures Guide (ESPG)** – The updated ESPG has been released and is ready for your use, provided 'you' have any involvement in either executing (or guiding the execution of) the Life-to-Eagle process within NCAC. This guide is a valuable resource for Life Scouts working towards Eagle and the leaders mentoring those Scouts. You can find it on our Goose Creek webpage, or here ...
http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ncacbsa.org/resource/group/dabf2b2b-f7f6-48ee-a27c-9cc7e1a94a55/Documents/Eagle_Scout_Procedures_Guide.pdf
- NCAC Eagle Scout Fundraising Application** – As mentioned last fall, NCAC only needs to approve the fundraising application included in the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook if a Scout plans to solicit donations amounting to more than \$500 from area businesses or organizations that are not associated with your project. Please contact your District Advancement Chair for more information.

Can a Scoutmaster Refuse to Give a Blue Card?



Here's how Chris Hunt, advancement team leader for the Boy Scouts of America answers this question:

The policies regarding blue cards changed with the release of the 2013 edition of the Guide to Advancement. See topic 7.0.0.3. Unit leaders do not have the authority to refuse to give a Scout a blue card.

The signature on a blue card signifies, simply, that the unit leader has had a discussion about the badge with the Scout and that the Scout has been provided the name of at least one registered and approved counselor.

The discussion should cover what the Scout might face as he challenges the badge. The SM, for example, may suggest that a Scout wait to take Shotgun Shooting until he is strong enough to lift the weapon. The SM could also suggest that it would be wise for a Scout to finish up the badges he's already begun, and so on. The Scout, however, regardless of the advice of the SM, is free to pursue the badge.

He may also choose a different registered and approved counselor if he wants to. The blue card has been revised and reprinted to reflect this change, but there are still many old blue cards out there.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

Track Your JTE Progress for 2014 with New Spreadsheets



New unit spreadsheets for the 2014 JTE year are now available at <http://www.scouting.org/JTE>. Navigate to the Spreadsheets box and click on 2014. These spreadsheets are new this year and will be very helpful to units as they chart their course throughout the year to provide the best quality program. The new spreadsheets are for units to track their JTE progress. The scorecards list the standards.

Tools for Setting Goals with JTE



As we kick off another year in Scouting, your troop's PLC might want to spend some time setting goals using the framework of JTE. If you're unfamiliar with this program or why you should be using it, read this post first: <http://blog.myscoutstuff.org/2012/01/set-scouting-goals-with-bsa-journey-to-excellence/>. If you're already following JTE and open to a potential process improvement, take a look at these ideas to see if they might help your PLC set and accomplish goals in 2014: <http://blog.myscoutstuff.org/2014/01/tools-for-setting-goals-with-jte/>

Their Own Words: Watch Scouters and Scouts Say Why They Love Scouting



They live in different time zones, and their paths may never cross. But this mom in Miami, dad in Dallas and Scouter in Seattle share one thing in common. All have seen their lives and the lives of their families improved by Scouting. These three Scouters (and many more youth and adults) share their stories in a new batch of One Voice videos from the Boy Scouts of America's magnificent Marketing Team.

The Dallas dad discusses how signing his son up for Cub Scouts helped bring him and his son closer together. The Miami mom finds in Scouting a place where her deaf son feels included. The Seattle Scouter explains how Venturing gives young men and women in his area a chance to try activities they never dreamed they'd do.

And don't miss the video of Matthew, a Cub Scout from Dallas who tells in his own words why he loves Scouting. It's aww-inspiring.

For those of you wishing to share these videos at recruiting events or elsewhere, go to www.scouting.org/onevoice.aspx to download them for offline viewing.

For more information contact Mike Meenehan 703-400-2176
mmmeenehan@cox.net

Some Answers to Questions about Scouting Finances



Decisive answers to questions about Scouting finances can be difficult to find. While researching an answer to an email question Clarke Green

(www.ScoutmasterCG.com) found this PDF document:

Fiscal Policies And Procedures For BSA Units dated August 2013

(http://www.scouting.org/filestore/financeimpact/pdf/Fiscal_Policies_and_Procedures_for_BSA_Units.pdf), that provides answers to most common Scouting financial questions.

The short story is there are very specific policies that are applied in concert with national, state, and local laws. Every unit committee should review their practices and make sure they align with the policies described.

Here's are the some of the questions with excerpts of the answers:..

Should our unit have a checking or savings account?

Yes. Unit funds should be deposited in a checking or savings account that requires two signatures on every check or withdrawal. The unit leader could be one of the signees, but it is recommended it be a committee person. It could be that the unit leaders have a petty cash fund (with the limit set by the committee) that is accounted for with receipts each month.

Does a pack or troop need its own tax identification number? If so, where do we get it?

All units need a tax ID number (also referred to as an "EIN"—Employer Identification Number). Units should NOT use the Social Security number of an adult leader. If they do, the IRS will attribute all banking transactions, unit purchases, etc., to that leader as an individual. Units may use the tax ID number of their chartered organization, if given permission. This may be especially useful for the unit if that organization is tax-exempt. Most units obtain their own tax ID number by completing IRS Form SS-4. There is no fee involved. The current form and instructions are available on the IRS website (www.irs.gov). Also, the IRS now allows you to provide the information over the phone and immediately receive a unit EIN. The IRS phone number is 800-829-4933.

USA Science and Engineering Festival



The NCAC STEM team will be participating in the nation's largest STEM Expo in Washington, DC., on April 26-27 at the Washington Convention Center.

Over 750 exhibitors gather at the USA Science and Engineering Festival to showcase and promote hand-on STEM education. If you are an inventor, entrepreneur, hobbyist, or just have an interest in science and engineering than this is the place to explore what resources are available.

Youth and adult volunteers are needed to staff the booth. If you are interested in volunteering, send an email to STEM@NCACBSA.org. Please include your contact information and you will be contacted to coordinate your availability.

Can Scouts, Venturers Drive Themselves To/From Events?



Getting to and from Scouting events is by far more dangerous than participating in the program. That's why the Boy Scouts of America's *Guide to Safe Scouting* offers specific guidelines to help adults transport Scouts safely. But what about older Scouts and Venturers with driver's licenses? Is it OK for them to drive themselves and others to meetings, weekend campouts, unit activities, area/regional/national events and more?

Here's what Richard Bourlon, the BSA's Health and Safety team leader, and Mark Dama, head of Insurance and Risk Management, have as answers to these questions.

Can a Scout Drive to/from a troop or crew meetings?

This one qualifies as "not applicable." That's because, as Bourlon says, "Driving to or from a standard meeting place isn't an official Scouting activity or part of any tour planning." Adds Dama, "It's similar to you going to work and coming home from work. You are not considered an employee at both of those times."

Can a Boy Scout drive to a troop overnighner?

No. The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, specifically point No. 3 under Automobiles, says: "The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age." If he's 18, he's not a Boy Scout, and so this rule is quite clear. Exceptions for youth Boy Scouts include traveling to and from an area, regional or national Boy Scout activity. More on that later.

Can a Boy Scout drive other Scouts to a troop overnighner?

No. See above explanation.

Can a Boy Scout transport troop equipment?

No. Same reasoning, Dama writes: "If they did, the troop equipment belongs to the chartered organization, which probably wouldn't want a youth driving gear around. Do the mom and dad of the son have an appropriate level of automobile liability insurance coverage if their son has an accident and there are other youth in his vehicle? Scouting youth (under age 18) are not insured under the BSA Commercial General Liability policy." That last sentence is a direct quote from the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, and it explains why this rule exists.

Can a Boy Scout drive himself to/from an area, regional or national event?

Yes, assuming he's at least 16 years old and meets the *Guide to Safe Scouting* rules.

What about Venturers? Can they drive themselves?

Yes, a Venturer can drive himself/herself to any Venturing event as long as the event is under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age), the Venturer is at least 16 years old and meets the *Guide to Safe Scouting* rules.

Why is this policy in place?

Motor vehicle accidents are one of the most frequent severe incidents we see in Scouting," Bourlon says. "Going to and from events is far more dangerous than our program. We have resources such as the Risk Zone training that Scouters should review." www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/632-006_WB.pdf

Let's get a Boy Scout or Venturer on FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council



Scouts worldwide have lived the "Be Prepared" motto since 1907.

So who better than a Boy Scout or Venturer to serve on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Youth Preparedness Council?

Right now FEMA's seeking out "youth leaders who are dedicated to public service, who are making a difference in their communities and who want to expand their impact as national advocates for youth disaster preparedness."

Let's encourage preparedness-focused Scouts we know to apply. Having a Scout selected to serve would be some great positive publicity for Scouting and further strengthen our "Be Prepared" ties.

Applicants must be between 12 and 17 years old and "engaged in individual and community preparedness" or have "experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a positive difference in his or her community."

The reward for those selected, in addition to a nice bullet point on a résumé or college application, is a chance to spread the word on youth preparedness, communicate directly with FEMA leaders and attend a summit in Washington, D.C., at FEMA's expense.

Last year's council members were an impressive bunch who promoted preparedness in their communities and across the country. But I know there's more than a few Scouts and Venturers out there who have gone beyond earning the Emergency Preparedness merit badge and made a lasting difference in their community.

Youth interested in applying to the Council must submit a completed application form (www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council) and two letters of recommendation.

Specific information about completing and submitting the application and attachments can be found in the application instructions. All applications and supporting materials must be received no later than Feb. 24, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EST in order to be eligible.

New Youth Preparedness Council members will be announced in May 2014.

Scout Related Expenses and Income Tax Returns



Scouters who heeded the Scout Motto last year remembered to track and document their Boy Scouts of America-related expenses. And now, they know that they can include those expenses if they plan to itemize their deductions.

But what if you didn't know that BSA expenses were deductible? Or what if your "filing system" is really your glove compartment that's stuffed with gas receipts and crumpled-up napkins? And what qualifies as an eligible expense, anyway?

For help in figuring all of this out check out the following web article:

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2011/03/03/tax-time/>

For the best advice, find a professional, use tax-preparation software, or check out the IRS website.

Leave No Trace Trainer Course



This course is offered to train Boy Scouts (age 14 and older), Venturers, and adults (Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venture) to serve as Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainers for Scouting and the wider public. For a Scout to serve in the Troop Leave No Trace Trainer position, he must complete the Leave No Trace Trainer Course. For that reason and since space is limited, Scouts will be given priority for registration.

This course is designed to enhance your understanding of Leave No Trace practices and ethics and to increase your level of expertise and confidence in teaching Leave No Trace skills. Through focused activities, hands-on field experience and both formal and informal discussions, you will be introduced to concepts and methods that will advance your knowledge of LNT issues, expand your repertoire of low-impact skills, and increase your effectiveness in teaching these important skills to others.

On completion of this course, participants will be registered as Leave No Trace Trainers with the national Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and will receive a certificate of course completion, Leave No Trace Trainer lapel pin, and a BSA Leave No Trace Trainer card.

Classroom Activities: March 14, 7pm-10pm, Scout House, Falls Church, VA

Field Activities: March 22 9am – March 23 10am, Sky Meadows Park, Delaplane, VA. (March 22-23 will be a backcountry patrol backpacking format on trails near Sky Meadows Park)

Cost: \$75, non-refundable, which includes campsite fees, educational materials, trainer card, patch, trainer pin, and meals. Registration is via the NCAC Website. (Directions, equipment list, and other course details will be emailed to participants upon registration. Each participant will have pre-read materials and an assignment for the training.)

For additional information, please contact Victor Bieniek at vbieniek@gmail.com or 703-855-8428

ScubaJam Virginia 2014



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 29 – Sept 1

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).

Registration: Youth must be 11 -20 years of age. All participants must be registered with a participating groups and the group must (1) register themselves and their members with the event, (2) take responsibility for meeting youth protection and control requirements of their respective organizations and (3) must have a dive professional attached to the group to take responsibility for their members diving activities.

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

District Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/NCAC-Goose-Creek-District/150234058338739

Roundtable Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Goose-Creek-District-Cub-Scout-Roundtable/122441441115224

2014 Mountaineer Weekend Program Sign-Up Now Open



There's a brand new program at the Summit called the Mountaineer Weekend.

What sets this apart from the other high adventure options is that it's a weekend program (June 12th through August 14th) where Scouts can experience a wide variety of activities at the Summit in two days! That's two days of adventure and exploration and three nights of camping nestled in the Appalachian hardwood forests of West Virginia.

Roll into the Summit on Thursday evening, get your camp ready and rest up for two days of amazing experiences that will change the way you look at the world. And yourself. There's something about the Summit—the misty mornings, rolling mountains and rugged terrain—that speaks to more than just activities and adrenaline.

Mountaineer Weekend allows Scouts, Venturers, and Varsity teams to go further in a short time. One of the best parts is that the Summit is within a day's drive.

Mountaineer Weekend includes the following venues at the Scott Summit Center:

- Boulder Cove Climbing
- Action Point Challenge Courses
- Action Point Canopy Tour
- Harvey Mountain Bike Trails
- Action Point Skate Plaza
- Action Point BMX
- Water Reality Obstacle Course
- Stand-up Paddleboard
- Summit Center Zip Lines
- Sustainability Treehouse

It's the best way to pack a ton of fun into one weekend. Spaces will be filling up so download your Mountaineer Weekend registration form

(www.summitblog.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Mountaineer-Weekend-Flyer.pdf) and get your Scouts, Venturers, or Varsity team signed up!

COST: \$220 per person (paid in full by April 30, 2014). Add \$15 per person after April 30, 2014 \$100 non-refundable deposit due at registration. Includes meals, tent, cot and program equipment use.



You might have been a Scouter too long when:

- Your closets are full and they don't contain clothes, but craft stuff.
- You wear 2 pairs of socks to bed.
- Your favorite movie is "Follow Me Boys" starring Fred MacMurry.

What's that age again? A complete guide to when Scouts can do what

MPAA ratings — G, PG, PG-13, R — take the guesswork out of deciding which movies are appropriate for your son or daughter. Fortunately, deciding which Scouting activities are age-appropriate is just as easy, thanks to this Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities PDF

(<http://scoutingmagazine.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/age-appropriate-guidelines-2013.pdf>).

The BSA's Health and Safety team developed the age- and rank-appropriate guidelines based on the mental, physical, emotional and social maturity of Boy Scouts of America youth members. The guidelines apply to Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams and Venturing crews.

Should Bear Cub Scouts build campfires? Can Webelos Scouts use bow saws? Can Boy Scouts go scuba diving? Can Venturers ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)?

The answers: No. Yes. Yes. And yes, but only through their approved local council.

The guide covers outdoor skills, sports, tools, trekking, aircraft, vehicles, shooting sports, climbing, aquatics and camping.

It's a great resource for answering questions from parents or from youth leaders planning future trips.

More specific guidelines on tools

Service projects are an iconic Scouting tradition, and you may be wondering whether certain tools are OK for 13-, 14- or 15-year-old boys and girls. Wonder no more. This PDF (www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf) gives a tool-by-tool breakdown.

Can Scouts use zip lines?

Zip-lining is considered age-appropriate for Venturing-age youth and older Boy Scouts. If the youth are participating in a commercial zip-line activity that is not located on a BSA-owned property, then we suggest you make sure that organization follows the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) standards for installation, maintenance, and operation.

That and more Frequently Asked Questions are answered at this Scouting Safely page (www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/gen_faq.aspx) , maintained by Richard Bournon and the BSA's Health and Safety team.

9th Annual NCAC Scout Orienteering Meet



This event is open to all Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scout units (ages 11 and up) and Venturing Crews. Scouts will be paired up and compete for awards to be presented to the first 15 places in each event.

The morning sessions will include: instruction in Orienteering for Scouts new to the sport, competitions in one of four levels of orienteering courses, and a map skill-building event.

Each Scout pair will have an opportunity to choose two events in the morning. Although we are offering instruction, we strongly recommend instruction take place at a unit level so you can ensure the use of Teaching EDGE instruction that we are unable to provide.

Competition will be broken into two age groups, under 14 years of age and Scouts 14 years of age or older. Venturing Crews with members over 18 years old may be scored as a third grouping to try to ensure fairness. After a brief break at 1pm, the afternoon event will be a 90-minute Orienteering score course. The event will be completed with awards from the morning events at 5:00pm.

When: March 29, 2014 (some camping is available both Fri. & Sat. nights, call early)

Where: Little Bennett Regional Park, off Route 355 near Clarksburg, MD

Cost: TBD per Scout, TBD per Adult volunteer

Registration: Registration is to be done at the unit level. Registration deadline is Mar 24, 2014

For more information go to www.ScoutOrienteering.com/events/2014-03-29Flyer_NCAC.pdf or contact James Chaplin at (703) 380-9631, or by email at jhchaplin@comcast.net (best).

Goshen Scout Reservation



Registration is now open but don't wait too long. We have received numerous inquiries about available space for new units attending Goshen from our Council and abroad. If your unit is planning to spend a week with us this summer, please register your one adult leader as soon as possible!

Again this coming year, we are making every effort to keep the cost of camp down for all participants. Our Scout fees are remaining the same as last year, however, we will increase adult leader fees to be more in line with youth fees in an effort to make it fair to all attending.

Camp	Early Bird (April 25)	Regular Payment (May 30)	At Camp Payment
PMI / Ross	\$290/\$230	\$330/\$270	\$370/\$310
Olmstead	\$290/\$230	\$330/\$270	\$370/\$310
Marriott / Bowman	\$315/\$240	\$355/\$280	\$395/\$320

Scout Fee/Adult Fee

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

District Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/NCAC-Goose-Creek-District/150234058338739

Roundtable Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Goose-Creek-District-Cub-Scout-Roundtable/122441441115224

Spring Cub Family Campouts



This spring Camp Snyder will host two Cub Scout family campouts. These campouts are a great experience, allowing Cub Scouts and their families to spend a weekend camping together. There will be a variety of activities on both weekends, ranging from shooting sports, outdoor camping skills, crafts, games, academic and sports belt loops and much more. Each weekend will also feature different activities for families wishing to attend both weekends.

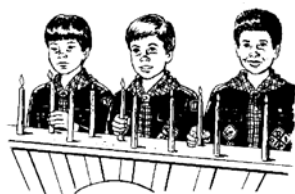
Weekend One: April 11-13

Weekend Two: May 9-11

Registration will be open for individual families, dens, or packs. Families may also choose to join us for just the day if they do not wish to camp. More information and registration can be found online at www.GoToSnyder.org

(Editor Note: This link currently just goes to the NCAC site and the event is not on the Council calendar yet)

6 Blue and Gold Banquet Planning Guides

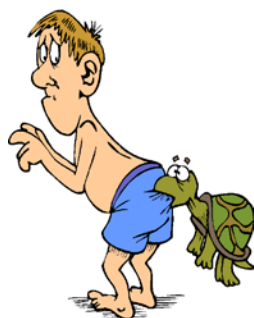


The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, so most packs celebrate our anniversary in February with the Blue and Gold Banquet. According to the BSA website, "the purpose of the blue and gold banquet is to celebrate the pack's anniversary, thank pack leaders and other adults who have helped the pack, and inspire the leaders, Scouts, and parents."

There are almost as many kinds of Blue and Gold Banquets as there are packs. Some groups have a full catered meal while others have a potluck dinner and others only serve cake or have an ice cream sundae bar.

Regardless of how your pack celebrates, there is some planning involved. CubScoutIdeas.com has searched the internet and found 6 good planning guides that may help you as you prepare to celebrate the Boys Scouts of America's birthday! <http://cubscoutideas.com/2149/blue-and-gold-banquet-planning-guides/>

2014 NCAC Aquatics Program



The year 2014 has finally arrived. With the New Year, the NCAC Aquatics committee has created an impressive program available at the below link. <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/ncacbsa.site-ym.com/resource/group/43fae301-dacf-4ac3-ae7f-b4cfc4642b32/2014aquaticsactivitiesv2-1.pdf>

- Pre-camp swim classification tests
- Aquatics Supervision Training: Swimming and Water Rescue (SWR)
- Scuba certification and Scuba Diving merit badge
- Scuba BSA
- Mile Swim BSA
- Safe Swim Defense (SSD) and Safety Afloat (SA) Training
- BSA & American Red Cross Lifeguard
- CPR/AED Pro and First Aid Training

Register for any of these programs at www.ncacbsa.org/aquatics

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

District Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/NCAC-Goose-Creek-District/150234058338739

Roundtable Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Goose-Creek-District-Cub-Scout-Roundtable/122441441115224

World Friendship Fund, a Dollar for a Difference



Since BSA's World Friendship Fund was created at the end of World War II, more than \$11 million has been donated by American Scouts and leaders eager to support worldwide Scouting in a personal way.

And February 1-15 is this year's focused fundraising campaign to boost awareness and contributions for this ever-so-worthy cause. For examples of how your contributions might be used, you only have to look as far as what WFF's already accomplished.

From providing funding for building, sanitation, and transportation projects to tsunami and earthquake relief to helping to create new Scout camps, donations like yours have supported Scouting efforts in Madagascar, Mongolia, Bhutan, and the Asian Pacific region, just to name a few.

So please share this news and special opportunity to make a global Scouting difference with your BSA family and friends. If every Scout and Scouter would be willing to pledge at least one dollar, just imagine the impact.

For more information and details on how to donate, please visit your local Scout Shop, ScoutStuff.org and www.scouting.org/International/worldsupport.aspx.

On-Line Resource of the Month

COOLTOOLS

Cool Tools (<http://kk.org/cooltools/>) is a web site which recommends the best/cheapest tools available. Tools are defined broadly as anything that can be useful. This includes backpacking, camping, hand tools, machines, books, software, gadgets, websites, maps, and even ideas. All reviews are positive raves written by real users. They don't bother with negative reviews because their intent is to only offer the best.

One new tool is posted each weekday. Cool Tools does NOT sell anything. The site provides prices and convenient sources for readers to purchase items. When Amazon.com is listed as a source (which it often is because of its prices and convenience) Cool Tools receives a fractional fee from Amazon if items are purchased at Amazon on that visit.

Equipment / Gear

LifeStraw® Personal Water Filter



Designed to provide clean water in the harshest of conditions, the LifeStraw personal water filter provides outdoorsmen instant access to safe drinking water. Lightweight and compact, this 2 oz. filter allows you to drink directly from lakes, rivers, or your water bottle by simply putting the lower part of the straw in the water and sipping. Perfect for hunting, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits in backcountry, the LifeStraw filters up to 264 gallons (1,000 liters) of unwanted impurities down to 0.2 microns. This powerful filtration captures dangerous bacteria and protozoa, exceeding EPA standards for water filtration. Distributed as part of many public health campaigns or emergency responses by NGOs and other relief organizations, the LifeStraw's simple and effective design has won numerous awards (including TIME Magazine's Best Inventions Award).

- Removes 99.9999% of waterborne bacteria (>LOG 6 reduction).
- Removes 99.9% of waterborne protozoan parasites (>LOG 3 reduction).
- LifeStraw removes bacteria, including: Escherichia coli, Campylobacter, Vibrio cholerae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Shigella, Salmonella.
- LifeStraw removes protozoa, including: Giardia lamblia ("Beaver Fever"), Cryptosporidium Parvum, Entamoeba histolytica.
- The LifeStraw does not filter heavy metals or viruses, and will not desalinate water

Available from Amazon the cost is around \$20. It has a 4.6 (out of 5) rating with about 560 reviews in.

For other reviews see:

- <http://eartheasy.com/blog/2011/09/a-backpackers-review-of-the-lifestraw-personal-water-filter/>
- <http://myeanderingtrail.com/2013/02/12/twelfth-official-product-review-ever-lifestraw/>
- <http://billhowardoutdoors.blogspot.com/2011/10/gear-review-lifestraw-water-filtration.html>

MSR SureLock™ UL-2 Trekking Poles

Review by Jerry Schleining Jr., www. <http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2013/12/29/msr-surelocktm-ul-2-trekking-poles/>



I recently purchased new trekking poles, and being me, I did a lot more homework on the purchase than most folks looking for camping gear. I have been looking for some time (since we got back from Philmont in 2012) for new trekking poles as I bent one of my trekking poles while at Philmont. They are still usable, but collapsing them is hard now and since I have had that set for about 10 years, I figured it was time to replace them.

I looked at no less than 50 different styles, brands, and types over the past 9 months or so and finally found a pair that I really like and thought I would give them a shot.

First you may ask, what the heck took you so long? Great question. Like I said, I over researched them. When looking at good high-end trekking poles, I knew that I would be committing at least \$100 to the purchase. But since I also knew that the poles I buy needed to last, after all I use trekking poles all year round and on every hike, backpacking trip and camp out, I became real picky in the choice.

What I ended up getting is the MSR SureLock™ UL-2 Ultralight 2 section Poles. They retail for \$90, but with a Boy Scout discount and finding them on sale at a local outfitter, I paid \$62.

So here are the specs:

According the packaging the SureLock™ UL-2 trekking poles weigh in at 16.5 oz or 468 grams. As these are MSR's "ultralight" trekking poles, I am sure that they put the heavy end on the packaging. On my scale with the winter or snow baskets on the poles, both of them weigh in at 15 oz. The trekking poles with the summer baskets weigh in at 14.5 oz. The length of the poles are as advertised. At its lowest setting the trekking poles are 41 inches long or 105 cm. They extend to 55 inches or 140 cm. Fully collapsed the trekking poles are 31 inches. There are 8 adjustable holes along the trekking pole to find the right setting for you. I personally set them at 120 cm.

Here is what I like compared to my last poles, which for the record are the Black Diamond Trail Trekking poles. The MSR SureLock™ poles are 2 section poles, the Black Diamond poles I have are 3 section. This makes the MSR poles faster and easier to set up. I really like that.

I LOVE the Positive Locking system on the SureLock™. The rolling bearing pins smoothly lock into place and once seated are not going anywhere. I configured the trekking poles to my height and leaned over them with my entire upper body weight, they did not flex or pop out. With your standard cam lock or twist friction locks over the course of a hike I always had to readjust due to slippage.

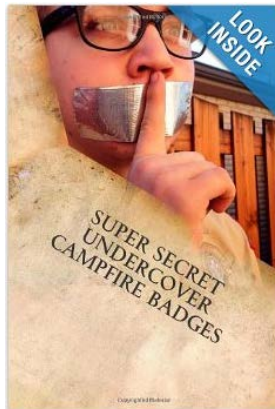
The poles have a unique design in that they are not round. This design is called Non Rotating tri-lobe geometry, this assists with the poles not being able to rotate. This keeps the Positive locking system in place.

The trekking poles are made of 7000 series aluminum. This is super light and very strong.

I am very happy with these trekking poles. They are comfortable, light, strong, and easy to use. I can not wait to get them out on the trail.

Books

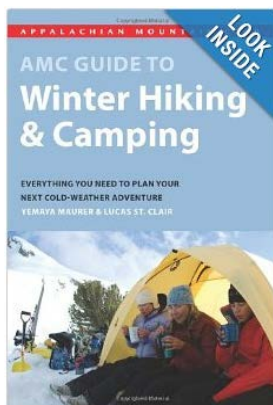
Super Secret Undercover Campfire Badges



Super Secret Undercover Campfire Badges is the concept of Greg Cieply - a veteran of the scouting program. After spending many days and nights camping with his own troop as well as years at weekly troop meetings, he realized that there were certain topics that have loads of value and import for young men but are just never taught - and sometimes just don't fit. Seeing that young boys needed to know about these "other" things - often "Secret" things - he decided to fulfill this need and his desire to make learning fun and intellectually energizing. In this process he realized that while mental development and character building were occurring, strong bonds were also developing through associations and connections. Bonds that would pay dividends for many years to come in the lives of these boys. His dream was to create a quick and easy way to not only cram more information into the short period of time he had with his scouts, but to get everyone involved and learn through teaching. This book is a self-empowering resource, that will help all boys learn something new, make some new friends and grow even deeper relationships with other scouts, friends and leaders. Inspired by the respected merit badge program of the Boy Scouts of America, each "Campfire" badge will take a much shorter period of time to complete and includes step by step instructions for achieving these simple and fun activities. Boys from 11-17 and older will enjoy learning how to do stand up comedy, understand fine dining, the ins and outs of duct tape and much much more.

Available from Amazon (paperback) for \$7

AMC Guide to Winter Hiking and Camping

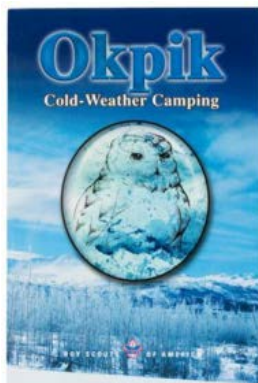


Many people think of hiking and camping as warm-weather activities, but every adventurer should experience the outdoors in winter. The sparkle of new-fallen snow on a tree's boughs, the spectacular panorama of white mountaintops, and the invigorating chill of the morning air are just some of the rewards of hiking and camping in the winter months. This comprehensive guide by Lucas St. Clair and Yemaya Maurer will help you plan a great trip with plenty of practical advice that emphasizes preparation, safety, outdoor stewardship, and fun. You'll learn when to go, what latest gear and clothing to bring, and the essentials of staying warm and dry. Also included are sections on navigation and what to eat while hiking in winter weather. Special consideration is given to the rapidly changing weather conditions in the Eastern US.

Whether you're planning a group camping trip, or a family that wants to experience a new season in the outdoors, AMC Guide to Winter Hiking and Camping will become your trusted source for all your winter camping and hiking adventures.

Available from Amazon (paperback) for \$13

Okpik: Cold-Weather Camping



You want me to do what?! Sleeping outside when it's 40 degrees (or below) can sound like an invitation to days of unrelenting discomfort, but perhaps it can be something more. For generations, Boy Scouts have known how to weather the winter months with style, and it only takes some specific know-how to make this unique form of camping a rewarding one.

BSA's Okpik: Cold-Weather Camping guide (34040), is a great place to start. Drawing experience-based info from the BSA's Northern Tier Cold Weather Training program, this book can serve as the basis for a state-of-the-art training course designed to give leaders confidence in taking a small group into a cold environment.

Available from www.scoutstuff.org for \$10

Training Opportunities

Wilderness First Aid Classes



Beginning in 2014, BSA High Adventure crews attending Philmont Scout Ranch are required to have two members currently certified in Wilderness First Aid (WFA). The requirement for the other Bases (Northern Tier, Sea Base and The Summit) remains at one crew member currently WFA-trained, but two are strongly suggested since the crew would have to end their trip if the one trained person was injured. Also new in 2014 is the requirement that any unit undertaking a back country trip of their own have at least one WFA-trained participant.

For a list of NCAC High Adventure Committee-endorsed classes, see http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/ncacbsa.site-ym.com/resource/group/95d23063-d63f-4ee8-858c-9c43c002b826/high_adventure/hac_2014-2013_wfa_courses.pdf.

BSA Venturing Crew 80, Alexandria, VA also offers Wilderness First Aid classes at a reduced rate. For more information, see <http://www.w3bsa.org/WFABPlan.htm> or contact Demi Pulas at demetrios.pulas@ferc.gov or 202-502-8676

University of Scouting



The "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, Venture Scouts, Varsity Scouts, District, and Council). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouting, what we call "Adventuring" (a combination of Varsity, Venturing, and Sea Scout activities), as well as Electives opportunities.

When: Feb 22, 2013, Registration opens in January

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

District Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/NCAC-Goose-Creek-District/150234058338739

Roundtable Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Goose-Creek-District-Cub-Scout-Roundtable/122441441115224

Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills



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

The target audience are leaders planning High Adventure treks at backcountry venues not supported by BSA infrastructure; however, units planning to attend High Adventure bases supported by BSA will find this course useful, inasmuch as unit shakedown will, most likely, take place in venues not supported by BSA infrastructure. 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
- Wilderness First Aid Overview & Personal Hygiene
- Cooking & Clean-up
- Leadership Teambuilding & Development
- Leave No Trace
- Resources On the Trail Tips
- Risk Management
- Crew Equipment Needs
- Equipment Maintenance
- Personal Equipment Needs
- Terrain Awareness & Land Navigation

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

Part 2 (overnighter) — Participants will practice core leader skills for the outdoor program — Leave No Trace, navigation (map & compass plus GPS), terrain awareness, expedition menu planning and food preparation, stove and stove maintenance, wilderness first aid issues, expedition health and hygiene, team building.

Spring 2014

Sat. 3/15 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA

Sat. 4/12, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 4/13, 1:30 PM at Camp Highroads, Middleburg, VA

Fall 2014 SUNDAY FRIENDLY

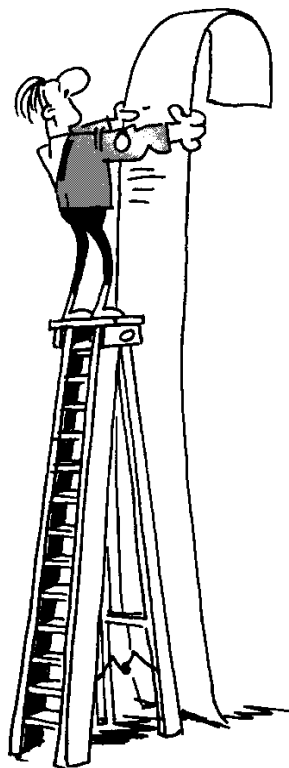
Sat. 9/27 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Huntingtown, MD

Fri. 10/24, 7:30 AM thru Sat. 10/25, 1:30 PM at LaPlata, MD

Course Fee: \$40, register on the NCAC Website under "Program > Training"

Questions? Contact Dominick Caridi (dscScouting@aol.com, 703-625-4196)

District Calendar



February 2014

- 1-2 **Freeze-o-ree**
- 2 Scout Sunday
- 8 Scout Sabbath
- 12 Goose Creek Court of Honor
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 17 President's Day
- 26 District Committee

March 2014

- 1 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 6 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
- 8 **Training – Life to Eagle**
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 26 District Committee
- 31 Student Holiday

April 2014

- 4-6 **Spring Camporee**
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 14-18 Spring Break
- 23 District Committee

May 2014

- 3 **Cubmobile Derby**
- 8 Commissioner RT
- 14 **Program Launch**
- 26 Memorial Day
- 28 District Committee

June 2014

- 7 **Soda Bottle Rocket Derby**
- 11 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner RT
- 13 Last Day of School
- 16-20 Day/Twilight Camp
- 21 **Training – Life to Eagle**
- 25 District Committee

July 2014

- 4 Independence Day

August 2014

- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 27 District Committee

September 2014

- 1 Labor Day
- 2 First Day of School
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 24 District Committee

October 2014

- 4-5 **Webelos-o-ree (TBD)**
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 13 Columbus Day
- 18 **Training – Life to Eagle**
- 22 District Committee

November 2014

- 1 **Scouting for Food Bag Distribution**
- 3-4 Student Holiday
- 8 **Scouting for Food Bag Pickup**
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 19 District Committee
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 2014

- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 17 Annual District Business Meeting
- 22 Winter Break Starts

January 2015

- 2 Winter Break Ends
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 Commissioner RT
- 20 MLK Jr. Day
- 28 District Committee
- 26 Moveable School Holiday