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


Training

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Quick Calendar:

- Mar 1 – District Pinewood Derby
- Mar 6 – AOL Recognition Ceremony
- Mar 8 – Life to Eagle Training
- Mar 8 – District COH
- Mar 12 – Roundtable
- Mar 26 – District COH
- Apr 4-6 – Camporee
- Apr 9 – Roundtable
- May 3 – Cubmobile Derby
- May 14 – Program Launch

Newsletter Key:

-  Cub Scout Interest
-  Boy Scout / Venturing Interest
-  For Everyone

Goose Creek District Newsletter



March 2014

Volume 5, Issue 8

February 1, 2014 By Enoch Heise, <http://scoutmastercg.com/author/enoch/>



Acting Like a Leader – Be a Leader!

On one of the first camping trips I went to, my Troop had the unpleasant duty of cleaning the latrine. No one wanted to do it! I certainly didn't want to, but on an impulse I volunteered to help.

Have you ever seen a movie where one guy volunteers for a hard job and everybody else pitches in because they felt bad about shirking their duty?

I was hoping volunteering to clean the latrine would be like the movies and a swarm of volunteers would help me.

Unfortunately, nobody volunteered. Nobody would've helped if the Senior Patrol Leader hadn't made them!

I was tempted to be discouraged by this, I continued volunteering for hard jobs like this because I believed it was the right thing to do (even if I didn't feel like it). There were plenty of times the rest of the Scouts were happy to just let me do the work, but there were other times when one or two of the Scouts would follow my lead and volunteer with me!

This experience taught me the power of a good example. Other Scouts followed the example and spirit of what I was doing. I earned a lot of respect and it stayed with me when I became a Patrol Leader and later as Senior Patrol Leader.

Even if you don't have an official position you don't have to wait to start leading! Being a good example and showing some spirit will strongly influence your group and put you on the path to leadership success.

Leaders set a good example and show initiative. Next time dishes need to be washed instead complaining about it like everyone else just step up and lead – get those dishes washed in record time.

Most people imagine leaders just give orders and make important decisions. But real leadership is leading in spirit, encouraging others, and being a good example.

If you want to be a leader, start leading in spirit, encouraging others, and being a good example right now. Don't wait! Others will take notice! You know why? Because someone who is willing to take on responsibility without the fancy title is rare and valuable. Be that person!

About Enoch Heise

Enoch Heise is a 19 year-old Eagle Scout and Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. He has held many youth leadership positions in Scouting, but enjoyed being Patrol Leader the most! He is currently serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for his Troop in North Texas where he enjoys Camping, Music, Martial Arts, and Rock Climbing. You can follow his personal blog at www.ScoutingRediscovered.com

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 March 26th, 2014, at 7:30 pm, at the Leesburg United Methodist Church (same place that Roundtable is held, 107 West Market St.), 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!

Silver Beaver Award



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

We are honored to announce that this year, **Kurt Struder**, our District Commissioner has been awarded the Silver Beaver. Please join us in congratulating him for all that he has done for Scouting and for our District.

District Award of Merit



The District Award of Merit is the highest award that is given to a Scouter at the District level and also the only "non-square knot" in the knot award group. It is awarded by a District to volunteer and professional adults for service to youth in the District.

This year's recipients and some of the positions that have held over the years are:

- **Sam Freeman** – Assistant District Roundtable Commissioner, Unit Commissioner, Cubmaster Pack 572, Scoutmaster Troop 966
- **Rizwan Jaka** - COR, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and Committee Chair of ADAMS Center units, District Nominating Committee, helped establish the NCAC Interfaith Pinewood Derby
- **Stacey Noll** – District Scouting for Food Coordinator, District Day Camp Registrar, Pack 1000 Founder
- **Bobbie Scales** – Order of the Arrow Goose Creek Chapter Advisor, Venturing Crew 761 Committee and Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 1941 Committee (Life to Eagle)

Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony



The Annual Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony will be conducted by the Order of the Arrow (OA) on Thursday March 6, 2013 at 7:00, at:

Leesburg Church of the Nazarene
17667 Roxbury Hall Rd.
Leesburg, VA 20175.

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! Scouts who have just crossed over to a troop may attend.

Registration is required, even though no registration fee is being charged. We want to make sure we have everyone in your Den seated together and have enough seats for them. For those that have never been to one of these ceremonies before, the Dens sit together and the families sit elsewhere, but there is plenty of seating and not a bad seat in the house. Please register with the Pack number, the Den name/number, the name of the Den leaders, and the names of the boys attending to Bobbie Scales, OA Chapter Adviser at scalesbobbie@yahoo.com by March 5. The ceremony will include time after for pictures to be taken with the Ceremonialists, so make sure to bring cameras. There is no restriction to the number of family members and friends that can be there. Try to arrive no later than 6:45 so that we can have everyone seated and start the ceremony on time. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Spring Camporee



The Spring Camporee is coming up, April 4-6, and will be located this year at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, VA.

Like last year's camporee this one will have a special "high-adventure" challenge for the older Scouts while for the younger Scouts we will be holding a double-elimination tournament on patrol based skills. A full information/registration packet is expected to be available on the district website by early March.

This Spring Camporee is also when the OA does callout for those elected so Arrowmen bring your sashes.

2014 Webelos-o-ree Date Change



Due to the availability of Camp Snyder and conflicts with staff commitments and Order of the Arrow events we have rescheduled the 2014 Webelos-o-ree to October 25-26.

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

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

Goose Creek Day/Twilight Camp Dates



It's time to schedule your Pack's Summer camp presentation. A camp presentation is an excellent way to get your Scouting families excited about the wide variety of summer camps available to Goose Creek Cub Scouts. Just send Dave Carty (david.carty@goosecreekdistrict.org) a date, time, and location and he'll make sure your unit gets a great camp presentation.

The camp presenter arrives early and sets up display boards. He or shee greet families as your unit gathers and discuss camp options. We then ask for 2-3 minutes, after your Pack opening, for the presenter to address the Pack. They will not only talk about Day and Twilight camp, but the other excellent camps available – like Camp Snyder and Goshen Scout Reservations (Webelos Only.) After a quick Q&A session, the presenter will turn the meeting back over to the Cubmaster, but be available to answer specific family questions. The presenter will have handouts for your families and can tailor the presentation to your unit's desires. If you have already designed a Pack Camp Coordinator, the presenter would avail any time needed to address camp registration questions.

We are also looking for camp staff – young and old. An adult volunteering for the week at camp gets to send one child to camp for free. Youths over the age of 14 are entitled to a \$75.00 credit that can be applied at any NCAC Goshen Reservation Summer Camp. Youth under the age of 14 receive service hours to be used for school or rank advancement. We also welcome girls on staff so get the word out to those Venturing crews.

Book your presentation early and help get those boys excited about Camp. Camp registration will be opening soon.

Statistics show that 85% of boys who attend Summer Camp continue on in the BSA program.

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

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

Cubmobile Derby



What do you have when you make a Pinewood Derby car big enough for a Scout to sit in? A Cubmobile! The district is planning to hold our third annual Cubmobile Derby on May 3, 2014.

Dens will race as teams with a minimum of three and a maximum of five Scouts per team. Dens with six or more Scouts participating will need to register as two, or more, teams. Every Scout on a team will be given a chance to race their cubmobile twice down the course.

Teams from the same pack will be allowed to use the same cubmobile if they want to. Cubmobiles built for last year's derby may be used again this year.

Derby fee is expected to be \$6 per Scout and all teams must pre-register with an \$18 deposit (i.e, the fee for three Scouts). A full information/registration packet and instructions on how to build a cubmobile will be soon be available on the district website.

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Webelos Visiting the Spring Camporee



Webelos Leaders! Now that your Scouts have earned their Webelos badge you should start planning on how to do some of the AOL requirements, one of which is visiting an Boy Scout outdoor oriented activity.

Since the district only runs two of these during the year, the Freeze-o-ree in February (cold, subject to last minute date changes due to icing conditions, sometimes cancelled with 3 feet of snow on the ground, your only choice if you forgot about this requirement and must get it in before the Blue & Gold so they can get their badge) and the April Camporee (warm and sunny, flowers blooming, smiling Scouts without icicles hanging from their noses) you have a choice of when you want to do this.

No registration is required to come to the Spring Camporee and there is no fee to pay for visiting us during the day. Directions and a schedule for the camporee can be found in the camporee information packet that will be available on the district website.

Note: There are no planned activities for the Webelos at this event and there is no camping, you are day visitors to see Boy Scouts in action. You can stay through the campfire during the evening, however.

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.

You might have been a Scouter too long when:



- You keep a lantern hanging outside your bathroom door.
- You walk the streets in broad daylight with a coffee cup and flashlight hanging from your belt.
- Your plans for remodeling the bathroom include digging the hole deeper.



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

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

Official OA Meal Grace



Most of us involved in the Scouting program either know or have heard of the Philmont Grace, the official meal prayer for Philmont Scout Ranch. But did you know the Order of the Arrow has one now?

The National Order of the Arrow Committee has approved an official OA Grace, in the spirit of the Philmont Grace to which so many of us are accustomed.

*For night alone that rests our thought
For quiet dawn that lights our trail
For evening fire that warms and cheers
For each repast that fuels our work
We give thanks, O Lord.*

Troop OA Elections



Reminder – if you haven't schedule your Troop's OA election, and you have eligible Scouts, please contact our Vice Chief, Ben Gerhart, at bbgerhart@gmail.com as soon as possible with two dates. March is filling up fast and we will need at least a two notice to make sure we can get a team together and get you the necessary paperwork.

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.)

“Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Jonathan DePena - Troop 2970
Gabriel Matthew Lukasiak - Troop 39
Kenneth Joseph Rau III - Troop 1154
Ryan Jacob Sauer - Troop 1158
Kenneth D. Shaughnessy - Crew 58
Phu Hoang (Bobby) Vu - Troop 968
Harrison Lee Wise - Troop 982

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 (43316 Hay Road, Ashburn), Room D, 1-4 PM (training will probably begin closer to 1:15 as we'll need the first few minutes after the library opens to make sure things are set up properly).

Mining in Society MB



The Boy Scouts of America has officially released the Mining in Society merit badge, making it the 135th current merit badge. The badge is an elective merit badge, meaning it isn't required for boys pursuing the Eagle Scout rank but is perfect for young men interested in exploring this as a potential career or just an interesting subject they want to learn more about.

"Mining has been an important part of the United States since the 19th century," the BSA says. "Today, the U.S. mining industry employs 3 million people, directly and indirectly, and is a major contributor to the global mining landscape. This merit badge will cover the history of mining, explore the status of mining in the 21st century, and introduce Scouts to modern mining careers."

Signs, Signals and Codes MB



Over the years the *Boy Scout Handbook* has de-emphasized activities like orienteering, Morse code and trail marking. This new badge reboots these staples, stressing many of the ways we nonverbally communicate. Councils should receive requirements by March, with pamphlets available in May.

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Time Running Out to Earn Computers MB



Jonathan Ive, who designed the iMac, iPod, iPhone and iPad, was born the same year the BSA introduced Computers merit badge.

That should give you some idea just how old Computers merit badge is and just how much has changed in the world of technology since then. Thanks in part to Ive, computers have shrunk from the size of copy machines to the size of a deck of cards. Inputting commands has evolved from complex keystrokes to simple taps on a screen.

That evolution is why the BSA is replacing the outdated Computers merit badge with a newer model: Digital Technology merit badge.

- Computers merit badge will be discontinued as of Dec. 31, 2014, and replaced by Digital Technology merit badge, which debuts in March 2014.
- The 2014 *Boy Scout Requirements* book, available soon, won't have Computers merit badge requirements in it but will have the requirements for Digital Technology.
- Scouts have until Dec. 31, 2014, to begin work on Computers merit badge.
- If by Dec. 31, 2014, a Scout has begun actual and purposeful effort on Computers merit badge, and that effort is more than simply incidental to participation in Scouting activities, then there's no time limit to completing the badge, except for his 18th birthday. See topic 7.0.4.4 in the *Guide to Advancement* for the full text of the policy on discontinued merit badges.
- A Scout may not begin work on Computers merit badge after Dec. 31, 2014.
- A Scout may earn and wear on his merit badge sash both Computers and Digital Technology merit badges.
- The Computers merit badge pamphlet and patch won't be reprinted or remade — when the inventory is gone, they're gone.

Quizlet: Great Boy Scout Oath and Law Test



Quizlet (<http://quizlet.com>) is a free website providing learning tools for students, including flashcards, study and game modes. It was created by a high school sophomore in 2005 and now contains over 30 million study sets. All of the material is user-generated. It also has a free app available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

A "study set" is pretty much a list of terms and definitions. You can create your own or search for a set that someone else has created.

But here's where it can be very helpful for our Webelos who are working on their Arrow of Light. They can study the requirements to become a Boy Scout using Quizlet! Learning the Boy Scout Oath and Law is so much easier when it's a game. You can make your own set or use one that someone has created.

Here are some that you might like:

- Boy Scout Law (<http://quizlet.com/29883231/boy-scout-law-flash-cards/>)
- First Class Scout Badge Parts (<http://quizlet.com/3028940/first-class-scout-badge-parts-flash-cards/>)
- Boy Scout Oath and Law, Motto, Slogan, Outdoor Code & Cub Scout Promise (<http://quizlet.com/2731315/boy-scout-oath-law-motto-slogan-outdoor-code-cub-scout-promise-flash-cards/>)

New Venturing Award Names Announced



The Boy Scouts of America announced the names for the new Venturing awards that will replace the current Bronze, Gold and Silver awards. Say hello to the:

Venturing Award: The first step in any journey is the courage to begin. At this level, the new crew member makes their commitment to join and move forward into the experience of Venturing.

Discovery Award: The adventure of participating with the crew unfolds, and each Venturer begins to discover his or her interests and talents. As the Discovery Award recipients develop new skills and competencies, their eyes are opened and the world expands for them.

Pathfinder Award: The Venturer's capabilities and skills expand and with them come increased responsibility for defining their own way forward in life, service to others and formal planning and leadership of the crew toward its goals.

Summit Award: The highest award of Venturing, the Summit Award, goes to those Venturers who have matured in their personal direction, skills, and life competencies, and who have accepted the responsibility to mentor others and serve their communities in a lasting way.

Venturing has seen just 0.66 percent of Venturers earn any awards during its history. That explains the need for fresh, new awards, which were "developed and tested among youth participants in the program, adult volunteers, human resource recruiters and college admissions counselors, using focus groups and quantitative research," according to a BSA news release.

Venturers may begin using the new awards in May 2014; the exact date is undetermined, but it will be around the time of the BSA's National Annual Meeting, held May 21-23. Consider May 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014, a transition period during which Venturers may use either the old or new awards.

Keepsake AOL Arrows



Vince Roman has been in business since 2003. He was in 6th grade in 2003. Yep, Vince started his business when he was in 6th grade. He and his dad made his own Arrow of Light award, and he's been making them ever since. Check out his About page at <http://vincesarrows.com/> to learn how he purchased camping and hiking gear and funded two trips to Philmont by making these beautiful arrows.

Vince continued his Scouting journey and became an Eagle Scout. Today, his arrow business is helping him pay for college. Vince says, "On my honor as a scout, I will fulfill any order that I accept, and your satisfaction is always 100% guaranteed." So if you're looking for beautiful, well-constructed keepsake Arrow of Light arrows, then head over to Vince's Arrows. You won't be disappointed!

Disclaimer: Vince's Arrows is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or licensed by the Boy Scouts of America. He is not Native American nor are his products, nor does he represent them as such. Arrows are not toys; and his arrows are intended for display purposes only.

Printable Arrow of Light Certificate Template



The Arrow of Light is the highest award a Cub Scout can earn. It is also the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.

The Arrow of Light requirements are intended to help prepare the Webelos to become Boy Scouts. The requirements familiarize the boys with the Boy Scout Oath and Law and give them an opportunity to learn more about the troop.

It is quite an honor for a young man to earn the Arrow of Light award. Many packs make or purchase plaques or ceremonial arrows for the boys. Another way to congratulate them is with a certificate that can be purchased from Scout Stuff or your local Scout Shop. This certificate is signed by the Chief Executive Scout which, to quote a fellow Scouter, "underscores the importance of the award over any rank award previously earned as a Cub Scout."

Because some of you may want or need a printable option, CubScoutIdeas.com had this printable Arrow of Light certificate template created to share with you (<http://cubscoutideas.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Arrow-of-Light-certificate-template.pdf>). You can print the certificate and write the names on there by hand, or you can type the names on the certificate and then print it.

When you click on the file, it may open in a new tab in your browser. If it does, you'll want to download it and open it with Adobe Reader. If you want to fill in the names before you print it, click on any of the 3 name lines and type the names directly into certificate.

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.

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Behind the numbers: Analyzing the 2013 Eagle Scout Class



From Bryan on Scouting, Feb 12 2014 <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/02/12/behind-the-numbers-analyzing-the-2013-eagle-scout-class/>

Anyone who attended an Eagle Scout court of honor last year knows 2013 was a great year for Eagle Scouts.

The same is true when you step back to look at the nationwide picture of young men who became Eagle Scouts in 2013. And today I learned exactly how many earned Scouting's highest honor last year.

That magic number: 56,841.

That's the second-highest number of Eagle Scouts in a single year in the 101-year history of the award. It's bettered only by 2012's total of 57,976, set during the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout award. You may remember that Scouts who earned the rank in 2012 got a special badge.

The 56,841 number is impressive, but it's even more striking when you realize what it means. It means 56,841 young men are now prepared to become great leaders, great husbands and fathers, and great Americans because they chose Scouting.

But the Eagle Scouts themselves aren't the only ones bettered by the journey. The 9.3 million service hours 2013's Eagle Scouts recorded during their Eagle projects means their communities are forever changed, too.

Let's look at even more numbers. This year I got more data than in past years, including a breakdown of Eagle Scout awards earned by region, total project hours and the average age of the young men who became Eagle Scouts in 2013.

2013 Eagle Scouts by region

Northeast: 10,670
 Southern: 15,407
 Central: 11,450
 Western: 19,314

Total number of Eagle Scout Service Project hours

Northeast: 1,993,867 hours
 Southern: 2,458,892 hours
 Central: 1,747,469 hours
 Western: 3,146,719 hours
 Total: 9,347,047 hours

Average age of 2013 Eagle Scouts

Northeast: 17.5
 Southern: 17.18
 Central: 17.28
 Western: 16.99
 Overall average: 17.24

Number of Eagle Scouts per year, recent years

2010: 56,176
 2011: 51,473
 2012: 57,976
 2013: 56,841

Service Project Opportunity – Camp Highroad



As we at Highroad enjoy the brief thawing in our winter weather, our thoughts are turning to spring and warmer days to come! We're sure that you, and some of your scouts, can relate. Especially those who know that they will need to plan their Eagle Scout Projects this year!

While we can't make it warmer, we can help with those projects! If you know a scout in your troop is looking for a location to do their Eagle Scout Project this coming year, please consider Camp Highroad as a potential beneficiary. We have Eagle Scout project opportunities ranging from building an element in our new "Team Challenge" course, to cabin painting, to trail maintenance.

If you have a scout who might be interested in doing their Eagle Scout Project at Highroad, please have them contact naturalist@camphighroad.org for more info on project opportunities.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

New, Simplified Annual Health and Medical Record



In preparation for the summer camp season, BSA is rolling out a new, simplified annual health and medical record effective March 1, 2014:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx

Some of the key updates are:

- The primary version will be in English. The existing bilingual version will remain available.
- Part A (Informed Consent, Release Agreement, and Authorization) will contain no medical information and will be shorter by one page.
- Part B (General Information/Health History) will include only the most important information needed.
- Part C (Pre-Participation Physical) will be reduced to one page with expanded sections for explanations of allergies.
- Supplemental Risk Advisory (former Part D) will be shortened and be location specific. This is designed to take to physicians so they will better understand what activities their patients will participate in.
- A redesign of the landing page for the annual health and medical record website so participants and parents will be able to download only what they need..

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

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/>

\$30K Art Scholarship



As winter drags on, the snow keeps falling, and temperatures refuse to climb, it's a great time for Scouts to tackle the Art merit badge. And Doodle 4 google (www.google.com/doodle4google/) might just have a nice bit of motivation for some Scouts to try their hand at Art. A \$30,000 college scholarship and \$50,000 grant for his school will be awarded to some young K-12 artist that submits the winning doodle.

The theme for the competition is: If I Could Invent One Thing to Make the World a Better Place... - the enthusiastic scout might also use this work towards the Inventing merit badge!

Entries need to be complete before March 20

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, then 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.

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.

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, so families wishing to attend both weekends will enjoy different experiences.

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)

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.

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PatchScan App and Official BSA Hologram



“Only three of these patches were ever made. Baden-Powell’s granddaughter sewed each one by hand using thread from a jacket once worn by James E. West.”

Does that patch-trading pitch make your Spidey sense tingle?

In the past, you might have just laughed, said “no deal” and walked away. Now, verifying the claim is as easy as pulling out your smartphone.

The BSA’s official, free PatchScan app (www.patchscan.com), available for iOS and Android devices, takes the guesswork out of patch trading and reduces your chances of trading for a “limited-edition” patch that’s actually 1 of 50,000.

The process is simple. You open the app, scan the QR code on the back of a patch and wait for the patch’s stats to appear on screen.

Why is this app necessary? Because while we all know Scouts and Scouters are trustworthy, some odious outsiders see creating faux BSA memorabilia as a way to make a quick buck.

PatchScan is one of two tools the BSA’s Supply Group has in place to help you identify authentic products. The other is a hologram, like the one seen to the left, that tells you you’re holding an officially licensed product. Look for it on BSA merchandise including headwear, apparel, patches and more.

PatchScan has already been used more than 100,000 times by Scouts and Scouters looking for a leg up in the game of patch trading and collecting. QR codes will become mandatory on council shoulder patches, jamboree shoulder patches, OA lodge flaps and pocket patches, and sets of flaps or CSPs beginning in June 2014.

Key Facts about PatchScan

- **Cost:** Adding QR codes won’t increase the cost of most patches. The majority (84 percent) of the BSA’s licensees indicated they do not intend to raise the base price of patches to cover the minimal costs of adding these unique identifying codes.
- **QR code optional:** The QR Code does not have to be applied to event patches such as those for camporees, Polar Bear, or similar events; however, the code may be applied to event patches at the council’s request, or at the licensee’s discretion.
- **QR code mandatory:** BSA Licensees must affix QR code stickers to Jamboree Shoulder Patches, Council Shoulder Patches (including special CSPs, such as FOS, Eagle Scout, etc.), Order of the Arrow Lodge Flaps and pocket patch sets delivered to a customer on or after June 1, 2014.
- **No QR code?** A patch without a QR code isn’t automatically fake. Authentic patches created before June 1, 2014, might have a hologram sticker or a BSA licensee logo in the backing.

Join Transatlantic Council Scouts in Efforts to Save the D-Day Beaches



Love of country and reverence for our nation's heroes are staples of the Boy Scouts of America.

So it should come as no surprise that BSA Scouts and Scouters are the ones leading efforts to preserve the beaches at Normandy, where allied forces made landfall on D-Day. You're a vital part of this effort, and you can help without traveling 3,600 miles to France. All you need is your laptop and 60 seconds.

The Transatlantic Council, a traditional Scouting council serving Americans living in Europe, is presenting UNESCO with a petition to request World Heritage Site status to the D-Day beaches. Time is of the essence as commercial developers plan to change the landscape around the D-Day beaches with massive wind farms.

Take a minute to sign the petition right now and do your part:

<https://www.change.org/petitions/unesco-save-the-d-day-beaches-make-them-a-world-heritage-site>

Transatlantic Council members appreciate your support. In the photo below, you're looking at 3,000 BSA Scouts, family members and World War II veterans gathered on Omaha Beach to launch their efforts to obtain UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

They'll gather again at the annual Normandy Camporee on April 25-27 to officially present the petition with your signature and, I hope, thousands of others.

The timing makes sense as we approach the 70th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, Normandy landings. And with your help, we can ensure future Scouts and Scouters can visit the Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold and Sword beaches for the 170th anniversary.



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.

BSA Logos



If you're looking for BSA logos for unit websites or promotional materials, you'll find all of them conveniently located at

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Marketing/Brand/logos.aspx>

Eagle Scouts Bringing Home the Bronze in Four-man Bobsled

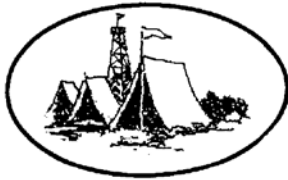


As teenagers, they received red, white and blue Eagle Scout medals. At the Winter Olympics, clad in the red, white and blue of Team USA, Steven Holcomb and Chris Fogt got bronze Olympic ones.

The Eagle Scouts were two of the four members of the USA-1 "Night Train 2" team, which also included Curt Tomasevich and Steve Langton. The USA-1 team finished just 0.39 seconds behind the gold-medal-winning Russia-1 sled. That's a length of time gone faster than you can say "physically strong." Even closer was the gap between third and fourth place. USA-1 (3:40.99) edged out Russia-2 (3:41.02) by three one-hundredths of a second. Wow. And remember that those times are the sum of four runs down the track.

Holcomb, who won bronze in the two-man bobsled last week, is the first American to win two bobsled medals at a Winter Olympics since 1952. And with three total bobsled medals (he won four-man gold in Vancouver), Holcomb now is tied with Patrick Martin for the most in Team USA history.

On-Line Resource of the Month



If you're traveling from, say, Kansas to Disneyland or Florida Sea Base and would like to camp along the way, *Boys' Life* magazine's new iPhone app, *Camp Scout*, can help you locate Scout camps, properties, and resident camps across the country. Next month, you can download the free app from the iTunes Store. Just enter a state or ZIP code to find a growing database of nearby Scout camps.

Depending on your area of interest, camps can be screened for amenities and activities such as backpacking, boating, climbing, horseback riding and more. "One camp now in the database has a 500-foot zip line, so they put that in their description," says Brian Gray, BSA outdoor program coordinator.

Gray says word has spread to all of the nearly 1,000 camp properties owned by local Scout councils, urging them to add their profiles to the Camp Scout database. He hopes that campsites will be able to add photos in the near future.

Equipment / Gear

J Falk Wood Burning stove



Posted Jan 30, 2014 by Jerry Schleining Jr., <http://thescoutmasterminute.net/author/thescoutmasterminute/>

For those of you looking to play around with other stoves for backpacking you know that I have played around with a couple different Wood gas or Wood burning stoves. I currently use the Solo Stove for wood burning, but I found this older video of my first shot at wood burning stoves. The J Falk Bushwhacker Stove is a nice stove that you should give a try. Whether you make one or buy one, they are fun little stoves to play around with. They are efficient and economical. The stoves are safe and easy to make or buy. We have used them to fulfill the "Cook over open fire" requirement also... so give it a shot. Here are the instructions for making your own Bushwhacker stove:

http://angrysparrow.com/misc_hosted/bushwhacker.pdf

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The Science of Seasoning Cast Iron



Blogger Sheryl Canter offers this Recipe for Seasoning Cast Iron based on what looks like a very well-thought out scientific analysis. After researching the subject she concluded:

The seasoning on cast iron is formed by fat polymerization. Fat polymerization is maximized with a drying oil, and flaxseed oil is the only drying oil that's edible. From that I deduced that flaxseed oil would be the ideal oil for seasoning cast iron.

Here's the short version of this post explaining the process

(<http://sherylcanter.com/wordpress/2010/01/a-science-based-technique-for-seasoning-cast-iron/>):

1. Clean the pan (read Sheryl's advice on several options.)
2. Heat the pan in a 200°F oven to be sure it's bone dry.
3. Pour a little flaxseed oil on a paper towel and thinly coat the pan.
4. Rub the oil off with paper towels or a cotton cloth until it looks like there is nothing left on the surface. The pan should look dry.
5. Put the oiled pan in a cold oven, set at 500°F . When it reaches temperature bake the pan for an hour.
6. Turn off the oven let the pan cool inside the oven for two hours.
7. Repeat the process several times.

Sleeping Bag Storage



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ARTUEN.COM

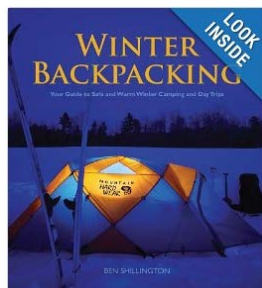
The best way to store your sleeping is by laying it flat. But most of us just do not have that kind of room in our house, so the next best method of storing your sleeping bag is by hanging it. This allows the air to circulate and keep the bag fresh as well as maintain the loft of the insulation. It does not matter if it is synthetic or down, the insulation once crushed will tend to stay that way over time. Crushed insulation will take longer to loft when needed and because synthetic fibers have memory, you will, over time lose much of the "R" value of your sleeping bag.

If you can not hang your gear, storing the bag in an over sized cotton bag is the way to go. An extra-large pillow case or bag like that will do. The point is get your bag out of the compression bag and let it air out and maintain its loft.

Remember, you paid a lot of hard-earned cash for that sleeping bag with the hope that it will be there for you when you want a nice comfortable sleep in the woods. Take care of it and it will take care of you.

Books

Winter Backpacking: Your Guide to Safe and Warm Winter Camping and Day Trips

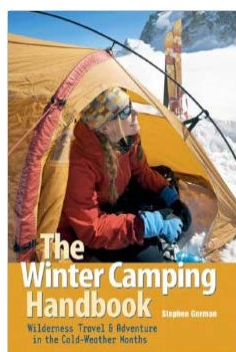


Backpacking in the winter months can be exhilarating, refreshing, and—with the help of this book—remarkably safe and comfortable too! All it takes is some good planning and learning some tricks to keep warm, dry and happy.

Whether you're new to backpacking in the winter months and looking to make the first experience as warm and enjoyable as possible, or a practiced winter backpacker interested in making day trips and camping trips more comfortable, this easy-to-read guide was written for you.

Available from Amazon (paperback) for \$16.40.

The Winter Camping Handbook



Winter camping has its own special allure: the splendid quiet of a winter forest, the hush of falling snow, the thrill of gliding over ice and snow on skis. From building a snow shelter to traveling comfortably in sub-zero temperatures, *The Winter Camping Handbook* covers everything you'll need to know in order to enjoy wilderness travel and adventure in the cold weather months. Extremely user-friendly, the book's step-by-step approach covers everything from choosing a location to explore, selecting teammates, planning the trip, winterizing a travel vehicle, gear selection, travel skills and navigation, making camp, food and nutrition, dealing with winter safety concerns, and even camping with children.

Available from Amazon (paperback) for \$13.

Training Opportunities

Merit Badge Counselor Training



The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications)—as a merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

Goose Creek will be conducting Merit Badge Counselor training on:

- Tuesday, March 11 7:00pm-9:00pm **Rust Library** 380 Old Waterford Road, NW, Leesburg, VA 20176
- Thursday, March 27 7:30pm-9:00pm **Ashburn Library** 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn, VA 20147
- Tuesday, April 1 7:00-9:00pm **Cascades Library** 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165

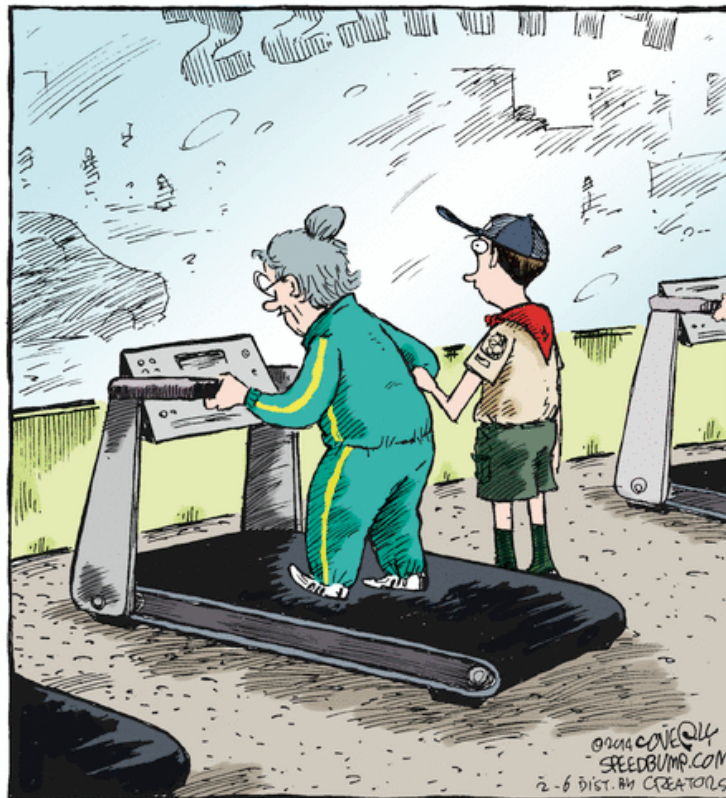
Wilderness First Aid Classes



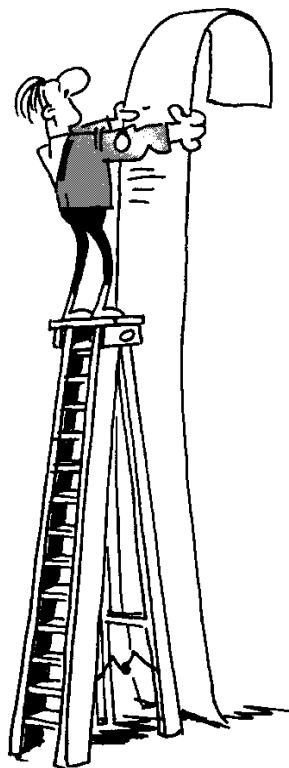
Beginning in 2014, BSA High Adventure crews attending Philmont Scout Ranch are required to have two members currently certified in Wilderness First Aid (WFA). The requirement for the other Bases (Northern Tier, Sea Base and The Summit) remains at one crew member currently WFA-trained, but two are strongly 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



District Calendar



March 2014

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

April 2014

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

May 2014

- 2 **OA Spring Ordeal**
- 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

- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 13 Columbus Day
- 18 **Training – Life to Eagle**
- 22 District Committee
- 24-25 **Webelos-o-ree**

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

February 2015

- 1 Scout Sunday
- 7 Scout Sabbath
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner RT
- 16 President's Day
- 25 District Committee