



Goose Creek District Newsletter



December 2014

Volume 6, Issue 5

by Clarke Green on June 5, 2012, www.scoutmastercg.com

Special Interest:

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

Training

- Wood Badge – pg 22

Quick Calendar:

- Dec 10 – Roundtable
- Dec 17 – Annual District business Meeting
- Jan 3 – OA Lodge Banquet
- Jan 5 – Training - COR
- Jan 14 – Roundtable
- Jan 30 – Freeze-o-ree
- Feb 1 – Scout Sunday
- Feb 7 – Scout Sabbath
- Feb 11 - Roundtable

Newsletter Key:

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



Understanding Risky Behavior in Scouts – Part One

Every once in a while a Scout does something so stunningly foolish and reckless we stop and ask; "He's such an intelligent kid, why did he do something so stupid?"

Emerging brain development research explains the sometimes stunningly bad choices adolescents make. Understanding how the developing adolescent brain works will help us help our Scouts avoid risky behavior and address the consequences of bad choices when they occur.

Why do they act this way?

No matter how many times you have heard it repeated teenagers do not perceive themselves to be invulnerable. Researchers tell us that teenagers make poor choices about risk because they have not developed that part of the brain that provides for a working understanding of the good or bad consequences of a given action.

It's surprising to learn that teenagers often over estimate risk. They sometimes choose poorly because they tend to weight benefits more heavily than risks.

For example let's imagine we're standing on a six foot platform with a ladder to the ground. It may be riskier to jump down but we'll get down much quicker than taking the ladder. As an adult I would weigh taking the ladder as a sure thing, I'll be on the ground safely. It will take a few seconds longer but I may hurt myself if I jump.

To a teenager the benefit of getting down quicker becomes so heavily weighted in the equation that it outweighs the risk. So he jumps.

Poor risk assessment is compounded by four other factors:

- Teens are much more motivated by the promise of rewards than they are discouraged by the threat of punishment.
- Teen brains don't sort out mixed signals very well.
- Teens are actively looking for experiences that create intense feelings- thrills, sensations, excitement, novelty and tend to react more strongly to emotional situations.
- Teens are heavily influenced by rewards of admiration and notoriety from their peers.

If we accept the idea that poor decision making is actually a natural part of a larger developmental process we can begin to understand that our Scouts are not simply choosing to act poorly; they have not yet developed the full capacity to process information in a way that leads to better decisions.

If this is so we can treat bad decisions not as a moral or ethical failure in the same way we don't treat falling off a bike as a moral or ethical failure. We can't hold people accountable for skills they do not yet possess. This is not to say that we protect Scouts from all the consequences of bad decision making, consequences are part of the learning process too.

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

Scouting for Food Results



This year we had 73 units out collecting and brought in almost 100,000 lbs. of food to eight local food banks.

	2014	2013	2012	2011
LINK	34,519	32,859	34,033	34,814
Loudoun Interfaith	25,443	27,001	37,331	42,997
Messiah's Market	13,657	17,432	14,202	9,917
Seven Loaves	5,867	10,603	7,838	7,276
Tree of Life	6,445	6,684	11,521	11,814
Catholic Charities	4,868	7,352		
Western Loudoun	2,446	2,090		
Dulles South	4,388			
Total	97,634	104,022	104,925	106,818

Individual unit counts are posted on the District Website:

www.ncacbsa.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=114098&id=240822

Freeze-o-ree



Goose Creek's premier outdoor winter event – the annual Freeze-o-ree - will be held January 30 – February 1. In addition to the traditional patrol Scoutcraft competitions in fire building, first aid skills, ax throwing, flag football, soccer, speed knot tying, tug of war, chili cookoff, dessert bakeoff, we will again have slingshot paint ball target shooting!! This event is run by the youth members of the Order of the Arrow in Goose Creek and we need many OA youth volunteers from all Troops to help run the events.

For registration, fees, and required equipment to bring to the event, please contact OA Chapter Advisor Mrs. Bobbie Scales (ScalesBobbie@yahoo.com).

District Championship Pinewood Derby



Goose Creek District Pinewood Derby will be holding the 2015 district championship Pinewood Derby race (hosted by Venture Crew 7070) where only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in individual pack events are eligible to participate. Trophies will be awarded to the top three fastest cars in each rank, Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Overall trophies will also be awarded to the top three cars for all ranks

Important: All cars must meet the District's Derby construction rules (available on the district website). Just because a car passed the pack's inspection does not mean it will pass the district inspection. *Take special note of the wheels and axle rules!*

The derby will be held Sat, **March 7, 2015** at Tolbert Elementary School (691 Potomac Station Dr NE, Leesburg 20176). Watch the newsletter for more details and announcements in the next two months. Registration will open soon.

Goose Creek District Annual Meeting Elections



The district annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 PM at the Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 W Market Street, Leesburg. At that time, the nominating committee will present for election the Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large. To facilitate an orderly process, nominations from the floor will not be accepted at the time of election. Elections will be held for the following positions:

DISTRICT CHAIR
 VICE CHAIR - MEMBERSHIP
 VICE CHAIR - FINANCE
 VICE CHAIR - PROGRAM
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (subject to council approval)

Who is eligible to vote:

- Registered charter organization members
- Registered district members-at-large
- Registered council members-at-large residing in the district

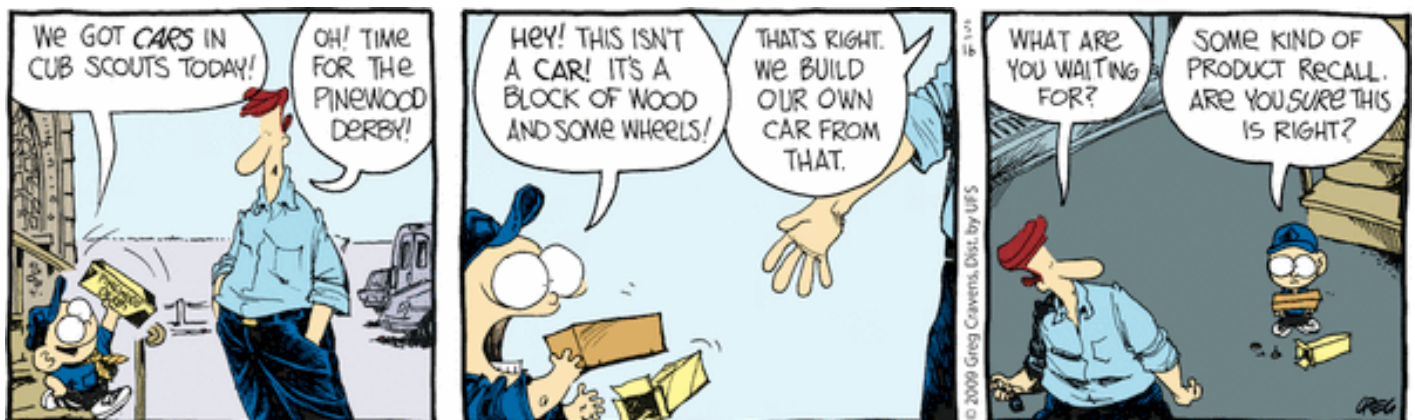
Our newly-elected officers and members-at-large take office immediately following the district annual meeting. Please come to the annual meeting to help elect our officers.

Day Camp 2015

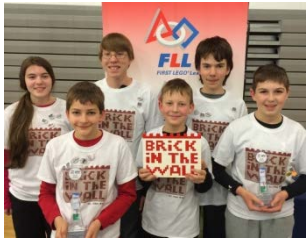


With school ending later this year the date for our District's Day Camp has been set for June 22-26. Council has also informed us that after keeping prices the same for three years that this year they will have to increase the cost to attend Day Camp (and Twilight Camp) by \$10. For 2015 the Day Camp prices will be:

- On or Before April 17th \$175
- After April 17th but before May 15th \$195
- After May 15th \$215



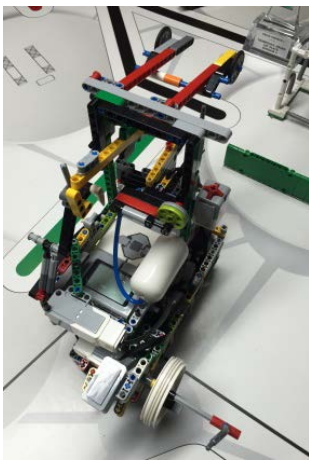
First Lego League for Scout Units



Five scouts from Boy Scout Troop 711 (and 1 sister) formed the First Lego League team "Brick in the Wall" and won the Division 2 Championship in Falls Church. They will compete in the VA-DC Regional Championship at JMU on December 6-7. If they prevail there, they will go on to the World Championship in April. Pictured left to right are **Emily W., Dan W., Nathan H., Reese L., Alex W., and Jack H.**

What is FIRST / FLL?

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit devoted to helping young people discover and develop a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. First Lego League is their program for students aged 9 to 14. (They also run Jr. FLL for younger kids, and FRC / FTC for Venturing aged students.)



Why should Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts get involved?

FLL provides a structured, competitive environment for learning robotics using Lego Mindstorms technology. Boy Scouts can apply the things that they learn to the Robotics, Engineering, and Digital Technology merit badges. Depending on the theme of the year and the project selected, there may be other merit badge tie-ins as well. In short, we say that we want to get Boy Scouts involved in STEM. This provides a practical way to do it.

Boy Scouts who already know each other will come into the competition with an advantage. They are already used to working together in a team. Working together as an FLL team will help them to work together on scout projects as well.

FLL typically runs from September through November. You will want to organize your team before the season starts, and you may want to teach members some of the basics before the season begins.

What does FLL competition involve?

Teams are scored in 4 areas:

- Robot Performance
- Robot Design
- Core Values
- Research Project Presentation



Robot Performance is super fun. The team designs and builds an autonomous robot that completes challenges on a table with obstacles built out of Lego components. Every year is different, but you typically have to maneuver around things, collect things, and move things in particular ways. Your robot does this by a program the team writes to control the robot via the EV3 or NXT sensors and motors.

Robot Design asks the team to explain how their robot was designed and constructed, and rewards teams for sound engineering processes and principles.

Core Values challenges teams to solve a problem on the spot, but they are being graded more on how well they work together as a team than on their actual solution.

The project is defined by the team within the theme set by FLL for the year. In 2014, the theme was "World Class Education", and team "Brick in the Wall" chose to design a game that helps students learn math using multiple learning styles. This allowed them to incorporate aspects of Game Design and Entrepreneurship merit badges. Please preorder on their game on Kickstarter at <http://kck.st/1GPe5Wo> if you are willing to help them get their game published.



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

Rechartering!!!!



Hopefully everyone has been communicating with your unit commissioners for any help you may require for your 2015 unit rechartering task. Remember that 31 December is going to be a hard stop. **If you do not have your recharter packet turned in to your Unit Commissioner by 31 December, on 1 January 2015, your unit will be dropped from the active unit lists.** You will have to go through the actions of chartering a new unit. And, during the period that the unit is not active, **NO youth advancement can be recognized or recorded**, since all advancements have the implicit requirement of the youth being an active registered Scout. So, **for the sake of the Scouts**, please submit your rechartering materials on time!

Please don't let problems or issues sit around and fester. They will not get better with age. Contact your unit commissioner, your Assistant District Commissioner, the District Commissioner (Kurt Struder), or our District Director (Peggy Durbin) for any help you may require. Don't hesitate to call!

By now you should have:

- Contacted your rechartering organization's Executive Head (not the Charter Rep) to see when he/she will be available to sign your recharter when it is completed. It doesn't any good to have everything ready and then find out the person who has to sign it is away for the holidays.
- Logged into the electronic rechartering site to ensure 1) that you can do it and 2) so see who is not listed in the current unit list and will need a full application.
- Checked to see who needs their Youth Protection Training (YPT) updated. Adults cannot recharter without this.

Also remember that Journey to Excellence forms should be turned in with your unit charter.

Leave No Trace Awareness



Requirement #4 for the Cub Scout Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award says to "participate in an outdoor ethics activity facilitated by a person who has completed the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course or is a BSA outdoor ethics trainer or master."

Requirement #5 for the Boy Scout Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award says to "Participate in an outdoor ethics course, workshop, or training activity facilitated by a person who has completed the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course or is a BSA outdoor ethics trainer or master."

The person who can facilitate the outdoor ethics activity is any person who is any of the following: a Leave No Trace Master Educator or Trainer, a Tread Lightly! Master Tread Trainer or Tread Trainer, a person who has completed either the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course (not yet available, but in beta testing) or the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course, or any person who has earned the BSA Leave No Trace Awareness Card. It's also allowable for any individual designated by a council outdoor ethics advocate or, in the absence of an advocate, the Scout executive or his or her designee, to facilitate the "outdoor ethics activity."

If you would like to facilitate the outdoor ethics activity for your pack or troop, but don't have a LNT Awareness Card, please email George Birsic (LNT Master Educator, Goose Creek Rep, NCAC Outdoor Ethics Committee) at goosecreek.ccosc@gmail.com. If there is enough interest, he will schedule an LNT Awareness seminar.

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Troop 1941's Open House



Come Explore with Troop 1941 at their open house. Learn what it is like to be a Boy Scout and see what exciting adventures the troop has planned for the next year.

Date: December 1, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Farmwell Station Middle School

44281 Gloucester Pkwy, Ashburn, VA

Who's Invited: All Webelos and their families.

Please RSVP to Kristin Rounds at webeloscoordinator@troop1941.com



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen

Lodge Website: www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA

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 Scouts elected. The adults have the same camping requirements as the youth.

To schedule an election, the Scoutmaster must email our Vice Chief, Tyler Wintermute, at theknotmaster@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 we will email you. You **must** use the OA forms that are sent. National will no longer accept anything from TroopMaster or troop forms used in previous years. Please make sure to have the forms filled out completely before the election team arrives and that you have checked with the Scouts to ensure that they want to join the OA. 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 – Tyler Wintermute, or our Chapter Advisor – Bobbie Scales (ScalesBobbie@yahoo.com) for answers. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to seeing you at your unit's election.

Annual Dues - 2015



Arrowmen, it is that time of the year again - annual dues are due. Those that have been in the Order for a while, as well as those that did their Ordeal in the spring, need to go to the Lodge web site www.ncacbsa.org/oa and click on the link and follow the direction under the renew your Lodge membership for 2015. Please note the option to buy a passport and have your fees also paid for the Annual Banquet, Spring and Fall Fellowship, and get a neat patch as well. Remember, you have to be registered with a unit (pack, troop, crew or team) or District in order to be considered an active member - even if you pay your dues. Those that did their Ordeal in the fall have paid their dues for this year, but are still eligible to buy the passport as well.

Lodge Banquet



Banquet registration is upon us. You need to register by Dec. 19, 2014. The Banquet will be held on Jan. 3, 2015 at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742. The Banquet will be held from 10:00-1:00 with check-in starting at 9:00. This event is open to families as well as active Arrowmen. The fee for this is included in the passport option. You can register yourself, and any guests, at www.ncacbsa.org/oa and follow the link under Annual Lodge Banquet Registration. I hope to see many of you there.

“Onward and Upward” On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Brandon Fuentes - Troop 968

Robert P Jackson - Troop 1159

Jordan F Psimas - Troop 962

Kenny Reynolds - Troop 39

Peter Alexander Spradling - Troop 998

Eric Lindbohm Torbert - Troop 1666

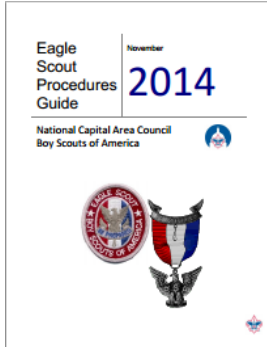
James Zentz - Troop 968



A Scout Leader noticed that his new Scouts were having difficulty getting organized for their first cook-out. He asked if they had forgotten any essential equipment.

"Yes, " one boy replied. "My mother."

Updated NCAC Eagle Scout Procedures Guide (ESPG)



As you have heard/known before, the NCAC has a lengthy document known as the *Eagle Scout Procedures Guide* (ESPG). The ESGP has been around for quite some time, but was significantly revamped after National released the initial *Guide to Advancement* (GTA) in 2011. Its purpose however has not changed; to clarify how our Council **implements** the guidelines specific to the Life-to-Eagle process.

BSA National took a particular interest in our document and suggested some recommended changes to the document. The October 2014 update to the ESGP has now been published and is available at ...

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ncacbsa.org/resource/group/dabf2b2b-f7f6-48ee-a27c-9cc7e1a94a55/Documents/Eagle_Scout_Procedures_Guide.pdf

Please recall, that while available to anyone and loaded with very helpful information for the Eagle candidate himself the ESGP is primarily targeted for/to Life-to-Eagle coordinators (district & unit) and the unit-level leaders mentoring the Eagle Candidates. By having those people properly familiar with the ESGP and how it implements National's guidelines relative to the Life-to-Eagle process, better counsel can be provided to the boys themselves.

A Critical Reminder on Eagle Scout Rank Application (ESRA) Approvals

Before an Eagle Board of Review can be held/scheduled, the ESRA must be approved by Council; that has always been the case. In 2012 however – due to the exorbitantly large number of council-level rejections – an addition was made to the ESGP, requiring a district level pre-validation before the ESRA is sent to council.

Recently, there has been an anomalously large number of cases where Goose Creek units have sent the ESRA for council approval without first securing the pre-validation from the Scout's Eagle Adviser. Any of the Eagle Advisers on Goose Creek's Advancements Committee can provide that validation, but it's usually easiest for the Scout to simply go back to the same district Eagle Adviser who approved his project proposal.

Please remember to work with your district Eagle Adviser to secure his/her pre-validation of the ESRA, and spare yourself – and the Scout – the frustration and angst of a rejected ESRA. (Reminders of how to complete the ESRA can be found on pages 41-43 of the newly-released ESGP. Information on the pre-validation process are on pages 46-47.

Merit Badge Counselors: Facts about Limits and Counseling Family Members



All answers are from the *2013 Guide to Advancement*

Is there a limit to the number of merit badges an individual may counsel?

Answer: The National Council places no limit on the number of merit badges an individual may be approved to counsel, except to the extent a person lacks skills and education in a given subject. The intent is for Scouts to learn from those with an appropriate level of expertise.

Although it is permissible for councils to limit the number of badges that one person counsels, it must not do so to the point where Scouts' choices, especially in small or remote units, are so limited as to serve as a barrier to advancement.

Is there a limit to the number of merit badges a Scout may earn from a single counselor?

Answer: (continued from previous answer) Neither does the National Council place a limit on the number of merit badges a youth may earn from one counselor.

However, in situations where a Scout is earning a large number of badges from just one counselor, the unit leader is permitted to place a limit on the number of merit badges that may be earned from one counselor, as long as the same limit applies to all Scouts in the unit.

Can someone counsel his or her own family member?

Answer: Approved counselors may work with and pass any member, including their own son, ward, or relative.

Nevertheless, we often teach young people the importance of broadening horizons. Scouts meeting with counselors beyond their families and beyond even their own units are doing that. They will benefit from the perspectives of many "teachers" and will learn more as a result. They should be encouraged to reach out.

AOL Requirements 2015: Camper and Geocaching



Those who have been looking ahead at the new Cub Scout requirements that go into affect this coming June may have noticed that one of the Arrow of Light core requirement adventures is Camper. And one of the requirements of Camper is to:

Go on a geocaching adventure with your den or an adult partner. Show how you used a GPS unit or a smartphone with a GPS application to locate a geocache.

To meet this requirement you might like to go to www.geocaching.com/mobile/ where free geocaching intro apps are listed for both the android and iPhone. From there go to www.geocaching.com where you can enter your zip code and get a listing of local caches with beginner caches highlighted in green. You'll get a lot of information about each cache including when it was placed and when it was last found. Opening up the cache link will let you see a description of the cache and other people's comment about finding that particular cache.

Connections in the 2015 Cub Scout Program Changes



With the Academic and Sports program (aka belt loops) being incorporated into the new adventures, many are concerned about program planning for multiple ranks. For example, we could offer a baseball or geography program where all boys—Tigers through Webelos—could earn a belt loop. The new adventure program isn't set up that way.

Dr. Nisha Zoeller, who attended one of the Philmont Training Center classes this past summer, identified that need and created a program planning resource. She wanted “to show the connections and common themes among Adventures across ranks to encourage the continuation of pack-level and multi-age programming.”

Her Cub Scout Connections guide (<http://cubscoutideas.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Cub-Scout-Connections.pdf>) groups cross-rank adventures into 15 themes such as Cooking & Nutrition, Plants & Wildlife, STEM and Camping. For example, you can see the knot-tying requirements for each rank. As you plan your knot-tying event, you'll know what you need to include for each rank's requirements.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

2017 National Scout Jamboree Theme, Logo Unveiled



The 2017 National Scout Jamboree just got a lot more real. The Boy Scouts of America has revealed the logo and theme for its signature event, which takes place every four years at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

The Jamboree — held July 19 to 28, 2017 — will feature the theme “Live Scouting’s Adventure.” The accompanying logo, which you can see to the left, celebrates the high-energy excitement and patriotic spirit that have been a part of jamborees since the first one in 1937.

The “Live Scouting’s Adventure” theme is a nod to what happens daily in packs, troops, teams, posts, ships and crews nationwide, says Ralph de la Vega, jamboree chairman and president and CEO of AT&T Mobile.

“We know that our members live Scouting’s adventure every day by pursuing challenging and diverse experiences,” de la Vega says. “We’re proud to provide these outdoor opportunities to our youth members, who often do not experience these activities anywhere else.”

Staff members will be able to register for the jamboree in April 2015. As for youth and adult participant registration, that'll open in May 2015.

To learn more about the 2017 National Scout Jamboree and the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, go to www.bsajamboree.org or <https://summit.scouting.org>.

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Dealing with Lapsed YTP Training



From Ask Andy, <http://netcommissioner.com/askandy/2014/11/issue-421-november-11-2014/>

Dear Andy

When an adult volunteer's Youth Protection training lapses, even though it has been brought to his or her attention weeks prior to the expiration date, are they still allowed to interact with Scouts or do they stay away until Youth Protection is current again?

Here's the deal... If an adult volunteer's YP training tenure has expired, that person is dropped from the unit roster and from membership in the BSA on the re-chartering date. If the re-chartering date hasn't happened yet, and this YP-expired adult interacts with youth, he or she is putting the unit and chartered organization in jeopardy from a liability standpoint. So, your troop committee chair (CC) can sit on his or her hands and wait for re-chartering to roll around, so that the council does the right thing, or the CC can step up to the plate and tell this volunteer that, especially since he or she has been cautioned about lapsing and has refused to take action to correct this, they're history. Take your pick.

Virginia Boy Scout License Plate



State Delegate Randy Minchew of Loudoun County is sponsoring a bill in the 2015 General Assembly to authorize a Scouting license plate.

In order for it to make it through this session, he has a deadline of January 15 to have 450 pre-paid applications. As of 11/19/2014 we have 94 pre-paid on file.

Sign up for a license plate ASAP:

1. Have your vehicle's VIN and Title # ready.
2. Complete and sign the DMV application at this link:
<http://scoutingvirginia.doubleknot.com/document/license-plate-dmv-application/143940> Payment of \$10 or \$20 (personalized plate) is due with submittal of application. Mail the form with check to: Heart of Virginia Council, P.O. Box 6809, Richmond VA 23230.
3. To pay online, go to
<http://scoutingvirginia.doubleknot.com/event/virginia-scouting-license-plate/1635649>. Then email signed application to Robin.rush@scouting.org or mail signed application to above address.

NCAC 10th Annual Scout Orienteering Meet



NCAC's annual Scout Orienteering Meet will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. It will be held at Prince William Forest in Dumfries, VA. For information about this event contact James Chaplin, jhchaplin@comcast.net, (703) 380-9631

E-Cigarettes Now Included in BSA Smoking Policy



The BSA has added electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, to its tobacco-use policy, effective immediately.

Boy Scouts of America meetings, functions and activities continue to be smoke-free; that hasn't changed. What's new is the smoke-free policy now includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers and other electronic nicotine delivery systems.

In May, the Risk Management advisory panel, made up of two Scout executives from each region, passed a motion recommending to the Chief Scout Executive that "vaping" be added to BSA's tobacco-use policy. BSA Chief Scout Executive Wayne Brock approved the recommendation, and therefore, effective with the October 2014 electronic updates to the Guide To Safe Scouting, the Tobacco portion of "Section IV: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use and Abuse" now reads:

*Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youth, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. **This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.***

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

Understanding the Charter Organization



Every Unit within the Boy Scouts of America has a Charter partner or Charter Organization. These organizations come from within the community in which the unit belongs. It can be a Church, a School, or a Civic group like the Elks, the VFW, or Lions Club just to name a few.

In many cases these organizations sign on to be a Charter Partner without really knowing what their responsibilities or function is. They are approached at some point with the "ask" to be the sponsor of a Scouting unit and because they understand that this is a good idea, they agree.

Charters are granted by the Boy Scouts of America for the period of one year. This contract is able to be renewed annually as long as the Charter Organization meets all of the requirements and agrees to the conditions of the Charter.

Many Charter Organizations and its representatives do not understand their Charter agreement nor do they take the time to really understand the Scouting program. While this is not always the fault of the Charter Partner, often times they just don't know what they don't know, nor do they take the time to learn, the units typically do not create that need for the Charter Partner to learn and gain an understanding of their role.

To most units, the Chartering Partner is just a signature and place to meet. This relationship, while often times meets the needs of the unit and the Chartering Partner is not how the system is designed to work and does not allow for the full benefits of Scouting to be realized.

When Should Youth and Adults Wear the Eagle Scout Medal?



Three things signify to others that you're an Eagle Scout. You've got the oval rank patch, which is only for youth; the square knot, which is only for adults; and the Eagle medal, which is for ... whom exactly?

The following questions were address to Peter Self, team leader for Member Experience Innovation, to answer.

Question 1: When is it appropriate for youth members to wear the Eagle Scout medal? On the uniform at any time? On formal occasions only?

Answer 1: The overarching guideline to all awards, including the Eagle rank, is to keep the uniform neat and uncluttered. This doesn't mean we shouldn't display those awards and recognitions we have earned, but we shouldn't wear more than is appropriate for our position or the occasion.

In most instances, the Eagle patch and the medal should not be worn at the same time; however, on special occasions, such as courts of honor or special banquets, it would be considered appropriate.

We couldn't possibly address every circumstance that would arise (honoring a beloved Scoutmaster at his/her memorial service, attending the BSA's annual Report to the Nation, etc.), so we leave this up to the discretion of the Scout.

If he does choose to wear the medal, he should wear it above the left pocket flap of the uniform.

Question 2: When is it appropriate for adult Eagle Scouts to wear the medal? With their field uniform? With a business suit?

Answer 2: Adults who have earned the Eagle rank should wear the red, white and blue square knot (item No. 5011), which represents the Eagle rank, when in official Scout uniform.

While it is not specifically addressed in official BSA literature, as a matter of convention it is also acceptable for adults to wear the medal on special occasions, such as those noted above. That means either on the field uniform or, if the adult is wearing business attire, on the left lapel or above the left breast pocket of a business suit or sports coat.

James E. West Hike Registration Now Open



The History of Scouting Trail (HOST) has gone national: registration is now open for the 2015 James E. West Hike. As the last installment of the HOST hikes, this hike will kickoff on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, 2015, with the special inaugural launch on Saturday, for the oldest troops in the council.

Don't miss your opportunity to hike alongside Scouts from around the country, learning about Native American culture as the Order of the Arrow History celebrates its 100th anniversary and more. Visit

www.ncacbsa.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=125566&id=298522 to register today.

Geocaching Apps



Whether the Geocaching purists like it or not, smartphones are being used more and more for Geocaching. In fact, it seems to be a common set up in this day and age to have a smartphone for urban caching/cache database with a dedicated GPS unit in your caching bag for those 'deep in the outdoors' trips. So it's important that you have a geocaching app on your smartphone that does the job well.

But picking the best app can be a difficult thing when there are lots of choices in the market and can be even more complicated based on the type of smartphone you have.

So check out the following two articles about the top five android/iPhone apps for geocaching:

Android: www.notaboutthenumbers.com/2012/05/11/top-5-android-geocaching-apps/

iPhone: www.notaboutthenumbers.com/2012/09/03/top-5-iphone-apps-for-geocaching/

So what is the role of the Charter Organization (CO)? To answer this question please go to <http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2014/11/12/understanding-the-charter-organization/> to continue reading the rest of this article.

BSA Magazines Pick Up 7 Nominations for Prestigious Awards



The Boy Scouts of America's family of magazines — *Boys' Life*, *Scouting* and *Eagles' Call* — received seven nominations for the prestigious Eddie & Ozzie awards, presented by Folio.

BSA magazines fared well against our peers in the competition that recognizes "all brands that are winning in magazine media editorial and design."

Boys' Life is a finalist for the competition's top award in the youth/teen category: Best Consumer Magazine. In all, *Boys' Life* received four nominations, while *Scouting* magazine got two and *Eagles' Call* one.

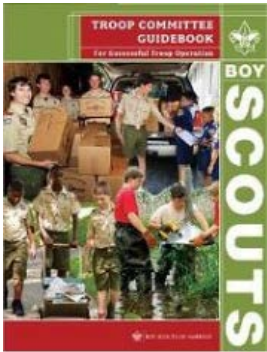
Three of the *Boys' Life* nominations honored the magazine's useful "BL Essentials Guide," which included everything Scouts need to know before their next outing. *Boys' Life* also picked up a nomination for "Super Storm, Super Scouts," a June 2013 story about Scouts being at their best when nature (in this case Hurricane Sandy) was at its worst.

Scouting got a nomination for its "Adventures of a Super Troop" article in the May-June 2014 issue. The story told of a troop that balances service and adventure in innovative ways. That same issue included the second *Scouting* nominee: the illustration accompanying the "Game of Life to Eagle" story.

And finally, *Eagles' Call* got recognized for the magazine's complete redesign from *Eagle Scout Magazine* to its improved form as *Eagles' Call*. Now's probably a good time to remind you that the official magazine of the National Eagle Scout Association is available to anyone, not just Eagle Scouts.

The winners are announced next month.

The New Troop Committee Guidebook



You may not have noticed, but earlier this year the Scout shops and Supply Division replaced the Troop Committee Guidebook with a new edition. The previous version, item 34505B, was originally published in 1998 and was reprinted several times since. The new version has a bright red and green cover with photos of Scouts in action, carries a stock number of 616928 and was published in 2013, though it didn't become widely available until spring of this year.

Normally, revised publications have many changes and updates. In the case of the Guidebook, however, there are few major changes. The chapter headings remain unchanged as does most of the content. The biggest difference is in an increased emphasis on youth protection. Other updates include available training, the names of some forms and publications, and additional committee positions.

Should you go out and purchase a new copy? If you always want the latest version of publications, sure. It's only a few dollars and you'll have information that was current as of last year. If not, you're fine if you've kept up with the changes to youth protection requirements, know about online Troop Committee Challenge training and have a well-functioning committee.

App: CampScout by Boy's Life



Use this official Boy Scouts of America/Boys' Life magazine app (www.boyslife.org/campscout) to plan your next outing with ease! Find BSA properties near you and with the activities you want to do. Across the county or across the country, you'll be able to find the perfect spot for your next adventure. From winter sports to fishing, boating to bicycling, skateboarding to ATVs, Camp Scout has you covered.

Camp Scout by Boys' Life includes:

- Park Overviews
- Activities & Descriptions
- Maps & Directions
- Important Phone Numbers
- Weather information
- and more!

Pick and choose from among 20 different activities and features to find the right place for you, and your friends and family. You can quickly toggle back and forth to find locations that have any or all of the following activities:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| • ATV | • Ecology | • Lodging |
| • Accessible Locations | • Fishing | • Orienteering |
| • Bicycling | • Food Service | • Shooting |
| • Boating | • Geocaching | • Skate Park |
| • COPE | • Hiking | • Water Sports |
| • Camping | • Historic Trails | • Winter Sports |
| • Climbing | • Horseback Riding | |

Compatibility: Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. This app is optimized for iPhone 5.

Bill of Rights Institute Essay Contest



The Boy Scouts of America, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence form a terrific trio.

So it's no surprise, really, that the nonprofit Bill of Rights Institute holds an essay contest each year that's just for Scouts. Well, and former Scouts.

Current and former Scouts, age 14 to 19, can write a short essay (800 words or fewer) for a chance to win \$1,000 for themselves and \$500 for their Scout unit.

Who's eligible: The contest is open to U.S. citizens or legal residents who are current or former Boy Scouts at least 14 years old but no older than 19.

How to enter: Answer one short essay question on the ideas of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Deadline: Jan. 30, 2015

Prizes: The Bill of Rights Institute will award three prizes:

- One Grand Prize: \$1,000 for the Scout and \$500 for his Scout unit
- Two Honorable Mentions: \$500 for the Scout and \$250 for his Scout unit

Apply online and get more details: <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/programs-events/students-programs-events/boyscout/>

How to Work With Scouts with Autism



Working with Scouts with autism will take patience. But the rewards — for the Scout, for you and for the members of your unit — will make it well worth your efforts. After all, Scouting is for all young people. There's a place for everyone, especially Scouts with autism.

Autism, which now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys, manifests itself in a variety of ways. That's why it's called autism spectrum disorder, because it's distinguished by a wide range of symptoms.

There's no one-size-fits-all approach, but there is advice that's proven to work.

These tips come from the BSA's *Guide to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and Disabilities* (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/510-071.pdf>):

- Provide consistent, predictable structure. Be patient. Allow extra time for activities.
- Provide a visual schedule using words and pictures. All Scouts will find this useful. Don't put times in the schedule because a Scout with autism may expect you to follow it to the minute!
- Let the Scout know about transitions early by saying, "In five minutes we'll be ending this activity and starting another."
- Give the Scout information about new activities ahead of time.
- Break up tasks into smaller steps.
- Alert the Scout's parents if there is going to be an activity that may cause sensory difficulties for their son. Consider moving noisy activities outside where the noise can dissipate. If the Scout has issues with food taste and texture, carefully plan the menus around these issues so the Scout can eat the same things as other members of the unit as much as possible.

Webelos Earning Supernova: So Easy!



Last month Richard Stone, the education and training leader of the National STEM/Nova Committee, interviewed a Nova counselor and Supernova mentor successful in delivering the Nova Awards program to Cub Scouts and Webelos. Dr. David Luthin is active in his pack and troop putting the “outing” in Scouting and adding STEM to the mix.

When not doing Scouting, his day job is a scientist and college professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., where he teaches pathophysiology and pharmacology.

Mentor Dave says the Webelos Supernova is a natural partner to the Webelos program and fits right into the monthly meeting plan. Here is his strategy:

- Plan den meetings to integrate Supernova requirements into the natural flow of the program. The Webelos worked on their activity badges the first year, earning most of the badges required for the Supernova. In the spring of their Webelos I year, the Supernova Award was introduced to the boys, who realized that they had already done a lot of the work. The Webelos then spent a meeting earning the Scholar badge to finish the advancement requirements. Then they need to work on the projects.
- Enlist the school to support the Supernova Award. The teachers supported doing the inventions and projects at school and provided evidence of success for the mentor’s review. Several of the Webelos were in the same class, so they worked together with their teacher. The Webelos also worked on experiments during several den meetings.
- Measure success. Of the Webelos who tried, all successfully earned their Supernova Award. Many of them expressed interest in STEM-related careers. Several of the parents described their STEM-related careers: computer programmer; nurse practitioner; engineer; radiation safety officer; drug discovery scientist; teacher.

Mentor Dave says, “I think that the timing of this program was perfect, not too far into the Webelos program.

“We find that many ‘burn out’ in the second year of the program and are less interested in extra achievements like this one. ... All who started the program, really put in the effort to finish it.”

Becoming one of the few who have earned this award helps motivate Webelos Scouts, too, adds Dave.

Scuba Diving Training Scholarships



The Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) has a scholarship program that awards various levels of grants to individual Scouts/Venturers Troops/Venture Crews for PADI diver training courses. The scholarship applications must be submitted to BSA National Office no later than December 31, 2014. The forms are available at www.NCACBSA.org/PADI.

NESA's Eagle Scout Scholarship Window Opens



Eagle Scouts, start your mouses. The window for 2015 National Eagle Scout Association scholarships is now open with a deadline of Dec. 31, 2014. Winners will be contacted by July 15, 2015. Last year, NESA awarded more than \$650,000 in scholarships to deserving Eagle Scouts. NESA offers two types of scholarships: academic and merit.

Academic scholarship applicants must be Eagle Scouts who are graduating high school and entering college in 2015.

Exception: Scouts whose Eagle Scout boards of review are held the same year of their high school graduation may apply in that calendar year. For example: a Scout who earned Eagle in February 2014 and graduated high school in May 2014 wasn't eligible to apply for 2014 scholarships. So he should apply for 2015 scholarships.

Academic scholarships require a minimum 1800 SAT or 28 ACT score to apply. (Editor's note: For 2014-2015 the SAT will still be in three parts, the essay portion will not be made optional until 2016.)

You may receive a scholarship one time only.

Merit scholarship applicants must be Eagle Scouts graduating high school or undergraduate college students no farther than completion of the junior year. Recipients may receive the scholarship one time only.

Here's what else you need to know:

- As with past years, there is no paper submission form. You can only apply online (www.nesa.org/2015_scholarships.html), a move that saves NESA about \$15,000 a year in printing, postage and other costs.
- Paper copies from previous years are out of date and will not be accepted. If you see a paper application online, don't use it. Applying with that may make you ineligible.
- Applicants must be NESA members. To apply for a NESA scholarship, you must be a NESA member. It makes sense. You can join NESA at this link (www.nesa.org/membership.html) and then apply once you're a member. NESA staffers will verify that each recipient is a NESA member using the official NESA database. NESA membership is based on the date and time the membership application is received by NESA.
- No wiggle room on the deadline. When the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, the application window is closed. So get it in early. NESA does not grant extensions for any reason.
- Also, the application requires references. So, be courteous and give the individuals who are writing references on your behalf plenty of time to get their reference letter in before the deadline.

Have questions? Most of your questions are likely answered on the NESA scholarships page (www.nesa.org/2015_scholarships.html).

Note: Scouts who graduate from high school but then defer college for a period of time to participate in a mission experience, such as LDS scouts who now have the option of going at age 18, need to apply during their graduation year and NESA will defer the award until they return.

Sign Up for 2016 Florida Sea Base Lottery



The lottery for 2016 trips is open from Jan. 15 to Feb. 16, 2015. A few facts to keep in mind while preparing for Sea Base's lottery for 2016 trips are:

- You don't improve your chances in the lottery by entering right when the window opens. Any entries received during the month long opening count the same.
- You do improve your chances in the lottery if you're flexible in two areas: the type of adventure you want to take and the dates you're available to go. Of course, don't put down any dates you aren't actually available (check those school calendars now).
- Access to the Sea Base lottery is through the Sea Base website, <http://bsaseabase.org/>.
- A Scout unit must create an account to access the reservation site. If the unit already has an account, another one cannot be created.
- You can prioritize your requests to increase the chances that you'll get one of your top choices. Requests can be added, deleted or reprioritized as much as you want during the lottery period.
- Units will be notified of the lottery results by March 1, 2015. At that point, you'll have 30 days to send a \$100-per-person deposit to secure your spot.
- After that, all remaining vacancies will be made available on the reservation site on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more registration tips (and at least one pirate-themed joke), check out Capt. Billy's FAQs: <https://scoutnet.scouting.org/seabase/popup/popHelp.aspx>

For a brochure about Sea Base see www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/seabase/pdf/FSBBrochure.pdf

Camp Snyder Christmas Trees



Camp Snyder is selling Christmas Trees this year. All trees are No. 1 grade Fraser Firs grown locally in Virginia! Preorders must be made by November 24, 2014. Payment is due at the time of purchase. Pre-ordered trees can be picked up at Camp William B. Snyder, December 1-7 and 11-14, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All proceeds from the sale go towards the improvement of Camp Snyder for use by the community. Only a limited number will be available, so reserve your family's tree today!

PREORDER SPECIAL – Go to www.NCACBSA.org/Trees to reserve your piece of Camp Spirit at these special prices:

- 7-8 ft. — \$45
- 9-10 ft. — \$55
- 11-12 ft. — \$75
- Wreath (18") — \$25

CAMP PRICE – There will be a limited number of trees available for purchase at Camp Snyder at the regular rates:

- 7-8 ft. — \$55
- 9-10 ft. — \$65
- 11-12 ft. — \$85
- Wreath (18") — \$35

On-Line Resource of the Month



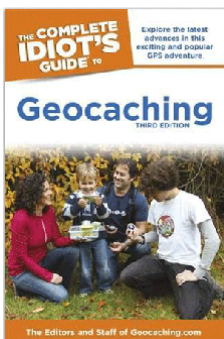
On May 2, 2000, at approximately midnight, eastern savings time, the great blue switch* controlling selective availability was pressed. Twenty-four satellites around the globe processed their new orders, and instantly the accuracy of GPS technology improved tenfold. Tens of thousands of GPS receivers around the world had an instant upgrade.

For the first few months, geocaching was confined to existing experienced GPS users who already used the technology for outdoor activities such as backpacking and boating. Most users had an existing knowledge of GPS and a firm grasp of obscure lingo like datums and WGS84. Due to both the player base and the newness of the activity, players had a steep learning curve before going out on their first cache hunt. Tools were scarce for determining whether a cache was nearby, if one existed at all.

After experiencing the thrill of finding his first cache, Jeremy Irish, a web developer for a Seattle company, decided to start a hobby site for the activity. Adopting the term geocaching, he created www.Geocaching.com and applied his professional web skills to create tools to improve the cache-hunting experience. The site not only contains listing of local geocaching groups, a blog, discussion forums, and a place where you can enter your zip code and get a listing of local caches with beginner caches highlighted in green.

Books

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching



There's nothing quite like geocaching. What other activity utilizes GPS satellites orbiting thousands of miles above the earth to find hidden treasure? And with new technological advances and other exciting developments, geocaching is more appealing than ever.

Completely revised and updated with latest changes to the game, this helpful guide gives you a sure path from start to geocaching success. In it, you get:

Pointers for getting started, including how to play the game and prepare for your amazing adventures.

Tips for navigating Geocaching.com and selecting a geocache, plus advice on finding it -and leaving your own for others to find.

A primer on GPS technology and best devices - including your smart phone - to use as you set out on your adventure.

An introduction to the global geocaching community and tips for meeting like-minded treasure hunters.

Information on the exciting opportunities Geotours and Geocaching Challenges offer for vacations or corporate team building.

In paperback for about \$12, and for Kindle \$10.

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

Equipment / Gear

Trekking Pole Maintenance



From www.gorp.com/parks-guide/travel-ta-hiking-sidwcmdev_053450.html

As basic as they are in design, trekking poles do have moving parts, which means that occasionally they'll break or seize up. Simple maintenance will prevent most problems with your "sticks," and a little ingenuity will handle most field emergencies.

Maintaining Telescope

Telescopic ski poles and hiking poles are great as long as the adjustment system locks and unlocks properly when you want it to. Not much is worse than leaning on a hiking pole during a creek crossing and having it collapse! Here's how to keep things moving:

- Dry poles thoroughly at home after wet weather or creek crossing use to prevent internal corrosion. Extend poles far enough to expose the threads of the expansion plugs, or maybe even separate the sections. After drying with one end of the tube down, turn it the other way up to get rid of any other trapped water.
- Corrosion inside is less likely with better-quality poles that are anodized internally.
- If you detect corrosion on the metal threads that go into the plastic expansion plug, then it's time to dismantle and clean. Do not use a wire brush for this task, since it will remove whatever corrosion-protecting finish remains on the threads. Instead, wipe the threadswith a soft cloth lightly moistened with WD-40 or alcohol. Warning: Do not get lubricants like WD-40 or oil onto the plastic expansion plug itself, or on the inside of the tubes. Put a trace of oil or, better, silicone grease on the threads to prevent additional corrosion.

Field Fix for Failed Locks

If the pole fails to lock properly in the field, the culprit is usually corroded or dirty threads. This results in more friction between the plug and its threads than between the plug and the tube. Then when you turn the tube to lock or unlock, the plug doesn't turn on its threads and fails to expand or contract. Solve the problem this way:

- Increase the friction between plug and tube by extending the pole almost to its limit and hold it horizontally with one hand at the joint. This puts sideways pressure on the plug and it won't turn in its tube now.
- Rotate the smaller tube until the plug expands enough and tightens up sufficiently to still allow sliding but not turning.
- Adjust to length and tighten to lock. Clean the threads at the earliest opportunity!

Training Opportunities

Wood Badge



Wood Badge is designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of all Scouters, in all leadership positions for the BSA. The Wood Badge course incorporates the traditions of over 80 years of Wood Badge, while adding the management and leadership training necessary to become a successful leader in the 21st Century.

Wood Badge is more than a classroom; it's entertaining, fun games, hands-on projects, team building, and inspirational events. You will come away with an appreciation of Scouting's heritage, as well as a vision of the role you will play in its future, and the impact you will make on the youth in your own unit, the district and our council. Participation in this course will provide skills to help you achieve success in other aspects of your life or in your career! The course starts with a 2-weekend, fun-filled practical training period where the Scouter lives as a member of a team progressing through Scouting, and learning the skills of leadership. The outdoor experience is followed by a period of up to eighteen months during which the Scouter applies the skills learned during the practical experience in his or her Scouting position – at the unit, district, or council level. Through this period, each Scouter is assigned a counselor who acts as a resource, evaluator, and Scouting mentor to assist the participant in putting into action those points discussed during the course. This is demonstrated by the process known as “working your ticket.”

Prerequisite Training for Wood Badge:

Complete the basic training courses for your primary Scouting position. Cub Leaders must have completed New Leader Essentials and the position specific training for their position. Boy Scout and Varsity leaders must have completed New Leader Essentials, their position specific training as well as Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Venture advisors must complete New Leader Essentials, their position specific training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Other unit, district, and council leaders must complete New Leader Essentials, plus their position specific training.

Spring 2015:

Session 1: March 20-22, 2015

Session 2: April 17-19, 2015

Summer 2015 (Sunday Friendly):

Session 1: April 30-May 2, 2015

Session 2: May 28-30, 2015

Fall 2015:

Session 1: September 11-3, 2015

Session 2: October 10-12, 2015

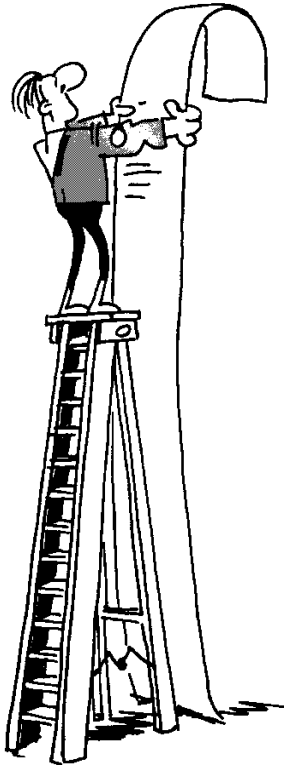
Location: Camp William B. Snyder, Haymarket, VA

Cost: Total cost for Spring & Fall courses is \$300.00 (participants sleep in tents). All registration fees are due at NCAC 30 days prior to the start of each course.

For more Information: check Programs → Training on the Council website

To register: call Margee Egan, 301-214-9197 (NCAC Service Center)

District Calendar



December 2014

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

January 2015

- 2 Winter Break Ends
- 3 OA Lodge Banquet
- 5 **Training – COR (Charter Organization Rep)**
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 20 MLK Jr. Day
- 28 District Committee
- 26 Moveable School Holiday
- 30,31 **Freeze-o-ree**

February 2015

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

March 2015

- 5 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
- 7 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 25 **District Court of Honor**
- 30 Spring Break Starts

April 2015

- 3 Spring Break Ends
- 6 Student Holiday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 8 Commissioner RT
- 10-12 **Spring Camporee**
- 22 District Committee

May 2015

- 1-3 **OA Spring Ordeal (TBD)**
- 13 **Program Launch**
- 25 Memorial Day
- 27 District Committee

June 2015

- 6 **Soda Bottle Rocket Derby**
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 16 Last Day of School
- 22-26 **Day Camp**
- 24 District Committee

July 2015

- 4 Independence Day

August 2015

- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner RT
- 26 District Committee

September 2015

- 7 Labor Day
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 23 District Committee

October 2015

- 3-4 **Webelos-o-ree**
- 12 Columbus Day
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 28 District Committee

November 2015

- 7 **SFF Bag Distribution**
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 14 **SFF Food Pickup**
- 18 District Committee