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Newsletter Key:



Goose Creek District Newsletter



March 2015

Volume 6, Issue 8

Excerpted from Scoutmaster Jerry, January 13, 2015 http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2015/01/13/the-uniform/

The Uniform



As a Scout Leader we rely on the methods to achieve the goals of Scouting, Citizenship, Character, and Fitness. The methods are an important part of the process to reach our youth and move them towards being good adults.

The uniform is but one of those methods, but an important one to be sure. The uniform is the great equalizer. It puts all of us in Scouting on the same playing field. It identifies us as a member of the organization or team. When a football team takes the field, each player, while he has different skills, talents, and role on the team is part of the greater team. Each player dresses in the uniform of the team, to be unified in a common goal (playing and winning the game) and to be identified while on and off the field. Could you imagine a "come as you are" football game? You would have a hard time knowing who is on what team and in the heat of the game team mates may get confused as to who was sharing their goal.

In Scouting, Baden Powell established uniforming early on. Baden Powell once said "The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country." The uniform was greater than the individual. That is the idea also with sports teams, military organizations, and yes Scouting.

Now there are arguments on how important the uniform is today and whether or not our Scouts should have to wear them. The answer is simple.. yes, they should wear them, it is a part of Scouting. As much as advancement, adult interaction, and the outdoor program. The methods are time tested and important to the completion of our aims.

So what about the uniform? What is "the uniform"?

According to the Boy Scout Handbook and inspection sheet state the "Official Uniform" of the BSA is the Uniform Shirt, Official shirt or official long- or short-sleeve uniform shirt with green or blaze orange shoulder loops on epaulets (Blue for Cub Scout leaders). The troop/team may vote to wear a neckerchief, bolo tie, or no neckwear. In any case, the collar should be unbuttoned. The troop/team has the choice of wearing the neckerchief over the turned-under collar or under the open collar.

Pants/Shorts. Official pants or official uniform pants or shorts; no cuffs. (Units have no option to change.)

The Boy Scouts of America feel that as Baden Powell did that the uniform is an important part of Scouting. It creates that level playing field and identifies us as part of the greatest youth organization in America.

As leaders in our units, we model that importance and demonstrate to our youth why the uniform is a part of Scouting. We wear our uniforms with pride and we wear it properly.

I encourage you to always wear your uniform properly and completely. We set an example when we wear it right. Just like the leadership principle of modeling expected behavior, our Scouts count on us to do the right thing and do it right. The uniform method is a part of getting to the aims of Scouting. We can not make up the rules as we go.

Just as I won't compromise the other methods, we don't compromise the uniform of our organization.

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

District Championship Pinewood Derby



The 2015 Goose Creek District Championship Pinewood Derby as presented by Legacy Orthodontics and hosted by Venture Crew 7070, with returning sponsors Chick-fil-A, Leesburg Hobbies & Collectibles and Appalachian Outdoor Readiness & Essentials, will take place on March 7, 2015.

All participating scouts at this championship event will receive an event patch and a Chick-fil-A coupon redeemable for a free 4-piece chicken meal at the Leesburg location. The top three rank and overall winners will receive prizes provided by Leesburg Hobbies & Collectibles. Trophies will also be awarded to the top three rank and overall winners.

This year, the event will be open to all Unit Event Rank Winners placing 1st thru 5th, in all ranks including Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos 1 and Webelos 2. (up to 25 scouts per unit)

Returning again this year will be the "Cow Cub" race before the finals. This race is open to all Cub Scout age siblings, or younger, of entrants.

Car Design and Construction Rules are posted on the Goose Creek website (rules are the same as last year).

On-line registration is now open on the Goose Creek website under Upcoming Events. Any questions can be directed to Steve Wolfson at stevewolfson@verizon.net

Unit Pinewood Derby Coordinators: Please forward your unit results to **communications@goosecreekdistrict.org**, or **stevewolfson@verizon.net** to get them posted on the Goose Creek website.

Don't forget to thank the young men and women of Venture Crew 7070 for again hosting this fantastic event and please visit our sponsoring Loudoun County businesses for the support they are giving to the Goose Creek Boy Scouts of America.

Newsletter Email Address



The Goose Creek Newsletter now has its own email address: Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org. If your unit has has done something special (unique service project, camping trip, STEM event, ...) or will be an event that others are invited to just let us know and we will put it in the newsletter. We can even include pictures of the event.

Spring Camporee



The 2015 Goose Creek District Spring Camporee will be held April 10-12 at the scenic grounds of the Harpers Ferry Adventure Center, Purcellville VA. This year's Camporee focuses on outdoor Scouting fun as embodied in the theme, "Tree Tops to River Runs Adventure."

The event consists of two major parts, a Patrol Competition of six events taking place for half of your Saturday, and a Unit Choice session during the other half for Scouts to explore a selection of optional activities meeting their interest, potentially including white water rafting, zip line canopy tour, aerial adventure park obstacle course, or a half day canoeing trip. Team building activities and an archery and rifle shooting range will also be of interest to adventure minded Scouts.

Each registered Unit will have an assigned AM and PM period scheduled for Competition and Unit Choice to ensure all \$17-19 per participant, plus supplemental fees for the special events. This event is for Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Teams and Venturering Crews. Water activities will require BSA Swimmer verification and all participants must present current BSA Medical Forms and Participant Waivers. An Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony will be the highlight of the Saturday evening Campfire. More details are coming soon; registration will be online thru the GCD website.

Volunteers are needed from every Unit to help run events or support Camporee program activities!

Please direct your questions and willingness for your Unit to serve as Camporee volunteers to John Blackwell, 301-346-0551, john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org

Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony



The 13th Annual Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony will be conducted by the Order of the Arrow (OA) on Thursday March 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM, the location is Harper Park Middle School in Leesburg. This very impressive Ceremony is presented by the Goose Creek OA ceremony team, wearing handcrafted native Powhatan Indian regalia.

Registration is required to attend this event though there will be no registration fee. Registration closes on March 1st. Information on how to register is available on the OA page at the Goose Creek web site:

http://www.ncachsa.org/members/group.content_view.asp?group=11409

http://www.ncacbsa.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=114098 &id=240813 .

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

2015 Goose Creek Day and Twilight Camp (Please Note Date Change and Location)



We are happy to announce the 2015 Goose Creek Day and Twilight Camp with the theme of *Take Flight!* Cub Scouts in grades 1 through 5 are eligible to attend camp – including newly registered (starting June 1, 2015) Tigers. Camp will be at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds (17558 Dry Mill Rd, Leesburg) and the dates are:

- Day Camp, June 29th − July 3rd (9 am 4 pm M-Th, 9 am − 2 pm Friday)
 - o Register by April 17th, \$175
 - o Register by May 15th, \$195
 - o Register after May 15th, \$215
- Twilight Camp, June 29th July 2nd (6:30 pm dusk)
 - o Register by April 17th, \$110
 - o Register by May 15th, \$120
 - o Register after May 15th, \$140

Please notify your pack's families so they can start making plans. Registration is open. At this time units should be identifying their "Pack Coordinator." Registration for Day and Twilight camp is done as a unit – not individually like Camp Snyder. Your Pack's Camp Coordinator will gather all the registration information, fees, and required paperwork; then register the unit on line. They will also coordinate adult "Den Walkers" who will escort the boys at camp. Remember, the ratio is 1 adult to 5 Scouts. Tiger parents cannot be counted in that ratio. Den Chiefs are encouraged to attend but cannot be counted as a Den Walker.

If your unit would like a camp promotion at an upcoming Pack meeting, please let Dave Carty, the Day Camp Director (*David.Carty@GooseCreekDistrict.org*), know and he'll make sure to get a District representative out to your unit to talk about the exciting camps that Goose Creek offers – either Day or Twilight camp.

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

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

For those going to one of our Council's camps know that Camp Snyder offers a multitude of options for units. Goshen also delivers awesome Webelos advancement camps.

Editor's Note: Goose Creek's Day Camp is by far the most popular one in the Council with about twice the attendance of the next one in the list. When Dave says now is the time to start planning, he REALLY means it!

District Court of Honor



It's that time of year! Time to recognize those amazing Scouters who've made a huge difference in the lives of young people here in Goose Creek District - NCAC. All Goose Creek Volunteers of Crews, Troops, and Packs are invited to the Goose Creek District Annual Court of Honor on Wednesday, March 25th, 7:30-9:00 PM at Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 W Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. Special recipients include the District Award of Merit, District Key 3 Awardees, and the Robin L. Hayes Leadership Award. In addition to recognizing our adult volunteers, we invite all 2014 Eagle Scouts to please come in Full Class A Uniform for a special recognition. We will open the ceremony at 7:30 and close with a dessert reception following. Each unit is asked to contribute a dessert to share, preferably cut into single servings.

The BSA is a volunteer organization which relies on dedicated volunteers. If you haven't yet recognized that special volunteer from your unit as the Unit Volunteer of the Year, you still have time.

Please submit to dtexasncac@gmail.com:

- Your name
- The Unit volunteer of the Year's name (one per unit)
- Unit type (Troop, Crew, Pack) and number (1154)
- And a short description of how this leader upholds the ideals of scouting in your unit.

Unit Volunteer of the Year nominations are due March 10, 2015.

Spring Join Scouting Night



Spring is a time of growth, a time for graduations, and a time for preparing summer programs, camping, and outdoor adventures.

Spring is an excellent time to invite new members to join Scouting. With the graduation of boys into new grade levels, they become eligible for new levels in Scouting. The purpose of Spring recruitment is to enroll prospective Tiger Cubs (1st Graders), Cub Scouts (2nd to 3rd Grade), and Webelos Scouts (4th and 5th Grade). Spring recruitment is also a time to enlist parent participation in the program.

There will be a Join Scouting Night training on Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 @ Leesburg United Methodist Church, Leesburg @ 6:30pm. This is right before Roundtable.

Are You Leave No Trace Trained



If you are a trained Leave No Trace Trainer or LNT Master Educator in Goose Creek, please contact George Birsic at **goosecreek.ccosc@gmail.com**. George is Goose Creek's representative on the NCAC Outdoor Ethics Committee.

Silver Beaver Honoree and Recipient from Goose Creek



For 2015 The National Capital Area Council has selected 22 local leaders to receive the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth. As the highest Scouting award given at the local council level, the Silver Beaver recognizes volunteers for consistent, dedicated service to the area's youth, both in and out of Scouting, over their tenure as a volunteer.

This year's class honoree is Ed Yarbrough who has served in numerous roles at the unit, district, and council level, including Council Commissioner, Vice President of Mission Impact, Vice President of Membership, Virginia West Area Vice President, and District Commissioner and District Chairman of Goose Creek District. He comes from an active Scouting family; all three of his sons are Eagle Scouts, his wife was a dedicated unit, District and Council Cub Scouter, and his daughter volunteered at Cub Scout day camps.

Among this year's award recipients is our own Rizwan Omar Jaka who has served as a committee member for the district and is very involved in Scouting through the ADAMS Center.

Volunteers will be recognized at the council's Court of Honor dinner on Thursday, April 30 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. More information is available at www.NCACBSA.org/CourtOfHonor.

Scouting for Bricks™



Troop 39 of Purcellville invites you to join them for their 3rd Annual Scouting for (LEGO) Bricks event! 100 exhibitors, 20 vendors selling many unique LEGO-related items, 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 the website and sign-up to display with them: www.scoutingforbricks.com/to-exhibit

When: May 30-31, 2015 ~ 11 - 5 (Note: this is not the Memorial Day weekend)

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 or phone 571-293-1975

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

Webelos-o-ree 2015!



The date for the Goose Creek's annual Webelos-o-ree is set, it will be held October 3-4 at Camp Snyder. So Beasr (who will be Webelos this fall) and Webelos leaders should mark down the date.

This camping event is designed to introduce Webelos and their parents to the fun Scouting adventures ahead and to help make the transition into Boy Scouts exciting.

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



"Cheerful Service Chatter"

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

Vigil Honor



The Vigil Honor was first presented to Founder E. Urner Goodman at the rock outcropping called the Devil's Tea Table overlooking the Delaware River in the summer of 1915. It is only awarded to a maximum of two percent of Brotherhood members who have been in the OA for at least three years. There are no specific requirements. It is awarded only for distinguished service to one or more of the following: the lodge, the Order of the Arrow, the Scout camp or Scouting in general. The following are the newest Vigil Honor members from Goose Creek:

Peggy Durbin – District Director, 20 years as volunteer scouter, Troop Committee Chair, Wood Badge Staff for 7+ courses, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver

Jon Emch - Chapter Vice Chief, Chairman for District Freeze-o-ree, Elections team

Patrick Freeman – Ceremonalist, NOAC 2012, Lodge Regalia Competition Team, Chapter Elections Team, Chapter Health and Safety Team

John Hayes – Eagle Scout, TOAR, Goshen Staff Camp

Matthew Hayes – Eagle Scout, Chahpter Vice Chief, Chapter Health and Safety Committee, TOAR, Goshen Staff

Tyler Wintermute – Eagle Scout, Vice Chief of Dance, TOAR, OA Service Corp at 2013 Jamboree

Servant Leadership Award



The Servant Leadership Award is an award to honor those youth who give exemplary service to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, and their community over an extended period of time. Each year nominations are accepted for those youth who are at least 18 years of age, but not yet 21, who by their leadership and service, exemplify the ideals of the Order and are role models for other Arrowmen and Scouts.

This year two awards were presented and one went to **Kyle Raffensperger** who has held many positions in the Order. He has been the Goose Creek Chapter Chief, a chapter vice chief, the Mountain West Area Chief, a Lodge vice Chief, and the Amangamek-Wipit Lodge Chief as well as the NE-6A Section Chief. He was a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, TOAR, and a Den Chief for 5 years, he was also the SPL for this troop. He currently serves as the immediate past section chief as well as the Lodge Founder's Award Committee chair and has an important role in making the ArrowTour event happen in the Northeast Region during the summer of 2015.

Arrowman Service Awards



The Arrowman Service Award is a part of the 100th Anniversary celebration of the OA and is available to all registered Arrowmen, youth and adult. It is an award earned by fulfilling requirements noted in a scorecard covering personal growth, service to Scouting and participation in the centennial celebration. Once earned, a special patch may be worn on the sash of the person who earned it.

Recently at the Lodge Executive Committee meeting this award was presented to **Michael Bloom** from Goose Creek.

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. 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.



Murphy's Laws of Camping

- Waterproof clothing isn't. (However, it is 100% effective at containing sweat).
- The width of backpack straps decreases with the distance hiked. To compensate, the weight of the backpack increases.
- The sun sets three-and-a-half times faster than normal when you're trying to set up camp.

"Onward and Upward"

On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Blake Kristopher Barrus - Team 1106
Ethan Charles Casserino - Troop 39
Kevin Joseph Corella - Troop 2970
William MacKenzie - Troop 163
Trenton Lee Garey - Troop 1550
Christopher Ryan Johnson - Troop 58
Nicholas Schaefer - Troop 982
Kaushik Praveen Venkatesh - Troop 1154
Minh Anh Vu - Troop 968
Jack T Williams - Troop 998

Signs, Signals and Codes Merit Badge Requirements Released



For decades, teens have used their own language — one of emojis, shorthand and coded messages passed in school hallways — to communicate without words.

And now, for the first time, those skills could translate into a merit badge. The Boy Scouts of America officially released (on Feb 26^{th)} Signs, Signals and Codes merit badge, the BSA's 135th current merit badge. Look for the merit badge pamphlet now at your local Scout Shop and at www.ScoutStuff.org.

Requirement 9c is one straight out of 2015. It asks Scouts to discuss textmessage symbols, also known as emoticons or emojis, and share their 10 favorites. Then comes the fun part: "see if your counselor or parent can identify the meaning or usage of each symbol."

Think you know what all those symbols mean, mom or dad? Get ready to prove it to your Scouts.

Signs, Signals and Codes merit badge isn't just about emojis. The badge covers a number of nonverbal ways we communicate: emergency signaling, Morse code, American Sign Language, braille, trail signs, sports officiating hand signals, traffic signs, secret codes and more.

Some of the coolest requirements: Write a six-word braille message. Use trail signs and markers to create a one-mile trail for fellow Scouts to follow. Invent a secret code and send a 25-word message to a friend or fellow Scout for him to decode.

Merit Badge Counselor Lists and Registration



Greetings from your friendly neighborhood Merit Badge Dean! I'm Tom Hill, and it's my job to keep the Goose Creek District list of Merit Badge Counselors (MBC) current. You can find the most recent lists (February 2015) on our District web page, under Advancement and Recognition

(http://www.ncacbsa.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=114098&id=272523) . The two lists (one sorted by counselor name, the other by merit badge) contain only those counselors who, according to my records, said they'd serve all scouts or scouts in Goose Creek. Counselors who specified troops they want to work with are expected to work with those troops themselves. Also, this latest posted list only includes people for whom I have current YPT information, so it's possible that some people were left off the list who are YPT current, but I wasn't informed.

Counselors Needed: In our list of "any scout" counselors, we are missing counselors for the following badges: American Labor, Archaeology, Chemistry, Climbing, Dentistry, Drafting, Landscape Architecture, Mining in Society (I've got a lead on someone for this, but more is more), Pulp and Paper, Rowing, Sculpture, Small-Boat Sailing, Sports, Surveying, Truck Transportation, Veterinary Medicine, and Water Sports. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a counselor in one or more of these badges, please apply using the process listed below.

Anyone wishing to become a Merit Badge Counselor, even people who are already registered as volunteers, need to submit the following items:

- An Adult Registration form (with position code 42 selected) and yes, you must fill in another even if you are already registered with a unit because a MBC is a Council level position and requires different signatures for approval,
- A current YPT certification,
- A Merit Badge Counselor Application form.

We do this mainly due to the difficulties of the computer system involved but also to keep the application process consistent for all applicants. The easiest way to submit the forms, with the least chance of them getting lost, is to scan them and email them to <code>MeritBadgeDean@GooseCreekDistrict.org</code>, which will send a copy to me for recording the merit badges and to our district executive who handles the adult application. Since the systems are separate, it helps a lot if already-registered adults include their BSA ID on all paperwork. I will reply to counselors after updating their records saying that they're in the system.

I attend most district round tables, and am always available if you have any comments or questions. The best way to contact me is through the email address listed above. Thank you for volunteering, and let's make it a goal to expose our boys to the wide experience out there through our merit badge program!

Scoutmaster's Conference FAQ



Scoutmaster Clarke Green has put together a comprehensive look at the Scoutmaster's conference (http://scoutmastercg.com/scoutmasters-conference-faq/). All of the references listed are official publications of the BSA (the Guide to Advancement 2013 and the Scoutmaster's Handbook). He has not added any personal commentary or opinion because he thinks the resources can speak for themselves.

Life-to-Eagle Seminar (Training)

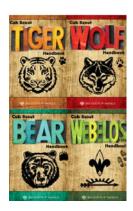


The next installment of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek is coming. These training conferences are primarily targeted for the Life-to-Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level – but are by no means limited to same. Life Scouts and their parents are encouraged to attend. The key 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.

When: March 21, 10:30 – 1:15, Cascades Library.

Also, if you ARE a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit, and have not attended one of these within Goose Creek within the last 2 years, you really should make an attempt to do so. Lots of things have changed over the years, and even the long-standing and experienced L2E Advisers will learn something new.

Missed the Cub Scout Webcasts? Here's How to Get Up to Speed



Thousands of your fellow Scouters watched the Cub Scout webcasts last weekend, and in doing so they left with a greater knowledge of the incredible changes coming to Cub Scouting this year.

Couldn't tune in? No worries.

Use the links below to view the webcasts at your convenience. In half an hour, you'll get up to speed on the new Cub Scout program and learn some recommended next steps.

Cubmaster Orientation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3seP16x-L0&x-yt-cl=84503534&feature=player_embedded&x-yt-ts=1421914688

Den Leader Orientation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eD4PHvSWq70&x-yt-ts=1421914688&feature=player_embedded&x-yt-cl=84503534

LDS Orientation: www.youtube.com/watch?x-yt-ts=1421914688&v=Jo-XFt8r3D4&feature=player_embedded&x-yt-cl=84503534

Key Cub Scout Program Change Dates



Here are some key dates to keep in mind for the Cub Scout Program changes:

- March 31: Revised position-specific training released—online and inperson versions (note: a "Trained" leader need not take additional training for the new program).
- May 1: Handbooks and key leader resources will be available in Scout shops and as ebooks via Amazon.com (English). Spanish language resources will be available 45-60 days later.
- June 30: Insignia supporting rank advancement adventure loops and pins – will be available in Scout Shops and on www.scoutstuff.org

BSA Alternative Requirements



Special needs or disabilities shouldn't stop a young person from joining Scouting and thriving in our life-changing program. Fortunately, they don't.

BSA alternative requirements benefit Scouts or Venturers with a wide range of documented disabilities, including those that are physical and/or cognitive. These modified requirements allow a registered member to remain in Cub Scouts beyond age 11, in Boy Scouts beyond age 17 and in Venturing or Sea Scouts beyond age 20.

Young men with certain documented disabilities may earn Boy Scout ranks, including Eagle Scout, even after they turn 18. They use requirements that challenge them in a specially tailored way. The requirements <u>must be approved by the council advancement committee</u> and should be as challenging for the Scout with special needs as the ones they replace.

In the *Guide to Advancement*, Section 10.0.0.0, topics 10.1.0.1 and 10.1.0.2, lists the possible criteria and procedures to register a Scout beyond the age of eligibility. Topics 10.2.2.0 through 10.2.2.2 explain the policy and process for applying for alternative requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class. Topic 10.2.2.3 is the policy and procedures for Scouts working on Star, Life, and Eagle to apply for alternative merit badges to the Eagle required ones.

In addition to the *Guide to Advancement* is the following resource – a PowerPoint presentation with embedded presenter's notes good for giving a presentation to other parents and leaders:

www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/ppt/Including_Scouts_with_Disabilities.ppt

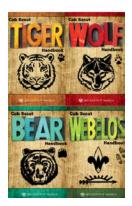
With it is a separate file of the presenter notes that is good for reviewing the material on your own:

www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/Including_Scouts_with_Disabilit ies Speaker Notes.pdf

These are among the topics covered in the PowerPoint:

- How to document a disability and qualify for alternative requirements
- How to register beyond the age of eligibility
- Cub Scout and Boy Scout rank advancement
- Alternative merit badge requirements
- Creating an Individual Scout Achievement Plan, which is a roadmap for parents and leaders
- Several scenarios to help you understand the process

Camping 2015 Cub Scout Style



Excerpts from an article by Adam R. Cox, Feb 8, 2015: https://scouteradam.wordpress.com/2015/02/08/camping-2015-cubscout-style/

I have finally reviewed a lot of the requirements that are coming into effect June 1st 2015... Since there are so many topics covered, I am just going to focus on the Camping aspect... I am pulling all of the information from the *Adventure Requirements* and *Insignia* PDF from the *www.Scouting.org* website (*www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.p df*). Understand that all the requirements are in the PDF and if you have questions, please consult that guide and work with your own Council resources to iron out issues. This is what I understand it to be and I am open to suggestions as needed. I will only be going over the Requirements and not electives. Requirements are needed for Advancement.

You will see in each Rank with the exception of the Webelos Badge, that every Rank requires a Campout or a Family Campout and in some cases a daylong outdoor activity with your Den or Pack [Newsletter Editor: Tiger: Tigers in the Wild #5, Wolf: Call of the Wild #1 & #6, Bear: Bear Necessities #1 & #5, AOL: Camper #1, #2, & #4]. The Family Campout and Daylong outdoor activity wording is geared towards the Charter Organizations that do not allow overnight Camping. These could be for the LDS and also the Jewish Packs that observe Shabbat. Also, this would work for those Packs that cannot afford or creates a huge hardship in getting out to a Campsite to go camping. Kids do not join Scouting to be lectured at and to play in a gym. They want to be OUTSIDE and having fun.

With careful planning and understanding from the Den Leaders, Cubmaster and Committee these requirements can be met very easily. If your Pack is already Camping. No sweat. If your Pack is not. Here is a great challenge. Or even a Wood Badge Ticket item!

I would also urge the Pack Leadership to look for District events such as Cub-o-Ree's or Webelos Woods [Newsletter Editor: for Goose Creek that would be the Webelo-oree which is the first weekend of October this year] to help augment your planning. Webelos camping with Troops will also help resolve this issue.

Please bear in mind that any camping within a Pack or Webelos setting will still need proper training via BALOO and Trip Permits from Council. Please consult the *Guide to Safe Scouting* as well. It is not just Youth Protection needed, but these other trainings.

Ask Andy: When Can a Scout Start His Eagle Project



Dear Andy,

Can a Life Scout start his Eagle project before he has the other requirements (including merit badges) completed?

Great question—thanks for asking! A Life Scout can begin earnest work toward his project the very morning after his Life board of review! (There's a general misconception "out there" that all merit badges, etc., have to be completed first, and that's just what it is: a misconception!) Further, while as a Star or even First Class Scout he can certainly start thinking about what he might want to do, including having conversations with potential beneficiaries and reading the project workbook and instructions...but actual "roll up your sleeves" or "sharpen your pencil" (or polish your PC keyboard) doesn't begin till he's Life.

2015 Boy Scout Requirements Booklet - Requirements Updates



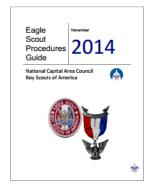
The new 2015 Boy Scout Requirements booklet (#33216 - SKU# 620714) is now available for purchase from *www.Scoutstuff.org*, and should be in the Scout Shops soon.

The book contains the following new material:

- Requirements for the new merit badge which was issued in 2014 but was not in last year's book (Mining in Society)
- Requirements for two new merit badges which should be available in the next month or two (Signs, Signals and Codes, and Animation)
- Major Changes to four merit badges 2 from last Spring (Swimming and Canoeing) plus 2 others (Insect Study and Whitewater)
- Minor changes to 16 other merit badges The vast majority of these are VERY MINOR, almost insignificant, changes.
- Minor changes to the wording of rank requirements and some new footnotes for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Palms, and a small change to the Alternative Requirements procedure for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks.
- The Merit Badge Library listing on the inside back cover lists over 50
 pamphlets with updated revision dates. Some, but not all, of those pamphlets
 are available, while many of those represent pamphlets that will be released
 some time during the year.

An analysis, showing the exact changes to the wording of the requirements can be found at http://usscouts.org/advance/changes/advchanges15.asp

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 ESPG 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.

Recently, BSA National took a particular interest in our document and suggested some recommended changes to the document. The October 2014 update to the ESPG 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 ESPG is primarily <u>targeted</u> 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 ESPG and how it implements National's guidelines relative to the Life-to-Eagle process, better counsel can be provided to the boys themselves.

Boy Scout Online Tests



One of the challenges of a leader with a large group of scouts is checking their advancement requirements. This can take quite a bit of time and effort. Sometimes, scouts will attempt to advance before they have adequately learned the skills or gained required knowledge.

The Boy Scout Trail website has a number of online tests (http://boyscouttrail.com/tests.asp) intended to help scouts check their understanding of information before attempting their advancement.

A scout should take a test after he has studied the information and thinks he has the knowledge to pass the test. Taking a test to learn the information is not an effective use of the online test.

Some tests give the scout an opportunity to email his results to his adult leader. You can review how well the scout did and find out where he may need to devote more time.

Available tests are:

- Webelos Rank Test
- Arrow of Light Test
- Boy Scout Oath and Law Test
- Boy Scout First Aid Test (6 different tests)
- Boy Scout US Flag Test
- Boy Scout Knots Test (2 different tests)
- Boy Scout Map Symbols Test
- Boy Scout Trivia Test
- Scouting Crossword
- Knots Crossword

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 ESPG, 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 prevalidation 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 ESPG. Information on the prevalidation process are on pages 46-47.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

BSA Immunizations: What's Required, What's Recommended



For the health of all Scouters and Scouts, the Boy Scouts of America follows the recommendations of leading health and pediatric associations in recommending age-appropriate immunizations for members.

Specifically, the BSA requires tetanus shots for anyone attending BSA programs or activities where an annual health and medical record is required. Other age-appropriate immunizations, including those that protect against measles, meningococcal disease, influenza and other maladies are "strongly recommended" by the BSA.

It's all outlined in the "Report of the Immunization Task Force" (http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/Immunization.aspx) issued by the BSA's National Health and Safety Support Subcommittee. The report is from 2008, but it still stands as gospel today.

The BSA does allow Scouts and Scouters to participate in BSA activities without the required and recommended immunizations, but a medical alert will be marked on their medical forms. That's so health officials can quickly quarantine or isolate them in the event of an emergency.

Those who chose not to receive the tetanus immunization are required to fill out a form releasing the BSA from liability.

Why is a tetanus shot required?

Because our participants are in the outdoors and will get minor cuts and scrapes — in other words, occasions when tetanus might show up. Tetanus, also called "lockjaw," is usually fatal, and tetanus spores are potentially located everywhere.





Every year, the Gathering of Eagles offers young Eagle Scouts, Quartermasters, and Venturing Silver Award recipients the opportunity to be mentored by a professional in an industry or career field they are interested in pursuing. All Scouts through age 21 who have earned one of these awards are encouraged to participate.

When: May 30, 2015, 1:30 to 4:00 PM. Online registration will be available soon! Visit **www.NCACBSA.org/ECD** to learn more.

Want to be an Eagle Career Day Mentor?

Mentors from a variety of businesses, social and civic organizations are needed to help familiarize youth with his/her workplace and industry. To learn how to be a mentor, go to www.NCACBSA.org/ECDMentor.

National Capital Area Sporting Clays Tournament



When: May 7-8, 2015

Where: Camp Snyder.

Teams: 4 shooters per team, shoot 100 targets at 12 stations each. Each shooter will receive shells and ear protection. Shooting glasses will be available

Cost: Individual Team \$800, Individual Shooter \$300

Prizes: Prizes for the top shooting teams and individuals will be presented at the conclusion of each flight.

VIP Shooters: Dave Butz of the Washington Redskins

Information: Contact Phillip Duggins at 540-220-9904 or online at **www.NCACBSA.org/ClayShoot**. Registration is open until 5/4//2015

Identify Potential Scout Leaders with the Oreo Test



Wondering whether that parent on the other side of the meeting room would make a good Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Venturing leader?

Try the Oreo Test.

Don Lauer of Troop and Pack 9212 in Summerville, S.C., devised the method, and he said it hasn't failed him yet. "Just a simple thing," he says, "Plus I like cookies."

To see Don's test go to: http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/02/26/try-this-identify-potential-scout-leaders-with-the-oreo-test/

ScubaJam Virginia 2015



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: Sept 4-7, 2015

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 registration

NCAC COPE



Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience, or Project C.O.P.E., is the challenge course program of the Boy Scouts of America. It is a series of physical, mental and emotional challenges facilitated by trained and certified staff directed at enhancing personal growth.

In a nutshell, C.O.P.E. is the laboratory for leadership training. In an NCAC C.O.P.E. session, participants have the opportunity to discover their personal leadership style, and experience group dynamics as we transition from Forming, Storming, Norming to Performing (and Adjourning/Reforming).

Our staff is trained and experienced in using ice breakers, initiative games, trust training and exercises, low elements, and high elements to achieve the learning objectives of C.O.P.E.:

- Self esteem
- Communication
- Trust
- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Decision Making
- Teamwork
- Planning

Our staff will work with your leaders to tailor a session specifically to your needs and abilities.

If you want to know more about our new climbing program, please send a message to James Miller at **NCAC.Climbing @gmail.com** Call (202) 681-2474 for details.

For more information, please contact the COPE/Climbing PM/Chairman, Tony Waisanen, at **NCAC.COPE@gmail.com** Call (202) 810-5843 for details.

To check their Council webpage: http://ncacbsa.site-ym.com/members/group.aspx?code=cope

SCUBA Diving Merit Badge Counseling Session



When: 8/23/2015, 4:00:00 PM - 6:00:00 PM

Where: AB Sea's Diving

10416 Hampton Road

Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

United States

Contact: Mike Meenehan

mmmeenehan@cox.net Phone: (703) 400-2176

Registration: \$5,

www.ncacbsa.org/events/event_details.asp?id=524108

Event is limited to 36 Boy Scout

Cub Family Campouts 2015



The Family Campout is for all Cub Scouts and family members.

When:

• April 11-12, 2015

May 9-10, 2015

Where: Camp William B. Snyder, 6100 Antioch Rd, Haymarket, VA 20169

Times:

Optional Friday night camping: 6:00 - 9:00pm

• Official Check-in: Saturday 8:00 - 9:30 am

Program Areas open at 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cost:

Cub Scouts/Cub Scout age youth: \$25

Adults: \$5

Children 5 and under are free

Meal Plan: Optional meal plan is \$10 per person, (kids 5 and under no charge).

Includes meals from Saturday lunch through Sunday breakfast

Housing: Participants should plan on bringing their own tents. Showers and

restrooms will be available.

Registration: Accepted on a first come first serve basis. Registration due 7

days prior to event. Additional late registration fee of \$5 per person applied to all registrations received afterwards.

Activities Available:

- BB Gun and Archery
- Handicrafts
- Nature Projects
- Outdoor Skills Activities
- Slingshots
- Field Games
- Fishing
- Both Weekends Different!

[Editor's Note: Though the Council webpage for Snyder (Outdoors → Camp Snyder) lists the dates for this year, the registration form linked to it is for 2014]

10 Memorable Ways to Pump Up Your Scoutmaster's or Cubmaster's Minute



After a pack or troop meeting filled with learning, fun, and fellowship comes the grand finale: the Scoutmaster's or Cubmaster's Minute. You've got 60 seconds; make them count.

Consider it a closing argument to your Scouts — one last chance to inspire before they head home.

But how do you find a message that's relevant, powerful, and memorable that can be crammed into 60 seconds? Try looking at this article from Bryan Wendell, senior editor of *Scouting* and *Eagle's Call* magazines:

http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/04/17/10-memorable-ways-to-pump-up-your-scoutmasters-or-cubmasters-minute/

High Adventure Opportunities



For units with older Scouts (i.e., 14 and older), NCAC has three great high adventure opportunities:

FLORIDA SEA BASE. Want to sail on a 40- to 50-foot sailing yacht for a week? Want to learn navigation, fishing and sailing in the Florida Keys? We have openings for just seven more youth and two adults **this summer!** Contact Dana Abrahamsen, Sea Base program liaison (*dabrahamsen@ftc.gov*, 703-280-9782) with questions.

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH. Want to go backpacking in the New Mexico high country on a 12-day backpacking expedition? Experience the thrill of climbing mountains over two miles high! Opportunities are still available for units and provisional participants for **this summer!** Questions? Contact the Philmont program liaison, Ed Graydon (*ed.graydon@verizon.net*, 703-680-6550).

NORTHERN TIER Want to go canoeing deep in the wilderness of Canada? NCAC is starting provisional treks to Bissett, Manitoba, in **July 2016**. Sign-ups are now being accepted for 12 youth and 4 adults to experience the "Most extreme High Adventure in Scouting." Be a part of NCAC's inaugural provisional treks to Manitoba. Questions? Contact Craig Reichow, Northern Tier program liaison, (sctmstr@verizon.net, 703-478-0660),

Space is limited and first-come, first served basis, so sign up now. See the NCAC High Adventure Committee web site for sign-up forms

More Questions? Our GCD High Adventure Representative is John Blackwell (*john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org*,540-822-4395). Note: See the NCAC HAC contact list for base program liaisons if you have questions about other high adventure bases.

BSA to Prohibit Use of 15 Passenger Vans Made Before 2005



Fully loaded 15-passenger vans, like the ones you might use to haul a bunch of Scouts to camp, can be more dangerous than you might think.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration says 15-passenger vans with 10 or more occupants are three times more likely to roll over than ones carrying fewer than five passengers.

That's why all Scouters should take heed of this breaking BSA news: Effective Sept. 1, 2015, the use of 15-passenger vans manufactured before 2005 will no longer be allowed in connection with Scouting programs and activities.

15-passenger vans manufactured in 2005 or later may be used, as long as they are equipped with Electronic Stability Control and seat belts for all passengers and the driver.

This applies to all vehicles, regardless of ownership (privately owned, owned by chartered organization, rentals, etc.).

No Crew? No Problem with Philmont's Individual Programs



Pretty much everyone knows about Philmont's epic treks. You form a crew of seven to 12 people and hike Philmont's challenging and exciting backcountry. They're so popular there's often a waiting list to snag a spot.

Fewer people, though, know about Philmont individual programs. These are perfect for a young man or young woman who wants to experience Philmont as an individual or with a smaller group. And good news: 2015 spaces are available.

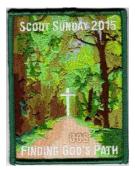
Don't worry, parents. "Individual" doesn't refer to teenagers hiking around Philmont Scout Ranch alone. All programs at Philmont are crew experiences, but individual trek crews are formed by Philmont from applicants spread across the nation.

Most of the participants of these 12- to 21-day individual treks develop lifelong friendships with people from across the country. And participation in these programs typically gives people a leg up if they choose to apply for Philmont seasonal employment down the road.

To see what treks are available go to: www.philmontscoutranch.org/individual.aspx

For the individual program brochure: www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/IndividualProgramsBro.pdf

Arlington Diocese & Washington Archdiocese Scout Sunday Observance Patch



The Scout Sunday Observance Patch is sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting and Camp Fire, Diocese of Arlington. The embroidered patch is available to all Scouts and their program sponsors. The purpose of the patch is to support and encourage regular practice of religion amoung our youth.

Cost is \$2 per patch and orders will be accepted through 2014, but please order early because supplies are limited and may be exhausted by April.

The order form is located at:

www.ncacbsa.org/resource/collection/50CE6AD3-E4E7-423C-938D-5A46C41775F3/ScoutSundayOrderForm-2015.pdf

Scout Shabbat Patches 2015/5775



The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is proud to present its official Scout Shabbat patch for 2015 (5775). The patch features traditional Shabbat images of candlelights, challah and a Kiddush cup and bears the year according to both the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars and the NJCOS logo.

These colorful Scout Shabbat patches are available exclusively through **www.jewishscouting.org/scout-shabbat-patches/** and will be shipped immediately upon receipt of \$4.00 per patch (plus shipping).

This 2015 (5775) Scout Shabbat patch should be utilized by Scout leaders and parents to increase interest and attendance at Scout Shabbat.

How Many Young Men Became Eagle Scouts in 2014?



Seeing one young man finish the journey toward becoming an Eagle Scout is an awesome sight. Even if you've never met this new Eagle Scout, you know Scouting has prepared him to become a future leader, a quality husband and an all-around great guy.

Now multiply that by 51,820. That's how many young men became Eagle Scouts in 2014. That's 51,820 reasons to feel pretty good about the future of our country.

Here are some quick facts about the 2014 Eagle Scout class:

Average age of 2014 Eagle Scouts

The average age of Eagle Scouts in the 2014 class was 17.31 years.

That's slightly up from the 2013 average of 17.24 years.

Eagle Scout service project hours

Every 2014 Eagle Scout completed an Eagle Scout service project, and the combined number of hours put in for those selfless acts of service was 8,127,532 hours.

Value of Eagle project hours

If the estimated value of volunteer time is \$22.55 per hour, that means Eagle Scouts and the volunteers they led provided \$183.3 million worth of service to their communities.

The Eagle Scouts of 2014 say, "You're welcome, America."

Hours served per Eagle project

The average number of project hours per Eagle Scout last year was 156.84 hours.

That's slightly down from the 2013 average of 164.44 hours per project.

Number of Eagle Scouts per year, recent years

2010: 56,1762011: 51,4732012: 57,9762013: 56,841

• 2014: 51,820

Contests and Giveaways



Everyone loves to win and several Scouting sites have monthly fun contests with some great prizes. So check out the following sites:

Boys' Life – has a monthly Cyber Search Mega Contest plus a number of other contests and giveaways, http://boyslife.org/giveaways/

Scouting Magazine – has several "Where Am I?" contests and Scout Sweeps, http://scoutingmagazine.org/contests/

 Boy Scout Trail – has a monthly contest, http://boyscouttrail.com/contest/

Cub Scout Resident Camp



Camp Snyder will conduct four sessions (Thursday 6 PM – Sunday 9 AM) for Cub Resident Camp in 2015. Cub Resident Camp is your introduction to what Boy Scout camp can be like. Scouts and their adult leaders/parents will live in 5-person BSA wall tents with cots and platforms, eat at the camp dining hall (Friday breakfast to Sunday breakfast) and experience a wonderful program. The program at camp includes opportunities for Scouts to earn Achievements, Pins, Belt Loops, and several just-for-fun activities. The importance of Cub Resident camp to a Cub Scout and their family is tremendous! Resident Camp will develop your son's or den's self-reliance and resourcefulness by providing learning experiences in which campers acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to their well being.

Session 1: July 9-12 Cost: \$205 – register by April 15
Session 2: July 16-19 \$225 – register by May 15
Session 3: July 23-26 \$249 – register after June 15

Session 4: July 30-Aug 2 \$95 – adults

Cub Adventure Days



Camp Snyder will conduct four Adventure Days sessions for Cub Scouts in 2015. Cub Adventure Days is a great Day Camp experience for all Scouts from Tiger through Webelos and their families to experience a campout without the overnight sleeping. Each day will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM with lunch included in the cost of camp. Every day will be different from the one before with Scouts visiting all of the Camp Snyder program areas by the end of the week.

Session 1: July 6-9

Session 2: July 13-16

Session 3: July 20-23

Session 4: July 27-30

Cost: \$190 - register by April 15

\$210 - register by May 15

\$230 - register after Jun 15

\$30 - one adult for a week

(may be a different adult each day)

Webelos Camp



Camp Snyder will conduct two Webelos Resident Camps in 2015. Webelos camp is a big step for the Webelos I or II working on Activity Badges. Scouts will camp overnight just like when they become Boy Scouts to get the full summer camp experience in a shorter setting. Most of your time will be spent working towards advancing in your Webelos trail on the way to becoming a Boy Scout. There are plenty of other fun activities to fill your week including games, trips to the pool and more. Webelos will also be able to work on some free time activities that will include the more advanced pins from the Cub Scout Academic and Sports program. Camps go from Sunday 6 PM to Friday 9 AM.

Session 1: Aug 2-7 Cost: \$240 – register by April 15 Session 2: Aug 9-14 \$260 – register by May 15

\$280 – register after Jun 15

\$60 - adults

Goshen Summer Specialty Week



Specialty Week will be held during the week of July 26th to August 1st at Camp Marriott. Trail to Eagle, Beach & Yacht, and Field & Stream are the featured programs for this year, with the new addition of The Marriott Project (STEM Program). Scouts attend these specialty programs provisionally, as lone Scouts, rather than with their home Troops. Participants will spend the entire week earning merit badges and engaging in activities focused around the program theme. Specialty week is open to Scouts ages 13 and up as well as Venturers, Varsity Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Explorers.

The Marriott Project (STEM Program) - The program includes a mix of Merit Badges, STEM NOVA Venturing Explorations, and activities. Use forensic science to solve an at-camp mystery, explore energy and forces on the COPE course, put your engineering skills to the test building catapults, examine the natural world, and much more! Participants will have the opportunity to earn one of BSA's NOVA Awards.

Trail to Eagle - gives each scout the opportunity to earn up to 6 Eagle-required Merit Badges and learn valuable leadership skills to bring home to their home troops and communities. This program is designed with a focus on both advancement and development as a leader.

Beach & Yacht - Come hang out and enjoy the sun at the Camp Marriott waterfront while earning Sailing, Swimming, Lifesaving, Water Sports, and other aquatics merit badge during this week.

Field & Stream - This program is being offered to those Scouts and Venturers who love fishing and shooting. Rifle Shooting, Archery, Trap Shooting, NRA qualification shooting for rifle and shotgun, lake and stream fishing, and other outdoor sportsman skills and activities are featured. Field and Stream is intended to open the door to a lifetime hobby or skill enhancement in the shooting sports and related fields.

Go to

www.ncacbsa.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=119323&id=28
2474 for additional information on registration and fees.

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=29 8522 to register today.

2015 Goshen Summer Camp Availability

. .



Key:	Available Almost Full	F	ull				
Camp (as of 11/06/2012)		Week					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bowman (Patrol Cooking)						
	Marriot (Patrol Cooking & Heater Stack)	LDS Week					
	Olmsted (BS Dining Hall)						
	Lenhok'sin High Adventure						
	PMI (Dining Hall)						
	Ross (Dining Hall)						

Week 1 – 6/21 to 6/27 Week 4 – 7/12 to 7/18 Week 2 – 6/28 to 7/4 Week 5 – 7/19 to 7/25 Week 3 – 7/5 to 7/11 Week 6 – 7/26 to 8/1

Specialty Week will be held during the week 6, July 26 to August 1, at Camp Marriott. Trail to Eagle, Beach & Yacht, and Field & Stream are the featured programs for this year. Scouts attend these specialty programs provisionally, rather than with their home troops and will spend the entire week earning merit badges and participating in activities focused around the program theme. Specialty week is open to Scouts ages 13 and up.

Kids to Parks Day



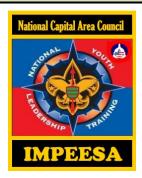
In Scouting, we'll take any excuse to get outside and explore neighborhood parks. There's a wealth of science, history, nature and adventure right around the corner or just across town.

That's why the Boy Scouts of America is encouraging you to mark your Scout calendars for the next Kids to Parks Day: Saturday, May 16, 2015.

The BSA — along with the National Park Service, NFL Players Association, American Hiking Society and others — is a prominent collaborator on Kids to Parks Day, organized by National Park Trust.

Getting involved in "America's national day of play" is easy. Just head to a park with your Scouts, and have fun! You can even register your event on the National Park Trust website (http://parktrust.org/kidstoparks/national-kids-to-parks-day) to be a part of this massive movement.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)



NYLT (Impeesa) is the National Capital Area Council's presentation of the National Youth Leadership Training. The objective of our NYLT program is to equip our young people with leadership skills to help them succeed in their scouting program and in LIFE. NYLT brings together scouts from all over the Council to learn and practice the leadership techniques in a risk free, scout friendly environment. The Scouts learn and practice leadership skills and styles together.

The course is presented primarily using a Boy Scout model as the vehicle which allows all attendees to SEE how leadership skills fit into the scouting program. These Leadership skills are applicable to all scouting programs.

While it remains the responsibility of the unit leaders to train the youth leaders, this course is designed to supplement the adult leaders' role in the training process. NYLT skills build on the fundamental leadership skills presented in the unit basic leadership training in their home unit. This training conference has six specific objectives:

- To give participants the confidence and knowledge to run their unit.
- To give participants the most contemporary, successful, and useful leadership tools available and allow them to "experiment" with them to help them better relate these skills to their unit responsibilities.
- To give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with Scouts from other scouting programs.
- To create an atmosphere where Scouts will experience Scouting at its best.
- To enhance the relationship between the participant and their adult leaders. To have fun!

In order to attend the course each participant must certify that they have have now (or will have by June 1st) met the following qualifications to attend NYLT:

- Attained First Class Rank if in Boy Scouts
- Completed Unit Leader Training
- At least 13 years of age (or have Unit Leaders approval to attend)
- Home Unit Leader approval

Dates: (each date is a separate course)

- 21 27 June 2015
- 12 18 July 2015
- 26 July 2 August 2015

Information flyer: http://www.ncacbsa.org/resource/group/405727e6-f289-4f85-8e62-a8b0f5857afa/NYLT/Impeesa_Flyer2015.pdf

Cost: \$225 until midnight April 30, 2015 then \$275

Registration: http://www.ncacbsa.org/event/nylt20153

ScoutStrong 5K/10K Run/Walk



The Old Dominion District is holding its third ScoutStrong run/walk at beautiful Camp Snyder on April 11, 2015. Open for competitive runners and kids, scouters, scouts, family and friends.

Contact: odd5k@oddbsa.org

Online RSVP: www.ncacbsa.org/events/event_details.asp?id=473039#

Details:

Check-in: 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Start/Finish: The Race begins at 10 a.m.

Course: The cross-country course through the beautiful Boy Scout Camp Snyder over various terrains – gravel, packed dirt and grass. Distance 5k (3.1 miles) and 10k.

Events: Regular 5K/10K for runners and walkers. There will be one mile non-competitive course laid out.

Awards/recognition: Top 3 males and females overall. Medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

Age Categories: 10 and under, 11-13, 14-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40 and older

What is SCOUTStrong? The SCOUTStrong Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Challenge helps you add activity to your life and rewards you when you do. This challenge is for everyone. For more, go to www.scouting.org/scoutstrongpala

On-Line Resource of the Month



The Pacific Harbors Council, BSA, has a excellent listing of STEM/NOVA resources available on one of their Council's webpages: http://pacificharbors.org/stemnova-resources/

It has listings for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts, and Venturers and was a general information and information on the award programs.

Equipment / Gear

How to Repair a Tent Pole in a Pinch

From: http://www.wideopenspaces.com/how-to-repair-a-tent-pole/



Perhaps you've been there: you get to your perfect camping spot and you go to set up your tent but one of the poles is broken. You think, "wow, I thought this time I'd be able to sleep in a tent and not outside on a rock pillow. I was wrong." Well, instead of letting that broken pole beat you, conquer it and sleep comfortably with these tips.

Aluminum Repair Sleeve

These can be found at most outdoor and camping stores. It's a simple sleeve that can be wedged or taped into place over the broken section of a tent pole. It's a handy little tool to always have for camping in case you need it. It's a much easier and less expensive, however temporary, fix to a broken tent pole.

Tent Stakes

Stakes are a great tool to splint a broken pole. And think about it, somehow there are always leftover stakes even though you feel like you've staked down every piece of tent that touches the ground.

If something like a stake could save your pole, so could a screwdriver, Allen wrench, or really anything sturdy. The factor here is having tape or strong string to splint the pole with whatever you wish to use.

If it really comes down to it and you need a quick fix, try using a branch.

Shock Cord

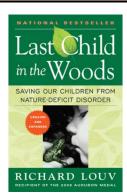
These are just a few ideas for repairing a broken pole on a tight budget or if you are out camping and can't get to an outdoor retail store. But what if the actual cord is broken?

If the shock cord inside the pole is broken or torn, here is an easy fix:

Find the two ends of the cord and feed them through the pieces of the pole and the ferrules (the smaller metal piece connecting the bigger pole sections) until they meet with equal tension on each side. If you have a couple of washers, place them through each end of the cord and tie a knot in the cord. This prevents the knot from slipping through the ferrules or pole pieces, as the washer holes are smaller and can provide tension to keep the knot strong. If you do not have washers, try to tie the knot as big as possible so it can sit between two pieces of the tent pole.

Books

Last Child in the Woods



From an article by Adam R. Cox, Mar 12, 2012: https://scouteradam.wordpress.com/2012/03/12/the-nature-deficit-disorder/

This past week while traveling for work, I picked up a great book. Now, I generally get books in the Airport and are related to CIA/Spy Novel stuff about blowing stuff up. I read a lot of history as well. But this was different. First off, I picked it up in the Scout Shop in Spokane, Wa. The Inland Northwest Council.

It is called "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv.

While the book itself is really long and filled with a lot of facts of this and that, tells stories about nature and the author's upbringing. Something hit me about this book and the children of today. Even the young 20somethings as well. They do not know what it was like to grow up and be with nature. This is something that I am currently experincing with my children and even with those that I train at work. They do not get or understand nature and some of the cultural references that I know.

While reading this book I am constantly going back to my childhood in Billings, Mt and all the stuff I did and got away with. I played outside, built forts, huge holes in the ground, built snow forts, hiked, fished, rode bikes, walked up/down streams and so much more... I went to Camp Lincoln and learned how to sail and canoe. Even spent 4 days canoeing down the Mississippi River. It's where I first realized that I liked being the camp cook. Note that I also figured out that Blackberry Strudel mix and Beef Stew really does not mix well when cooking dinner. Need seperate bowls/pots.

Fast forward to now. Now as the book spells out, parents are hyper sensitive to "NATURE" and getting hurt and the Lawyer & Insurance crowd. If your kid gets hurt, parents sue whomever into the ground. So, kids do not get out and play. They play Wii/XBOX.

One of my main reasons of being in Cub Scouts is to get the Scouts OUTSIDE.

Suffice to say, I am going to be working on making changes within my family (already have) but also working to do more within Scouts.

I am going to use this Resource guide from the book (http://richardlouv.com/books/last-child/resource-guide/) and see what we can do. I also want to incorporate hiking within the Pack..

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12



Reading science trade books is the perfect way for students to build literacy skills while learning science content. The National Science Teachers Association (NTSA) has for the past several years created listings of outstanding children's science trade books

(http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/). These books were chosen by a book review panel appointed by the NSTA and assembled in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC). NSTA and CBC have joined forces on this bibliographic project since 1973, when the list was known as Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children and was primarily targeted at grades K through 8. Beginning in 2002, the list was expanded to include high school as well.

For the lists from 2010 and after, they also included links to activities that complement each selection.

Training Opportunities

What is Needed for Training



There are several training courses that must be taken by all leaders and renewed every two years. Most positions also require specific training to be done in order to be a registered Scouter. If you are not sure what these are then you may want to check the following sites:

The primary training web page at Scouting.org is: http://www.scouting.org/training/adult.aspx

The breakdown for each of the positions and course requirements is: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/BasicTrainingCourseRequirements.pdf

The graphical version is this link:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/What_makes_a_trained_lead er.pdf

This link is a list of the older courses that top leaders may have completed, and shows the date range that the courses are valid:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Top_Leader_Trained_Date_Course_Criteria.pdf

Canoeing Merit Badge Counselor Training



Are you a BSA canoeing merit badge counselor who must find a certificated helper to supervise your canoeing activities? The NCAC Aquatics Committee in cooperation with the NCAC Advancement and Recognition Committee is offering training sessions conducted by a BSA Aquatics Instructor where you will learn and can demonstrate your canoeing and instructional competence so you won't have to look for that additional help any longer.. This training meets the requirements for Canoeing MB Counselors listed in BSA's *Guide to Advancement*.

The cost for the course is \$10.00 which includes use of all paddling equipment. This training is held as an extension to BSA's Paddle Craft Safety course. The water session starts about 11:30am and runs until about 5 pm. Wear clothes and shoes that can (and will) get wet, a towel and change of clothes, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, water bottle, and lunch. Dress for the weather – bring rain gear if necessary.

Upon successful completion of the you will be issued a pocket card indicating that you have completed the Canoeing Merit Badge Counselor Training.

When: 04/25/2015, 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Where: Camp William B. Snyder

Contact: Mike Meenehan, mmmeenehan@cox.net

Register: http://ncacbsa.site-

ym.com/events/event_details.asp?id=526200&group=120917# (available until

4/20/2015)

Religious Emblems Orientation & Training



When: March 14, 2015: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch provided.

Where: Groveton Baptist Church, 6511 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA

Cost: \$20 per participant.

Announcing an orientation and training course for adult leaders interested in using the God and Country/PRAY Awards Program with their unit. This training covers the awards, responsibilities of program leaders and counselors, and an overview of the Religious Emblems Coordinator position. Participants will get a bunch of resources to use with their units!

To register: http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/ncacbsa.siteym.com/resource/resmgr/Files/2015_God_&_Country_training_.pdf

Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor Training



Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor Training is 7 March. For more info go to http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/scouting.aspx. If you are a trained and active Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor in Goose Creek District, please contact George Birsic, Goose Creek's representative on the Arlington Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting, at goosecreek.ccosc@gmail.com.

Chartered Organization Representative Training



Are you a Chartered Organization Representative (COR)? Chartered Organization Representatives are the vital link in communication between the District, Council, Unit and Chartered Organization. To function effectively as a COR, you need to understand your relationship, roles and responsibilities. Come share your knowledge and learn with others about the important role of the COR.

Training the Chartered Organization Representative D72

Ashburn Library 43316 Hay Road Ashburn, VA 20147 703-737-8100 Sunday, March 8, 2015 1:30pm-2:30pm

Cascades Library 21030 Whitfield Place Potomac Falls, VA 20165 703-444-3228 Monday, March 9, 2015 7-9pm







Leave No Trace Trainer Courses and Master Educator Course



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

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

The **LNT Master Educator** course is a five-day course (split over two weekends) trains Scouts and Scouters ages 18 and up to serve as Leave No Trace Master Educators. Master Educators can conduct Leave No Trace Trainer courses (two-day) and awareness workshops (one-day or shorter).

This invaluable training is recognized and highly regarded throughout the world, especially by the outdoor industry, as well as government land management agencies. Successful graduates are certified to train others in Leave No Trace skills and ethics. The Master Educator Course provides participants with a comprehensive training in Leave No Trace skills and ethics through practical application in a field-based setting. The first weekend is a mix of classroom and outdoor instruction, introducing the course and schedule, providing in-depth information on the overall Leave No Trace program, how to conduct training courses, and the science behind the Leave No Trace principles. The second weekend is spent in the field on a short backcountry trip, learning and practicing Leave No Trace skills and techniques hands-on.

Virginia LNT Trainer Courses:

Location: Northern VA (location emailed upon registration)

- Spring 2015: Mar. 13 (indoor) + Mar. 21-22 (outdoor)
- Fall 2015: Oct 16 (indoor) + Oct 24-25 (outdoor)

Cost: \$75, non-refundable, which includes fees and materials. Meals are included.

http://www.ncacbsa.org/events/event_details.asp?id=580742&group=

LNT Master Educator Course:

When and Where: April 10-12, 2015, Blackburn Trail Center, Round Hill, VA, and April 23-26, 2015, Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA. Attendance at both weekends is required.

Cost: \$260, which includes meals for both weekends and a year's membership with LNT's Center for Outdoor Ethics.

http://www.ncacbsa.org/events/event_details.asp?id=583123&group=
Class sizes are limited, so register early!

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

Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills



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

The target audience is leaders planning High Adventure treks at backcountry venues not supported by BSA infrastructure; however, units planning to attend High Adventure bases supported by BSA will find this course useful, inasmuch as unit shakedowns will, most likely, take place in venues not supported by BSA infrastructure.

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

Part 2 — Participants will practice core leader skills for the outdoor program — Leave No Trace, navigation (map & compass plus GPS), terrain awareness, expedition menu planning and food preparation, stove and stove maintenance, wilderness first aid issues, expedition health and hygiene, team building. Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills is offered by the Council Training Committee as an optional follow-on to the basic course, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

Spring 2015 BCOLS (Maryland)

Part 1 - Sat. 3/14/2015 from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM Community Center (Alder Rd. and Acacia Rd. 3500 Alder Road Port Republic, MD

Part 2 - Sat. 4/25/2015, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 04/26/2015, 1:30 PM American Chestnut Land Trust 676 Double Oak Rd Prince Frederick, MD 20678

To register: http://www.ncacbsa.org/event/BCOLS2015

Fall 2015 BCOLS (Virginia)

Part 1 - Sat. 9/27/2015 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Aldersgate United Methodist Church 1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA

Part 2 - Sat. 10/25/2015, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 10/26/2015, 1:30 PM Camp Highroad, Middleburg, VA

Cost: \$45 Contact:

Margee Egan

margee.egan@scouting.org

Phone: 301-214-9197

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

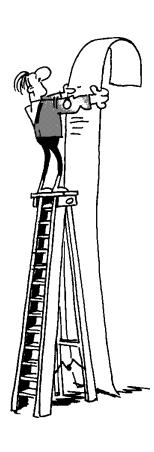
Location: Camp William B. Snyder, Haymarket, VA

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



March 2015

- 5 AOL Recognition Ceremony
- 7 District Pinewood Derby
- 8 COR Training
- 9 COR Training
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 21 Life-to-Eagle Seminar
- 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
- 24-26 OA Spring Ordeal

May 2015

- 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
- 20 Life-to-Eagle Seminar
- 24 District Committee
- 29-30 Day Camp Starts

July 2015

- 1-3 Day Camp
 - 4 Independence Day

August 2015

- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner RT
- 26 District Committee
- 31 School Starts

September 2015

- 7 Labor Day
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 19 Life-to-Eagle Seminar
- 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

- 2-3 Student Holiday
- 7 SFF Bag Distribution
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 14 SFF Food Pickup
- 18 District Committee
- 25-27 Student Holiday

December 2015

- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 16 Annual District
 Business
 Meeting
- 21 Winter Break Starts

January 2016

- 1 Winter Break Ends
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 18 MLK Jr. Day
- 27 District Committee
- 29 Moveable School Holiday

February 2016

- 7 Scout Sunday
- 13 Scout Sabbath
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 15 President's Day
- 24 District Committee