

Goose Creek District Newsletter



January 2016

Volume 7, Issue 6

from Scoutmaster Jerry, <http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2015/01/18/why-we-salute/>



Why we Salute

Over the years I have various discussions as to why we salute in Scouting. The question or discussion typically stems from a misunderstanding of what the salute means. Many of the discussions try to compare the Boy Scouts with the Military. This argument is not part of the Boy Scout tradition of saluting. Think about when we salute in Scouts, pretty much only to the Flag as we honor the Nation during the National Anthem, when we say the Pledge of Allegiance, and when we are presenting and retiring colors. We do not salute people, although it would not be inappropriate to do so. You see it is important to understand the salute and how it came about. Know that, it makes it more clear as to why we salute in Scouts.

The salute goes back way before the modern military and certainly before Scouting.

The tradition of saluting is commonly tracked back to the Knights of feudal times. It was a greeting used to show both respect and trust as the Knight raised the visor of his helmet showing his face. Modern Military tradition traces the hand salute, again as a sign of respect as the practice of removing ones hat was a sign of respect. In doing so, the hand placement led to the hand salute. A sign of respect. In the military, the salute is rendered from subordinate to leader as a sign of respect for his or her position. We render that same honor or show of respect when we salute the Flag of our Nation.

But the salute goes back father than the Knights of old. In ancient Greece the salute was a common greeting, the meaning still the same. Again we found this same salute in ancient Rome. These salutes were practiced more like our Founder Baden Powell intended. The original concept of Scouts saluting one another was a greeting. It was done by showing the Scout sign. This greeting moved to the salute as we know it when honoring our Nation's Flags and rendering honors to the Nation. So along with the left handed hand clasp, the salute or as it was know in 1907, "the secret sign" became a Scouting tradition.

Respect, Tradition, and Honor. That is why we salute in Scouting. It is not about authority or superiority. We salute because we promise to live values that include friendship and obedience. We make a promise to do our duty to our Country. Part of that duty is honoring the Nation.

So when folks ask why we salute, it is simple. I am a Scout and part of an organization that shows respect. Respect to one another and to our home.

Hope that helps in your next discussion over the fine tradition of saluting.

Special Interest:

District

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Advancement

- New Boy Scout Rank Requirements Now in Effect – pg 7
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Council/National

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

Training

- When are you Trained – pg 23
- Univ. of Scouting – pg 26

Quick Calendar:

- Jan 13 – Roundtable
- Jan 16 – Life to Eagle Training Seminar
- Jan 29-31 – Freeze-o-ree
- Feb 7 – Scout Sunday
- Feb 10 – Roundtable
- Feb 13 – Scout Sabbath
- Mar 3 – AOL Recognition Ceremony
- Mar 5 – District Pinewood Derby
- Mar 9 Roundtable

Newsletter Key:

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

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

Freeze-o-ree



Goose Creek's premier outdoor winter event – the annual Freeze-o-ree - will be held January 30 – February 1 at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in Hillsboro, VA. In addition to the traditional patrol Scoutcraft competitions in fire building, first aid skills, ax throwing, flag football, soccer, speed knot tying, and tug of war 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.

The Leaders Guide for this event is available on the OA web page at the District Web Site:

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

If you have any additional questions concerning the Freeze-O-Ree, feel free to send an email (hal.raffensperger@earthlink.net) or give him a call (703-717-2815).

District Committee



At the Annual District Business meeting on Dec 16th the Chartered Organization Representatives voted in the following Scouters to the Goose Creek Committee:

District Chairman – Lynn Chapman

District Commissioner – Kurt Struder

Vice-Chair Communications – Chuck Burkett

Vice-Chair Finance – Donna Stuck

Vice-Chair Membership – Stacey Noll

Vice-Chair Program – Steven Wolfson

Webelos-o-ree Monkey Bridge Photos



Photos of many of the Webelos who braved Rippy the Gator to cross the monkey bridge at the Webelos-o-ree are available at:

www.troop761.org/WEBELOS

Scroll through to see if you can find your Scout! Troop 761 hopes your Scouts had as much fun crossing the Monkey Bridge as their Scouts had building it.

Webelos-o-ree Patches



If you didn't pick up your Webelos-o-ree patches at the last Roundtable please contact Webelosoree@GooseCreekDistrict.org to arrange for a pickup/mailling.

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

Loudoun School Calendar 2016-2017



Loudoun County Public School Board members set the 2016-2017 school calendar at their December 1 Board meeting.

- August 29: First Day of School
- September 5: Holiday (Labor Day)
- October 10: Holiday (Columbus Day)
- November 4: End of the Grading Period
- November 7-8: Student Holidays (Planning/Records/Conference Days)
- November 23-25: Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- December 22-January 2: Winter Break (Classes Resume January 3)
- January 16: Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- January 26: End of Grading Period
- January 27: Moveable Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
- February 20: Holiday (Presidents' Day)
- April 6: End of Grading Period
- April 7: Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
- April 10-14: Holiday (Spring Break)
- May 29: Holiday (Memorial Day)
- June 9: Last Day of School/End of Grading Period

2016 Resource Guide



Have you ever found yourself searching through back issues of the newsletter looking for an article you remembered reading? Or wondering if a past issue of the newsletter had information on a subject from before you started receiving it? If so we have an answer for you.

With 11 issues a year our newsletter covers a lot of topics and while some of them are about specific events, many are not (such as how to get people to send Eagle congratulatory letters) and are still pertinent.

So at the start of each year we:

1. Look through all of our past issues, from 2011 on, and pull the non-event articles to see if they are still valid and that any URL's listed are still active,
2. Determine what category each article falls into (Program Development, Advancement, Camping, Hiking, Equipment & Gear, Cooking, Scout Skills, and the ever popular 'Miscellaneous'),
3. See if they fall into a specific subcategory (for example, Advancement has subcategories for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Eagle, Merit Badges, ...),
4. And put all of this into one big Resource Guide. It's about 200 pages and 5MB in size.

The 2016 Resource Guide is now ready and can be downloaded from the Newsletter section of the District website (though it may take our webmaster a few days to get it up on the site from when we sent it to him). We hope you find it as useful as many of you have told us our regular newsletters have been.

Wreaths Across America



Troop 1154 Scouts were busy in the community in December. On December 4th, Scouts attended the Peace Light ceremony in Chantilly. The Peace Light is lit from a candle in Vienna which in turn was lit from an eternal flame in the Grotto of the Church in Bethlehem. Scouts from around the world gather annually in Vienna to become bearers of the Light. On December 12th, Scouts participated in the Wreaths Across America Day ceremony at the Ball's Bluff National Cemetery in Leesburg on December 12, 2015. Wreath Ceremonies are held at over 500 cemeteries in the U.S. and overseas to remember and honor members of our Armed Forces. On December 13th, Scouts volunteered at an INOVA blood drive at the Washington Redskins practice facility in Ashburn.



(Scouts with retired Redskin player, Ken Harvey)

Missing Article



We always have space all reserved in the newsletter for articles about our units and Scouts but only a few units have sent us any information about what they have been doing. There must be other units out there that have been doing something besides having meetings. We know that Eagle projects have been completed and we expect that some units have had anniversaries or someone who got a special award.

This newsletter should be as much about our Scouts as it is about events coming up. And to do that we need your help. If your unit, den, patrol, crew, or Eagle Scout has done a special service project, gone somewhere different, camped somewhere unusual, or had a special event, we'd like to hear about it and we think the rest of the district would too. What you've done might just be the spark another unit needs to enhance their own program.

We don't require a long article, just a few sentences, and maybe a picture. You don't have to be a great writer, after all, most of us aren't great readers.

When you do have something to brag about please send it to Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org. Please try to have it submitted by the 20th of the month so it can go out in our draft version to the proofreaders. We can take articles later than that but no promises on it making the newsletter being put together (but it not it will be in the next).

Feeding the Homeless



In December Troop 1941 Scouts made one of their twice a year trips to DC to bring over 300 sandwiches to the homeless.



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

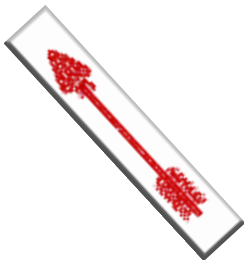
Chapter News for our Arrowmen
Lodge Website: www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA

Annual Dues - 2016



Arrowmen, it is that time of the year again - annual dues are due (\$14). 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 2016. 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.

Troop Elections



The annual OA Troop Election season runs through May 31, 2016. Troops may hold only one election per season and it is recommended that the election be held prior to April 1, 2016. This will allow all elected candidates to be recognized at the Spring Call Out ceremony (Spring Camporee, April 8-10) and attend the Goose Creek Chapter Ordeal the weekend of April 30, 2016. If you wish to have Arrowmen visit your Troop prior to the elections, to discuss the OA with your Scouts, please contact the Goose Creek Chapter Chief, Nick Stanford (chapterchief@goosecreekdistrict.org). If you would like to schedule an OA Election, Scoutmasters should send an email to the Vice-Chief for OA Elections (gc_oa_election_request@goosecreekdistrict.org) and provide the following information:

- Scoutmaster Name; email address; phone number
- Troop OA Representative Name
- Troop Number
- Troop Meeting Location & Time
- Requested Election Date
- Alternate Election Date (In case of inclement weather)

The Vice-Chief for OA Elections will confirm the receipt of your request within one week and confirm your election date within one month.

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

“Onward and Upward” On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles (Note: this list includes Scouts that, during the year, had been reported directly to Council and not through the District and therefore had not been recognized in a previous newsletter):

Nyle Abedin – Troop 786
Jacob Adams – Troop 1106
Noah Anderson – Crew 533
Kyle Askew – Crew 1174
Campbell Hayes Baker – Troop 163
Luke Borman – Troop 572
Anson Brasselle – Troop 1910
Henri Brown – Troop 163
Jacob Browning – Troop 572
Samuel Burke – Troop 572
Luke Ellis – Troop 572
Andrew Charles Fincher – Troop 163
Joshua Freeman – Crew 1174
Lucas Caleb Greenwell – Troop 761
Samuel Hagood – Troop 1430
Kent Halstead – Troop 966
Matthew Harper – Troop 1430
Omeed Joseph Hemmat – Troop 786
David Hessler – Troop 950
Matthew Holdridge – Troop 961
Andrew Humpton – Troop 572
Abduelwahab Hussein – Troop 786
Kyle Alexander Jordan – Troop 996
Cooper Lush – Crew 953
Andres Merida – Troop 1910
Curtis Murray – Troop 1174
Adam Neumiller – Crew 533
Jacob Peletier – Troop 2010
Ronald Savino – Troop 572
W Jackson (Jack) Shangraw – Troop 956
Christopher Silva – Troop 572
Haroon Sohail – Troop 786
John Whitney Spriggs III – Troop 997
Christian Tessman – Troop 572
Joshua Toohey – Troop 572
Justin Paul Traenkle – Troop 572
Jacob Tyler – Crew 1174
Ranjit Virk – Troop 572
Gage Worthington – Crew 1173

New Boy Scout Rank Requirements are Now In Effect



It's January 1, 2016 and the new Boy Scout rank requirements are now in effect!!

So the question is: Who has to follow the new requirements immediately and who can still use the old ones, and when do they have to switch over to the new ones?

- Any boy that now joins Boy Scouts starts with the new requirements, with the first rank they need to earn being the 'new' Scout rank.
- Scouts that are currently working towards 1st Class (which includes working on Tenderfoot and 2nd Class) may continue to use the old requirements until they reach 1st Class (exception: see last bullet). They must use the new requirements for Star.
- Scouts working on Star, Life, and Eagle may continue to use the old requirements (exception: see last bullet). Once they achieve that rank they use the new requirements for the next rank.
- Any Scout has the right to immediately switch over to the new requirements if they want to. Once they start with the new requirements, however, they may not switch back to the old ones.
- **On January 1, 2017 ALL Scouts, regardless of the rank they are working on, switch over to the new requirements.** So on that date, even if they have only one requirement left for a rank (and this includes just the Board of Review remaining), they will have to do all of the new requirements that hadn't been covered by the old ones.

Life-to-Eagle Seminar (Training)



The next installment of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek is coming soon. 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 strongly 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.

First one in 2016: January 16, from 10:30-1:15 at the Gum Spring Library; 24600 Millstream Drive, Stone Ridge, VA

Future ones in 2016 are being targeted for: April 16, July 16, and Oct 15. All locations and times are TBD.

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.

New Boy Scout Requirements Put More Emphasis on Physical Fitness



The new Boy Scout rank requirements put a greater emphasis on Scouts being physically active. There are new requirements at Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class that require Scouts to do what they love to do: move around a lot. The Personal Fitness merit badge, meanwhile, remains a requirement to earn the Eagle Scout rank.

Why the new focus on physical activity? Because childhood obesity is a real thing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the percentage of adolescents age 12 to 19 (read: Boy Scout age) who were obese increased from 5 percent in 1980 to nearly 21 percent in 2012. This is the BSA doing its part.

To earn Tenderfoot in 2016 and beyond, Scouts must show improvement in their time walking or running one mile. That's up from one-quarter mile in the previous requirements. Scouts don't need to be Roger Bannister to check this one off. They need only show improvement of any degree in their one-mile time after 30 days; "improvement" could be a single second.

Pullups, an especially tough requirement for many Scouts, even those in great physical shape, have been dropped from the requirements altogether. (Sam Bennett, an exciting young player for the NHL's Calgary Flames, famously couldn't do a single pull-up in the NHL draft combine.)

To earn both the Second Class and First Class ranks in 2016 and beyond, Scouts will be required to be physically active at least 30 minutes a day for five days a week. They need to do that for four weeks and keep track of their activities.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

Coming Soon: NCAC's New Website!



We get a lot of feedback from the twice-yearly Voice of the Scout surveys, and recently a lot of it has been about our Council's website. Based on this feedback - and extensive discussions with unit and district leaders - we are pleased to announce NCAC's new website will be launching in January 2016!

Chances are you have already seen some of the changes. If you have registered for an event online recently, you probably used the new system. The site's design and navigation are also getting a complete overhaul but the URL will stay the same - www.NCACBSA.org. You will probably need to update bookmarks to specific pages, though. Also, our online store will be down for a while during the transition so you will have to buy your CSPs at the MSSC or stock up now!

If you want a preview of the site you can check it out at www.ncacbsa.org/preview but please remember everything there is still under construction.

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

2016 Goshen Summer Camp Availability



Key: Available Almost Full Full

Camp (as of 03/25/2015)		Week					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bowman (opens one day sooner than other camps) (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 – 6/26 to 7/2
 Week 2 – 7/3 to 7/9
 Week 3 – 7/10 to 7/16

Week 4 – 7/17 to 7/23
 Week 5 – 7/24 to 7/30
 Week 6 – 7/31 to 8/6

Fees:

Due Date – April 15: Youth \$360, Adults \$225

Due Date – May 20: Youth \$400, Adults \$265

Registration is now live for Goshen Scout Reservation's 2016 program! To reserve your unit's spot today please go to register.GoToGoshen.org, then let all your friends know on Facebook!

This summer will see a familiar face around GSR, Philip Barbash, in a new role as Reservation Director! We are also using a new registration system powered by Black Pug Software. This system has proven successful with other large councils, including Greater St. Louis, Crossroads of America, and Northern Star. Check it out and let us know what you think.

Tech Talk 2016



Come to "Tech Talk!" at the Microsoft Store! "Tech Talk!" for Cub Scouts at the Microsoft Westfield Store is on the first Tuesday of every month: Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, etc., and at the Microsoft Tysons Corner Store on the first Thursday of every month: Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5.

Also, get a 10% discount at the Tysons Corner Microsoft store at a VIP Scout event on December 6. Come and join the VIP party, enjoy the shopping discount, and learn about Microsoft's classes for Scouts!

Goshen Specialty Camps



Goshen's Specialty Week for 2016 will be held during the week of July 31st to August 6th at Camp Marriott. Trail to Eagle, Beach & Yacht, Field & Stream, and The Marriott Project are the featured programs for this year. Instead of regular Merit Badge program, participants select one of the four themed programs and engage in activities, Merit Badges, awards, and other offerings based around that program theme. Specialty Week is traditionally largely attended by provisional Scouts (attending individually instead of with a unit), but is also open to units. 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)

Back for a second year! Explore the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields outdoors! 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

Trail to Eagle is our most popular provisional program, which offers older scouts the opportunity to enjoy a week of fun, advancement, and growth towards becoming an Eagle Scout. Our camp staff is joined by additional volunteer merit badge counselors who are experts specializing in a particular merit badge. 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. We emphasize quality instruction and activities to help the scouts truly become Eagle Scouts.

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 badges during this week. Our staff of lifeguards is ready to provide a great week of fun and learning. Remember your sunscreen!

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.

For more information about these Specialty Camps go to: http://ncacbsa.site-ym.com/members/group_content_view.asp?group=119323&id=282474

Money-Saving Tips to Help You Experience Scouting to the Fullest



From campfires to courts of honor, Scouting provides life-changing experiences. Lack of funds should not keep Scouts from making the most of the program, but expenses add up — particularly when families boast more than one Scout. In the spirit of thriftiness, *Scouting Magazine* has gathered ideas to help you save money in Scouting and beyond.

<http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/money-saving-tips-to-help-you-experience-scouting-to-the-fullest/>

How to Have a Smooth — and Successful — Webelos Transition



Each year as Webelos Scouts advance into Boy Scouting, many of these potential Scouts — because of lack of interest, poor relationships or unfamiliarity with the new program — fall through the cracks and leave Scouting for good.

“Preparing a boy for Boy Scouts is one of the purposes of Cub Scouts,” says Bob Scott, the BSA’s Cub Scout experience manager. “It’s very important that Cub Scout leaders understand and plan toward that transition.”

Why is the transition so crucial?

“Studies show that the longer a boy stays in the Scouting program, the more likely he is to demonstrate those behaviors and attitudes associated with good citizenship, character and fitness,” Scott explains. “For boys to benefit fully from the Scouting program, they need to experience not only the fun of Cub Scouting but also the skills and leadership opportunities of Boy Scouting.”

The BSA’s guidelines recommend the Webelos transition passage from Cub Scout pack to Boy Scout troop be smooth, with no time lost in between. To help Cub Scout parents and leaders ensure an effective transition into Boy Scouting, *Scouting Magazine* has compiled the following tips:

<http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/how-to-have-a-smooth-and-successful-webelos-transition/>

2016 Wreaths Across America Clean-up Day



If you'd like an immensely satisfying time giving service to our veterans, consider participating at the January 23, 2016 Wreaths Across America clean-up day at Arlington National Cemetery:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/events/arlington/. In past years, about 1,000 dedicated workers have spent several hours helping to clear out over 100,000 wreaths and neatly stacking them in bins located around the cemetery. Parking on clean-up day is easier if you have a ANC Family Pass because you can park in the garage for free until 3:00 PM. They have usually been done before noon for the last several years and it's a sight to behold to see the gravesites with holiday wreaths on them.

Dremel and Lowe's Pinewood Derby Days



The 2016 Dremel Pinewood Derby Days Program, brought to you through Lowe's Home Improvement Stores, aims to provide you with a source for all of the materials and know-how you need to create a winning Pinewood Derby car you can be proud of – regardless of your skill level.

Starting in early-January and running through early-February for select Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., local Lowe's stores will be hosting Pinewood Derby® car clinics to share their tips and tricks for making the fastest cars on race day. Please give your local store a call to see if and when they are hosting one.

Everyone who attends an event will be given a:

- How-to demonstration
- Step-by-step instructions for building your car at home
- Pinewood Derby® Days patch

Important!!! Before building your car make sure you check your Pack's construction rules. If your car is to race in the District derby then it must also follow the District's Derby Construction rules posted on the district website.

10 Tips for Planning the Best Pinewood Derby Ever



The Internet is full of resources for Cub Scouts wanting to make a better, faster Pinewood Derby car. But what about parents and Scouters wanting to plan a better Pinewood Derby?

Check out these 10 Pinewood Derby planning tips from Bryan on Scouting:
<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/15/10-tips-for-planning-the-best-pinewood-derby-ever/>

Keeping Pinewood Derby 'Dynamos' Under Control on Race Day



How can you keep rowdy Cub Scouts occupied when not involved in racing their pinewood derby cars? Some Scouting magazine readers suggested a variety of activities, competitions, and of course, plenty of good eats:

<http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/scouters-speak-keeping-derby-dynamos-under-control-on-race-day/>

How to Host a Pinewood Derby Workshop with Your Pack



WHEN 90 PERCENT of your Cub Scouts show up at an event, you must be doing something right. That was the case last February when Pack 402 in Urbana, Ill., held its first pinewood derby workshop. Offered a few weeks before the pack's annual race, the Saturday workshop offered apartment dwellers, single moms, and not-so-crafty dads access to the tools and expertise some Cub Scout families take for granted. Read more at:

<http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/host-a-pinewood-derby-workshop/>

Camp Fraser Approved for Scout Use



Hidden deep in the woods of Great Falls is a scouting treasure called Camp Fraser, which has recently been approved by NCAC for use by scouting units throughout the area.

The facility lies on approximately 76 acres of wooded land, surrounded by more than 220 acres of Fraser Preserve, an undeveloped area managed by the Nature Conservancy. The camp provides areas for tent camping as well as indoor bunkhouse camping and a full commercial grade kitchen and meeting room suitable for pack meetings and ceremonies. There is also a climbing wall which requires advance reservation, and hiking trails leading to the banks of the Potomac.

Camp Fraser is available by reservation for user-run programs, retreats, events, or other usage. Please contact CampFraser@livingclassroomsdc.org for any questions or booking requests.

Tips for Deducting Scouting-Related Expenses on Your Income Tax Return



When Baden-Powell said "Be Prepared," We're pretty sure he wasn't talking about income tax returns.

But still, there's no better advice than that two-word phrase during tax time.

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

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

If you don't know the answers to those questions then you might want to check out Bryan On Scouting article about what is and is not deductible and for some helpful tips from others on how to keep everything organized:

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



- If your husband plans a "night out with the boys", and you know that it will be a night _outdoors_ with boys ... you might be a Scouter's wife.
- If you spend your honeymoon wearing green shorts and knee socks ... you might be a new Scouter's wife.
- If your best china cup has a 1995 Camporee logo on it .. you might be a Scouter's wife.
- If you tell your husband you are expecting to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, and he thinks the PLC meeting is at your house tonight ... you might be a Scouter's wife.
- If your husband brings home three rolls of red-white-and-blue ribbon to be sewn into Mothers' ribbons, and says "Don't worry, the Court of Honor isn't until tomorrow night and we only need 15 made" .. and you don't have a sewing machine ... and you get it done ... you might be a Scouter's wife.
- If you just "know" that the sun room will be finished, right after the next OA workday ... you might be a Scouter's wife.

Three Awards Recognize Tenure in Scouting



You can identify veteran Scouts and Scouters by their well-worn uniforms, their beyond-broken-in hiking boots, and the patches on their shirts and brag vests. But the BSA also offers awards that take the guesswork out of figuring out just how long someone has been around. Service stars, attendance pins and veteran pins are three ways you can show off your tenure in Scouting. Here's an introduction.

What are service stars? Small pins that indicate how many years of tenure a Scout or Scouter has in the BSA. Each star is worn on a circular backing whose color indicates which phase of Scouting it represents.

What do the colors indicate? Four colors represent youth service: gold for Cub Scouting (including Webelos Scouts), green for Boy Scouting, brown for Varsity Scouting and red for Venturing and Sea Scouts. Adult service is shown with a blue backing. Adults may combine their youth and adult tenure and just wear stars with blue backing.

How do the stars show the number of years of service? Each star displays a number. The youth or adult member combines stars to show his or her years of service. For example, a boy who was a Cub Scout for four years and a Boy Scout for six years would wear a four-year service star on a gold backing and a six-year service star on a green backing. An adult with 27 years of service would wear two stars on blue backing: a 20-year service star and a seven-year service star.

What service stars are available? Stars are available in one-year increments from one to 10. After that, they go in five- or 10-year increments up to 90. Pins and backing may be purchased at local Scout shops.

Where are service stars worn? Above the left pocket of the uniform shirt. If a medal or an embroidered knot is worn, service stars are worn a quarter of an inch above the medal or knot.

Who is eligible to wear service stars? Any youth or adult member with at least one year of tenure.

Must a person's tenure be continuous? No. Someone who was a Scout as a youth and returned years later as an adult could wear stars representing both periods of tenure.

What are attendance pins? Attendance pins are worn by youth members in all programs to reward regular attendance.

Who decides what regular attendance means? The unit leader.

How do attendance pins indicate years of attendance? Each pin includes a bar that shows the number of years. Pins are available in one-year increments from one to 10 years. Pins may be purchased at local Scout shops.

Where are attendance pins worn? Above the left pocket of the uniform shirt.

What is the Veteran Award? The Veteran Award recognizes adults for their tenure in Scouting. (Note, however, that tenure earned as a youth member may be included.) Veterans agree to live up to their Scouting obligations, make themselves available for service and be active in promoting Scouting as circumstances permit. They must also be currently registered in the BSA. Veterans receive a veteran pin, which is for non-uniform wear.

2017 National Jamboree Registration is Now Open



Registration for 2017 National Scout Jamboree, to be held from July 19 to July 28, 2017, is now **OPEN!**

Scout Participant Qualifications

- Scouts and team members **MUST** have a current BSA membership with a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team.
- **MUST** be at least a First Class Scout.
- **MUST** be at least 12 years of age by the first day of the Jamboree or an 11 year old that has graduated the 6th grade, but has not reached their 18th birthday by the last day of the Jamboree.
- Be approved by the unit leader and local council.
- **MUST** have appropriate parent/guardian to complete the online parental consent. (An email will be sent to the parent/guardian during the application process.)
- Participate in pre-Jamboree training experience with local council and unit leader.
- Filed a BSA Health & Medical Record with their council within one year of attending the Jamboree. (The local council will provide specifics closer to the Jamboree.)
- Submit all registrations fees per the local council's payment schedule.

To submit an application, you will need your My.Scouting username and password. If you do not have a My.Scouting account, please go to <http://My.Scouting.org> and follow the directions to create an account.

If you need technical support, call Member Care Services at (972) 580-2489.

A handful of things to be sure of:

- The My.Scouting account needs to be in the name of the person attending the Jamboree, not the parent/guardian that is completing the application for a youth participant.
- The My.Scouting account you use should also be linked to your current BSA membership number.
- The membership number that you linked to your Jamboree application will be linked to the entire process, including your BSA Health & Medical Record.
- All applicants must have a current, non-expired, BSA membership.
- Use Chrome, Firefox or IE 10 or above to access the Jamboree application. Other browsers may not be compatible with this system.

For more information about the Jamboree and to register, go to:

www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/overview/

Journey to Excellence 2016



Each year, the team of volunteers that manage the Journey to Excellence process evaluate the previous year's statistics, correlate the results with the aims and goals of our movement, and make adjustments to try to help move closer to the ideal goal of a well-run unit.

In contrast to the first couple of years where the checklist items changed substantially, we now seem to be at a point where the list has stabilized. There have been a few tweaks but they are generally minor in nature and are intended to better reflect the actual performance of successful units.

Cub Scout Packs, here's what has been changed for 2016:

- Item 1 – Planning and Budget. The Gold level now asks the pack to conduct a planning meeting involving the den leaders. Previously, the annual program only needed to be presented by October 31. The date has been deleted.
- Item 3 – Retention. Previously, a pack could have a lower level of retention than the target if it could show an improvement in order to qualify at each level. Now, the metric must be met (60, 65 and 75 percent for the three levels).
- Item 4 – Webelos to Scout transition. Gold level formerly required the pack to have at least one active Den Chief. Recognizing that Den Chiefs can be hard to come by, the 2016 checklist deletes that requirement.
- Item 5 – Advancement. Clarifying wording during the year has been added to the percentages of Scouts required to advance. Year refers to calendar year, not Scouting year.
- Item 10 – Leadership recruitment. Silver level previously required the committee to identify the next program year's den and pack leadership prior to May 31. Now, it just has to be prior to the recruiting event. And there's a little more time to recruit den leaders for Gold level; where formerly October 15 was the cutoff, it's now October 31.
- Item 11 – Trained leadership. For Bronze level, completing position-specific training is now required for the Cubmaster, an assistant Cubmaster or the Pack Trainer. The requirement that all leaders complete "orientation" (presumably Fast Start Training) has been dropped. The hope is that trained top leaders and the pack trainer will encourage other leaders to become trained as well.

Overall, point values are the same as last year and the total number of points has remained unchanged.

Boy Scout Troops, there are only a couple changes at the troop level:

- Item 3 – Retention. As with the Cub Scout pack checklist, the provision to show improvement at a lower level of retention has been eliminated.
- Item 5 – Advancement. Again, showing improvement at a lower level is no longer an option.
- Item 11 – Trained leadership. Similar to the Cub Scout change, the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster must have completed position-specific training – not just the Fast Start orientation. And for Gold, the requirement that one person has attended Wood Badge is changed to an advanced training course. Any course that continues a Scouter down the road past his or her basic training could be considered advanced. Some examples are Powderhorn, Wilderness First Aid, Okpik or presumably any of the advanced courses conducted at Philmont.

As you complete your 2015 evaluation, look ahead to 2016 and see where you can improve. Get your adult leaders trained! Work with your commissioner if you have any questions about Journey to Excellence.

Tips to Remember When Animal Proofing Your Campsite



If an animal can't smell your food, it won't get your food! Keep a scrupulously clean camp. Pick up, seal and pack out every scrap of uneaten food. Pack leftovers inside odor-proof plastic bags (such as Loksak, loksak.com). Another option is a bear canister, which is made of strong plastic with a heavy-duty lid that animals cannot pry open. Don't forget: Always handle odor-proof bags or a canister with clean hands!

It's OK to smell like the great outdoors. Artificial smells also attract wild animals. A bear that's a mile from your camp won't smell your freeze-dried spaghetti, but it will smell deodorant. Avoid using any scented "smellables," such as lotions or soaps. If you choose to use a smellable, do so in the morning so the smell deteriorates before bedtime. Always change into clean clothes that have not been exposed to these scented products before bed. Any smellable products must be sealed in an odor-proof bag and stored away from camp with your food.

If an animal can't see your food, it won't get your food! Once an animal finds food in a pack, box or can, it will seek out similar containers with hopes of securing a meal. This means you should keep ice chests, boxes and packs out of sight. And don't store food in tents or other places where people gather.

Hanging your food doesn't mean it's out of reach. A bear cub can climb a 70-foot-tall tree in about 10 seconds. Mama bear can climb, too — slower than her cub, but faster than you. So "treeing" your food won't necessarily keep it safe from critters that climb. Why, then, do many park authorities ask campers to hang their food? For your own safety!

Separating food and humans is the safest solution. Most campsites have only a few trees with horizontal branches that meet the guidelines for hanging food (about 20 feet high and approximately 8 feet from the trunk of the tree, according to the Fieldbook), and animals that climb know them all. If you do tree your food, do not use the same tree as everyone else. (Unless you're at a Scout camp, like Philmont, with designated poles and cables used specifically to hang food bags.)

Another option: Take your food out of camp and hide it in the woods. Do this only if it's packed in a waterproof and odor-proof container, like a bear canister or bear box supplied at some park campsites.

Make garbage a priority. Scouting practices lean heavily on Leave No Trace ethics. Among these principles is the act of setting up your sleeping area at least 200 feet from where your unit will cook or store anything smellable. Always clean up spilled food or leftover food particles, and you must strain all wash water and distribute it at least 200 feet from camp.

In terms of trash, Scouts pack out everything they pack in. This should, of course, be done with caution. Carrying garbage in your pack while hiking through bear country could be a recipe for an attack. Make sure the garbage is sealed in an odor-proof bag or container. In some instances (if park-permitted), you might wish to burn food scraps instead of carrying them in your pack in areas highly populated by bears. And you should never throw leftover food down park toilets or box latrines.

Chipmunks, squirrels and other rodents are usually a bigger nuisance than bears. Fortunately, the rules that work to help deter bears work for these animals, too. Just because a squirrel doesn't pose a threat to your life doesn't mean you should forget about animal-proofing techniques when you're not camping in bear country.

Quiz Yourself on How Well You Know How to Animal-Proof a Campsite



Ask people what they're most afraid of on a camping trip, and they're likely to say "bears!" Some are afraid they'll be eaten alive by one; others are worried that a bear will get into their food. But raccoons, chipmunks and rodents are generally more worrisome camp robbers than bears.

Test yourself with this quiz to see how much you know about animal-proofing your campsite: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/04/quiz-well-know-animal-proof-campsite/>

2016 We the Students Essay Contest



Boy Scouts analyze and discuss the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights as part of the Eagle-required Citizenship in the Nation merit badge.

Now one Scout's interpretation of the role of the Bill of Rights in modern society could result in some free cash for college — and for his troop.

One Boy Scout will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for himself and \$500 for his troop by winning the 2016 We the Students Essay Contest, sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute.

The essay competition challenges students age 14 to 19 to write a 500- to 800-word essay about the Bill of Rights. It's open to anyone — young men and young women, Scouts and non-Scouts. But there's a special prize that's only available to Boy Scouts.

Deadlines: The deadline for a student to submit his or her essay is Feb. 7, 2016. Winners will be announced April 12, 2016.

How to enter: Learn more and enter at: www.billofrightsinstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/

The prompt: "The Founders believed in the sanctity/vital importance of the individual liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. To what extent (or in what ways) has our government compromised on these liberties in the name of security or the general welfare? In your answer, incorporate the principles and specific examples (including current events) that support your conclusion."

Winter Camping Tips and Tricks to Help You Enjoy the Fourth Season



There's nothing like camping in cold weather. The bugs are gone, and campsites that were crowded in summer are largely yours alone. And if there's snow, new adventures beckon: Ski or snowshoe a trail; follow animal tracks; sleep in a snow trench or quinzee hut.

Winter camping is wonderful — that is, if you know what you're doing. The dangers are dehydration, hypothermia and frostbite. Before you set out, read this *Scouting* magazine article: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/winter-camping-tips/>

Test Your Knowledge of Winter Camping with this Quiz



Try this simple 10 question quiz to see how well you would manage winter camping: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2012/12/a-quiz-to-test-your-knowledge-of-winter-camping/>

MITRE's 2016 Scout Engineering Day



The fifth annual Scout Engineering Day, Saturday, March 12, 2016, will host nearly 400 Scouts to attend STEM courses. The following STEM classes are planned for this year:

Astronomy	Electricity	Oceanography
Aviation	Energy	Programming
Chemistry	Engineering	Robotics
Composite Materials	Game Design	Space Exploration
Drafting	Model Design and Building	Sustainability
Electronics	Nuclear Science	Weather

Registration will open to Scouts approximately 30 days prior to the event. Because the MITRE campus is a secure facility, registration and entrance is for U.S. citizens only. Keep checking the NCAC STEM site for the registration opening: www.ncacbsa.org/STEM.

Sea Base 2017



Spots for 2017 will again be reserved through an online lottery system. The 2017 registration lottery will open on Jan. 15, 2016, and close on Feb. 15, 2016. Look for a brochure sent in December to unit leaders and committee chairpeople.

Many of the spots for 2016 were filled earlier this year. (Though you should contact Sea Base and keep an eye on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FloridaSeaBase) for news of last-minute openings.)

How to register and learn more: Call 305-664-4173 or visit the Sea Base website: www.bsaseabase.org/seabase.aspx

Be on Staff for Goshen Camporee 2017



2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Goshen Scout Reservation, and to celebrate, Council is throwing a huge party with a council-wide camporee! Volunteers of all different skills are needed to be part of the team. If you are interested in helping out, send an email to camporee@ncacbsa.org.

Note: There will be no District Spring Camporee in 2017

10th Annual Powhatan District Akela Chess Classic



The Akela Chess Classic is a five-round touch-move chess tournament. There are two competitive brackets: Tiger/Wolf and Bear/Webelos.

Awards are issued for top finishers by rank: Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light.

Schedule (Feb 6, 2016, 8 AM – 4 PM):

- Check-in starts at 8 AM.
- Rounds are at 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, and 2 PM.
- Bring your own lunch; lunch is 12-1.
- The award ceremony is at 3:30 PM.

Any Tiger, Cub Scout, or Webelos Scout with a clear understanding of the rules of chess may participate. Participating scouts must know the basic rules of chess:

- how the pieces move
- the object of the game
- and castling rules,
- and should be mature enough to handle victory and defeat.

No instruction on the basic rules of chess will be given as part of the tournament. A brief description of the tournament rules will be explained before the start of the tournament. These include touch move - if a piece is touched it must be moved.

Scouts should wear uniforms and bring a bag lunch.

Chess board and pieces will be provided.

Fee: \$15 per Scout. Includes: Participation patch, rocker patch, and engraved awards for top finishers.

Please contact either: Roger Claff, reclaff@aol.com, or Peter Snow, chessacademician@aol.com, if you plan to attend, would like to volunteer or need additional information.

2016 Summer Camp Counselors at Camp Snyder



Camp Snyder is looking for some friendly, outgoing, fun and responsible individuals age 15 and up to be camp counselors, and age 18 and up to lead our Fort, Big Dig, Ship, Nature, and Handicraft program areas. If you are 21 and up you are eligible to receive training to become a director of our popular BB and Archery ranges, or Waterfront and Pool activities.

To apply go to www.GoToSnyder.com or contact Shirley Couteau for more information: (571) 248-4904, Shirley.Couteau@Scouting.org

On-Line Resource of the Month



Baloo's Bugle (<http://usscouts.org/bbugle.asp>) has been publishing a monthly web magazine for Cub Scout leaders since 1996. It's an extensive compilation of resources from Scouters around the country, Pow-Wow and Scouters' Conference publications, and other sources organized to follow each monthly theme. Think of it as a Roundtable magazine. Baloo's Bugle can be a lifesaver when planning your monthly pack meetings, and you'll find it among your most valuable go-to resources. All the back issues are there and you can use those resources if they fit your den program – the boys will never know!

Books

Whittling and Woodcarving



Written in the thirties this is the whittler's magnum opus. In this volume Mr. Tangerman, who was one of America's foremost authorities and craftsmen, whose articles in craft magazines have taught and inspired millions, presents a full and thorough introduction to this entertaining art form. With this book, which is one of the few works that bridge the gap between whittling and serious carving, a beginner who is moderately handy can whittle or carve scores of useful objects, toys for children, gifts, or simply pass hours at applying his ingenuity to wood.

Beginning with a history of whittling and woodcarving, the book progresses gradually and easily. The first chapters supply background information on different woods, their proper selection and possible uses, selection and care of knives, and ways of using tools, including grips, types of strokes and cuts, and simple exercises. The following chapters cover rustic work, flat toys and windmills, puzzles, chains, nested spheres, fans, joints, modeling ships in bottles, and caricatures. The second half of the book covers carving proper and describes simple lines, woodcuts, low-relief pierced designs, sculpture in the round, inlay and marquetry, lettering, indoor and outdoor decorations, and styles. The final chapter describes finishing, repairs, and the care of tools. The wide range of illustrations includes both hundreds of beautiful wood objects from the great art of the world and hundreds of modern projects, many of which are contest winners.

Equipment / Gear / Tips

NEOS Overshoes for Warm Feet When Standing in the Winter



“NEOS” stands for “New England Overshoes.” An overshoe is just what the name says: It’s a shoe that goes over another shoe.

Actually, it’s more like a boot. Simply put on your normal street shoe, then step into the overshoe, then close up the overshoe. (NEOS recommends that if you plan to wear boots inside your NEOS to purchase a size up for more room to accommodate the boots.) They come in insulated, non-insulated models and a number of reviews talk about how useful they were for camping and winter hikes.

Overshoes are a little bulky to wear since they wrap around your regular shoes and need enough opening to slip your shoes into, but from people's experience the bulkiness is not limiting and they are easy to tighten. They look and feel a bit like astronaut shoes. Of interest to the stand-in, NEOS add a little height to your body — about 1 inch.

Flashlights: How to Choose



Although headlamps have surged in popularity, flashlights remain a good choice whenever a handheld light is preferred, such as:

- any time you want the strongest portable beam available.
- when dexterity and precision in controlling the light is important.
- being able to set down a light to work on a task.
- signaling.

Advances in LED (light-emitting diode) technology and battery efficiency have resulted in flashlights that are smaller, lighter and brighter than they were just a few years ago.

What is the best LED flashlight for you? This article will help you narrow your selection: www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/flashlight.html

Headlamps: How to Choose



When you’re setting up your tent at night, trail running at dusk, or just looking for something in your attic, you can't beat the hands-free lighting convenience offered by a headlamp. Headlamps today use LEDs almost exclusively as their light source. LEDs are rugged, energy-efficient and long-lasting.

So, what sets one headlamp apart from another? How do you know what to buy? To find out look at this article: www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/headlamp.html

Training Opportunities

When Can You Wear the BSA's Trained patch?



Adult leaders in units are considered trained and eligible to wear the official Trained emblem when they have completed Youth Protection Training and the training courses outlined below. They're also eligible to wear it if they have completed Youth Protection Training and a previous basic training course when it was current.

Who can wear the Trained strip?

- **Registered adult leaders** who have completed Youth Protection Training and the training courses for their program, which are outlined below.
- **Scouts** who have completed troop training and **Venturers** who have completed Crew Officers Orientation and Personal Safety Awareness training. Scouts and Venturers who have completed NYLT may wear this patch instead of the trained patch if they wish.

What are the program-specific requirements?

These requirements are for adult leaders. The emblem may be worn only in connection with the emblem of office for which training has been completed. In other words, if you're an assistant Scoutmaster and a Venturing crew Advisor, but you've only taken training for the assistant Scoutmaster role, you would only wear the trained patch on your Boy Scout uniform — not on your Venturing uniform.

- **Cub Scouting:** Position-Specific training for your position. (Pack Trainers take Pack Committee Challenge and Fundamentals of Training.)
- **Boy Scouting:**
 - Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters: Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Position-Specific and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
 - Troop committee members: Troop Committee Challenge
- **Varsity Scouting:**
 - Coaches and assistants: Varsity Coach Position-Specific and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
 - Varsity committee members: Team Committee Challenge
- **Venturing and Sea Scouts:**
 - Advisors and assistants: Venturing Advisor Position-Specific
 - Crew and ship committee members: Crew Committee Challenge
 - All adults in ships: Sea Scout Adult Leader Basic
- **Chartered organization representatives:** This Is Scouting and Training the Chartered Organization Representative.

How do I get trained?

Start at www.scouting.org/training.

Why take Wood Badge? 25 Scouters State Their Case



Wood Badge is the BSA's training course for adult leaders, and it's for new and experienced Scouters alike.

Our council offer the course at least twice a year and holds it over two three-day weekends or one six-day week. You'll leave as a better Scouter, guaranteed. But don't take our word for it. Here's what 25 of your fellow Scouters had to say when asked "Why Wood Badge?"

1. Wood Badge is one of the best training experiences I have had since becoming involved in Scouting.
2. Take everything you think you know about leadership training, and throw it out the door!
3. Wood Badge is not just a Scouting leadership training. It's life training at its best.
4. It's the second-best decision you'll make in Scouting. The first is getting involved!
5. Best training I've ever taken! I use the info for both Scouting and in my job as a teacher.
6. As a Scout, I always wondered where the great adult Scouters came from. Now I know, they're made at Wood Badge.
7. It opens your eyes to all the possibilities that Scouting has for the youth.
8. By taking Wood Badge as a den leader, I now know about the programs my Scouts will join in the future. I can better prepare them to be Boy Scouts and can help their parents understand why we do the things we do in Cub Scouts
9. It puts the whole of Scouting into perspective.
10. Wood Badge is a lot of fun! I've met some great friends during the course
11. It ... improved my ability to manage work and family balance overall, and made me a better leader
12. It's a great way to put yourself in a Scout's shoes and understand what they experience.
13. As a Cub Scout leader for five years, I really didn't know much about the patrol system. Taking Wood Badge just as my oldest boy transitioned into Boy Scouts was extremely timely and prepared me to be a valuable adult leader in the troop.
14. So much takeaway that you will be able to use in the future not only in Scouting but in everyday life.
15. No matter how much you think you know, you will learn much more about Scouting and yourself.
16. ... helped me turn my troop around from an adult-centered to a boy-led troop
17. I was promised leadership training I could use in Scouting and my professional life, along with new lifelong friends. I can say Wood Badge over-delivered
18. Do it. It changes your outlook on how to proceed with Scouting and to make Scouting better.
19. Your Wood Badge experience will take what you already know and file it in your brain for easy organized access.
20. More importantly, the Scouts themselves will benefit from your decision to accept the challenge of earning your beads.
21. It is money and time well spent.
22. You will find things about yourself you never knew before.
23. An excellent training course, even for someone like me, who doesn't love camping.
24. I was fortunate to take Wood Badge at the same time my wife did. Aside from all of the great things it did for our unit, it also transformed our marriage.
25. It's the Ph.D. of Scouting, you and your unit will very much benefit from having one or more leader Wood Badge trained.

Philmont Advisor Skill School Helps You Know Before You Go



When preparing for Philmont, you'll no doubt have a ton of questions. What gear do I bring? What's a typical day like? How do I get in "Philmont shape"? How do I select leadership positions for my crew? What's a smellable?

To help you learn Philmont has developed three different courses for adults that are 18 or older:

Philmont Advisor Workshop (PAW)

PAW courses are two-hour evening workshops, typically 7 to 9 p.m. They provide a nice introduction to crew advisors to encourage constructive and smooth preparations for your Philmont trek. You'll learn about physical conditioning, conducting a shakedown hike, crew leadership positions, preparing youth leaders prior to your trek, travel to and from Philmont, establishing a crew Philmont committee, and more.

Cost: Free

When: April 13, 2016 in Baltimore (tentative)

More Info & Registration:

www.philmontscoutranch.org/~link.aspx?_id=BD9B40A3A9D04DEEB62BF3B63B7BE0BD&_z=z

Philmont Advisor Skill School in the field (Field-PASS)

Field-PASS is taught by a Philmont Ranger, 9 AM to 7 PM, in city and state parks across the country. In addition to the info taught in PAW, you'll learn all about the backcountry and logistical fundamentals of Philmont over the course of the day. You'll enjoy a trail lunch and dinner in between training sessions. At the conclusion of the course, advisors will receive PASS materials to share with crew members.

Cost: \$25

When: April 9 & 10 in Washington, D.C. (tentative)

More Info & Registration:

www.philmontscoutranch.org/~link.aspx?_id=4E69DAC272B840E4AD46FA0DF8E8C717&_z=z

Free First Aid Training



Looking for something worthwhile for Scouts to do over their Christmas break to fill some of that down time?

Through December 31, the Red Cross is offering FREE online first aid and CPR training.

It doesn't result in any certification, but it's a great way for your troop to learn, review, or brush up on their first aid knowledge.

Go to www.redcross.org/lp/holiday-family-first-aid for info and free registration.

SAVE THE DATE: University of Scouting – Feb 27, 2016



The "University of Scouting" is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. It is the only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Sea Scouting, Varsity Scouts, District Operations, and Council). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouting, and Adventure and leadership training for Venturing, Varsity, and Sea Scouting; Electives courses applicable across the Scouting programs, and District operations courses. For 2016 we will be offering 159 classes in five colleges - truly something for everyone.

- The College of Cub Scouting provides a wide variety of courses from pack administration to planning for an outdoor program.
- The College of Boy Scouting provides an exciting variety of troop, patrol and outdoor planning supplemental courses to help manage the challenges of a great troop experience.
- The College of Adventure Scouting is an interesting combination of courses for those who wish to learn more about Scouting's "senior" level programs and the challenges of an active high adventure experience.
- The College of Elective Programs offers many "general studies courses" that cut across all the programs. Just about everything from diversity and special needs to using technology can be found in the Elective Programs.
- The College of District Operations provides training to district committee members and Scouters with an interest in district operations. While no degree is conferred, those who take the required three courses are awarded the District Scouter Training Certificate and "Trained" patch

Standalone Courses are those that are BSA national syllabus courses such as BALOO, VLSC(Y), VLSC(A), VALST, or are courses that lead to certification recognized and/or needed by the BSA. Note that standalone courses do not meet any degree requirements in any College.

Date: Feb 27, 2016 – 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Where: Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA

Registration: Registration has not yet been opened. Keep an eye on the Council website under Program → Training → University of Scouting

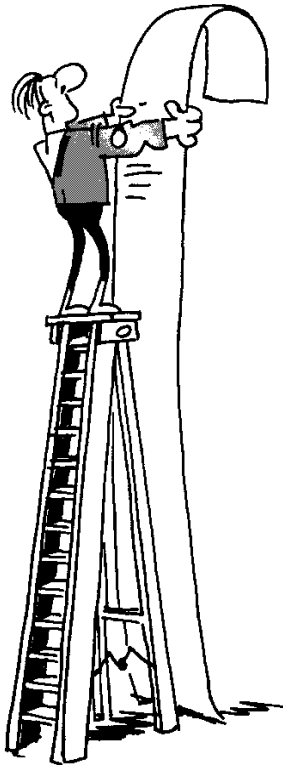


District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

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

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

District Calendar



JANUARY 2016

1 Winter Break Ends
 2 OA Lodge Banquet
 13 Roundtable
 13 OA Chapter Meeting
 16 **Life to Eagle Seminar**
 18 MLK Jr. Day
 27 District Committee
 29 Moveable School Holiday
 29-31 **Freeze-o-ree**

FEBRUARY 2016

7 Scout Sunday
 10 Roundtable
 10 OA Chapter Meeting
 13 Scout Sabbath
 15 President's Day
 24 District Committee
 27 **Univ. of Scouting**

MARCH 2016

3 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
 5 **District Pinewood Derby**
 9 Roundtable
 9 OA Chapter Meeting
 21-25 Spring Break
 23 District Committee

APRIL 2016

8-10 **Spring Camporee**
 13 Roundtable
 13 OA Chapter Meeting
 15 Student Holiday
 16 **Life to Eagle Seminar**
 27 District Committee
 29-5/1 **Spring OA Ordeal**

MAY 2016

11 **Program Launch**
 11 OA Chapter Meeting
 25 District Committee
 30 Memorial Day

JUNE 2016

4 **Soda Bottle Rocket Derby**
 8 Roundtable
 8 OA Chapter Meeting
 14 Last Day of School
 22 District Committee
 20-24 **Day Camp**

JULY 2016

4 Independence Day
 16 **Life to Eagle Seminar**

AUGUST 2016

10 Roundtable
 10 OA Chapter Meeting
 24 District Committee
 29 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2016

5 Labor Day
 14 Roundtable
 14 OA Chapter Meeting
 28 District Committee

OCTOBER 2016

10 Columbus Day
 12 Roundtable
 12 OA Chapter Meeting
 15 **Life to Eagle Seminar**
 22-23 **Webelos-o-ree**
 26 District Committee

NOVEMBER 2016

5 **SFF Bag Distribution**
 7-8 Student Holiday
 9 Roundtable
 9 OA Chapter Meeting
 12 **SFF Food Pickup**
 16 District Committee
 23-25 Holiday

December 2016

14 Roundtable
 14 OA Chapter Meeting
 21 **Annual District Business Meeting**
 22 Winter Break Starts