



Special Interest:

District

- AOL Ceremony – pg 2

Advancement

- New Boy Scout Handbook – pg 4
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Council/National

- Camp Alpine – pg 10
- High Adventure Slots – pg 11
- Scubajam – pg 17
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Training

- Univ. of Scouting – pg 26

Quick Calendar:

- 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

Goose Creek District Newsletter



February 2016

Volume 7, Issue 7

from Bobwhite Blather, <http://bobwhiteblather.com/is-roundtable-that-important/>



Do you attend your district Roundtable?

When I was first recruited to be a den leader, our Cubmaster told me that, besides basic leader training, I needed to attend Roundtable each month. I viewed it as part of my commitment to the boys in my den, and found it to be really valuable as a new leader just learning how the program worked.

But over the last few years, I've noticed that Roundtable attendance has been steadily dropping. When I started going, we'd have sixty to eighty Cub leaders and thirty to forty Scouters from troops come to Roundtable each month. This month we had 40 people tops – including the commissioners, the district advancement team and Roundtable staff.

Is it because people feel Roundtable isn't important any more? Do we have less free time so Roundtable becomes the casualty?

Or is it simply because nobody asked them to go?

I've always stressed Roundtable attendance during the leader training courses I've taught, and have found that those who did come to Roundtable after training seemed to have a better grasp of what they were expected to do. They remain active longer, and many go on to serve at the district level as well.

I've observed also that packs and troops where the adult leaders regularly attend Roundtable are among the more successful units. They recruit more Scouts, retain them better, have greater youth engagement and show adult enthusiasm. They have more exciting and interesting activities, advance more Scouts, and parents feel better about their sons being in Scouting – at least based on my casual observations.

When it comes to improving Roundtable attendance, we can all help out.

- First, be a Roundtable attendee yourself. Make the time to go each month (it's part of your job, after all). Attend the breakout session most appropriate for your involvement, and participate in the discussions.
- Go back to your unit and tell others what you learned and did at Roundtable. They'll get the idea that they missed out on some valuable helpful information – and the fun as well.
- Become an ambassador for Roundtable. Make sure everyone knows when and where it's held every month. Offer to give rides to others who would like to attend. Making a commitment to go with someone else improves the likelihood that they'll attend.
- Encourage new leaders to go. Make it an expectation to attend. Tell them what they'll find there. Remind them a few days beforehand so they can make plans.
- When new member prospects attend our unit meetings, talk to the parents and point out that your volunteers take their roles seriously enough to attend ongoing continuing training each month. Whether adult leaders attend Roundtable isn't one of the typical questions a new member would ask, but it makes a big difference in the program.

Don't view Roundtable as just another optional meeting you can blow off. If you take it seriously, others will see your commitment and will at least be aware of the importance of attending. You'll be glad you went because you'll find out things you didn't know. And when someone who has never attended Roundtable goes with you, have them share the enthusiasm with other Scouters in your unit. It could be contagious!

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony



The 14th Annual Arrow of Light Recognition Ceremony will be conducted by the Goose Creek Chapter of the Order of the Arrow (OA) on Thursday March 3, 2016. The event will take place at the Harper Park Middle School in Leesburg and will start at 7:00PM. This very impressive Ceremony is presented by the Goose Creek OA ceremony team, wearing handcrafted native Powhatan Indian regalia.

This event does NOT replace your own Pack'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 a certificate and a special OA-Arrow of Light Ceremony patch, designed by the OA Chapter for this event.

Registration is required to attend this event though there is no registration fee. Information on how to register is now available on the OA page at the Goose Creek web site. For additional information, please contact the OA Chapter Adviser, Hal Raffensperger, hal.raffensperger@earthlink.net

Scouting for Bricks™



Troop 39 of Purcellville invites you to join them for their 4th 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 14-15, 2016~ 11 AM – 5 PM

Where: Heritage High School ~ Leesburg, VA

Cost: \$5 admission

Website: www.scoutingforbricks.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scouting4bricks

Twitter: www.twitter.com/scouting4bricks

Contact Us: Email: ScoutingForBricks@gmail.com

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

Peace of Light



On December 3rd, several Scout units from all over Northern Virginia, including Goose Creek assisted with the Peace Light ceremony at the Sully Government Center in Chantilly, Virginia. What is Peace Light? The Peace Light started many years ago in Vienna, Austria. A radio station sponsored an orphanage to travel to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. An eternal flame is kept lit by donations of oil from around the world in the Grotto of the Church. A candle was lit from this flame and taken back to Vienna as a symbol of Peace.

Since that time, Scouts from around the world gather annually in Vienna to become bearers of the Light. After traveling to Bethlehem and receiving the Light, the Scouts return to their native homes via automobiles, planes and trains. The Scouts and airlines have made special considerations for transporting the light across the ocean. Scouts stop along the route and light the candles of people who want to carry the Peace Light to their own communities.

Is the Peace Light only for Scouts? No. Scouts are transporting the vessel, so that all may take part in its message of Peace. Is this a Christian only event? No, the Peace Light is available to all faiths.

To learn more about this event and how you may participate in 2016 go to the Peace of Light site at <http://peacelight.org/>

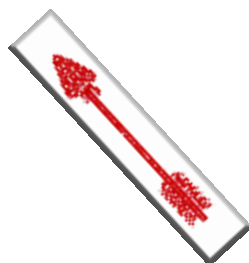


“Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen

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

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:

Henry Baime – Troop 163

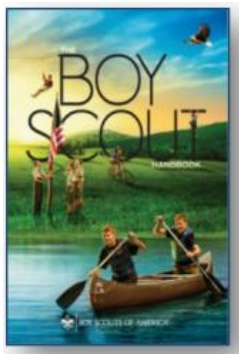
Stephen Patrick Cypher – Troop 1550

Matthew Ryan Herrity – Troop 962

Samuel Hoskinson – Troop 962

John Kuempel – Crew 1550

13th Edition, Boy Scout Handbook



The new 13th edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is scheduled for release very soon (they say the end of January but ...). Content will support the new Boy Scout requirements for 2016, including those in the areas of camping, cooking, fitness, outdoor ethics, first aid, citizenship, service, and duty to God. See www.scouting.org/programupdates for a list of 2016 rank requirements as they appear in the new handbook.

A new Boy Scout Handbook, while desirable, is not immediately needed for Scouts who will continue to work on their current rank under the old requirements. An insert of new requirements is available for use with the current Boy Scout Handbook when boys begin working under the new requirements:

www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/524-012_BS_Requirements_Insert.pdf

New Position of Responsibility: Outdoor Ethics Guide

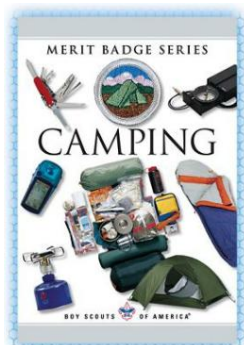


The new Boy Scout requirements introduce a new position of responsibility. Outdoor Ethics Guide will replace the Leave No Trace Trainer position. The following job description is provided by the BSA Outdoor Ethics task force:

The outdoor ethics guide helps the troop plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. The guide works to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities. In particular, he should support Scouts who are working to complete the relevant requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

How does a Scout get position of responsibility credit if he was in the middle of his tenure as Leave No Trace Trainer on Dec. 31, 2015? The unit should simply credit him with time served in that position, and then begin his tenure as Outdoor Ethics Guide on Jan. 1, 2016.

All Eagle Required Merit Badges Now Available as Interactive Pamphlets



For the first time ever, it's now possible for a Scout to earn every Eagle-required merit badge using the new interactive digital merit badge pamphlets. That includes those badges that allow Scouts to choose from two or three options. For example, to become an Eagle Scout, a young man must earn the Swimming or Hiking or Cycling merit badges. But whichever he chooses, he'll have the interactive digital merit badge pamphlet available for download right now. Same for the Emergency Preparedness and Lifesaving merit badges and the Environmental Science and Sustainability merit badges.

That's 17 Eagle-required and three elective merit badges that are now digital. The electives are three logical candidates for "early digitization": Animation, Digital Technology and Robotics.

So why go interactive digital instead of the ink-and-paper merit badge pamphlet?

- Exclusive videos, including how-to clips, career bios, virtual tours and multimedia experiences
- Search, so you can find what you need quickly
- Simulations, animations, photo slideshows and graphics
- Interactive Q&A's

Like all things digital, these don't take up any extra space in your backpack. And you get it all for the same cost as the print pamphlets: \$4.99.

Is this the same as what's on Amazon? No. These interactive digital merit badge pamphlets aren't the same as the digital merit badge pamphlets sold on Amazon.com. The big difference? Interactivity.

The ones on Amazon are searchable and available on any device with a Kindle app, but they don't include the BSA's custom-designed interactive elements. The interactive digital merit badge pamphlets, on the other hand, are available on iPad, iPhone, Android and Web browsers and include all of the BSA's resources for that merit badge.

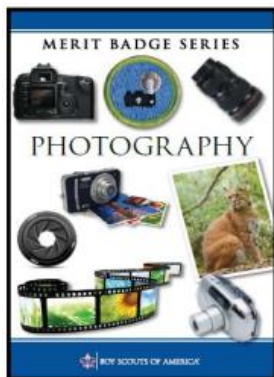
Crowdfunding an Eagle Project



The National Council allows "crowdfunding" for Eagle projects. But those that plan to use it should be aware of the following:

- If the amount to be raised is \$500 or more than a fundraising application is required by NCAC.
- Eagle projects may not comply with the website's terms of service.
- If a contract is required, it must be signed by someone over 18 years of age.
- The website may take a percentage of the funds raised.
- Funds must be raised in the name of the beneficiary, not BSA.
- The website must allow excess funds to go to the project beneficiary or the beneficiary's designee.

Photography Merit Badge: New Focus for an Old Favorite



While the Photography merit badge is not a new addition to the BSA merit badge library, the technological world of digital cameras, pixels, online printers, and photo software has made an old subject new again. The field of photography has undergone major changes in this age of computer technology. Today's processes go beyond simply capturing family memories, Scouting activities, vacation experiences, or other special events. New technologies offer new chances to be creative. As a result, requirements for the Photography merit badge are being revised to keep up with this new world of technology.

The "upgraded" merit badge requirements and supporting pamphlet still contain lessons about composition, how to choose a subject, the proper use of lighting, and depth of field, but also encourage a Scout's creativity by introducing stop action and blur motion techniques and the understanding of color as ways to help the Scout make his photographs into more than snapshots. The Scout will learn how to tell a story through pictures, while being led into the fun and discovery aspects of photography.

Both the printed and digital versions of the Photography merit badge pamphlet are slated for release in the first quarter of 2016.

Next New Merit Badge



Can't wait to explore something new in 2016? Do you know Scouts who are naturally curious and enjoy exploring different adventures? Does the thought of exploration bring visions of fun and excitement? Enough hints, already. Can you guess what the next new BSA merit badge might be?

Eureka! It's "Exploration." Alright, Archimedes may or may not have uttered, "I have found it" upon making one of his most famous discoveries, but many Scouts will certainly do so as they discover this exciting new merit badge.

Although the badge's requirements are not completely finalized yet, it is known that Scouts will first be introduced to the history of exploration in many different fields of interest, ranging from oceanography to aerospace. Next they will gain the ability to explain and define exploration and the many facets that differ due to the items that different areas of exploration would require. After reviewing the importance of exploration and specific practices in real life, Scouts will be challenged to put the knowledge into practice. An exciting well-planned adventure lies ahead.

In addition to aerospace and oceanography, individuals from fields as diverse as speleology, molecular biology, anthropology, archeology, mountaineering, meteorology, marine biology, and many more made contributions to the development of this exhilarating new merit badge.

Scoutmaster Conference Myths



Myth No. 1: *The Scoutmaster (unit leader) conference is the last step before a board of review.*

Myth No. 2: *A Scout can "fail" a Scoutmaster conference and be held back from a board of review.*

Topic 4.2.3.5 in the *Guide to Advancement* breaks both these myths. "While it makes sense to hold [a Scoutmaster or unit leader conference] after other requirements for a rank are met, it is not required that it be the last step before the board of review." Some leaders hold more than one conference along the way, and any of them can count toward the requirement.

Requirements for each rank state, "Participate in a Scoutmaster conference." This is not a pass/fail requirement. Topic 4.2.3.5 states, "[The conference] is not a 'test.' Requirements do not say he must 'pass' a conference." If an Eagle Scout candidate's conference is denied or the unit leader refuses to sign a candidate's Eagle application, this becomes grounds for requesting a board of review under disputed circumstances (See *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.3.2).

A Scoutmaster conference should not become just another requirement for rank advancement. It should be a rewarding opportunity for a unit leader to form a bond with each member, whether advancing or not. It is more about using the Scouting method of positive adult association than it is about using the method of advancement.

Location is important to a good conference. While virtually any place that supports BSA Youth Protection guidelines is acceptable, some settings provide for more relaxed conversation. A unit leader may find that conferences held during outings are less subject to interruption than those held during regular meetings.

When we examine the four steps to advancement, the unit leader conference is the first part of the "Scout Is Reviewed" step. The second part is the board of review. However, neither is a retest of skills. A unit leader should plan conferences carefully. Trust is a vital element. Listening is another. Hearing about the Scout's life outside troop activities is just as important as his experiences in the unit. Emphasizing the Scout Oath and Scout Law, setting goals, promoting additional responsibility, sharing ideas, and providing positive reinforcement should be reflected upon.



Three Scouts were bragging about how tough they were.

"I wear out a pair of hiking boots in a month," the first Scout said.

"I wear out a pair of Scout pants in a week," the second Scout said.

"That's nothing," the last Scout said, "I wear out a leader in 20 minutes."

Follow -Up: Duty to God in 2016 Boy Scout Requirements



The following question was submitted to the National Advancement Team requesting clarification on the new Boy Scout rank "Duty to God" requirements.

Q. The article in Sept/Oct 2015 *Advancement News*, page 4, "Scout Spirit and Duty to God: It's a Monologue, Not a Dialogue," has raised a few questions. The duty to God question is asked, the youth responds, and the board of review continues regardless of his answer... is this what is intended?

A. "It's a monologue, not a dialogue" effectively sums up the roles of youth and leader concerning any "duty to God"/higher being question during a board of review or unit leader conference. The new Boy Scout rank requirements call for a Scout to "Tell how you have done your duty to God..." It is appropriate for leaders to ask that question of a youth, but then leaders need to listen. Asking an additional question to clarify a youth's response is reasonable—or if the youth responds, "I don't know," a leader might ask a more thought-provoking question. Adult leaders should remember that Boy Scout-age youth are growing in many ways, including their religious beliefs. It is not the role of the unit leader or a board of review to evaluate how a youth goes about fulfilling his duty to God. The BSA does not seek to interpret God, higher being, or religion; interpretation is the responsibility of the Scout, his parents, and his religious leaders.

However, a youth professing no belief in any higher being is not an acceptable answer with respect to the BSA advancement program. In fact, no belief whatsoever actually raises a BSA membership issue. When every youth joins the BSA his parents or guardians signed his BSA Youth Application (www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406A.pdf), acknowledging the BSA's Declaration of Religious Principle. Furthermore, the Scout Oath states a Scout observe a "duty to God," and the Scout Law includes a Scout is "reverent."

If the youth professes no belief in any higher being during a board of review at any rank, the board should adjourn, provide the BSA's Declaration of Religious Principle to the Scout and his family, explain how it affects BSA membership and advancement, and allow time for the family or their religious leader to counsel the youth. The board of review can then be reconvened at a later date.

Council Notes About Submitting Eagle Applications



The following are some notes we have received about submitting an Eagle Scout Rank Application (ESRA) to council for review and final approval:

1. The only thing that needs to be emailed to council for the records verification prior to the board of review is the ESRA. No statement of life purpose, no workbook, no Individual History Report from Troopmaster, no Member Summary Report from Internet Advancement (they already have that in their system), just the ESRA.
2. Only one unit 'type' should be listed on page one.
3. Encourage professionalism in filling out the forms, encourage the use of the fillable/savable ESRA. Notebooks should be organized and neatly assembled. Name on the Statement of Life Purpose (they sometimes get separated from the rest of the paperwork). If this submission was a job or college application, would it wow the reviewer?
4. If a pen was used to fill out the ESRA and a correction needs to be made it must be legible, or re-written in the margin.

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

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



Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

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.

Wearing the Totin' Chip Patch



The Totin' Chip Patch is the same shape as the flap over the right pocket so that's obviously the place to put it, right? Wrong!

The BSA's *Guide to Awards and Insignia* says that neither the "Totin' Chip" nor the "Firem'n Chit" patch is for uniform wear except centered on the right pocket (the "temporary patch" position, which would better be named the "at the wearer's discretion" position) or on the back of the merit badge sash. The only patch that 'officially' goes on the flap is the Order of the Arrow Lodge Patch.

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

Camp Alpine, Switzerland



You know about the four National high adventure camps (Philmont, Seabase, Northern Tier, The Summit) but did you know that there is a BSA camp in Kandersteg Switzerland. It's Camp Alpine and it's run by BSA's Transatlantic Council.

They welcome troops from all councils and will be offering patrol equipment to rent for those coming great distances; though the pricing on the rental equipment has not been solidified yet.

Their Program Director has put together a wonderful program for this year to include a First Year camper experience (Base Camp), a Merit Badge program (Ascent), and an adventure program (Summit). Specific Merit Badges have not been finalized yet and they are still working with local guides for specifics of the Summit program adventures.

For a look at the 2016 Leaders Guide, to register, and for additional contact information go to www.tac-bsa.org/Camping/Summer%20Camps/Camp%20Alpine

12 Thru-Hikes That Aren't the AT, the PCT, or the CDT



While every-one in the adventure world has heard of the thru-hikes that make up the coveted Triple Crown of Hiking—the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail—there is a handful of thru-hiking trails across the United States that are in need of attention too. Many of the trails are much shorter, some are longer, but each offers a unique challenge, landscape, and opportunity to connect with nature. Most have multiple access points that allow for short day hikes or weekenders.

For a listing of these trails go to www.theclymb.com/stories/passions/explore/12-thru-hikes-arent-pct-cdt/

Young Scout Retreat



The Arlington Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting is holding a Young Scout Retreat. This is an opportunity for youth in Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life and Camp Fire, grades K–5th to participate in activities designed to stimulate and encourage their Catholic faith through service.

When: Saturday, February 27, 2016

Where: St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, 1009 Stafford Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Cost: \$12

Registration Form: www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/scouting.aspx (about halfway down the page)

Registration Deadline: February 12th

Please e-mail YSR2016@trooptrack.com with any questions

Summer 2016 Spaces Available at 3 of 4 BSA High-Adventure Bases



Philmont, Northern Tier and the Summit Bechtel Reserve still have openings for summer 2016. At Florida Sea Base, summer 2016 is full, but the lottery for summer 2017 spaces is now open.

Philmont Scout Ranch

Philmont in New Mexico has space for roughly 70 more crews. The openings, with departure dates scattered throughout June and July, mean you and your Scouts or Venturers could be trekking at Philmont in just a few months' time.

Go here

http://philmontscoutranch.org/~link.aspx?_id=DA2125B7939848499B01770577D50C69&_z=z to check out the openings, and email camping@philmontscoutranch.org with questions.

Northern Tier

At Northern Tier in Minnesota and Canada, there's very limited availability for summer 2016, with departure dates in June and July.

Treks in 2017 are filling up already, but — as you'd expect — the calendar for next year has more openings.

Go here <http://www.ntier.org/Reservations/2016.aspx> to check out the openings, and call 218-365-4811 or email info@ntier.org with questions.

Summit Bechtel Reserve

The Paul R. Christen National High-Adventure Base in West Virginia offers 11 different ways to have the best week ever. There are focused programs that give Scouts and Venturers a deep dive into their favorite high-adventure activity — like whitewater rafting, mountain biking or climbing. And there's a "sampler" program, called the Summit Experience, that lets them try it all.

High-adventure programs run Sunday to Saturday, with the first session beginning June 12, 2016, and the final session starting on July 31, 2016.

Go here <http://www.summitbsa.org/programs/national-high-adventure-base/2016-high-adventure/> to learn more, and call 304-465-2800 or email summit.program@scouting.org with questions.

Florida Sea Base

At Sea Base in the Florida Keys, summer 2016 is completely booked and the 2017 lottery window is open now and slams shut on Feb. 15, so go here <https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x49819466e> to register.

But remember that the Sea Base is open all year long, and most of its adventures are also offered in the spring, fall and winter.

Bullseye!



The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee & Camp Snyder is planning an exciting day of BB gun shooting, archery, slingshots and more! After a fun day on the ranges Scouts and their families will gather for an evening campfire program and then camp overnight. Cook your meals in camp or take advantage of our \$15 per person meal plan.

When: Saturday April 16

Pre-register online (not yet available) by 4/8 -Scouts/Cub Scout age siblings: \$30*

Pre-register online by 4/8 – Adults: \$10*

Siblings age 5 and under are free

Optional meal plan (lunch/dinner/continental breakfast)

\$15 per person (Siblings age 5 and under eat free)

*A \$5 late fee is assessed after 4/8/2016

Cub Scout Family Camping



A great opportunity for Packs and families to enjoy the total Camp Snyder experience. Scheduled program areas and the shooting sports will be up and running; then we cap off the day with a group campfire.

When: Saturday May 21

Pre-register online (not yet available) by 5/13 – Scouts/Cub Scout age siblings: \$30*

Pre-register online by 5/13 – Adults: \$10*

Siblings age 5 and under are free

Optional meal plan (lunch/dinner/continental breakfast)

\$15 per person (Siblings age 5 and under eat free)

*A \$5 late fee is assessed after 5/13/2016

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

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.sitem.com/members/group_content_view.asp?group=119323&id=282474

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?

General facts you need to know

- On IRS Form 1040, “2015 Instructions for Schedule A”, the Boy Scouts of America is listed by name on page A-9 as a “qualified charitable organization,” so BSA expenses are eligible.
- Three types of contributions can be deducted:
 - Cash/check donations
 - Property donations
 - “Out-of-pocket expenses you paid to do volunteer work”
- Some types of relevant contributions cannot be deducted:
 - Travel expenses, like meals or lodging
 - The value of your time
 - Scouting dues or membership fees
- IRS Publication 526 has lots more info (thanks, William)

Easy enough, right? Scouters will mainly be concerned with that third type of eligible deductions, “out-of-pocket expenses you paid to do volunteer work.”

Some items that you purchase to benefit your unit can be deducted, provided your unit didn’t reimburse you for them. You’ll want to check with your tax professional to be sure, but some Scouters have deducted uniforms, merit badge pamphlets, den meeting activity kits, Wood Badge course fees and much more — again, as long as their pack or troop didn’t reimburse them.

However, there’s one expense that you can deduct: the cost of driving to and from BSA events.

How to include driving expenses

- First, you’re eligible to deduct the cost of driving to and from the volunteer work, which would include most BSA activities. You have two options here:
 - You can take the actual cost of gas and oil, OR
 - You can take 14 cents a mile (note: the 2015 rate for volunteer work mileage remains at 14 cents a mile)
- Add parking and tolls to the amount you claim under either method above.
- As a reminder, you cannot deduct any expenses, mileage included, that were repaid to you by your unit, district, council or anyone else.

Important caveats

Next, there’s the tricky part of “gifts from which you receive benefit.” Let’s say, for example, that you attend your council’s annual dinner. Can you deduct that expense? Sort of.

Here’s what the IRS says: “If you made a gift and received a benefit in return, such as food, entertainment, or merchandise, you can generally only deduct the amount that is more than the value of the benefit.”

So if tickets for the council dinner were \$75 and the value of the dinner was \$35, you can only deduct \$40. Or if you paid \$110 for a \$100 gift card at a silent auction, you can only deduct \$10.

Also, you’ll want to consult a tax professional or the IRS site for individual gifts of \$250 or more. There are special rules that apply to those larger gifts.

Handling Bullying



From Ask Andy, <http://netcommissioner.com/askandy/2016/01/issue-470-january-12-2016/>

Dear Andy,

How do we deal with a Scout who's not fitting into our troop because of his own, unprompted bullying and generally mean behavior? What alternatives does a Scoutmaster have, short of dismissing the Scout from the troop?

The BSA is pretty specific on situations in which a Scout brings, or threatens to bring, physical harm or emotional abuse upon a fellow Scout: He is to be removed from further participation with the troop until his threatening behaviors cease. This is done in face-to-face conversation between the Committee Chair and Scoutmaster, and the Scout and his parent(s). The purpose of the removal is to eliminate the possibility of harm coming to another Scout in the troop; it is not intended to be punishment but, rather, a consequence of his behavior, and for the protection of his fellow Scouts. Per the inventor and philosopher Jeremy Bentham, you're seeking the greatest good for the greatest number. Which, in this case, is the troop as a whole.

This is done when direct counseling by the Scoutmaster (first) and the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair (second, and together) fail to reverse the abusive trend or to end the youth-to-youth physical contact.

The Scout is not, however, dismissed from Scouting itself; he is simply removed from putting others in harm's way until he can learn how to control his emotions and restrain himself. He is welcome to return to the troop as soon as he's accomplished the proposition set before him in direct, crystal-clear terms. The reason why he's not summarily dismissed from the Scouting program is fundamental to Scouting's ultimate purpose: It is to HELP troubled youth; not to weed out all those who aren't paragons of virtue!

Scouting volunteers like you and me aren't trained professionals in psychology or sociology; you're volunteers doing your best to help boys and young men lead themselves in a fun, challenging, adventurous program we call Scouting. This is why you leave it to the aberrant Scout's parents to help him work out his issues. And it's also why you're always prepared for the Scout, when he straightens himself out, to come back and enjoy the program too!

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

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.

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.

Scuba Certification and Scuba Diving Merit Badge



What: PADI open water scuba certification and the BSA Scuba Diving merit badge.

Who: This course is for Scouts and Adults least 11 years old.

- Participants younger than 15 years old will receive PADI Junior Open Water Diver Certification.
- 15 years and older receive PADI Open Water Diver Certification.

Where: Camp Snyder (orientation, classroom, pool session) local quarry (open water training dives)

Required form: Each participant must complete a PADI Medical questionnaire available at: www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/padi.pdf

When:

- (Day 1) Orientation – Jul 31 1-3pm;
- (Day 2 and 3) class/pool sessions – Aug 13 & 14 9am-5pm,
- (Day 4 and 5) open water training dives – Aug 20 & 21 10am-1pm;
- (Also Day 5) Scuba Diving merit badge counseling session - Aug 21, 4-6pm held at A.B. Seas Diving

Cost: Scuba certification class and merit badge session - \$450 (includes all equipment); Scuba diving merit badge session fee is included.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/?ScubaCertification>. For the SCUBA Diving Merit Badge Counseling Session only: <https://scoutingevent.com/?SCUBADivingMeritBadge>. Deadline is July 25

Contact: Jason Wesbrock
Aquatics Organizer
jaw_ncac_aquatics@yahoo.com
208-598-2897

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

ScubaJam Virginia 2016



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 Phoenix, VA (1 Quarry Ln, Rawlings, Virginia 23876)

When: Sept 2-5, 2016

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).

Prerequisites for Participation:

- Youth must be 11 -20 years of age
- Hold an Open Water Certification Card or be under the training supervision of a current and insured Scuba Instructor (Non Divers are welcome to camp and snorkel. Or better yet – get certified before you arrive!); and
- Be registered with a participating BSA Troop or Crew or other youth group 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. If you are a small group of less than 6 youth divers or an individual, please contact info@scubajam-va.org. Volunteer staff can assist you with joining another small group and if needed, ensure you have a Dive Pro available for a safe diving experience.

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: Feb 2, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, etc., and at the Microsoft Tysons Corner Store on the first Thursday of every month: Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5 . All classes are from 7 PM to 9 PM and go to <https://scoutingevent.com/?MicrosoftSTEM> to register

Stargazing at Camp Snyder



The night sky is clear and beautiful at Camp Snyder. Join us as we point our telescopes to the stars to identify constellations and planets.

When: Saturday February 20, 4 – 8pm

Registration: Pre-register online, <https://scoutingevent.com/?stargazing>, by February 17 - \$5 per family, Event Day registration—\$8 per family

NOVA Night STEM Event activities are available for an additional fee.

CPR/AED Pro and First Aid Training



What: This is the CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid training required for BSA Lifeguard requirement #6. This training is usually not included in non-Red Cross BSA Lifeguard training courses. The course will use the Red Cross blended-learning versions of CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid. That means you will do on-line work before the in-person skills session so we can minimize the classroom time. Successful completion of course requirements will result in 2 American Red Cross certifications.

You will have a 2-week window to complete the 3 hr 20 min online components. The in-person skills session will be Saturday, 17 September 2016 from 9am-Noon at Camp Snyder.

In order to attend the in-person session, students must pass the assessment at the end of the online session and print a copy of their online completion certification to submit to the instructor at the in-person session.

Certifications that will be issued upon successful completion:

- American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers
- American Red Cross First Aid

Course materials: Participant Handbooks for both courses will be furnished in digital form to the students. A CPR mask is required for the course. You may bring your own or purchase one here, and we'll have it for you at the course.

Where: Camp Snyder, VA

When: Saturday, September 17, 2016

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/?CPRAEDFirstA>. Deadline is September 12th. The maximum number of registrations is six.

Cost: \$40 or \$50 (with purchase of CPR mask)

Contact: Jason Wesbrock
Aquatics Organizer
jaw_ncac_aquatics@yahoo.com
208-598-2897

Scout Sunday Observance Patch 2016



This embroidered patch is available to Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, American Heritage Girls, 4-H Adult Leaders, Trail Life members, and their program sponsors. The purpose of the patch is to support and encourage regular practice of religion among our youth. The patch is sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting, Diocese of Arlington. Cost is \$2 each.

To order go to www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/scouting.aspx (about halfway down the page)

BSA & American Red Cross Lifeguard Training



Who: This course is open to all registered adults and youth 15 years old and older. It is a recommended adjunct to the Aquatics Supervision awards for unit leaders who wish to expand their unit water safety programs. Youth who wish to work on an aquatics staff at BSA camps need this training.

When:

- May 22 2-4 pm - prerequisites & orientation (Manassas)
- June 11-12, 9am—5pm (Camp Snyder)
- June 18-19, 9am—5pm (Camp Snyder)

Participants must attend all scheduled sessions.

This course will use the Red Cross blended learning option that requires approximately 7 1/2 hours of online study before June 11. This allows us to reduce the amount of time needed for the pool-side classes.

You will earn the following certifications by successfully completing this course:

- American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED
- BSA Lifeguard

What do you need:

- You must be at least 15 years old.
- You must supply a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record form signed by a physician. You must be approved for swimming activities.
- You must demonstrate the following at the prerequisite swim test: swim continuously for 550 yards, including at least 100 yards of each of the following strokes in good form: front crawl, breaststroke, elementary backstroke, and sidestroke. Immediately following the swim, you must tread water for two minutes using no hands (your hands must be under your armpits).
- You must be able to, starting in the water, swim 20 yards using a front crawl or breaststroke, surface dive 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, surface, swim with the object 20 yards back to the starting point, and exit the water, all within 1 minute, 40 seconds.
- You will need to furnish a swim mask, snorkel and fins (all other equipment is provided)
- You will need to bring a bag lunch for each day of the weekend sessions.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/?BSAARCLifeguard>. Register early since the course is limited to the first 16 participants!

Cost: \$200.00

Contact: Jason Wesbrock
 Aquatics Organizer
jaw_ncac_aquatics@yahoo.com
 208-598-2897

Scuba BSA



Scuba BSA introduces participants to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with scuba diving, encourages aquatics activities that promote fitness and recreation, and provides a foundation for those who later will participate in more advanced underwater activities.

The Scuba BSA experience contains two parts— Knowledge Development and Water Skills Development. During the first part, participants learn basic dive safety information and overview skills to be used during their water experience. The Water Skills Development session introduces essential dive skills, such as mask clearing, regulator clearing, and alternate air source use.

NOTE: This is an introductory, try-it scuba experience. It does not result in certification for diving on your own. It covers the requirements of the Scuba BSA award. It is not the BSA Scuba Diving merit badge. Many people decide to go on and take a certification course after trying scuba.

Who: Any Boy Scout-aged youth or adult. Maximum 8 participants per session

Preregistration is required: Each participant must complete a PADI Medical questionnaire available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/padi.pdf>

When: June 19. 1.5 hour sessions at 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30pm

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA082&eventID=6162>.
Registration deadline June 13.

Cost: \$25 (includes all equipment). All you need to bring is your swimsuit and a towel!

Contact: Jason Wesbrock
Aquatics Organizer
jaw_ncac_aquatics@yahoo.com
208-598-2897

Top 10 Arrow of Light Ceremonies for Cub Scout



The Arrow of Light (AoL) is the highest rank in Cub Scouting. It is also the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. The requirements to earn the AoL rank can be found here.

Often, packs will hold a special ceremony to honor the Cub Scouts who have earned their Arrow of Light rank. These may include presenting the boy with a plaque and a ceremonial arrow.

You can find many Arrow of Light ceremonies by searching online. To make it a bit easier for you, CubScoutIdeas.com has compiled a top 10 list for you:

<http://cubscoutideas.com/5748/top-10-arrow-of-light-ceremonies-for-cub-scouts/>

Pre Camp Swim Tests



This is an opportunity for your unit to have your annual BSA swim classification check done under the supervision of NCAC-approved aquatics personnel at the Camp William B. Snyder pool.

When: June 12. 30 min blocks starting at 1pm, last session starting at 4:30pm. Up to 20 tests per 30 minute session

Where: Camp William B. Snyder

Cost: \$2 per participant

Note: Although these swim tests are being conducted prior to summer camp, the camp aquatics director is expected to review or retest any Scout or leader whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his classification. Additionally, the camp aquatics program director is authorized to retest any Scout or group of Scouts at his discretion. Goshen Scout Reservation waterfronts require swim classification tests be conducted at Goshen in Lake Merriweather.

A unit swim classification record will be issued by NCAC Aquatics personnel to each unit showing the swim classification (swimmer, beginner, non-swimmer) of each participant.

This event is open to all NCAC units.

Registration:

https://scoutingevent.com/?2016_Precamp_swim_classification_tests.

Registration deadline is June 6.

Please register the names of those who are taking the test. If the Primary Contact is taking the test, include their name. This will be used for a unit swim classification record issued by NCAC Aquatics personnel to each unit showing the swim classification (swimmer, beginner, non-swimmer) of each participant. Remember to check the REQUIRED session for each participant.

Easter Egg Hunt at Camp Snyder



Meet the Easter Bunny and hunt for eggs while keeping an eye out for the prize winning golden eggs.

When: Saturday March 26, 9am

Ages: 0-10 years of age

Registration: Pre-register online, <https://scoutingevent.com/?CWBSEggHunt>, by March 23 - \$5 per child, Event Day registration—\$8 per child

Make sure you bring a basket and your camera!

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/

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."

On-Line Resource of the Month



The US Scouting Service Project, a Scouting website made by Scouters for Scouters, has a site <http://CubMaster.org> that was specifically designed to provide information to Cubmasters. It provides links to many other Scouting resources and provides information on pack organization, ceremonies, advancements, skits, songs, etc.



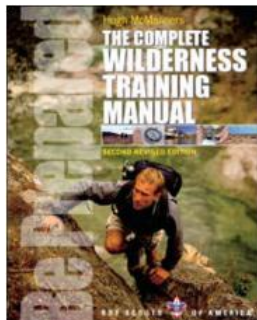
District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

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

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

Books

Complete Wilderness Training Manual



The official Boy Scouts of America guide to mastering outdoor skills and staying alive in challenging environments, *Complete Wilderness Training Manual* enables everyone—expert and novice alike—to answer the call of the wild with confidence. From constructing emergency shelters and testing plants for poison to making a compass and splinting a broken arm, this fully-illustrated guide will teach you everything you need to know about staying alive in any environment.

This book covers a lot of needed areas for living in the wilderness: where to find water (natural water sources), preventing water loss for the body, effects of water loss, natural food sources, poisonous plants to avoid, different types of shelters you can build (with helpful detailed diagrams and step-by-step directions and pictures), finding direction, using maps and different kinds of navigational techniques. This book is perfect those that love wilderness adventure and especially if they're looking to do this for a great length of time. The book covers everything from how to pick a good campsite to first aid care. There is even a section on surviving at sea so this book really covers just about every environment you might find yourself in. This book is full of all kinds of helpful information and the book is not too heavy so it's easy to carry along with you without adding a lot of extra weight.

Equipment / Gear / Tips

Tips to Buy Winter Gloves/Mittens



Choosing and buying winter gloves/mittens is that one decision which will help you keep yourself warm in the blistering winter. That's because your fingers and toes are the most sensitive parts when it comes to feeling cold. They get cold the fastest because heat escapes through them the fastest. It's only natural to want to protect them as much you can, to avoid going numb in the winter.

These articles will give you some tips for buying gloves/mittens. Go through them before you go shopping.

- www.buzzle.com/articles/winter-gloves-buying-tips-choose-the-right-pair-for-you.html
- www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/snow-gloves-and-mittens--how-to-choose.html
- www.outdoorgearlab.com/Ski-Gloves-Reviews/Buying-Advice

Training Opportunities

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

University of Scouting



The "University of Scouting" is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. It is the only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, 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.

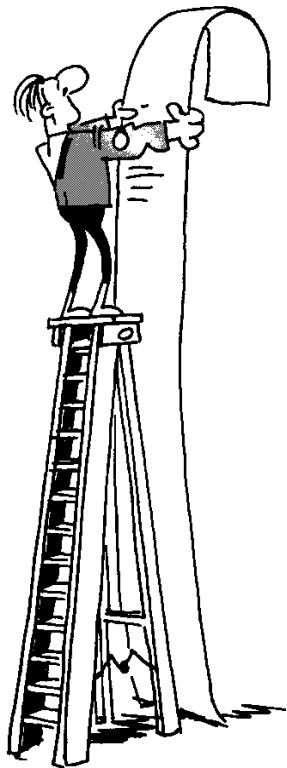
Date: Feb 27, 2016 – 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/?ncacuofs2016>

Course Catalog: www.ncacbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/UoS-2016-Catalog-v3a-Final-12-31-2015.pdf

District Calendar



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

JANUARY 2017

2 Winter Break Ends
11 Roundtable
11 OA Chapter Meeting
16 MLK Jr. Day
25 District Committee
27 Moveable School Holiday