

#### Special Interest:

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### **Quick Calendar:**

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- Mar 5 District Pinewood Derby
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- Apr 13 Roundtable
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- Apr 27 District Court of Honor
- Apr 29 OA Ordeal
- May II Program Launch

## **Newsletter Key**:



# Goose Creek District Newsletter

March 2016 Volume 7, Issue 8

from Bobwhite Blather, http://bobwhiteblather.com/dont-stress-out/



## **Don't Stress Out**

Adult Scout leaders sometimes try to take on too much, try too hard to be perfect or try to out-do one another. Usually, these actions are because we are focusing on our own needs or want others to see what great things we are doing.

This kind of thinking can lead to stress. That's not something that should result from a fun activity like Scouting!

It's easy enough just to say "don't worry – be happy" but brushing it off in a simplistic manner won't get to the root of the issue.

When you turn your focus to where it belongs – the Scouts – a lot of that stress will melt away. Focus on them having a good time and do what you can to support it.

Dan Rockwell reminds us that stress comes from focusing on ourselves, our internal need for perfection and recognition, and polishing our own image. The way to reduce stress is to be a servant leader - one whose role is to help others succeed.

If you're in Cub Scouting, that means helping your fellow leaders. Den leaders can help the Cubmaster by easing the burden of pack operations, and Cubmasters can return the favor by providing resources and mentoring for their den leaders. In Boy Scouts, adults are there for one reason only – to serve the Scouts – and must focus exclusively on helping the Scouts be better leaders and have a more enjoyable experience. It's not your job to run the program, plan meetings and campouts or teach skills – that's the Scouts' responsibility.

All that time in the spotlight is bound to stress you out. Turn the spotlight away from yourself and you'll be happier.

## **District News**

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

## **Goose Creek District Annual Court of Honor**



It's that time of year — time to recognize those amazing Scouters who've made a huge difference in the lives of young people here in Goose Creek District - NCAC.

All Goose Creek Volunteers of Crews, Troops, and Packs are invited to the Goose Creek District Annual Court of Honor on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 PM at Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 W Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. Special recipients include the District Award of Merit, District Key 3 Awardees, and the Robin L. Hayes Leadership Award.

In addition to recognizing our adult volunteers, we invite all 2015 Eagle Scouts to please come in Full Class A Uniform for a special recognition. We will open the ceremony at 7:00 and close with a dessert reception following.

Each unit is asked to contribute a dessert to share, preferably cut into single servings.

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

Please submit to dtexasncac@gmail.com:

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

Please put your unit, number and unit volunteer of the year in the Subject field of the email. (i.e. Troop 43 Unit Volunteer of the Year or Crew 7070 Unit Volunteer of the Year)

Unit Volunteer of the Year nominations are due April 2, 2016.

## Goose Creek Pack Highlighted in Bryan on Scouting



Bryan on Scouting is the official blog of Scouting magazine and is managed by Bryan Wendell, the senior editor of Boy's Lie, Scouting, and Eagles' Call magazines. So when an article appears here you know it is being seen nationally.

On Februay 23, 2016 Bryan put in an article about a special Pinewood Derby display case that one pack had built. And that pack is one of our very own, Pack 1576, chartered to the All Dulles Area Muslin Society in Sterling, VA.

Take a look at their display case and why they built it at <a href="http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/23/this-pinewood-derby-display-case-is-a-work-of-art/">http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/23/this-pinewood-derby-display-case-is-a-work-of-art/</a>

## 2016 Goose Creek Day and Twilight Camp



We are happy to announce the 2016 Goose Creek Day and Twilight Camp with the theme of *Expedition: Galactic Trek!* Cub Scouts in grades 1 through 5 are eligible to attend camp – including newly registered (starting June 1, 2016) Tigers. Camp will be at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds (17558 Dry Mill Rd, Leesburg) and the dates are:

- **Day Camp**, June 20 24 (9 am 4 pm M-Th, 9 am 2 pm Friday)
- Twilight Camp, June 20 23 (Mon-Thur. 6:30 pm dusk)

Registration Costs Day Camp (check on-line for Twilight pricing):

- Register on or before April 15<sup>th</sup>, \$190
- After April15<sup>th</sup> but on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>, \$210
- After May 15<sup>th</sup>, \$230

Camp Coordinators, registration is now open at the following: <a href="https://www.ncacbsa.org/program/cub-scouts/day-camp/">www.ncacbsa.org/program/cub-scouts/day-camp/</a>

### It's time to schedule your Pack's Summer camp presentation.

A camp presentation is an excellent way to get your Scouting families excited about the wide variety of summer camps available to Goose Creek Cub Scouts. Just send Rumsey Light (*rumsey.s.light@NAVIENT.com*), our Camp Director, a date, time, and location and he'll make sure your unit gets a great camp presentation.

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

Remember – Female Siblings who are Cub Scout ages are welcomed and encouraged to participate in camp with their brothers.

We are also looking for camp staff – young and old, just drop Rumsey Light an email. An adult volunteering for the week at camp gets to send up to two children to camp for the reduced free of \$70 each. Youths over the age of 14 are entitled to a \$75.00 credit that can be applied at any NCAC Goshen Reservation Summer Camp. Youth under the age of 14 receive service hours to be used for school or rank advancement. We also welcome girls on staff so get the word out to those Venturing crews.

Book your presentation early and help get those boys excited about Camp.

#### Webelos-o-ree Patches



If you haven't gotten your patches for the last Webelos-o-ree yet then please send an email to *Webelosoree@GooseCreekDistrict.org*. We want to make sure that everyone gets one who paid for it.

## 2016 "Loudoun Good Scout" Evening



Every year, Goose Creek chooses one individual from the community to honor as the Loudoun County "Good Scout" of the Year. This year we will be honoring Delegate J. Randall (Randy) Minchew, Virginia House of Delegates 10<sup>th</sup> District.

Randy, an Eagle Scout, has been an avid outdoorsman and conservationist from his early days as a Boy Scout. He served two years as Chairman of Goose Creek District, as well as serving as Scoutmaster of both Leesburg Troop 998 and National Scout Jamboree (2010) Troop 521.

Through his four years in the House of Delegates, Randy has patroned and secured passage of dozens of important bills improving our regional and rural roads, fostering cost-effective, transparent, and ethical government operations, and strengthening our local schools. Randy serves on the House Courts of Justice Committee, where he chairs the Ethics Subcommittee, the Transportation Committee, and the Privileges and Elections Committee. He also serves as the House of Delegates' appointee to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority that oversees and funds targeted, congestion-relieving road improvements to our region, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, that oversees transit and Metro operations in our region, and on the Broadband Advisory Commission, where he works to expand broadband services and connectivity to unserved rural and low density areas of Virginia.

This year's "Good Scout" Evening, wine and hors d'oeuvres, will be on Thursday, May 19, at Stone Tower Winery in Leesburg. The flyer for this special event is attached to the end of this newsletter.

#### Scouts at Political Activities



As the National and local elections year is about to fall upon us, we must remind and reiterate that The Boy Scouts of America, thus Goose Creek District, as part of that organization, is a Non-Profit organization regulated under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of the IRS.

All members, adults and youth, must refrain from political activity or endorsement while representing this Scouting organization.

Active involvement in political activities could result in our District, Council and indeed the BSA in losing this tax exempt status.

Please restrict any involvement in any political activity to that of providing a Color Guard for the opening of ceremonies or something similar and your immediate departure. If you wish to stay, you must change out of your uniform.

Goose Creek District has had a couple of very close shaves in the past. We wish to preclude any appearance of favor to one political party candidate or another.

If you have questions concerning a proposed activity, please first run it by our Scouting Professionals, Peggy Dubin our District Director and/or Matthew Johnson our District Executive.

## **District Pinewood Derby**



When: Saturday, March 5th, 2016
Where: Legacy Elementary School

22995 Minerva Drive Ashburn VA 20148

Time: Registration and inspection starts at 8:00am. Racing begins at

9:00am. See the tentative race schedule below.

**Fee**: \$4

The top 5 finalists in each rank (Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, Arrow of Light) within each Pack in the Goose Creek District will qualify for the District Pinewood Derby Race. Siblings may participate in the Cow Cub (Sibings) Race.

All cars must meet the District Construction rules, version 2.0 (www.ncacbsa.org/goose-creek/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/02/gcd\_pwcrv2.pdf). There were only a few changes from the previous version, mainly to clarify some of the rules.

Awards will be given to the top 5 finishers in each of the five ranks (Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, Arrow of Light) at the District Derby. This means we will have separate races for the Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts. The top 5 finishers from each rank will move onto the Pack Championship Finals and the top 3 finishers will be awarded trophies.

In addition, we will hold a Siblings Race and the top 3 finishers will be awarded medals.

	Opening Flag Ceremony at 8:55 AM				
	Division	Registration and Inspection	Race Times (tentative)		
	: Tigers :	8:00 am - 8:45 am	: 9:00 am – 10:00 am		

: Division :	Inspection	(tentative)
Tigers	8:00 am - 8:45 am	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Wolves	8:30 am - 9:15 am	9:30 am – 10:30 am
Bears	9:00 am – 9:45 am	10:00 am – 11:00 am
Webelos	9:30 am – 10:15 am	10:30 am - 11:30 am
Arrow of Light	9:30 am – 10: 15 am	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Finals – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place winners from the five divisions		1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

POC: Rick Hawkins, *rickhawkins22@gmail.com*, 703-483-0285

## 2016 Spring Camporee – Outdoor Adventure Challenge



The 2016 Goose Creek District Spring Camporee will be held Friday, April 8th thru Sunday, April 10th, returning again to the superb outdoor facilities of the Harpers Ferry Adventure Center, Purcellville VA. This year's Camporee brings back much of the acclaimed program from last year with some exciting improvements. The focus remains Outdoor Adventure and promises a Challenge to all who join us!

If you weren't among last year's 270+ participants, here's how it works: The Camporee program festivities consist of two major parts, a (traditional-type) Camporee Patrol Challenge of six events, and an Adventure Choice session where Scouts and Adult Leaders can explore a selection of optional Adventure activities.

The Patrol Challenge events are still being developed but will include favorites from last year such as Philmont Bear Bag Toss, Northern Tier Canoe Portage, Saw Mill, and Tomahawk Throw. Does your Troop or Crew have a Great Idea to add to our challenge? Please let Camporee Director John Blackwell know (john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict/org, 301-346-0551)!

The Other Half of your day will be filled with a Shooting Range (Archery, .22 cal rifle, and perhaps more), fishing, giant inflatable cushion bounce, and these Adventure Choice activities: Maryland Heights Hike/Harpers Ferry Tour, Crystal Grottoes Caving Adventure, Whitewater Rafting (3-hour run), Zip Line Canopy Tour (7 long zips & a suspended bridge), and Aerial Adventure Park (30-obstacle challenge course). The registration fee will be \$19 per participant (covers all camping and facility costs); additional fees are required for the Adventure Choice events.

An Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony and Ghost Story competition will highlight the Saturday evening Campfire, and a Scouts Own Service on Sunday morning will round out the weekend.

Unit Leaders, please email your estimated participant counts (Scouts and Adults) and your arrival day (Friday night or Saturday morning), plus your Unit Leader's name & contact info, unit type and number, to John Blackwell as soon as possible.

## **District Equipment**



A lot of district equipment has been loaned out in the past few months (banners, urns, bottle rocket launchers, fire pits, etc...) and our record system (notes on the back of patrol menus, half remembered emails) hasn't kept up with it all. So if you have borrowed some of our district's equipment and want to get it out of your car/shed/garage please contact *Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org*. We're coming up on our busy season and would like to get it all back in, so we can loan it out again.

## Scouting for Bricks™



Troop 39 of Purcellville invites you to join them for their 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



## "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.

## **JTE Results**



Just like units OA chapters also uses Journey to Excellence (JTE) criteria to see if they are delivering a quality program. For 2015 our chapter was one of fourteen in the lodge (i.e., Council) to receive the highest level – Gold.

The lodge itself achieved the national level Silver JTE status.

## **Newest Vigil Honor Members**



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

The following are Goose Creek's newest Vigil Honor members in Amangamek-Wipit Lodge.

Michael Bloom Peter Jones William Jones Ryan Raffensperger Nicholas Stanford

## "Onward and Upward"

On the Advancement Trail

## **New Eagles**



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Brian Biggs – Troop 2970

Charles Buskirk – Troop 998

Joseph A. Challis – Troop 2970

Eion Cowing – Troop 998

**Tyler Davis** – Crew 953

Kevin Hollis - Troop 998

Caleb M. Jones – Troop 2970

Zach Miller – Troop 2012

Isaac Peterson – Crew 953

Mason Schultz - Troop 969

Charles Spradling – Troop 998

Scott Stowell – Troop 982

**Zachary H. Tarble** – Troop 2970

Liam A. Wallace – Troop 2970

Wyatt Zabela – Troop 1159

## There's Now a Fourth Way to Earn the Snow Sports Merit Badge



As of Jan. 1, 2016, there's now a fourth way to earn the Snow Sports merit badge. Snowshoeing joins downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding as options for earning this elective merit badge.

The new requirements, which you can see here (www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\_Badge\_ReqandRes/Snow\_Sports\_2016. pdf), took effect on Jan. 1, 2016. Scouts who started work on the Snow Sports merit badge before Jan. 1, 2016, may continue working using the previous requirements.

## **Cub Scout Shooting Sports**



Did you notice there are no shooting activities in the new Cub Scout program adventures? Nothing to replace the old BB Gun and Archery belt loops.

Have no fear! A replace award is here!

The Cub Scout Shooting Sports award should be this summer. Like the previous program, you can't shoot at Pack events - only at district and council events.

This new program offers a different patch for each rank, plus a different pin device for each style of shooting - Archery, BB Guns, and Slingshots. That should keep Scouts interested since they can earn a patch and three pins each year for four years.

To find out more about the Cub Scout Shooting Sports award go to <a href="http://boyscouttrail.com/content/award/shooting\_sports-2423.asp">http://boyscouttrail.com/content/award/shooting\_sports-2423.asp</a>.

## **Life-to-Eagle Training**



The next Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training session 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.

Next one in 2016: April 16, from 10:15-1:15 at the Purcellville Library; 220 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA (awaiting confirmation from LCPL). There is no cost to attend the session.

Future ones in 2016 are being targeted for: 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.

## Eagle-Required Cooking Merit Badge's 2016 Requirements now in Effect



Requirements for the Eagle-required Cooking merit badge have been revised for 2016, with better organization, fewer redundancies and a more-focused approach. This is part of the BSA's continuing effort to improve its crop of 136 existing merit badges.

The Cooking merit badge now has seven requirements, down from eight, and each requirement now bears a headline that helps Scouts know what it's all about. Here are the seven requirement subjects:

- 1. Health and safety
- 2. Nutrition
- 3. Cooking basics
- 4. Cooking at home
- 5. Camp cooking
- 6. Trail and backpacking meals
- 7. Food-related careers

You can find the updated Cooking merit badge requirements in your 2016 Boy Scout Requirements book, at Scouting.org or in this PDF:

http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/01/Cooking-merit-badge-requirements-2016.pdf .

Eagle-eyed Scouters know this is the second time the Cooking merit badge has been updated in the past two years — a "really unusual circumstance," says Scott Berger, chairman of the BSA's Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force.

That means there could be three versions of requirements in use right now: one prior to the 2014 changes, one with the changes that began in 2015 and a third with the changes that began in 2016. Once a Scout begins working on a merit badge with one set of requirements, he generally may finish with that set of requirements. Or, if he likes, he may switch to the new requirements.

If a Boy Scout hasn't yet starting work toward the Cooking MB, he'll need to use the new set of requirements, as confirmed by section 7.0.4.3 of the *Guide to Advancement*: "Once new or revised merit badge requirements appear in [the *Boy Scout Requirements* book], which is released each January, any Scout just beginning work on a merit badge must use the requirements as stated there."

So in other words, a Scout beginning work on Cooking MB on or after Jan. 1, 2016, should use the 2016 requirements.

What has changed?

Here are a few of the noteworthy changes:

- A sub-requirement that asked Scouts to explain nine different foodrelated illnesses has been rolled into another requirement.
- The previous requirement 3 (How to read a food label) has been rolled into requirements 1 and 2.
- Sections on cooking at home, at camp and on the trail have been revised and improved to give Scouts a better experience.

## Why Most Merit Badge 'Prerequisites' Really Aren't Prerequisites



Often merit badge fairs/days/nights and summer camps will list the merit badges being offered and next to each the prerequisites. Looking up the definition of prequisite from Merriam-Webster finds:

noun | pre-req-ui-site | something that you officially must have or do before you can have or do something else

The key word here is 'before' and if you go through the requirements for all 136 merit badges looking for that word you'll find that in reality only three merit badges actually have prerequisites that need to be done before the event:

- Scuba Diving requirement #2 states that Swimming MB must be earned before doing requirements 3 through 6,
- Whitewater requirement #3 states that either Canoeing MB or Kayaking MB must be earned <u>before</u> doing requirements 4 through 12, and
- Personal Fitness requirement #1 states that your health-care practitioner must give you a physical examination <u>before</u> doing requirements 2 through 9.

#### Notes:

- All of the aquatic merit badges (Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing, Swimming, and Water Sports) require the Scout to pass the BSA Swimmer Test before doing the other requirements. Lifesaving also requires some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class swimming requirements be done. These requirements, however, are usually covered at the beginning of the session or camp.
- Sustainability requirement #1 states that a Scout must write in his own words the meaning of sustainability before doing any of the other requirements. Like the aquatic badges this requirement is usually covered as part of the session.
- Emergency Preparedness requirement #1 states the Scout must earn the First Aid MB, but it does not have that key word 'before' in it, so it's just another requirement that needs to be done, sometime. A Scout can do all of the other requirements for this merit badge but it cannot be completed until First Aid is earned.

So what do the organizers of these events mean when they say prerequisite? What they are actually saying is here are the requirements that won't/can't be covered during the course and that need to be done by the Scout beforehand if he wants to **complete** the merit badge by the end of the course, otherwise all he'll receive is a partial. A Scout who doesn't do the prerequisites can still take the class and complete the offered requirements. Once they complete the class and do other requirements on their own, another merit badge counselor will be able to check them out and complete the blue card.

We do urge the Scouts, however, to do the 'prerequisites' and complete the merit badge and avoid partials because they are often set aside and only completed later (in some cases years later) when needed for a rank advancement.

## **Council / National News**

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

## **Eagle Scout Class of 2015, by the Numbers**



If you were to put the 2015 Eagle Scout class inside Yankee Stadium, you'd still have more than 4,000 Eagle Scouts without seats.

That gives you some idea how large the 2015 Eagle Scout class is — 54,366 members strong, representing an increase of 4.9 percent over 2014, which amounts to 6.57 percent of eligible Scouts. (Eligible Scouts is defined as registered Boy Scouts or male Venturers who are under 18).

The young men who earned Eagle in 2015 combined to record 8,503,337 hours of service on Eagle projects. That's an average of 156.4 hours of service per Eagle project. With the value of volunteer time at \$23.07 an hour, that means Eagle Scouts and the volunteers they led contributed — drumroll, please — more than \$196 million worth of time working on these projects.

In a breakdown of the count by Council, NCAC placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 275 Councils, with 1,420 Eagles.

## **Patrol Leadership Training Program**



While one can get really excited about traditional Scouting it's sometimes difficult to implement all of the principles in real life. It's especially hard for Scoutmasters, because traditional Scouting isn't just a system that can be mandated from the top down. A Scout Troop must be boy-led. So how in the world are we supposed to teach this stuff to the Scouts and get them excited about it too?

Well, we know it can't be done just by lecturing on the topic. There is no such thing as purely academic Scouting. Traditional Scouting is intensely practical and hands-on. Scouts learn by doing things in the real world. The framework of Scouting is built this way. Experience is the best teacher, and it becomes exponentially better when the experience is wisely guided by a mentor. One of the chief reasons the Scoutmaster exists in the Scouting framework is to guide and inform Scouts while coming alongside them to experience Scouting.

One of the ways a Scoutmaster can do this is through more formally training the Patrol Leaders. For this Enoch Heise (<a href="http://ScoutingRediscovered.com">http://ScoutingRediscovered.com</a>) has put together a blueprint for a Scoutmaster/Patrol Leader training session that will help you teach the basic building blocks of leadership to your Patrol Leaders. This blueprint isn't a replacement for experience. Rather, it's a small tool for the Scoutmaster to use as he helps to maximize the experience of his Scouts.

The entire course is contained in this article:

http://scoutingrediscovered.com/scoutcraft/patrol-leadership-training-program-with-pdf-workbooks. He has also put together a couple of PDF workbooks that can be easily downloaded and printed for personal use.

## Amp up your Next Blue and Gold with Ideas from Star Wars and More



Every February since Baden-Powell was a Cub Scout, packs across the country have held blue and gold banquets to celebrate Scouting's birthday, hand out awards and eat spaghetti. But blue and gold can become blah and old, and the event can turn into a race to see which will run out first: the piles of awards or the patience of Tiger Cubs.

That was not the case with Pack 385 in Sacramento, California. Boys and parents alike had a great time with the pack's *Star Wars* theme: <a href="http://scoutingmagazine.org/2013/12/amp-next-blue-gold-ideas-star-wars/">http://scoutingmagazine.org/2013/12/amp-next-blue-gold-ideas-star-wars/</a>

## **New Video for Scout Recruiting**



"Everyone knows the goal of Scouting is to prepare young people to succeed in life," the young narrator says. "But is it working?"

That tantalizing question begins a new, highly shareable video that could amplify your recruiting efforts in unprecedented ways. Show the 93-second video to a parent considering Scouting, and you're handing over proof of what you've known all along: Scouting changes lives.

The video is a visual representation of a 2.5-year study from Tufts University and Dr. Richard M. Lerner. The researchers surveyed nearly 1,800 Cub Scouts and 400 non-Scouts to see whether Scouting changed the boys' character.

Short answer: It did indeed. As the video explains, Scouts were more likely than non-Scouts to be cheerful, helpful, kind, obedient, trustworthy and hopeful about their future.

The video "showcases the study's findings in a brief, animated summary that's easy to understand and fun to watch."

Watch the video and share it with everyone you know. You can use the YouTube link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxtFCmDZJbQ) or download the video for offline viewing at the Marketing and Membership Hub (http://scouting.webdamdb.com/viewphoto.php?&albumId=1384439&imageId=38508577&page=1&imagepos=1&sort=&sortorder=).

## **ROCS, TCT and STEM Treks at Philmont**



There's still time for your Scouts or Venturers to experience Philmont magic this summer, and they don't even need a crew to do so.

Three of Philmont's individual programs — Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS), Trail Crew Trek (TCT) and STEM Treks — give young men and women a once-in-a-lifetime experience at one of the greatest places on earth.

ROCS is a three-week program that offers a hands-on environmental science experience in the coolest outdoor laboratory ever. TCT is a 14-day educational program focused on conservation and leadership development. STEM Trek is a 12-day hands-on look at the science, technology, engineering and math behind Philmont's past, present and future.

For more information about these go to

http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/22/rocs-tct-stem-at-philmont/

## Eagles: Apply for One of Five Incredible Research Expeditions Offered by NESA



You've earned your Eagle; now it's time to see the world! The National Eagle Scout Association's World Explorers Program pairs stellar Eagle Scouts with world-class researchers at sites around the globe.

Last year, seven Eagle Scouts made up the World Explorers Program's largest group since the program launched in 2012. The young men assisted researchers in destinations including the Galápagos Islands, Arctic Circle, Amazon rain forest and South Africa. Pretty cool, right?

If you're an Eagle Scout age 18 and older, apply now for a chance to be a part of the 2016 World Explorers Program. You must be a member of NESA, complete the online application form and submit a 250-word essay before the deadline of 11:59 p.m. CST on March 22.

Other requirements, including majoring in related field, apply to the individual opportunities, so be sure to read the find print.

Learn more about the opportunities offered by the 2016 World Explorers Program and find the application forms at

http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/24/eagles-apply-for-one-of-five-incredible-research-expeditions-offered-by-nesa/

The positions to be filled are:

## **Amazon Biologists**

Two Eagle Scouts will travel to Ecuador's Yasuni National Park in the Amazon rain forest, where they'll assist Tiputini Biodiversity Station's camera-trap program established to document rarely seen wildlife, such as jaguar, ocelot and much more.

#### **Arctic Biologist**

One Eagle Scout will join the Smithsonian Narwhal Tusk Research program in Greenland, where he will assist researchers studying narwhals in the waters of the Arctic Circle.

### Galápagos Biologists

In one of the most diverse areas of the world, two Eagle Scouts will help researchers examine animals vulnerable to natural or manmade threats. Last year, the Eagle Scout biologists helped catch, band and track endangered large sea turtles.

#### **Paleoanthropologist**

Two Eagle Scouts will join Dr. Lee Berger, renowned paleoanthropologist and Distinguished Eagle Scout, to assist in his recent findings of 2-million-year-old human remains in South Africa. The Eagles will help study ancient human fossils while living at the famous Malapa site.

#### **Mammoth Cave Speleologists**

In this brand-new program, four Eagle Scouts will help explore, map and collect data in Tennessee's Mammoth Cave National Park. Be prepared to work alongside world-renowned speleologist and former NESA Director Bill Steele, as well as members of the Cave Research Foundation.

## What to do When a Scout Won't say the Pledge of Allegiance: A Discussion Topic



Few things seem as quintessentially American as the Pledge of Allegiance. Formally adopted by Congress during World War II (and amended in 1954 to include the words "under God"), the pledge has long been a fixture of civic gatherings, school assemblies and Scout meetings. It has also been a source of controversy, perhaps most notably when the Supreme Court ruled in 1943 that forcing Jehovah's Witnesses to recite it in school would be a violation of their religious beliefs.

The pledge is also a source of controversy. What do you do when a Life has begun refusing to recite it, calling it meaningless because, he says, "the United States has an inconsistent record of providing liberty and justice for all." When the troop recites the pledge, he now stands without saluting or saying a word.

Look at this article for how you could discuss this situation with your Scouts about the Pledge of Allegiance and Scouting:

http://scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/what-to-do-when-a-scout-wont-say-the-pledge-of-allegiance/

## VenturingFest 2016



VenturingFest 2016, a national gathering of Venturers that will be held July 31 to August 5, 2016 at one of the coolest spots in Scouting, Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Billed as a "Scouting experience unlike any other before," VenturingFest 2016 lets Venturers or older Scouts climb, skateboard, bike, shoot, zip-line, kayak, paddleboard and rappel. At night they'll enjoy concerts, meet new friends and try new food.

Though VenturingFest will surely feature a sea of Venturers clad in green, they aren't the only ones invited. It's open to registered Venturers, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts (14 and up) and adult leaders. Groups must include at least seven participants, with at least two youth participants and two adults. There is no maximum group size.

And how much for this week of fun? The cost is \$400 for youth and \$300 for adults, which includes meals (Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast), campsite (with showers, dining flies, tents, cots and Wi-Fi) and all program equipment.

Learn more and register for VenturingFest at www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest/. Email venturingfest@scouting.org with questions or comments.

## Ideas for a Memorable Eagle Court of Honor



Try these readers' tips from *Scouting* Magazine to make your troop's next eagle scout court of honor memorable:

http://scoutingmagazine.org/2000/03/scouters-speak-ideas-for-a-memorable-eagle-court-of-honor/

## **Jamboree Performance Troupe seeks Dancers, Singers, Comedians**



Every troop or crew has a few young people who shine in the spotlight. A few Scouts or Venturers who can sing, dance or make you laugh with ease. They belong on a stage. At the 2017 National Jamboree, that's exactly where they'll be.

The BSA's jamboree planners are looking for a few Scouts and Venturers to take their talents to West Virginia and join the Jamboree Performance Troupe. The coed troupe will appear at a variety of functions at the 2017 National Jamboree, including preshows in front of 50,000 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve stadium. This is the first year for such a troupe, meaning its members will make jamboree history.

Like the Jamboree Band, the Jamboree Performance Troupe is a staff position, meaning you'll first need to register as jamboree staff.

Here's what the Jamboree Performance Troupe needs:

- Twelve dancers: Contemporary, jazz and hip-hop dancers. All dances will be designed by a professional choreographer, and videos will be sent to dancers in advance of the jamboree so they can practice. Dances are expected to be in the style of Stomp, emphasizing contemporary dance with a Scouting twist.
- Eight comedians: Scouts with demonstrated comedic skills will work with a comedy mentor before the jamboree to prepare to perform at a variety of functions at the jamboree.
- Four vocalists: Will perform at a variety of venues and events. Must be able
  to sing the national anthem as well as a few other prepared contemporary
  and traditional Scouting songs. May travel with the jamboree band.
- Four adult leaders: Volunteer leadership with backgrounds in dance, improvisational comedy and/or singing. They should be able to train and organize young people to perform at a variety of events and willing to audition potential troupe members prior to the jamboree.

Think you're a fit? To sign up to be considered, go to the jamboree site for staff at this link: <a href="https://www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers/">www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers/</a>. Performers will be selected from all applicants after an online audition.

When selecting your staff preference, pick "Troop 6366," also labeled as "Program-Summit Center Stadium Performance Troupe."

For more information or with questions, contact Steven McDonald at **Steven.McDonald@du.edu**.

#### What about the Jamboree Band?

The Jamboree Band is looking for musicians. Scouts and Venturers ages 16 to 25 may apply. To be in the Jamboree Band you need to play at a high school level or better.

The Jamboree Band will supply music for ceremonies, events, concerts, stadium shows and will entertain the many thousands of Scouts and visitors. Repertoire includes popular and patriotic music, marches and pep band tunes.

Scouts/musicians who can double on set, guitar, bass and keyboard are also needed for the 16-piece jazz/rock band. Adults (26 and up) may apply, but initial preference will go to youth staff ages 16 to 25.

For information about the band and how to apply, please visit this link, www.coljamboband.colbsa.net/, or email the band director at George.Pinchock@villanova.edu.

## Kids to Parks Day 2016



Thank goodness for our local, state and national parks. While the bulldozer of progress marches on, leaving restaurants and shopping centers in its wake, our public parks are still here. These oases of green are calling your name, and on May 21, 2016, hundreds of thousands of Americans will answer the call.

The occasion: Kids to Parks Day 2016. The day offers a terrific excuse to get outside and explore parks and public lands — either with your Scouting family or your actual one.

Now's the time to start planning your event. As always, Kids to Parks Day is on a Saturday, offering a perfect chance to plan a trip to a park with your pack, troop, team, post, ship or crew.

The BSA — along with the National Park Service, the Sierra Club, the American Hiking Society and others — is a prominent collaborator in the Kids to Parks Day effort, organized by the National Park Trust.

Some ways to get involved in Kids to Parks Day 2016 are:

#### 1. Register your event

There were 787 registered park events in 2015. For 2016, let's make that number even higher. If you'll take Scouts to a park on May 21, make it official by registering at <a href="http://parktrust.org/youthprograms/national-kids-to-parks-day">http://parktrust.org/youthprograms/national-kids-to-parks-day</a>

## 2. Find parks for kids in your state

A curated list of the best parks for kids. That's the promise of this page that as of now includes 22 states, from Arizona to Wyoming. They're adding new ones regularly, so keep checking back. With each state listing, you get a look at the coolest parks that offer unique activities for kids.

Check them out at: http://parktrust.org/kidstoparks/national-kids-to-parks-day/263-kids-to-parks/park-activities/895-parks-for-kids

## 3. Try some hiking or camping games

Maybe you're at a park with some time to spare? Or your Scouts are lagging mid-hike? The National Park Trust has some games to help ramp up energy.

For example, "One-Word Stories": One person begins a story by saying one word, and then the story is passed on to the next person, and the next, and so on, with each person building to the plot of the story. Since each person can only say one word at a time, the story becomes really silly and fun, and this game allows your kid's imagination to run wild.

Games like these also work during long car rides.

To see these activity ideas go to: http://parktrust.org/kidstoparks/national-kids-to-parks-day/263-kids-to-parks/park-activities/893-boredom-busters

## 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.

## 2016 Goshen Summer Camp Availability



Key:	Available Almost Full	F	full				
				Wee	k		
	<b>Camp</b> (as of 03/25/2015)	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>Bowman</b> (opens one day sooner than other camps) (Patrol Cooking)						
	Marriot (Patrol Cooking & Heater Stack)	LDS Week		LDS Week			
	Olmsted (BS Dining Hall)						!
	Lenhok'sin High Adventure						
	PMI (Dining Hall)						
	Ross (Dining Hall)						

Week 1 – 6/26 to 7/2 Week 4 – 7/17 to 7/23 Week 2 – 7/3 to 7/9 Week 5 – 7/24 to 7/30 Week 3 – 7/10 to 7/16 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.

## 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 couselors, 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** 

## Be on Staff for Goshen Camporee 2017



2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> 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

#### **DEA Museum Exhibit**



The *Drugs:* Costs and Consequences exhibit (www.drugexhibit.org) is a traveling exhibit from the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Museum and the DEA Educational Foundation. Formerly known as *Target America*, it has traveled to ten cities over the last ten years and been viewed by oer 22 million visitors. The exhibit is on display in Leesburg through Sept 10, 2016. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. free of charge.

This exhibit goes along well with the new BSA SCOUTStrong Be MedWise award (www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BSAFit/MedWise\_Award.aspx) that came out in 2015 and the Choose to Refuse curriculum (www.scouting.org/Home/choosetorefuse.aspx).

## **Exhibit Highlights:**

- Visitors are presented a non-partisan look at the many costs and consequences of drugs on our society and provided a very powerful message of the destructive health, environmental, safety, and family impacts of drug use on our society.
- Students, youth, parents, and other adults in the community are
  presented a phenomenal learning opportunity and the chance to
  participate in science-based experiences that are designed to provide
  explorations on th elocal and global impacts of drugs and how each
  visitor can be part of the solutions in their own community.
- Exhibit visitors will dicosover the latest cutting-edge science research being conducted around the country and the world, providing a better understanding of what durgs do to the system of the body and what can be done to stop or even reverse that damage.
- There is a specific display that ocers OTC medication abuse. One of th epeople you follow during th etour is a 14 year old Boy Scout. We won't tell you what happens to the Boy Scout because that would be a spoiler.

For tour reservations and more information on the exhibit, contact Susan Fox, Exhibit Educator, at 571-258-3888 or *Susan.Fox@DEAMuseum.org*.

This exhibit will become very crowded uring the summer months with summer camp grups and it is booking quickly for spring school field trips, so Susan recommeds that if Troops or Packs want to visit that they do so without the throngs of people who will arrive soon and before it closes in our area.

## One Day Religious Retreat for Boy Scouts



Get away from all the electronics for a day--- A day devoted to Duty to God and A Scout is Reverent.

The NCAC Protestant Committee is holding a one day religous retreat for both Protestants and Catholics on Saturday, April 16, at the Groveton Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA. Units are asked to bring scouts in groups of three. Events will be worked on in threes.

- Out of the Water Patch---all 3 lessons will be covered and the patch earned.
- Learn about Putting Duty to God into your program and Chaplain's Aide Training
- Hear how to earn the Religious Emblem for your Faith
- Lunch will be provided
- Making a Rustic Wood Nativity (40" tall) using recycled pallets fulfill requirement 5 and possibly other requirements for the Wood Working Merit Badge.
- Bible Trivia Challenge---Scouts versus Adults
- Campfire Flag Retirement Ceremony & Hymn Sing

Cost is \$12 per Scout and \$10 per adult.

Registration forms (hardcopy) <u>must be received</u> by March 28<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a copy of the registration form that was sent to the newsletter send an email to *Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org* and we'll send it along to you. If you have questions about the event please call Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Castles at 703-765-0855 or email *mecastles@yahoo.com*.

## 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

## The Four Elements Behind Every Great Scoutmaster's Minute



Since at least 1925, troops have been setting aside time near the end of their meetings for the Scoutmaster's minute.

In those 60 seconds (or, let's be honest, usually a little longer), the Scoutmaster shares a story, a parable or an anecdote that helps Scouts think about Scouting and life in a new way. (Note for Venturing and Cub Scouting leaders: These same principles apply to a Cubmaster's minute or Crew Advisor's minute.)

The February 1927 issue of Scouting magazine offered a nice description of the Scoutmaster's minute that still holds true nearly 90 years later: "The Scoutmaster says a word, tells a story or in his own way gives the boys a bit of inspiration in the way of a reminder of the Oath and Law."

There's magic behind a Scoutmaster's minute, but the formula isn't a secret, says John Duncan, council commissioner with the Northeast Illinois Council. In the February 2016 ScoutCast, the BSA's monthly podcast for Boy Scout leaders, Duncan offers four elements behind every great Scoutmaster's minute.

#### 1. Relevance

Is this topic important to the people who are listening?

## 2. Sincerity

Do you truly believe what you're saying or is this some trite cliché that you read out of the book and you're reading it back?

### 3. Credibility

Do you exemplify what you are saying? If you aren't visibly doing your best on your honor, then you come across as a hypocrite and that is the worst possible thing that could happen with a Scoutmaster's Minute.

#### 4. Passion

How important is this topic to you as the speaker?

These four tips are just a small taste of what Duncan shares in the ScoutCast, so be sure to take a few minutes and listen. You won't want to miss his "performance" of his personal favorite Scoutmaster's minute. It'll give you goosebumps.

Listen or read the transcript by going to

www.scouting.org/Scoutcast/Scoutcast/2016.aspx. Or search for "ScoutCast" on your favorite podcasting app. For example, if you have an iPhone, just search for "ScoutCast" in the Apple Podcasts app, tap Subscribe and listen right on your phone!

## **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: <a href="http://ncacbsa.site-vm.com/members/group">http://ncacbsa.site-vm.com/members/group</a> content view.asp?group=119323&id=282474

## **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

## 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: <a href="https://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/padi.pdf">www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/padi.pdf</a>

#### 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

## 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.Vvolunteer staff can assist you with joining another small group and if needed, ensure you have a Dive Pro available for a safe diving experience.

## **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!

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

## **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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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

## 20+ Camping Apps & Outdoor Apps Ideal for the Campsite (Apple & Android)



There are so many ways camping apps can entertain and assist us in our outdoor endeavours, expecially if you are glamping (glamour camping) and want to make your trip as relaxing as possible. This site

(www.inspiredcamping.com/best-camping-and-outdoor-apps/) has investigated some of the best ones available for the Apple iPhone and iPad and they have came up with the following recommendations they felt could help to enhance the camping app experience for the campsite generation. Camping apps for Android and other smart devices are also available:

## **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



The US Forest Service, 1998, received these actual comments from backpackers after wilderness camping trips:

- Too many bugs and spiders. Please spray the area to get rid of these pests.
- Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.
- Chairlifts are needed so we can get to the wonderful views without having to hike to them.
- A McDonald's would be nice at trailhead.
- Too many rocks in the mountains.
- The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.

## **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.

## **On-Line Resource of the Month**



Looking for how to throw an ax, "speak" Indian Sign Language, outdoor games, throw a lasso, native "Indian" games, then check out The Inquiry Net (www.inquiry.net). Besides providing information about a lot of "traditional" Scouting skills in it's over 2,000 pages, this Website provides access to hard to find, out-of-print documents. Much of the content has been edited to be of practical use in today's world and is not intended as historical preservation.

## **Books**

## **Explore Spring! 25 Great Ways to Learn About Spring**



If you're interested in putting some STEM oriented outdoor activities into your den meetings check out *Explore Spring! 25 Great Ways to Learn About Spring.* 

From tracking spring peepers and raising tadpoles to learning about seeds and recording plant growth, *Explore Spring! 25 Great Ways to Learn About Spring* invites young readers to explore the wonders of spring by becoming scientists in the field. Combining hands-on learning with solid science, trivia, riddles, and terrific illustrations, projects investigate "the reason for the season" and include identifying trees and measuring their growth, recording soil temperature, and observing the forest floor. Bird migration and nest building are covered, and the movement of air and water is studied with experiments in capillary action and in such activities as "Making Parachutes," Making Kites," and "Mapping Air Currents with Bubbles."

Cost is about \$13 (paperback), \$9 (Kindle)

## **Equipment / Gear / Tips**

## Finding the Temperature Inside a Dutch Oven



There's lots of guidance on how many coals to put on a Dutch Oven to get the temperature you want. But how certain are you that it is actually working, that the coals are still heating it correctly?

For perfect temperature control each time, place an external grill temperature guide (usually around \$10) on the top of your oven (where the coals are), and cook. This thermometer will read correctly for the temperature inside the Dutch Oven.







## **Mess Kits**



A mess kit is a set of personal eating and cooking equipment that's portable enough for camping. Often, the pieces (a cook pot, bowl, cup, etc.) nest together in a compact package that fits easily inside a backpack. These packages are generally lighter weight and more affordable than buying each piece individually. And with a mess kit, before each trip you can pick and choose exactly which pieces of the kit you want/need on the trail. Expect to pay from \$10 to \$30 for a basic kit.

And when you have no idea of what kit to select from the available online list of thousands of products, then how do you choose. One way is to see what everyone else is actually buying. Here is a list of the top five sellers (from July 2015) that might help you with your selection process:

www.bestheartratemonitorinfo.com/top-5-best-selling-camping-mess-kits-in-usa-in-july-2015/

Myth: The folding light weight aluminum mess kits are the best for novice cooks to learn to cook with.

If you were going to fry an egg for your breakfast on your stove at home would you use a mess kit? Do you see anyone cooking on there home range with a mess kit? No, because the frying pan is so light weight, it is hard to control the heat. The hot spots on the bottom of the pan (and helped by the material the pan is made of) make it very hard to cleanup when you are done. If you were going to teach your son/daughter to cook by frying an egg at home would you have them use their mess kit? Probably not. You would want them to have the best chance possible to succeed.

Myth: The lightweight folding mess kits are needed because they are used for backpacking. Any weight in outdoor cooking equipment is a sin.

Backpacking cooking is now done almost entirely with freeze dried foods. If possible filters or other means are used to obtain water on the trail instead of bringing it with you. You should not expect to backpack with bacon, hamburgers and eggs, as the accompanying weight of water and the overhead/weight of keeping it cool makes it too hard to carry. If you are backpacking you heat water to boiling. Add the food. Put a lid on the food. Eat the food. Clean up your dishes. If you go to a back packing store and look at the high end equipment, the better quality cooking equipment is made of stainless steel.

But if you aren't backpacking, you don't need lightweight, you need strength and durability.

## **Training Opportunities**

## **Chartered Organization Training**



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

Goose Creek is holding two training classes for CORs at Rust Library (380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg, VA 20176).

- Sunday, April 17: 3 5 pm, Conference Room B
- Monday, April 18: 7 9 pm, Computer Training Lab

There is no fee for these training classes.

## 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.

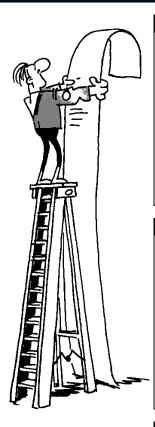
Cost: \$25

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

More Info & Registration:

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

## **District Calendar**



## **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
  - 17 COR Training
  - 18 COR Training
  - 27 District Court of Honor
- 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

### **FEBRUARY 2017**

- 5 Scout Sunday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Scout Sabbath
- 20 President's Day
- 22 District Committee

# 2016 "Loudoun Good Scout" Evening

## **Thursday, May 19, 2016**

6:30 PM - Reception 7:15 PM - Program

## **Stone Tower Winery**

49925 Hogback Mountain Road Leesburg, VA 20175

□ \$7,500 - Platinum Sponsor

## **HONOREE**



# Delegate J. Randall (Randy) Minchew

Virginia House of Delegates 2016 10<sup>th</sup> District

Full-page program advertisement and program listing, presentation at event
\$5,000 - Gold Sponsor Half-page program advertisement and program listing and presentation at event
\$2,500 - Silver Sponsor Quarter-page program advertisement and program listing and presentation at event
\$1,250 - Bronze Sponsor Presentation at event and listing
\$500 - Friend Sponsor Two tickets and program listing
\$300 - Scout Sponsor

Though I cannot attend, I am pleased		
to enclose a \$	contribution	
to the National Capital A	Area Council,	
Boy Scouts of America		

in Delegate Minchew's name

Sponsor a Scout in Scouting for 1 year

Name			
	State Zip		
Phone	Fax		
Email			
Contact Name			
□ Bill Me for \$			
☐ Check enclosed	for \$		
	America, please indicate GC16 in the memo) SA.org/LoudounGoodScout		
☐ AMEX/VISA/N	MC/Discover for \$		
Name			
Card Number			
Exp. Date	CID#		
Signature			
	ing at each table in addition to those		

Note: A portion of your contribution may not be tax deductible

allocated based on your sponsorship.

per IRS regulations.

For more information contact:
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