



Goose Creek District Newsletter



December 2016

Volume 8, Issue 5

from Scoutmaster Jerry, <http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2015/11/22/reflection-2/>



Reflection

If you play a game that has a desired outcome or purpose it is important that you first know what that purpose is and then have some way of knowing if you achieved the results you were looking for.

By and large that is the reason we have an Eagle Scout Board of Review. We can assess and determine through the interview with the Scout whether or not the program is delivering the promise of Scouting and achieving its goals of helping make young people of character, good citizens, that are physically fit. Along with all of that, do they make ethical choices and does it look like they will do the same in the future.

Reflection is an important part of every thing that we do in Scouting. It allows us to take a look back and see if we achieved the outcomes we want in playing our game.

Reflection comes in many forms, we can do it as a group or take time in silent reflection. But no activity is complete until the reflection is done.

This last weekend our Troop went camping. First winter camp out of the year and we went caving on Saturday exploring the largest Lava tube cave in the US. It is adventurous and challenging and our Scouts love to test themselves. As with most outings or activities a theme develops throughout the weekend. This weekend the theme quickly became "Rising to the Challenge". Overcoming hardship, attitudes, and things that make you uncomfortable were some of the behaviors that we noticed in our Scouts as they went through the weekend.

For some of the Scouts it was the first time they would camp in sub freezing temperatures. For some it was their first time in a cave. For others it was a leadership challenge as they learned that as a leader there were Scouts that depended on them to just get through the weekend. Cold weather, challenging experiences, and doing something new and difficult.

These young men learned and practiced great leadership. I was pleased to watch as members of the Patrol Leaders Council made their way through camp checking on the younger Scouts. Instructing them on how to get through the night. Reassuring younger Scouts that they will be ok and that if they do what they are taught, they will be warmer in the morning and will be able to have a better experience in winter camping.

I walked through camp Saturday night around 10:30 and found gear properly stored, tents pitched with all the tie outs in place and the sounds of tired happy Scouts sitting in their tents, the gentle glow of a headlamp lighting the green nylon of a tent fly.

Sunday morning leadership was once again challenged as cold fingers attempted to pack even colder nylon tents and sleeping bags. Our departure time was supposed to be 9:00 AM. We missed it by 20 minutes, but the reason was acceptable to me. The Troop was in Patrol lines taking a few minutes to share a few things they learned over the weekend. Patrol leaders talking with their patrols about the challenges they faced over the weekend and how they all rose to the challenge. Before we loaded up I shared with them my pride in them and how they are great young men. I shared with them the fact that they needed to reflect on the weekend and see just how much they learned about skills, their attitude, and how they grew because of the experience. The final question that I asked them to reflect on was this, Is there any place you would rather be?

When we got back to the hall and parents started arriving to pick up their Scouts, many of the Scouts came to me and shared the answer to that last question. Each and every one of them say "NO WHERE ELSE".

So reflecting back on this weekend I would say Promise Delivered and Program solid.

It is important to reflect. You may not always get the answer you want, that is your opportunity to learn and grow doing better next time. If things are going well... keep it that way! Don't let it slip.

Make sure that reflection time is a part of your program. Have the Scouts take time to reflect and have serious reflection on how they are doing in the Scouting program. It is a game with a purpose, without reflection, you will not know if that purpose is being met.

Special Interest:

District

- Freeze-o-ree – pg 2
- OA Elections – pg 4

Advancement

- Critter Care Resources – pg 8

Council/National

- Safety Central App – pg 12
- Goshen Staff Application – pg 14
- Snyder Staff Application – pg 14




Training

- Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills – pg 18

Quick Calendar:

- Dec 14 - Roundtable
- Dec 15 – Annual Business Meeting
- Jan 11 – Roundtable
- Jan 27-29 – Freeze-o-ree
- Feb 5 – Scout Sunday
- Feb 8 – Roundtable
- Feb 11 – Scout Sabbath
- Feb 18 – Univ. of Scouting

Newsletter Key:

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

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

Rechartering 2017



A great "Well done and Thank You!" to all those units that have completed rechartering.

And to all those that are still in the process or "Gasp", may not have even started the process, you are now LATE! If you can't complete the process in the next few weeks, and good luck in trying to get that elusive signature of the head of your sponsoring organization during the holiday season, you have a very good chance of Council deactivating your unit! Which means that if you continue to hold meetings and something happens, you are personally liable. We would really like to avoid that so please get the process finished and talk with your unit commissioner if you are having problems.

Goose Creek District 2017 Freeze-O-Ree



Goose Creek's premier outdoor winter event – the annual Freeze-O-Ree will be held January 27 - 29 at the Claude Moore Training Center in Ashburn, VA.

There will be many Patrol competition centers including first aid skills, ax throwing, flag football, speed knot tying, archery, and slingshot paint ball target shooting!!

This event is run by the youth members of the Order of the Arrow in Goose Creek and we need many OA youth volunteers from all Troops to help run the events. Registration information will be posted on the Goose Creek web site in early December.

Updating Youth Protection Training (YPT)



Per BSA policy, all registered adults must have a current Youth Protection Training (YPT) certificate in order to renew their registration at recharter time. For this year, YPT must have been completed no more than two years prior to the new charter date, i.e., January 1, 2015 or later.

In addition to whatever reminders unit leaders give their registered adults about updating YPT, BSA also sends automated email notices starting 90 days before each adult's YPT expires. In those notices, there's a link to the YPT web site intended to make renewal as easy as possible.

PLEASE DON'T USE THAT LINK! If you do, you'll be sent to the generic web site rather than your personal training record, so your personal record won't be updated when you complete the training.

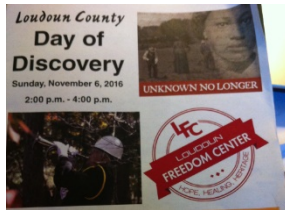
Instead, always go to your personal training record on <https://my.scouting.org>, click on the Menu tab, then on My Dashboard. That will take you directly to your personal training record, where you can "Retake" YPT.

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Loudoun County Day of Discovery



On Sunday, November 6, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and a Cub Scout assisted with reading the names of the enslaved at the Belmont and Coton Plantations. The ceremony started at the parking lot of Harris Teeters grocery store in Lansdowne. There was a welcome message and prayer by Pastor Michelle Thomas with the Loudoun Freedom Foundation. A historian led an oral history walking tour of the area. The "Battle Hymn Republic" was sung by the Austin Grove United Methodist Church Choir. The colors were presented by the Civil Air Patrol of Leesburg.

A Girl Scout from the ADAMS center, Boy Scouts from Troop 163 and a Cub Scout from Pack 1571 assisted with reading the names of the enslaved at Belmont and Coton Plantations. There was a Loudoun Inter-faith Community reflections with a wreath laying ceremony. The Military Tribute was provided by the VFW Post #1177 Honor Guard. The attendees sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" together and the closing remarks were given by the President of the Loudoun Chapter NAACP and the historian from the Loudoun Freedom Center. This event plans on being an annual event on the first Sunday in November. For scouts interested in volunteering for future wreath laying events, please visit online at:

www.LoudounFreedomFoundation.com.



Order of the Arrow Ceremonialists Available for Pack Cross-Over Ceremony



Cubmasters, the Goose Creek Order of the Arrow (the Boy Scout Honor Society) Ceremony Team is currently taking requests to perform a short recognition ceremony at Pack Cross-Overs. Two of our ceremonialists will wear Native American regalia during the ceremony and will distribute a keepsake memento to each Cub Scout at the end of the ceremony. If you are interested, please contact the OA Chapter Chief Henry Baime (chapterchief@goosecreekdistrict.org) as soon as possible to reserve a date.

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Order of the Arrow - Unit Elections



The annual OA Unit Election season runs from November 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. Troops and Teams may hold only one election per season and it is recommended that the election be held prior to April 1, 2017. This will allow all elected candidates to be able attend the Goose Creek Chapter Ordeal the weekend of April 28-30, 2017. If you wish to have Arrowmen visit your Troop prior to your election, to discuss the OA with your Scouts, please contact the Goose Creek Chapter Chief, Henry Baime (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 and confirm your election date within one month after receiving your request.

Troop 761 Webelos/Arrow of Light Open House



Visiting troops ahead of next spring's crossover? Looking for a troop in the Ashburn area? Come and meet the Scouts of Troop 761!

Date: Monday, December 5, 2016

Time: 7-8:30pm

Place: National Recreation & Parks Association Headquarters

22377 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn

Troop Website: www.troop761.org

Kindly RSVP: webelos@troop761.org

Troop 1154 Webelos/Arrow of Light Open House



Troop 1154 (Ashburn) will host a Webelos Open House at its troop meeting on December 15th. The meeting is at Eagle Ridge Middle School (cafeteria) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Webelos are requested to arrive at 7:20.



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

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

Lodge Banquet



The Lodge Banquet is held each year to recognize Arrowmen who have gone above and beyond in service as well as to recognize the accomplishments of the chapters. Our Lodge's newest Vigil Honor members will be recognized as well as those youth and adult Arrowmen who have contributed superior service for our Order.

The Banquet is open to all Arrowmen and their guests. Family and extended family members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The keynote speaker will be Mr. Dan McCarthy, the National Director of the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Mr. McCarthy is a retired Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy; former NCAC Council President; and is a 2012 Silver Buffalo honoree.

Location: Riggs Alumni Center, 7801 Alumni Drive, College Park, MD 20742.

Schedule

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am - Check-in
- 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Program

Passport Holders: Passport holders will need to indicate their attendance at the event by completing the online registration process and selecting the no-charge Passport holder registration option.

Non-Passport Holders

- \$35 until December 4
- \$40 until December 26
- \$50 until January 4

Register for the Banquet at: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-LodgeBanquet2017>

Annual Dues - 2017



Arrowmen, it is that time of the year again to renew your Lodge membership by paying your annual dues. The dues for 2017 are still \$14 and the annual Lodge Passport is still \$100. The Passport covers your dues as well as the fees for the Annual Banquet, Spring and Fall Fellowships. Please pay your dues online at the Lodge web site <https://scoutingevent.com/082-2017OADues> or purchase your Annual Passport at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-OAPassport2017>.

Please remember that in addition to paying your dues you must also be registered with a unit (pack, troop, crew or team) or the District in order to be considered an active member.

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“Onward and Upward” On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles (Note: this listing includes many Scouts that had earned their Eagle previously during the year but had been reported directly to Council and not through the District):

Joseph Baer – Troop 711
Carter Beatty – Troop 572
Jackson Borneman – Troop 982
Aaron Bowser – Troop 1910
Douglas Bradley – Troop 572
Brian Burns – Troop 1173
Jayson Call – Team 1174
Joseph Carter – Team 921
Varun Choudhary – Troop 1666
Thomas Cook – Troop 572
Ethan Dillon – Troop 961
Isaac Duke – Team 116
Taylor Dunn – Troop 998
Nicolas Esatto – Troop 39
Omar Farooq – Troop 786
Carlos Fernandez – Troop 711
Ephraim Hall – Crew 1173
Jake Hebert – Troop 1550
Jonah Hyatt – Troop 1154
Hashim Khan – Troop 1430
Devyn Kreb – Troop 1430
Andrew Lewis – Troop 572
Tanner Lofgran – Crew 1167

Daniel Megill – Troop 572
Kyle Alexander Merrill – Troop 1154
Mark Mogensen – Troop 956
Claudio Molina – Troop 572
Zachary Morris – Troop 950
Akhil Nallamala – Troop 1430
Barak Nicholes – Troop 1164
Michael Nunes – Troop 961
Vivek Rao – Troop 572
Patrick Rice – Troop 982
Evan Schell – Troop 711
Dallin Seager – Troop 1167
Joshua Stevenson – Troop 953
Benjamin Strickland – Troop 711
Jason Thomas – Troop 1430
Luke Thomas – Troop 997
Alexander James Vanik – Troop 1158
Jack Whitehead – Troop 1167
Alfred Wilhelm – Troop 1164
John Winkert – Troop 1430
Dylan T. Wintermute – Troop 2970

MITRE Scout Engineering Day



MITRE Scout Engineering Day was pioneered in 2012 at the headquarters of The MITRE Corporation in the Washington, DC area. Each year since its inception, Scout Engineering Day has hosted between 300 to 400 Scouts (both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) and 70 to 100 Scouters, Merit Badge Counselors and volunteers for an exciting day of STEM activities.

This year's event is scheduled for April 1, 2017 with registration opening up around January.

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Read this Poem Aloud at a Future Eagle Scout Court of Honor



It must've been pretty dusty in the room when Tom Lalor read the poem he had written for his stepson Jonathan. Everyone in the whole place got a little misty-eyed.

Lalor read his poem, which you can see below, at Troop 251's Eagle Scout court of honor in Larimer, Pa. Jodie Spagnolli, committee chairwoman for Troop 251, sent Bryan On Scouting the poem — with Lalor's permission to reprint it.

The poem "was just incredible," Spagnolli writes. "There was not one person in the room that didn't dab at the corner of their eye after hearing it."

Here it is. I think it's worth inclusion at your troop's next Eagle Scout court of honor, don't you?

The Eagle

Written by Tom Lalor for Jonathan Lint

Twas the Eagle they chose, as a symbol of strength for a
new and mighty land.

That was forged in Truth, and Liberty; delivered
By God's own hand.

That Eagle stands for Integrity and Pride
Throughout our age.

To remind us of the wars we've fought for
Freedom and the price we've paid.

And so it was when Lord Powell called on his troop
Of boys to be men,

That this symbol so strong, so pure and so proud
Was called to serve again.

Not every Scout can wear this badge, in fact they
Are but few

Who rise above their peers today to remind us of
What is true.

That Loyalty and being good will always be our aim,
That Courage and Faith are the best of us, that
The Eagle knows no shame.

These honored few who wear this badge walk
Among us to this day.

To exemplify the very best that we strive for,
So now we pray;

That God will bless and keep these Scouts always
In His sight.

For it is they, not us who know it best, the Eagle
Stands for Right.

Useful Resources for the Critter Care Adventure



One of the elective adventures for our Bear Cub Scouts is Critter Care. It's very similar to the Pet Care belt loop and pin that was part of the now retired Sports and Academics program.

Since many families have pets, keeping a section on pet care in the new program was a great decision by the Boy Scouts of America. It will also help those kids who want a pet but who need to understand more about how to care for one.

Use these resources to help your Bear as he works on the Critter Care elective adventure.

- The May-June 2004 issue of Scouting Magazine had a great article titled **Helping Children Take Care of Pets** (<http://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0405/d-famf.html>). If your family is considering a new pet, this is a good place to start.
- Here are several worksheets that your Cub Scouts can use to reinforce the type of care that a pet needs. These would be fun gathering activities for the boys.
 - From Pet Week – **What Do Pets Need?** (www.petweek.org/assets/pdf/GradeLevel2_WhatNeed.pdf)
 - From the Humane Society – www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/parents_educators/worksheets/thank_you_k-2.pdf
 - From the American Kennel Club – **Responsible Dog Ownership Crossword Puzzle** (http://images.akc.org/pdf/public_education/responsible_crossword.pdf)
- To satisfy requirements 2 and 3, here is a list of dog and cat.
 - **Puppy Training for Kids** by Coleen Pelar
 - **Everything Dog: What Kids Really Want to Know about Dogs (Kids Faqs)** by Marty Crisp
 - **Puppies: Puppy Book For Kids! Learning The Fun Way To Love & Care For Your First Dog** by Gary Dickinson
 - **National Geographic Kids Everything Dogs: All the Canine Facts, Photos, and Fun You Can Get Your Paws On!** by Becky Baines
 - **ASPCA Complete Guide to Cats: Everything You Need to Know About Choosing and Caring for Your Pet** by James Richards
 - **The Complete Cat's Meow: Everything You Need to Know about Caring for Your Cat** by Darlene Arden
 - **1,001 Things You Always Wanted To Know About Cats** by J. Stephen Lang
 - **Cats (Complete Pet Owner's Manual)** by Brigitte Eilert-Overbeck
- Your Cub Scout will attempt to teach his pet a trick for requirement 4. If you have a dog, you'll want to check out these step-by-step instructions from **How to Love Your Dog** (http://images.akc.org/pdf/public_education/responsible_crossword.pdf).
- Cub Scouts no longer have to complete a pet-related service project, but it's still a great idea to do one. Use this resource that was published by the Harford County, Maryland Humane Society. The Community Service "Pet" Project guide has some awesome ideas (www.harfordshelter.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/community_service_project.pdf).
- If your son wants to learn about pets belonging to presidents, you can't go wrong with this fun book, **Presidential Pets: The Weird, Wacky, Little, Big, Scary, Strange Animals That Have Lived In The White House!**

National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award



The National Eagle Scout Association has established the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by a Scout to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity. The award recognizes the Scout for his Eagle Scout service project, which is part of the requirements for earning the Eagle Scout Award. Each local council will choose a council-level winner, and from that pool, each region will pick a region-level winner. A national winner then will be selected from the four regional finalists. The national award winner will receive a certificate, a silver device for the Eagle embroidered knot, and a cash award of \$2,500 that will be available for the Scout's future educational purposes or for him to attend a national or international Scouting event or venue.

The nomination shall be submitted to the NESAs committee of the council in which the service project was completed on or before January 21 of each year. The submission must include the application (found at www.nesa.org/PDF/542-026.pdf), a name and summary of the project, and the Eagle Scout's contact information. A complete duplicate copy of his Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook (previously submitted by the Scout to his Eagle board of review committee) must be attached to the application.

Each local council NESAs committee shall select one service project of the year from among those meeting the submission guidelines. The included criteria and other factors are all appropriate for consideration by the committee in selecting the winners. Evaluation criteria for this award should include consideration of at least the following:

- Project planning required
- Effort to develop the project
- Extent and character of the leadership provided by the Scout
- Extent of achievement of the planned result, including changes or modifications required to complete the project
- Project's impact on the beneficiary and/or on the community at large
- Originality of the project
- Scope of the work
- Time and materials contributed
- Level of skill employed to complete the project

LOL



A Scout was on his first camping trip. He was eating his lunch under a tree when the Scoutmaster came along.

'It smells like rain,' he said to the Scout.

The Scout replied, 'They said it was lemonade.'

Eagle Scout Project Showcase



Looking for Eagle Scout service project ideas? Look no further than *Boys' Life's* new Eagle Scout Project Showcase: <http://eagleprojects.boyslife.org/>

The site includes more than 101 Eagle Scout projects that visitors can browse by keyword, category and location. And you can submit your own project — or that of a Scout in your troop — to add it to the database.

That's the cool thing about this new resource from *Boys' Life* magazine: And it will only get better as more and more projects get added. Other features include:

- A searchable directory of projects: Know a Scout who wants to do a project at his church or at a historic site? Quickly find examples of those to get him started.
- A map of projects: Looking for projects near you?
- Tips for planning an Eagle project: Essential tips for Life Scouts.

A place to submit completed projects: Showing off is encouraged.

Question on Switching to the 2016 Requirements



Q. Suppose a (Scout) is in the middle of a rank on 12/31/ 2016, and has to finish that rank using the new requirements. Will he need to “start over” and repeat all of the requirements for that rank?

A. No, not all—only new requirements and any new elements of (existing) requirements. More specifically:

- If the wording of a completed rank requirement has not changed and that requirement was signed off on or prior to 12/31/2016, the approval should be transferred to the corresponding new requirements. For Tenderfoot through First Class ranks, this may include approvals that were previously listed in a different rank.

When the rank in progress has new requirements (or new elements of requirements) that were not in a previously completed rank under the current (2015) requirements, those new requirements or elements will need to be completed in 2017 and beyond.



Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

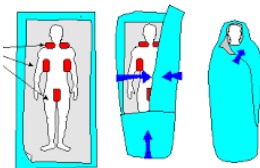
Snow Rangers



Looking for a fun winter activity for a Webelos den? The US Forest Service has a Junior Snow Ranger program that you can use in a den meeting. This PDF file (www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5354851.pdf) is a great activity book with an application form at the end. It covers science, animals, safety, and a lot more.

Scouts can receive a card, badge, and bandanna upon completing the program.

The Hypo Wrap



As we are now preparing for Winter Camping it is always good to start with First Aid for Cold Weather injuries, prevention, and treatment.

The Hypowrap is a good way to prevent hypothermia and certainly the start of hypothermia treatment.

Hypothermia is an extremely dangerous condition where the victim or casualty's core body temperature drops below 95 degrees (F). The persons condition can deteriorate rapidly so a prompt response is required.

The hypo wrap puts the person in a state where he can begin warming using insulation and his body heat. It is important to note the end of this process will lead to the hospital and professional medical attention.

The Scoutmaster Minute Blog

(<https://thescoutmasterminute.net/2016/11/20/hypowrap/>) has a presentation on how to do this.

Readers Name *Boys' Life* the Hottest Kids/Teen Magazine of 2016



The readers of *Boys' Life* magazine have spoken in a big way.

Boys' Life joined *The New Yorker*, *Bon Appétit* and *Esquire* magazines as reader picks for tops in their respective categories.

The recognition for *Boys' Life* came in the Hottest Kids/Teen Magazine category of the 2016 Adweek's Readers' Choice awards.

Adweek, a well-known advertising trade publication, selected *Boys' Life* as one of six finalists. The others were *J-14*, *National Geographic Kids*, *Seventeen*, *Sports Illustrated Kids* and *Teen Vogue*.

The editors picked the finalists, and readers got the final say, giving *Boys' Life* 39 percent of the vote. *J-14* finished in second with 26.8 percent.

Competing against that same crop of finalists in 2014, *Boys' Life* won. Thanks to the support of *Boys' Life* loyal fans, 2016 was another big win for the magazine and its readers.

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Safety Central App lets Parents Act Quickly if a Child Goes Missing



hope you'll never have to use all the features of Safety Central, a new app from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. But if that nightmare scenario of a missing child ever happens, Safety Central could be the most important app on your iPhone or Android device.

The app, which you can download for iOS (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/safety-central-ncmec/id1153098638?mt=8>) or for Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.netsmartz.safetycentral&hl=en>), has three main components:

- Digital Child ID Kit: Save potentially lifesaving information about your children, including photos and digital fingerprint images. Reminds you when it's time to update the photos.
- Missing Children Search: View posters of children missing in your area and make a report if you have any information.
- NCMEC Updates: Stay connected with news, trends and safety tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

The Boy Scouts of America has been longtime allies with NCMEC and its Netsmartz resource center. Michael Johnson, the BSA's director of Youth Protection, says the Safety Central app is the newest tool in the groups' combined mission to keep young people safe.

"This resource fits well with all aspects of our Youth Protection programs, such as the Cyber Chip, by providing additional safety tips," Johnson says. "Download this free app today, and help protect your child and all youth."

Ju'Riese Colon, executive director of outreach at NCMEC, says the app puts "safety in the palm of your hands."

"It's a great tool for parents and Scout leaders to keep children safer while out and about," she says. "It's a must have for any parent or leader on the go."

2018 VenturingFest will Celebrate the Program's 20th Anniversary



Venturing turns 20 in 2018, and you and your crew are invited to the party. The BSA's high-adventure program for young men and young women has announced that the next VenturingFest, celebrating the program's 20th anniversary, will take place July 1 to 6, 2018, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

As always, the best place to get Venturing news first is on the Venturing Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BSAVenturing/). Be sure you're following the updates there.

2017 Journey to Excellence



It's rechartering time for just about everybody, and with it comes our annual self-evaluation, the Journey to Excellence.

With us since 2011, this program allows units to assess how they are doing compared to how high-performing units operate. It's a set of eleven guidelines (nine for Venturing crews) along with a means to evaluate each item from basic to outstanding.

Each year, we look back on how we served our Scouts in the previous twelve months. It's also a good time to look ahead to the next twelve and see where we can tweak and improve. The 2017 scorecards are available now.

Every year since the inception of the Journey to Excellence program, the national committee that oversees it has made some changes. This has caused troops and packs to shift their focus slightly in these areas to concentrate on the items that the scorecard measures.

The good news for 2017 is that the committee seems to have arrived at a winning formula, for there are very few, if any, changes going forward. Here's a quick summary:

Cub Scouting

There are no changes to the Cub Scout Pack scorecard for 2017. Everything is exactly as it was on the 2016 scorecard, so packs should continue to measure up to the current scorecard standards. It also makes it easier to improve your existing performance – for instance, finding a way to go up a step in percentage of Scouts advancing.

Boy Scouting

As with Cub Scouting, no changes have been made to the eleven items on the scorecard. The only change that I can see is in the last item, which clarifies what qualifies as an advanced training course. Previously, the description mentioned Wood Badge or similar training, but the new specification is for a training experience involving five days or more and, besides Wood Badge, gives courses conducted at the Summit or Philmont training centers as examples.

Venturing

As with Cub Scouting, no changes have been made for 2017 in either the scorecard items or their point values.

The complete set of scorecards for 2017 can be found at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence/scorecards/2017.aspx, including those for ships, teams, posts, and councils and districts as well.

The JTE website has lots of other great information, including guidebooks (which replace the spreadsheets used in past years), a glossary, frequently-asked questions, service hours tracking, and council-specific planning tools.

Make sure your unit is using this valuable tool. Check with your unit commissioner if you have any questions about how to complete the form or to get his or her approval on your scorecard.

2017 Goshen Summer Camp Staff Applicant



Every year, the seven camps and programs which make up the Goshen Scout Reservation employ close to 250 highly motivated individuals to participate in the experience of a lifetime. If you are 14 years of age or older by this summer, you could be a part of something huge!

Information will be available in early October. Staff must be able to work from June 17 until August 9, 2017.

Interviews will be the first two Saturdays in January.

Please call or email Goshen Reservation Director Phil Barbash at (301) 214-9195 or Philip.Barbash@scouting.org with any questions.

2017 Camp Snyder Summer Camp Staff Applicant



Camp Snyder is seeking friendly, outgoing, fun and responsible individuals age 15 and up to be program wide Camp Counselors, and age 18 and up to lead our Fort, Big Dig, Ship, Nature, and Handicraft program areas. We are looking for age 18 and up to direct BB and Archery ranges. 21 and up to be Camp, Program and Aquatics Directors.

Registration opens 12-01-2016. Contact Camp Snyder for more information. Phone: (571) 248-4904, Email: Camp.Snyder@Scouting.org

Goshen@50 Camporee



NCAC is commemorating the opening of the Goshen Scout Reservation in 1967 with a council-wide celebration! Mark your calendars for this one of a kind camporee on Memorial Day Weekend 2017.

The Camporee will be a great event for Scouts (of all ages and program levels) and their families. Activities will include waterfront, shooting sports, COPE and climbing courses, as well as a special arena show, campfires and Scouting skill competitions. There will also be Alumni events honoring key contributors to Goshen's history.

For more information visit the Goshen@50 website at: www.ncacbsa.org/goshen50/

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

On-Line Resource of the Month



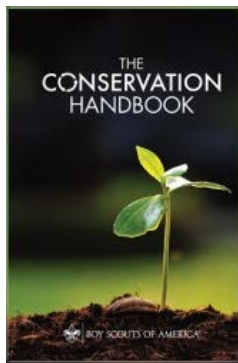
The Outbound is a website (www.theoutbound.com) and iOS app dedicated to helping everyday people discover the best outdoor adventures nearby. Easily find the best spots to hike, camp, chill, and more - all with a simple interface, incredible photography, and great write-ups.

The Outbound's goal is to spread the excitement of outdoor adventure, whether just down the street or across the globe, by inspiring people to discover, explore, and share their favorite activities and local playgrounds.

It is their hope that by making it easier to find relevant information and harnessing the power of the community, they can encourage more people to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors.

Books

Newly Updated Conservation Handbook, Earth's Instruction Manual



While others offer scary predictions about the future of our planet, Scouts and Venturers do something to ensure those dire warnings never come true. In short, Scouts, Venturers and Scout leaders strive to leave this planet better than they found it. It's been that way since the days of Ernest Thompson Seton, the first Chief Scout of the BSA and a nationally known conservationist.

The newest and best tool in your arsenal of environmental stewardship is the second edition of the Conservation Handbook. The \$3.99 book will be back in stock in November at www.ScoutStuff.org.

Inside the spiral-bound, 144-page book, you'll find both the whys and hows of conservation.

The first of the book's two major parts is devoted to "Understanding the Mission" and includes useful strategies for responsible outdoor behavior:

- Leave No Trace
- Tread Lightly!
- Ways to reduce energy use
- Ways to save water
- Shopping sustainably

Once you've read Part 1, you're going to want to do something. To put words into action. To make a positive impact on this planet. That's what Part 2 is for. You'll find:

- Dozens of sample projects and project ideas
- Instructions for proper tree planting
- Guidelines for wildlife habitat improvement, like building birdhouses
- A primer on hand tools for conservation projects
- Trail maintenance tips
- Safety reminders

A conservation project planning checklist

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek

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

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

Equipment / Gear / Tips

Gaiters: How to Choose



Snow, water, dirt and pebbles have a way of sneaking into even the most waterproof of boots. To prevent this, put on some gaiters. Gaiters cover the vulnerable tops of your footwear to fully protect your feet from the elements.

The right pair of gaiters depends on the kinds of trips you have planned and the conditions you expect. The main types:

- Trail gaiters: These lightweight, breathable gaiters offer basic protection against rocks, grit and light rain while on mild-weather excursions.
- Alpine gaiters: These are designed for all-around hiking, snowshoeing, mountaineering and cross-country skiing. They offer added protection against rock abrasion and water.
- Expedition gaiters: These provide heavy-duty protection and add insulation for extended mountaineering trips in harsh conditions. Most feature a waterproof, breathable fabric for superior comfort and protection.
- Women's gaiters: While these can fall in any of the above categories, women's styles are typically shorter in height and have a bit more top girth to specifically accommodate a woman's calf.

Gaiter height depends on how much protection you need.

- Low gaiters are ankle high, about 8" to 12" tall. These are best for less-than-extreme conditions when you just need to keep trail debris and rain out of your boots.
- Regular gaiters are calf high, around 15" to 18" tall. These are designed for rugged conditions such as hiking through deep snow, wet brush or in bad weather.

Much like with outerwear, fabrics help define the level of gaiter performance you're going to get. Most gaiters feature a lower section that is abrasion-resistant to fend off scrapes and an upper section that is waterproof or highly water-resistant. Here's a breakdown of the most common fabric players:

- Gore-Tex®: This well-known laminate provides superior waterproof, windproof protection and breathability. It's ideal for tromping through wet or snowy conditions.
- Cordura® nylon: This super-rugged fabric is designed to withstand the abrasion of ice, rocks and the occasional nick of crampon points.
- Coated nylon: Basic gaiters are very light and are usually made with polyurethane-coated nylon. If a short day hike or fast-packing through talus, sand and wet brush is on your agenda, this type of fabric will work just fine.
- Schoeller® fabrics: This family of soft-shell fabrics offers flexibility and stretch as well as excellent weather protection

For more information on how to choose the best gaiter go to:

<http://www.outdoorgearlab.com/Gaiters-Reviews/Buying-Advice>

12 Tips for Sustainable Hammock Camping



Campouts are at the heart of Scouting, and hammocks have become a popular way to sleep comfortably under the stars. In addition to being relaxing, hammocks are a lot of fun — especially when everyone in your patrol hangs their hammocks together.

But in popular camping areas, tying a hammock over and over, day after day, on the same trees can tear, rub and cut into the bark. This can cause short- and long-term damage to the tree and may result in complete hammock restrictions.

As we live the Outdoor Code, how can we be clean, considerate and conservation-minded in our outdoor manners? How might we apply the Leave No Trace principles to protect the environment when hammock camping?

Here are some tips that can help you hang sustainably:

1. Before you go, find out if it's OK to hang hammocks from trees in the area you will camp. Follow any posted rules.
2. Bring a portable hammock stand to areas without trees or where restrictions are in place.
3. Trees' size and bark quality vary. Always use wide webbing straps — between 1.5 and 2 inches — to minimize any damage to the tree.
4. If you'll be hammock camping on the same trees for a few days — like at a resident week-long summer camp — place a section of closed-cell foam between the strap and tree for added protection.
5. Make sure your webbing straps are long enough to fit the trees you will encounter. This will prevent you from resorting to rope or twine to close the gap.
6. It's easy to keep a site pristine by using a hammock. There is no need to remove rocks, twigs or pinecones, or to damage live trees and plants. Consider moving to a new set of trees before breaking branches or altering a site in any way.
7. Be sure to take down any hammock structures and leave a site as you found it. For example, dismantle a tripod hammock stand built from driftwood on a beach.
8. Remove hammocks when not in use. In some areas, deer and elk can get tangled in lines left suspended between trees.
9. In pristine areas, consider setting up your hammock out of view to respect other visitors.
10. If used, hang a floor mat off the ground during the day to avoid damaging the vegetation beneath.
11. Consider partnering with a campground to build and install permanent hammock stands to create a long-term, sustainable option for future events.
12. Be an advocate with others to share these tips with hammock users.

Training Opportunities

Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS)



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

The target audience are leaders planning High Adventure treks at backcountry venues not supported by BSA infrastructure; however, units planning to attend High Adventure bases supported by BSA will find this course useful, inasmuch as unit shakedowns will, most likely, take place in venues not supported by BSA infrastructure. Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills is offered by the Council Training Committee as an optional follow-on to the basic course, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

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

Part 2 – Participants will practice core leader skills for the outdoor program — Leave No Trace, navigation (map & compass plus GPS), terrain awareness, expedition menu planning and food preparation, stove and stove maintenance, wilderness first aid issues, expedition health and hygiene, team building.

2017 Spring Course

Classroom: Sat. 18 March, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Scientist Cliffs Community (Alder Rd and Acacia Rd) 3500 Alder Rd, Port Republic, MD

Overnite: Sat. 22 April, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 23 April, 1:30 PM. American Chestnut Land Trust 676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

2017 Fall Course

Classroom: Sat. 23 September, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Aldersgate United Methodist Church 1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA

Overnite: Sat. 21 October, 7:30 AM thru Sun. 22 October, 1:30 PM. Camp William B. Snyder 6100 Antioch Rd, Haymarket, VA

Leave No Trace Trainer Classes – BSA Outdoor Ethics



What is the purpose of this class? The Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturing, and Sea Scout programs all include outdoor stewardship, care for the environment, and Leave No Trace as part of their programs. This course is offered to train adults and youth aged 14+ to serve their units and districts as Leave No Trace Trainers and as Outdoor Ethics Trainers. Every Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturing, and Sea Scout unit should have at least one Leave No Trace/Outdoor Ethics Trainer. A Boy Scout must complete this course before he can serve in the Troop Leave No Trace Trainer position.

Who should attend? Venturers, Sea Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Boy Scouts aged 14+; adult Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing, and Sea Scout leaders; and District and Council leaders and trainers.

What will I learn? This course is designed to enhance your understanding of Leave No Trace practices and outdoor ethics, and to increase your level of expertise and confidence in teaching Leave No Trace skills.

This class is both active and highly interactive. You will be introduced to concepts and methods that will advance your knowledge of Leave No Trace issues in both developed and high adventure environments, expand your repertoire of low-impact skills, and increase your effectiveness in teaching these important skills to others.

On completion of this course, participants will be registered as Leave No Trace Trainers with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and with the BSA. Students will receive Leave No Trace teaching materials, a certificate of course completion, a Leave No Trace Trainer lapel pin, and a BSA Leave No Trace Trainer card.

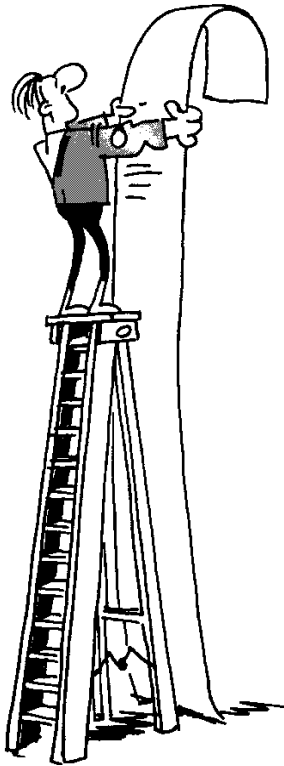
This course is instructed by nationally designated Leave No Trace Master Educators and Trainers. Attendance for the entire duration of the training is required.

When: Mar 31, 2017 (5pm) – Apr 2 (10am)

Cost: \$75, non-refundable, which includes fees and materials. Meals are included. Registration for all courses is via the NCAC website www.ncacbsa.org/training/outdoor-ethics/

Where: Northern Virginia (Editor Note: their site and flyer doesn't give the full address, please contact Victor Bieniek at vbieniek@gmail.com or 703-855-8428 (cell))

District Calendar



December 2016

- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 **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
- 27-29 **Freeze-o-ree**

FEBRUARY 2017

- 5 Scout Sunday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Scout Sabbath
- 18 **University of Scouting**
- 20 President's Day
- 22 District Committee

MARCH 2017

- 2 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 22 District Committee

APRIL 2017

- 7 Student Holiday
- 10-14 Spring Break
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 Student Holiday
- 26 District Committee
- 28-30 **OA Spring Ordeal**

MAY 2017

- 10 **Program Launch**
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 24 District Committee
- 26-29 Goshen @50 Camporee
- 29 Memorial Day

June 2017

- 3 **Soda Bottle Rocket Derby**
- 7 Roundtable
- 7 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Last Day of School
- 21 District Committee

JULY 2017

- 4 Independence Day
- 19-28 National Jamboree

AUGUST 2017

- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 24 District Committee

September 2017

- 4 Labor Day
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 23-24 **Webelos-o-ree**
- 27 District Committee

October 2017

- 9 Columbus Day
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 20-22 JOTA/JOTI
- 25 District Committee

November 2017

- 4 **SFF Bag Distribution**
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 **SFF Food Pickup**
- 15 District Committee
- 30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**