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Newsletter Key:



Cub Scout Interest



Boy Scout /
Venturing Interest



For Everyone



New Article

Goose Creek District Newsletter



August 2020

Volume 12, Issue 1

From Bobwhite Blather, <http://bobwhiteblather.com/when-should-you-say-no/>



When should you say “no”?

My wife frequently tells me that I look for ways to say no – that I’m always finding reasons why something can’t be done.

In reality, I’m going through a list of obstacles in my head that need to be overcome in order to turn that no into a yes.

We tend to do the same with our Scouts. They want to go canoeing in the wilderness or hiking in another state. Our first reaction is to say that it would be too much effort, money, time, or any of a dozen other excuses.

We shouldn’t be saying no too quickly. Sure, there are obstacles to almost any venture. An out-of-state trip requires planning, training, money, logistics. None of these are insurmountable.

If the Scouts want to do something, and there is a legitimate Scouting intent in it, there should be no reason to say no.

Scouting should be about yes. We should rarely use no unless it violates the policies or safety rules of the Boy Scouts of America or our chartered organization.

But we don’t automatically need to say yes and take on the responsibility for doing everything they say. If they want to hike the Appalachian Trail, ask them if they know what’s involved, how much it will cost, and what kind of preparation is needed. They can research that for themselves (these days, young people are pretty good at looking things up on the Internet) and find out what sort of commitment they’re willing to make in order for it to happen.

If it is necessary to say no, let the Scouts come to that conclusion. In the case of something that’s prohibited, like hunting or dirt biking, you could ask them if it’s a particularly good idea. Ask about the dangers, and if they think there might be any rules regulating it. See if they’d know where to look, and introduce them to the Guide to Safe Scouting if they don’t know about it already. They’ll pretty soon come to a conclusion on prohibited activities. Likewise, they may decide it’s not worth the effort to organize a trip to Gilwell Park, even if you’re willing to support them.

Yes should be the word of the day – as long as it’s the Scouts saying it.

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek



Friends of Scouting



We need each unit that has not signed up or rescheduled their unit Friends of Scouting Presentation to do so by August 15th. They can contact our area's Field Director, Tonya Dobbins, 239-229-8030, Tonya.Dobbins@scouting.org or Sue Breen, suebreen@verizon.net.



Popcorn



Orders were due July 24th, if there are any unit popcorn chairpersons that need any assistance please feel free to contact Tonya Dobbins, 239-229-8030, Tonya.Dobbins@scouting.org or Lisa Snip.

Home Deliveries - the week of August 10th

Popcorn Distribution - Saturday, August 15th - We need your help. Please contact Tonya Dobbins if you can help for an hour or two that day. If you are planning to pick up popcorn that day, please consider staying to help us that day. More hands, less work.

September

Orders are due - Friday, September 11, 2020

Home Deliveries - Week of September 28th

Popcorn Distribution - Saturday, October 3rd

October - Product Returns

MSSC & VA Scout Shop - Saturday, October 24th

MSSC Monday, October 26th - Thursday, October 29th

November

Orders are due - Friday, October 23rd

Popcorn Distribution - Saturday, November 16th

Payments are due - Monday, November 23rd

(Home deliveries are available for single orders of \$10,000 or more)



Membership

JOIN CUB SCOUTS

BEASCONT.ORG

Join Scouting Night Training was held in July. Slides for your own Pack JSN are available and were emailed to all Membership Chairs and Key-3.

All Units, please update your BeAScout pins to ensure contact information for your unit is updated.

Please contact Dena McGuiggan at membership@goosecreekdistrict.org, VP Membership Chairman for additional assistance or help!



Troop 997 Holds Summer Mini-Camp



Like many, Ashburn Troop 997's summer camp plans were put on hold due to COVID closures. But that didn't stop the Troop from providing a high-quality summer experience for their Scouts while following all BSA, CBC and state rules and guidance. The Troop set up a campsite at the Hidden Meadow group campsite maintained by the Willowsford Conservancy.

Led by Scoutmaster Terry Kolb and his adult team of volunteers, ASMs and Merit Badge Counselors, the Troop put together a mini-camp (five days of 'day camp' plus one night camping out) allowing the Scouts to earn a number of outdoor-oriented merit badges, including Pioneering, Soil & Water Conservation, Golf, Fishing, Astronomy and Search & Rescue. The Troop's new Scouts also had the opportunity to work on early rank requirements. Highlights of the week included bridge-building, a search dog rescue demonstration, model-rocket launching, hiking at Manassas and biking around the Willowsford Farm community. Mid-week, the Troop gathered for an evening event, including the infamous Scoutmaster Campfire Extravaganza, an outdoor movie and an astronomy star party.

As the camp closed, the Scouts headed offsite to do trail maintenance for the Conservancy. In their newsletter, the Willowsford Conservancy complemented the Troop and the Leave No Trace principles of Scouting:

Last week, a troop of young scouts chose the Hidden Meadow Event Field as the site for their week-long scout mini-camp. We were excited to offer residents the ability to host camp at Willowsford, and delighted by the feedback from other residents about the care the scouts displayed toward nature and toward our community's resources; true to the Scouts' principles of "Leave no Trace." They can be applied anywhere, at any time.



District Rangemasters Needed



If you like shooting sports and ever thought of becoming a certified NRA Instructor, please consider taking one of the courses for Rangemaster, Instructor, NRA RSO, Chief RSO or USA Archery. Goose Creek is looking for trained Rangemasters to help with Cub Scout Day/Twilight Camps and other possible shooting sport events.

The NCAC Shooting Sports committee has a page on the Council website (www.ncacbsa.org/council-committees/outdoor-adventuring/shooting-sports/) that can be useful in finding classes (currently only those in 2019 are listed though). Also please contact Steve Wolfson (SteveWolfson@verizon.net) if you are interested.

Webelos-o-ree 2019



The date for the Goose Creek's annual Webelos-o-ree is set for October 3-4, 2020 at Camp Snyder. This event is open to all Webelos so mark the date down on your calendar now. Note: Those that are currently Bears will be Webelos this fall and are eligible to attend.

This camping event is designed to show Webelos and their parents what a Scouts BSA troop is all about. The activities will be run by our own troops and can include such things as: Fire building, cooking, monkey bridge, BB shooting and/or archery, first aid, and knife safety. We provide dinner and in the evening there is a campfire run by the Order of the Arrow. For the adults we'll provide plenty of Scout leaders to answer questions about camping, joining a troop, and camping equipment. We will also hold a Webelos to Scout orientation for Arrow of Light Scouts.

The Webelos-o-ree starts off with an opening ceremony Saturday morning and wraps up Sunday after chapel services. For those who don't want to camp over, there are also registration options for staying just for the activity periods and for joining us for dinner and the campfire before going home.

Troop Participation in the Webelos-o-ree



At the Webelos-o-ree each troop selects an activity/skill that their Scouts teach the Webelos and their parents during a morning and afternoon session. And the cost? Nothing! There is no registration fee for Boy Scouts, even if they camp. The only thing required is a service project to help keep the event running (starting cooking fires, cleanup, food prep, etc.).

If your troop is interested in participating in this year's Webelos-o-ree, even if you were at last year's, please contact Webelosoree@GooseCreekDistrict.org so we can coordinate the activities to be run. We have space for seven troops to camp over and, as always, there is no fee for troops to attend. They just have to supply their own food.

For the past few years we have tried to keep certain activities reserved for the troops that have done them in the past, this has often had us scrambling to fill them in when we finally heard that a troop doing one could not come that year. **This year all activity slots are open and will be given to the first troop that requests them.**

Goose Creek Help Wanted (actually, Help Desperately Needed)



Does your Pack rely on a strong JSN to keep your unit healthy? Does your Troop rely on District Events such as the Camporee, Freeze-o-ree and others to help deliver the best possible program to your Scouts? In order for this to continue to happen, the Goose Creek District Committee is in need of your help to grow the Membership and Development Committee. Work directly with the Vice Chairs and other committee members to help strengthen and grow Scouting in Goose Creek. Experienced and novice Scouters all have the ability to contribute and many hands will make light work. Please consider helping the Goose Creek Committee today!

Any questions, contact our District Committee Chair Jim Bonfils at JimBonfils@icloud.com

District Social Media Platforms



Goose Creek District has new official social media platforms. These platforms will contain lots of fun information and materials pertaining to all things in the district. Follow us today.



Facebook - @BSAGooseCreek



Twitter - @BSAGooseCreek



Linkedin - Goose Creek



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

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



OA Calendar



- September 11-13 – Fall Fellowship at Camp Snyder
- October TBD – W&OD Trail Cleanup
- October 3 – Campfire Ceremony at Webelos-o-ree at Camp Snyder
- November TBD – Fall Area Ordeal
- November TBD – Popcorn Distribution
- November 14 – Scouting for Food Collection Station
- December TBD – Area Leadership Development Conference
- January 2, 2021 – Lodge Banquet



Momentum Launch, the Order of the Arrow's Largest Ever Virtual Event



Get ready for Momentum Launch, a fully interactive experience designed to launch the momentum the OA needs to continue fulfilling its purpose during the new normal.

"We may be physically distant, but we aren't alone," says Zach Schonfeld, who leads the OA as National Chief. "Each participant will leave with a renewed sense of purpose to ensure the Order of the Arrow's life-changing mission thrives for years to come."

What, when, who

What: Organizers say Momentum Launch will be the OA's largest virtual event in history. It will include the fun stuff — games, competitions, activities — but also helpful training sessions designed to spotlight ways to continue the OA's commitment to cheerful service throughout the pandemic and beyond. And as you'd expect at an OA event, it will include some incredible shows.

When: Momentum Launch will be held Aug. 4 to 6, 2020.

Who: Momentum Launch is open to anyone — whether they're members of the OA or not.

Two ways to join

Free: Anyone can watch for free with no registration required. You'll be able to view any of the Momentum Launch events live. While some sessions are most applicable to Scouts and adult volunteers who are part of the OA, the stream can be viewed by anyone live. (Insider's tip: You won't want to miss the opening show on Aug. 4.)

Registered delegate (\$30): For the full experience, you'll want the premium tier, which includes a mailed patch, access to all live events, access to recorded versions of all events, access to a community platform to communicate with Arrowmen from across the country, and a chance to win the eventwide game.

Register here: <https://registration.oa-bsa.org/>

What to expect

Momentum Launch will include:

- Opening and closing shows, which will let the OA showcase its signature ability to inspire and entertain
- Q&A sessions with astronaut Doug Wheelock, BSA CEO Roger Mosby, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and former Defense Secretary Robert Gates
- More than 35 hours of original content
- 13 training sessions about interesting topics both in and out of the OA
- Game shows and trivia competitions
- Campfire chats
- Other can't-miss surprises

See the schedule, which will be updated regularly, at this link:

<https://momentum.oa-bsa.org/schedule/>

“Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

Jawwad Anwar – Troop 786

John Farrell – Troop 969

Carl Leitert – Troop 966

Ryan McClemore – Troop 969

Matthew Mitchell – Troop 1430

Charles Roberttello – Troop 998

Ryan Wilkerson – Troop 961

How to Conduct a Board of Review through Videoconferencing



The board of review, like most aspects of Scouting, works best in person. But sometimes, for a number of legitimate reasons, that's not an option. That's why, as outlined in the *Guide to Advancement* (section 8.0.1.6), the BSA allows units to conduct boards of review by teleconferencing, using tools like Skype, Google Hangouts or Zoom.

Even before the coronavirus prompted families to be justifiably concerned about face-to-face meetings, this option has existed. In the past, it has been most commonly used in two situations:

- young people who have gone off to college or the military
- young people who live in remote areas

But the uncertainty and anxiety surrounding the coronavirus makes this an appropriate time to turn to videoconferencing solutions, as well.

If an Eagle Scout board of review must be convened using videoconferencing, make a request to the NCAC ARC (alandeter@verizon.net), and indicate the following:

- Scout's Name, BSA ID, Date of Birth
- Troop, District
- Reason for Request including the urgency that argues against holding an in-person Board of Review when conditions will allow in-person meetings in the near future

If you have decided to use videoconferencing for a board of review, here's what you need to know: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/16/how-to-conduct-a-board-of-review-through-videoconferencing/>

Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Recognition



The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution serving Northwestern Virginia invites you to recognize your Eagle Scout with a letter and certificate of recognition for their Court of Honor. Application is easy but can take 4-6 weeks for delivery due to the approval process.

Please provide the following information when ordering a letter and certificate:

1. Scout's Full Name:
2. Scout's Troop Number:
3. Date for Court of Honor (if known):
4. Name/position of person requesting letter and certificate (for accounting purposes):
5. Address for mailing letter and certificate:

You may address all requests and inquiries to:

Robert Fagan
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
Chapter Chairman, SAR Scouting Activities

Email: rjfmf99@hotmail.com

Life-to-Eagle Training



Keep your eyes open for an email announcement of our remaining 2020 offerings of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek.

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 as well. 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.

The next (re-scheduled) L2E Seminar for 2020 was supposed to be in August. However, due to the current pandemic situation, the only option for conducting such would be virtual, and frankly, no one wants to sit in on a 4-hour virtual training. We had been holding out hope that things would have relaxed in August or September. However, the Loudoun County Public Libraries - while open - are not permitting use of their meeting rooms, and per recent communication, they shared, "We don't know when we'll be opening meeting rooms again, but we expect it will be quite some time".

Date: TBD – though no sooner than Sept, as we search for viable options

Time: TBD – typically starting between 10:30 & 11, and extending 3-4 hours)

Place: TBD – typically one of the county's public libraries.

Next month's newsletter should include an update on the availabilities of the when this seminar will be held.

Also, if you ARE a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit, and have not attended one of these in 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.

Merit Badge Corner



How to Apply to be a Merit Badge Counselor Online



Great news - we're taking the process of applying to be a Merit Badge Counselor online!!

For a new counselor, please send an email requesting a 'sign-up link' to our Merit Badge Dean, Rich Pender, at meritbadgedean@goosecreekdistrict.org. You need to send a request for each new counselor, as the link is individual/custom.

He will send back the requested link - using it will take Scouters to a site where they enter in the info normally contained on the Adult Volunteer Application and the background check waiver. It also checks on YPT status based on BSA ID. Quick entry, and privacy for confidential data.

Once this process is completed, you'll just need to send one completed form to meritbadgedean@goosecreekdistrict.org - the MBC Application form that lists contact info and badges requested.

We hope this will save time for those applying - we know it will streamline our process, as the online system will make sure all required information has been provided, so we won't need to comb and proof applications. Sounds like a win-win!!

For existing MBCs on the District roster seeking to add or delete badges, just providing that MBC Application should suffice.

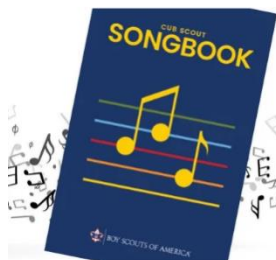
Please let us know if you have any questions.

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org



Digital Cub Scout Songbook



If you don't know an octave from a treble clef, you might be a little intimidated by sheet music. Wouldn't it be helpful if you could hear how a song goes?

Now you can listen to your favorite tunes featured in the revised Cub Scout Songbook. The book features a link to SoundCloud so you can hear each song. Songs like "God Bless The USA" and "America, the Beautiful"; fun songs like "Boom Chicka Boom" and "Do Your Ears Hang Low"; and many Scouting songs. It's a perfect resource for leaders to build den and pack spirit and enthusiasm. You can get a hard copy of the Songbook at the Scout Shop (<https://www.scoutshop.org/cub-scout-song-book-33222.html>)

In addition to the song lyrics, the Songbook features tips on how to teach and lead Cub Scouts in a sing-a-long. It also explains why you should try incorporating a song or two into your next meeting agenda and how to choose the right songs. The recorded songs found in the Cub Scout SongBook are now available in ScoutBook's Den Leader Experience for free under resources.



Cubmaster Shares Lyrics for Funny Pack Song He Penned



A couple of years ago, Mitch Lynch, Cubmaster of Pack 2010 in Aldie, Va., sang his version of Irving Berlin's "Gee, I Wish I Was Back in the Army" at the pack's blue and gold banquet. He got the idea while planning the banquet's program over Christmastime.

"The song really came together after watching Bing Crosby and Danny Kay sing the original song in *White Christmas* too many times," Lynch says. "It humorously compares enlisted and civilian life, and I thought it would be funny to preview to our Arrow of Light Scouts just how easy they have it before moving on to Boy Scouts."

Lynch's son recently crossed over into the Scouts BSA program and is part of Troop 924 in Haymarket, Va.

"It's only a matter of time before I talk some Scoutmasters into joining me for a reprise performance around a future campfire," Lynch says.

Watch his performance at

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/07/09/cubmaster-shares-lyrics-for-funny-pack-song/> and take a look at his funny lyrics. Maybe you'd like to learn them for an upcoming den or pack meeting:



James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award



We could use a few more Jimmy Stewarts in the world.

The Oscar-winning actor, philanthropist and military officer was a Scout in Troop 3 of Indiana, Pa. — about an hour east of Pittsburgh. As an adult, he was a dedicated friend of Scouting and received the Silver Buffalo Award, the BSA's top honor for adult volunteers.

In a 1980 speech, Stewart called the Scout Oath, "40 words ... that can make an awfully big difference."

Stewart died in 1997, but his spirit of citizenship endures in a number of tangible ways, including the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award, available to members of Scouts BSA.

The award, launched in 2003, was created through a partnership between the BSA, the James M. Stewart Museum Foundation, the Stewart family and the BSA's Penn's Woods Council (now part of the Laurel Highlands Council).

Registered Scouts can earn the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award by completing all of the following requirements:

- Take the Jimmy Stewart Museum quiz
- Write an essay of at least 500 words on the importance of citizenship in Scouting
- Perform a good citizenship project in the community in honor of James M. Stewart

Learn more and order award materials at the official site:

www.jimmy.org/citizenship-award/



BSA Postpones 2021 National Jamboree because of COVID-19 Pandemic



The Boy Scouts of America is committed to the safety of all youth in its programs.

The unpredictability of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the impact it has had on BSA councils so far prompted the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 National Jamboree.

This decision was not made lightly. Being prepared for the largest national gathering of Scouts takes years to do. The pandemic and the unresolved issues surrounding it has made it exceedingly difficult to plan for this event and do so in a way that would keep the safety of Scouts, volunteers, staff and communities at the forefront.

The National Jamboree, held every four years, was originally slated for July 21-30, 2021, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. No new date for the Jamboree has been set yet, but a task force of volunteers and staff will recommend a new date, and registered participants will be informed once that date is selected.

"We recognize that it may mean some Scouts will not have a Jamboree experience they had looked forward to," says Al Lambert, Assistant Chief Scout Executive and National Director of Outdoor Adventures. "We believe, however, that it is the best path forward, and we are committed to hosting this incredible event at a future date."

More about the postponement

I am a registered youth participant or the parent of a youth participant; how will I receive my refund?

Council contingent members should work directly with their local council regarding refunds.

I am a registered Jamboree Service Team member; how will I receive my refund?

The Jamboree Department at the National Service Center will process refunds.

I am a Jamboree Service Team member and have already booked my flight; what should I do?

Jamboree Service Team members should work directly with their airline to inquire about refunds or flight credits.

I am a participant who applied for a scholarship to attend the Jamboree; will I need to apply again when the Jamboree is rescheduled?

Yes. Unfortunately, you will need to apply again given that the situation, available funds, and allocation process may be different.

If I have already accepted a staff assignment, what happens to my position?

The BSA will inform key stakeholder groups of plans and decisions regarding positions for a future Jamboree as soon as that information is available.

Can I still buy 2021 National Jamboree merchandise and apparel?

No. Official BSA 2021 National Jamboree merchandise and apparel are no longer available.

I am a youth participant but may be over 18 for the new National Jamboree date; can I still go as a participant?

Yes. There will be opportunities to attend a future Jamboree within the participant structure and the Jamboree Service Team structure.



BSA Family Fun Fest



If you like funny pets, rockets and astronauts, Pinewood Derby cars, movie makeup artists and backyard camping, then you'll love Family Fun Fest! It's outdoor adventure you can have online: <https://www.scouting.org/familyfunfest/>

This very special online-only event, held on Aug 8, is just for families like yours! There will be cool hands-on activities, interviews with amazing people, and opportunities to make your community better with a service project.

Join in on the fun with activities like designing a Pinewood Derby car and baking homemade treats for your pets with a trained chef. We'll post items you'll need for each activity, here and on Facebook, so you can build your own adventure!

If you're already a Cub Scout, you'll love it! If you're not a Scout but want to find out about all the fun and cool things Scouts do – this is your chance! And, it's always more fun with friends, so invite some of yours to join you online for the Family Fun Fest!



Camp Cards for Frontline Heroes Campaign



The Scouts from the NCAC found a way to thank our Frontline Heroes using our 2020 Camp Card! Each Camp Card (discount coupon card) donated by our community through this website will be delivered by NCAC Scouts to local Frontline Heroes in September.

Please help our Scouts by purchasing one, or several \$5.00 Camp Cards, and they will be donated to local Frontline Heroes.

Help us promote this sale to support our Frontline heroes by sharing this link: www.NCACBSA.org/campcardorder

How is this different from the original Camp Card Sale?

This is a new addition to our Camp Card sale since it was cut short due to the current pandemic. We want to give Scouts an opportunity to still raise funds for future activities and virtual Scouting experiences by selling Camp Cards and supporting our local frontline heroes.

How will the Frontline Hero sale also benefit units?

After you close your sale with payment, keep the remaining cards for future donation to frontline heroes.

Between June 16 and August 31, send friends, family & others to the website and encourage them to select your district and unit.

When it is safe to do so, we will ask your unit to deliver the camp cards you have sold as part of this campaign to Frontline Heroes by going to a hospital, grocery store, fire station, etc.

The commission of \$2.50 per card sold through our website will be placed in your unit's account or a check will be mailed for earned commission in early September.

Help us sell 100,000 Camp Cards to support 100,000 local Frontline Heroes!

For questions please contact your District Executive or Campcard@ncacbsa.org



Scout Talk Videos Are Now Available to Help Invite Kids to Join a Unit



With many schools expected to limit outside entry due to the pandemic, these videos provide a way to reach youth.

https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swemployee7222020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=#/lightbox/1411584/



STEMaTHON (Online Event)



Overview

Join us from September 5-6, 2020 for a STEMaTHON: Scouts Building Bridges and Feeding the World through the lens and tools of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This two day event includes online workshops, keynotes, tours, presentations and even activities!

How you can participate

There are events for all ages!

Youth in grades K-5:

Youth in grade 6-12:

Young adults upto age 21:

The requirements to register for STEMaTHON are:

1. Bring a friend! STEMaTHON is a Great Scouting Invitational, so you must register with a friend. This can be a classmate, neighbor, grandparent, a cousin across the world, bring a friend to STEM!
2. Sign up! The fee for the overall event is \$10. If you are participating in additional sessions, you can select them as classes during registration.

Activities in Advance:

- Merit Badges: Engineering, Inventing
 - Merit Badges will open on 8/1
 - Kits will be sent (for Engineering bridges) on 8/5 (register on right and be sure to specify your mailing address)
 - The Engineering bridge competition & Inventing showcases will be streamed live on Saturday, per the schedule below.
- Rube Goldberg Machines:
 - Design and execute Rube Goldberg Machine that rolls a can of food a distance of at least 1 foot, film your creation and send the video in to our channel! Details attached to the right.

To register and see a complete schedule go to:

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-STEMaTHON#>

Questions? Email: stem@ncacbsa.org



Coping with COVID-19



Throughout the last few months, BSA has heard from parents in our Scouting family who are navigating the challenges of parenting through the COVID-19 crisis. They have posed these questions to independent experts on matters related to youth development to help provide some answers to our community:

www.scouting.org/coping-with-covid-19/

Topics covered are:

- A Message From April McMillan BSA's National Director of Program
- Too Much Time at Home With Kids?
- Keeping It Together in Front of My Family?
- Disappointment From Cancelled Special Events
- Assessing Mine and My Family's Mental Health
- Keeping Our Senior Family Members in Mind
- Feelings of Loneliness or Anxiety
- Signs of Abusive Sibling Relationships
- Conflict With Going out in Public

Importantly, these answers are designed to provide information and should not be used to diagnose health conditions. Please reach out to a professional health provider for support in addressing concerns you may have.

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Any materials that the Boy Scouts of America provides are for information purposes only and do not represent endorsement by or an official position of the Boy Scouts of America. Advice on the treatment or care of a patient should be obtained through consultation with a physician who has examined that patient and is familiar with that patient's medical history. The information, data, opinions, and statements included or linked to from this website are not necessarily those of the Boy Scouts of America and should not be interpreted, acted on, or represented as such.

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When a Scout sees a tag on a tent that says waterproof, he sees it as a challenge to find a way to pitch it so he will get wet. If you give him a frying pan and tell him it has a nonstick surface, he will do his best to find something to stick to it. Don't take anything camping that says it is fireproof. Trust me on that one, okay?



Try this Safe, Smart 'Mystery Hike' Activity with your Scouts and their Families



Scoutmaster Hassler is missing!

Perhaps he's at Rockville Hills Park, a frequent hiking destination for Troop 482. Or maybe he's at Cenario's Pizza, a favorite pre-pandemic meeting spot for the Troop 482 patrol leaders' council.

To solve this mystery before the next virtual troop meeting, Troop 482 Scouts and their families will need to take a 2.5-mile journey through their town. Along the way, they'll hunt for clues, learn Scout skills — and pick up any litter they might find.

The mystery hike, inspired by the game Clue, is the brainchild of Troop 482 committee member Cindy deRosier. As a former classroom teacher with a master's in education, deRosier knows how to make learning interactive and fun — even during a pandemic.

"Our troop has not met in person since early March and cannot safely meet in person any time soon," she says. "So I started thinking of fun ways to encourage the Scouts to get out, do some hiking with their families and work on Scout skills."

Your Scouts can try deRosier's mystery hike from anywhere using Google Street View. But it'll be even more meaningful for your Scouts if you plan your own mystery hike in your home town.

To try Troop 482's hike or to find out how to create one of your own go to <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/07/27/try-this-safe-smart-mystery-hike-activity-with-your-scouts-and-their-families/>

Journey to Excellence Scoring Will be Adjusted in Light of COVID-19



When you planned a big spring event for your pack, troop, crew or ship last year, you weren't counting on a global pandemic disrupting everything.

The same can be said about the volunteers who created the 2020 Journey to Excellence scorecards (www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/).

Journey to Excellence, often shortened to JTE, is a self-evaluation tool that lets unit leaders see, quantitatively, how well their unit is meeting the goals of Scouting. JTE scorecards are updated each year to reflect feedback from unit leaders like you.

"We made certain assumptions in creating the JTE standards," says Neil Lupton, chairman of the BSA's National Assessment and Evaluation Committee. "Those assumptions fail in the face of the coronavirus."

That's why the committee has announced that it will re-evaluate and revise JTE requirements once the coronavirus threat is diminished and the country's path forward becomes more clear.

"As always, JTE should be helpful and encouraging to all in Scouting," says Jeff Rand, Lupton's professional counterpart on the committee and leader of the BSA's performance management team.

Can Packs, Troops or Crews Participate in Political Rallies?



The BSA might be the most patriotic organization in the U.S. But we don't endorse any one political party. You could say that rather than being pro-left or pro-right, the BSA is pro-America.

The same applies to your pack, troop, post, ship or crew. You and your Scouts should Do Your Duty to Country but not by endorsing any one candidate.

During election years, the line between patriotism and political favoritism becomes thin, making it important to remind you of the BSA's official policy on Scout participation in political rallies.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions and the BSA's official answers:

Q: Could a pack, troop or crew provide a color guard flag ceremony for a candidate's public speaking event or rally?

A: Yes. But, BSA Policy requires our adult and youth members in uniform to leave immediately after the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Should they want to stay they must do so as individuals, not Scouting representatives. That means they would have to change out of their uniforms.

Q: So Scouts and Scouters can't stand on the platform for the remainder of the speech or presentation?

A: No, they should not remain on the speakers' platform or in a conspicuous location where media could construe their presence as an endorsement or symbol of support.

Q: Why is this the rule?

A: The policy is meant to prevent someone from using our brand to convey support of a candidate or ideology. This prevents Scouts from being used by any party in campaign advertisements or materials.

Q: So then why is it OK to even present the colors or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at all?

A: Those are displays of loyalty to the nation, something the BSA has always endorsed. Regardless of the outcome of the political race, the candidate and supporters pledge allegiance to the U.S. Because of this, it is always acceptable and deemed to be a part of the civic process. Also, this "service" is offered to any party, regardless of political affiliation.

Q: Can Scouts and Scouters pose for photos with political candidates at these events?

A: Yes. But photos of candidates or Scouts in uniform or BSA marks and logos are not allowed in political campaign materials of any kind.

2021 NCAC High Adventure Expeditions



Philmont 12-day Backpacking: June 26–July 10, 2021 and July 17–31, 2021

- 4 crews (12 max) available on each date!
- Philmont Online Registration Portal: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-37103>

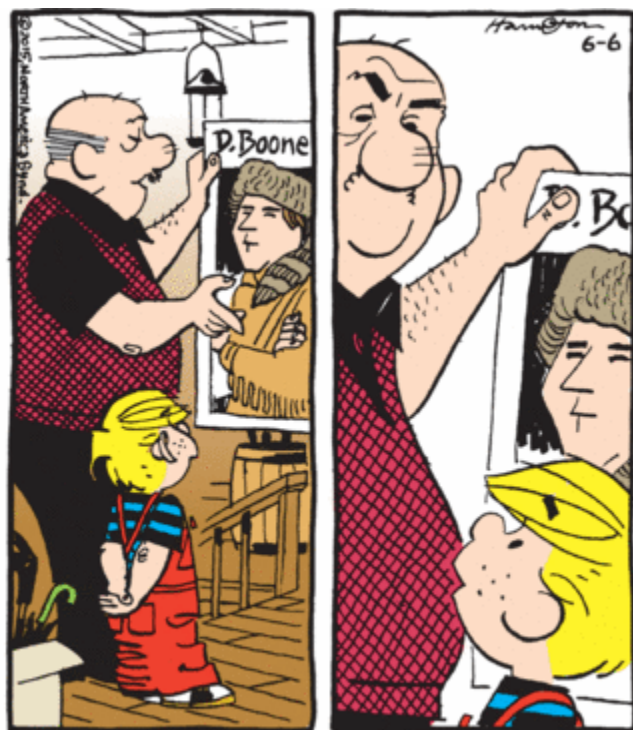
Sea Base Coral Reef Sailing! July 17 to 23, 2021

- Two Crews of 6-8 each are available!
- Contact john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org

Northern Tier Wilderness Canoeing! July 20 to 31, 2021

- One Crew of 6-8 is available!
- Contact john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org

All logistics are handled by the High Adventure Committee. You just need to pack. And train, update your gear, train, plan your routes, train, and have the trip of a lifetime.



"THIS IS MY PRIZED POSSESSION...A PICTURE OF DANIEL BOONE."

"WAS HE YOUR SCOUT LEADER?"



Training Opportunities



Virtual Leave No Trace Trainer Course - Outdoor Ethics



What is the purpose of this class?

The Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, 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 as Leave No Trace Trainers and youth aged 14+ to serve their units as Outdoor Ethics Guides. Every Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Varsity Scout, Venturing, and Sea Scout unit should have at least one individual fully trained in Leave No Trace.

We recommend that youth complete this course before serving as in the troop Outdoor Ethics Guide position.

Who should attend?

Venturers, Sea Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Scouts BSA aged 14+; adult Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, 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 patch, 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.

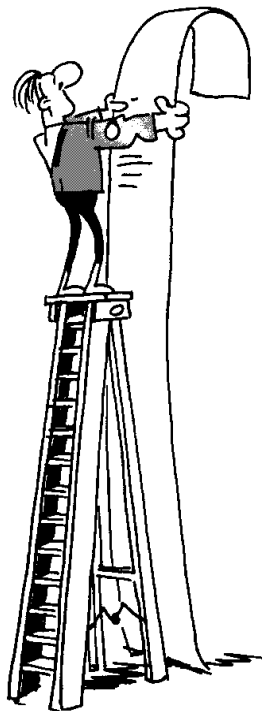
This course is normally taught in the outdoors with an overnight campout; however, we are offering this course virtually for a limited time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dates: 8/17/2020 – 8/21/2020

Cost: \$60

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-LNTVIRTUAL#> Opens 8/5/2020 at 5 PM. Closes 8/7/2020 at 11 AM.

District Calendar



August 2020

12 Roundtable
12 OA Chapter Meeting
13 Commissioner Mtg
20 First Day of School
26 District Committee

September 2020

8 1st Day of School
7 Labor Day
9 Roundtable
10 Commissioner Mtg
9 OA Chapter Meeting
23 District Committee

October 2020

3-4 **Webelos-o-ree**
7 Roundtable
7 OA Chapter Meeting
8 Commissioner Mtg
12 Columbus Day
21 District Committee
30 Student Holiday

November 2020

2-3 Student Holiday
7 **SFF Distribution**
11 Roundtable
11 OA Chapter Meeting
12 Commissioner Mtg
14 **SFF Food Pickup**
18 District Committee
25-27 Student Holiday
30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**

December 2020

9 Roundtable
9 OA Chapter Meeting
10 Commissioner Mtg
16 **Annual District Business Meeting**
23-31 Winter Break

January 2021

1 Holiday
13 Roundtable
13 OA Chapter Meeting
14 Commissioner Mtg
18 MLK Jr. Day
19 Moveable School Holiday
20 School Holiday (Inauguration)
27 District Committee

February 2021

5 Scout Jumuah
6 Scout Sabbath
7 Scout Sunday
10 Roundtable
10 OA Chapter Meeting
11 Commissioner Mtg
15 President's Day
24 District Committee

March 2021

2 School Holiday
6 **District Pinewood Derby**
10 Roundtable
10 OA Chapter Meeting
11 Commissioner Mtg
24 District Committee
29-31 Spring Break

April 2021

8 Commissioner Mtg
12 School Holiday
14 Roundtable
14 OA Chapter Meeting
28 District Committee

May 2021

12 Roundtable
12 OA Chapter Meeting
13 Commissioner Mtg
26 District Committee
31 Memorial Day

June 2021

9 Roundtable
9 OA Chapter Meeting
10 Commissioner Mtg
23 District Committee

July 2021

4 Fourth of July