



# Goose Creek District Newsletter



September 2020

Volume 12, Issue 2

## Special Interest:

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
## Quick Calendar:

- Sept 9 – Roundtable
- Oct 3 – Virtual Webelos-o-ree
- Oct 7 – Roundtable
- Nov 7 – Scouting for Food Notice Distribution
- Nov 11 – Roundtable
- Nov 14 – Scouting for Food Pickup
- Nov 30 – Final Date for Recharter Turn in

## Newsletter Key:

 Cub Scout Interest

 Boy Scout / Venturing Interest

 For Everyone

 New Article

Reprinted from [www.ScoutmasterCG.com](http://www.ScoutmasterCG.com), September 3, 2013



## Are You Sharing Too Much Information?

Information educates the mind, experience develops skill. Too much information can be paralyzing.

We live in the information age. Our Scouts get plenty of information, much more than they can do anything with. What they really need is experience.

Scouting is an educational movement, but it's not educational in the traditional sense. Scouting is a journey through experiences that develop skill.

Sometimes we get a little mixed up, we think our Scouts need a lot of information to develop skills. They don't. What they really need is experience. This is true of almost everything we do in Scouting.

If we wanted to teach someone to ride a bike we'd show them the bike, put them in the seat, give them a couple of pointers and tell them to try. As they figured things out we'd coach them, encourage them, and work with them until they developed enough skill to go ahead on their own.

We usually apply this method when we are instructing Scouts on building a campfire, safely handling woods tools, or flipping a flapjack. How can we apply it to training youth leaders?

Much of our training, both for youth and adults, is aimed at sharing information. More often than not we plop folks down in front of a PowerPoint presentation or a video, fill their hands with handouts, and consider that they have been trained.

Measuring the information we share is important. I can sit a new senior patrol leader down and overload him with information to the point that he's not to sure where to turn. Things go better if I give him the most pertinent information he needs right now and let him gain some experience from applying it.

Scouts learning how to handle a pocketknife need short informational statements, lots of practice, and a little coaching.

Scouts learning to lead need the same thing; short informational statements, lots of practice, and a little coaching.

## District News

District Website: [www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek](http://www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek)



### Webelos-o-ree 2020 is now Virtual



Camp Snyder is closed, but the Webelos-O-ree is open!

Webelos-O-ree is a great opportunity for Scouts BSA troops to show off their scouting skills and offer Webelos some inspiration. This will be a virtual event with breakout sessions lasting approximately 30 minutes each over a 2 hour period. Troops: This will be activity based, so consider showing the Webelos how your troop conducts first aid, cooking, fire building, knot tying, skits, hike preparations, camping preparations...you get the idea. We will provide you with a Zoom breakout room and an audience. Event will be held October 3rd. Contact Charles Thornton at [scouterchalis@gmail.com](mailto:scouterchalis@gmail.com) for more information.



### Friends of Scouting



We are reaching out to units that have not had a Friends of Scouting presentation in 2020. This year has certainly been a challenge for us all. We hope you have been able to find creative ways to continue your Scouting program.

The need for support from contributions raised during the annual Friends of Scouting campaign is more important this year. The National Capital Area Council has experienced loss of revenue like other nonprofits and businesses in the area. Many of you were just getting started with the Camp Cards Fundraiser when the pandemic abruptly halted sales of the cards. The Council budget also took a large hit with the loss of summer camp revenue.

Realizing that your meeting formats have changed during this era of social distancing we can still provide a presentation that will work with your modified format. We can come to your meeting or provide a virtual presentation for you.

Over the next few days members of the Goose Creek District Committee will be calling unit leaders to follow up on this email. We would like to schedule a presentation or discuss other ways that we can reach out to your Scout families.

If you already have an upcoming meeting that you would like to have a presentation you can reply directly to Sue Breen ([development@goosecreekdistrict.org](mailto:development@goosecreekdistrict.org)), our District Vice Chair of Development, and we will ensure that a presenter attends, in person or virtually.

Did you know it costs approximately \$240 to provide one year of quality program for each Scout? Your donation to Friends of Scouting helps ensure that more than 57,000 youth and adult leaders can take part in the invaluable experiences found within Scouting. You can make a pledge today by clicking on the Donate button below and ensure the quality of Scouting in the NCAC continues for many years to come!

[Donate](#)

## 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](mailto:Tonya.Dobbins@scouting.org) or Lisa Snip.

### 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)

## 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/](http://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](mailto:SteveWolfson@verizon.net)) if you are interested.

## 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](mailto:JimBonfils@icloud.com)



## Membership



Just like that, summer is over and fall recruiting has arrived! Unit JSNs are happening all over the District and it's time to tell all your friends about Joining Cub Scouts and getting involved! If your unit is holding a JSN and you need support with yard signs, flyers, or getting set up with Peachjar and Social Media events... Let us know!

Do you have application questions, concerns and need help getting them processed contact Dena McGuiggan ([membership@goosecreekdistrict.org](mailto:membership@goosecreekdistrict.org)) for assistance.

## 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

## “Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



## New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

**Kevin Aviles** – Troop 1430

**Adam Baime** – Troop 163

**Jack Chong** – Troop 761

**Vivek Chundru** – Troop 956

**Griffin Cook** – Troop 1158

**Brendan Dugdell** – Troop 1158

**Zach Ferguson** – Troop 1158

**Nolan Hill** – Troop 1158

**Praneeth Malyala** – Troop 1158

**Blake Robinson** – Troop 761

**Emerson Rodriguez** – Troop 1158

**Hudson Rolle** – Troop 950

**Gabriel Thompson** – Troop 1158

## 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 Oct, 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.

In light of the unfortunate loss of L2E Training opportunities this year, the Advancement Committee is willing to share the slides by sending a PDF set of those materials directly to the Advancement Chairs and L2E Guides within each of the Troops in the district. To request a copy, we simply ask that you send an email to us (at [MSVA\\_Tenor@yahoo.com](mailto:MSVA_Tenor@yahoo.com)) and in that email, provide the below information. It's important to note that the slides alone are insufficient as a standalone document for conveying the necessary information, and are heavily dependent upon the voice-track that accompanies it in the L2E sessions. The information below will help us stay in touch with the key advancement personnel in the individual units themselves.

- Unit Type & Number
- Name of L2E Training materials recipient
- Actual position the recipient holds (Adv Chair, L2E Guide, etc)
- Email for the recipient

## 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](mailto:rjfmf99@hotmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.NCACBSA.org)



### Activate AmazonSmile on your iPhone or Android to Support Local Scouting



Now you can support Scouting without lifting a finger — or at least not more than one. AmazonSmile, the simple and no-cost way to donate to a favorite charity like your local BSA council, now works on the Amazon Shopping app for iPhone and Android. That means it's easier than ever to support Scouting anytime, anywhere.

Through its AmazonSmile program, Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice — at no cost to you. You'll get the same prices, selection and service found on Amazon.com, but now Amazon gives 0.5% of its cut to a good cause.

The BSA and its local councils across the country are eligible AmazonSmile charities. Individual packs, troops, posts, ships and crews are not eligible.

#### How to activate AmazonSmile on your iPhone or Android

##### Step 1: Join AmazonSmile

If you aren't yet an AmazonSmile member, sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/> using a web browser (mobile or desktop). You'll sign in with your Amazon credentials, and the site will walk you through the process.

Amazon will ask you to choose your favorite charity. This is where you search for your local Scout council or choose the "National Boy Scouts of America Council."

##### Step 2: Open the Amazon Shopping app on your phone

If you don't have the app already, download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

##### Step 3: Open Settings within the app

Open Settings by tapping the three horizontal lines (aka the "hamburger") at the top left and tapping "Settings."



### The Scout Shop Uniform Sale is Back, and the Timing Couldn't be Better



Some sales seem timed to meet the interests of the company, not the needs of the customer.

But every now and then, the right sale comes at exactly the right time. That's the case with the Scout Shop uniform sale. You can save on essential elements of the Scouting experience right as a new Scouting year begins.

Here's the deal: From now through Oct. 10, families can get 25% off any uniform bottom when they buy a uniform top from the same program from [ScoutShop](http://ScoutShop). Just use the code CUBSCOUT25 or SCOUTSBSA25 when ordering.

The sale includes Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA uniforms — both youth and adult. You can even pair the discounted bottoms with the newly updated Scouts BSA men's shirt and Scouts BSA boy's shirt.

The sale's only rule is that the top and bottom must be from the same program, meaning you can't pair a blue Cub Scout shirt with green Scouts BSA switchbacks.



## National Capital Area Council - Guidance on Outdoor Activities for Fall 2020



The Executive Committee, composed of the volunteer and professional leaders of the council, recently agreed on guidance and limitations on Council, District and unit outdoor activities for the fall, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that is still prevalent in our area.

The Committee carefully considered the strong desire of our Scouts and units to be out in the field, the experience the council has gained over the summer in virus-transmission precautions in outdoor activities and the local government restrictions on the size of gatherings and in-person classroom instruction. The paramount consideration was the health and safety of our Scouts and their families.

With this in mind, the Committee agreed to the following guidance for NCAC units and Districts in conducting outdoor activities this fall

- We encourage units to continue to conduct outdoor Scouting activities as permitted by their unit Key Three, Chartering Organization and local government virus precaution restrictions
- There will be no mass gatherings of Scouts in the outdoors permitted this fall. This means no traditional District camporees nor any staggered, circuit course events involving multiple Dens, Patrols and Crews in the same location
- We encourage Districts to conduct distributed events in which Dens, Patrols and Crews independently work through an identical template of well-defined activities in their own outdoor setting to demonstrate Scouting skills in a competitive atmosphere. The NCAC Marketing and Communication Committee is available to provide support to District activities that will allow large numbers of Units, or Dens and Patrols to complete competitions at their meeting place and live feed the results to the District Activity Committee for verification. Training for this type of activity will be available in September, more details will be provided soon.
- Our Council camps will sponsor and be open for small group activities this fall. Specifically, the Goshen Labor Day Family Camping event will proceed as scheduled and Camp William B. Snyder will host several fall Family Camping events that include a prepared program. Additionally, Camp Snyder will be open for individual family and Patrol camping (no unit camping) on selected weekends; campers will be responsible for their own programming. Also, a number of the traditional program activities at Camp Snyder, including the Wood Shop, Scouterhorn and LASR Robotics, can be independently scheduled by small groups. Finally, merit badge counselors may use Camp Snyder to teach outdoor oriented merit badges in small groups.

Over the spring and summer NCAC has gained experience and momentum in providing quality Scouting activities despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 virus. The BSA SAFE checklist is included with this message and should be used when planning activities with Scouts and Scouters. We need to remain strong as a community and continue to be innovative in creating engaging outdoor program for our Scouts this fall. Please share your successes on [WeOwnAdventure.com](http://WeOwnAdventure.com) so other districts can learn from your creativity. Our combined energy and talent will ensure Scouting Continues!





## Update Your Beascout.Org Pin, and Your Unit Could Win!



What's the easiest way for potential members to join your Scout unit? BeAScout.org!

It works even better if your unit information is up-to-date. Now, if you update your pin, your Scout unit could win! Just make sure your unit BeAScout pin is updated anytime between June 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2020, and your unit will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 Scout Shop Gift card, or one of five \$100 Scout Shop Gift cards. See the full rules for the giveaway here.

Need help updating your pin? Find a complete set of step-by-step instructions on how to update your BeAScout pin in this [guide](#), and/or watch this "[Setting Up Your BeAScout Unit Pin](#)" instructional video.

As we move into join-Scouting season, now is the time to be Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind by doing a Good Turn and updating your pin so people who are looking for a great Scouting unit can find you! You just might win something in the process!

for questions of assistance contact [Membership@goosecreek.org](mailto:Membership@goosecreek.org)



## Save the Dates for Summer Camp 2021 at Goshen Scout Reservation



Next summer, we'll be offering five weeks of summer camp at all our Webelos and Scouts BSA/Venturing resident camps and four weeks of backpacking program and river trekking program at Lenhok'sin High Adventure.

Week 1: June 27 – July 3, 2021

Week 2: July 4 – July 10, 2021

Week 3: July 11 – July 17, 2021

Week 4: July 18 – July 24, 2021

Week 5: July 25 – July 31, 2021

Unit registration opens September 8th. Mark your calendars!

Due to COVID-19, all Goshen camps will be in deposit phase until March 1, 2021. To reserve your unit's spot, you'll need to register and pay for one youth. Spaces for your unit will be reserved based on the number of spots you request during registration. Beginning March 1, units will be able to add and pay for their other youth and adult campers. Provisional scouts – individual Scouts BSA and Venturers (not Webelos) attending without their unit as part of the Provisional Camp program – will also be able to sign up beginning March 1, 2021.

Learn more about Goshen's Webelos camps, Scouts BSA/Venturing camps, Lenhok'sin High Adventure, the Provisional Camp program, and Summer Camp 2021 at [www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org)



## Venturer's Conservation Project - Pickup 1 Million Pieces of Trash



During a pandemic, Scouts have had to get creative to continue their adventures and service. Sometimes, the changes transformed their plans into something much greater than they conceived.

John-Aaron Bozanic, an Eagle Scout and current Venturer with Crew 774 in Laguna Woods, Calif., was working on a conservation project when the COVID-19 virus began spreading across the country. His changes turned his project into a worldwide effort.

"It started out as an underwater cleanup off California, but with the COVID outbreak, I modified it to make it feasible for the times," John-Aaron says. "I have had Scouts from all 50 states and 21 countries participate so far."

Scouts from all over the world are picking up trash in their communities as part of John-Aaron's "1 Million Pieces of Trash" project ([www.scouting.org/international/international-adventure/1000000-pieces-of-trash/](http://www.scouting.org/international/international-adventure/1000000-pieces-of-trash/)), which counts as a Messengers of Peace Award ([www.scouting.org/international/messengers-of-peace/](http://www.scouting.org/international/messengers-of-peace/)) endeavor. So far, 6,082 participants have collected more than 676,700 pieces of trash, equaling 168,206 pounds and more than 15,100 volunteer hours.

You can record your Scout's involvement [here](#) to be included in the grand total. Every week, Venturing Crew 774 will share updated tallies on its Instagram page; photos can be shared on the 1,000,000 Pieces of Trash Facebook page.



## These Cub Scout Adventures Video Resources Can Help Your Next Den Meeting



Figuring out how to create a fun den meeting in a virtual setting can feel overwhelming.

That's why the National Council and 50 councils across the country worked together to produce these [Cub Scout Adventures video resources](#) to help den leaders.

They are a series of short videos, prepared by councils, to align with Adventures for each Cub Scout rank. Scouting volunteers and council professionals recruited local subject matter experts, like museums, theaters, businesses and law enforcement agencies as well as the BSA's national high-adventure bases, to create these videos that cover 96 Cub Scout Adventures. Many of these videos were filmed by den leaders and Scouts, too.

You can use these videos to enhance your virtual den meetings; they don't take the place of the program designed and presented in the Den Leader Experience or Cub Scout handbooks. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these virtual resources may be used to complete requirements, such as [virtual tours instead of den outings](#).

During this time, as in any time, follow the Cub Scout motto: Do Your Best.

A Webinar via Zoom is planned for [September 14](#) to help you Do Your Best by demonstrating how best to use these video resources. Also on the video resource page are tips for using BSA's advancement tracking tool Scoutbook and more helpful videos for running a den meeting. Links to these videos are also within Scoutbook.



## Get the Latest in Scouting News Through the New, Improved Magazine App



Get daily updates! Download the new Scouting magazine app today.

For 107 years, Scouting magazine has been bringing leaders, parents and volunteers news about “all-things Scouting” as well as resources for building an exceptional program. The print version of the publication may have ended with the May-June 2020 issue, but the resources for Scouting volunteers and parents are better than ever in the Scouting magazine app.

Even though the format for the trusted Scouting source has changed, the mission hasn't. We are dedicated to continuing to deliver your same favorite features as well as some new topics to enjoy. With the app, you'll always have access to the latest information to help you as Scouters and as parents.

So, check it out! The brand-new [Scouting magazine app](#) is available now in the App Store and Google Play.

### See what's new

The latest issue, [September-October 2020](#), is online in a digital format, free to all adults registered with the BSA. Instead of waiting months for fresh content, the Scouting magazine app will be updated every day with something new.

You can sign up for notifications so you know when stories are posted on topics you like. Are you a Cub Scout leader? There's a category for that. A parent? There's a category for that, too. The app is easy to read, sleek and intuitive. Plus, you can have it with you and read it anywhere on your devices.



## Why a New-Parent Orientation is a Must for Your Cub Scout Pack



You know how to welcome the new Cub Scouts who will join your pack this fall. But what about their parents?

The August 2014 edition of [Cubcast](#) revealed just that. It tells you why every Cub Scout pack should hold a new-parent orientation the night of their recruitment event.

CubCast's guest was Dr. Geoff Zoeller, professional educator, Cubmaster and the vice president of membership and relations for the Patriots' Path Council in New Jersey. He argues that many experienced Cub Scouters forget what it's like to be a new Cub Scout parent.

In the podcast Zoeller outlines several topics for you to cover at the new-parent orientation:

- Describing program
- Discussing expectations
- Showing what parents will need to purchase
- Explaining national and local registration processes and fees
- Making connections with individuals
- Answering questions
- Sharing the expected time commitment for parents and Cub Scouts

Zoeller suggests you hold your new-parent orientation the same night of your recruitment event. That way you're sure every new parent will attend and have his or her questions answered and expectations clarified.



## Recruiting Adult Leaders

Excerpted from: <http://bobwhiteblather.com/just-tell-me-what-i-need-to-do/>



Recruiting boys is relatively easy. They'll go for anything that appeals to them, and Cub Scouting has it all – and then some.

But recruiting adults is another story. Most adults are already pressed for time, and those just coming in to Cub Scouting don't know anything about the program or what it takes to run it. There is so much material available that if taken all at once, new volunteers can be extremely confused about what they learned and in what context it applies. New leaders need to know what they need to do today, this week and this month – not be overwhelmed by supplemental training and volumes of additional material that they won't need for weeks, months or years – or ever. The big picture is important – but with the proper guidance up front, it will come in due time.

New volunteers stepping into a leadership position should consider these “baby steps” to get started:

1. Youth Protection Training is an absolute must before a volunteer can even register. Sign up for an online account at <https://myscouting.org> and take the training there.
2. Go online and read the sample den meeting plans. It'll give them a good idea of what they are expected to do, and what kind of resources the BSA will provide them with. Then obtain the full version from the nearest Scout Shop or order from [scoutstuff.org](http://scoutstuff.org) ([www.scoutstuff.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=den+leader+guide&as\\_fid=ic9y%2FCkqa%2FPoFQkUeO%2FB](http://www.scoutstuff.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=den+leader+guide&as_fid=ic9y%2FCkqa%2FPoFQkUeO%2FB)).
3. Take the online position-specific training for their leadership position within the first couple weeks after signing up, and preferably before meeting with the den for the first time. (It's available at [myscouting.org](http://myscouting.org) as well.) This will help them get off on the right foot.
4. If it's convenient, attend Roundtable – at least once during the first three months. If a new leader can make it a habit, they'll get hooked on the fellowship and resources available.

Other things can wait, and should be checked out eventually, but these few things will get them going in the right direction. As experience and curiosity build, and the desire to “up” the program for the boys, they should gravitate toward additional resources.

As with almost everything, sharing an experience makes it that much better. A new den leader should pair up with either an experienced leader or another parent in his or her son's den (who should be registered as an assistant Den Leader). Then, sit down with your helper to prepare for the next one or two den meetings. Don't try to map out several months' worth at first – just concentrate on next week's meeting. Go over the materials with your assistant and decide how to share the preparation responsibilities, as well as who will run the activities. (Tip: Try to find a time when you can meet on a different day from the den meeting. Trying to meet before or after means you have anxious boys to deal with.)

Being a new den leader can be daunting, as I'm sure you know from personal experience. If you're reading this, chances are good that you were a brand-new den leader yourself at one time. Let's go out and “wow” our boy recruits but not overwhelm our adult recruits.



## Welcome to the Cub



Nobody recruits Cub Scouts better than other Cub Scouts.

It's in that spirit the BSA released a refreshing new recruiting video featuring boys and girls talking about why they love Cub Scouting so much.

"You get to go to parks, you get to ride your bike, you get to pet a bug," one Tiger Scout says.

Find priceless comments like these throughout the video, which has the clever name "Welcome to the Cub."

After you watch the video, share it! If your pack hasn't yet held its join Scouting night, this is a great way to promote the event on social media.

If your join Scouting night already happened, use the video to encourage people to call you, e-mail you, find you on BeAScout.org or send you a Facebook message.

After all, recruiting season never really ends. A pack's doors remain open all year long.

### Step 1. Watch the video.

### Step 2. Share the video.

- Here's the direct link to the video on Facebook, which makes sharing it to your pack or personal Facebook page a snap.  
<https://www.facebook.com/officialcubscouts/videos/305325166891732/>
- Here's a link to download the full version of the video. This enables you to share it on any social media channel you choose.  
<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/4369027/79932856>

However you use "Welcome to the Cub" in your recruiting efforts, be sure to include the hashtag #ScoutMeIn.

A behind-the-scenes shot during the making of the "Welcome to the Cub" video, filmed with Cub Scouts from the Pathway to Adventure Council in Illinois.

### Step 3. Make it your own.

When sharing the "Welcome to the Cub" video, customize the text of your post to meet your pack's recruiting needs. Offer details about your pack's join night, if applicable, or the time and place of your next meeting.

You don't need to write a dissertation. Something simple like this will work well: "There's still time to join Pack 123! We meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Main Street Church. Please email or call if you'd like more information. [Include contact info.]"



## Advice on Recruiting Cub Scouting Volunteers



It's a common sight at join-Scouting nights: Parents of new Cub Scouts sit around a table waiting for someone to blink. Perhaps it's the dad who acknowledges being an Eagle Scout. Perhaps it's the mom who starts filling out the den roster she finds on the table. Whoever blinks first ends up as den leader, while the rest of the parents breathe a sigh of relief.

The pack committee chairman and Cubmaster may breathe a sigh of relief as well; glad to be done with an unpleasant task that comes around only once a year. Other leaders take a different approach, recognizing that recruiting leaders is a year-round process and that effective recruiting will ensure their pack's health not just for the current program year but for many years to come.

To see the rest of this article go to: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2014/10/advice-recruiting-cub-scouting-volunteers/>



## National Geographic's Explorer Academy Book Series



Books can transport readers on exciting journeys to fantastic places and experiences. Not only does National Geographic's Explorer Academy book series (available on Amazon) accomplish this, but it incorporates scientific and cultural elements, exploration of important ideas and values, critical skill-building and examples of upstanding characters.

The series follows 12-year-old Cruz Coronado as he leaves his home in Hawaii to attend the prestigious Explorer Academy, where he and 23 kids from around the globe will train to become the next generation of great explorers. But there's more at stake for Cruz as he discovers his family has a mysterious past with the organization that could jeopardize his future, even his life.

The series appeals to youth, especially middle-grade readers, who want fun, well-written fiction stories that are exciting and different, but rooted in real-world facts. Readers will enjoy the light overlay of nonfiction concepts and careers, like STEM, exploration, photography, world travel and cultures, right alongside the multi-ethnic cast of characters, both boys and girls, that can give them someone with whom to identify.

Parents and leaders will appreciate that every science and exploration concept that characters encounter is based on the actual, ongoing work of thousands of world-class explorers and scientists in many fields, photographers, and journalists. Interactive aspects in the books also involve readers with codebreaking and puzzles, deductive reasoning and problem-solving.

The "Facts Behind the Fiction" section in each book and on the Explorer Academy website (<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explorer-academy/>) draw readers deeper into nonfiction topics, including profiles of real National Geographic Explorers who helped to inspire the series. The site also features exclusive videos and other educational resources that serve as excellent teaching aides and activity ideas.

Most importantly, at its heart, Explorer Academy is a thrilling adventure series full of exploration and discovery, mystery and safe danger, cool, high-tech gadgets and near-future inventions that will keep kids reading for hours.

*Note: This is a BSA sponsored post*



## Check Out Cub Scout Pack 145's Impressive List of Do-it-at-home Challenges



Faced with the challenge of keeping their pack active and running without the benefit of in-person meetings, Cub Scout Pack 145 from Christiansburg, Va., did what so many dedicated Scout leaders have had to do during these tough times: They got creative.

Beginning in March, the pack leaders challenged their Cub Scouts to complete 35 tasks related to the Cub Scout program. Among our favorites:

- No. 1: "The Scout Oath asks that all Scouts work on being 'physically strong.' Let's hear reports or see a photo or a video of our Cub Scouts being physically active outside today."
- No. 2: "Show 'A Scout is Clean' by demonstrating or explaining how you wash your hands."
- No. 9: "A Scout is Thrifty! Find and count spare change from around your house."
- No. 11: "Litter cleanup in your neighborhood."
- No. 21: "Make your own musical instrument."
- No. 31: "Plant a garden."
- No. 33: "Duct tape is a Scout tool that can repair or craft anything. Show what you can do!"
- No. 35: "Scout patches tradition — Show off all the patches you have earned before or during COVID."

It's a very fun and impressive list, and you can read the rest [here](#). To receive credit for completing the challenges, the Cub Scouts had to document everything with photos or videos and send them to the adult leaders.

Once the challenges were verified as complete, the pack leaders mailed patches to the Scouts. It took more than 1,000 stamps to make sure every youth got the patch they deserved.

To top things off, the pack leadership made a personal visit to the home of every Scout. While observing appropriate social-distancing rules, the adults asked the Cub Scouts to say these four powerful words on video: "I'm a Cub Scout." Watch the powerful and moving collection of responses [here](#).

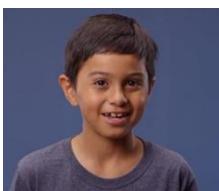


## Michael's Woodshop



Michael's Woodshop, located at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, has received approval to resume activities. There are a number of new safety and cleaning protocols in place, but their basic operations remain the same. To see what activities they offer view their [newsletter](#).

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



## Eagle Scouts (current or future) invited to take the #EagleScoutChallenge



While the Eagle Scout Award was first earned in 1912, the Eagle Scout service project was not officially added as a requirement until 1965.

The 1965 update challenged young people to “plan, develop and carry out a service project” to benefit the community.

In 1972, that was revised to include a leadership component, ensuring that the prospective Eagle Scout would “give leadership to others” while completing the project.

Today, the requirement reads: “While a Life Scout, plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school or your community.”

More than 2.1 million Eagle Scout Awards have been earned between 1965 and 2019. That means there have been more than 2.1 million Eagle projects — each one leaving a community a little better than before.

**Current Eagle Scouts:** If you’re one of the 2.1 million people who have become Eagle Scouts since 1965, the year the Eagle project became required, you’re invited to take the #EagleScoutChallenge.

**Future Eagle Scouts:** If you’re still working on your Eagle project as you read this, you’re invited, too. Describe your plan or share photos or videos of the progress. The #EagleScoutChallenge is for you, too.

### How to join the #EagleScoutChallenge

Compared to the weeks or months you spent working on your actual Eagle project, the #EagleScoutChallenge is quite simple.

**Step 1:** Share the story of your Eagle project on social media

Choose your favorite social media platform or three, and tell the abbreviated story of your Eagle project. Post as many places as you’d like — LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more.

A few things to consider:

- Tell the what, why and how of your project. Why was/is it important — to you and to your community?
- Keep it short and simple. Challenge yourself to tell the full story in 280 characters, even if you aren’t posting on Twitter and subject to a character limit.
- Include a photo or video if possible. Dig out that box of BSA photos or swipe back through your camera roll.
- Be sure to include the hashtags #EagleScoutChallenge and #scoutingstories, which will make it easy to find other Eagle Scouts sharing their stories.

**Step 2:** Nominate another Eagle Scout

This step puts the “challenge” in #EagleScoutChallenge.

Pick one or more fellow Eagle Scouts and tag them in your post, inviting them to share the story of their Eagle project.



## 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/](http://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.

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.

## 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/>

## 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 up to 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](mailto:stem@ncacbsa.org)



You might have been a Scouter too long when:

- You always read by flashlight
- Instead of building a fence around the yard with nails and wood, you lash it with poles and rope
- A trip to Philmont is a pilgrimage.

## 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.

## 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.

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.

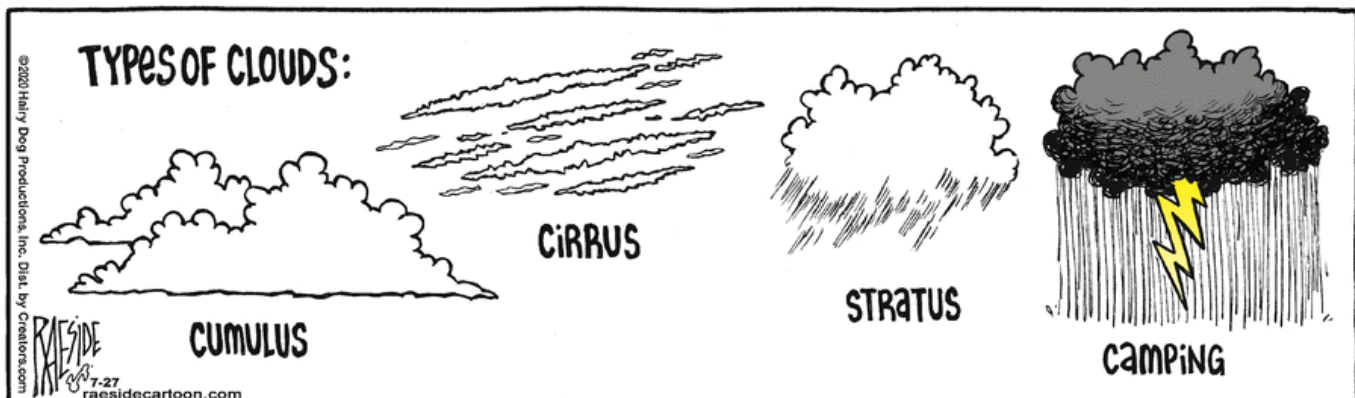
The award, launched in 2003, was created through a partnership between the BSA, the James M. Stewart Museum Foundation, the Stewart family and the BSA's Penn's Woods Council (now part of the Laurel Highlands Council).

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

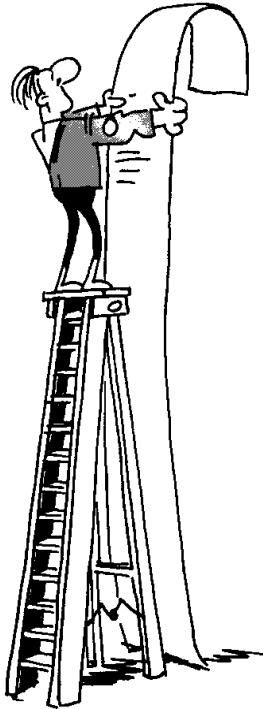
- Take the Jimmy Stewart Museum quiz
- Write an essay of at least 500 words on the importance of citizenship in Scouting
- Perform a good citizenship project in the community in honor of James M. Stewart

Learn more and order award materials at the official site:

[www.jimmy.org/citizenship-award/](http://www.jimmy.org/citizenship-award/)



## District Calendar



### September 2020

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

### October 2020

3 **Virtual Webelos-oree**  
 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

### August 2021

11 Roundtable  
 11 OA Chapter Meeting  
 12 Commissioner Mtg  
 25 District Committee