



# Goose Creek District Newsletter



August 2021

Volume 13, Issue 1

## Special Interest:

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### Advancement

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
## Quick Calendar:

- Aug 4 – Roundtable
- Sep 8 – Roundtable
- Oct 2-3 – Webelos-o-ree
- Oct 13 - Roundtable

## Newsletter Key:

 Cub Scout Interest

 Boy Scout /  
Venturing Interest

 For Everyone

 New Article  
/Updated  
Information



## The Promise of Scouting

Let's get the word out, people! Youngsters are coming to Scouting's door every day. We promise them fun and adventure. Great grand fun and wonderful adventure! With them come their parents and families. We promise them that we have programs that will help their children to build character and learn and practice citizenship responsibilities.

We need to recognize that some of these parents and families don't have a Scouting background. They won't fully understand our Scouting methods. It is important that they understand because these methods are our way of keeping our promises.

These parents might think, for example, that advancement is just about pins and badges. The confusing thing is that, of course, advancement is about pins and badges—but it isn't only about them. Below the surface runs a deep current that teaches that pins and patches result from learning things, doing things, going places, and accomplishing things, culminating in the positive reinforcement that comes from adults and peers recognizing individual effort and accomplishment via an appropriate advancement ceremony. That recognition is one of the big things that keep youth in Scouting. And we need to keep them around to fulfill our mission.

So, get the word out, people. Make sure that everyone in your Scouting community understands the advancement method. No matter what their Scouting background, if they understand what we're trying to do and why we're trying to do it, then everyone will be able to work together to help our young people grow into useful citizens with praiseworthy character.

To be a leader in advancement you need to show leadership. Leadership in this case is delivering a clear consistent message at every opportunity. The message is that advancement is a method that we use to help Scouts grow and make them want to stay in Scouting. At every opportunity reinforce the reasons for the advancement method. Make sure that all your constituents, no matter their background, understand what we're trying to do. Make sure they understand why we do what we do. Make the Guide to Advancement your friend and companion so that you can acquaint others with this valuable resource!

If you do this, we will have an advancement program that everyone supports. This way we will keep our young people in Scouting so that we can influence their character. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

## District News

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

### Webelos-o-ree 2021



The date for the Goose Creek's annual Webelos-o-ree is set for October 2-3, 2021 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 Charles Thornton ([ScouterChalis@gmail.com](mailto:ScouterChalis@gmail.com)) 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.**

## “Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



### New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

**Luke Allen** – Troop 982

**Chad Anderson** – Troop 1165

**Alejandro Casillas** – Troop 572

**Ethan Gramling** – Troop 966

**Jack Horneck** – Troop 982

**Israfeel Jake** – Troop 2019

**Gonzalo Miranda** – Troop 572

**Matthew Passaro** – Troop 572

**Josef Pesentheiner** – Troop 1907

**Liam Reaser** – Troop 956

**Jake Sanzano** – Troop 956

**Sean Szabo** – Troop 1159

To date, Goose Creek District has had 39 Eagles for 2021.



### The Guide to Advancement Has Been Updated for 2021 and Is Now Available



The [2021 Guide to Advancement](#), the official source for administering advancement in all BSA programs, is now available.



### Merit Badge Counselors!!!



Merit Badge  
Counselor  
List

In early July, BSA purged the Merit Badge Counselor status of all MBCs with expired YPT credentials. They're no longer listed on the District roster, and no longer have the ability to approve requirements or badges in Scoutbook. The process to re-establish those credentials is relatively simple, but **REQUIRES** that YPT status is current - as we all know, it must be renewed every two years.

Once your YPT is up-to-date, please contact Rich Pender at [MeritBadgeDean@GooseCreekDistrict.org](mailto:MeritBadgeDean@GooseCreekDistrict.org) for info on resubmitting a MBC application.



## Life-to-Eagle Seminar



At long last, it looks like things have opened up enough to schedule our first L2E seminar for 2021 – and the first one in over 18 months! **[Please note that we should all be prepared for changes to social distancing and mask-wearing rules, and must honor the strictest ones in effect at the time of the training that are imposed by BSA National, Council, the County and/ state – and of course the building we'll be using.]**

While primarily targeted for the Life-to-Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level, these trainings, 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 first L2E Seminar for 2021 is scheduled to take place on ...

**Date: Saturday, Aug 28, 2021 (pending library confirmation)**

**Time:** 10:30-2:30

**Place:** Ashburn Library, Meeting Rm A

I've booked one of the larger rooms in the area because I've long expressed that there are enough changes to the process that 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 ... and given the pandemic, no one has done so in at least 18 months.

The last (regular) offering for this year would then typically be in November, typically the week after Scouting for Food's 'Collection Day'.



## Venturing Quest Award



The Venturing Quest Award focuses on physical fitness relating to sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The award encompasses a variety of experiences that introduce a youth Venturer to the opportunities of living a wholesome, healthy life. The award provides a variety of sports related activities for Venturers to explore. They can choose sports that they have experience with or choose sports that are new to them. The goal is to promote sportsmanship and fitness.

This award can be earned by completing learning about the essentials of sports, understanding how fitness for life can be beneficial, completing a fitness assessment, understanding different sports disciplines, practicing sports nutrition, and learning the history and heritage of sports. It focuses on the Venturer's personal goals, encouraging achievement of those that are both realistic and comfortable.

Additional details and the requirements for the Venturing Quest Award can be found at [Venturing Trust Award](#)



## Venturing TRUST Award



With today's society so diverse, understanding others is an important part of being able to "trust" others in a world with so many differences. The Venturing TRUST Award is based upon developing an understanding of cultures and their religions. The award allows youth Venturers to explore their own religion, as well as to learn about other religions and cultures and promotes seeking understanding to help develop trust.

Additional details and the requirements about the Venturing TRUST Award can be found at [Venturing Trust Award](#)

## Council / National News

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



## BSA Membership Fee to Change Beginning Aug. 1, 2021



The Boy Scouts of America has worked to keep the annual membership fee as low as possible, but with rising operating costs, the fee will be increased to maintain the program.

Starting Aug. 1, the membership fee for Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants will be \$72, a \$6 increase from the \$66 fee enacted last August. The fee for Exploring participants will be \$45, up from \$42.

The one-time \$25 joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting will still be required. There is no joining fee for Exploring, participants previously registered in any BSA program, those transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships or adult volunteers.

Fees for all adult volunteers will be \$45, also up from \$42. That includes the cost of a background check. Council-paid memberships will remain at \$30 and the unit charter fee will stay at \$75.



## Boy Scouts of America Administers FAA's Safety Tests for Drones



Flying drones is a fun way Scouts can start learning about robotics, science, technology and engineering. Many camps already offer drone-flying programs.

If you plan on flying a drone or other uncrewed aircraft system (UAS), whether for a Scouting event or not, you will need to first pass a test. Legislation in 2018 called for the Federal Aviation Administration to introduce new requirements for all recreational drone pilots, including passing an aeronautical knowledge and safety test and providing proof of passing the test when flying a drone.

The FAA worked with stakeholders, developed the test and approved test administrators, including the Boy Scouts of America. You can take The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) through the BSA [here](#).

The link also provides instructions on how to take the test. When you've completed it, you should print or save a digital copy of your certification to have on you when you fly a drone. Neither the BSA nor FAA can re-issue your completion certificate if you lose it; you will need to retake the test.

★ Use This New Recruitment Kit to Help Spread the Word About Scouting

# KIT

RECRUITMENT



After last year, many families are looking to get out of the house. What better way for them to do that than through Scouting, the worldwide movement that has introduced young people to adventure, character development, and leadership skills for more than a century?

You can help families escape the indoors by showing them the benefits and fun found in the Boy Scouts of America. To help your fall recruitment efforts, check out this [new recruitment kit](#), including marketing materials and social media tools.

This online kit contains email templates, fliers, photos, peer-to-peer cards, postcards, posters, radio spots, social media graphics, brochures and videos. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

The social media tools feature guides and a calendar to help you plan and organize a social media campaign for your unit or council. If you struggle with scheduling, the calendar lays out which days to post certain messages, such as calls to action and events. The guide provides sample text to aid in your messaging.

The recruitment kit also has graphics to promote uniforming, including a checklist for insignia and uniforms as well as Scout Shop deals.

Additionally, you can find [registration links](#) to upcoming webinars that will offer tips for recruiting new leaders and welcoming families into Scouting.

The recruitment kit was created to simplify and streamline your efforts so you can spend less time on recreating the wheel and more time going on adventures with your Scouts.

The [Scout Life mini-mag](#) can also help you with fall Cub Scout recruitment. This miniature version of Scout Life magazine contains all the information families need to know about joining Cub Scouts; information about subscribing to Scout Life, and great for parents and kids to read. You can read more about the 2021-22 mini-mag [here](#).

For more tips, watch [Cub Chat Live](#), the BSA's official weekly Cub Scout-focused Facebook livestream, which features expert guests and insiders who share their experiences, advice and the occasional behind-the-scenes look at the Cub Scout program. You can watch past episodes about recruiting [here](#).

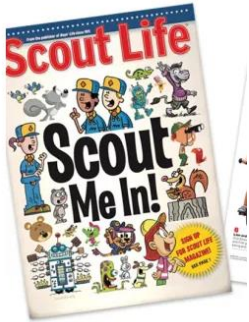
★ BSA High Adventure Bases - Find Your Adventure Website Now Open!



BSA recently launched [Open4Adventure](#) ([scouting.org/outdooradventures/open4adventure](https://scouting.org/outdooradventures/open4adventure)), a consolidated High Adventure portal where detailed information on all four National High Adventure bases is available for you to explore and Find Your Adventure. Booking your unit's ultimate Scouting experience is immediately available. There are still some openings for 2022 Adventures, so check Open4Adventure out soon!

Get answers to your High Adventure questions! Contact [john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org](mailto:john.blackwell@goosecreekdistrict.org) or 301-346-0551.

★ Just In Time for Fall Recruiting, the 2021-22 Scout Life Mini-Mag Is Here!



A good multitool can be anything from a convenience to a literal lifesaver on the trail and at camp.

The *Scout Life mini-mag* is your multitool for Cub Scout recruiting.

This miniature version of Scout Life magazine:

- contains all the information families need to know about joining Cub Scouts;
- contains all the information families need to know about subscribing to Scout Life;
- is great for parents to read with their kids;
- is great for kids to read while their parents are busy signing them up for Cub Scouts.

### Going digital

The 2021-22 edition of the Scout Life mini-mag is available exclusively in a digital PDF format in multiple versions, depending on how you'd like to use it.

- For a smaller version that won't take up much space on your device but is still suitable for on-screen viewing, [click here](#).
- For a medium-sized file you can print at home, [click here](#).
- For a larger version with printing marks that you can send to a print shop, [click here](#).

You can also find it — along with tons of back issues — in the Scout Life app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

Download it. Share it with your friends. Post it to all your social media accounts. How you use your mini-mag is up to you! You can:

- share it with unit membership chairs for distribution at Scout nights, kid talks, craft fairs, field days or other community events;
- use it in addition to your recruitment fliers for a stronger marketing effort;
- print a few copies and offer them to current Cub Scouts and older Scouts, encouraging them to share them with non-Scouting friends.

### Michael's Woodshop



Here is a link to [Michael's Woodshop News, Summer 2021](#) which was just posted to the Camp Snyder website. We have several exciting new offerings, including our "Baloo the Builder Workshop" which we expect to become one of our most popular activities. In addition, please see the upcoming Paddle making class being offered by the Aquatics Committee. This is a unique opportunity to learn how to make canoe paddles from an expert. Please act quickly, space is limited.



## Eagle Scout Scholarships



Every year, the National Eagle Scout Association bestows scholarships upon Eagle Scouts pursuing higher education. These scholarships are made possible by generous donors and NESA members that help the alumni organization to continue developing young adults beyond their traditional Scouting experience.

To find out more on how to join NESA, [click here](#).

Some scholarships are part of the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year awards. You can read about recent regional and national winners [here](#).

Other scholarships Eagle Scouts who meet certain eligibility requirements can apply for include:

### Lawrence S. and Mabel Cooke Scholarship

One scholarship of up to \$48,000 (up to \$12,000 per year for four years) and four \$25,000 scholarships (up to \$6,250 a year for four years) awarded annually to an Eagle Scout who has shown academic performance, financial need and active participation in school and Scouting activities. Established by Lawrence S. Cooke in memory of his late wife, Mabel Cooke.

### National Eagle Scout Association Scholarship

\$5,000 scholarships awarded on a regional basis to Eagle Scouts who have shown active participation in school, Scouting activities and community service.

### Hall/McElwain Scholarship

\$5,000 scholarships awarded on a regional basis to Eagle Scouts who have shown active participation in school, Scouting activities and community service.

### Palmer Scholarship

Three \$2,500 scholarships awarded to Eagle Scouts who have shown active participation in school, Scouting activities and community service.

The application window for scholarships this year will open in December. At that time, check the [National Eagle Scout Association website](#) to find applications. Another scholarship page to bookmark is [this one](#), which includes scholarships for Scouts, Sea Scouts and Venturers from Scouting committees, universities and high-adventure bases.

LOL



### Camping Misquotes

- We'll be camping along the river, but there are rarely any bugs this time of year.
- I'm sure that's not poison ivy.
- Just one more hill to climb, it's all flat from there.
- I know the drought has a ban on open fires, but this is a campground, I'm sure we'll be ok.
- No need for reservations. This place never fills up.
- Of course I packed the tent poles.
- Nope, never took it out of the box. But, the salesperson said this tent was super easy to set up; even in windy conditions.
- You'll be ok... it doesn't look that bad.
- I'm sure these mushrooms are edible.
- Snakes? Naw... not to worry... never ever saw one where we're staying.





## Roger C. Mosby Becomes the BSA's 14th Chief Scout Executive



It's a phenomenon familiar to any veteran Scouter: The longer you serve in Scouting, the more job titles you'll accrue. Consider it a natural byproduct of a volunteer's passion for saying "yes" to doing what it takes to deliver a life-changing program to our Scouts.

Saying "yes" to extra responsibilities is something Roger C. Mosby knows well.

In his more than three decades as a Scouting volunteer, the badge of office on Mosby's left sleeve and the color of his shoulder loops have changed countless times. He has served Scouting at the unit, district, council, regional, national and international levels — service that earned him both the region-level Silver Antelope Award and the council-level Silver Beaver Award.

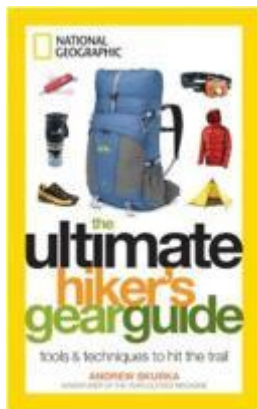
Last year, Mosby made the switch from volunteer to professional when he was named President & CEO of the Boy Scouts of America. And last May, in a move you might expect from a devoted Scouter, Mosby added another title to his Scouting job.

The former HR professional, seasoned Scouting volunteer and father of three Eagle Scouts who has served for the past year as President & CEO has been officially named the BSA's 14th Chief Scout Executive. The Chief Scout Executive is the BSA chief executive officer responsible for all day-to-day operations of the BSA. This is the only professional title routinely capitalized.

The decision was announced at the BSA's all-virtual National Annual Meeting in May, where the volunteer-led National Executive Board elected to make Mosby a commissioned professional. That move made him eligible to hold the title of Chief Scout Executive.

"I have great admiration and respect for Roger, and he's had to make some tough decisions — some critical decisions," says National Chair Dan Ownby, a volunteer. "Based on that, the National Executive Board decided that he's earned his 'wings' — his commission as a professional."

## Book – The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide



Andrew Skurka's new book *The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide* will change the way we sling a pack on our backs and hoof it into the wild. The first section of the book asks and answers the questions that many don't think to ask until they are out on the trail with too much and/or too little gear, blistered feet, and soaking wet with no hope of getting dry; why am I doing this? Skurka uses his first real backpacking experience (a through hike of the Appalachian trail!) to explain what you are getting yourself into. He offers direction and advice that, if heeded, will save readers a great deal of discomfort.

An extensive analysis of the construction, function and use of gear follows. Skurka explains why and how things ought to work in a way that makes choosing gear relatively painless. While he does mention of specific models and manufacturers he goes well beyond the model number. The final section of the book offers gear lists for several different environments.

Available from Amazon, \$13.50 paperback



## Stay Safe by Reviewing the Newest BSA Safety Moments



How far away should Scouts stand during a model rocket launch? Should you have a den meeting at a trampoline park? Is tossing color-changing additives into a campfire a good idea?

For answers to these questions and more than 90 other topics, take a look at [BSA's Safety Moments](#).

These topics are a great resource if you or another Scouter has a question about a specific activity. They can also help Scouts preparing for an activity.

Some of the more popular Safety Moments visited this year have been:

- [Annual Health and Medical Record](#)
- [Prohibited activities](#)
- [Scouting's Barriers to Abuse](#)
- [Incident reporting helps](#)
- [Communicable disease prevention](#)

### How to use a Safety Moment

BSA's Environmental, Health and Safety team suggests using a Safety Moment at the start of each meeting or activity. It only takes a couple of minutes to share one with your unit, making it easy to deliver a **SAFE** program.

Anyone can share a Safety Moment. Pick an age-appropriate topic relevant to everyone — any topic that focuses on improving the safety of Scouting is an excellent topic. For some activities, like shooting sports, reviewing those Safety Moments are essential. If you have a personal experience relating to the Safety Moment, feel free to share that, too. Clear, concise and fact-based talks resonate best with others.

Check out the Safety Moment on how to have a Safety Moment in Scouting found [here](#).

For more safety resources, [click here](#). The Environmental, Health and Safety team continues to update and produce Safety Moments for Scouting. If you have a Safety Moment suggestion, you can contact the team [here](#).

## Fix Tent and Tarp Seams



Not all tents and tarps have factory-sealed (waterproof) seams — and with enough use, those that do often leak. Special seam sealants — available at outdoor gear retailers — do a good job, but they are expensive and might become brittle when it's cold or sticky when it's hot. Eventually, they peel.

Thompson's Water Seal (available at hardware stores) never becomes brittle or sticky. Apply it to seams with a foam varnish brush and wipe off the excess with a cotton rag or paper towel. The fabric will slightly discolor, but one application lasts almost forever. It's great for paper maps and journals, too, as you can write over it. (This will not stick to the seams of silicone-treated tent flies and tarps, however.)

## ★ BSA Expands Tools to Combat Abuse with New Safety Awareness Videos



Youth protection continues to be the top priority of the Boy Scouts of America. It'd be hard to find a better partner in these efforts than the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring every child's right to a safe childhood.

We've already seen positive results from the [Protect Yourself Rules Preview Adventure](#), designed to provide Cub Scouts information on how to recognize, respond and report abuse.

Now, the BSA has launched a [new series of personal safety awareness videos](#) in partnership with the Sinatra foundation. Developed and scripted by child advocates, psychologists and national scholars, the four new videos are aimed at youth ages 14-17. They're also excellent for Scout volunteers and any adult who wants to learn how to better respond to and identify unsafe situations on behalf of minors.

The videos are intended to help young people know how to safely seek help in a variety of situations — including when facing abuse by a family member, trusted adult or another youth.

"We are dedicated to ensuring every child's right to a normal, safe, healthy, and secure life," says John Thoresen, Director and CEO of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center. "We do this by providing the tools and resources necessary to identify, prevent, and report unsafe situations. This new personal safety awareness video series with the BSA goes a long way toward fulfilling this goal by providing those involved in Scouting, and all minors, with these resources for creating safer and healthier lives."

With the Protect Yourself Rules video series aimed at youth ages 5-10, a separate series of videos aimed for youth ages 11-13, and the latest videos designed for teens ages 14-17, the BSA now has Youth Protection educational content for youth of all ages, as well as multi-layered, expert-informed safeguards in place to help prevent abuse.

The BSA's safeguards include mandatory Youth Protection training for all volunteers and employees; a leadership policy that requires at least two Youth Protection-trained adults be present with youth at all times during Scouting activities and bans one-on-one situations where adults would have any interaction alone with children — either in person, online, or via phone or text; a thorough screening process for adult leaders and staff, including criminal background checks; a ban on the use of recording devices/cell phones near bathrooms and shower houses; and the prompt mandatory reporting of any allegation or suspicion of abuse to law enforcement.

### Cub Chat Live



Watch [Cub Chat Live](#) every Friday at 3pm EST on Facebook Live for tips, tricks and ideas to help your den or pack



## What Is a Micron and Why Should You Care When Filtering Water?



On long backcountry treks, you'll want a hydration plan other than to lug around multiple gallons of water. When you encounter a freshwater source, such as a river or a lake, you have a few options to make that water potable: boil, filter or treat with tablets.

You'll want to treat the water, no matter how clean it looks. It could have bacteria, viruses and parasites that can make you sick. Boiling the water for a full minute at a rolling boil should kill most of those nasty organisms. At elevations of 6,500 feet and above, boil for three minutes.

If you're on the go, though, you can drop water treatment tablets into your bottle and wait a half-hour for clean water. Or you could filter your H<sub>2</sub>O — but what kind of filter should you use? There are straws, pumps, bags and bottles. Some contain chemicals or carbon to further treat the water. Many companies tout how small their filter pores are, using a measurement called microns. So, what is a micron?

Micron is short for micrometer, which is one-millionth of a meter. For those of us not too familiar with the metric system, especially the minuscule end of it, a micron equals .00003937 inches.

Seems like that should be small enough to stop most contaminants, right? Well, yes, for sand, dirt, protozoan cysts, most bacteria and the diarrhea-inducing parasite *Cryptosporidium*, which measures at about 5 microns. However, some viruses can be as small as .0004 microns in size.

Viruses likely won't be much of a risk when traveling in the backcountry, so a filter with pores 1 micron or less should provide sufficient protection. Most microfilters measure at .2 microns. Consider investing in a water purifier instead if you're traveling in places where people are being unhygienic around water sources. Or again, go with the tablets or boiling your water.

Another label to take notice of is "absolute pore size" and "mean pore size." "Absolute" refers to the largest pore in the filter, while "mean" is the average, meaning there are pore sizes bigger and smaller.

Filters to check out

If you're in the market for a water filter or purifier for your next outdoor adventure, check the list of a few below, some of them are available at the Scout Shop:

- [Sawyer mini filter](#)
- [GRAYL OnePress Purifier water bottle](#)
- [Clear2O personal water dual filter](#)
- [LifeStraw Go](#)

## ★ Why You Should Consider Burying American Flags as a Retirement Option



Scouts across the country respectfully retire worn-out American flags, most often by burning — the preferred method, according to the U.S. Flag Code. But burning isn't the only retirement option.

American flags can be retired by a number of ways, such as burning or recycling. Flags that are dirty or that have touched the ground do not need to be retired; you can clean them. Only when the flag is no longer fit to display, such as being tattered or discolored, should it be solemnly retired.

There's no official ceremony script to follow, and the BSA does not require one method over another. A key element is to retire the flag in a dignified manner.

Burying a flag can be done in a dignified way, and it might be your chosen method, especially when you consider the flag's material. Many flags today are not made from wool or cotton, but rather more durable materials, like nylon and polyester. These synthetic materials can be hazardous when burned.

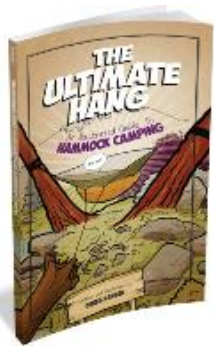
When it comes to retiring synthetic flags, the BSA strongly advocates choosing alternative methods to burning. You should evaluate the risks associated with any chosen method.

For burying, one way is to properly fold the flag and place it in a quality wooden box. Dig a hole a few feet deep in an area that won't later be disturbed, and put the box in the ground. As the flag is being buried, observe a moment of silence.

Again, there's no official ceremony, so you can alter what was just mentioned. If you want more ideas on flag ceremonies or other flag-related content, refer to these links here:

- [What to do with flag grommets](#)
- [Build a flag retirement collection box](#)
- [Flag placement during ceremonies](#)
- [Flag etiquette](#)
- [Flying a flag at half-staff](#)

## Book – The Ultimate Hang



Derek Hansen, Scoutmaster, lightweight backpacker, and as his website says “hammock enthusiast”, has a book out called *The Ultimate Hang*. It is an illustrated guide to hammock camping and a book that even the most experienced hammock camper or backpacker should have on their shelf. The book takes the novice and experienced camper step by step to ensure a great hammock camping experience. Even if you are not a hammock camper, there is something in this book for you. How to select a good camp site. The “Bermuda Triangle” and an extensive discussion on tarps. The book is interactive with QR codes that lead to web sites for more information.

Available in [paperback](#), and in digital editions for [Kindle](#), [Nook](#), and [iTunes](#)



## How to be a Zero-Waste Unit



We use public lands responsibly. We pick up litter left behind by strangers. We volunteer our time for service projects that improve trails, control erosion and protect animals.

These efforts are laudable, but we should ask ourselves whether we can do more. Just like the Scouting advancement trail includes goals that are progressively more difficult as a young person works toward the Eagle Scout Award, our efforts toward conservation can (and perhaps should) get more intense as our unit's daily practices become refined.

With that in mind, here's one for units that are up for a true challenge — a change with significant stakes for our planet. Consider taking steps toward becoming a zero-waste Scout unit.

### What is zero waste?

The concept of “zero waste” has many definitions, and its goals include changes that begin far beyond the scope of an individual Scout unit. For example, many businesses are striving for greener manufacturing processes and more environmentally friendly packaging.

But there's plenty that can be done at the unit level, too.

Simply put, a zero-waste Scout unit is one that does as much as it can to eliminate trash output during weekly meetings, weekend campouts and weeklong trips.

Please take note of the careful phrasing in the previous sentence — specifically the bit about a unit doing “as much as it can.”

Your unit's shift to the zero-waste lifestyle won't happen overnight. It's best approached by taking small steps rather than trying to do everything at once.

The term “zero waste” can be a bit misleading, because you shouldn't approach this change as an all-or-nothing proposition. Your unit can make an impact even if it never reaches absolute zero.

Even the greenest companies and most successful zero-waste bloggers haven't completely stopped adding to their local landfills. But they're doing as much as they can, and it's making a difference. (As a bonus, zero-waste efforts also save money.)

For some tips on how to become greener check out this [Bryan on Scouting article](#).



## Units Can Use These New Images for Geofencing Event Invites on Facebook



The BSA Brand Center features [a collection of new images](#) sized for use as the header images on event invites.



## Scouts Day at National Park



Join fellow Scouts at Nationals Park for Scout Days, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 PM against the Atlanta Braves! With the purchase of a special ticket, fans will receive a limited edition Nationals Scout Patch. For every ticket sold, \$5 will be donated to the National Capital Area Council.

If you organize a group of 20 or more, the group leader will receive a complimentary game ticket (1 ticket per order).

The full information regarding Scout Days and the patch pick-up will be emailed to all special ticket event buyers 24 hours prior to the game.

Ticket Prices:

- Baseline Reserved - \$50
- LF/RF Corner - \$37
- Outfield Reserved - \$35
- Scoreboard Pavilion - \$22
- Upper Gallery - \$20
- Right Field Terrace - \$15

To purchase tickets goto [Natitube – Scout Days](#)

Scouts are encouraged to attend as a troop, patrol, pack or den. For more information or to purchase a group of 20 or more, please contact us at 202.640.7695 or email [adam.dantus@nationals.com](mailto:adam.dantus@nationals.com).

## Training Opportunities

### Scouts Can Earn College Credit for Attending National Leadership Course



National Youth Leadership Training educates Scouts, Venturers and Sea Scouts on how to be effective leaders; NYLT Leadership Academy teaches them how to be effective teachers.

For the first time, those who attend the academy not only will learn how to teach NYLT courses in their home councils, but they can also get college credit for it.

NYLT Leadership Academy has partnered with West Virginia University to offer the one-credit course entitled, "ORGL293A: Youth Leadership Experience." The course, available to high school students, covers leadership techniques and practices. Most of the work in the course will be completed through the NYLT Leadership Academy program. There will be additional required reading and work before and after the course. The college credit can be transferred to any higher education institution across the country.

For more information check out this [Bryan on Scouting article](#).

## Wood Badge



Wood Badge is the Boy Scouts of America's ultimate leadership training designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of Scouters in all aspects of the BSA, whether unit, district, or council level – from assistant den leaders to Scoutmasters, from Cubmasters to Venturing Advisors, from committee members to commissioners. It is a fun, energetic, and inspiring course guaranteed to infuse your unit with fun and meaning – all designed to fulfill the mission of the BSA, and ensure our youth is getting everything they are promised from the program.

Reflecting the best of nearly a century of Scouting experience, Wood Badge draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles, and successful organizations throughout the country. Participants can expect to develop skills in many areas, including leadership theory, team building, problem-solving, communication, project planning and more. These skills can be taken back to packs, troops, crews, and ships to help leaders guide youth in dynamic Scouting programs. Scouters will find these skills invaluable in their business and personal lives as well.

Wood Badge consists of two parts:

- The first five full days is the initial group training, usually held over two weekends – the first weekend Friday through Sunday, and the second Saturday and Sunday.
- The second part requires participants to apply the skills they learned by completing a 5-part plan (called a “ticket”) over the following 18 months, leading towards the individual participant's vision of a better Scouting future.

Requirements for attending Wood Badge:

1. Be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
2. Have completed the basic position-specific training courses for their Scouting role.
3. Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All participants are required to complete the Annual Health and Medical Record. Parts A, B, and C are required which includes a physical. Part C is required for everyone, including people who are not present for more than 72 hours.

A minimum (non-refundable) deposit is due with registration, and then full payment is due 45 days before the start of the course. Each Wood Badge course is limited to 48 participants. Per national guidelines, any course not having 30 fully paid participants 30 days prior to the start of the course is subject to cancellation.

QUESTIONS?

For information about specific courses, contact the Course Director listed on the [registration page](#).



## Registration Now Open for National Wood Badge Course at The Summit



At first, it sounds like a reality TV pitch: What happens when you bring together 64 strangers from across the country and challenge them to spend five days living, learning and working together?

But the reality behind the National Wood Badge Course, planned for January 2022 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, is better than anything seen on TV.

This reality has the potential to change your life forever.

That's not slick marketing copy. That's the message we're hearing from participants and staffers who attended this course the last time it was held, in 2020. Kaleen Deatherage of Portland, Ore., was there as a troop guide for the Antelope Patrol.

"The energy and enthusiasm from participants and staff alike resulted in powerful sharing, learning and collaboration that will make each one of us better Scouters," she says. "My hope is that we all brought that energy and some new skills home — and now we are better prepared to deliver Scouting programs to our youth."

That course in 2020 was so popular that it required a wait list, but there's no waiting necessary if you're ready to accept the challenge of Wood Badge early next year.

Registration is now open for the next National Model Linked Troop Wood Badge Course, set for Jan. 17–21, 2022, at the Summit in West Virginia. It's a chance to learn the latest leadership techniques, form connections with fellow Scouters from other parts of the country, and enjoy hands-on experiences sure to make you a better Scout leader, spouse, boss, employee, parent and person.

The course is open to any registered member of the BSA age 18 or older who has completed the basic training courses for their Scouting position.

Participants and staff not only benefit from meeting people from across the country and around the world, but those in the female troop will be inspired from seeing so many female leaders in one room.

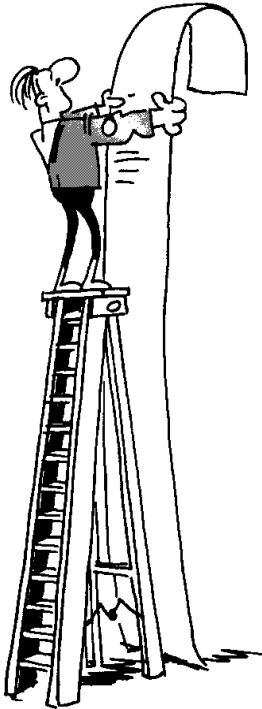
The course uses the new Wood Badge syllabus first introduced in 2017 and piloted in 2018. All courses held in 2020 and beyond use the new syllabus. The course is also a model course because it uses the "linked troop" model introduced as an option for Scouts BSA units.

The course is actually two courses run concurrently, with a combination of separate and joint learning sessions of all-female and all-male troops. Each troop will have six patrols and no more than 32 members.

For more information go to this [Bryan on Scouting article](#).



# District Calendar



## August 2021

- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner Mtg
- 26 District Committee

## September 2021

- 6 Labor Day
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner Mtg
- 23 District Committee

## October 2021

- 2-3 **Webelos-o-ree**
- 11 Columbus Day
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner Mtg
- 28 District Committee

## November 2021

- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner Mtg
- 18 District Committee &  
**Annual District Business Meeting**
- 30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**

## December 2021

- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner Mtg
- 16 District Committee

## January 2022

- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner Mtg
- 17 MLK Jr. Day
- 27 District Committee

## February 2022

- 4 Scout Jumuah
- 5 Scout Sabbath
- 6 Scout Sunday
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 10 Commissioner Mtg
- 21 President's Day
- 24 District Committee

## March 2022

- 5 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 10 Commissioner Mtg
- 24 District Committee
- 25-27 **Spring Camporee**

## April 2022

- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner Mtg
- 27 District Committee

## May 2022

- 11 **Program Launch**
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner Mtg
- 26 District Committee
- 30 Memorial Day

## June 2022

- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner Mtg
- 23 District Committee

## July 2022

- 4 Fourth of July