Two Special Color Guard Ball Games in June

Troops 1345, 1346 and Pack 1346 Color Guard at Nationals Game – On June 10th, several Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts were invited to Nats Stadium to act as the Color Guard for the game vs. the Philadelphia Phillies. It was a great evening for all, and the Nationals pulled out a win. Participants included Andrew Klein and Nick Margraf (Troop 1346); Ben Mattice (Troop 1345); and Ruku Day, Josh Mattice, and Connor Rothandler (Pack 1346). They were accompanied by Scoutmaster Joe Margraf (Troop 1346), and Cubmaster Justin Day, Committee Chair Kate Mattice, and Webelos Leader Stephen Rothandler (Pack 1346).

Troop 1346 Color Guard - Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Game – On June 17th, five Troop 1346 Scouts, including Ryan Harlow, Will Miner, Drew Peters, Gavin Stone, and Zach Summer, along with Assistant Scoutmaster Greg Summer, presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance for the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WAST). This group hosted a camp for amputee children. The week ended with a kids’ game and a celebrity game at George Mason University. WAST is comprised of young warriors who each have unique challenges because of an amputation(s). These individuals serve as the finest example of bravery and perseverance.
From the District Chairman:

Scouts and Scouters of Patriot District,

Welcome Back from Summer Camp! I hope that everyone had a great time at Summer Camp, Day Camp or High Adventure Bases!! Bill Dexter, the Program Vice Chair, needs to know the number of summer camping days recorded for each troop. At Council level, NCAC records the days and Merit Badges, but out of Council, they do not.

Thank you to our Summer Cub Day Volunteers! We could not have provided the youth with such a wonderful experience without your help! We had a lot of folks to volunteer to take time off of work to support the Climbing Wall, Arts and Crafts, and a variety of other events! Reports are in: they had fun!!! Thank you!

Volunteer for District Committee Adult Positions, NOW! We need volunteers for the District Committee in Program, Membership and Finance! Please look at the opportunities available and call me (Jack at 808-230-4749) or the Vice Chairs (see inside). Or go to the Patriot District home page on the NCAC web site and look at the structure and send a note from there.

Let us know your Court of Honor Dates!! We would like to have you featured in Patriot Press.

Fall Camporee is just around the corner. Planning is already underway.

Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base, and The Summit are all open for business. The Summit is becoming a year-round place for adventure! Are you ready for High Adventure? Registration is open for Scouts and Staff for the 2017 National Jamboree next summer! Check it out on the NCAC Website.

I always ask you to Share Scouting! Please share this Patriot Press with at least one other Scouter or Scout Family this month. Then send the e-mail address to Robert Mason so they will be permanently on the distribution list. If you know a Scouter in the District that is not getting Patriot Press, please send their name to Joe Osborne (joe.osborne@cox.net).

As always, this is for you! Thank you for what you do for our Scouting movement. And thank you for your support to for Patriot District’s program.

Yours in Scouting, Jack

Jack Campbell, District Chairman
wjcampbell1@verizon.net

Boys are very durable. A boy if not washed too often and if kept in a cool quiet place after each accident, will survive broken bones, hornets nests, swimming holes and five helpings of pie.

~ Herbert Hoover (b. August 10, 1874)
Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

August 2016
5  First popcorn order due
9  Commissioner Meeting
11 Roundtable
11 OA Chapter Meeting
23 PD Committee Meeting
28 Patriot Press Deadline – September

September 2016
2  Second popcorn order due
8  Roundtable
8  Recharter training (at Roundtable)
8  OA Chapter Meeting
9-11 Wood Badge (weekend #1)
10  Road to Scouting
13  Commissioner Meeting
18-20 Powder Horn (2nd weekend)
16-18 OA Lodge Fall Fellowship (Snyder)
19  Second popcorn distribution
19  Patriot District Golf Tournament
24  BCOLS (classroom session)
27  PD Committee Meeting
30  Third popcorn order due

October 2016
TBD OA Ordeal (Camp Big Mac)
1  On-line rechartering window opens
2  Patriot Press Deadline
8-10 Wood Badge (weekend #2)
10  COR training
11  Commissioner Meeting
13  Roundtable
13  OA Chapter Meeting
17  Third popcorn distribution
22  Life-to-Eagle seminar
22-23 BCOLS (overnight)
25  PD Committee Meeting
28-30 Fall Camporee
28-30 V3 Hike-o-ree (4-H Center, Front Royal)
30  Patriot Press Deadline – November

Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCOLS</td>
<td>Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPST</td>
<td>Cubmaster Position-Specific Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOLS</td>
<td>Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSN</td>
<td>Join Scouting Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>NLE</td>
<td>New Leader Essentials</td>
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<td>OA</td>
<td>Order of the Arrow</td>
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<td>SPST</td>
<td>Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAPST</td>
<td>Venture Advisor Position-Specific Trng</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCPST</td>
<td>Varsity Coach Position-Specific Trng</td>
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<tr>
<td>VOA</td>
<td>Venturing Officers Association</td>
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NATIONAL LION PILOT

Brief Review of the Lion Pilot:

- Boys must be of kindergarten age: Five years old by September 1 to become Lion Scouts.
- Program format is consistent with the current Cub Scout program and themes, but at an age-and-stage-appropriate level.
- Advancement requires completion of five out of twelve adventures.
- Requirements are in the Lion Adventure Guide available in the Scout Shop.
- The Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook is also available in the Scout Shop.
- Den meetings and outings are facilitated by a Lion Guide.
- Participation is by Lion and Lion Parent Partner as a team.
- Meeting and outing leadership is a shared responsibility rotated among the Parent Partners.
- Two meetings/outings per month. Meetings are limited to 45 minutes long.
- Participation in Pack meetings is not required, though up to two den events may consist of pack meeting participation. Scout bedtimes are not to be violated.
- The uniform is the Lion T-shirt and cap.
- Completion of an adventure earns a sticker to affix in the Lion Adventure Guide.
- Advancement earns the Lion Badge. Placement of the Lion badge on the Cub Scout uniform may be either (a) suspended by the badge's loop from the left pocket button, or (b) sewn on the left pocket in the Bobcat position (top) within the rank cluster.

BSA National Lion Pilot Guidelines:

- The Pack must follow the BSA National Lion program (Lion Adventure Guide, Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook, at Scout Shop).
- The den meeting/outing leadership must be shared.
- The Lion Guide is not considered Den Leader but nonetheless must be an experienced Scouter. He/she is the den's liaison with the pack and with the broader scouting community. He/she needs to work with the Pack and the District and must understand the current and forward-looking intent of the Lion program in Cub Scouting.
- The Lion Guide must take the Orientation Training at www.scouting.org/Lion (and of course be registered and have YPT).

Patriot District Guidelines

A Pack can volunteer to participate in the Lion Pilot by submitting the attached "Pack Lion Application" to their Unit Commissioner, who will forward the application to the District Key 3 (Kyle Molldene, Mike Porter, and Weldon Campbell) and to the District Lion Coordinator (John Stewart).

The following criteria will be used by the Patriot District to assess the appropriateness for a given Pack to participate in the Lion Pilot:

- Pack Key 2 (CM and CC) are fully trained.
- Pack has a good Tiger Program.
- Pack has a good track record in recruiting (Spring/Fall), or has a record of timely registering new Youth.
- Pack has a good Summer Program, includes Day Camp participation for Tigers through Webelos, or a good published program at a minimum.
- Pack has re-chartered successfully and on time last year.
- Pack has identified a Lion Guide who Den Leader experience.
- Pack Lion Guide must have/will have completed orientation.
- Pack provides feedback on what’s working and what isn’t.
Please report this to John Stewart at any point in time based on your observations and experiences. More formally, there will be a survey or two later on allowing for more formal and standardized responses in order to improve the Lion program. Though these kinds of surveys can seem tedious, completing them will be much appreciated and in fact vital to have a great Lion program. This is indeed a pilot, an experiment, and we have to have mechanism to evaluate its success, and identify any needed changes, before the experimental status can be lifted.

At this point most Packs probably have decided whether they want to volunteer to participate. We are encouraged to get the word out and get sign-ups in. Lion Guides may now register, although the Position Code will not be available until June 30, so on the adult application (and yes, one is needed even if multiple registered) leave that blank for now. You may also register Lion Scouts and Parent Partners, but their applications will not be processed until September 1. Still, once you have Lion Guide, Scout and Parent Partner applications in hand please get them to your Unit Commissioner or District Commissioner (Mike Porter), who will process them and forward them to our District Executive (Kyle Molldene).

In-person Lion information/training is coming this summer. The first session is this Saturday July 2nd at the Marriott Scout Service Center in Bethesda, MD, from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. As soon as we have dates and locations for other training sessions we will pass them on to you. In the meantime, be sure your Lion Guides (ideally, Parent Partners too) are aware of the Lion program literature and that they acquire and begin reading it. Program planning for Lion Dens should take place in the summer just as for any other den.

Thanks for what you are doing for America’s youth through your service in the BSA.

**Troop 1131 – 2016 Philmont Cross-Country Trip**

On Sunday, July 24, 16 Scouts and 4 Adults from Troop 1131 started a 4 ½ week, 4000+ mile, cross-country trip that will include their 12-day hike at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The cross-country trippers will be met by additional adults and Scout flying to Colorado Springs, and together will constitute three Philmont Crews. This style of trip started in 1991 when the Scoutmaster, and now Committee Chairman Phil Sternberg led the troop on the first cross-country trip. (Phil will argue it actually started in 1965 when he and another Boy Scout leader traveled 16,000 miles over two months with eight other scouts from his Troop 77, Bronx, NY).

**Road Trip Group in Front of the T-1131 Trailer**

Important stops and cities along the way have included the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania, Cedar Point Amusement Park in Ohio; President Lincoln sites in Springfield, Illinois; Gateway Arch in Saint Louis, MO; the Konza Tall Grass Prairie in Manhattan, Kansas; the Air Force Academy and Pike’s Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Great Sand Dunes and Alpine Loop Trail out of Silverton, Colorado.
CUB SCOUT ROUNTABLE!

All Cub Scout Leaders, Come Out and Join us for Fun & Fellowship and to Pick-Up some New Ideas for your Pack and Den Programs!

The Purpose of the Roundtable:
To provide the skill to do—skills, techniques, information, program ideas—the know-how that makes for successful unit operation.
To provide unit leadership with the will to do—the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renew the desire to serve youth.

When: Thursday, August 11, 2016
Where: Saint Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road
Midway: 7:30pm – 8 pm
Roundtable: 8pm – 9pm

Brian Behlke, Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner
bbehlke@hotmail.com, 662-812-3496

Boy Scout Roundtable
Not just for Scoutmasters
Patriot District Boy Scout Roundtable
Thursday, August 11th, 2016
Saint Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke
Midway: 7:30 - Pre-Opening: 7:40 – Roundtable: 8:00 to 9:00
Topics: Program Review
(What do you want us to research for you?)

Randy Witter, Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner
703-323-5220, Randy.Witter@gmail.com

Steve Polchek: 703-978-1309, sapolchek@verizon.net
Calling all Arrow of Light Scouts and their Parents!

WHAT: Patriot District “Road to Scouting” (Webelos to Boy Scout Transition Seminar)

WHEN: Saturday, September 10, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

WHERE: Redeeming Grace Church, 9350 Braddock Rd. Fairfax, VA 22015

Saturday September 10, 2016
Redeeming Grace Church
9350 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22015

Learn what Boy Scouting is all about! Meet area Troops and Boy Scouts!

Road to Scouting - Participating Troops

Advance equipment suggested for units:

1. Unit flag
2. Tables for displays (provided by church)
3. Activity display (e.g., camping or cooking setup) for outside (optional)
4. Handouts or flyers about your Troop
5. Display items – photo board, etc.
6. Activity items (optional)
7. SOME BOY SCOUTS!

Agenda

12:30 pm: Hall opens. Setups begin
1:00 pm: Webelos arrive; initial open time (flexible depending on crowd interest)
  - Opening Flag Ceremony (participating Scouts); Scout Oath/Law
  - Welcome (Ken, John)
  - Introductory “What is Boy Scouting.ppt presentation (Ken)
  - Boy Scouts from participating Troops tell what they’ve gotten out of Scouting; what sort of activities they get to do in Scouting.
  - Open time to visit Troop displays and answer questions
2:30 pm: Program ends
3:00 pm: Clean-ups end

WHY: Arrow of Light Scouts are almost ready to graduate from Cub Scouting. Boy Scouting is the next fantastic step on the Scouting trail. Come learn about the fun of Boy Scouting, how it’s different from Cub Scouting, and how to go about finding a Troop that is a good fit for each boy.

Contact: Ken Gaul, kgaul@verizon.net, or John R. Stewart, john.r.stewart.civ@mail.mil, 571-318-0549

Scouts has given me a huge advantage in following my dreams. All of the things a Scout represents and follows have all been an advantage

~ Gary Patterson, Eagle Scout, Olympian in beach volleyball
Patriot District Fall Camporee

“Emergency Preparedness in Action”

October 28 – 30, 2016

Camp Snyder
6100 Antioch Road
Haymarket, Virginia 20169
(571) 248-4904

As of May 6, 2016

This October, the Patriot District will be participating in a multi-district camporee at Camp Snyder. There will be a loud boom in the air. As Scouts look up, they will see a commercial airliner in distress and watch it make an emergency landing at Camp Snyder. The plane breaks apart and pieces and bodies are scattered throughout the area. Most passengers are still alive but many are severely injured. The plane was attempting to make it to nearby Dulles International Airport but could not get there.

Air traffic controllers at Dulles sound the alarm about the crash and immediately notify first responders. At the same time, Scouts on the ground immediately start search and rescue operations and begin to administer first aid. They also evacuate patients to a central collection point. When the first responders arrive, the Scouts brief them about what has happened and what they are already doing. The first responders set up a control center and a triage site and begin medical support and evacuations. Nearby hospitals activate their emergency teams and prepare to receive mass casualties. Ambulances and medical evacuation helicopters start arriving to evacuate patients. The headquarters continues to organize the Scouts on the ground to assist in handling the tragedy.

Earlier in the day, VDOT closed a section of Interstate 66 for repairs and detoured traffic through Camp Snyder. During the excitement, two school busses transporting high school drama students to a workshop collide and go off the road. One catches fire. Several students are injured and a few, to include a bus driver, are trapped inside a bus. Scouts quickly realize that between the airline crash and the bus accident that they are assisting with over two hundred casualties.

The theme for the Fall Camporee is “Emergency Preparedness in Action.” Other skills that will be stressed are Safety, First Aid, and Search and Rescue. This will be a multi-district camporee with Bull Run, Sully, Occoquan and Patriot districts attending. Bull Run District is the lead. A multi-district camporee allows Scouting to attract greater outside participants and create larger programs.

The camporee will be held at Camp Snyder. It will be held from Friday night, October 28 until Sunday morning, October 30, 2016. Instructions concerning registration will be published at a later date. The total expected attendance from all four districts for Scouts and Scouters is twelve hundred (1200). The camporee will have the traditional events that bring us together: Opening and Closing ceremonies, Senior Patrol Leader/Scoutmaster Cracker Barrel, outdoor church services, a Saturday night campfire, and the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood walk. As always, the camporee staff is in need of adult volunteers to support the different events. Volunteers should contact William Dexter, the Camporee Director at (703) 978-2632 or send an e-mail to wtdexterjr@gmail.com.
BSA and the VFW: Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships

Background: The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and advocate on behalf of all veterans.

The vision of the VFW is to ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. In achieving the mission and vision, the VFW is the Chartering Organization to more than 1,000 Packs, Troops and Crews nationwide. Several, annual scholarship awards recognize outstanding youth and adults.

Adult: VFW Wood Badge Scholarship Program
http://bsbaseabase.org/home/media/relationships/vfwwoodbadgescholarship.aspx

Through a cooperative effort with the Boy Scouts of America, the VFW national headquarters offers Wood Badge scholarships to assist selected chapter members in acquiring skills that will better equip them to serve the youth of their communities.

Youth: Scout of the Year http://www.vfw.org/Scout

High school students who are at least 15 years of age; registered, active members of a Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew; have received either the Eagle Scout Award, the Venturing Silver Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award; and have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, Scouting, and the community are invited to apply.

- **Deadline is March 1, 2017 to a local VFW Post.** Girl Scouts also compete in this award category.
- **This must be submitted through a local VFW Post. Membership in VFW not required of the parent.**
- **Scouts without an existing connection to a local VFW Post through a family member can still submit through one of the local Posts: Post 5412 in Burke, or Post 8469 in Fairfax.**
- **Use the link to get full details and review previous winning entries.**
- **Terry Meehan, Patriot district VFW liaison can provide applications to interested Scouts, parents or unit leaders as well as advise on preparation of the application and provide contacts for local VFW Posts, if needed**

OA Chapter meetings are now being held at the same place as Roundtable. They will begin at 7 pm at St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church on Braddock Rd. Combining with Roundtable should help the TOARs get information to their troop leadership.

*Research is creating new knowledge*

~*Neil Armstrong, Eagle Scout (b. 05 August 1930)*
STEM Activities:

Mark your calendar -- There will be a showcase for Skynet Junior Scholars (SJS) Youth on Saturday September 10, 2016 from 10 AM to 10 PM at both Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin and National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Greenbank, West Virginia.

This showcase provides an opportunity for the scholars and leaders to share their work and what they have learned and accomplished in a science conference-style environment. This event is a culminating SJS experience for the Scholars. They will get to meet other scholars and can continue to build the community they have become involved in. They can share lessons they learned and perhaps get new ideas from their peers.

Food and lodging will be provided for in-person participants. You can also join the event virtually via Google Hangout.

We are planning the trip to NRAO, West Virginia to attend this exciting event in person! If you would like to join us, please email the Patriot District STEM Coordinator at skith123@gmail.com before August 13 or call 703-627-7644. Go HERE to learn more about the Skynet Junior Scholars Program or for more information about the Showcase: http://bit.ly/SJS_Showcase
Announcing New Cyber Chip

Cyber Chip, a brand new 21st safety tools for every Scout to earn

Did you know the U.S. Congress designated June as the National Internet Safety Month?

The Internet has become an essential tool for daily use. According to a study by Kaiser Family Foundation, kids of Generation M2, the Multimedia Teen age 8 to 18 year olds spend about one third of their time daily using electronic devices to get access to online for education, research, socializing, and entertainment.

In addition to the safety tools to promote safe use of pocket knives and building campfires, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) introduced the new Cyber Chip in an effort to keep kids safe while online. Recognizing that access to the Internet is necessary and at the same time can pose a danger to children if not properly used, the BSA partnered with NetSmartz to help educate Scouts about being safer online and assist them in promoting community awareness of Internet safety issues -- the danger of Cyber Bullying, and how Scouts can recognize and handle the situation while online.

Joining its cousins Whittling Chip, Totin’s Chip and Firem’n Chit, the Cyber Chip is the latest necessary safety tool for the 21st century. When the new program rolls out in 2016, the Cyber Chip is mandated for all Scouts including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Cyber Chip requirements are grouped by the school grades and can be related to the scout rank advancements as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Grade</th>
<th>Scout Ranks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1-3</td>
<td>Tigers, Wolves, and Bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4-5</td>
<td>Webelos and Arrow of Lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6-8</td>
<td>Scout and Star ranks of Boy Scouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9-12</td>
<td>Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cyber Chip program details can be found by clicking [http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx).

Scouts will graduate to new topics each year by recharging their Cyber Chip and broaden their knowledge while they are staying current with today’s technology. Parents and leaders now have a resource that educates when and how electronics may be used for Scouting activities while also allowing each unit to set their own standards.

Scouts are encouraged to earn their Cyber Chip during the month of June, the National Internet Safety Awareness month. It is fun and interactive and would not take much away from our outdoor experience of Scouting as we find ourselves spending more time online.

*If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: "President Can't Swim."*

~ Lyndon Johnson (b. August 27, 1908)
Afghan Scouts need your support

Greetings from Afghanistan! I am currently deployed to Kabul in support of the NATO-led mission to provide training, advice and assistance for the Afghan security forces and institutions.

I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with local Scouts from Kabul. These Scouts provide a real glimmer of hope for the future of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Scouts Program is conducting their annual Scout Camporee in Kabul this month for 200 youth. They are currently facing a shortage of camping equipment and have requested donations to help purchase tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping mats. Scouts are mostly orphans and do not have families to support them.

If you would like to help support the Afghan Scouts fundraising efforts, you can make an online donation at www.afghan-scouts.org/donate

Thank you for your support to Afghan Scouts.

Jason Bacherel
jason.scouting@gmail.com

They’re going to put the four fastest guys on the relay, and whoever they believe is the four fastest guys, that is who’s going on

~ Ryan Held, Eagle Scout, Olympian in Swimming
WHAT ARE YOUR WINTER BREAK PLANS?
Northern Tier is the Boy Scouts of America's gateway to adventure in the Great Northwoods. OKPIK Cold Weather Camping, Northern Tier's winter offering, is the BSA's premier winter camping program.

OKPIK crew openings are still available in January and February 2017.
Click here for more information.

THE ULTIMATE WILDERNESS AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE!
Philmont Scout Ranch has open spots for many awesome individual opportunities, like a STEM trek. The adventure of learning doesn't stop there! Rowe Outdoor Conservation School may be your summer calling or even a challenging Rayado trek.

Click here to check out all of the opportunities you can experience at Philmont Scout Ranch.

ADVENTURES WITH PURPOSE
Florida National High Adventure Sea Base will launch its second marine-based education program in summer 2017. The program will contain adventure elements currently found in Florida Sea Base programs including snorkeling, fishing, and kayaking.

This four-week summer program will accept only three crews per week (six to eight participants, including adult leaders).
Visit www.bsaseabase.org for all Sea Base reservations and program details.

GET IN ON THE ACTION!
The Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base offers world-class programs that push you beyond the limits of what you think you can do. Sign up now for 2017 high-adventure programs at the Summit Bechtel Reserve and get up to a 15% discount today.

Click here to start your adventure.
2016 Jamboree-on-the-Air, Jamboree-on-the-Internet

On the third weekend in October, 1 million Scouts from 150 different countries will unite to celebrate the global power of Scouting.

And they’ll do it without leaving the neighborhood.

Join the fun by involving your pack, troop, team, post, ship or crew in the 2016 Jamboree-on-the-Air and Jamboree-on-the-Internet — held concurrently Oct. 14 to 16, 2016.

This year’s theme — “Discover Our World” — challenges young men and young women to reach out to their fellow Scouts and learn about the differences and similarities that unite us as members of World Scouting.

The conversation topics are limitless: What’s the Eagle Scout equivalent in Ecuador? Where do Scouts from Helsinki hike? Do Dutch Scouts ever use Dutch ovens?

The 59-year-old Jamboree-on-the-Air uses amateur radio to enable the exchange of questions like those. To participate, most units visit an amateur radio operator’s ham shack or ask the radio operator to set up at a local park.

The smaller Jamboree-on-the-Internet is 20 years old and requires less setup. Scouts or Venturers use any internet-enabled device — computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone — to talk to Scouts from far-off places.

In addition to being incredibly fun, JOTA and JOTI count toward Scouting requirements:

- For Tigers, this meets requirements for the elective adventure Family Stories.
- For Webelos, it counts toward the Arrow of Light adventure Building a Better World.
- Boy Scouts can check off a requirement for the Citizenship in the World merit badge.
- All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers and adult leaders can count the event toward the requirements for the International Spirit Award.

Visit the BSA’s JOTA website or JOTI website for more details, participation certificates and info on ordering the 2016 patches.