

The Blackhawk **COURIER**

A Publication of Blackhawk Area Council

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Blackhawk Area Council 2015 Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner Honoring 2015 Silver Beaver Recipients and Class of 2014 Eagle Scouts

Sunday, March 8, 2015
Radisson Convention Center
200 S. Bell School Road
Rockford, Illinois

Social Gathering
1:45 p.m.
Dinner
2:30 p.m.

Menu

Grilled Chicken Breast with chardonnay sauce or
Sirloin Steak with Cabernet Mushroom sauce or
Mushroom Ravioli

Salad, Vegetable, Potato, Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Tea

\$25.00 per Person for Dinner
\$30.00 to Sponsor an Eagle Scout
****No Refunds****

RSVP by February 20, 2015
A reservation must be made to be
seated for the meal.

****No walk-ins****

Clip and mail coupon on next page to Blackhawk Area Council,
2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107.

Make checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council.

Questions? Please contact Cheyann at 815-397-0210 or cheyann.thunberg@scouting.org

Blackhawk Area Council Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner

The annual Council Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner will held on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Registration/social gathering will begin at 1:45 p.m. with dinner served at 2:30 p.m. Reservations are due by February 20.

The purpose of the Council Recognition Dinner is to recognize and thank all adult volunteer Scouters who have given their time to provide a quality Scouting program to the youth of our communities, and also to recognize the youth who have distinguished themselves with achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The highlight of the event will be the awarding of the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a council can bestow upon a volunteer, to several deserving Scouters.

The Council Recognition Dinner is for all adult leaders within the council, not just council and district level Scouters, and all Scouts who achieved the Eagle Scout rank in 2014 and their parents.

Silver Beaver recipients and Eagle Scouts will be guests of the council. Sponsors for the Eagle Scouts are being solicited.

2015 Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner

(please print legibly)

Reservations for _____ at \$25.00 per person = \$ _____

Person making reservation: _____

Unit Type and # (if applicable) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please list each person attending and check what dinner selection each one wants. Please also check if you are a 2014 Eagle Scout or 2015 Silver Beaver. If you need more space, please use an additional registration form.

Name	Chicken	Sirloin	Ravioli	2014 Eagle Scout	2015 Silver Beaver

I wish to sit with Silver Beaver/Eagle Scout _____

Eagle Scout and Youth Sponsor

Sponsorship includes youth meal and special recognition

I would like to support an Eagle Scout by being a sponsor for the 2015 Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner.

_____ would like to sponsor _____ Youth at \$30.00 each = \$ _____

Optional: Name(s) of youth I am sponsoring: _____

Recognizing Leaders

Everyone needs a pat on the back occasionally. Recognizing the efforts of your leaders and parents goes a long way toward getting and keeping them involved.

A simple "thank you" at a pack meet or court of honor is absolutely necessary. Follow up with a note or phone call. A fancy plaque or purchased certificate isn't always necessary or even appropriate. A small block of wood, hand-lettered, is sometime most treasured. Fit the recognition to the person for whom it is intended. Be creative. Small items found around the house often make great awards!

If the volunteer is in a leadership position which has a training award available, keep track of their progress and make sure that the proper forms are filled out and processed.

If your unit consistently recognizes leaders, they will want to stay. If they feel that they are contributing to the success of your unit, they will want to stay. All of this goes back to getting the right person to do the right job.

Council Calendar

February

- 20-22 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 Courier deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Spring begins (finally!)
- 28 BALOO outdoor training

April

- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 5 Easter
- 7 Courier deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena



Did You Miss the January 17 Webcasts of the New Cub Scout Program?

Exciting changes are coming to the Cub Scouting program that will make it simpler to execute for unit leaders and more fun for boys!

The changes were outlined in webcasts conducted on January 17. Those webcasts were recorded and are available for your use by going to www.scouting.org/programupdates and clicking on the video you wish to view. A short "History of Cub Scouting" video was shown during the webcasts. It has also been included on that site for your use.

Moved? Changed Your Phone Number? Changed Your Email Address?

Have you moved recently? Have you changed your phone number or email address?

If you have made these or any other updates to your registration, please let the council service center, registration department, know. Call Jackie at 815-397-0210 to let her know of these changes. Each month we have several *Couriers* returned because of incorrect addresses. These returned copies cost the council more than \$1.60 each.

Unit leaders -- please check with your leaders to verify that their address is correct on your charter.

Religious Emblem Programs

Attention all Scouts, leaders, and parents!

How many of you have started to work on your religious emblems? We want to take this moment to encourage you to work on and complete these religious emblems.

Throughout our Scouting program, we have stressed that a Scout is reverent and we have a duty to God.

There is an award for all faiths -- just ask us and we can help find yours. Did you know that if you earn your award, you can wear the knot on your field uniform as a Scout and an adult?

If you have questions regarding where to find information on your religious emblems, please contact your district religious emblem coordinator:

Arrowhead: Dan Frommelt at danielmfrommelt@gmail.com

Sycamore: Dick Wantuch at 815-385-0759

Wanchanagi: Mary Ann Bushaw at bushville181@comcast.net

White Eagle: Myles Newberry at mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

Wetassa: Kathy Tobin at 815-297-3843

Or

Contact us, your council religious coordinators:

Mr. B at markbroman@notmail.com

Cindy Chiodini at chiokinix5@comcast.net

Blackhawk Area Council

Hours, Phone, Address

Address: 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Phone numbers:

Council office 815-397-0210

FAX 815-397-7306

Web Site: www.blackhawkscouting.org

National Scout Shop -- Rockford: 815-637-6180

Address: 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Scout Shop hours:

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

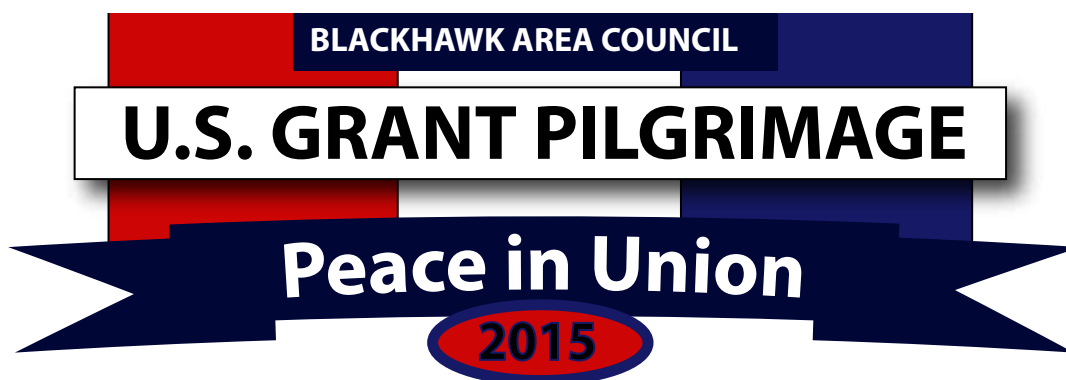
National Scout Shop -- Crystal Lake: 815 479-0615

Address: 600 N. Rt. 31, Crystal Lake IL 60012

Scout Shop Hours:

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday



Join thousands of Scouts this year at the

2015 U.S. Grant Pilgrimage

“Peace In Union”

April 24-25-26, 2015 Galena, Illinois

www.USGrantPilgrimage.org



Parade

Bring your flags and troop banners and wave them proudly in Saturday afternoon's parade.

Cub Scout Activity Area

Sponsored by the Order of The Arrow

Rock Climbing on Galena's Rock Walls

Equipment will be supplied

Old Favorites

History Hunt, Parade, Bucket Brigade, Trail hike, Civil War Re-enactors

New This Year! Live Theater Performance

of Final Moments of the Civil War; “PEACE IN UNION”
Saturday at 6 pm and 8 pm in Galena's Turner Hall

All New Attraction for the US Grant Pilgrimage

Live Theater Performance of Final Moments of the Great Civil War

“Peace in Union”

Saturday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Galena's Historic Turner Hall

“Peace in Union” 150th Anniversary Theatrical Performance at Galena's Historic Turner Hall: actors will bring to life the moment in time that signaled the end of the horrific four-year war which nearly tore our nation apart.

April 9, 1865, Appomattox Courthouse Virginia – A small number of individuals gathered in the parlor of the otherwise unassuming McLean House to decide the fate of a nation. In that room, Robert E. Lee officially surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant in what became one of America's most axial moments. Lee's surrender ushered in the end of the Civil War, signaled the nationwide end to slavery, and initiated the process of reconciliation for the friends, families, and neighbors the war had torn apart.

Among those leading this initiative were a tannery clerk (Ulysses S. Grant), a lawyer (John Rawlins), and a civil engineer (Ely Parker) who at the war's commencement called Galena their home.

This 90-minute performance will follow the birth of the idea to create a lasting memorial, its fulfillment by noted artist Thomas Nast, its journey to Galena, and a finale with a living tableau of the 13 men represented in the painting shown in textbooks around the world. The original 9' by 12' oil painting is on display in the Galena & Grant History Museum.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased with registration, or at the door.

2015 US GRANT PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION FORM April 24-25-26, 2015

Pack _____ Troop _____ Post _____ Team _____ Crew _____ Place unit number where indicated.

If this registration is an addition to a previous registration all ready sent in, please check here. _____

Leader in Charge _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (H, W, C) (____) - _____

Cell Phone & Name for Unit contact at the Pilgrimage: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Council's Name _____

How many miles will you drive to attend this event? _____

We will be camping and have reservations at: _____

ALL YOUTH AND ADULTS WITH YOUR GROUP MUST REGISTER AND PAY THE \$7.00 REGISTRATION FEE.

For Fax or Postmarks after April 1, 2015 the fee is \$10.00 per registrant.

Number of Youth _____ x \$7.00 = Total: \$ _____ ; After April 1, 2015 x \$10.00 = Total: \$ _____

Number of Adults _____ x \$7.00 = Total: \$ _____ ; After April 1, 2015 x \$10.00 = Total: \$ _____

Additional Pilgrimage Items to Pre-Order

Mug Number Ordered _____ x \$8.00 = Total \$ _____

Extra 3" regular patch Number Ordered _____ x \$4.00 = Total \$ _____

6" Patch Number Ordered _____ x \$7.00 = Total \$ _____

Special 6" Patch Number Ordered _____ x \$9.00 = Total \$ _____

Hat Pin Number Ordered _____ x \$5.00 = Total \$ _____

Peace and Union Performance Number Ordered _____ x \$5.00 = Total \$ _____

Total Additional Items = Total \$ _____

PAYMENT TOTALS

Total Amount Youth Registrations \$ _____

Total Amount Adult Registrations \$ _____

Total Additional Items Ordered \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council

Mail Form and Payment to:

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

2820 McFarland Road

Rockford, IL. 61107

Phone 815-397-0210 Fax 815-397-7306

Matt.Ohms@Scouting.org

www.usgrantpilgrimage.org



The Second Annual Blackhawk Area Council Boy Scout Golf Classic Hits the Course on May 11 at the Charming Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club

The day promises to be a fun-filled afternoon of golf, on-course contests including chipping into a canoe, and more. All proceeds from the event will benefit the summer camp scholarship fund within the Blackhawk Area Council.

We'll have a 1 p.m. shotgun start with lunch before the round and a dinner following the event in the clubhouse.

To register for the event,
Mail in your registration to Blackhawk Area Council,
BSA
Attn: Golf Play Day
2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107
815-397-0210
Or go online to
www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Golf



Council Annual Meeting

Council President Jon Krause has announced that the Annual Meeting for the Blackhawk Area Council will be conducted on **Thursday, April 23, 2015, at the Pecatonica Middle School, Pecatonica, Illinois.**

The meeting will commence at 6:30 p.m. There will be a light supper beginning at 6:00 and the annual meeting will be followed by the quarterly Council Combined Committees.

The annual meeting of the council shall be for the purpose of (a) receiving annual reports of the Executive Board, officers, and various committees, (b) electing members at large, associate and honorary members of the council, National Council members, regular members of the Executive Board, and officers of the Corporation other than the Scout executive, c) receiving and approving financial statements showing the financial position of the corporation as of the close of its most recent complete fiscal year and the results of operations during such year, and (d) transaction such other business as may come before the meeting.

Program and Resolutions

A Committee on Program and Resolutions for the Annual Meeting is being chaired by Jim Behrensmeyer. All active members of the council are invited to submit suggestions for the arrangement of the program and resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting at Pecatonica High School on April 23, 2015.

All suggestions must be in writing. The committee shall consider and present to the Annual Meeting recommendations based on suggestions received at least five days prior to the meeting. No resolution shall be considered at the Annual Meeting unless it has first been presented to or proposed by the committee in accordance with this Section.

Recommendations for resolutions for the Council Annual Meeting may be made to the Resolutions Committee at the council's address – 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107.

Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for positions on the council executive board. According to our council by-laws, no nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Council Annual Meeting.

Nominations may be sent to Jon Krause prior to March 21, c/o Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107 or by email to Jon Krause, president of the Blackhawk Area Council, at gambinomgr@aol.com. Nominations may also be sent to Don Kinney, council Scout executive, at the same address.

Since the number of board members is limited by the bylaws, not all nominees may be accepted.

Council Nominating Committee

At the Annual Meeting of the Blackhawk Area Council, the nominating committee shall nominate persons to be elected as members at large, associate and honorary members, regular members of the Executive Board, National Council members, and officers of the Corporation other than the Scout Executive. Active members of the council may make recommendations of possible nominees to the nominating committee for its consideration.

All recommendations to the committee shall be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the meeting by sending an email to Jon Krause, council president, at gambinomgr@aol.com or to Don Kinney, council Scout executive at the council service center, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107.

2015 Scouting for Food Good Turn

Who: The Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves more than 17,000 youth in a twelve-county area of Northern Illinois and Southwestern Wisconsin. More than 5,000 registered adult leaders volunteer their time to deliver a quality program of activity that is fun and educational and designed to grow traits of good character, leadership, and participating citizenship.

What: The Scouting for Food Good Turn is a massive food collection effort by the youth and leaders in the twelve-county area of the Blackhawk Area Council.

When: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers will distribute Scouting for Food collection information in their neighborhoods on Saturday, February 28, 2015, asking people to join us in fighting hunger in our region. The Scouts will return one week later, on March 7, to pick up the food bags and then deliver them to approved local food pantries.

Why: To help fight hunger in Northern Illinois and Southwestern Wisconsin while teaching Scouts the value of “helping other people at all times,” and “Doing a Good Turn Daily.” Dozens of area food pantries will receive the donated canned food, and will, in turn, give the food to thousands of individuals and families in need. We expect to collect more than 100,000 items of food.

Here's the Plan:

Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews sign up to distribute information to households in their neighborhood on Saturday, February 28, 2015, and agree to pick up the bags of food bags on Saturday, March 7. The collected food will be taken to pre-approved district collection points located at a designated food pantry in your community. The food your unit collects will remain in your community. Information fliers will be provided to the units, courtesy of several outstanding corporate citizens in our area.

Dates: February 28, 2015– Scouting for Food door hanger distribution day

March 7, 2015 – Scouting for Food bag collection day

To participate, simply fill out the Scouting for Food participation form below and turn it in to your District Scouting for Food Coordinator or mail to Scouting for Food, c/o Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107.



2015 Scouting for Food Unit Mechanics and Collection Tips

1. **All units should know their assigned territory.** On boundary streets, collect on your side of the street only, unless you are given other instructions.
2. **Contact a local food pantry in advance** so they know your unit will be delivering food on March 7th.
3. **All members, both youth and adult, should be in uniform.**
4. **Determine an assembly place and time for February 28th and March 7th** (Use your regular unit meeting place or another convenient location).
5. **On Saturday, February 28nd - - - Distribution Day:**
 - a. Door hangers with householder instructions should be distributed door-to-door beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 - b. Assemble at meeting place early enough to brief adults and distribute the door hangers.
 - c. Have enough vehicles for the number of boys participating and area to cover.
 - d. All boys should travel in groups of two (buddy system) with an adult driver.
 - e. Vehicles should stay as close to the boys as possible. Adults should be walking with younger boys.
 - f. Door hangers should be distributed to residents only. Avoid businesses or apartment dwellings with no solicitation rules or with controlled access.
 - g. Hang the door hangers on the door knob. Do not put the door hangers in or on mail boxes.
6. **Have a plan to remind boys and adults during the week of February 28th of the collection on March 7th.**
7. **On Saturday, March 7th – Collection Day:**
 - a. Assemble at your meeting place and review plans for the day.
 - b. Food must be collected beginning at 9:00 a.m. from the same area you distributed the door hangers.
 - c. Food should be turned in at the approved food pantry your unit has been assigned to as soon as you are finished with the collection.
 - d. If there is no bag at the door, ring the bell or knock, to see if the household has a donation.
 - e. Do not enter any homes.
 - f. Count the number of items you collect.
 - g. Complete the collection report and send it to your district's Scouting for Food Coordinator.
8. **Be doubly sure that all houses have been covered.** Have a couple of leaders drive through the neighborhood to pick up any stray bags after the boys have finished.
9. **If you have any questions, call your District Scouting for Food Coordinator.**

Continued on next page



Unit Scouting for Food Chair Position Description

1. Secure commitment of unit leadership to participate.
2. Ensure your unit is signed up to participate.
3. Promote participation at den, pack and/or troop and crew meetings.
4. Attend district briefing meeting to secure information and information door hangers and assignment of collection territory.
5. Ensure information door hangers are distributed to youth in unit.
6. Ensure the area your unit is covering is clearly marked on a map and coordinated with the other units in the district or community.
7. Ensure each group of Scouts via unit leadership, understands what areas they are to distribute and pick up food bags.
8. Ensure that proper adult supervision and support is recruited to assist with the distribution and collection of food bags.
9. Ensure participants understand where food is to be taken.
10. Contact a local food pantry in advance so they know your unit is delivering food.
11. Count the number of items your unit collects. Turn in the report form to the District Scouting for Food Coordinator for final tally.
12. If you have any questions, contact your District Scouting for Food Coordinator.

Count Us In! Scouting for Food – 2015

Unit # _____ District _____

Scouting for Food Chairperson:

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to Blackhawk Area Council, 2720 McFarland Road,
Rockford IL

Duty to God Becoming Larger Part of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting

Scouts have always shown reverence for a higher power. It's in our Scout Oath and Scout Law.

But soon, that Duty to God will be further incorporated into Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting.

Here's the scoop from Mike Lo Vecchio of the BSA's Content Management Team:

Cub Scouting

By the beginning of the 2015-2016 Scouting year, each Cub Scout rank will include a new family-based Duty to God adventure.

These requirements will NOT include a requirement that a Cub Scout earn his respective religious award.

Boy Scouting

Beginning in 2016 in Boy Scouts, Duty to God will be incorporated in the requirement to show Scout Spirit.

During the unit leader conference, the Scout will be asked what Duty to God means to him and how he demonstrates that duty.

Again, there will be no requirement for the Scout to earn his respective religious award.



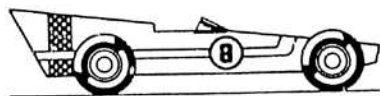
Cub Hub www.CubScouts.org

A new and exciting collaboration between Scouting and parents has been released. You can reach "Cub Hub" at www.CubScouts.org. or by typing "Cub Hub" and look for "the official Cub Scout" site. You will find videos, lots of ideas, and you can respond to questions and ideas in any social media. This is a place where you can also share your ideas and stories also.

There are many new articles, videos, games, and contests, so take a look and catch up with the latest information.

A hundred years from now it not matter what my
bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the
kind of car I drove, but the world miry he different
because I was important in the life of, a boy.

Forest Witcraft



Blackhawk Area Council Pinewood Derby April



Welcome to the 39th Annual Council Pinewood Derby sponsored by the Blackhawk Area Council, B.S.A.
in cooperation with Pecatonica High School

Place Categories

Place categories for the 2015 Council Pinewood Derby will correspond with our Cub Scout program.

Ten race categories will be:

- 1st Grade Winner
- 1st Grade Runner-Up
- 2nd Grade Winner
- 2nd Grade Runner-up
- 3rd Grade Winner
- 3rd Grade Runner-up
- 4th Grade Winner
- 4th Grade Runner-up
- 5th Grade Winner
- 5th Grade Runner-up

Five Design categories will be:

- 1st Grade Design
- 2nd Grade Design
- 3rd Grade Design
- 4th Grade Design
- 5th Grade Design

All entries must be in these ten race and five design categories by grade, regardless of how your pack race is organized.

Ties

Races that end in ties on a pack level must be run over until a winner is determined. Any entries that are received at the council office that show a tie will be returned and the pack will not be registered for the races until they re-submit the entry without any ties.

Participants

Each pack may enter one Cub Scout in each of the ten race and five design categories. The race entrants shall be the winners (1st Place) and runner-ups (2nd Place) from their own pack derby. A Cub Scout may be entered in one category only. For example, a Scout qualifying for the racing portion of the event may not be included in the design judging portion.

No Duplicate Entries.

Date And Place

April 11-12, 2015, at Pecatonica High School, in Pecatonica, Illinois.

Where to Report at Pecatonica High School

Since this will be the first time for many people to visit the Council Pinewood Derby, a road map giving directions to Pecatonica High School will be included with your starting information. There will also be signs within the school designating all race areas.

Meet your Cub Scouts, parents, and leaders at the car pick-up area. A special area will be designated in the school.

Check-In

Please register no sooner than 15 minutes prior to your assigned starting time so that your Cub Scouts can register, weigh in, and pass through inspection with their cars on time.

After a Cub Scout's car passes pit inspection and is placed on the pit table, he and he alone will be allowed in that pit area.

Uniforms

**All Cub Scouts and
leaders are encouraged to
wear their uniforms.
Show your Scout spirit!**

Any Questions?

Please call Bob Gingras, Pinewood Derby Chairman at 815-288-5262.

**It is highly recommended
that a copy of the council
pinewood derby rules be
given with each car kit when
distributed to your Scouts.**

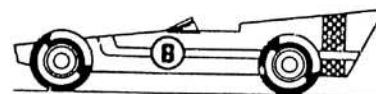
Preparing the Cars

- Each Scout who qualifies should have his car boxed and sealed individually.
- Label each box with the following information:
 - Race Chairman or Cubmaster
 - Pack number and district
 - Category (race grade winner, or design)
 - Name of Cub Scout

The boxed and sealed cars should be held by a pack representative from the time of the pack race until the day of the council race.

Boxes may not be opened prior to registration and pit check-in at the designated track area. **Assigned pit crew members only may open the sealed boxes.**

**Wheels and axles used
must be from the official
pinewood derby kits, #17006
or #17000 or the official
pinewood derby wheel &
axles containers, #17553
through #17557. No china,
Revell, or other hobby wheels
and axles will be allowed.**



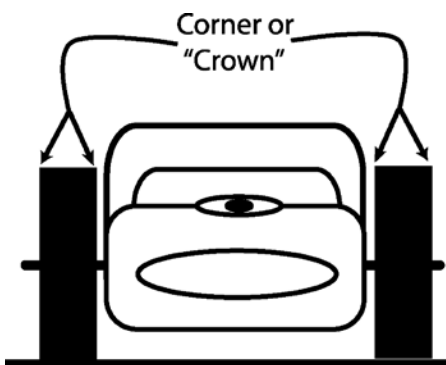
Blackhawk Area Council Pinewood Derby Car Regulations

Attention Pack Leaders:

It is your responsibility to inform the parents and Cub Scouts of your pack of these regulations.

- The car must be constructed using the materials supplied with regulation Grand Prix Kit #17006 or #17000.**
- The car run in the Council Pinewood Derby shall be the identical car run by the entrant in his own pack derby, and it must have been constructed after April 13, 2014.
- Length:** Overall length shall not exceed 7 inches.
- Width:** Overall width shall not exceed 2¾ inches.
- Weight:** Maximum total weight of car, including driver, trims, weights, etc., shall be 5 ounces.
- Height:** Cars shall not be higher than 3". This is measured from the bottom of the wheels to the top of anything on the car. This is so all Pinewood Derby Cars will clear all timing devices.
- Wheels:** Wheels must be used directly from Official Pinewood Derby Kits #17006 or #17000 or Official Pinewood Derby Wheels and Axles #17553 through #17557. No modification of wheels will be allowed, except that burrs or excess plastic from the factory molding process (if any) may be removed or sanded. Wheels must be original width thickness and height and the tread surface must remain flat so that the whole tire surface can simultaneously meet the track surface. Tapering or coning of the outside surface of the wheel hub is allowed. **Wheels may not be shaved.**
Just like any real race car, all four wheels should meet the track surface. **If the flat surface of the tire is to be sanded, be careful not to round the corners (crown) or the wheel. Any rounding of the crowns will result in disqualification. An edge should still be present. See illustration below.**
The axle bore of the wheel may not be bushed, sleeved, lined, or otherwise modified to change the basic wheel-to-metal axle interface other than the application of a dry non-permanent spray-on, brushed-on, or dusted lubrication compound. Bushings, sleeves, permanent coatings, thrust washers, and enclosed axles (hub caps) are prohibited.
- Axles:** Axles must be those supplied in regulation kit #17006 or #17000 or BSA Official Replacement Kit. Axles must be obtained directly from Official Pinewood Derby Kits #17000 or #17006 or Official Pinewood Derby Wheels and Axles #17553 through #17557. Burrs on the underside of the axle head and ridges on the axle shaft (if any) may be removed. **If the underside of axle head is to be tapered, be careful not to reduce the diameter of the axle head.** Polishing of the axle shaft is allowed. The mating surface of the axle may not be bushed, sleeved, or lined. Only a dry non-permanent spray-on, brushed-on, or dusted lubrication compound is allowed. Bushings, sleeves, permanent coatings, thrust washers, and enclosed axles (hub caps) are prohibited. **Axles must be mounted on the car body so that wheels are directly opposite of one another.**
- Track Clearance:** The car must have an under-body and in-between-wheel clearance which will allow it to travel freely over a track lane strip which is ¾ inches maximum in height and 1¾ inches maximum in width.
- Suspension:** The car shall have a solid suspension consisting of the wheels and axles rigidly mounted to the car body. No springs, linkages, shock absorbing materials or other constructions which provide a non-rigid or floating-type suspension are permitted.
- Details:** Details such as steering wheel, windshield, driver, exhaust pipes, trim, etc., are permitted as long as they are rigidly mounted to the car body and do not exceed the overall car specifications.
- Starting Devices:** The car may not incorporate any devices which may assist starting. These shall include, but are not be limited to, magnets, liquids, spring mechanisms, etc. There shall be no loose components within the body of the car. The car must also be free-wheeling.
- Front Edge:** The front edge of the car must rest against the starting peg on the track so that the entire car is behind the peg.

ALL RACE RESULTS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ASSIGNED TRACK JUDGES, AND ALL TRACK JUDGE DECISIONS WILL BE FINAL. VIDEO REPLAYS, PHOTOS, ETC., WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



Race Format

The race format for each category will be a single elimination tournament conducted in heats. No more than 3 cars will race at a time, each car making one run down each of the 3 designated lanes of a multiple lane track. Heat winners will be determined by a total point system for the heat, whereby a car will be assigned 1 point for 1st Place, 3 points for 2nd Place, or 4 points for 3rd Place after each of the three races in a heat.

The car with the least total points at the end of all heats will advance to another heat. The other two cars will be eliminated from the Derby.

Car Inspection

Every car entered will be subjected to and must pass an inspection to the rules and regulations of Grand Prix Kit #17006 or Kit #17000 and the foregoing Blackhawk Area Council Pinewood Derby Car Regulations.

If the car does not meet the above specifications, it must be altered by a responsible adult or it will be disqualified.

Inspection Notes

The following are observations from the inspection tables from prior year's derbies that will be helpful going through the inspection process.

1. Many cars arrived overweight and had to have weight taken off to pass inspection. For Pack Pinewood Derby Chairmen, it is a must to ensure your pack scale is checked with a 5.0 oz. weight. For racers, using a small amount of weighted putty or removable weights on the car can make removing weight much easier at check-in.
2. Many cars arrived with illegal wheels. Please note that our council rules on wheel modifications are relatively strict. Most "speed tips" found on the Internet or other sources are not allowed, and nearly all vendor packaged "BSA speed wheels" have modifications that will not pass our inspections.
3. Several cars also arrived with illegal axles. Our council rules regarding axles (BSA only, etc.) are also relatively strict, and an inspector may ask that you remove a wheel of his choosing in order to further inspect/weigh a wheel or axle. Gluing or embedding axles into your car puts it at risk of breakage or disqualification if wheel removal is required.

Cubmaster/ Race Chairman Checklist

1. Pick up pinewood car kits from the National Scout Shop as early as you can to avoid the rush.
2. Conduct your pack races (preferably in January or February to avoid late entries).
3. Send in your pack Entry Form before the deadline (March 16) to avoid late payment charge.
4. Remind all Cub Scouts who qualify and their parents that the races will be at Pecatonica High School.
5. Notify the Scouts (and parents) as soon as you receive their race times (after April 1, 2015).
6. Indicate where you plan to meet the boys to give them their cars at Pecatonica High School.
7. Encourage all Scouts and leaders to wear their uniforms and a smile.
8. Pick up your pack's envelope which contains your patches, ribbons, and mug at the school. Look for sign "Patch Pick-Up."
9. Plan to have fun!

Entry Forms

ENTRY FORMS MUST BE AT THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER BY MARCH 16, 2015

All race chairmen or Cubmasters must do the following upon completion of their Pack Pinewood Derby:

1. Complete the attached entry form and mail along with the \$40.00 Pack Entry Fee to Blackhawk Area Council — Pinewood Derby, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107.

NOTE: Provide a \$80.00 late entry fee if mailing entry after March 17, 2015.

After April 1, 2015, a copy will be returned to the pack race chairman or Cubmaster with the racing date and starting time for each entrant's race. **It is your duty to contact the Cub Scout's parents with that information.** Entrants must be on time - any race entry may be eliminated if the starting time is delayed more than 5 minutes and any design entry may be eliminated if they check in after the scheduled judging time.

2. Prior to boxing and sealing, each car shall be checked over and reinspected for conformity to the Council Derby Rules. This is the time for minor repairs and re-lubrication. (Please restrain from dumping lots of extra graphite in the storage boxes.) Pack and seal each car in a box - **1 car per box.**

Because of the excessive use of graphite in past years and the mess it makes on the tracks and floor, the Council Pinewood Derby Committee has specified that no graphiting or other lubrication will be allowed during the Pinewood Derby at Pecatonica High School. All lubrication must be done before boxing the cars.



Fifth-Grade Webelos Scout Policy

The following policy applies to fifth-grade Webelos Scouts qualifications for racing at the Council Pinewood Derby races at Pecatonica High School.

If the fifth-grade Webelos Scout races at his pack race as a Cub Scout and qualifies for the council race, then he may race, even if he has transitioned to Boy Scouts.

However, if the Webelos Scout transitioned to Boy Scouts before the pack race, he will not be able to qualify for the council races. If the pack wishes, the Scout can race at the pack level, but just won't qualify for the council races at Pecatonica High School.

PINEWOOD DERBY ENTRY FORM

Please Print All Information

District _____

Town/City _____

Pack _____

RACE ENTRY CATEGORY

CUB SCOUT'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

RACE DATE & TIME

Do not write in these columns

1st Grade Runner-Up

2nd Grade Winner

2nd Grade Runner-Up

3rd Grade Winner

3rd Grade Runner-Up

4th Grade Winner

4th Grade Runner-Up

5th Grade Winner

5th Grade Runner-Up

DESIGN DATE & TIME

1st Grade Design

2nd Grade Design

3rd Grade Design

4th Grade Design

5th Grade Design

Total Number of Entries _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NO DUPLICATION OF ENTRIES

I CERTIFY THAT THE CARS ENTERED BY THE ABOVE CUB SCOUTS AND WEBELOS SCOUTS HAVE PASSED THE PACK INSPECTION FOR CONFORMANCE TO ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFIED FOR THE B.A.C. PINEWOOD DERBY.

Pack Race Chairman or Cubmaster Signature

Date

NAME _____

___ Race Chairman ___ Cubmaster ((check one))

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ - _____ - _____
(area code)

DON'T WAIT -- SEND IN RIGHT
AFTER YOUR PACK DERBY.....

RACE STARTING TIMES AND DATE WILL BE SENT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS

Mail Entry Form to Blackhawk Area Council - Pinewood Derby, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Check One:

___ Take from our account: ___ \$40.00 (before March 16, 2015) or ___ \$80.00 (after March 16, 2015)

___ Pack Entry Fee Enclosed: ___ \$40.00 (before March 16 2015) or ___ \$80.00 (after March 16, 2015)

Pack Volunteer (to help at the council derby) Name _____ Phone # _____

Scout PodCasts for February

Each month CubCasts and ScoutCasts address important issues faced by Scouters in packs and troops. You can listen to these PodCasts by going to www.scouting.org/scoutcast.aspx.

The CubCast and ScoutCast for February 2015 are now available. Archived previous PodCasts are also available at the same site.



Cub Scouts

Gathering the Boys for a Productive Meeting / Activity

Cub Scouting is fun! Cub Scouting is adventure! Cub Scouting is lots of 8-to-10 year- old boys! So how does one get these rambunctious Scouts settled down so that the meeting or activity can be enjoyed by everyone – including you?

Bobby Lester, winner of the Driving Force Award in the Longhorn Council in Fort. Worth, Texas, shares some magic tricks and tips you need for a productive activity.

CubCast Transcript Is Also Available

For the first time, CubCast is making available its transcript. That's great news for Scouters who are deaf or have partial hearing loss — plus for those who are at work where they can't listen to a podcast.



Boy Scouts

How to Motivate a Scout Along the Merit Badge Trail

How do you explain the benefits of merit badges to a boy? Sure, you're the adult, you get it, but how do we explain it so the Scout gets it? And what if all he wants to do is earn the outdoor badges like Camping and Kayaking? How do you pique his interest in ones like Chess, Law, or Reptile and Amphibian Study?

Zach Chopp-Adams, advisor for the C2 section of the Michigan Crossroads Council, wrote one of his Wood Badge tickets on motivating Scouts to earn merit badges and shares his insight right here on ScoutCast

Program Support for Den Leaders

On June 1, 2015, the new Cub Scout program will be in effect. This will be the most significant change in the Cub Scout program since the introduction of the current Webelos program in 1967. Over the next six months, sessions will be presented to help all Cub Scout leaders prepare for the launch of the new program materials.

Den leaders will find that their roles and the roles of others are unchanged. Nor are the parts of a den meeting changed. Tiger Cubs will become Tigers in the new model but the shared leadership model of a Tiger den leader working with a different Tiger adult partner each month remains. Additionally there are no changes in the role of den chiefs, denners, or Webelos counselors.

Cub Scouting has always been about adventure. The new program model emphasizes the adventurous nature of Cub Scouting by naming the basic unit of Cub Scouting advancement an adventure. Next month's program support session will explore the adventure model in detail.

Except for the joining rank of Bobcat, each rank requires Cub Scouts to earn seven adventures. Adventures are either required for rank advancement or serve as an elective adventure. There are plenty of adventures to provide boys with a year round program of fun and exploration. An article about Advancement will cover in detail the mechanics of the new advancement system.

Most adventures may be completed in a den or family setting. However some, most notably those related to a boy's Duty to God should be completed by the boy working with his family.

The content of den meetings is built around helping boys to complete each month's adventure. Program materials that have been developed to assist den leaders, assistant den leaders, and parent helpers to deliver a fun and exciting program that meets the program goals of Cub Scouting.

A typical month in Cub Scouting involves four meetings: one pack meeting and three den meetings. One of the den meetings is generally an outing or field trip that helps the members of the den explore the monthly adventure. Outings range from trips to community resources such as police and firefighters to hikes and museum tours and service projects.

Each level of the program – Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos/Arrow of Light – has a newly developed *Den Leader Guide*. The new guides serve as a comprehensive resource for planning and delivering a fun and engaging den meeting and will be available in Scout Shops by May 1, 2015.

The new *Den Leader Guides* provides all of the resources you need to deliver a den meeting. Each part of a den meeting, from the gathering to the after-the-meeting debriefing, is paired with complete resources to plan and carry out the den meeting.

Some of the key parts of the *Den Leader Guide* include:

- Rationale – the purpose of the adventure and how it fits into the Cub Scout program
- Takeaways – what Cub Scouts will gain from completing the adventure
- Rank Requirements – what Cub Scouts need to complete in order to earn the adventure
- Notes to Den Leaders – hints for planning and leading the meeting
- Preparation and Materials – complete list of materials needed to implement the meeting
- Den meeting plans – complete, step-by-step den meeting guidelines. The den meetings are made up of the same seven steps as before:
 - Before the meeting
 - Gathering
 - Opening
 - Talk Time
 - Activities: special note – guidelines and implementation help for each of the activities that take place during the den meeting. Each of the activities is indexed to the adventure requirement that is completed during the activity
 - Closing

- After the meeting
- Do-at-home reminders – printable reminders to help parents and boys complete requirements at home

There is also a full set of resources in the introduction to help den leaders plan and lead meetings as well as a full appendix of information such as games, planning trips, additional program resources, etc.

The *Den Leader Guides* are more detailed than any previous version of den meeting plans. A leader will find anything that he or she needs to organize and lead a den meeting present in the new materials.

What was learned from the extensive pilot testing is that the new den leader materials worked as designed: using the *Den Leader Guide* as a planning tool, leaders were able to prepare a successful meeting in approximately 45-60 minutes. This is similar to what is typical in planning and preparing den meetings using the current program materials, but with the advantage that all of the program resources are in a single place for the den leader.

Additional den leader support materials are also available. The following materials have been updated to reflect the new adventure program:

- *Den Leader Guides* – for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos/Arrow of Light leaders
- *Cub Scout Leader Handbook*
- *How-To Book of Cub Scouting*
- Roundtable content – a new set of materials has been developed to help leaders implement the new program

Additional updates will soon be made available for den leaders. Watch over the next several months for the following:

- Webcasts. Includes orientation materials for den meetings, pack meetings, and LDS-specific
- Updated position-specific training – by March 31

Coming Up ...

(These will also be printed in the *Courier* as they go online)

February – Advancement

March – Program Planning for Dens

April – New Pack Meeting Plans

May – Aquatic Adventures

June – Campfire Programs

July – Resources for Packs and Den Leaders

Next Steps

- Find roundtable content, handouts, requirements and tons of Cub Scout content at the BSA's useful Program Updates page.
- Begin unit annual planning now. All of the information needed, including requirements, are available now at that same Program Updates page.
- Stay in touch with your roundtables, and know that even more supplemental information is coming. Don't wait to plan, though!
- Don't keep this info to yourself. Please share what you know with your fellow Scouters. If you're a district- or council-level volunteer or professional, please spread the word.
- Watch for program materials coming May 1 in English and Spanish. They'll be available in Scout shops and online.

To View Webcasts Presented on January 17:

Go to Scouting.org/programupdates (file named 2410 and Beyond) and click on the video you wish to watch -- Den Leaders, Cubmasters, and LDS Leaders. There is also a short history of Cub Scouting at the same site.

Advancement in the New Cub Scout Program

As in the current system, a new member begins with the Bobcat badge. He may work simultaneously on the Cub Scout rank appropriate to his age or grade but must complete the Bobcat badge before being awarded his rank badge.

Advancement is one of the seven methods of Cub Scouting. Advancement provides a pathway for learning and fun, and recognizing advancement encourages boys and celebrates their success.

A revised and upgraded advancement system is one of the major changes to the Cub Scouting program that will be launched on June 1. The changes were made in recognition of several concerns:

- Cub Scout advancement had become too sedentary.
- Cub Scout advancement was not well aligned with the aims of Scouting.
- The advancement system changed significantly at each rank, requiring leaders and boys to re-learn how to advance.
- A wealth of other materials had been developed over time that detracted from the core advancement and recognition system.

The basic unit of advancement is an adventure. Seven adventures are required to advance to Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light. Adventures are either required or elective. There are many elective adventures for boys to pursue in addition to the required adventures. A den and pack may use the additional adventures to organize a fun and active year-round program for the Cub Scouts.

The device used to recognize completion of an adventure is an adventure loop for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear and adventure pins for Webelos and Arrow of Light.

	Required Adventures	Elective Adventures	Adventure Recognition Device
Tiger	6	1	Belt loops
Wolf	6	1	Belt loops
Bear	6	1	Belt loops
Webelos	5	2	Pins
Arrow of Light	4	3	Pins

Adventures are different from the requirements used before in that they are based around a theme rather than a single subject. For example, to complete the Webelos Walkabout adventure, a required adventure, boys plan and carry out a hike. On the hike, they take on a leadership role for the hike, promote personal fitness, and carry out a community service project while on the trail.

These tasks connect to a series of desired outcomes that serve as the overall goals for advancement and recognition in Scouting, from Cub Scouting through Boy Scouting and Venturing. The required adventures are all connected to the desired outcomes.

The desired outcomes are

Aims of Scouting

- Character development
- Participatory citizenship
- Personal fitness

Additional key program outcomes

- Outdoor skills and awareness
- Leadership

Current immediate recognition devices such as the Webelos compass points, Progress Toward Ranks emblem and beads, and the Tiger Immediate Recognition device will be discontinued. Progress toward the rank is recognized by receiving an adventure belt loop or adventure pin.

Arrow Points earned currently by Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scouts will also be discontinued. Boys may earn and wear additional adventure loops to show their ongoing participation in the program.

Ensuring that boys are recognized immediately and publicly for their efforts is an important part of the advancement process. No boy should have to wait for more than two weeks to receive recognition for his accomplishments.

Using adventure loops and adventure pins as the means of recognizing boys was deliberate. It is important for the boy to be able to add his recognition to his uniform as soon as possible.

Two ways that your pack might accomplish this:

- The den leader may provide the recognition device (a pin for boys working on Webelos and Arrow of Light adventures or an adventure loop for boys working on Tiger, Wolf, and Bear adventures) at the final meeting when the Cub Scouts complete the adventure. At the following pack meeting, the boys would receive a certificate pocket card (available from your local Scout shop) during a brief ceremony.
- The pack may provide certificate pocket cards for den leaders to award when the boys complete the adventure and then present the adventure loops and pins at the next pack meeting.

Pack leaders are encouraged to find a method that works well for the boys in the pack, guided by principles that recognition is both immediate to encourage the boys and public to celebrate their success.

Moving to the new advancement system is straightforward.

For boys seeking Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos awards:

- June 1, 2015 — begin using the new adventure-based program. Boys may continue to wear any award earned previously.

For boys seeking the Arrow of Light award:

- Option 1. Boys may continue to use the current system.
 - They may select from among the new adventures available as electives for advancement to the Arrow of Light award as well as the current activity badges.
- Option 2. Boys begin using the new system.

As an option, for one year only, boys may use previously earned activity badges (earned in addition to those that were applied to earning the Webelos rank) as elective activities in the new system.

NOTE: Boys who join Cub Scouting after June 1, 2015, and are entering grade 5 the following fall do not have to earn the Webelos rank. In the new adventure system, Webelos is not a requirement to earn the Arrow of Light award. This aligns Arrow of Light advancement with all other Cub Scout advancement, which does not require a boy to earn a previous rank in order to advance.

NOTE: For dens in LDS units, a detailed overview is available at <http://www.livestream.com/bsanationalcouncil>.

Since transition takes place on a boy's birthday, den leaders should substitute an adventure that is similar in character to achievements and activity badges in the current program that the Cub Scout would have earned had the program materials not changed. Flexibility is essential along with considering what is in the boy's best interest for a successful Cub Scouting experience.

Additional Recognitions Still Available

As has been the past practice, there are special recognitions that remain available for Cub Scouts. These recognitions use the new adventures as a foundation for additional recognition and adventure.

Some of these additional recognitions include:

Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award	World Conservation Award
National Den Award	Outdoor Ethics Award
Messengers of Peace	STEM/NOVA Awards

Signs, Signals, and Codes

Requirements



1. Discuss with your counselor the importance of signs, signals, and codes, and why people need these different methods of communication. Briefly discuss the history and development of signs, signals, and codes.
2. Explain the importance of signaling in emergency communications. Discuss with your counselor the types of emergency or distress signals one might use to attract airborne search-and-rescue personnel if lost in the outdoors or trying to summon assistance during a disaster. Illustrate these signaling examples by the use of photos or drawings.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Describe what Morse code is and the various means by which it can be sent. Spell your first name using Morse code. Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using Morse code.
 - b. Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is and how it is used today. Spell your first name using American Sign Language. Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using ASL.
4. Give your counselor a brief explanation about semaphore, why it is used, how it is used, and where it is used. Explain the difference between semaphore flags and nautical flags. Then do the following:
 - a. Spell your first name using semaphore. Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using semaphore.
 - b. Using illustrations or photographs, identify 10 examples of nautical flags and discuss their importance.
5. Explain the braille reading technique and how it helps individuals with sight impairment to communicate. Then do the following:
 - a. Either by sight or by touch, identify the letters of the braille alphabet that spell your name. By sight or touch, decode a braille message at least six words long.
 - b. Create a message in braille at least six words long, and share this with your counselor.
6. Do the following:
 - a. Describe to your counselor six sound-only signals that are in use today. Discuss the pros and cons of using sound signals versus other types of signals.
 - b. Demonstrate to your counselor six different silent Scout signals. Use these Scout signals to direct the movements and actions of your patrol or troop.
7. On a Scout outing, lay out a trail for your patrol or troop to follow. Cover at least one mile in distance and use at least six different trail signs and markers. After the Scouts have completed the trail, follow no-trace principles by replacing or returning trail markers to their original locations.
8. For THREE of the following activities, demonstrate five signals each. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:
 - a. Sports official's hand signs/signals
 - b. Heavy-equipment operator's hand signals
 - c. Aircraft carrier catapult crew signals
 - d. Cyclist's hand signals
 - e. An activity selected by you and your counselor
9. Share with your counselor 10 examples of symbols used in everyday life. Design your own symbol. Share it with your counselor and explain what it means. Then do the following:
 - a. Show examples of 10 traffic signs and explain their meaning.
 - b. Using a topographical map, explain what a map legend is and discuss its importance.
 - c. Point out 10 map symbols and explain the meaning of each.
10. Discuss text-message symbols and why they are commonly used. Give examples of your favorite 10 text symbols or emoticons. Then see if your counselor or parent can identify the meaning or usage of each symbol.
11. Briefly discuss the history of secret code writing (cryptography). Make up your own secret code and write a message of up to 25 words using this code. Share the message with a friend or fellow Scout. Then share the message and code key with your counselor and discuss the effectiveness of your code.

To satisfy the braille writing requirement 5b for this merit badge, you do not need to emboss braille dots in thick paper. Rather, you may use a pencil or pen to draw the dots on ordinary paper, copying the characters of the braille alphabet to spell out your message letter by letter

Inside the Next-Gen

Program Features for Troops, Teams, and Crews

The new *Program Features for Troops, Teams and Crews* is your youth leaders' go-to resource for planning a great program. Your Scouts and Venturers can use these Program Features to plan their main monthly activities or as a way to supplement gaps on their Scouting calendar. The books are all about making a youth leader's job easier and more fun.

Volume 1 is packed with 16 topics ranging from Camping to Spectator Sports — is available now.

Volume 2 is due out in the next couple of months with Volume 3 to follow by the middle of 2015.

Program Features for Troops, Teams, and Crews is a three-volume set containing a total of 48 unique topics that a Scouting unit could use as either the core of its activities, or as a way to round out what's already on the calendar.

How are these different from previous versions?

- More flexible: Troops, teams and crews can customize their own year from the 48 months of activity ideas. Selection is key as youth leaders plan the upcoming year.

- More customizable: Meeting plans, like ski runs, come in three flavors: green, blue, and black. Skills marked with green circles are essential, those with blue squares are challenging, and the ones with black diamonds are the most advanced.
- Better organized: Nobody creates a unit calendar alphabetically, but past program features volumes were organized that way. This time they're mixed up, deliberately combining outdoors, careers and hobbies to make each volume more diverse.
- Better designed: Gone are the black-and-white pages with illustrations that were charming but not always informative. The new versions are broken into chunks with information that's clearly presented and easy to use right away. The features cover six general categories: Outdoor, Sports, Health & Safety, Citizenship & Personal Development, STEM, and Arts & Hobbies. You can find program ideas for SCUBA, Science, Multimedia, Fitness & Nutrition and more.

Volume 1

■ Camping
■ Climbing and Rappelling
■ Communication
■ Cycling
■ First Aid
■ Games
■ Geocaching
■ Hiking
■ Outdoor Ethics
■ Paddle Sports
■ Pioneering
■ Rifle Shooting
■ Safety
■ Science
■ Snowboarding and Skiing
■ Spectator Sports

Volume 2

■ Archery
■ Backpacking
■ Citizenship
■ Engineering
■ Fishing
■ Fitness and Nutrition
■ Living History
■ Mathematics
■ Mentoring
■ Music
■ Orienteering
■ Scuba Diving
■ Soccer
■ Special Needs Awareness
■ Wilderness Survival
■ Wildlife Management

Volume 3

■ Caving
■ Cooking
■ Duty to God
■ Emergency Preparedness
■ Ethics
■ Financial Management
■ Multimedia
■ Nature and Environment
■ Project COPE
■ Project Planning
■ Shotgun Shooting
■ Skateboarding
■ Sustainability
■ Swimming
■ Technology
■ Winter Camping

Key

- = Outdoor program features
- = Sports program features
- = Health and safety program features
- = Citizenship and personal development program features
- = STEM program features
- = Arts and hobbies program features



Honor Guard Patch Now Available for Boy Scouts

If you want a ceremony done right, call the Boy Scouts.

For more than a century, Boy Scout Honor Guards have added reverence, dignity and patriotism to events like baseball games, camporees, parades, inaugurations, funerals and more.

And now, for the first time, there's an official Honor Guard patch to recognize Scouts who take on this important role.

The patch, which goes on the right sleeve, is being shipped out to Scout shops (Supply No. 621029) now. It's also available for shipment from ScoutStuff.org. Before driving to your Scout shop, be sure to call to make sure it has the patch in stock.

Here's what else you need to know about this new patch.

It's worn on the right sleeve (not left).

- Unlike position patches (senior patrol leader, scribe, patrol leader, etc.), which are worn on the left sleeve, the Honor Guard patch goes on the right sleeve. It goes in one of two places, depending on which other patches the Scout is wearing:
 - A half-inch under the patrol emblem (aka "position 3")
 - OR
 - Right under (and touching) the Journey to Excellence unit award.

In this way, it's just like the Musician badge for members of troop bands or drum corps.

Honor Guard members may wear it at any time.

- Boy Scouts who are members of an Honor Guard may wear this patch at any time, even if they aren't serving an Honor Guard role at that exact moment. In other words, there's no need to remove this patch when attending a troop event that doesn't require Honor Guard services.
- And because the patch goes on the right sleeve, a Boy Scout can wear his Honor Guard patch and his regular position of responsibility patch simultaneously.

Honor Guard does not count for advancement purposes.

As is the case with the Musician patch/role, serving in the Honor Guard doesn't count as a position of responsibility needed for advancement. What does count?

- For Boy Scout troops, it is patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, Venture patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, troop Webmaster, or Leave No Trace trainer.

2015 Boy Scouts Requirements Coming in February

The *2015 Boy Scouts Requirements* book, the authoritative resource for the most current rank, merit badges, and special awards requirements, will be available for purchase in Scout shops in February.

As usual, the important updates will be summarized on the inside front cover for quick reference. Along with a few changes to requirements, this year's book features a number of minor clarifying adjustments to language and added footnotes providing additional information. The approach to positions of responsibility for Lone Scouts has also been expanded to Star and Life Ranks.

Two new merit badges are featured as well: Animation; and Signs, Signals, and Codes. There are minor updates to 16 merit badges, and more significant changes to Canoeing, Swimming, and Whitewater.

Counselor's Compass New Newsletter for Merit Badge Counselors

The Boy Scouts of America announces a new informational resource entitled "*Counselor's Compass*." This publication, to be issued as an e-newsletter, will support merit badge counselors in four ways:

- Things to do.** What new counselors should do prior to counseling a merit badge, such as become familiar with *Guide to Advancement* and the educational presentation, *Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling*, available under "Advancement Educational Presentations" at www.scouting.org/advancement.
- Steps for Success.** Helpful tips for both new and experienced counselors as they work with Scouts, such as the importance of using the latest pamphlet and requirements.
- Glad You Asked.** Articles that address commonly asked questions sent to merit.badge@scouting.org.
- News You Can Use.** Merit badge fun facts and information on new badges.

Subscribing to *Counselor's Compass* is similar to subscribing to Advancement News: Send a message to merit.badge@scouting.org, with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text. The *Compass* may also be accessed online at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-937_Dec2014.pdf.

About Counselor's Compass

Counselor's Compass is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America's Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force. Its intent is to provide volunteers with practical counseling advice through a concise, informative approach in order to communicate advancement procedures more efficiently. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute *Counselor's Compass* quarterly, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at merit.badge@scouting.org.

Whitewater Merit Badge Updated

Data from the Outdoor Foundation shows that each year roughly 20 million Americans participate in canoeing and kayaking activities. And in 2013, nearly 70,000 Scouts earned the Canoeing or Kayaking merit badges, placing these among the most popular badges not on the required list for Eagle Scout.

Many more Scouts are being exposed to canoeing and kayaking as part of summer camp, troop activities, or high adventure programs.

Both the Canoeing and Kayaking merit badges are conducted on calm, protected waters where winds, waves, and currents are seldom an issue. Some Scouts are happy to stay on those waters, but others are looking for more challenging conditions. The Whitewater merit badge is designed for them.

Scouts pursuing the Whitewater badge move out of calm waters into an environment where currents and waves are major factors. Here, Scouts learn and apply paddling skills in rapids rated up to Class II, which require maneuvering in waves of up to one or two feet.

In 2014, members of the BSA Aquatics Task Force worked with a wide range of highly experienced paddling instructors from the American Canoe Association to update requirements for the Whitewater merit badge. The work group included several professional paddling instructors who also had strong ties to Scouting as Scoutmasters, Eagle Scouts, or BSA summer camp staff members.

The task force and work group recommended several procedural changes. For example, the Scout Gate test was replaced by demonstrating the skills previously learned to earn the prerequisite Canoeing or Kayaking merit badge. Similarly, the required first aid skills were revised to bring the Whitewater merit badge in line with other outdoor skill badges.

Other changes include the addition of new strokes commonly used in whitewater paddling, and additional focus on individual rescue skills, both as a rescuer and a victim. The updated requirements also include changes in terminology to that currently used by the American Canoe Association (ACA) and in the American Whitewater Safety Code.

The result is a merit badge that more closely matches programs taught by top-rated whitewater instructors from the ACA and leading whitewater schools.

Digitizing Medical Records? BSA Says Please Don't

Digitizing medical records is a no-no, BSA says. Records are not to be digitized, scanned, sent by email, or stored electronically by unit leaders.

Digitally storing photos, books and music means everything's at our fingertips wherever we are. It's convenient, but anyone who follows the news knows it's not exactly secure. That's why there's one thing for sure that doesn't belong in the cloud: Scout medical records.

The rule is clear: Boy Scout Annual Health and Medical Records (AHMR) are not to be digitized, scanned, sent by email, or stored electronically by unit leaders.

Districts and councils are discouraged from keeping any medical records, whether digital or paper, unless required by local or state ordinances. However, the electronic version of the Annual Health and Medical Record is intended to be filled out and saved by individual Scouts and Scouters. The electronic version of the Annual Health and Medical Record should not be transmitted via email or stored electronically by units, districts or councils. Units are encouraged to keep paper copies of their participants' Annual Health and Medical Records in a confidential medical file for quick access in an emergency and to be prepared for all adventures.

In all cases, the information gathered is for use in conducting a safe Scouting program. Information gathered in the AHMR must be maintained and shared in a confidential and discreet manner. Some conditions may require communication to ensure the safety of participants. This information should only be shared on a "need-to-know" basis.

The Annual Health and Medical Record is secured to maintain the confidentiality of the information, yet at the same time, the forms should be accessible by adult leaders in an emergency. The following guidance will assist leaders in achieving this goal:

- Leaders are encouraged to maintain the original AHMR forms in a safe location in a binder or file that protects the documents entrusted to the unit leader.
- The AHMR should be taken on all activities.
- Designate a leader to keep the files containing the AHMR up to date. This may include reminding participants to update the AHMR annually or as needed.
- Designate a leader as the point of contact with event or camp health officers. If needed, the leader should arrange to have the AHMR returned to him or her at the end of the event, if allowed by the state.
- The unit leader (or his or her designee) is responsible for destroying or returning to the participant (or parent and/or guardian) the AHMR documents when the participant leaves the unit or when the documents become outdated.
- Records are NOT to be digitized, scanned, sent by email, or stored electronically by unit leaders.
- To streamline a summer or winter camp check-in, records of all participants are reviewed to make sure they are up to date, completed, and signed before leaving for camp. Be sure to check with the camp for any additional information that may be needed. For example, specific immunization records may be required in some states.

Finally, what is the reason behind this rule? We have evaluated the risks associated with digitizing and have made a conscious effort not to do it. What you may think seems like such a good idea has many implications on privacy, data transmission, loss, etc., that we are not ready to address. So we as an organization have chosen to avoid the risk. Please don't digitize.

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, and More Open House Exhibition

North Suburban Library
6340 North 2nd Street, Loves Park
Saturday, April 4
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free!

Sponsored by the River Valley Gem and Mineral Society



61st Annual Blackhawk Area Regatta

Saturday June 20, 2015

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Olson Beach, Loves Park, Illinois

\$14 per youth / \$10 per adult

14 events, 3 trophies, dinner, and dance

Land Events:

Archery
Obstacle Course
Heaving Line Toss
Hypothermia Challenge
Bucket Brigade
Tug-o-War
Life Jacket Relay
Log Saw
Who killed the Commodore
Surprise Event

Canoe Events:

Three person Hand paddle
Two person canoe race
One person canoe race
In and out canoe race

Contact: event coordinator Jason Downing - downing.jasonh@gmail.com or Alumni web site <http://www.comcast.net/~ship508>

Who: Any Boy Scout, Explorer, Girl Scout, Post, Ship, and Venturing Crew (ages 13 –20) (Girl Scout alumni are allowed to compete up till 20 years of age)

What:: One-day competition with dinner and dance

When: June 20, 2015

7:30am ~ 5pm (events), 6 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Dance and Awards)

Where: Olson Beach, 8002 Harlem Road Loves Park, Illinois 61111 (events) http://beachwatch.net/public_beaches web site has links for directions if needed.

To: All posts, crews, ships, troops, and Mariner and Girl Scout units.

Dance:: In the evening, a dance will be held at Alpine Academy of Rockford; 5001 Forest View Avenue, Rockford, 61108 DJ to provide the entertainment.

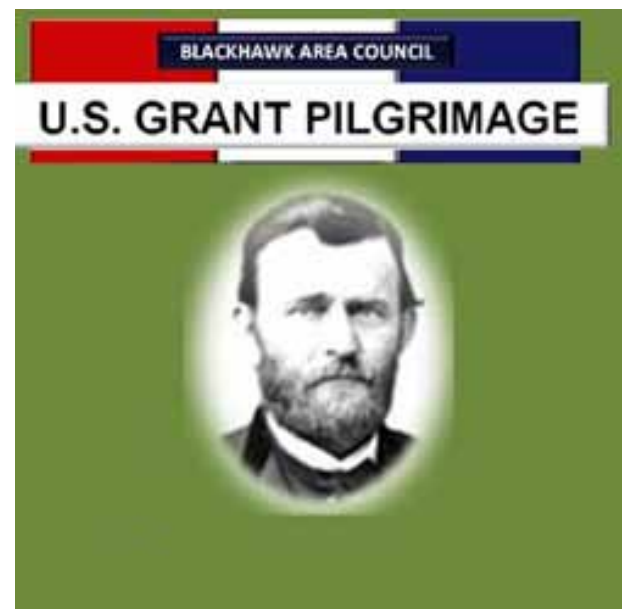
Date & Time: Saturday June 20, 2015

7:30 a.m.	Registration opens
8 a.m.	Opening ceremonies
9 a.m.	Events commence
5 p.m.	Events conclude and Dinner approximate time)
6 to 10:00 p.m	Dance and awards

Meals: The noon meal is not furnished, but a small snack stand is on site. Fast food is a short drive away. The evening meal will be served at the conclusion of the events. (Cost of the evening meal is included in the registration fee.)

Insurance: Each unit is responsible for the insurance of its members.

Participation: Open to all Explorers, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts (and alumni) (including Cadets, Seniors, and Ambassadors). The Regatta is designed to meet the requirements of small teams from the units. Therefore, there will be no less than three, and no more than five, members on a team. A unit may enter as many teams as they want.





Surf and Turf
Saturday, April 18, 2015
Harlem Junior High School
735 Windsor Road
Loves Park, Illinois

Cost: \$18/Scout, \$10/Leader Per person (Scouts and Leaders) Includes awards, dinner, and dance.

Please call or e-mail number Scouts and leaders attending

Event coordinator Jason Downing
 815 494-3345 or
 downing.asonh@gmail.com

Full information about events and registration form, go to
BlackhawkScouting.org

Arrowman Service Award
An OA Patch You Can Wear on Your Sash

2015 is the Order of the Arrow's 100th anniversary, and every good centennial celebration needs a patch to match.

It's the Arrowman Service Award, a patch youth and adult members of the Order of the Arrow can earn and wear on their OA sash.

The goal is to encourage Arrowmen to recommit themselves to the OA, increase their level of service, and participate in the OA's wide-ranging centennial celebrations.

There is no limit to the number of Arrowman Service Awards that can be given per lodge, provided the lodge's advisor and staff advisor/Scout executive approve each candidate's completed requirements.

Arrowmen can work on the requirements from July 16, 2014, until December 31, 2015.

Arrowman Service Award Requirements

To earn the award, Arrowmen need to complete requirements in three categories: personal growth, Scout service, and centennial participation.

There are different requirements for youth and adults. Go to <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/centennial-update-2014-07-3> to download the requirements.



2017 National Scout Jamboree

The Boy Scouts of America announced the official theme and logo for the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, a celebration of Scouting held every four years for Scouts, Venturers, volunteers, and staff from across the nation.

The 2017 theme, "Live Scouting's Adventure," speaks both to Scouting's century-old tradition of creating adventures that develop young people into the leaders of tomorrow and to the developing adventures of the next century of Scouting.

The "Live Scouting's Adventure" theme and logo symbolize the adventurous spirit and exciting high-adventure and outdoor opportunities available to youth and adult members in the Scouting program.

The jamboree is open to active youth members and adult volunteer leaders in BSA programs and will be held July 19-28, 2017. Staff members will be able to register for the jamboree in April 2015, while registration for youth and adult participants will open in May 2015. To learn more about the 2017 National Scout Jamboree and the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, please visit www.bsajamboree.org or <https://summit.scouting.org>.





National Summertime Pack Award

Plan Now for Your Pack to Earn It

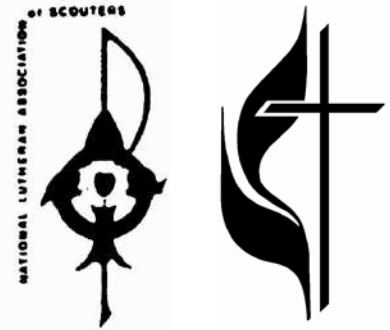
Your pack can qualify for the National Summertime Pack Award by planning and conducting three pack activities during the summer – one each in June, July, and August. Cub Scout day camp and Cub Scout summer camp can be used to help earn this award. The recognition consists of a streamer for the pack flag.

Dens averaging at least half of their members at the three summer pack events will be eligible for a colorful den participation ribbon. Cub Scouts who participate in all three pack events are eligible to receive the National Summertime Pack Award pin which is worn on the right pocket flap of the uniform. (Please note, this pin is an individual recognition for boys and may not be earned or worn by adults.)

Earning the National Summertime Pack Award is one way to help your pack earn the 2015 Scouting's Journey to Excellence Award. More importantly, however, it is an easy way to keep members of your pack together during the summer and to introduce new members to the fun of the Cub Scout program.

To ensure that your pack will earn this award, now is the time to plan your events and recruit a committee to run each of them. Give your leaders a break and get parents involved in these committees. This is another way to involve the parents and they may volunteer to help the pack in other ways later.

The National Summertime Pack Award application is available from the council service center or can be found online on the national Web site, www.scouting.org.



Religious Emblem Programs

Attention all Scouts, leaders, and parents!

How many of you have started to work on your religious emblems? We want to take this moment to encourage you to work on and complete these religious emblems.

Throughout our Scouting program, we have stressed that a Scout is reverent and we have a duty to God.

There is an award for all faiths -- just ask us and we can help find yours. Did you know that if you earn your award, you can wear the knot on your field uniform as a Scout and an adult?

If you have questions regarding where to find information on your religious emblems, please contact your district religious emblem coordinator:

Arrowhead: Dan Frommelt at danielmfrommelt@gmail.com

Sycamore: Dick Wantuch at 815-385-0759

Wanchanagi: Mary Ann Bushaw at bushville181@comcast.net

White Eagle: Myles Newberry at mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

Wetassa: Kathy Tobin at 815-297-3843

Or

Contact us, your council religious coordinators:

Mr. B at markbroman@notmail.com

Cindy Chiodini at chiokinix5@comcast.net



The Driver's Pledge

- I will not drive when I feel fatigued. I realize that when I am fatigued, I process information more slowly and less accurately and this impairs my ability to react in time to avoid accidents.
- I will arrange my schedule so that several days before a Boy Scout "driving trip," I will get a good night's sleep every night to avoid the cumulative effect of not getting enough sleep.
- I will make trip preparations far enough in advance so that last-minute preparations don't interfere with my rest.
- I will make travel plans that take into account my personal biological clock and only drive during the part of the day when I know I will be alert.
- I will be smart about engaging in physical activities during Scouting outings and will make sure that I will be ready to drive alertly.

Spring Popcorn Sale

Show N Sell Orders Due – March 14

Show N Sell Delivery – March 20

Sales Start – March 21

Orders Due – April 22

Delivery – May 1 and 2

BSA to Prohibit Use of 15-Passenger Vans Made Before 2005

Fully loaded 15-passenger vans, like the ones you might use to haul a bunch of Scouts to camp, can be more dangerous than you might think.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration says 15-passenger vans with 10 or more occupants are three times more likely to roll over than ones carrying fewer than five passengers.

That is why all Scouters should take heed of this breaking BSA news: **Effective September 1, 2015, the use of 15-passenger vans manufactured before 2005 will no longer be allowed in connection with Scouting programs and activities.**

15-passenger vans manufactured in 2005 or later may be used, as long as they are equipped with **Electronic Stability Control** and **seat belts for all passengers and the driver.**

This applies to all vehicles, regardless of ownership (privately owned, owned by chartered organization, rentals, etc.).

Safety tips for using 15-passenger vans

Do you have a newer 15-passenger van that meets BSA requirements? Here are some safety tips from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration that you should read:

- Make sure that the vehicle is properly maintained (correct size tires, steering, brakes, ESC, etc.). The best practice is to complete an inspection checklist daily or before use.
- Make sure drivers are trained and experienced in operating 15-passenger vans and are properly licensed. (There are online resources for drivers to learn about the safe operation of these vehicles.
- 15-passenger vans are very sensitive to loading and should not be overloaded under any circumstances. Agency research shows overloading not only increases rollover risk but also makes the vehicle more unstable in any handling maneuvers. For example, passenger capacity should be reduced by one for every 150 pounds of gear, and roof-mounted storage units should not be used.
- Make sure that properly sized tires are being used on the vehicle.
- Before every trip, drivers should check the tires for proper inflation and make sure there are no signs of excessive or uneven wear. The “penny test” is a good indicator of whether tread depth meets the minimum requirements.
- Make sure all passengers wear seatbelts.



2014 Eagle Scouts

Number of Eagle Scouts – 51,820
Average age – 17.31
Number of Hours served – 8,127,532
Value of volunteer hours – \$183.3 million
Average # hours per project – 156.84

It Can Wait: How to keep your Scouts (and yourself) from texting and driving

That little dopamine hit you feel when your phone buzzes or dings with a new text or tweet or notification?

I get it. I’ve felt it.

The message could be from a family member or friend; the notification could be breaking news about your favorite sports team.

But if it comes in while driving, we have to fight that addiction. No text (or call or notification) is worth our lives.

Make the promise to never text and drive, and do everything you can to convince your driving-age Scouts to do the same.

That’s the challenge from AT&T, official communications sponsor of the BSA, which started the campaign against texting and driving. AT&T showed Scouts and Venturers the dangers of texting and driving at the 2013 National Jamboree, but it’s your job to model good behavior and spread the message further.

More than 4.7 million people have taken the pledge not to text and drive, but putting that promise into action isn’t always easy.

Here are a few ideas for fighting the urge.

Solutions to prevent texting and driving

- Store your phone in the glove box or trunk. As they say, “out of sight, out of mind.”
- Use “X” or #X as a signal that you’re driving. By ending a text conversation with the letter “X” or tweeting with #X, you’ve just told your friends and family that it’s time to stop messaging and start driving. Train them to know that signal.
- Give your phone to someone else. If you’re driving with others, let them keep you focused on the road.
- Put your phone on Do Not Disturb and face down in the passenger seat. This is what I like to do. I’ll silence my iPhone and put it face down so I won’t see the screen. Then I turn on some good music and just drive.
- Draw X’s on your thumbs. This might be a little extreme, but it’s a visual reminder to stop typing and start driving.
- Let technology help keep you honest. AT&T Drive Mode and other apps block texting while driving and let others know you’re on the road. Yahoo has a rundown of other good ones

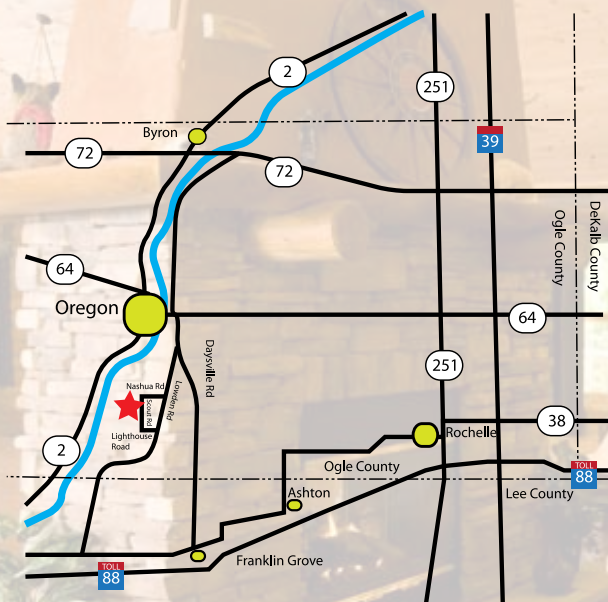
Steps to stop texting and driving

AT&T has created a PDF with four simple steps to stop texting and driving. Share these with your Scouts:

- **Awareness:** Texting while driving is involved in at least 200,000 vehicle crashes each year.
- **Commitment:** Make a lifelong commitment. Go with a loved one to take the pledge
- **Ritual:** Make a routine that you remember every time you drive — just like buckling your seat belt.
- **Influence:** 90 percent of drivers say they’d stop texting and driving if a friend asked them to. Don’t be silent.

**Jim and Karen Boeger**

In 2005, Jim and Karen Boeger donated the funds necessary to develop the Boeger Leadership Center and Lodge. Throughout Jim's many years of service in the Boy Scouts, he recognized the value and need of leadership training. In 2009, Jim's dream became a reality in the completion of the Boeger Lodge.



**The Boeger Lodge is located on the
Camp Lowden property at
4418 South Scout Road, Oregon, IL 61061.**

Boeger Leadership Center
Blackhawk Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
2820 McFarland Road
Rockford IL 61107
815-397-0210
www.blackhawkscouting.org

BOEGER LEADERSHIP CENTER



United For Youth
Program Center
At Swanson Hill



The new Program Center, located just south of CherryVale Mall features a large meeting room and a lower level activity space overlooking a hiking trail, pond, and 6.5 acres of "back yard."



at Swanson Hill



The building has tables and chairs, a light service kitchen, a balcony overlooking the creek and path and will have AV equipment soon.

Check your calendars and decide how you can best use this new facility.





Get Your Unit Ready With This Basic Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Water — typically one gallon of water per person in your group per day. Richard says you really want to think about this as a 72-hour kit, so have three days of supplies. That means if you have 20 Scouts and Scouters in your unit, you'll want 60 gallons.
- Food — Nonperishable and enough for three days
- Battery-powered or hand-crank weather radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Signaling device, such as a whistle
- Dust mask for everybody in your group
- Plastic sheeting
- Moist towelettes
- Garbage bags
- Wrench or other tools
- Can-opener (if your nonperishable food is in cans)
- Solar charger to power your cell phone in an emergency

Emergency Preparedness Award

Units and individuals in Scouting who demonstrate their emergency preparedness are eligible for an award.

The award was just updated this month to make units eligible to earn the award as a unit — previously only individuals could earn the award.

How to Talk to Your Kids and Scouts

Richard Richard Bournon, team lead of the Health and Safety Service Team for the BSA National Council offers this sound advice:

I want everybody to know that they need to have the conversation with their kids, and it doesn't have to be real hard, but, make sure their kids know who to call in an emergency, where to meet up. It's September, your child may be at a school. Do they know where to meet you if something is happening in the community?

I'm a big fan of the Go Kit, having a backpack ready that you can just pick up and evacuate with. I always say: what do you have packed, where are we going to meet, and who are you going to call?



Who Will Inherit Your Values?

Life is a series of experience. Beginning with birth and youth, we have moved through a continuum of life experiences — school, adolescence, college, adulthood, job, marriage, family, retirement. And people have been the key to our development — parents, family, teachers, friends, youth leaders, business associates. All have contributed to who we have become. Today, our life is a statement of who we are.

Estate planning is the process of deciding how best to transfer your assets to children and family, during your lifetime as well as at death. Such planning is critical; for without it you could lose a sizable portion of your estate to taxes. While avoiding unnecessary taxation is an obvious motive, perhaps a greater reason for estate planning lies in the opportunity to transfer our values to future generations.

Our values define your life. Passing your values on is not simple a process, but one that will require serious thought.

Who do you believe in?

Who are the people and organizations that have influenced your life, and the lives of your children?

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

You will need advice on the technical details of how you can accomplish your objectives.

A hundred years from now it not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world miry he different because I was important in the life of, a boy.

Forest Witcraft

STEM

Be a NOVA Counselor



It doesn't take a rocket scientist to be a Nova counselor. That said, rocket scientists are certainly welcome.

By becoming a Nova counselor, you'll introduce Scouts to the basic principles of STEM and help them discover how fun and fascinating science, technology, engineering and math can be.

You'll help guide them as they earn the Nova awards as Cub Scouts, Webelos, Boy Scouts or Venturers.

How Do You Get Started?

You can be a Nova counselor, introducing Scouts to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through helping them earn Nova awards. You can help them realize that successful achievement in STEM is possible and maybe leads to rewarding hobbies or professions.

As a Nova counselor, you will help Scouts work with STEM concepts and complete the activities required for the awards. It's much like being a merit badge counselor or helping Cub Scouts earn activity badges or belt loops. You do a bit of teaching and helping them discover the answers. You keep track of progress and help the Scout reach the next step. And of course you ensure safety and Youth Protection.

If you can visit an amusement park or playground and discuss the simple machines that make the rides work, you can help a Boy Scout earn the "Whoosh!" engineering Nova Award.

If you can help a Cub Scout weigh himself and calculate how much he would weigh on the moon, you have helped him earn the "1-2-3 Go!" math Nova award.

If you are a shooting sports director, robotics merit badge counselor, or baseball coach, you can extend those activities through the "Shoot!" Nova Award for Boy Scouts.

If you are comfortable with high school-level science and math, you can be a counselor. If you have baked a cake, done construction, run a race, or filled out a tax form, you have what it takes.

Counselor Qualifications (And How Many Your Unit Needs)

Each pack and troop should have at least one counselor, possibly several for more active units. And each counselor needs help from other adults in the unit. Every unit has qualified adults who can help with activities. Ask them!

You can be a counselor if you are

- At least 21 years of age
- Of good character
- Able and willing to work with Scout-age youth
- Comfortable with high school math and science
- Willing to research STEM topics if you are not familiar or comfortable enough. And willing to partner with a subject-matter expert if required.
- A registered BSA adult (completed the registration form, position code 58, no charge)
- Current in Youth Protection Training

Will you be the Nova counselor who plants the seeds of a Scout's future? You are needed, and you can do it.



NOVA Awards Program

The Boy Scouts of America NOVA Awards program incorporates learning about cool activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers.

The hope is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and shows how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them. Counselors and mentors help bring this engaging contemporary and fun program to life for youth members.

There are four NOVA Awards for Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Each award covers one component of STEM – science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

- **Cub Scout Awards** – Science Everywhere, Tech Talk, Swing!, and 1-2-3 Go!
- **Boy Scout Awards** – Shoot!, Start Your Engines, Whoosh!, and Designed to Crunch
- **Venturer Awards** – Launch! Power Up, Hang On!, and Numbers Don't Lie

For their first NOVA award, Scouts earn the distinctive NOVA Award patch. After that a Scout can earn three more NOVA awards, each one recognized with a separate pi (π) pin-on device that attaches to the patch. The patch and three devices represent each of the four STEM topics.

The SUPERNOVA Awards

The Supernova awards have more rigorous requirements than the Nova awards. The requirements and activities were designed to motivate youth and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities.

For Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts: Dr. Louis Alvarez Supernova Award

For Webelos Scouts: Dr. Charles H. Townes Supernova Award

For Boy Scouts: Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Bronze Award
Thomas Edison Supernova Silver Award

For Venturers: Dr. Sally Ride Supernova Bronze Award
Wright Brothers Supernova Silver Award
Dr. Albert Einstein Supernova Gold Award

For earning the Supernova award, Scouts receive a medal and certificate.

All requirements may be found in the NOVA awards guidebooks, which are available through the Scout Shop – one for Cub Scouts, one for Boy Scouts, and one for Venturers. The requirements can be completed with a parent or an adult leader as the counselor (for the NOVA awards) or mentor (for the Supernova awards). Each guidebook includes a section for the counselor and mentor.

For details, go to www.scouting.org/STEM/NOVA.

Every Pack, Troop, and Crew Needs a STEM Coordinator

Serious about STEM? Then you need a unit STEM coordinator.

This adult position is the point of contact for all Scouts in the pack, troop, or crew to help promote and deliver STEM programs in the unit.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. And it's important. The U.S. Department of Commerce says STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations.

Empowering an adult volunteer to serve as unit STEM coordinator will help your Scouts develop skills that could one day land them high-paying, exciting jobs in fields that are actually hiring.

So a STEM coordinator is important, but are you the man or woman for the job? If not you, then who?

Job Description

The specific job responsibilities can be flexible depending on unit needs but typically involve:

- Be knowledgeable of the Nova Awards program
- Promote the Nova Awards program at unit meetings to the Scouts and parents/leaders
- Help Scouts with ideas on how they can earn the Nova and Supernova Awards
- Work with leaders (youth and adults) to add fun STEM activities to meetings and outings or STEM moments
- Be aware of all STEM and Nova activities offered by local, regional, and national Scouting organizations
- Be aware of STEM programs offered by local non-Scouting partner organizations
- Connect youth with a Nova Counselor or Supernova Mentor

This may require:

- Contacting the local council to see who is registered as Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors
- Recruiting Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors as needed
- Ensuring Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors are properly registered and trained
- Serving as the unit contact person for all things STEM related

Qualifications

The Unit STEM Coordinator must be registered as a member of the unit committee and must be current in Youth Protection training. The coordinator need not be a STEM expert, although comfort with STEM material would be helpful.



How to Get Started

The unit committee should select a qualified, available and interested adult. Remember that every family should have a role in the unit committee, so there are many candidates to choose from. Have a friend, colleague or fellow unit adult describe the job and approach the candidate.

Once on board, the STEM coordinator should learn as much as he or she can about the Nova program. Attending a Nova training course held at a Pow Wow, Scouting U, or other training event would be a great way to learn about the Nova Awards program and to find some local STEM program resources.

Or take BSA's online training if no training is available locally. Learn about what it's like to be a Nova counselor. You will need to recruit some, and you might want to become one.

For more information on how to become a Nova counselor, go to "How you can be a Nova counselor" on the Internet.

Next Steps

The STEM Coordinator will work with the youth and adult leadership of the unit to integrate STEM and Nova activities into the program. Here's how:

- Represent STEM when building the Annual Program Plan.
- Offer ways to integrate Nova award activities into the program.
- Offer the STEM programs of local partner organizations.
- Learn about the STEM activities offered in the district and council.
- Consider whether Novas are available at day camp or summer camp. Is there a STEM camporee coming?
- Learn about STEM activities offered by local partner organizations. Many schools, museums, government organizations, professional societies and business groups offer STEM activities, and we have the participants. For example, the American Chemical Society offers a Kids 'n' Chemistry program and will supply trained professionals to lead hands-on experiments at a meeting.
- Learn about STEM programs offered by BSA, such as STEM treks at the national high-adventure bases. Share these opportunities with the Scouts and leaders and encourage participation. For example: There are training courses for adult leaders at Philmont Training Center and Sea Base.

A Challenge

To sum it up, the STEM coordinator is an extremely valuable position for delivering STEM program in your unit. It's a fun position that allows someone to be creative in getting STEM activities to the youth.

More importantly it will give the Scouts the opportunity to have fun with STEM, earn awards and potentially develop an interest that could lead to a successful science career.

Go recruit a Unit STEM Coordinator and have fun with STEM!

For more information, check out scouting.org/STEM

STEM

Over the past few months the national training team has been working with the STEM task force to create training modules for STEM Nova counselors and STEM SuperNova mentors. These courses are in final review by the STEM task force and will soon be uploaded to www.scouting.org/training.

An overview orientation of the STEM program in Scouting will also be found there. This orientation is suitable for use at roundtables and other training events to introduce Scouters in your service area to the STEM program.



What Are the Nova Awards?

The Boy Scouts of America developed the Nova Awards program to excite and expand a sense of wonder in our Scouts. By working with an adult counselor or mentor, the various modules allow them to explore the basic principles of STEM and discover how fun and fascinating STEM can be.

The Supernova awards are offered for those who enjoy a super challenge.

For more information about STEM and the Nova Awards program, visit www.scouting.org/stem. Discover how the Nova Awards program helps youth be "Prepared. For Life."

Remember STEM as You Craft Your Unit's Annual Program Plan

Richard Stone won't rest until every Scout unit includes STEM elements in its regular monthly program.

But he doesn't think you should have to wedge STEM in with a crowbar.

Instead, the education and training leader of the BSA's National STEM/Nova Committee says, it's easy to integrate STEM activities into the fun you've already got planned for your Scouts and Venturers.

And if you happen to earn some Nova awards along the way, even better!

Dr. Stone, who has two degrees in physics and earned his Ph.D. in materials science, shares more.



Integrate STEM Activities Into Your Unit's Annual Program Plan

A wise trainer once explained to me that an active troop doesn't have to plan to work on Camping, Cooking and Hiking merit badges — earning those are a side effect of an active program.

What a great idea!

This is the time of year that most units develop their Annual Program Plan. Include activities that are fun, challenging and exciting. Support advancement, and maybe help Scouts earn awards.

Look for opportunities to integrate STEM and Nova activities into your Annual Program Plan.

In Cub Scouts

Last year at a blue and gold banquet, I watched a group of Webelos Scouts cross over to Boy Scouts. They all earned several activity badges such as Scientist, Engineer and Geologist—and also the Science Everywhere! Nova award. The Webelos den leader explained that after the boys earned their Arrow of Light advancements and some activity badges, the natural follow-up was to work on a related Nova award.

They had the time, and the Scouts were interested.

A counselor who is also very active in her pack extended the idea further. Many of the activities for belt loops or activity badges naturally extend into Nova award activities.

Why not group them together: do the belt loop activity and the Nova activity as a set?

When working on the Forester activity badge, take a field trip to look at local trees. Measure the height of a tree, and the Cub Scout has earned part of the 1-2-3 Go! Nova award. You could easily work several related activities together in a month or two of meetings with the same theme.

In Boy Scouts

Integrating program activities works for Boy Scouts, too. Many Scouts earn Canoeing, Motorboating, or Small-Boat Sailing merit badges at summer camp.

Why not expand on those to work on the Start Your Engines! technology Nova award?

If the troop participates in a STEM camporee and finds some of the activities fun, find a merit badge or Nova award that explores those topics.

The lesson I learned long ago for Camping, Cooking, and Hiking also applies to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Great program is built with activities that lead to fun and advancement. Integrate STEM-related activities to enhance your program.

Religious Emblems

P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities for Youth) notifies the council of religious emblems earned by Protestant, Jewish, and other faiths, but not those earned by Roman Catholic youth.

If you have a son who has earned any religious emblem, please complete the form below and send to Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107 OR email to BACCourier@juno.com. Thank you.

Name _____

Name of Emblem _____

Church Name _____

Church Location _____

Pack Troop Crew # _____

Religious Emblem Programs

Attention all Scouts, leaders, and parents!

How many of you have started to work on your religious emblems? We want to take this moment to encourage you to work on and complete these religious emblems.

Throughout our Scouting program, we have stressed that a Scout is reverent and we have a duty to God.

There is an award for all faiths -- just ask us and we can help find yours. Did you know that if you earn your award, you can wear the knot on your field uniform as a Scout and an adult?

If you have questions regarding where to find information on your religious emblems, please contact your district religious emblem coordinator:

Arrowhead: Dan Frommelt at danielmfrommelt@gmail.com

Sycamore: Dick Wantuch at 815-385-0759

Wanchanagi: Mary Ann Bushaw at bushville181@comcast.net

White Eagle: Myles Newberry at mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

Wetassa: Kathy Tobin at 815-297-3843

Or

Contact us, your council religious coordinators:

Mr. B at markbroman@notmail.com

Cindy Chiodini at chiokinix5@comcast.net

The Blackhawk **COURIER**



www.BlackhawkScouting.org



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Don't be shy - Tell Mary Anne EVERYTHING!

Send in your event notices, photos from
Campouts & Adventures

News of your Troop, Packs, Crews and Posts.

Courier Editor

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Rockford, IL 61101

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA



BRYAN ON SCOUTING

Get Connected with "Bryan On Scouting"

Bryan on Scouting is a great source of the good news in Scouting! An off-shoot of *Scouting* magazine, you will find the stories and videos very hip, often inspirational, and full of great tips. Plus there are often prizes and contests – Bryan has it all!

It is well worth the read! Join the "Tuesday Talkback" where Bryan poses a question about Scouting in action and asks for your thoughts on it.

Follow this link – **Bryan on Scouting** – and you can sign up for email alerts on what he has posted about that day. It's good stuff!

Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or venturingblast@scouting.org.



Venturing Blast 2015 Registration Form February 20-22, 2015

Unit # _____
City _____ State _____
Unit Leader/Contact _____
Phone: _____
Day _____
Evening _____
Best contact time _____

Email _____
Additional information about the Blast will be sent by email to the contact person. An email address is important!

Number of Scouts: _____
Male _____ Female _____

Number of Adults: _____
Male _____ Female _____

Registration Fee: \$25 per person. \$30 after February 13.

Pre-registration strongly encouraged but walk-ins are allowed.

Total number youth and adults _____

Total fee submitted \$ _____

Arrival/Departure

Arrive: Friday night (after 5 p.m.) _____
Saturday morning (by 7 a.m.) _____
Other time _____

Depart: Saturday night _____
If so, will you be staying for dinner at 5:30? _____
Sunday morning (program ends around 10 a.m.) _____

Any special dietary or health accommodations needed?

Make checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council. Send registration to Heather Lisser, 1702 21st Ave., Monroe WI 53566.

Email questions to venturingblast@scouting.org or call 608-214-0970.

NOTE: Adult leaders will be asked to escort participants and man stations during Saturday's activities. Please let us know if that will not be possible.



Awards Cub Scouts Can Earn

Here are just some of the awards and recognitions a Cub Scout can earn beyond the requirements for rank advancement:

- Electives (Arrow Points and Tiger Track beads)
- Academics and Sports Program (belt loops and pins)
- Religious Emblems
- Outdoor Activity Award
- STEM/NOVA Awards
- World Conservation Award
- Conservation Good Turn Award
- CyberChip Award
- Emergency Preparedness Award
- Fun for the Family Awards
- Interpreter Strip
- Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award
- National Summertime Pack Award
- Recruiter Strip
- SCOUTStrong PALA Challenge
- Messengers of Peace



Hornaday Awards Information

Greetings,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council Conservation Committee to provide a link to a detailed Guide pertaining to Scouting's conservation awards program, the William T. Hornaday Awards. The BRMC Hornaday Guide was the educational document used at the 2013 National Jamboree. Our goal is to be available to assist any of the councils who distribute and use the Guide.

At the Jamboree, many thousands of Scouts and Scouters visited the William T. Hornaday Awards exhibit in the Conservation Area where the staff provided the BRMC Hornaday Awards Guide that I prepared. It is the most popular Hornaday education document in the country, in use by dozens of councils and thousands of individual Scouts and Scouters to guide their Hornaday programs.

The Guide provides detailed, step-by-step procedures for Scouts and Scouters who are interested in pursuing one of the Hornaday awards, building on the National overview of the awards. Those who earn a Hornaday award form a unique cadre of conservation-minded Scouts and Scouters who provide enhanced value to their council and communities. Hornaday Awards require significant time commitment, completing up to five Eagle Scout-sized conservation projects, and offer unparalleled rarity, with only one or two Scouts in the country earning the Hornaday Silver Medal, the highest conservation award, each year.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if we can assist in any way.

BRMC Hornaday Awards Guide: <http://bsa-brmc.org/Hornaday>
Yours in Scouting,

William O'Brochta
Council William T. Hornaday Awards Coordinator
Hornaday Silver Medal, Badge, and Gold Badge
Blue Ridge Mountains Council
Conservation and Advancement Committees
william@obrochta.net



Cyber Chip Update

In response to the many questions presented to the national office: "If parents do not allow their youth to 'like' the BSA Facebook page, can they still earn the Cyber Chip without meeting the Facebook requirement?"

Answer: Yes. If parents do not permit their children to access Facebook, a Scout can still earn the Cyber Chip without "liking" the BSA Facebook page. This is completely understandable, and is the reason the requirement states "With your parent's permission."

The Cyber Chip promotes knowledge to help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online. Age-appropriate material is available covering cyberbullying, cellphone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft.

Resources are available at www.scouting.org/cyberchip.

Service Project Guidelines Highlighting Safety

There are two BSA publications to help a unit or Eagle Scout candidate plan a safe service project:

- *Service Project Planning Guidelines*
- *Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations*

Both documents can be found on the “Scouting Safety” site on the national website – www.scouting.org.

The *Service Project Planning Guidelines* can be used for all Scouting service projects. The guidelines cover

- Service Project Safety Planning Process
- Hazard Analysis and Recognition
- Tools and Equipment
- Weather Conditions
- Health & Sanitation Considerations
- Assessment and Monitoring

Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations cover

- Training and Supervision
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Hand Tools Use
- Working at Heights and Elevations

Three New Videos to Entertain, Inspire, Help You Recruit

Three new videos are now available to share and use as you see fit. Each gives a compelling picture of what effect Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting can have on local communities like yours.

There’s the story of a mom in East Los Angeles who started a Cub Scout pack and saw it bring families together in her community. Or the heroic tale of a Boy Scout in New York who jumped into action during Hurricane Sandy. And there’s a nice piece released in conjunction with the new online Cub Scout idea repository called Cub Hub that shares the flavor of life in a den and pack.

Each video lasts less than two minutes. That’s a good reminder to units creating videos that attention spans won’t hold for very long — and that two minutes is often all you need to deliver a powerful message.

To find these – and other top videos – go to http://marketing.scouting.org/Brand/PFL_Videos.aspx

23rd World Scout Jamboree – Kirarahama, Japan 2015

The next World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) will be held in Japan, July 28th – August 8th, 2015 (next year)! Our Area 7 in the Central Region is forming a troop. Boys must be at least 14 years of age prior to the Jamboree starting and not yet turned 18 through the end of the Jamboree. In addition, girls (same age restrictions as the boys) are welcome to register and will be placed in the Central Region Venturing Crew.

Registration is now open, so log into the BSA national site below and click on the “Register Now” button to be a part of this amazing international scouting experience! The direct site link is

<http://www.scouting.org/worldjamboree.aspx>

Don’t miss out, and sign-up now as only 36 slots are available!

2015 World Scout Jamboree -Japan Troop Leaders

- Christopher Geraghty, NWSC – Scoutmaster (cell: 847-471-3370 geraghtyc@msn.com)
- Tim Frederick, DPVC – 1st Assistant Scoutmaster (630-963-3031 tdbf84@comcast.net)
- David Cooke, TFC – 2nd Assistant Scoutmaster (630-530-8733 dbc_60515@yahoo.com)
- Joey Kyle-Di Pietropaolo, TFC – 3rd Assistant Scoutmaster (jwkdposter@gmail.com)



Fiscal Policies and Procedures for BSA Units

Frequently Asked Questions

Is our pack or troop considered tax-exempt by the IRS?

That depends on who sponsors your pack, troop, or unit. The only time a unit can be considered “tax-exempt” is if its sponsoring organization is also tax-exempt.

The BSA National Council grants a charter to religious organizations, service clubs, businesses, and others who want to sponsor a Scout unit. A unit is actually “owned” by its chartered organization. Chartered organizations vary widely in tax status, but the tax status of your unit is the same as that of your chartering partner.

What this means to you:

- A unit can solicit donations for a blue and gold or other fundraiser, under your Chartered Organization Tax-Exempt Status.
- If your Chartered Organization is not Tax-Exempt, you CAN NOT use the council (Blackhawk Area Council) name to obtain the donations.

A volunteer suggested that our unit apply for its own tax-exempt status. Can we?

Units should not incorporate or apply for their own tax-exempt status. For one thing, units are not legal entities. Even if they were, this is an expensive and time-consuming process. But units are only permitted to raise funds through approved unit money-earning projects. Units could lose their charter if they tried to get their own tax-exempt status and solicit tax-deductible gifts.

What this means to you:

- Obtain approval for ALL money-earning events
- Risk of losing your charter
- Units cannot provide Charitable Contribution Letter for gifts

Can we solicit gifts for our unit?

No. Simply put, units are not permitted to solicit any gifts. Both the Charter and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the BSA make this very clear — only local councils may solicit individuals, corporations, United Ways, or foundations for gifts in support of Scouting. Units, unit leaders, and youth members may not solicit gifts in the name of Scouting or in support of unit needs and activities (except in unusual circumstances where the unit has received permission to do so from the local council). Units are also prohibited from soliciting gifts on their websites.

What this means to you:

- Funds should be obtained through Money-Earning events approved by the council
- “Donors” to a unit must receive a benefit in return – i.e. Selling Popcorn, Wreaths, Pig Roast, Pancake Breakfast, etc.

Does that mean people can’t make gifts to our troop?

Units are not supposed to solicit gifts, but they can receive gifts. Anyone can contribute to a Scout pack, troop, or unit — and many donors don’t need or care about charitable deductions.

Obviously, defining a “solicited gift” is not always easy. But we rely on our unit leaders to set good examples, and honor the intent and spirit of these important guidelines. We know it’s hard to stop people from being generous, especially towards Scouting.

What this means to you:

- A unit can accept a cash donation – however, there will be no tax benefit to the individual

My local company has employee volunteerism grants and they will contribute to charities where I volunteer my time. Can these gifts go to our unit?

Employee incentive awards and volunteerism grants usually can NOT go to a pack, troop, or unit, due to the company’s giving restrictions. Corporate donations often can only go to charities that are 501(c)(3) charities, and many units are not chartered by tax-exempt charities. Also, many companies won’t make gifts to religious organizations. If a unit is “tax-exempt,” it’s often because it’s chartered to a place of worship, so they can’t receive corporate funds either. Of course, corporate awards and grants may go to any local council.

What this means to you:

- A volunteer, whose company provides the Volunteer Grants, can complete the grant and submit it to the council. The gift will be credited towards your unit’s FOS goal.

Funding Your Scouting Program

“Funding Your Scouting Program,” an official BSA training video, has been posted to YouTube. It is 13 minutes long and worth your time if you are involved with fundraising in your pack, troop, team, post, ship, or crew.

Go to “Funding Your Scouting Program” to view this video.

Moved? Changed Your Phone Number? Changed Your Email Address?

Have you moved recently? Have you changed your phone number or email address?

If you have made these or any other updates to your registration, please let the council service center, registration department, know. Call Jackie at 815-397-0210 to let her know of these changes. Each month we have several *Couriers* returned because of incorrect addresses. These returned copies cost the council more than \$1.50 each.

Please check with your unit membership chairman to verify that your address is correct on your charter.



Friends of Scouting Unit “10%” Incentive Program

The Blackhawk Area Council will be offering units who hold Friends of Scouting presentations an opportunity to better reach goals for Free Rank Advancements for gifts collected during and after the unit presentation and also give a chance to earn credit to the Scouting store.

5 Steps to Complete for the Unit

1. The unit must provide a Friends of Scouting speaker for their own unit. It can be a parent, leader, or outside person like a unit commissioner that the pack has recruited.
2. The person identified should attend the Friends of Scouting Presenter Training and attend the Friends of Scouting Speaker training during the breakout session (45min-hr) If you cannot make training, we will schedule a one-on-one training at your convenience.
3. Upon completion of training and the district receiving the date of the presentation, the district staff will drop off materials to the speaker including a roster of all families in the unit. Send presentation information to your district executive.
4. The unit will then have the presentation day and as much time as needed for follow up. Keep in mind the free rank schedule runs from May 1 – April 30 every year. If you reach your goal after May 1st, we will give free ranks from the date of achievement – April 30, 2016.
5. The unit must contact a district representative to turn in their packet with the collected Friends of Scouting monies before the end of the month. *(This will be the month the presentation was given)* You may still collect donations but we like to make sure checks/cash are turned in the same month they are written.

Upon completion of these 5 steps, the council will consider the goal met if the unit finishes within 10% of their goal.

Examples: Unit 123 Goal = \$3,000/ Actual received = \$2,700. Since Unit is within 10% threshold, District will recognize \$300 for Unit to achieve free rank advancements.

*****If the unit provides speaker and reaches goal without District 10% being added, Unit will receive a \$10 gift card to the council store for every \$100 over goal.***

ENDOWMENT

Blackhawk Area Council James E. West Pledge Card

Please choose a level of commitment:

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$5000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$15,000

Donor Information and Affiliation:

In Memory of _____

Name _____ Pledge Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Date _____

☐ NEW - James E West ☐ EXISTING: Please add to my James E West Account

☐ Send Me Information on Endowment Events

☐ Send Me Information on Endowment giving - Gifts can be given over a period of time.

☐ Send Me Information on Will Services

Method of Payment and Billing Schedule:

☐ Cash ☐ Check # _____ (Make payable to Blackhawk Area Council)

☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge ☐ American Express

☐ Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

☐ Bill Me: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Name on Card _____ CSV# _____

Who Is James E West -- And Why Do We Recognize Him?

James Edward West was a lawyer and child advocate. He became the first professional Executive Secretary of the Boy Scouts of America, serving from 1910 to 1943. His title was changed, and in November 1911 he became the first Chief Scout Executive. West gave guidance and structure to the fledgling Boy Scout of America, and some of the ideas of his are still in effect today.

West worked with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Daniel Carter Beard, Ernest T. Seton, and many interested community leaders to give direction to the infant program of Boy Scouts of America. On January 2, 1911, West and others formed the National Council, B.S.A. During that year the Scout Oath, Law, badges and fundamental policies were established. Under his

leadership over the next 33 years, Scouting grew and matured into the program we recognize and enjoy today.

This is why there is the James E. West Fellowship Award. Organizations and individuals can receive this prestigious award. It pays honor to both the memory of Dr. West, and someone who is important to you including an Eagle Scout, a Silver Beaver recipient, council, district, or unit Scouter, or in memory of a departed love one.

The James E. West Award donation level starts at \$1,000, and can be paid over three years. Contact Tom Brooks at Blackhawk Area Council, 815-397-0210, to start your James E West contribution!

The Forever Funds of the Blackhawk Area Council

Trustworthy Fund

The Trustworthy Fund insures the long term delivery of the Scouting experience and values to thousands of council youth today and tomorrow by supporting all needs of the council

Adventure Fund

The Adventure Fund provides support for maintenance and improvements of all council camps, properties, and programming.

Be Prepared Fund

The Be Prepared Fund protects the council against the uninsured portion of financial emergencies, and provides the council with the means to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

Promise Fund

The Promise Fund provides camperships and other assistance to needy council youth, as well as helping to keep council fees affordable for all.

Be Prepared – A Scout Is Thrifty

Both of these statements are true when considering making a Will, yet each of us as Scouters and responsible adults should seriously follow these Scouting tenets. Whether we want to believe it, each of us will die and it is impossible to predict exactly when that might occur. To that end, being prepared for this life-altering event, each of us should do estate planning. Typically this would mean writing a Will or preparing a Trust. To do either of these, I recommend you contact a professional, either a lawyer or an investment advisor.

You may ask: What do I need a Will for? The answer is simple. If you do not make arrangements like a Will or a Trust, the state will dictate how your assets at your death are to be distributed and it may not be how you want your personal and real property to be distributed. Even more important, the state does not provide for specific bequests, which can be leaving either money or property to the Boy Scouts.

In keeping with the concept of a Scout is thrifty, you should consider where you get the best bang for your buck. I am sure you will agree Scouting has been there for thousands, if not millions, of Scouts over the last one hundred years. While each of us volunteer our time and talent, the Scouting movement also needs your financial support and a Will is a great way to do this. If you need help or have questions, please contact Tom Brooks at the council service center, 815-397-0210.

“Why Review Your Will?”

What if you bought a new car and then never cleaned or repaired it? Or what if you built a new house but never repainted it? You would own a car and a house that, in some ways, resembled a will that was never updated.

Having any kind of a will is better than not having one at all. But updating your will gives the maximum protection to you, your family, and the organizations that you support. As you add to your estate, as your marital and family situation changes, if you move to another state, when tax law changes, and as your preferences and charitable interests change, you will need to update your will.

Contact Tom Brooks at the council service center (815-397-0210, for more information on wills, bequests, and how you can best provide for Scouting by updating your will. With a small amount of work, it can be good as new again.

Wills Are for Everyone

Even if you think you don't have enough money or valuable possessions to need a Will, I can tell you from experience that you need a Will. I have been practicing for more than forty years as an attorney and I have done estate planning for individuals who had a few hundred dollars as well as for individuals who were multi-millionaires and each of them needed a Will or a Trust.

The reason is both practical and personal. Estate planning gives each of us the opportunity to insure his/her family is secure and financially provided for to the best of one's ability to do so. When considering the process, it is advisable to consult with a professional such as an attorney, an insurance agent, and/or a financial advisor. Each of these individuals will provide a different perspective on meeting your goals. You may have to work with more than one professional to get the job done. However, as a rule, only an attorney can prepare a Will that will be admitted to Probate Court and Trusts can be complicated and they are very personalized.

You should approach the process with the thought that if you weren't here tomorrow, what would you want to have happen to your assets and how would your heirs address any debts you might leave behind. To get started, you should have a game plan. Get yourself a piece of paper and something to write with and put together a list of questions you want answered. At first you may not think of everything, but don't worry. A financial affidavit or a similar document is always helpful. It will assist you in determining what your family will need when you're gone. It will also help you to identify your assets and liabilities. If you have minimal assets, you might think it would be easier to do your estate planning than if you were wealthy. This may be true, at least from a federal estate tax standpoint, but you still have the same issues no matter how much money you have.

Next, call to set up an appointment to meet with whomever who have initially chosen to work with you. Don't be shy about inquiring about the anticipated cost of any professional you might use. If you are comfortable with what you are told, make the appointment. Take the list of questions to the appointment and ask them until you get them answered and make sure you understand the answers. You might want to jot them down. It may take more than one appointment to complete the process to your satisfaction.

Finally, you should consider the Boy Scouts when you are doing your estate planning. While the Boy Scouts of America have been around for more than one hundred years, each of us needs to do what is referred to as “playing it forward.”

Think about how many lives have been touched by the Scouting movement and then consider leaving a living legacy so Scouting will continue after we are gone. You can make a lasting impact with a Will or a Trust that provides, in part, for the Boy Scouts. If you choose to do this, you should let your local council, in our case, the Blackhawk Area Council, know what you have done or want to do. Simply call Tom Brooks at 815-397-0210 and he can assist you.

Advancement Training

The BSA's advancement committee has recently introduced some new or updated advancement-related training courses.

Getting the Most From Internet Advancement –

A PowerPoint slide show with speaker notes and an FAQ sheet. Designed to be a 60- to 90-minute, instructor-led presentation, it guides participants through methods to make effective use of the Internet Advancement software. Councils may add slides providing local particulars and contact information.

The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling –

A PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes covers the required procedures for merit badge counseling, clarifies the role of counselors in the BSA advancement program, and discusses the appropriate approaches to use in working with Scouts. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to counselors of any experience level and takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete.

Guide to Advancement and Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Overview –

Converted to video format from PowerPoint presentations with voice-over, these presentations provide further insight into the two most critical publications produced by the BSA National Advancement Team. The files may be opened and viewed on your computer or downloaded for later viewing or for presentation at a roundtable, university of Scouting, or other gathering. The intent is to provide a better understanding of how BSA advancement policies and procedures should be interpreted and implemented.

Judgment Calls (24 min.)

Covers the “active,” position of responsibility, and Scout spirit requirements, and also “reasonable expectations”

Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement* (10 min.)

The Merit Badge Program (17 min.)

Boards of Review (15 min.)

Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances (6 min.)

Board of Review Appeals (4 min.)

The Eagle Scout Service Project (17 min.)

The Eagle Scout Application Process (8 min.)

Eagle Scout Boards of Review (4 min.)

You can find these courses at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts in the Advancement and Awards section.

Are You Using Internet Advancement?

If not, see the council Web site at www.BlackhawkScouting.org and click on “Internet Advancement” to take training on “**How to Get the Most From Internet Advancement.**”

To take training on how to use Internet Advancement, go to www.BlackhawkScouting.org and click on “Getting the Most From Internet Advancement”

You may penalize your Scouts by delaying reporting their rank advancement and merit badges in a timely manner.

Even if you purchase badges or rank in another council, using Internet Advancement updates each Scout's record in Blackhawk Area Council.

Getting the Most From Internet Advancement

The Boy Scouts of America uses eight methods to deliver the program that moves young people toward three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental, emotional, and physical fitness.

This is important because, from time to time, we as leaders find ourselves focused so heavily on the methods that we forget they are merely tools used to achieve the aims. For this reason, the BSA has instituted the Journey to Excellence to measure performance—that is, to see how we are doing at achieving those aims. One of the most meaningful JTE measurements is the rate of advancement. History has shown the higher this rate, the more Scouts we retain in our programs.

The newly designed 60- to 90-minute presentation “Getting the Most From Internet Advancement” will help participants understand the importance of reporting advancement. It provides guidance to unit advancement processors, unit committee members, and other leaders through their responsibilities in support of the BSA advancement process. It will also show participants how to access and successfully use the Internet Advancement portal to report unit advancement progress.

The advantages of using the online Internet Advancement system versus the paper process are numerous. Among the advantages are reducing or eliminating gaps in Scout record, providing convenience through Web access, and access to a wide variety of useful reports.

Enthusiasm

You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars. Enthusiasm is the sparkle in your eyes. It is the swing in your gait, the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of your will and your energy to execute your ideas. Enthusiasts are fighters. They have fortitude. They have staying qualities. Enthusiasm is at the bottom of all progress. With it there is accomplishment. Without it there are only abilities.

“Maybe there's no such thing as a fruitless search. You may not always find what you're looking for, but you always find something worth finding.”

Show Me the Blue Card!

(From Vol. 1, No 1 of *Counselor's Compass*)

The Application for Merit Badge, No. 34124, also known as the “blue card,” is a Scout’s official record for keeping track of his advancement. It shows when the Scout met with his unit leader to discuss the badge, it lists requirements that have been completed, and it provides helpful information for counselors.

The “blue card” is evidence the Scout and his unit leader met to discuss topics such as goals, talents, and interests. During this step, the Scoutmaster is able to coach the Scout on things he may have overlooked prior to selecting the badge. For example, the Scout must have completed specific rank requirements before he can start work on Lifesaving. If prerequisite work isn’t an issue, the unit leader supports the Scout’s decision by signing and dating the front part of the card and providing contact information for at least one approved counselor.

A partially completed “blue card” shows a Scout had begun working on the badge, and his previous counselor provided the date when requirements were completed along with his or her initials. You will encounter “partials” from time to time, and the Scout’s goal is to resume working on the badge.

Whether meeting with Scouts eager to begin work, or helping those wishing to complete the badge, you should always ask to see the “blue card” before counseling sessions begin. It demonstrates the Scout came prepared to the initial meeting.

Completing Requirements as Stated Matters

(From Vol. 1, No 1 of *Counselor's Compass*)

The Camping merit badge has withstood the test of time and continues to be a popular badge. In fact, more than 4.6 million Scouts have earned the badge since 1911. Notwithstanding the badge’s high demand, people still have difficulty understanding requirement 9a:

“Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied towards this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.”

The following captures how some parents interpret the allowable long-term camping nights:

“My son attended summer camp last year which only offered five nights of camping. He went to summer camp again this year with his troop. Can he apply one night of this year’s summer camp toward the requirement?”

The answer is “No.” Scouts can apply only one long-term camping experience toward the required 20 nights. They cannot include nights camped from a subsequent long-term experience to satisfy the requirement. So, factoring in the allowable five nights, a counselor may pass the Scout on this requirement provided he’s able to show evidence of at least 15 other nights camped at troop overnights, district camporees, and similar Scouting activities.

Perhaps someday, an 11-year-old Scout will write to the National Council to recommend an updated version with little room for misinterpretation. Emphasizing diverse camping experiences, fine-tuning outdoor skills, planning, and engaging in patrol and troop teamwork must be part of the proposal.

Steps for Success Counseling Tips

(From Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Counselor's Compass*)

Whether teaching a merit badge for the first time, or celebrating years of counseling experience, there’s always room for improvement. Begin by asking a few simple questions:

1. Are you using the latest pamphlet and requirements for badge instruction?
2. Do you have the skills, education, and experience to teach the subject matter of the merit badge to youth? And, if required as for certain badges, do you have the specialty certification or training needed to teach the badge?
3. Is your required Youth Protection training current?

Counselors will discover using the latest pamphlet is a great way to become familiar with both requirements and content. The pamphlets are updated regularly, so check with your Scout shop or go online at www.scoutstuff.org/ to acquire the latest edition.

Using the latest requirements to mentor Scouts is important. Topic 7.0.4.3 in the *Guide to Advancement* states once new or revised requirements appear in the *Boy Scout Requirements* book, released each January, any Scout just beginning work on a badge must use what’s listed in the book. Scouting volunteers recognize this publication as the official Boy Scouting requirements resource in effect for the calendar year. Counselors can also access the latest requirements by visiting www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx.

Counselors must have the skills and education in the subject matter. Special certification to conduct specific merit badges may also be required. The First Aid merit badge, for example, requires a certified CPR instructor overseeing requirement 3b in order for Scouts to demonstrate proper technique in performing CPR. Special qualifications are covered in topic 7.0.1.1, “Qualifications of Counselors” in the *Guide to Advancement*, accessible at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf.

All BSA volunteers, whether merit badge counselors, Scoutmasters, or district or council leaders, must have Youth Protection training every two years. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Web Page for Counselors

An updated BSA Web page for accessing the latest merit badge information is available at www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors.aspx.

Counselors will discover fliers for newly released badges such as Mining in Society, Digital Technology, Sustainability, Programming, and Game Design. The page also provides a summary of badges in development and describes how to submit a new badge proposal.

Commitment

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions and the actions which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none— coming through time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism

More Advancement Education Tools You Can Use Today

The “Eagle Scout Service Project Coach” is a 60 to 90 minute PowerPoint presentation created to guide project coaches through their term of service, from project proposal approval through project report completion. Because the role of the “coach” is relatively new, this presentation—accompanied by presenter’s notes—will help council or district-appointed volunteers understand the specifics of the position and how it is different from the typical unit-based “Life-to-Eagle” advisor or mentor. The presentation can be used in instructor-led group sessions or as an individual orientation, both of which can be followed by question and answer sessions or individual conversations.

“Effective Troop Advancement” is another 60 to 90 minute, instructor-led PowerPoint presentation. It has been designed to help troop advancement coordinators and committees understand the advancement process and their role in promoting advancement and supporting BSA policies and procedures. Also accompanied by presenter’s notes, it is an effective tool for ensuring that unit and district advancement committees understand their roles and responsibilities concerning advancement as spelled out in the Guide to Advancement. The result should be increased advancement effectiveness and higher JTE scores.

Two additional presentations currently under development, are “Conducting Effective Eagle Boards of Review” and “Building and Sustaining High Performing Advancement Committees.”

Eagle Scout Service Project Coaches

Over the years, units, districts, and councils have had various volunteers fulfill the role of an Eagle Scout service project coach; though they may have used other titles such as advisor, mentor, tutor, counselor, advocate, and so forth. The Guide to Advancement “institutionalizes” the project coach’s role to provide encouragement and support, while helping the Scout understand the requirements and expectations for successfully completing his project. The coach, however, is not the project manager, and he or she uses the Boy Scouting program method of positive adult association, not authority, to help the candidate make wise decisions.

It is highly recommended that every Eagle Scout candidate have a coach. More than likely this is the first time that a Scout has attempted a project as involved as the Eagle Scout service project. Some may be fully capable of proceeding on their own without the benefit of a coach, but most will find the advice and counsel useful and educational.

The optimal time for providing the coach is when the proposal is approved. At that point a Scout can be advised that in a few days he will receive a telephone call from an adult who has agreed to assist him. Since the Eagle Scout candidate has promised that he read the entire Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, we may assume he understands he isn’t required to work with the coach if he doesn’t want to. Once a Scout receives approval for his project proposal he is certainly allowed to strike out on his own without coaching, but it behooves us to do what we can to help him make the right decision in this regard.



Eagle Project Proposal Approval: Keep It Simple, Make It Fast

The Eagle Scout service project proposal is a major step toward completing Eagle Scout requirement 5. How approval is handled is critical to ensuring that the candidate has a positive experience while planning, developing, and leading his project. It sets the overall tone for the Scout about what he should expect. It is essential that this be a positive experience rather than a discouraging one. We want the Scout to remember and appreciate the value of community service, not unnecessary administrative delays. No one should hold back an enthusiastic Scout by demanding more information than is actually necessary to meet the requirement. Section 9 in the *Guide to Advancement* outlines the procedures and policies in detail.

The proposal is the beginnings of planning, and as such does not require extensive detail, scale drawings, an extensive materials list, etc. It only needs to include sufficient information to show reviewers that it meets the five tests found in the *Guide to Advancement* in topic 9.0.2.7. It is much more important at this stage, to be encouraging and inspiring rather than worrying about details that are unnecessary for proposal approval. While it is important that a Scout uses the workbook to help with his planning, reviewers must not let “technicalities” get in the way of approving the proposal. The proposal is about what the Scout is thinking about doing. It is not the plan of what he is going to do. That comes later after the proposal is reviewed and approved. Requiring more detail than necessary inhibits the whole process and may ultimately discourage a Scout from going forward with an otherwise worthy project. Sending a Scout back multiple times for rewrites of the proposal, especially for changes that are only editorial in nature, such as spelling, punctuation, etc., is unproductive. This is not only discouraging and demoralizing, but is contrary to the *Guide to Advancement*.

Therefore, reviewers at all levels should strive to approve proposals in one meeting if at all possible. If there is something truly important the Scout has considered but failed to write down, let him add the information right then and there. Give him a couple of minutes to handwrite the necessary information onto the proposal form, and then give him the approval. This way the Scout can get on with more detailed planning, and then execute his project. In the event there is a valid reason the proposal cannot be approved in one meeting, and it is necessary for the Scout to go back and put more effort into it, then the reviewer should provide a clear explanation, preferably in writing, of what needs to be done to gain approval.

Time Aspects in Completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application

Section 9 of the Guide to Advancement describes the steps needed to complete and submit an Eagle Scout Rank Application. In topic 9.0.1.1, it says: “Confirm all requirements have been completed before the 18th birthday.” Then, later, in topic 9.0.1.4, it says to “Obtain Required Signatures” (referring to those of the unit leader and committee chair). Many interpret that these signatures must be obtained prior to the Scout’s 18th birthday. This is incorrect.

The requirements that must be completed before the Scout’s 18th birthday are requirements 1 through 6, which cover merit badges, service project, active participation, Scout spirit, position of responsibility, and unit leader conference. Nothing else needs to be completed prior to the 18th birthday, including the signatures of the Scout, unit leader, and committee chair. Specifically, the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.1.4, states: “There is no requirement that [these] signatures . . . must be dated before the Scout’s 18th birthday.” In fact, there is no BSA stipulation that the application itself must be submitted before his 18th birthday. Therefore, the same date-related “non-requirement” applies to the written responses from the Scout’s references (requirement 2). If any of these is received after his 18th birthday, there is no penalty to the Scout.

Requirement 7, the board of review, may also be fulfilled after the 18th birthday. And now, as of January 1, 2014, (see 2014 edition, Boy Scout Requirements) the statement of ambitions and life purpose that Scouts attach to the application is part of requirement 7 and, thus, may be completed after the 18th birthday.

Certainly, everyone involved in advancement realizes that the chronology of an Scout’s path to the rank of Eagle Scout must occur in the right sequence. Thus, it is important to recognize that the order of some dates—especially those around the 18th birthday—are critical, and that others are not. With more than half of all Eagle Scouts completing their requirements during the three months before turning 18, it is incumbent upon us, who serve to support their efforts, to remember that no one is permitted to add extra requirements for any rank advancement, including that of Eagle Scout.

From *Advancement News*
April-May 2014 edition

Continuing Boy Scout Advancement in a Venturing Crew

If a registered Scout in a troop or team earns the First Class rank, he is permitted to continue earning Boy Scout advancement recognition as a Venturer until his 18th birthday.

If a Venturer maintains dual registration, the Scoutmaster and crew Advisor must determine which leader will manage the youth’s advancement. It is best if this falls to the unit leader where the young man will be completing the “active” and position of responsibility requirements. When crew Advisors accept the advancement management responsibility, they should have a good knowledge of the Boy Scout advancement program and requirements, and be prepared to conduct the unit leader conference and arrange for boards of review. Any questions should be referred to the district advancement committee chair.

The Intent Behind Signatures, and What They Signify

The term “signature” is generally understood to mean the signing of a document with one’s own hand. The purpose of a signature is to signify knowledge, approval, acceptance, or obligation. For example, a signature could be an acknowledgement that the signer has read a document, completed a task, or granted approval to move on to a next step.

In matters of advancement, personal signatures are always preferred, and this is often an issue with the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. Part of the intent behind asking for signatures is to promote discussions between Eagle candidates and various adults. For example, it is intended that a Scout meet personally with those responsible for approving his project so he can offer explanations, answer questions, and get advice. Emailing documents back and forth does not provide a very high level of adult association. The opportunity to have an impact on a Scout’s life is greater with personal meetings.

But what if a Scout submits a workbook without all the signatures? Must the workbook then be rejected? The answer is, not necessarily. The service project requirement calls for “approval,” and of course, the best way to show approval is with a signature. But the *Guide to Advancement* states under topic 9.0.2.8 (“Use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.”): “If it will be a hardship, or a poor use of time to fill in missing information or obtain a signature of a party who is unavailable or by some other means known to have approved [the project], then it is appropriate to accept it.” In other words, if it can be ascertained that a project was somehow approved—through email, fax, a letter, a phone call, or discussion with another responsible adult, for example—then the Scout should be allowed to move forward. It is important to restate, however, that signatures are preferred. If it is unclear that approval was granted, and it will be a simple matter for a Scout to obtain missing signatures, and doing so will not cause a troublesome delay, then he should get the signatures.

Another important issue is the timing of signatures. Since signatures are merely supportive of the process, and not actually part of our requirements; the date of a signature is less important than the date work on a requirement is completed. For example, an Eagle Scout service project is considered completed at the time work is finished to the satisfaction of the beneficiary—not at the time when the beneficiary’s representative signs the document. Similarly, signatures on the Eagle Scout rank application need not be provided before the 18th birthday.

Shared Leadership—Involving Scouts in Advancement

Most Scouters since Brownsea Island know that the result of their influence on a boy's character is seldom seen while the Scout is young. Nevertheless, the longer we can keep him in the program, the more the opportunities to effect a positive outcome. Let's examine how efficient use of positions of responsibility might help.

Boys need to be given challenging responsibilities that will promote personal growth without discouraging them. Not every boy may have the personality or maturity to be the senior patrol leader (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.3.4.6), but regardless, it behooves unit leaders to see that each boy has a position of responsibility that works with his skill set.

For example, while younger Scouts often draw the job of den chief, there are numerous opportunities for those older Scouts to help with Cub Scout activities, too. Any den leader would welcome a 17-year-old Eagle Scout as a den chief—or as a junior assistant Scoutmaster who is assigned the task of facilitating Webelos-to-Scout transition for the Webelos den.

On the other hand, older boys are often given instructor roles but assigned no specific area of instruction. In such cases, these assignments may fail to retain Scouts who perceive that they are not contributing. Remember that Star and Life rank requirements allow candidates to carry out a unit leader-assigned project to meet the "position of responsibility" requirement. This might work especially well if the unit leader asks the candidate to come up with a project he thinks will help the troop. Suppose the youth shows an interest in organizing, outfitting, and training the troop's first Klondike Derby team. As an alternative to a unit-leader assigned project, the senior patrol leader might appoint the Scout as an instructor with the responsibility for carrying out that project.

Instructors are not the only Scouts tasked to help with the advancement of others. Patrol leaders help their patrol members advance, troop guides mentor the new Scout patrol, and Star Scouts use the EDGE method to teach others. Teaching and learning takes place on both sides when one boy helps another (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.0.2), and it is a learning experience for the older Scout to find ways to encourage younger Scouts to approach him for help.

The knowledge and skills of an instructor need not be limited to teaching other youth. Many Scouts are much more technically knowledgeable than adults. One can almost envision the punch line in a Boys' Life cartoon showing a Tenderfoot Scout saying to his patrol leader, "I can't go on the campout because I promised my parents I'd stay home and teach them how to text." Joking aside, a useful project that a technically savvy Star or Life Scout might undertake could be to teach selected unit committee members to use Internet Advancement or one of the new My.Scouting tools.

Another way to help others advance is to serve as a member of a summer camp staff—an opportunity that many older Scouts will find rewarding. While a Scout under the age of 18 cannot be a merit badge counselor, he can help with instruction under the guidance of senior camp staff members.

Hopefully these suggestions will spark new ideas to help keep older Scouts engaged, and, thus, increase the opportunities to influence their character and personal growth. And isn't that what we're all about?

Courts of Honor: Opportunities for Committee Involvement



Joseph Csatari's masterful "Eagle Scout Court of Honor" painting has inspired Scouts and gratified Scoutmasters and parents alike for many years. But how many have actually focused on the objects in the foreground below the Scout, the eagle, and the flag? Look again. There they are: the Scout emblem with red, white, and blue candles signifying the three parts of the Scout Oath; and the two logs with white candles, representing the twelve points of the Scout Law.

These powerful symbols should not only represent Scouting's ideals at a court of honor, but should inspire Scouts and Scouters alike to go the extra mile needed to ensure there will be many more such ceremonies in the future.

One of the important responsibilities of the district advancement committee (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 3.0.0.2) is to strengthen units by encouraging "prompt and proper recognition, ceremonies, and courts of honor." One way a district advancement committee can do this is to construct and make available meaningful ceremonial items that will help make every troop's courts of honor, or every pack's recognition ceremonies special and memorable events. Large or small, such items may be beyond an individual unit's capability to construct or purchase, or to store between uses. However, maintained by your district, items such as banners, carvings, or even a framed Csatari print could be loaned out. The committee could designate a "quartermaster" to manage the objects. And taken a step further, a district committee member and the unit commissioner could take these items to unit gatherings, adding more significance to the events.

Besides strengthening the programs of the units in the district, advancement committee chairs should consider how such a collaborative effort could foster a spirit of teamwork among committee members. It is a sort of "Eagle Scout project" for your district advancement committee. Your committee members may enjoy playing a part in creating and delivering the items, and they will learn something about your units' advancement programs while they're at it.



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015 @ 7:00PM

Red out night! The first 2,500 fans through the doors will receive red IceHogs T-Shirts.



**PROUD
AFFILIATES**

_____ Lower Level Tickets @ \$20 = _____

_____ Upper Level Tickets @ \$15 = _____

_____ Hot Dog/Soda Vouchers @ \$6 = _____

Handling Fee \$3

Total Amount Enclosed = _____

of Scout Patches _____

**A portion from each Scout ticket sold will go
back to support your local council**

Council _____

Group Name _____

Contact _____

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Phone _____

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CC# _____

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Order by phone:

(815) 847-6383

Order by mail:

Rockford IceHogs

Attn: Ryan Woodrow

300 Elm St.

Rockford, IL 61101

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCKFORD ICEHOGS

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Please submit one order per group to ensure grouped seating. The best available seats will be assigned within your requested price level. Orders received more than 10 days before the day of game will be mailed. Orders received within 10 days of the day of game will be held at will call for pick up. All promotions and giveaways are subject to change. This order form cannot be combined with any other discount, promotion or offer. **Order deadline is March 5, 2015**

Questions?

Contact Ryan Woodrow

(815) 847-6383

woodrowr@icehogs.com

BMO HARRIS BANK CENTER

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Annual Co-Ed Scout Events

For Ages 14+

Come join us for fun activities for Scouts your own age!
For Boy Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts, Mariners, and Explorers

April 18 – Rock River Regatta (RRR) – Rockford, Illinois

One day competition relocated to Rockford from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Events include swimming, first aid, knots, compass, fireman competition, tugs, heaving line, block and tackle, code flags, bilge pump, drilling, etc., plus dinner and dance. Contact Jason Downing at jasonH@gmail.com or 815-494-3345.

May 2-4 – Glacial Trails Backpacking, Dundee Wisconsin

Weekend of backpacking and camping for all levels of experience. A great training hike for longer treks! More information at <http://www.badgertrails.org>. Contact nfo@badgertrails.org

June 7 – Scout Fishing Derby, Rockton Illinois – Illinois Free Fishing Weekend

Fish along the Rock River Race. All age divisions for both BSA and GSUSA. \$3 fee includes patch, chance at trophies, and attendance prizes, and fun fishing! 21 years at the same place. Contact Louise Glon antiquerocks@yahoo.com or 815-988-9515

June 20 – Blackhawk Area Regatta, Rockford Illinois

One-day competition running for over 50 years, including obstacle course, archery, canoeing, line toss, tugs, swimming, log sawing, plus dinner and a dance. Moved after many years from its usual last Saturday in July date. Contact Bob Muraski at Ship508.comcast.com

July 11-13 – Bay Jammer, Marinette, Wisconsin & Menominee Michigan

Longest running competition for 67 years! Events include lip sync contest & street dance on Friday; swimming, boating, compass, log rolling, log sawing, drilling, knots, etc. on Saturday plus dinner and semi-formal dance, tug-of-war, triathlon, and volleyball on Sunday. More information at <http://www.bayjammer.htmlplanet.com>. Sign up is online only.

August (date to be announced) – Makahiki Warsaw, Indiana

Hawaiian themed weekend competition running for over 40 years. Includes talent competition & bonfire on Friday night; knots, volleyball, tug-of-war, boating, log rolling, log sawing, obstacle course, drilling, canoe swamp, etc. plus Hawaiian dress parade, luau, and dance on Saturday; swimming on Sunday. More information at <http://www.awac.org>. Sign up is online only.

August 6-8 – Creep-o-Ree – Long Lake Boy Scout Camp, Dundee, Wisconsin

Theme is “Night of the Living Dead” – not to be portrayed to be scary. Further information to be added later. More information contact gogrannygwengo@gmail.com or Bruce Prange at bprange@bsamail.org or 262-544-4881.

If you have any problems reaching any of these sites, please contact Louise Glon for information at antiquerocks@yahoo.com.



Burpee Museum's New Traveling Exhibit!

January 17 through September 7, 2015

Take the plunge into the deep, dark, Savage Ancient Seas! It is the world of the late Cretaceous period – over 70 million years ago! Filled with huge carnivorous marine reptiles with double-hinged jaws and teeth in the middle of their palates, gigantic flesh-eating fish big enough to swallow an adult human being whole, flying reptiles with 3-foot skulls, and the biggest sea turtles to have ever lived!

- Peer into the mouth of one of the largest aquatic reptile ever discovered – the 45-foot-long *Tylosaurus*!
- Walk beneath the ancient ancestor of Loch Ness Monster – a 42-foot-long *Elasmosaurus*!
- Be astonished by the *Archelon* – a 17-foot-wide sea turtle!
- ‘Swim’ with a school of some of the largest carnivorous fish of the day

- Take a photo inside the jaws of the largest shark to ever live – the *Megalodon*!
- Sift through time and sediments as flying reptiles soar overhead.
- Explore fossil skeletons and live restorations, interactive displays, and activities!
- See more than 50 prehistoric marine reptiles

Unrivaled for their amazing varieties, voracious appetites, incredible teeth and gaping jaws, the creatures of the Savage Ancient Seas are unlike anything known in today's world. Engage in hands-on specimen stations, educational kiosks, and multimedia touch screens to learn how these ancient aquatic creatures lived and died – and who survived to today!



American Legion Scouting Program Presents the Illinois State Badge

Scouts who are interested in earning the Illinois State Badge must complete the following requirements:

- Name the state animal
- Name the state bird
- Name the state tree
- Name the state flower
- Name the state insect
- Name the state fish
- Name the state prairie grass
- Explain the symbol on the state flag
- What year did Illinois become a state
- What is the state slogan
- What is the state nickname
- What is the name of our state capitol
- Make a report on a famous Illinoisan
- Visit a historical place in Illinois and report what happened there
- Learn about the Native Americans who lived nearby and give a report on their history and customs
- Perform a conservation or a service project for your community.

Upon completion of all of the requirements, bring your reports to your leader for review and qualification of the award. Contact Bill Meister for patch availability at 618-274-7000.

*American Legion –
State of Illinois Scouting Committee*

Burpee Museum of Natural History Scout Programs Rockford

Webelos Scouts

- Forester – \$10
April 18, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Naturalist – \$10
April 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Geologist – \$10
March 28, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Overnight – Astronomy – \$35
February 20-21, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Boy Scouts

- Archaeology – \$15
May 2 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Mammal Study – \$10
March 28, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
- Bird Study – \$12
May 30, 10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Insect Study – \$12
August 1, 10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Pre-registration & prepayment are required Call 815 965 3433 ext 1018 to register
- All Programs except Overnight: 1 Adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults \$5.00
- Boy Scouts need to bring a blue card and, for all day programs, a sack lunch
- We do not provide patches/badges
- Check-in starts 15 minutes before the program start time, please plan to be here early so we can start on time.
- Cancellation/refund policy: If cancellation is received 10 clear days ahead of the date a refund less 20% will be issued.
- Please be aware that we sometimes have to cancel a program because it did not reach the minimum registration requirement – Don't wait until the last minute to sign up or your program may already be cancelled!
- Burpee Museum reserves the right to limit registrations and cancel any program for any reason. Every effort will be made to contact participants.



International Spirit Award

The International Spirit Award is a temporary emblem awarded to registered Scouts and Scouters who have completed the necessary requirements, gained a greater knowledge of international Scouting, and developed a greater appreciation and awareness of different cultures and countries. This award serves as a replacement for (and therefore eliminates) the International Activity emblem and the Youth Exchange emblem.

For more details and application form, go to www.scouting.org/filestore/international/pdf/130-044_WB.pdf

All requirements must be met within five years from the start of the award. Please mail completed, signed application, and a check to BSA, International Department, S221, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving TX 75015-2079.

Requirements

Cub Scouts

1. Earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award.
2. Earn the Language and Culture Belt Loop.
3. Participate in Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet.
4. Complete two of the 10 Experience Requirements.

Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts/Venturers

1. Earn the Boy Scout or Venturing World Conservation Award.
2. Earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge. (Alternative for Venturers: Complete the "Understanding Other Cultures" requirement of the TRUST Award.)
3. Participate in Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet.
4. Complete three of the 10 Experience Requirements.

Scouters

1. Learn about the World Organization of the Scout Movement (www.scout.org). Explain what it is to your unit or at a district roundtable, and describe at least three ways the website can be used to help promote or increase participation in international Scouting.
2. Check out the most current International Department newsletter (www.scouting.org/international/newsletter) and promote at least two items from the newsletter within your unit or at a district roundtable.
3. Help organize or participate in two Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet events.
4. Complete four of the 10 Experience Requirements.

To download the "Experience Requirements," go to "International Spirit Award" or to Scouting.org/International and click on International Recognitions in the left hand column.



Reporter Patch

The Scout News Reporter program recognizes those individuals who contact a news media or send them a news release, which in turn gets a positive Scouting story or photo published in an approved publication (see list on application form)

Do you have Scouts who like to write? If so, they might want to learn about the Reporters Patch which is now available.

All Scouts – Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, Learning for Life participants – may earn this award. Complete requirements and details are available on the council Web site, www.blackhawkscouting.org/Courier

The application form is Reporter Patch Form 2012.pdf. There is also a Reporters Patch Guide.pdf to help you plan and organize your story.

Earn A Reporters Patch!

For further information, go online to blackhawkscouting.org.

Adult Association – More Than Just Supervision

The *Guide to Advancement*, Topic 2.0.0.4, provides a convenient table showing the methods of Scouting from program to program, pointing out that "obvious similarities exist." Perhaps one of the most overlooked methods on the table is that of "adult association."

Adult Scouters may often assume that the youth think adults are only there for "health and safety." Truth is, like it or not, every Scouter is a role model—and most Scouts prefer this. For that reason, one of the best strategies leaders can use to achieve the aims of Scouting is simply to provide the opportunity for Scouts to interact with caring adults. As a Scout seeks to express his growing independence from his parents or guardians, especially as he enters his teen years, the role of the adults often grows in importance. Recognizing this, leaders can play a key role in each young man's development by serving as strong examples and influencers for good.

For example, we are familiar with the need for merit badge counselors for Boy Scouts, or consultants for Venturers, but often we think of these individuals as mere subject matter experts, providing expertise that the Scoutmaster or Advisor may not possess. In reality, their role and their possible impact is much greater than that, as they become an extension of the unit's adult role-modeling effort. The most significant benefits will come to an individual Scout when the merit badge process is tailored just for him, starting with the recommendation of a merit badge counselor, who should be selected as carefully as any other leader of youth, depending on the young man in question.



Units Can Earn “Healthy Unit” Patch

“Drink Right, Move More, Snack Smart”

Scouting not only teaches skills that last a lifetime but also teaches skills that can make those lifetimes even longer. Through the SCOUTStrong initiative, Scout leaders can make a lasting difference in their Scouts’ diet and exercise habits—habits that will improve their health now and into the future.

Ask yourself: How active are your meetings? What snacks do you serve? What do Scouts drink?

The Boy Scouts of America has partnered with Healthy Kids Out of School to offer an incentive to reconsider your answers to those three questions.

The Healthy Unit Patch encourages units to follow the BSA’s SCOUTStrong recommendations at meetings, events, and excursions.

Adopt the three healthy principles below by completing the 3–6–9 challenge, and every Scout in your unit will earn this patch.

Complete the 3–6–9 Challenge

Make these three positive changes — and track them using the score sheet found in the “Resources” listed below — and you’ll earn the Healthy Unit Patch.

- 3 – Serve a fruit or vegetable at 3 meetings
- 6 – Make water the main beverage at 6 meetings
- 9 – Include 15 minutes of physical activity at 9 meetings

Once your unit has completed all of the Healthy Unit Patch activities, please send the completed tracker form to HealthyKidsOutOfSchool@tufts.edu or call Healthy Kids Out of School at 617-636-0833, for free patches for your Scouts and a certificate for your unit.

“By emphasizing smart snacks and more movement, we are setting positive examples for our young Scouts by encouraging them to earn the Healthy Unit Patch, ultimately creating a healthier Scouting experience.”

Resources to get you started.

Go to HealthyKidsOutOfSchool@Tufts.edu. Look for the “Boy Scout Leader training packet under “What’s New” section. You will find the following helps:

- Healthy Unit Patch overview (PDF)
- Healthy Unit Patch tracker/scoresheet (PDF)
- Healthy Unit Patch parent letter (PDF)
- Healthy Kids Hub with great resources and tips

Move More: How (And Why) to Make Your Unit Meetings More Active

(From Bryan on Scouting, July 1, 2014)

We have met the enemy, and it is Netflix, Nintendo and Nickelodeon. OK, maybe that’s a little dramatic. But the fact remains that as Scout leaders we’re on the front lines of the war against inactive youth.

Our day camps, weekend campouts, and camporees have plenty of pulse-pounding action, but what about weekly meetings?

Active Scout meetings are the focus of Part 2 in the three principles of healthy living known as Drink Right, Move More, Snack Smart. The effort is the brainchild of Healthy Kids Out of School (with regional funding provided by the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation), a Boy Scouts of America partner in the push for healthier Scouts.

Healthy Kids Out of School and the BSA are so serious that they’re even offering the SCOUTStrong Healthy Unit patch to any Scout unit who makes a few easy, positive changes. More on that in a bit.

First, let’s look at how — and why — to make your unit meetings more active.

Why you should care

I don’t have to remind you about the childhood obesity crisis in this country. That word “crisis” isn’t overselling it, either: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that in 2012 more than one-third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese.

By now you’ve also heard the recommendation that kids get 60 minutes of physical activity a day — an effort (along with Drink Right and Snack Smart) to help turn that crisis around.

Fact is, less than half of school-aged children meet the recommendation. For teens, that number’s even lower: Only about 10 percent of teenagers get the recommended 60 minutes a day.

Kids don’t have to get all 60 minutes at once. That means you’re doing your part by scheduling even a 15-minute physical activity at your weekly meetings.

How to create more active Scout meetings

- Start by checking out the games and activities included in the “SCOUTStrong Healthy Unit patch packet.” These games and activities can be incorporated into meetings or events as a break between things or as an opening or closing. You can also find more ideas for games and activities on the Healthy Kids Hub under “Find Resources.”
- Remember to get all Scouts participating in the physical activity in the meeting. Make the activity fun, noncompetitive and all-inclusive. Avoid elimination games or games that only involve a few children, and have leaders join in the game or activity to model physical activity.
- Let Scouts release energy through a physical-activity break, and they’ll come back to the meeting ready to focus.

Oh yeah, and there’s a patch

Making your Scout meetings more active can yield more than just healthier Scouts. You can also get a patch (see illustration above)

The SCOUTStrong Healthy Unit Patch, which encourages units to follow the BSA’s SCOUTStrong recommendations to Drink Right, Move More, and Snack Smart at meetings, events and excursions, is available free to any unit that completes the patch requirements.

One of those requirements, “Include 15 minutes of physical activity at 9 meetings,” ties in perfectly to today’s discussion.

The Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award and Action Award Program



Outdoor awareness, skills, and action may seem unimportant until you consider the combined efforts of millions of outdoor visitors. One poorly located campsite or campfire may have little impact, but thousands of these instances can seriously degrade the outdoor experience for everyone. Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility. For more than 60 years, the Boy Scouts of America has risen to this challenge.

Guided by the *Outdoor Code*, millions of Scouts have raised their awareness of the natural world around them, becoming aware of the community of life that is in every inch of land and learning to survive in that world while minimizing their impact to the land. The principles of *Leave No Trace* provide valuable skills and tools to help Scouts achieve that goal when exploring the outdoors – whether in a local park or a remote wilderness. The *Tread Lightly!* program provides guidelines for the car or truck trip to the trailhead or for motorized recreation activities such as motorboating. And for those Scouts who have a deep interest in the outdoors, nature, and the environment. Scouting's outdoor ethics will give you an ever-deeper appreciation of the land and how we fit into it.

If you are prepared to venture down the path of really becoming aware of your surroundings, of building the skills that will allow you to leave no trace on the land, then the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award and the Action Award are for you!

The Foundation: The Outdoor Code

For more than 60 years, the Outdoor Code has served as an inspirational statement of everything that a Scout seeks to achieve while in the outdoors.

Be clean in my outdoor manners.

We will clean up after ourselves using pack-it-in, pack-it-out techniques. We will avoid leaving graffiti, fire rings, camp gadgets, and other signs of our presence.

Be careful with fire.

Fire is an important tool, but one that can be devastating if it get out of hand. We think about the need for fire, how best to use it, and how to minimize its impacts.

Be considerate in the outdoors.

We will think about others as well as ourselves and how our presence impacts them. We think about not just our impact on other humans, but also on wildlife and the environment.

Be conservation-minded.

We will think about our impacts on the environment. We take steps to correct and redress damage to the environment.

Being clean in our outdoor manners, careful with fire, and considerate means we can enjoy the outdoors in ways that do the environment no harm. For example, using the principles of *Leave No Trace*, you can hike and camp in an area while minimizing your impact. *Tread Lightly!* principles help on the trip to and from the trail. Being conservation-minded encourages the protection and thoughtful use of natural resources and doing your part through conservation service that improves the condition, and ultimately the health, of the land and environment.

The Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award and the Action Award can be earned by both youth and adult leadership in Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing programs.

Requirements can be found online. Google "Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards."



Northern Illinois Fire Museum

The Northern Illinois Fire Museum, four miles south of Marengo on Rt. 23, is a great place to view many fascinating antique fire engines – all in working order. The tour lasts about one hour and may include a ride on one of the fire engines!

The oldest fire “truck” is a pumper from 1856 and was used in the Great Chicago Fire. It was hand pulled and had a 40-gallon water tank.

The goals of the Northern Illinois Fire Museum are to

- To supply a location for a permanent display of fire related equipment of historic value, and to facilitate the temporary or permanent exchange of fire apparatus
- To serve as an education center on all aspects of the fire service for the communities in Northern Illinois.
- To furnish a facility for restoring and preserving fire apparatus.

The Board of Directors voted earlier this year to begin a fee schedule for admittance to the museum. As announced, and sent earlier, age 12 and up will be \$5.00 each. Age 11 and under will be free. Pre-arranged group tours may be accommodated with special fee arrangements. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the museum at mail@nifm.net.

To arrange for a tour, contact the museum at NIFM.net, e-mail at mail@nifm.net, or phone 815-568-8950.

Scouting Teaches Life Skills

Scouting also provides youth with skills that help them cope with any situation. Youth say Scouting has taught them to:

- Always give their best effort,
- Always be honest,
- Treat others with respect,
- Set goals,
- Stay physically fit, and
- Take care of the environment



NASA Activities

<http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/cubscouts>

Cub Scout leaders, take a few moments to visit NASA's Space Place Web site. You will find a large list of achievements and electives for all Cub Scouting ranks that can be fulfilled by doing the corresponding activities on the Space Place Web site. Links on the list take you directly from the Cub Scouting requirements to the corresponding activities.

Besides the achievements and electives, you will also find activities on the list that will help in earning many of the Cub Scout Academics belt loops and pins.

Service Project Guidelines Highlighting Safety

There are two BSA publications to help a unit or Eagle Scout candidate plan a safe service project:

- *Service Project Planning Guidelines*
- *Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations*

Both documents can be found on the “Scouting Safety” site on the national website – www.scouting.org.

The *Service Project Planning Guidelines* can be used for all Scouting service projects. The guidelines cover

- Service Project Safety Planning Process
- Hazard Analysis and Recognition
- Tools and Equipment
- Weather Conditions
- Health & Sanitation Considerations
- Assessment and Monitoring

Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations cover

- Training and Supervision
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Hand Tools Use
- Working at Heights and Elevations



The Scout Law and Cybersafety/Cyberbullying

Units, districts, and councils are entrusted with the safety of our Scouts as they pursue advancement. Future planned introductions of computer-related merit badges and the Cyber Chip award are increasing our attention to vigilance. The Boy Scouts of America has released a pledge called the “Scout Law and Cybersafety/Cyberbullying” to be signed by a youth member, parent or guardian, and a leader. Here are the 12 points of the Scout Law interpreted for the cyber-world.

Trustworthy. Be truthful with others online, and be very careful of the information you share. Do the right thing when sharing other people’s words or pictures. Make sure you have the owner’s permission before sharing them.

Loyal. Share information about others only if you have their permission to share it. Uphold appropriate agreements you make with friends when you play games with them.

Helpful. Alert others to scams, cheats, and suspicious sites. Point them to reliable and accurate sources of information. Encourage people to report bad behavior online.

Friendly. Support others who are doing good things, like posting quality creative works. Support those who are bullied.

Courteous. Be polite and respectful. When you use other people’s work, be sure to ask permission, follow fair use standards, and give credit to the people who created and own the work.

Kind. Treat people with respect when you are on social networks, playing games, talking or texting, or in other digital activities.

Obedient. When using digital devices, follow the rules set by your parents/guardians, teachers, and Scout leaders. Abide by the rules established by sites, services, devices, and games.

Cheerful. Use games, messaging tools, and social forums to build your relationships with others while having fun.

Thrifty. Be a smart consumer. Know your voice, text, and data plans and use them wisely. Be sure to study digital devices and services you want. Before buying them, make sure you’re not overspending on functions and features you won’t need. Be careful not to run up charges on apps and sites.

Brave. Stand up for what is right. Do not participate in mocking and bullying others, even if your friends are doing it. Report suspected abuse to a trusted adult, like your parent or leader; call 911 as appropriate or call the Cyber Tip line at 1-800-843-5678. If the incident involves any part of the Scouting program, call your council Scout executive immediately or email youth.protection@scouting.org.

Clean. Use clean language and discuss only appropriate topics when using digital devices to communicate with others.

Reverent. Respect the feelings of other people. Do not use digital devices to spread irreverent ideas.

To reprint the pledge form, with signature lines for the Scout, parent/guardian, and unit leader, visit www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx and click on the pledge.



NOVA Awards Program

The Boy Scouts of America NOVA Awards program incorporates learning about cool activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers.

The hope is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and shows how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them. Counselors and mentors help bring this engaging contemporary and fun program to life for youth members.

There are four NOVA Awards for Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Each award covers one component of STEM – science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

- **Cub Scout Awards** – Science Everywhere, Tech Talk, Swing!, and 1-2-3 Go!
- **Boy Scout Awards** – Shoot!, Start Your Engines, Whoosh!, and Designed to Crunch
- **Venturer Awards** – Launch! Power Up, Hang On!, and Numbers Don’t Lie

For their first NOVA award, Scouts earn the distinctive NOVA Award patch. After that a Scout can earn three more NOVA awards, each one recognized with a separate pi (π) pin-on device that attaches to the patch. The patch and three devices represent each of the four STEM topics.

The SUPERNOVA Awards

The Supernova awards have more rigorous requirements than the Nova awards. The requirements and activities were designed to motivate youth and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities.

For Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts: Dr. Louis Alvarez Supernova Award

For Webelos Scouts: Dr. Charles H. Townes Supernova Award

For Boy Scouts: Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Bronze Award
Thomas Edison Supernova Silver Award

For Venturers: Dr. Sally Ride Supernova Bronze Award

Wright Brothers Supernova Silver Award

Dr. Albert Einstein Supernova Gold Award

For earning the Supernova award, Scouts receive a medal and certificate.

All requirements may be found in the NOVA awards guidebooks, which are available through the Scout Shop – one for Cub Scouts, one for Boy Scouts, and one for Venturers. The requirements can be completed with a parent or an adult leader as the counselor (for the NOVA awards) or mentor (for the Supernova awards). Each guidebook includes a section for the counselor and mentor.

For details, go to www.scouting.org/STEM/NOVA.



Service Projects for Cub Scouts

Doing service projects together is one way that Cub Scouts keep their promise “to help other people.” While a Scout should do his best to help other people every day, a group service project is a bigger way to help people. While you’re giving service, you’re learning to work together with others to do something that’s good for your community.

Service projects may help the natural world, the community, or the chartered organization. Here are some service activities Cub Scouts can do.

1. Helping the natural world
 - Pick up litter around your neighborhood.
 - Clean up trash by a stream.
 - Plant seedlings or flowers.
 - Recycle glass, paper, aluminum, or plastic.
 - Make bird feeders.
2. Helping the community
 - Give a flag ceremony for a school.
 - Collect food for food banks.
 - Make cards for a care center.
 - Clean up a church parking lot.
 - Shovel snow or rake leaves for seniors.
 - Hand out voting reminders.
 - Hand out emergency procedure brochures.
 - Recycle family newspapers.
3. Helping the chartered organization
 - Do a cleanup project.
 - Plant and care for trees.
 - Conduct a flag ceremony.
 - Help set up for a special event.
 - Hand out programs or bulletins at a meeting of the organization.

These are only a few ideas for service projects. Can you think of others? Share your ideas with the members and leaders of your den.

Plan Your Service Projects To Help Other People at All Times

These phrases are part of our Cub Scout Promise and Scout Oath and Scout slogan. They should be part of your program planning, too.

Journey to Excellence provides a super framework for service projects.

How a community service project is carried out is far more important than the nature of the project itself in determining whether young people learn citizenship.

The following six criteria will help ensure that a project actually teaches qualities of good citizenship. The project must

Be real. It must deal with situations that youth can see, that they understand, or in which they can easily become interested

Be clearly defined. Youth and their leaders must know what they are going to do. A project must have a clear beginning and ending with logical steps in between.

Know your purpose. Youth must know why they are doing the project. Leaders should have in mind how they will relate the purpose and how the project will be carried out so their Scouts will grow from the experience.

Be democratic. Youth members must be directly involved in selecting, planning, and carrying out the project.

Be informed. Youth should be involved in gathering first-hand information related to the project. Leaders help Scouts discover where to get information: key people to talk with, organizations to contact, things to read, places to visit, and observations to make.

Be action-oriented. Youth must take some meaningful action as a result of the project and be able to understand the results.

If citizenship training is to take place, Scouts must be able to see, hear, or feel how their personal involvement results in some positive results. Thus they will gradually learn to know that in our society, individuals and groups can and do make a difference.

Leaders must set aside short periods of positive reflection to assess the project experience, what the project accomplished, and how the Scouting ideals served as guidelines as they planned and carried out the project.

Journey to Excellence Service Hours Reporting

You can now enter your unit’s service hours at www.scouting.org/awards/journeytoexcellence. Look for the “Service Project” area of the screen. There you will find the link to log your unit’s service hours, information for first time users, ideas and tips for a successful service project.

To enter your unit’s service hours, click on “service hours Web site.” Choose “New User Click Here” or enter in your unit’s existing user name and password. Users can still use www.goodturnforamerica.org and they will be redirected to the new data collection site. If you have any questions, please contact the council service center at 815-397-0210.

Volunteers with a MyScouting account can also reach the Journey to Excellence service hours Web site by clicking on the Journey to Excellence Information link on the left side of the screen in the “Council Tools” section. Once you click the link, you will be directed to www.scouting.org/awards/journeytoexcellence and can follow the same procedures as listed above.



Messengers of Peace Initiative Recognizes Peace-Related Service Projects

At the first world jamboree in 1920, Lord Baden-Powell called on participants to carry the spirit of the jamboree home “so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and goodwill among all Scouts.

Today, Scouts in dozens of countries are working for peace by solving conflicts in their schools, building links between divided communities, teaching their peers about health and wellness, and repairing environmental damage. Now, when you join them, you and your Scouts can earn international recognition and a special patch.

Created by the World Scout Committee, the Messengers of Peace initiative recognizes Scout units worldwide that undertake projects that contribute to world peace.

All Messengers of Peace projects are automatically cataloged on a map at the Messengers of Peace website (<http://scoutmessengers.com>). You can visit the site to learn what Scouts around the world are doing.

Since the earliest days of Scouting, Scouts have worked to make the world a better place. This new initiative is a great way to recognize the efforts of our Scouts not just to visualize world peace but to help bring it about.

Peace is more than the absence of war. It encompasses harmony between individuals, between communities, and between humankind and the environment. A Messengers of Peace service project is defined as any project that touches on one of these dimensions of peace:

- The personal dimension: harmony, justice, and equality
- The community dimension: peace as opposed to hostility or violent conflict
- Relationships between humankind and its environment: security, social and economic welfare, and relationship with the environment

Any project that has a significant impact on the community in any one of the three dimensions above qualifies as a Messengers of Peace project.

Submitting Projects

Submitting MOP-related projects is easy for BSA units. All they need to do is check the Messengers of Peace box when entering a service project through the Journey to Excellence website (www.scouting.org/Awards/JourneyToExcellence). Doing so will add the project to the map on the Messengers of Peace website (<http://scoutmessengers.com>) and will generate a unit certificate.

Recognition Item

Any Scout or Scouter who participates in a qualifying project is eligible to wear a Messengers of Peace ring patch around the World Crest on his or her uniform. To purchase these ring patches, a unit representative should take the unit certificate to the local Scout shop.

Sample Project Ideas:

Personal Dimension

- Host a holiday party for children of prison inmates.
- Collect books and magazines for inner-city schools.
- Conduct entertainment programs, including skits and plays, at a nursing home.
- Make and donate gift boxes to be distributed by Feed the Children.
- Assist organizations that provide home maintenance services for those in need.
- Clean a Habitat for Humanity house before the family moves in.

Community Dimension

- Create a community prayer garden.
- Replace graffiti with peace-related murals.
- Host conflict-resolution workshops in a local school.
- Plan a sports tournament that brings together kids from different segments of the community.
- Serve as “victims” for a county EMT or first responders training course.
- Assist in the packaging of medical supplies for developing countries.

Environmental Dimension

- Clean up a campground, a local park, a river, or a school parking lot.
- Assist with a shoreline-restoration project.
- Collect and dispose of household chemicals, batteries, and other potentially dangerous waste products from the residences of shut-ins.
- Remove invasive species and plant native trees in a park.
- Volunteer at a community recycling center.
- Clear brush from fire buffer zone.

Tour and Activity Plan

The Tour and Activity Plan is a planning tool to help leaders to be prepared for a safe and fun adventure. It will help you ensure trained leadership is in place, equipment is available, and there is safe and appropriate transportation to and from the event.

Please use the online version of the plan when possible. It is a unit-level tool when you sign into MyScouting.org. Please review all of the information on the page and the hyperlinks. A video showing you how to submit a Tour and Activity Plan is on the FAQ page.

When completed online, the plan does not require signatures or approvals. For any prerequisites that have not been met (for example, not having someone on a trip who has Hazardous Weather training where this training is required), and before being allowed to submit the form, the person completing the form will have to certify that all prerequisites will be met to conducting the trip or activity.

Once submitted, an email notification will be sent to the council, chartered organization, committee chair, and the designated emergency contact to let them know that a plan has been submitted. Receivers of this notification can log in to MyScouting and review the plan.

Tour and Activity Plan enhancements include the following:

- Because email notifications will be sent once a plan has been submitted, it is important to maintain current leadership information in the system.
- Links are provided to current program-required training and education.
- System prompts and warnings are included.
- You will be able to review and fix any deficiencies flagged by the system prior to submitting the plan.
- You can store, retrieve, copy, and reuse completed tour and activity plans.
- Files such as trekking plans and flight plans may be uploaded.
- Unit volunteers who currently have access to the tour and activity plan will be able to view and update all plans submitted for their unit up to the day before the scheduled tour date.
- There will be leader certification of the plan prior to submission.

For those who do not have Internet access or simply prefer paper over an electronic version, forms are available at the council service center in Rockford.



Lake Geneva Canopy Tours

Lake Geneva Canopy Tours offers quality programmatic experiences centered on the Boy Scout Leadership Experience. Our Eco-Adventures offer a multitude of opportunities to build character and develop personal fitness in keeping with the goals of the Boy Scout organization.

Scouts can complete some of the requirements for specific awards through hiking and mountain biking on our almost 9 miles of Arbor Trails.

Team Building programs provide a combination of educational and recreational initiatives which challenge participants to work together toward a common goal. The 2-hour High Ropes Excursion offers 16 different obstacles of various difficulties to allow participants to push their limits, conquer fears & build self-confidence.

As a Certified Travel Green Wisconsin destination, our Eco Adventures teach environmental protection and sustainability. Guides discuss specific ways in which we work hard to protect all aspects of the land, trees, water & wildlife throughout the Canopy Tour. The 2.5 hour Canopy Tour is our most thrilling Eco Adventure as participants soar through the trees on eight different zip lines, five sky bridges, three spiral stairways, and a one-of-a-kind "floating" double helix stairway which wraps around a breathtaking ash tree. The 1,200 foot Dual Racing Zip Line is the grand finale, weather permitting.

Additional amenities include a picnic area, grill, bag game, horseshoes and lunch options, upon request.

For additional information on Lake Geneva Canopy Tours Eco Adventures, visit our website at www.LakeGenevaCanopyTours.com. To book your next Scout troop adventure contact Kathryn Denbow at 312-461-1088 or email Kathrynd@LakeGenevaCanopyTours.net.





International Spirit Award

The International Spirit Award is a temporary emblem awarded to registered Scouts and Scouters who have completed the necessary requirements, gained a greater knowledge of international Scouting, and developed a greater appreciation and awareness of different cultures and countries. This award serves as a replacement for (and therefore eliminates) the International Activity emblem and the Youth Exchange emblem.

For more details and application form, go to www.scouting.org/filestore/international/pdf/130-044_WB.pdf

All requirements must be met within five years from the start of the award. Please mail completed, signed application, and a check to BSA, International Department, S221, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving TX 75015-2079.

Requirements

Cub Scouts

1. Earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award.
2. Earn the Language and Culture Belt Loop.
3. Participate in Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet.
4. Complete two of the 10 Experience Requirements.

Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts/Venturers

1. Earn the Boy Scout or Venturing World Conservation Award.
2. Earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge. (Alternative for Venturers: Complete the "Understanding Other Cultures" requirement of the TRUST Award.)
3. Participate in Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet.
4. Complete three of the 10 Experience Requirements.

Scouters

1. Learn about the World Organization of the Scout Movement (www.scout.org). Explain what it is to your unit or at a district roundtable, and describe at least three ways the website can be used to help promote or increase participation in international Scouting.
2. Check out the most current International Department newsletter (www.scouting.org/international/newsletter) and promote at least two items from the newsletter within your unit or at a district roundtable.
3. Help organize or participate in two Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet events.
4. Complete four of the 10 Experience Requirements.

To download the "Experience Requirements," go to "International Spirit Award" or to Scouting.org/International and click on International Recognitions in the left hand column.



Stay Safe -- PAUSE for a Cause

JTE, NYLT, NESA, KISMIF. As Scouters know, acronyms pack valuable information into an easily remembered word. Now a new acronym has joined the list: PAUSE. Aimed at helping leaders and Scouts analyze safety risks, PAUSE stands for

- PAUSE before you start
- ASSESS possible hazards
- UNDERSTAND how to proceed safely
- SHARE your plan with others
- EXECUTE the activity safely

When you are getting ready for an activity, remember PAUSE. Have you thought about things that could go wrong? Are there hazards that can be avoided? This is a tool to help you know and manage the risks before you do something and to remember that safety is everyone's job.

To print your own PAUSE card, go to bit.ly/pausecard.

One Day at a Time

Finish every day and be done with it.
 You have done what you could.
 Some blunders and absurdities no doubt creep in;
 Forget them as soon as you can.
 Tomorrow is a new day.
 Begin it well and serenely;
 And with too high a spirit can be cumbered with your
 old nonsense.
 This day is all that is good and fair.
 It is too dear to waste a moment on the yesterdays.

Anonymous



American Red Cross
Rock River Chapter

Free Health, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness Classes

Free health, safety, and disaster preparedness classes provided by the American Red Cross are listed below. Depending on Boy Scout requirements any of the following programs may be taught by your American Red Cross Instructor.

Basic Aid Training (BAT) (Grades 3-6)

BAT teaches students decision making skills, basic First Aid, and emergency response. The following are the lessons included in BAT, however, not all lessons may be appropriate or necessary for your organizational needs. Therefore, you may choose any lesson in BAT that you would like to schedule.

Lessons include:

- First things first – This lesson covers the main rule, “Stay Calm”, the three emergency action steps (check, call, care,) and when and how to call for help.
- All choked up – This lesson will teach students ways to help prevent choking and the first aid procedure for choking.
- OUCH – This lesson will teach students ways to prevent wounds, know the correct first aid for small wounds with little bleeding, wounds with severe bleeding, specific injuries (nosebleeds, animal bites, bruises, and fractures), know the correct response for electrical shock and the principles of kite safety.
- Famous fire facts – This lesson will teach students some ways to prevent fires, understand the importance of controlling air flow to fire, how to develop a fire escape plan that includes a family meeting place and two escape routes. Students will also learn what to do if there is a fire in their home, ways to prevent burns, and how to classify and give care for burns.
- Safety wheels – In this lesson, students will learn ways to prevent motor vehicle injuries, know the importance of using safety belts, helmets, and knee pads, rules for the school bus including safety zones, ways to prevent bicycle injuries and bicycle safety rules.
- Cautious kids – This lesson will teach students how to stay safe, how to identify strangers, the appropriate defense tactics for the common tricks used by strangers, how to yell as a safety procedure, good touch from bad touch, and what to do if abuse occurs.
- Poison control – In this lesson, students will learn how to prevent poisoning, how to identify common household products that could be considered poisons, and what the first aid is for poisoning. This lesson also includes a fun activity of distinguishing between a poison and a similar looking object.
- Water whiz – This lesson teaches students how to prevent drowning, and will also teach appropriate safety precautions and rescue procedures for swimming boating, and ice skating or ice fishing.
- Lost and found – This lesson teaches students ways to prevent getting lost, how to make a preparation plan for the wilderness, and safety and rescue measures if lost.

Citizens CPR

(7th grade and up)

- Train students how to do hands only CPR

Disaster Preparedness

(Grades K-8)

- While students strengthen core academic skills, they gain knowledge needed to prepare for, recognize, and recover from a disaster in their home, school, or community. Interactive activities and exciting videos teach how and why disasters occur.

Lessons include:

- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Fires
- Home Safety

If you would like to learn more, or schedule a free health safety or disaster preparedness class my contact information is below. If you have any questions or concerns, I am happy to address them!

Trisha Vittorio

AmeriCorps Member, Safe Families IL AmeriCorps Program

American Red Cross

727 N Church Street, Rockford, IL 61103

Office: 815-963-8471

Fax: 815-963-0407

E-mail: trisha.vittorio2@redcross.org

Upcoming Training

Please note that Youth Protection training must be taken within 30 days of registering for the first time or before your unit recharter if you have not completed the course within the past two years.

Youth Protection training is available online through MyScouting.org.

Upcoming council training courses:

March 7 --Trainer's Edge

June 14-19 -- NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) -- Camp Lowden

August 2-7 -- NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) -- Canyon Camp

August 21-23 + 25-27 -- Wood Badge -- Camp Lowden



The Trainer's EDGE

March 7, 2015

Holy Family Church

4401 Highercrest Road

Rockford, Illinois

Are you currently a trainer or want to be a trainer soon? Do you give presentations either in Scouting or outside of Scouting? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then "The Trainer's EDGE" is for you!

The Trainer's EDGE will help you to develop your skills as a trainer/presenter. You will learn about making and using visual aids for your presentations, conducting a reflecting activity, using morale builders in training, and much more.

Join us for The Trainer's EDGE

Registration: 8:00 to 8:30 a.m..

Training: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 per person. Fee is not refundable but can be transferred to another person.

Lunch is included.

Questions/comments can be send to Gail.Scouts@yahoo.com

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Options

There is no "opt out" option for Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills based on a Scouter's experience.

There are too many Eagle Scouts from troops with poor adult leadership who may have 21 merit badges, done a great service project, and are real leaders, but may have bad outdoor skills/habits because their Scoutmaster does.

There are also too many experienced outdoorsmen who know how to survive in the outdoors, but do not know the outdoor practices of the BSA or how to work with pre-teens and teens in the outdoors.

We prefer and recommend that Scoutmasters, Coaches, and assistants attend a full Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills course. In addition to other prescribed training, Scoutmasters, Coaches, and assistants must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) to be considered trained.

However, if a course is not available to them, tenured Scouters who can demonstrate all the basic outdoor camping skills for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks and understand the methods related to Boy Scout camping and outdoor program in the IOLS course, may not need to take the full course. They should contact their district training chair and schedule a one-on-one mentoring session with a member of the training team.

We also know a mentored test-out has value. Many tenured leaders probably own the skills and should be able to adequately explain how to demonstrate each one to a member of the training team. The training team mentor should coach the individual through areas where additional help might be needed. Upon completion, the training team member should report the completion of training to the council office and/or enter the course into MyScouting Tools.

The Pack Trainer Mentor and Resource for Parents and Leaders

Two of the pack trainer's main responsibilities are conducting a new-parent orientation within a few weeks of families joining the pack, and encouraging newly recruited leaders to participate in Fast Start, This Is Scouting, leader-specific training, and Youth Protection as quickly as possible. Parent orientations and immediate training are essential to retaining Cub Scouts, parents, and leaders.

There is no better way to encourage Cub Scout parents as their son joins the pack than through the efforts of the pack trainer. At the roundup sign-up meeting, this mentor of new parents and leaders should be introduced during the presentation as a member of the pack's leadership team and a resource person for parents and leaders. The pack trainer should then share with new parents their role and tell the new leaders of the many resources that are available to guide them as they move into their volunteer roles.

Every pack needs a pack trainer. More information about the pack trainer and a job description for the position are in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221. A Progress Record for Pack Trainer is available online at www.Scouting.org/forms.

Trainer's EDGE Registration Form (one person per form please) Please print all information

Name _____
Phone (H) _____ C) _____
E-mail _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Please mail registration forms no later than February 28, 2015 to Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth leaders of the BSA with leadership skills and experiences they can use in their home troops or crews and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. NYLT incorporates the latest leadership ideas and presents fresh, vital and meaningful training for today's Scouts.

This leadership training experience is for current and future youth leaders within the troop or crew. They will learn how to communicate better with both youth and adults, learn how to set goals and how to carry them out so they can be achieved, learn self-confidence, team work, how to teach skills to others, and more.

NYLT is available to Venturing youth – including females.

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what he must KNOW, and what he must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

NYLT is a six-day course. Content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes introduced early, built upon, and aided by the use of memory aids, which allows participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster.

NYLT has six objectives:

- Give participants the confidence and knowledge to run the unit program.
- Give participants a working knowledge of the eleven skills of leadership and to help them relate these skills to their unit responsibilities.
- Give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with members from their own unit.
- Create an environment of Scouting fellowship and fun guided by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Develop a relationship between the participant and his Scoutmaster or crew Advisor.
- To have fun.

In 2015, two courses will be held

- June 14-19 – Camp Lowden, near Oregon, Illinois (new dates)
- August 2-7 – Canyon Camp, near Stockton, Illinois

Participation requirements:

- Current BSA registration
- At least 13 years of age and completed the seventh grade by the date of the course.
- A First Class Scout or higher.
- Completed the introductory leadership training for our program (i.e. Troop Leadership Training or Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops; Venturing Leadership Skills Course or Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews).
- Be in a leadership position or likely to be in one in the near future.
- Completed medical form with no restrictions that would prohibit participation.
- Unit leader recommendation.

There are no exceptions to the age and rank requirement. Experience has shown that Scouts younger than 13 often lack the physical and emotional maturity to benefit fully from the NYLT experience. Scouts that have not earned the First Class rank do not have the Scouting background to fulfill their roles as members of their NYLT patrol and troop.

Cost:

Course fee is \$180.00 if paid in full by May 1, 2015. After May 1, the course fee is \$210.00. A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is due with the reservation. Fee includes two T-shirts, hat, meals, and course materials.

Contacts:

- Lowden Course Director: Joe Shippy, 815-541-6394 or Joe.Shippy@newellco.com
- Canyon Course Director: Cindy Chiodini, 815-543-8404 or chiodinix5@comcast.net
- Philip McCrery, Staff Advisor – 815-397-0210

NYLT Registration

Name: _____

District: _____

Unit: _____ Unit Position: _____

Address: _____

Cotu. State. ZIP _____

Email: _____

(We correspond by email.)

Phone: Home _____

Cellular: _____

Unit Leader Signature: _____

Enclosed is my (select one):

___ Non-refundable Deposit \$50*

___ Payment in Full \$210 or \$180 if paid in full by May 1, 2015.

For Course (select one):

___ Camp Lowden, June 14-19 (New dates)

___ Canyon Camp, August 2-7

Payable to Blackhawk Area Council. Mail to NYLT 2012, Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-reserved basis. In fairness to all, the deposit must be received to reserve your space.

Wood Badge C7-660-15 August 21-23 and September 25-27, 2015



The Blackhawk Area Council is pleased to announce that Mary Stromberg has been chosen as the course director for the council's Wood Badge course in 2015. Mary has served on numerous Wood Badge courses and for many years on district and council training courses.

We are now accepting registrations for Wood Badge Course C7-660-15. Course size is 48 participants. If you are interested in attending, please get your registration in as soon as possible.

What Is Wood Badge?

Wood Badge is an advanced adult leadership training program for all leaders in the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venturing programs, plus anyone serving in a district or council position. The course deals with leadership skills and team dynamics.

Wood Badge has two parts. The first part is the two three-day weekends of practical experience where you learn skills and concepts that underscore the five themes of Wood Badge:

- Bringing the Vision to Life
- Models for Success
- Tools of the Trade
- Leading to Make a Difference
- Living the Values

The material covered is useful for your Scouting position as well as your family, work, or church activities.

As part of the practical course, you create a plan to put the leadership skills into action. This is called a "ticket." During the application phase, you will have 18 months to "work your ticket." When completed, you will have earned your Wood Badge beads, woggle, and neckerchief.

Qualifications

Each registered Scouter participating in a Wood Badge course must have completed basic training for their program and position. If you are anticipating a change in position about the time of the course, you should obtain the training for that new position. In addition, even if not required for your position, it is highly recommended that you have attended the Outdoor Leader Skills course.

You must be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All participants are required to successfully complete the Annual Health and Medical Record form (available at www.scouting.org) Parts A, B, and C, prior to the start of the course.

Participants of previous Wood Badge courses are now eligible to attend the new course.

Wood Badge Objectives

- View Scouting globally, as a family of interrelated, values-based programs that provide age-appropriate activities for youth.
- Recognize the contemporary leadership concepts used in America that are relevant to our values-based program.
- Apply skills you learn as a member of a successful working team.
- Revitalize your commitment by sharing an overall inspirational experience that helps provide Scouting with the leadership it needs to accomplish its on-going mission.

Questions/Need More Information?

Course Director: Mary Stromberg at www.blackhawkscouting.org/WoodBadge

Staff Advisor: Philip McCrery: 815-397-0210, Phil.Mccrery@scouting.org

Where: Camp Lowden, Oregon, Illinois

Cost: \$250.00. The fee includes all meals, program materials, recognition items, and insurance. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is required with submission of the application.

When:

- 7:00 a.m. Friday, August 21, until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 23
- 7:00 a.m. Friday, September 25, until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27
- Two mid-course patrol meetings
- Attendance is required at all sessions

Applications are available at the council service center, roundtables, and council Web site.

Wood Badge C7-660-15

If you would like additional information about this mountaintop training experience, contact Mary Stromberg, Course Director, 815-766-1193 or strombergmary@gmail.com

Name: _____ District _____
 Pack Troop Crew _____ Primary Position: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email: _____ Email will be our primary form of communication... check regularly.
 Phone: Home _____ Cellular: _____
 T-Shirt Size: _____

I have previously attended a Wood Badge Course, Course Number _____

_____ Enclosed is my non-refundable deposit of \$75.00*

_____ Payment in Full \$250

Make check payable to: Blackhawk Area Council. Mail to Wood Badge C7-660-15, Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

***Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-reserved basis. In fairness to all, the deposit must be received to reserve your space.**

Wilderness First Aid Training

Two American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid courses are scheduled for 2015. The courses are scheduled for April 11 and 12 and May 2 and 3. Each course is separate and participants must complete the course that they register for.

Due to demand for training, the courses are anticipated to fill early. Each course will be on Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Camp Lowden, 4400 South Scout Road in Oregon, Illinois.

This 18 hour course is designed to give the individual the skills needed to handle first aid situations that could occur in a remote situation. This course will fulfill the BSA National requirements for high adventure. The only prerequisite for the course is a basic knowledge of CPR and first aid. Participants must attend both days of class room sessions, outdoor scenarios, skill challenges, and pass all written exams to receive certification in American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid and Adult CPR.

The cost of the training is \$110.00 per participant which includes books, training supplies, handout materials, certification fees, and lunch each day. Overnight facilities are available for anyone wishing to stay Friday and/or Saturday night. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants for each course.

All fees must be received with the completed application form by March 15, 2015. Please do not hesitate to get your registration and fee in to confirm your spot for your selected course.

If you have any questions, email Rodney Mathias at rmteach2@yahoo.com or call 815-239-2354.

Wilderness First Aid Registration Form

Circle Session Choice

April 11 & 12, 2015 May 2 & 3, 2015

Name: _____

Adult _____ Youth _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: Daytime: _____

Evening: _____

Troop/Crew # _____

Email: _____

Course Fees is \$110 per participant:

Any Dietary Restrictions: No Yes

Please List _____

Camping: _____ Friday _____ Saturday

Mail registration form and fee payable to Rodney Mathias by March 15, 2015. Rodney Mathias, Box 159, Pecatonica, IL 61063

Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader

Training is a journey, not a destination. The journey begins with Fast Start training and continues through a seamless progression that includes Youth Protection Training, Leader-Specific Training, This Is Scouting, and Wood Badge. Trained leaders provide an active, quality program to their youth members which in-turn keeps them in the program longer. The longer a youth member stays in the program, the more he will benefit from what Scouting has to offer. Plus it makes your job as a leader easier.

A leader is considered trained when he or she completes Youth Protection Training and the Leader-Specific Training for his or her position. After completing training, you are entitled to wear the "Trained Leader" emblem.

Fast Start training can be taken online through the council's Web site: www.blackhawkscouting.org. Click on "What Training Do I Need?" and then click on the appropriate program under Fast Start.

Additional supplemental training modules for Boy Scout leaders are available at www.scouting.org in the Boy Scout adult leaders' section, under the Training heading.

Troop Committee Challenge can also be taken online at www.scouting.org in the Boy Scout adult leaders' section. Click on "Training" and then on "Online Learning Center."

Several other supplemental training sessions can be found on the "Online Learning Center."

"Every eligible youth has an opportunity to be involved in a quality Scouting experience." This is part of the National Strategic Plan. The Journey to Excellence incorporates this important measurement. To qualify for the award, units must have a "trained and engaged committee."

All committee members and direct contact leaders "have completed Leader Specific Training or, if new, complete within three months of joining."

The unit's annual training plan should strive to increase the percentage of direct-contact leaders trained.

Check the *Courier* and your district's Web page for scheduled training courses. You can attend a training course in another district. If these don't work for you, then contact your district's training chair to schedule training for your unit.

Every boy deserves a trained leader.





Youth Protection Champions

Youth Protection Begins with You!

A recent survey of councils revealed there is a need for a youth protection-specific volunteer. Volunteers and council staff want someone as their go-to person for youth protection. To answer the call, the national Youth Protection Committee has developed a new program to assist everyone in the BSA with youth protection.

This important volunteer will be known as the Youth Protection Champion. Not only will there be Champions at the unit level, but also at the district, council, area, and region levels. Their role is to be the key drivers of youth protection at their assigned levels within the BSA. One important goal is provide and encourage Youth Protection training for all members and parents to insure everyone is aware of their responsibility to keep Scouting youth and all youth safe. Other tasks will include disseminating initiatives, programs, and communications at all levels.

These positions are appointed for a one-year term, or longer if needed, based on qualifications and work-related fields. This program and more information will be coming soon. Readers should remember that protecting our youth and providing a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone is The Main Thing!

Youth Protection Training

Have you checked your Youth Protection Training (YPT) status lately? It is easier now that MyScouting Tools is up and running, but it still depends on you linking your membership ID number(s) to your MyScouting account.

The two biggest issues we find preventing a unit, district, or council from getting all active direct-contact leaders YPT trained are not linking the ID number and unexpired YPT. Remember, YPT must be taken every two years.

It is very important we do all we can to protect our youth and we stay up to date on how we can all do Scouting Safely. Be sure to bookmark, share, and visit the Youth Protection web site:

www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection

Tenure for Training Awards

Unless it specifically states in the requirements that tenure cannot be used for multiple training awards it can be used.

In the past we said “one Scouter, one position” and did not want to reward those who wore multiple hats. We are more realistic now. If a Scouter accomplished **all of the training and performance tasks** during the same tenure, they have likely made Scouting better for more youth and deserve recognition.

“Adult” Page on the Training Web Page

If you have looked at www.scouting.org/training/adult lately, you have seen that we re-organized the page to help make things a little easier to find.

Items are categorized in the following way:

- Joining Courses
- Orientation Courses
- Position-Specific (Role-Based) Courses
- Supplemental Training Courses
- Outdoor Skills Training Courses
- Train-the-Trainer Courses
- Administration of Training
- National Training Conferences
- Training Awards
- E-Learning

Leader Training Continuum

Good trainers know that they should view training from an overall perspective and not limit their vision to the particular course they are conducting. They know that few leaders can accumulate all the information and ideas possible in a couple hours of training. Leaders should get what they came for, but should have the awareness that there is more to learn and where they can find what they are looking for when necessary.

Leaders and instructors alike should have a clear understanding that leader training is a process that continues as long as an individual is actively involved in the program.

The five levels of the BSA training continuum that make up this “graded approach” are Joining, Orientation, Basic, Supplemental, and Advanced. Each is designed for a specific purpose, with the first required of all leaders to register, the next two being more “role based” training, and the last two being advanced skills and leadership focused.

In the new *Guide to Leader Training* we outlined a five-level adult training continuum:

Joining – training all leaders must take to be a member of the BSA (Youth Protection)

Orientation – training that can help a leader get started before Specifics is available, but is not required (Fast Start)

Basic – the training necessary to be considered “trained” for your role (Specifics, or Specifics plus IOLS for Scoutmasters)

Supplemental – training that can help you conduct an activity or learn more about your Scouting role (lots of things!)

Advanced – advanced leadership skills training (Wood Badge, Powder Horn, etc.)

Youth Protection Pledge Cards

Take the pledge to keep our Scouts safe by following the BSA’s Youth Protection policies. Half the pledge card is signed and given to the council; the other half stays with you in pocket card format as a reminder. The link below, in English and Spanish versions, will print four-up on a sheet.

www.scouting.org/training/adultYouthProtectionPledgeCards

Unit Leader Award of Merit

Quality unit leadership is the key to a quality unit program – and it leads to better Scout retention. Statistics show that if young people stay engaged in the program for at least five years, the BSA's influence likely will stay with them for the rest of their life. A quality Scouting experience will help keep Scouts in the program, and the BSA created the Unit Award of Merit to recognize the quality leaders who make that happen.

Who can earn this award?

Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Varsity Team Coaches, and Venturing Crew Advisors

How to get the award?

Return the completed nomination form to the council service center.

Note: The Unit Award of Merit replaces the Scoutmaster Award of Merit.

Requirements

The nominee must:

- Be a currently registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor who has served in that position at least 18 continuous months.
- Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
- Distribute a printed or electronic unit program plan and calendar to each family in the unit.
- Have a leader succession plan in place.
- Effectively use the advancement method so that at least 60 percent of the unit's youth have advanced at least once during the last 12 months.
- Cultivate a positive relationship with the chartered organization.
- Project a positive image of Scouting in the community.

Nomination forms can be found on the national BSA website – www.scouting.org – (type in “Unit Leader Award of Merit” in the search box) or at the council service center.

STEM

Over the past few months the training team has been working with the STEM task force to create training modules for STEM Nova counselors and STEM SuperNova mentors. These courses are in final review by the STEM task force and will soon be uploaded to www.scouting.org/training.

An overview orientation of the STEM program in Scouting will also be found there. This orientation is suitable for use at roundtables and other training events to introduce Scouters in your service area to the STEM program.

Training Awards

Please note the following

- Training awards can be earned only in your current registered position.
- Keep in mind the knots are not the awards. They are representatives of the award Scouts and Scouters can wear on their field uniform. The real awards are the medal or ribbons.

MyScouting Tools

Are you using the new tools on MyScouting?

There may be more releases by the time you read this, but since its introduction late last year MyScouting Tools has introduced new features that allow Scouters to access – and update – personal and unit training data. The Youth Protection Training tool, for example, is the first training related tool in a series that will help Scouters keep track of, and update, training records.

Two new training tools that are not found in the toolkits, but can be found on the main page of MyScouting are the Unit Training Detail and the Unit Training Tracking Report. These new reports were released at the end of 2012 and can be found in the “Training” section on the front page of the MyScouting account of many volunteers. These reports are the first time that by-unit training reports have been available to volunteers.

The **Unit Training Detail** report has been provided to adults registered in the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, Advisor, committee chair, and chartered organization representative positions in their units. Unit Training Detail will provide each unit with a listing of adults and display all BSA training courses shown as completed in the persons' ScoutNET record. The adult training information may be printed in a report or exported for the use of the unit to provide an inventory of training courses completed to the unit's adult leaders.

The **Unit Training Tracking** report will be provided to most registered council and district-level volunteers. Unit Training Tracking will allow these volunteers to view each unit in their service area and will list adults with BSA training courses completed in that unit. Again, the adult training information report may be printed by unit, or exported to provide an inventory of training courses completed.

This summer some new tools were added to MyScouting Tools. One of the tools is very special for trainers - Training Manager!

The Training Manager Tool gives administrators the ability to view training status, print training reports and certificates, and update training records of Scouters in their unit or service area. Individuals can check their training status, including if their Youth Protection Training is up to date.

Two features were added after the initial release that will help you know who is trained and who needs training. The first is a “trained” icon that shows up in the “Search Training” roster so you can quickly see who is, and who is not, considered “trained” in the system. The second is the “Trained Leaders Report” that shows who is “trained” and specifically which courses are missing that would make a leader “trained.” The “Trained Leaders Report” can be printed so that those missing training can be targeted for training or so that their record can be updated with missing courses.

As of now, only unit, district, and council Key-3s have access to most of the tools. Soon, they will be able to grant administrator rights to others in their unit or service areas.



Attend a Philmont Training Center Conference

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) is the national volunteer training center for the Boy Scouts of America. Since 1950, PTC has provided a unique environment for training volunteer and professional leaders, and a fun family program for every member of the family. Each year, more than 6,000 Scouters and family members attend PTC.

Each conference features the latest tools and techniques, audiovisuals, discussions, idea sharing, and activities led by a faculty of experienced Scouters. All registered Scouters are invited to attend training center courses; council approval is no longer required.

Attending Conferences

Everything you need to know to attend a conference at the Philmont Training Center—from check-in through checkout—is available at the Training Center Web site.

Family programs

The Philmont Training Center offers family programs for boys and girls of all ages and for spouses while a Scout leader is in a summer conference

NAYLE (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience)

The National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) is the ultimate in training experiences for youth leaders. It is conducted for older young men and women who have the potential for being on

the staff of the council junior leader training or youth leader training conference. The NAYLE program takes place at the Rayado Leadership Mesa, approximately 8 miles from base camp and situated in the beautiful foothills viewing Urraca Mesa and Crater Peak.

View Philmont Training Center Videos

To learn more about the Philmont Training Center, visit the Training Center Web site for a PowerPoint presentation which is perfect for viewing at committee meetings and roundtables.

You'll also find information on our Master's Track Square Knot award. Keep checking for more changes and updates.

Training Center Facilities

Read about the accommodations and facilities available to you at PTC and review the important policies pertaining to attendees.

Scholarships for participants are also available.

For more information about conferences or the Philmont Training Center, contact:

Philmont Training Center

Philmont Scout Ranch, 17 Deer Run Road

Cimarron, NM 87714

Phone: 575-376-2281

Fax: 575-376-2629

E-mail: trainingcenter@philmontscout ranch.org

Getting to Philmont

Going to Philmont Training Center is a vacation in itself. From Rockford, it is about 1,300 miles via Interstate highways. However there are many places to visit en route, so get off the Interstates and visit sites along the way.

You can also fly to Denver and rent a car. Another way to travel is to take Amtrak to Raton, New Mexico, where you will be met by school buses and taken directly to the Training Center (after a lunch stop).



“Fully Trained”

We often fall into the trap of calling a Scouter “fully trained” when they complete “basic” training. It leads some to think that they have done all of the training they can.

Of course, no person is ever “fully trained.” Even the most tenured Scouter can learn something by attending, or instructing, a course.

The Five Levels of the BSA Training Continuum discussed in the *Guide to Leader Training* provide a wealth of opportunities for a progression of learning for all of us to learn more about program, leadership, and other important skills. Don't fall into the trap of using the term “fully trained!”



Bullying Prevention Training

Check out the "Supplemental Training" page on www.Scouting.org/training for two bullying prevention courses (each with self-study and instructor-led versions) you can use in your unit or service area - *Stop Bullying Now: Tips for Scouting Leaders* and *Stop Bullying Now: Tips for Scouts*.

Are You Prepared for the Weather?

Planning an outdoor activity? Would you know the safest place to huddle if caught outside during a tornado? Or what is meant by the term flash flood? Or the size of the largest hailstone recorded in the United States?

You'll learn all that and more from the training course offered by the BSA's E-Learning Management System. The **Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather** section offers in-depth information on topics such as how to prepare for and, if necessary, react to lightning, windstorms, and hurricanes, as well as tips on reading the traditional signs for weather-related situations. You'll also discover tips and tricks for beating the heat, or the cold, and for properly preparing yourself or your Scouts for all outdoor excursions. Also, the site will help you look ahead.

All Tour Plans must include at least one adult that has completed Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather training.

Find the Weather Hazards button in the E-Learning portion of the MyScouting Web site at www.scouting.org.

Are You Weather Smart?

The Health and Safety and Risk Management teams, who bring you "Scouting Safely," have heard your request.

Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather is now available for you to do training in your unit, district, and council when an Internet connection is not available. The training is required for at least one leader before taking your unit on a tour, but more importantly, it is knowledge that we all can use to manage risks to our Scouting family in the outdoor classroom.

If you would like your own copy, the CD is available through your Scout shop or online at www.scoutstuff.org. Search for item 610642. Please note that the format of the training is set up for you to facilitate; just pop in the CD and play it for the audience. It is suggested that units work with their district training chairs to make sure that Scouters have the completion of the training entered into their records.

The training takes about 40 minutes to complete and is both age-appropriate and recommended for all adult leaders and for youth in Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews.

CPR and AED Awareness

Denise Howard of the Emergency Care and Safety Institute, which coordinated and sponsored the 2010 National Scout Jamboree CPR and AED mass training event (more than 3,500 Scouts and Scouters were trained in a single day), reminds us that since 2008 Congress has designated the first week of June as National CPR and AED Awareness Week. It highlights the importance of learning how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) and increasing public access to AEDs.

All Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to learn the basics of how to administer CPR and operate an AED if they have not done so already. It is never too late to take this important training.

Each year hundreds of thousands of Americans suffer from sudden cardiac arrest, yet very few of these victims receive CPR from bystanders. However, those who do receive CPR can see their chances of survival double or triple. For this reason, it is important that each Scout learns these important life-saving skills and can put them to use in their own communities if ever called upon.

Are Your Scouts Prepared to Provide Lifesaving Care in an Emergency?

The BSA has teamed up with the Emergency Care & Safety Institute (ECSI) as another option to help teach emergency care — CPR, first aid, and wilderness first aid — to Scouts and Scouters in your council, district, troop, or pack.

ECSI is an internationally recognized training organization that is associated with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American College of Emergency Physicians. Their engaging programs meet BSA training requirements for emergency care and are available at a reduced fee due to the recent training agreement for students and instructors.

Easy transitions for current CPR instructors are offered as are programs for those individuals who are providers and would like to become instructors. By increasing the number of instructors in your unit, you will be able to offer more courses, reach more students, and help everyone be prepared for emergencies.

Learn more about ECSI and how the organization can help you train your Scouts at <http://boyscouts.ecsinstitute.org> or the BSA/ECSI website at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Training/ECSI.aspx.

If you have any questions, please review the FAQ page at: www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Training/ECSIFAQ.aspx or contact Bev Singel, occupational health nurse, at health.safety@scouting.org.

Risk Management Reminders

With the coming of fall and winter, Scouts and adults will be involved in outdoor and camping activities in snow and cold. The Council Risk Management Committee has a few things they would like you to keep in mind. This also will apply to any time of year.

- **Have a permission slip** on every youth member who does not have a parent participating in the activity. This keeps the parents informed on where the den or unit is going, time of departure and arrival back home, and gives the leader a parent contact number in case of an emergency.
- **Have NEW Health and Medical Record** for every member of the unit. Remember to keep this information in a safe place.
- **Have a recent photo**, within 6 to 12 months, for every member. Just in case someone gets lost, the people searching will know what the person looks like.
- **Know first aid** and have a first aid kit. Be Prepared.
- **Know CPR.**
- **Make sure that the participants have the training, knowledge, and skills** that are needed for the activity — boating, canoeing, swimming, climbing, rappelling, etc.
- When traveling by car, remember "**The Risk Zone**" principals.
 - Always use seat belts.
 - Turn your headlights on for safety.
 - Don't drive when you are fatigued.
 - Load, hitch, and tow trailers correctly.
 - Avoid night driving.
 - Check vehicle for good mechanical condition — horn, tires, brakes, windshield wipers, all lights, turn signals, clean windshield and windows, make sure there are no fluid leaks.
- **Complete and file a Tour Plan**

The Council Risk Management Committee wants everyone to have a fun and exciting and SAFE time in Scouting.

The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety

Few youth organizations encompass the breadth, volume, and diversity of physical activity common to Scouting, and none enjoy a better safety record. The key to maintaining and improving this exemplary record is the conscientious and trained adult leader who is attentive to safety concerns.

As an aid in the continuing effort to protect participants in a Scout activity, the BSA National Health and Safety Committee and the Council Services Division of the BSA National Council have developed the "Sweet Sixteen" of BSA safety procedures for physical activity. These 16 points, which embody good judgement and common sense, are applicable to all activities.

1. **Qualified Supervision:** Every BSA activity should be supervised by a conscientious adult who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the children and youth in his or her care. The supervisor should be sufficiently trained, experienced, and skilled in the activity to be confident of his/her ability to lead and to teach the necessary skills and to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. Field knowledge of all applicable BSA standards and a commitment to implement and follow BSA policies and procedures are essential parts of the supervisor's qualifications.
2. **Physical Fitness:** For youth participants in any potentially strenuous activity, the supervisor should receive a complete health history from a health-care professional, parent, or guardian. Adult participants and youth involved in higher-risk activity (e.g., scuba) may require professional evaluation in addition to the health history. The supervisor should adjust all supervision, discipline, and protection to anticipate potential risks associated with individual health conditions. Neither youth nor adults should participate in activities for which they are unfit. To do so would place both the individual and others at risk.
3. **Buddy System:** The long history of the buddy system in Scouting has shown that it is always best to have at least one other person with you and aware at all times as to your circumstances and what you are doing in any outdoor or strenuous activity.
4. **Safe Area or Course:** A key part of the supervisor's responsibility is to know the area or course for the activity and to determine that it is well-suited and free of hazards.
5. **Equipment Selection and Maintenance:** Most activity requires some specialized equipment. The equipment should be selected to suit the participant and the activity and to include appropriate safety and program features. The supervisor should also check equipment to determine that it is in good condition for the activity and is properly maintained while in use.
6. **Personal Safety Equipment:** The supervisor must ensure that every participant has and uses the appropriate personal safety equipment. For example, activity afloat requires a life jacket properly worn by each participant; bikers, horseback riders, and whitewater kayakers need helmets for certain activities; skaters may need protective gear; and all need to be dressed for warmth and utility depending on the circumstances.
7. **Safety Procedures and Policies:** For most activities, there are common-sense procedures and standards that can greatly reduce the risk. These should be known and appreciated by all participants, and the supervisor must ensure compliance.
8. **Skill Level Limits:** There is a minimum skill level requirement for every activity, and the supervisor must identify and recognize this minimum skill level and be sure that no participants are put at risk by attempting an activity beyond their ability. A good example of skill levels in Scouting is the venerable swim test, which defines conditions for safe swimming based on individual ability.
9. **Weather Check:** The risk factors in many outdoor activities vary substantially with weather conditions. These variables and the appropriate response should be understood and anticipated.
10. **Planning:** Safe activity follows a plan that has been conscientiously developed by the experienced supervisor or other competent source. Good planning minimizes risks and also anticipates contingencies that may require emergency response or a change of plan.
11. **Communications:** The supervisor needs to be able to communicate effectively with participants as needed during the activity. Emergency communications also need to be considered in advance for any foreseeable contingencies.
12. **Plans and Notices:** BSA tour and activity plans, council office registration, government or landowner authorization, and any similar formalities are the supervisor's responsibility when such are required. Appropriate notification should be directed to parents, enforcement authorities, landowners, and others as needed, before and after the activity.
13. **First-aid Resources:** The supervisor should determine what first-aid supplies to include among the activity equipment. The level of first-aid training and skill appropriate for the activity should also be considered. An extended trek over remote terrain obviously may require more first-aid resources and capabilities than an afternoon activity in the local community. Whatever is determined to be needed should be available.
14. **Applicable Laws:** BSA safety policies generally run parallel or go beyond legal mandates, but the supervisor should confirm and ensure compliance with all applicable regulations or statutes.
15. **CPR Resource:** Any strenuous activity or remote trek could present a cardiac emergency. Aquatics programs may involve cardiopulmonary emergencies. The BSA strongly recommends that a CPR-trained person (preferably an adult) be part of the leadership for any BSA program. Such a resource should be available for strenuous outdoor activity.
16. **Discipline:** No supervisor is effective if he or she cannot control the activity and the individual participants. Youth must respect their leader and follow his or her direction.

In addition to these general rules, safety concerns in certain BSA activities, including most of the aquatics programs, have been specifically addressed in more detailed guidelines. All leaders should review and comply with such guidelines in the respective activities. Examples can be found in publications such as the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, *Chemical Fuel and Equipment Policies*, *Safe Swim Defense*, etc.

Annual Health and Medical Record

The Annual Health and Medical Record serves many purposes. Completing a health history promotes health awareness, collects necessary data, and provides medical professionals critical information needed to treat a patient in the event of an illness or injury. It is also provides emergency contact information.

The new BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) can be found at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx. There are different forms needed depending on what activity you are doing. If you are taking your Cub Scouts on a local tour or your Boy Scouts on a two-day night camping trip, the forms you'll need are different from those required on a camping trip lasting more than 72 hours. In addition, each High Adventure base has its own form.

For Scouting activities under 72 hours, all participants complete Part A and Part B. This includes tours, Cub Scout day camp, Cub Scout summer camp, and weekend campouts.

For Boy Scout summer camp, week long trips, High Adventure trips, Wood Badge, and NYLT, Parts A, B, and C are required.

What is meant by “Annual”?

An Annual Health and Medical Record is valid through the end of the 12th month from the date it was administered by your medical provider. For example, a physical administered March 3, 2014, would be valid until March 31, 2015. The AHMR in use before March 1, 2014, will be valid only until April 1, 2015, and only if it was completed before April 1, 2014.

Distracted Driving

According to the National Safety Council, it is estimated that 28 percent of all traffic accidents—or 1.6 million per year—are caused by drivers using cell phones and texting. To protect yourself and those around you:

- Put your cell phone on silent or vibrate before starting the car.
- Modify your voicemail greeting to indicate you are unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving.
- Inform family, friends, clients, and associates why calls may not be returned immediately.
- If you need to talk or text, pull over to a safe location and park your vehicle.
- Hands-free cell phones are not safer. Cell-phone driving is a visual, mechanical and cognitive distraction.
- Educate your employees, drivers, and parents on the dangers of driving while on a cell phone.
- Implement a cell-phone ban at your place of employment (or during Scouting functions).
- Support cell-phone legislation and enforcement.

For more information, please visit distracteddriving.nsc.org.

Why Paintball Is Outlawed in Scouting (And the One Exception).

This is a rule so obvious it shouldn't need to be said: Shooting at one another is an unauthorized activity in Scouting.

But what about paintball? Participants in that popular activity shoot at each other, but they do so using nonlethal capsules of colored dye. How do the BSA's health and safety experts qualify this activity that seems to be in a gray area?

Paintball and Scouting

Shooting at each other is an unauthorized activity in Scouting. This includes paintball.

Paintball has been evaluated on several occasions to see whether it might work as a program but to date has not been deemed appropriate.

The Guide to Safe Scouting

Check out the *Guide to Safe Scouting's* list of unauthorized and restricted activities.

“Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is unauthorized. Scout units may plan or participate in paintball, laser tag, or similar events where participants shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations. Units with council approval may participate in formally organized historical reenactment events, where firearms are used and intentionally aimed over the heads of the reenactment participants. The use of paintball guns, laser guns, or similar devices may be utilized in target shooting events with council approval and following the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Council approval means the approval of the Scout Executive or his designee on a tour permit specifically outlining details of the event.”

The lone exception

The one time that paintball guns are authorized is during target shooting, much like what was seen at the 2013 National Jamboree.

If you have approval from your council AND your Scouts are shooting at targets that are neither living nor human representations, paintball is allowed. (See *Guide to Safe Scouting* text above).

Winter Activity Guide

Winter provides Scouts with a wonderful and unique opportunity to enjoy the out-doors. However, potentially extreme weather conditions, frigid temperatures and unique hazards associated with outdoor winter activities require careful and conscientious planning to ensure these activities are performed safely.

'Being prepared' isn't just for Scouts—proper planning is the critical first step for any outdoor outing or excursion. Before embarking on your next cold weather outing, don't forget to pack a positive attitude, pace yourself, and warm up to these easy-to-remember, but often overlooked, safety tips."

Top Outdoor Safety Tips for the C-O-L-D

Keeping warm is the most important part of cold-weather camping and outdoor activities. Use the C-O-L-D method to stay warm.

C - Clean

Since insulation is only effective when heat is trapped by dead air spaces, keep your insulating layers clean and fluffy. Dirt, grime, and perspiration can mat down those air spaces and reduce the warmth of a garment.

O - Overheating

Avoid overheating by adjusting the layers of your clothing to meet the outside temperature and the exertions of your activities. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, and refrain from drinking caffeinated drinks that act as diuretics.

L- Loose Layers

A steady flow of warm blood is essential to keep all parts of your body heated. Wear several loosely fitting layers of clothing and footwear that will allow maximum insulation without impeding your circulation. Having clothing that is bright colored (orange or red) is also a good idea, so hunters and sportsmen can see you in snowy conditions. Always have a hat and wear it.

D - Dry

Sweaty, damp clothing and skin can cause your body to cool quickly, possibly leading to frostnip and hypothermia. Keep dry by avoiding

clothes that absorb moisture. Always brush away snow on your clothes before you enter a heated area. Keep clothing around your neck loosened so that body heat and moisture can escape instead of soaking through your layers.

Prepare for icy temperatures

Select bright thermal clothing that can be layered as the weather changes. When hands and feet begin to chill, it's time to put on a hat. Hats help trap body heat by preventing it from escaping through your head. Wear suitable shoes for walking on frozen ground or ice, and don't forget other essentials like mittens, gloves, and scarves/neck warmers.

Find supplies for campfires

Prior to sundown, find tinder and wood necessary for starting and maintaining a campfire.

Know the area

Thoroughly research the area where you are planning to go, or go with someone who knows the area and may have camped there before. Be mindful of potential avalanche areas or unstable ice.

Travel with a buddy

Groups of four to 10 are an even better idea. Should a problem arise, such as injury or hypothermia, someone can stay with the injured person(s) while others seek help.

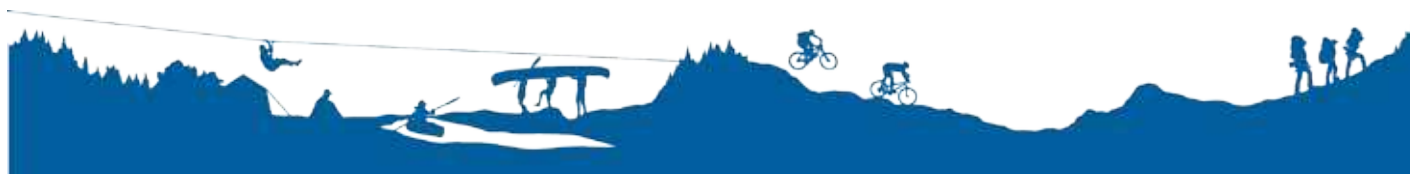
Winter Driving Safety Tips

Winter driving can be dangerous, but the following tips can go a long way toward keeping you safe:

- Clear ice and frost from all windows and side mirrors. Clearing just a peephole restricts vision and is against the law in some states.
- Clear the entire vehicle of snow. Snow left on the roof and hood can easily end up on your windshield or rear window, obstructing your view.
- Slow down. Posted speed limits are meant for ideal conditions. Reduce your speed when encountering wet or slick road conditions even if operating a four-wheel drive vehicle.
- Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you.

- At the first sign of brake lights, start slowing down. Try to avoid slamming on the brakes.
- If you have antilock brakes, do not pump them. Keep constant, firm pressure on the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.
- If you start to skid, take your foot off the pedal and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go. Do not hit the brakes or accelerate.

For more winter driving tips, go to <http://ntsi.com/quick-links/safety-articles/winter-driving/>



Adult Candidate Qualifications and Guidelines for Selection to the Order of the Arrow

In order for an adult to be eligible for selection for Order of the Arrow candidacy, he/she must meet all of the following qualifications and conditions:

1. Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth which results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate adults to the lodge adult selection committee. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently-serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous twelve months. Recommendations of the adult selection committee, which consists of the lodge advisor, the chairman of the council committee on which the lodge advisor serves, and the lodge staff advisor, with the approval of the Scout Executive, serving as Supreme Chief of the Fire, will be candidates for induction, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and positions.
 - The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
 - The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled
 - The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.
2. The adult must be 21 years of age or older and an active, registered member in a chartered troop or team of the Blackhawk Area Council. Troop or team members between the ages of 18 and 21 will be included in the unit's youth election (see attached Youth Candidate Qualifications for Election to the Order of the Arrow, #3).
3. The adult must meet the same camping requirements as Scouts. The adult must have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to selection. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and nights of long-term camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. If a troop or team conducts its own long-term resident camp under the auspices and standards of the BSA, it qualifies. High adventure camping of at least 6 consecutive nights meets this requirement. The balance of camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camping.

4. Order of the Arrow membership (youth and adult) within a troop or team must be active in lodge and chapter activities. A unit is considered active when the unit has a representative (at least one youth) attending at-least 50% of scheduled chapter meetings and/or activities OR be active on a unit election team and/or ceremonies team, and attendance to at-least one lodge function (Fall Conclave, Spring Fellowship, Lodge Banquet).
5. The adult to be nominated is selected by the troop or team committee. Voting should be by secret ballot with each committee member voting for one candidate. An adult is selected by either receiving the most votes where more than one adult is eligible or, in the case of only one eligible adult, where the nomination is approved by at least half of the troop committee. When an adult has been selected by the unit committee, the attached Adult Candidate Recommendation form must be completed and returned to the Council Office by May 1, 2015. It is important that the form is returned as soon as possible as the nomination has to be approved by the Lodge Adult Selection Committee.
6. Nomination by a troop or team does not guarantee selection into the Order of the Arrow. Only those adults selected by the Lodge Adult Selection Committee will be inducted into the Order.

It should be noted that adults should not be nominated to the Order of the Arrow as recognition of service. Selection into the Order should only take place when the adult's position in Scouting will make Order of the Arrow membership more meaningful in the lives of the youth membership. The following criteria should be considered in the selection process:

- Selection of the adult is based upon ability to perform the necessary function to help the Order fulfill its purpose.
- The individual will be an asset to the Order due to demonstrated skills and abilities which fulfill the purpose of the Order.
- The adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the Lodge.

All adult candidates must successfully complete the Ordeal experience and participate in the induction ceremony within one year of selection. If a candidate fails to complete the Ordeal within one year of selection, they must wait for the next unit election after the one-year deadline and be reselected by the unit.





2015 Youth Elections and Adult Nominations to the Order of the Arrow

The time period for holding youth elections will be between January 1 and April 30. Election forms must be in the council service center by May 1, 2015, to be accepted.

Adult nomination forms must be in the council office by May 1, 2015, to be accepted. The troop or team must also hold an election where at least one youth has been elected.

For adults to be selected, OA members from a troop or team must be active in chapter and Lodge activities. Attending chapter meetings and activities and lodge events is very important. The chapters and the Lodge and adults who will support the Order of the Arrow and help make it strong.

Election information will be distributed to troops and teams at roundtable. Please plan ahead to meet the due dates.

Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor Petitions Save This Date

The Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow is the high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Scouts and Scouters who are members of the Order and, by reason of exceptional service and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office.

If you know of an OA member who has provided exceptional service to his/her unit, community, and the OA, please nominate them for the Vigil Honor. Start now on preparing their nomination. Nominations must be received in the council service center by May 8, 2015. Please see the Lodge website for the Vigil Honor Petition – www.wulapeju140.org.

JOIN CAMP STAFF NEXT YEAR!



Scoutmasters, please refer a good leader to us!

Camp Lowden and Canyon Camp always need new Scouts to apply for Summer Camp Staff. There are a wide range of open positions from counselors-in-training to area directors.

You can spend next summer with us if you fill out the application now and send it in. You will be contacted to schedule an interview. The application form and referral sheet are on our Council's Web Site.

www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Camping

Camp Directors

Dick Reynolds - Canyon

Bruce Small - Lowden



Philmont Scout Ranch 2016 Council Contingent Crew Selection

The Blackhawk Area Council has requested four council crews (48 participants) for the year 2016. If your Scout troop, Venturing crew or individual members would like to be considered for a Blackhawk Area Council Philmont crew, please contact Philip McCrery at the council service center by **March 1, 2015**. The participants that will be part of the council contingent will be selected the following week.

Facts you should know:

- Arrival date at Philmont – Monday, June 20, 2016
- Departure – Saturday, July 2, 2016
- Crew size – 7 to 12 people (at least 2 adults, no more than 4)
 - Limit of one crew per unit request
 - If all four crews are not filled, you can request a second crew
- Philmont fee – \$870 per participant
- Additional cost – Each crew will be responsible for transportation, other travel expenses, preparation weekends, shirts, hats, etc.
- A \$100 per person reservation fee is due **April 1, 2015**. If not received, the space will go to a group on the alternate list. Remaining two payments of \$385 per person will be due August 15, 2015, and January 15, 2016.
- In the selection process, priority will be given to units or individuals that have not attended Philmont in the past or have not attended the last few years.
- Age: Participants must be 14 years of age (by date of arrival) or completed 8th grade and be at least 13 years of age by date of arrival. No exceptions.

To be put on the list of interested participants, contact Philip McCrery:

- Phone – 815-397-0210
- Mail – Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Rd., Rockford IL 61107
- E-mail – phil.mccrery@scouting.org

The following information will be needed:

- Unit number
- Contact person, address, phone number, email
- Tentative number of youth and adults

Information about Philmont can be found at www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org.



Northern Tier High Adventure Staff

*What is it like to work at the
largest canoe base in the world?*

Northern Tier employs hundreds of staff every year. Staff members come from all over the world and bring with them unique skills and talents. Northern Tier's diverse and qualified staff works as a team and annually delivers the wilderness experience of a lifetime to thousands of youth and adults.

"I learned more about outdoor leadership this summer at Northern Tier than I ever could have learned in a classroom."

The incredible part about joining the staff at Northern Tier is attaining valuable life experience at an early age. Aside from the hard skills, like emergency response and first aid, there are many personal and soft skills staff learn while on the job, including time and people management.

"As a Northern Tier staff member, I have the distinguished honor and privilege to create in others a defining moment that will live in them forever." A Northern Tier staff member is committed to providing exceptional and consistent quality in everything they do. If this describes you, consider applying today!

Facebook.com/NorthernTier

Twitter.com/Northern_Tier

NTIER.org/Jobs 218-365-4811

New Merit Badge for Adults!

You've been wishing all these years you could earn just one more merit badge or perhaps you never had a chance to earn one as a youth? Well, now is your big chance!

Announcing the Lawn Mowing Merit Badge! Available only to mechanically inclined adults over the age of 21.

The requirements are simple:

- Satisfactorily complete the camp-approved lawn mower safety and maintenance course.
- Mow all of Camp Lowden at least once.

Complete the requirements listed above and receive your limited-edition merit badge patch which is not approved for uniform wear.

Please contact Jerry Coots for further details. Pilotmedic1@yahoo.com Cell: 815-509-5922

(Of course this isn't a real merit badge; there is no advancement program for adults! You will receive a custom spoof merit badge, making you the envy of all your Scouting friends. We would appreciate your help in keeping Camp Lowden beautiful for the Scouts!)

Join the Camp Staff!

Are you tired of doing the same old routine? We are looking for men and women to serve on the Camp Lowden and Canyon Camp summer camp staff. Most Scouts consider serving on the camp staff as a highlight in their Scouting career. Opportunities range from age 14 (CIT), age 15 (salaried staff), to adult positions; swimming, boating, rifle, archery, Scoutcraft, handicraft, nature, trading post, kitchen, and commissioner service.

The Boy Scouts of America is an equal opportunity employer that hires both females and males, as well as people of all ages and ethnic groups, diverse cultures, and mixed abilities.

Why apply for a camp staff position? Here are a few of the many reasons that are frequently expressed:

- To make lots of new friends in your area, other states, and even other countries
- To spend a summer in the great outdoors where nature prevails
- To acquire experiential education (learning by doing) and new skills that will last a lifetime
- To be part of an effective team and to cooperate with others to get things done
- To learn how to lead others and to apply leadership skills
- To undertake and fulfill meaningful challenges and to earn the satisfaction of doing a job well
- To work with youth and adults of all ages
- To serve others (the most noble and fulfilling pursuit of all)
- To give something back for the opportunities you have received
- To live in a wholesome environment based on the Scout Oath and Law
- To have meaningful spiritual experiences
- To have the advice, counsel, and support of senior staff who are dedicated to helping you succeed
- To be paid and receive food and lodging in return for something challenging and fun
- To be considered for jobs of greater responsibility and to receive letters of recommendation for other pursuits

Why work at a fast food or retail establishment that focuses on sales when you can have opportunities like these that will prepare you for more meaningful endeavors?

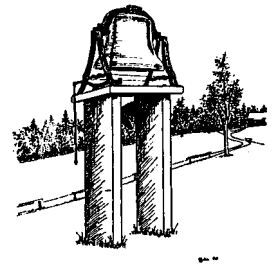
The staff application is available at the council service center in Rockford and satellite office in Crystal Lake or on the council website: www.blackhawkscouting.org. Click on "Camping" to find the application and reference form.

Spending the summer as a member of a summer camp staff will be a highlight of a person's Scouting experience and something he or she will remember the rest of his or her life.

Canyon Camp Facebook

Dan Dick has created a Facebook page for Canyon Camp. Lots of pictures, lots of memories, lots of interactions with people who like Canyon Camp. Check it out and "like" it too!

www.facebook.com/CanyonCampBSA



Canyon Camp & Camp Lowden Wish List

Both our camps are always in need of items to help make them better from a facilities standpoint. As you will see on the list, some things are big and some are small, but all are currently needed at one or both of our camps.

Please review the list below and determine if you can help. If you can, please contact Phil McCrery, Program Director, at the council service center at 815-397-2010 or Bob Gingras, Council Camp Property Chairman at 815-288-5262.

- Good working snow blower.
- Most any power tools in good working order.
- Garden tractor/mower.
- A corded skill saw.
- Hammers of all types.
- Leaf and garden rakes.
- Snow shovels for cabins.
- Mops & buckets
- Angle or side grinder
- Portable air compressor
- Gas operated push mowers
- Portable generator

Staff Alumni and Friends of Canyon Camp Website

Be sure to checkout the information, photos and historic documents on the Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends website: <http://updates.canyoncampalumni.org>.

This site contains sections about reunions of Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends, the Spirit Scholarship program, historic documents like the 1936 property deed to Canyon Camp, the "Beginnings" of Canyon Camp written by Dr. Eugene Vickery, tributes to former staff members and friends of Canyon Camp, a history of Wetassa Lodge #227, and many photographs of the people and natural beauty that have made Canyon Camp such a special place to thousands of Scouts and Scouters over the years!

Friends of Canyon Camp include anyone who has been positively impacted by the Spirit of Scouting that is prevalent year round – whether you were employed on the Summer Camp Staff or not. You can become a "friend" of Canyon Camp and receive periodic email updates as new information is posted to this website simply by sending your email address to Mike Beeth at beeth2@gmail.com.

2015 Boy Scout Summer Camp

Canyon Camp

June 21-27		June 28-July 4		July 5-11		July 12-18	
OOC	19	WAN	1	WTSA	45	AH	95
WTSA	27	WTSA	4	WE	72	SYC	127
WTSA	61	OOC	66	AH	108	WAN	206
OOC	63	AH	84	OOC	128	AH	775
AH	76	WTSA	91	WAN	6	WAN	37
OOC	83	AH	105	WAN	41	WAN	181
WE	85	AH	125	WE	94	WTSA	7
AH	88	WAN	705	OOC	642	AH	101
WE	93	OOC	2814			WAN	126
AH	115	AH	67/68			WAN	139
SYC	160	WAN	426				
OOC	663						
SYC	550						
Full							

Camp Lowden

June 21-27		June 28-July 4		July 5-11		July 12-18	
OOC	2	OOC	4	WE	52	OOC	18
WE	117	WAN	77	AH	180	SYC	151
WE	140	WE	96	SYC	132	SYC	340
SYC	159	SYC	369	SYC	152	OOC	46
WE	305	WAN	477	OOC	3	OOC	662
WE	902	OOC	11	OOC	35	SYC	368
OOC	97	WE	64	OOC	76	OOC	33
OOC	950			OOC	92		
SR	9			OOC	163		
SYC	459			OOC	203		
WAN	601			SYC	456		
OOC	169						
OOC	34						
						Full	



Where will you be hanging this summer?



NIGHT VISION PAINT BALL?



ATV TRAIL?



SCUBA DIVING?



BMX TRAIL?



HORSEBACK RIDING? *



ROBOTICS MERIT BADGE?



MOUNTAIN BIKING?



ON THE BOULDERING WALL?



KAYAKING?



ON THE CLIMBING WALL? *



MOUNTAIN BOARDING?

Camp Lowden Canyon Camp

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

www.blackhawkscouting.org

815-397-0210

NOW FEATURING AT BOTH CAMPS:



*only available at Camp Lowden

Sycamore District

Serving McHenry County in Illinois

Web Site: www.sycamorebsa.org

Sycamore District Key Three

Chairman: Jean Rogers
mjjmrogers@sbeglobal.net
Commissioner: Manny Torres, Jr.
manny.torres.jr@gmail.com
District Executive:
Nakisha Wilson
 815-397-0210, 7537
District Director:
Dane Boudreau
dane.boudreau@scouting.org
 815-397-0210, ext. 7536



Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February. 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or venturingblast@scouting.org.

See page 24 for registration form.

Sycamore District Calendar

February

- 20-22 Venturing Ski Trip
- 20-22 Venturing Blast -- Camp Lowden
- 21 Eagle College
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 5 District Commissioners and Committee meeting and Elections
- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 12 Roundtable
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 14 Tiger Time 2015
- 14 Eagle College
- 28 BALOO outdoor training

April

- 2 District Commissioners and Committee meeting
- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Scoutmaster Specifics Training
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 9 Roundtable
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 22 Introduction to Outdoor Skills, Part I
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena



Boy Scout Roundtable

March 12

How to Use Assistant Scoutmasters
 Backpacking Stoves and How to Use Them
 Charter Turn-In

April 9

Youth Protection Training
 General Scouting Questions and Answers
 Backpacking Stoves and How to Use Them
 Privacy and Your Medical Records
 OA Fellowship
 Outdoor Leader Training



Kishwaukee OA Chapter Meetings

OA Elections are just around the corner. If your troop is going to be holding OA elections, the Arrowmen who will be doing the elections need to be trained. If you were trained last year, you need to be retrained this year.

Any troop that has done a OA election for another troop and has not been trained, that OA election will be void. Make sure to ask if the troop has been retrained this year before they do your troop's election. One adult and two youth needs to be trained for a troop election team.

Frank J. Munao
 Kishwaukee OA Chapter Adviser

**“The spirit is there in every
 boy; it has to be discovered
 and brought to light”**

*Quote from Scouting Founder Robert
 Baden-Powell*

The Jeff Clark Scout Spirit Award

Jeff Clark was a member of Troop 166 in Fox River Grove, Illinois. He reached the rank of Eagle Scout on October 24, 1995, one day before he and six of his Cary Grove High School classmates were tragically killed when an express commuter train hit their school bus in Fox River Grove.

Jeff was involved in Scouts for eight years from Cub Scouts through Eagle in both his native state of Washington and here in Illinois. He truly loved nature and the outdoors and he liked the fact that Scouting provided him many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Whether it was a troop campout or a high adventure outing to places like Philmont, Jeff always had fun, met new people, and discovered new learning experiences.

Jeff lived his life honoring the Scout Oath and Law. In Jeff's memory a special Sycamore District award has been established. All active Scouts in the district are eligible to participate and attempt to earn this award. Scouts just need to complete an application. The award recipients will receive a framed certificate, an engraved plaque, and their choice of a free summer camp or a \$200 savings bond. If the free summer camp option is selected, the recipient will receive a credit at the council service center equal to the early registration amount at a council camp. The credit amount can also be applied to any out of council camp or to a high adventure trip.

This annual award will honor and recognize two to six Scouts in the district who, like Jeff Clark, really show their Scout Spirit. Are you a Scout that lives by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and actively participate in your troop by attending outings, summer camp, earning rank advancement and merit badges, holding positions of responsibility, etc? Show that your Scout spirit is soaring high like Jeff's by completing the application before March 15.

Application forms are available at roundtable, the district Web site, or the council service center.

Youth Protection Training

Have you checked your Youth Protection Training (YPT) status lately? It is easier now that MyScouting Tools is up and running, but it still depends on you linking your membership ID number(s) to your MyScouting account.

The two biggest issues we find preventing a unit, district, or council from getting all active direct-contact leaders YPT trained are not linking the ID number and unrenewed YPT. Remember, YPT must be taken every two years.

It is very important we do all we can to protect our youth and we stay up to date on how we can all do Scouting Safely. Be sure to bookmark, share, and visit the Youth Protection web site:

www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection

The good turn will educate the boy
out of the groove of selfishness.

Robert Baden-Powell

2015 Sycamore District Election Procedures Nominating Dates and Position Descriptions

Elections will take place on March 5th District Committee Meeting

Nominating Committee Chairman: Michael Walsh

Committee Members: Larry French, Daniel Banko, Blair Piotrowski, Russell Friend, Bill Mugnai

14 Days Prior to the District Annual Meeting (February 19th) – All nominations for officers must be received by the nominating committee to be considered for a position.

Responsibilities Summary:

District Chairperson: The district chairman leads the district committee, initiates plans and helps committee chairmen carry out the functions of the district. The district chair runs the district committee meetings, appoints positions within committees, recruits new members to the district and oversees the general operations of the district as a whole.

Vice Chair of Administration: The vice chair of the district committee serves as secretary, leader of the public relations committee, helps ensure district processes are running smoothly (i.e. nominations), and keeps track of district information.

Vice Chair of Finance: The vice chair of finance is responsible for running the finance committee's main priority is to ensure a successful fundraising year through family Friends of Scouting, special events, community Friends of Scouting, and popcorn sales as well as recruit and train individuals for each of those position.

Vice Chair of Program: The vice chair of program supervises the committees of camping and promotion, advancements, activities, and works closely with the vice chair of membership to ensure we are offering an attractive program to our youth.

Vice Chair of Membership: The vice chair of membership is responsible for organizing unit recruitment in both spring and fall and continually searching out avenues of growth for new and existing units within the district.

To Nominate Someone: Send an email to one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Mike Walsh (swals00@gmail.com),

Russ Friend [Click for member's page],

Larry French (larryfrench_1@comcast.net),

Blair Piotrowski [Click for member's page],

Dan Banko [Click for member's page],

Bill Mugnai (bcavies1@aol.com).

You must Include:

- The name of the person you are nominating
- The position you are nominating them for
- A detailed description of why they should be considered in this position

Voting:

- Voting members of the district are all registered district committee members, chartered organization representatives, and members of the council board who reside within the Sycamore District
- Voting takes place at the March 5th meeting and you must be present in order to vote.
- Voting is passed with a majority vote of those in attendance

Please consider nominating a worthy candidate!

Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specifics Training

April 4, 2015
Nunda Township Hall
3510 Bay Road, Crystal Lake

Scoutmaster and Assistant Specific Training is an all-day training session that goes from 7:30 a.m. till approx. 5:00 p.m.. Uniforms are required

Materials needed; Bring a lunch, pen, and paper.

Cost nothing

Contact Wayne Kemp at 847-224-3664 or Email wayne@ourkempfamily.com

Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specifics Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone: H _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Unit # _____

Position _____

Send to Wayne Kemp, 2 Pheasant Trail, Lake in the Hills IL 60156 or email wayne@ourkempfamily.com

Return by March 31, 2015

Walk ins will be welcome

Training Team Is Mobile

The Sycamore District Training Committee, led by Training Chairman, Brian Lump, is now offering units the opportunity of on-site training for adult leaders and parents. As a district, we have identified that many units may not be able to make council training events on certain weekends and also that many folks are still having trouble with MyScouting.org online training.

"Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader" and in that sense, the training team will come to you to make sure your training and time is used efficiently and that all your leaders are fully trained.

The training team is offering Units face-to-face training in place of online training for courses such as Youth Protection Training, Troop Committee Challenge, Den Leader Specifics, and more!

On-site trainings will last roughly an hour from our experienced Scouters. For more information regarding these opportunities for your unit, please contact District Training Chairman Brian Lump at blumpy2002@yahoo.com



Woods of Webelos

The dates have been set for May 15-17, 2015 at Camp Lowden. More information for this event will become available in late 2014/early 2015.

Please contact Gail Krec if you have specific questions about Woods of Webelos at gail.scouts@yahoo.com.



It's Friends of Scouting Time

Friends of Scouting would like to visit your pack, troop or crew. Please let me know if you have an upcoming blue and gold banquet, or court of honor where we can do a Friends of Scouting presentation.

If someone within your unit makes the presentation, you get a 10% reduction in your goal figure. If you met your goal, you get free rank advancements for the year.

If you would prefer, we can arrange for a presenter to come to your unit and give the presentation. You will still get free rank advancements for the year but won't have the 10% reduction in goal figure.

What a great way for your unit to save money.

I am the new 2015 Friends of Scouting coordinator. My name is Gail Timmer and I can be reached by email at gail@carytravelexpress.com or by phone at 847-533-5287, text or call.

Please let me know your plans for blue and gold banquet or court of honor that a Friends of Scouting presenter can attend.

Thank you!

Gail Timmer

For more information on "Free Badges of Rank," see page ____.

Webelos to Scout Transition

Hello to all Webelos den leaders, Cubmasters, and Scoutmasters!

My name is Jennifer Broadfield-Colomer. I am the Sycamore District Webelos-to-Scout Transition contact. My job is to assist you to insure that your Webelos Scouts cross over into a Boy Scout troop of their choice. Most Webelos Scouts will go on to Boy Scouts with very little help! It is important for them to know about their opportunities for fun and adventure that they can have by joining a Boy Scout troop! We also must make them feel and let them know that they are wanted in the Boy Scout troop!

Where Are Your Webelos-to-Scouts Going?

The Webelos-to-Scout transition boards are ready! The boards will be at roundtable for the next few months. Please help us track your Webelos Scouts! Write in the troop number that the Scout has decided to join next to his name on the tracking board. The goal is 100% crossover!

A big thanks to the packs that have already sent this information regarding the troop destination for their Webelos Scouts via email! Greatly appreciated!!

Fifth-Grade Webelos Scouts

- Scoutmaster conference should be complete.
- Arrow of Light requirements should be complete.
- Scoutmasters and senior patrol leaders should have an invite to the Blue and Gold Banquet or to a pack meeting for the Crossover Ceremony.
- Check with the troop contact as to what will be presented at the Crossover Ceremony. (epaulet loops, neckerchief, Boy Scout Handbook)
- Parents. Be prepared for a parent meeting, possibly right after the crossover ceremony or at the troop meeting shortly after the scout joins the troop.

The real way to gain happiness
is to give it to others.
Robert Baden-Powell

Jennifer Broadfield-Colomer
Webelos to Scout Transition
jenbroadfield@comcast.net



Tiger Time 2015

Crafts Games

Songs Fun

**Saturday, March 14, 12 noon
to 3:30 p.m.**

Check-in starts at 12 noon.

Program runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Living Grace Community Church, 1500 Silver Lake Road, Cary

- Each Tiger Cub must be accompanied by a parent or other adult partner over 21 years of age. Please do not bring other siblings along.
- Fee is \$5 per boy – parent/adult partner is free.
- Fee includes all activities, a patch and an afternoon snack.
- Register as a pack by Friday, February 27. No late registrations will be accepted.

Questions? Contact Kristi Miller at 4rscoutz@gmail.com or 815-276-5080.

To Register:

- One check per pack, payable to Blackhawk Area Council – Tiger Time.
- Registration form and check are due by Friday, February 27.

Send to Kristi Miller, 1505 Appaloosa Trail, McHenry IL 60051.

Questions? Contact Kristi Miller at 4rscoutz@gmail.com or 815-276-5080.

Details and registration form can be found at BlackhawkScouting.org/Sycamore

Just We Two K 2015

Nature Hike Challenge Course

Fishing Games

Fun!

For Tiger Cubs and Wolf Cub Scouts and their parents

Saturday, May 2. Event runs from 8 a.m. to noon

Flexible start anytime between 8a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Lake Atwood, The Hollows, Rt. 14, Crystal Lake.

- Each Tiger Cub or Wolf Cub Scout must be accompanied by a parent/adult partner. **Please do not bring other siblings.**
- Activities take 90 minutes to complete. Fish at your leisure with your own pole.
- Fee is \$5 per boy. Parent/guardian is free. Fee includes all activities and the Just We Two K 2015 Patch.
- Sign up as a pack. Register by Friday April 24.

Questions? Contact Charlie Payseur at buckhunter01@att.net

Full details and registration form, go to BlackhawkScouting.org/sycamore.

Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills

Part "A"

April 22, 2015

6:00 p.m. till 9:30p.m.

Veterans Acers Nature Center
Crystal Lake

Part "B"

May 1-2, 2015

Nunda Township Barn
3510 Bay Road
Crystal Lake

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills is the required training for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Varsity Scout Coaches. The skills taught are based on outdoor skills found in the Boy Scout Handbook. The course is also ideal for Venturing leaders and Webelos den leaders crossing over to Boy Scouts.

The course is two separate sessions "A" & "B". Attendance at all sessions is mandatory to complete the training.

Equipment: For Part "A" you will need a Scout uniform, *Boy Scout Handbook*, pen & paper.

Fee: \$20.00 – covers Conservation fee, Saturday lunch, and course materials.

Contact Information: Brian lumpp at Blumppy2002@yahoo.com or 815-546-9263

Introduction to Outdoor Skills

Registration Form

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: [home] _____

[cell] _____

Email: _____

Unit # _____ position _____

Male _____ Female _____

Special needs [specify] _____

Payment method: check _____ cash _____ VISA _____ MC _____

Make checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council

For Credit Cards:

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

Return no later than _____

Mail to Brian Lumpp, 7506 Birch Drive, Wonder Lake IL 60097

Blast off on a unique outdoor adventure!

2015 Cub Scout Day Camp



Bears now – Webelos I Camp, June 29 to July 2
(Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.)

Webelos I now – Webelos II Camp, July 7-10
(Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.)

Tiger Cubs now – Wolf Camp, July 21-24
(Tuesday - Friday, 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.)

Wolf Cub Scouts now – Bear Camp, July 27-30
(Monday - Thursday, 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.)

New Tiger Day Camp – Saturday, July 25, 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
At McHenry Township Park

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Camps

McHenry Township Park -- 3703 N. Richmond Road, McHenry

Webelos Camps

Camp Lakota -- 2050 Deep Cut Road, Woodstock

Save the dates! Registration information available at roundtable now.

Day Camp Administrator – Leigh Anne Spears

sycamoredaycamp@yahoo.com

Sycamore District Climbing Instructor Training (Level 1 & Level 2)

Session One: Level 1

When: Friday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. to Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m.

Where: Crystal Lake Nature Center (Friday)

330 N. Main Street, Crystal Lake

Where: North Wall Rock Climbing Gym (Saturday)

824 S. Main Street, Crystal Lake,

Note: Friday night is mostly theory. We will tent camp on CLNC grounds. Saturday morning we will go to North Wall before 8 a.m. to learn and apply skills.

Session Two: Level 2

When: Friday, April 24, 6 p.m. to Saturday, April 25, 3 p.m.

Where: Devils Lake State Park

S5975 Park Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Note: Participants may elect to arrive early on Saturday instead of camping overnight. However, we will start early on Saturday to avoid the crowds. Climbing spots are first come, first serve.

Cost: \$50. Payments can be sent to Blackhawk Area Council, Attn:

Climbing Training, 2820 McFarland Rd., Rockford IL, 61107

To register, contact Jun San Juan via email at junsanjuan@sbcglobal.net

Requirements:

- Currently registered in the BSA (You may register at event with application and registration fee)
- Current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Form
- At least 21 years old
- Successful completion and pass qualification tests at the end of the course

Notes:

Level 1 Certification is good for two years. Level 2 Certification is good for three years. Fees include use of climbing equipment, Devil's Lake campsite reservation, food, and course materials. New candidates will receive a copy of Belay On, BSA's new climbing and rappelling manual.

For Level 1 training, part of the emphasis will be on how to operate BAC's mobile rock climbing wall. For Level 2 training at Devil's Lake, students will be evaluated and qualified based on how well they apply their newly acquired skills during an actual climbing event. A group of Boy Scouts from Crystal Lake will be on hand as climbing participants.

Breakfast will be available on Saturday (April 11). All other meals are on your own.

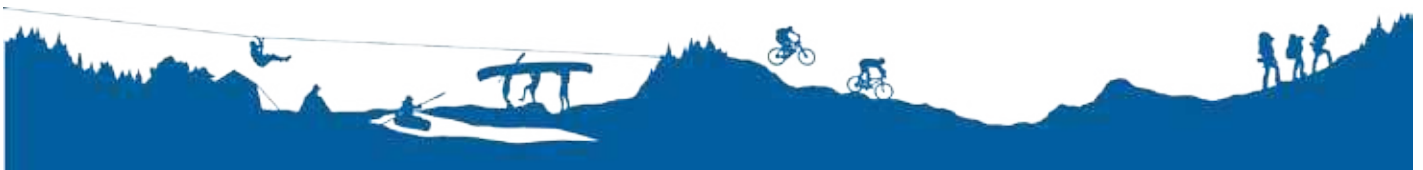
What to Expect:

After Level 1 a successful candidate will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a climbing/rappelling program and discuss how it relates to the aims and methods of Scouting and the personal development of participants.
- Describe the responsibilities a BSA climbing instructor must assume before, during, and after the use of a climbing or rappelling site.
- Demonstrate mastery of belaying, climbing, rappelling, spotting, and any other relevant activities.
- Know how to inspect, use, store, and retire each piece of equipment used for climbing and rappelling.
- Know climbing and rappelling knots and hitches.
- Operate BAC's mobile rock climbing tower (Note: Level 1 is required to operate only under supervision from Level 2 or higher).

Level 2 course is a site specific training course and will cover rigging in a natural area. Level 2 builds on the principles and standards introduced in Level 1. In addition to the learning objectives listed above, a successful candidate will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of anchoring systems in natural areas.
- Demonstrate the safety, first aid, and rescue procedures used for climbing and rappelling.
- Demonstrate rescue procedures including: Locking off, Prusiks, Pulley systems.
- Know additional climbing and rappelling knots and hitches.
- Lead a group through a climbing and rappelling experience.
- Manage and operate BAC's mobile rock climbing tower.



Wanchanagi District

Serving Winnebago & Boone Counties in Illinois

Web Site: www.wanchanagi.org

Wanchanagi District Key Three

Chairman: Mark Broman:

815-218-5514

District Commissioner:

Ron Scott, 815-601-7750

Senior District Executive:

Jared Carlin, 815-397-0210

jared.carlin@scouting.org

Eagle Service Project Reviews

A Life Scout wishing to have his Eagle Scout service project reviewed before working on his project should call Mrs. Bolen at 815-289-0661 and leave a message with the following information – name, troop number, phone number, and an email address for Mrs. Bolen to notify the Scout of the time and date scheduled for his review.

The review will be held at the council service center. Please contact her again if there is no return message within three days.

Ensure that all required signatures are secured prior to contacting her for an appointment.



Wanchanagi District Roundtable

Christ United Methodist Church

6:45 p.m.

2nd Thursday of each month

All volunteers are invited to attend!

Wanchanagi District Calendar

February

- 20-22 Venturing Blast -- Camp Lowden
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 5 District Commissioners and Committee meeting
- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 28 BALOO outdoor training

April

- 2 District Commissioners and Committee meeting
- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 15, 22, 29 Scoutmaster Specific Training, parts 1, 2, and 3
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena

Cub Scout Roundtable

March 12

6:45 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

Theme – Soaring the Skies

We will cover opening ceremonies, songs, Cubmaster's minutes, and constellations.

Terry Serrano will present a constellations activity for the Cub Scouts. You will make a space shuttle tie slide holder and a space tie slide.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the stars!



Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February. 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or ventingblast@scouting.org.

See page 24 for registration form.

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, and More

Open House Exhibition

North Suburban Library

6340 North 2nd Street, Loves Park

Saturday, April 4

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free!

Sponsored by the River Valley Gem
and Mineral Society



Eagle Scout Training

All Wanchanagi troops please provide the following to the district Eagle chair, Ida Bolen. Send by email to i.bolen@hotmail.com or by phone at 815-239-2634. Thank you.

We are planning training to assist our Scouts to succeed in their quest to earn the Eagle rank.

Troop Eagle Advisor/Contact

Troop # _____
 Advisor's Name: _____
 Email _____@_____
 Phone: _____

Send by email to i.bolen@hotmail.com or by phone at 815-239-2634.

Wanchanagi District Merit Badge Counselor List

To obtain a copy of the list, Scoutmasters or advancement chair should email a request to wanchanagi.mb@comcast.net.



Check Your Training Information

The www.MyScouting.org site has a "Training Verification" feature. Enter MyScouting using your user name and password. On the left hand menu, click on "Training Verification." You may select "Youth Protection Training" or "All [[Other]] Training." These two sites will bring up your recent personal training history, including online as well as group training sessions.

Note that "All Training" does not include your Youth Protection training record, which is in a separate file. It is important to check your training history because, with the new Youth Protection training requirements, you cannot be rechartered if your Youth Protection training was taken more than two years ago.



Nominate a Volunteer

Nomination forms for several district awards are available at the council service center. Deadline for submitting nominations is March 1, 2015. The forms include the following:

- **Unit Spirit Award** -- designed to recognize one person in your unit who best exemplifies the ideals of Scouting in everything that they do with your unit. They do not need to be a registered leader, but should motivate others, work tirelessly, and have a positive influence on all they come in contact with. Every unit can nominate one person.
- **Outstanding Award** -- for leaders and committee members in packs, troops, crews, and ships.
- **District Award of Merit** -- for outstanding leadership. This is the highest award a district can have to recognize a registered leader.

2015 Wanchanagi District Dinner

The 2015 Wanchanagi District Recognition Dinner will be scheduled for early April. Check the council Web site for details coming very soon.

Also, the district award nominations must be in the council service center by March 1. The forms are available at roundtable and on the council Web site.

Boy Scout Leader Training

Scoutmaster Specific Training

April 15 – Part 1

April 22 – Part 2

April 29 – Part 3

May 8-9 – Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

Rotary Forest Preserve. Start at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 8, and end at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 9

Troop Committee Challenge

This course is available upon request. Contact Gene Barney at 815-262-7919 for further information.

Troop 601 Spaghetti Dinner

March 14

North Park Fire Station

Harlem and Forest Hills Roads

Machesney Park

\$5.00 advance tickets from

Troop 601 members

\$6.00 at the door

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, and More Open House Exhibition

North Suburban Library
6340 North 2nd Street, Loves Park
Saturday, April 4
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free!

Sponsored by the River Valley Gem and Mineral Society

New Cub Scout Pack 386 Awards Bobcats to All Their Scouts!

Pack 386 at Keith School is one of nine new Scout units organized in Wanchanagi District in 2014!

With the help of Fran Waller, the parents have put together a pack schedule and are currently working on their pinewood derby cars. There are 8 to 10 active youth and they are looking forward to picking up more during spring recruitment.

During a recent meeting all of the Cub Scouts were presented with their Bobcat badges.



Fran Waller helps a Scout sew on his new Bobcat badge



2015

61st Annual Blackhawk Area Regatta

Saturday June 20, 2015

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Olson Beach, Loves Park, Illinois

\$14 per youth / \$10 per adult

14 events, 3 trophies, dinner, and dance

See page ____ for more details



Rock River Regatta

Surf and Turf

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Harlem Junior High School

735 Windsor Road

Loves Park, Illinois

Cost: \$18/Scout, \$10/Leader Per person (Scouts and Leaders). Includes awards, dinner, and dance.

Please call or e-mail number Scouts and leaders attending

Full information about events and registration form, go to BlackhawkScouting.org or Event coordinator Jason Downing – 815 494-3345, downing.jasonh@gmail.com

2015 Career Exploring Programs

Career Exploring is a unique career exploration program for young men and women ages 14-20. These programs provide an ideal link between the academic environment and the real world.



Fire & Rescue:

North Park Fire Department

Meets bimonthly: Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at North Park Fire Department, corner of Harlem and Forest Hills, Loves Park, Illinois.

Contact: Dennis Johnson at 815-633-6335 or ridgerunner58@sbcglobal.net.

Rockford Fire Department.

Contact: Investigator Jeff Kloweit at 815-987-5699 or Jeff.Kloweit@rockfordil.gov.



Journalism & Media:

Rockford Register Star

Meeting time to be announced.

For more information or to be put on the contact list, please contact Jared Carlin at 815-397-0210 or jared.carlin@scouting.org



Medical:

SwedishAmerican Hospital

Meets monthly, Wednesdays.

Contact: Sheryl Head at 779-696-7224 or shead@swedishamerican.org.



Law Enforcement:

Boone County Sheriff's Department and Belvidere Police Department

Meets every third Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Public Safety Building, lower lever, 615 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008.

Contact: Officer Steve Jones at 815-298-3864 or <mailto:jones@belviderepolice.com>.

Cherry Valley Police Department

Meets every third Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Cherry Valley Police Department, 806 E. State St., Cherry Valley, Illinois.

Contact: Officer Jesse Pearse at 815-978-5286 or jpearse@cherryvalley.org.

Rockford Police Department

Public Safety Building, 420 W. State St., Rockford, Illinois.

Contact: Officer Joel Givens, 815-543-1133 or Joel.Givens@rockfordil.gov.



Engineering:

UTC Aerospace Systems,

4747 Harrison Ave., Southwest side entrance, Rockford, Illinois

Contact: Nick Wlaznik at 815-226-6345 or Nick.Wlaznik@hs.utc.com.



Aviation:

Poplar Grove Airport & Vintage Wings and Wheels Museum

Meets every Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Vintage Wings and Wheels Museum, blue hanger, 5151 Orth Rd., Suite A-1, Poplar Grove, Illinois.

Contact: Dennis Blunt at 815-398-4274, or dennisblunt@att.net.

Cosmetology:

Educators of Beauty

Meets bimonthly: Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 pm. at Educators of Beauty, 2601 N. Mulford

Rd., Rockford, Illinois

Contact: Jennifer Hodzic at 815-639-9200.



Law & Government:

Boone County State's Attorney Office

.Meets bimonthly: Thursdays from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, Illinois.

Contact: Kelly Rohrer at 815-544-0868 or krrohrer@boonecountyil.org.

Winnebago County State's Attorney Office & Winnebago County Bar Association

Location - Winnebago County Justice Center, Courtroom A, 650 W. State St., Rockford, Illinois. For more information or to be put on the contact list, please contact Jared Carlin at 815-397-0210 or jared.carlin@scouting.org

There is a one-time yearly application fee for most programs. Each program varies and cost range is \$24 to \$30.

For more information, contact Jared Carlin at 815-397-0210 or jared.carlin@scouting.org.

White Eagle District

Serving Whiteside, Lee, and Ogle Counties in Illinois
Web Site: www.WhiteEaglebsa.org

White Eagle District Key Three

Chair: Dave Twining, 815-499-6711
dtwining@comcast.net

District Commissioner:
Myles Newberry, 815-209-7327
mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

District Executive, Cheyann Thunberg
815-397-0210
cheyann.thunberg@scouting.org

District Committee Meetings

District Committee meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 421 S. Peoria Avenue, Dixon.

All chartered organization representatives and ALL unit leaders are invited to attend the meeting. It usually lasts about one to one and half hours. We plan the district events, discuss ways to improve, and try to find new people to help our district grow. Your help and input is always appreciated and is needed.

Contact Dave Twining, your district chair, at 815-499-6711 or Cheyann Thunberg, district executive, at 815-397-0210.



Roundtable

Come join us at the White Eagle Roundtable every second Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. We meet at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 421 South Peoria Ave., Dixon, in the lower level. Topics for upcoming meetings are

March 12 Roundtable
Fireside Chat for all leaders

White Eagle District Calendar

February

- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 4 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 5 District Committee meeting
- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 12 District Commissioners meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Roundtable -- Fireside Chat
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 21 First Aid Merit Badge Clinic
- 21 Cub Scout Loopy Day
- 28 BALOO outdoor training
- 28 White Eagle Show and Do

April

- 1 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 2 District Committee meeting
- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 9 District Commissioners meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Roundtable, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 District Recognition Dinner
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena



Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February. 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or venturingblast@scouting.org.

See page __ for registration form.

District Commissioner Meeting Date and Loca- tion Change

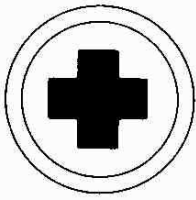
Please note that the White Eagle District Commissioner meetings will now be held at 6 p.m. prior to roundtable at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon.

District Committee meetings will still be held the first Thursday of the month at ReMax Sauk Valley in Dixon.

What Is Your Unit Doing?

Please send articles and photos to
BACCourier@juno.com.

We will try to feature your unit
in an upcoming *Courier*



First Aid and Medicine Merit Badge Clinic



On March 21 the White Eagle District will host a First Aid and Medicine Merit Badge Day at the KSB Hospital, 403 E. First St., Dixon,. Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and the first session will begin at 9:00. The event will end at 4:00.

Registration fee of \$10.00 for Scouts and \$8 for adults is due by March 14. Walk-ins will be accepted. Lunch will be provided.

For the First Aid merit badge, please make sure that all first aid requirements for Tenderfoot, Second class, and First Class ranks have been completed prior to attending.

For further information, contact Keith Potter at 815-564-7617 or Don Rastede at 815 625-3542.

Medical Merit Badge Clinic

**KSB Hospital
403 E. First St., Dixon
March 21, 2015**

Sign-in from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Lunch from 12:00 – 12:45 – Lunch will be provided. Please register with choice of ham and cheese or turkey sandwich

Sessions start at 9:00, closing at 4:00 p.m.

Registration: Youth \$10.00; Adult \$8.00 – due by March 16. Make check out to Blackhawk Area Council

Walk Ins accepted.

Please read the First Aid or Medicine merit badge book before coming. Only one merit badge will be completed on that date.

First Aid Merit Badge

Bring proof of the following First Aid merit badge requirements having been completed before coming (e.g. signed in *Boy Scout Handbook*).

- Requirements #1 – Satisfy your counselor that you have current knowledge of all first aid requirements to Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks;
- Requirement #7 – Teach another Scout a first aid skill selected by your counselor. Be aware that as of January 1, 2015 there are new requirements for the First Aid Merit Badge. Please review these changes. Passage of a test over material covered that day is required.

Bring a First Aid kit.

Medicine Merit Badge

It is recommended that First Aid merit badge be completed before doing the Medicine merit badge.



Medical Merit Badge Clinic Registration Form

Unit # _____
 First Aid # _____ Paid \$ _____
 Medicine # _____ Paid \$ _____
 Total Paid _____
 Lunch: Turkey _____
 Ham and Cheese _____
 Adults _____ @ \$8.00 = \$ _____
 Scouts _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____
 Total _____ = \$ _____
 Signed _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____

Return this portion by March 14 to Don Rastede, 1014 Crestview Rd., Sterling, IL 61081 or 815-626-3542 (home)

District Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 9

White Eagle District will hold its District Annual Meeting as part of the regularly scheduled District Committee meeting on Thursday April 9, at 7 p.m. at the ReMax Office, 1319 N Galena Ave. in Dixon.

2015 White Eagle District Dinner

Saturday, April 11

Mark your calendars for the 2015 White Eagle District Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, April 11. The dinner will be at White Pines LaBranche, 610 S. Division Ave., Polo. The cost is \$20 per person if RSVP is received by March 12. After March 12, the cost is \$25/person. Reservations will be accepted until March 31

Gathering will be at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 5:30. Uniform is optional.

Making A Difference and **District Award of Merit** nominations are due to Rosemary Matthiessen by March 12, 2015.

The dinner reservation form and award nomination forms are located under the "resources" tab at the district Web site.

If you have questions, please contact Rosemary. Hope to see you there!

Wetassa District

Serving Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll in Illinois

Web site -- www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Wetassa

Wetassa District Key Three

District Chairman, Bill Determan
815-541-5914

billdeterman@tds.net

District Commissioner

Kathy Tobin, 297-3843

District Executive

Phil McCrery, 815-397-0210

phil.mccrery@scouting.org

Activities Committee Needs Your Help

The Wetassa Activities Committee is looking for interested volunteers to help plan, schedule, and conduct upcoming events. The committee would also like opinions on how to make future events better.

Please contact Rick Cass, the activities chair, with your ideas, suggestions, and to offer assistance.

Rick Cass

815-757-7424

Linrik2004@gmail.com

Arthur Moshure Memorial Campership

Art Moshure was a very active and dedicated Scouter in the Wetassa District. To honor him for what he has done for the Scouts in the district, a memorial Canyon Camp campership fund has been established in his honor. If you have a Scout in your troop that will be attending Canyon Camp this summer and needs financial assistance, please submit a campership application for him. The application can be found on the council website, www.blackhawkscouting.org under "Camping" and it is available at roundtable. Applications are due by April 30.

If you would like to contribute to the Arthur Moshure Memorial Campership Fund, send your contribution to the council service center – Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Rd., Rockford IL 61107. Indicate that the contribution is for the Arthur Moshure Memorial Campership Fund.

Wetassa District Calendar

February

- 20-22 Venturing Blast -- Camp Lowden
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 4 District Commissioner and Committee meetings
- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 28 BALOO outdoor training

April

- 1 District Annual Meeting and Elections
- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 11 District Recognition Dinner
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena



Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or venturingblast@scouting.org.

See page __ for registration form.

Unit Events

Your unit can be featured in the *Courier*. Send us photos and news of special events.

BACCourier@juno.com

Note – Please do not insert photos into the body of the e-mail – send as a .jpg attachment.



Roundtables

Roundtable is held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2600 W Pearl City Road, Freeport, at 7 p.m.

Wetassa District Annual Meeting

District Chair Bill Determan has announced that the Wetassa District Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2600 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

The district annual meeting shall be for the purpose of electing District members-at-large and district chairman. Voting members of the district are district members-at-large, council board members, and chartered organization representatives of units within the Wetassa District.

Wetassa District Dinner!

Saturday, April 18, 2015

It's time to celebrate the past year and recognize our volunteers, both in the district and in the units. Without volunteers, we would not have a program and it is important to make sure that everyone knows how appreciated their work is.

Plan to nominate your leaders for the awards they deserve. Nomination forms for Bridge Builders, Community Volunteer, and District Award of Merit will be available on the district website.

Formal invitations will be mailed out shortly to committee chairs and unit leaders. Please see that invitations are extended to ALL your leaders. Best Case Scenario – reserve a table and come as a group.



Notice of Annual Meeting

Wetassa District

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

The Annual Meeting of Wetassa District, Blackhawk Area Council, BSA, will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Pearl City Road, Freeport. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be the election of District Members at Large, the election of a District Chair, and a recommendation to the Blackhawk Area Council Executive Board for a District Commissioner. Also at the meeting, the following Vice Chairs will be elected, Vice Chair of Administration, Vice Chair of Membership, Vice Chair of Program, Vice Chair of Finance and a Vice Chair of Venturing/Exploring.

If you are currently serving in a position on the district committee and are willing to continue for another year or, if not on the district committee and you would be willing to serve on the district committee, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee by Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Nominating Committee Members are:

Gary Erickson – kege87@frontier.com

Kathy Tobin – Ktobin63@yahoo.com

Dana Ewers – dewers@cjrinc.com

Lee Kraut – l.kraut@comcast.net

District Nominating Committee Accepting Nominations

At the Wetassa District Annual Meeting, the nominating committee shall nominate persons to be elected as members-at-large and the person to be elected as district chairman. Active members of the district may make recommendations of possible nominees to the nominating committee for its consideration.

All recommendations to the committee shall be in writing at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting by sending an email to Lee Kraut, district vice-chair of administration,, at l.kraut@comcast.net. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor.

Thank You From Bill Determan

Wetassa District

Blackhawk Area Council BSA

For the past seven years I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as the District Chair for Wetassa District. During that time I have endeavored to lead the district in the best possible manner. At times the path proved rocky but I have strived to assist in presenting a quality program for the leaders and youth of Wetassa District.

I have had the pleasure of working with truly dedicated district executives and an outstanding group of volunteers on the district committee and outstanding unit leaders, so it is with sense of profound sadness that I step down as your district chair at the end of April 2015. After 48 years in Scouting I find I need to step back and evaluate my direction and emphasis in the program.

You will elect a new district chairman at the Wetassa District Annual Meeting in April and I know that you will give the new district chair the same help, guidance, and cooperation that I have received over the past seven years. There will be significant changes and challenges coming in the future for Wetassa District and Blackhawk Area Council but I do believe that the district and the council will continue to prosper and provide a quality program for our youth as it has in the past.

Thank you to each and every registered Scouter and Scout in Wetassa District for a very memorable tenure as your chair.

Yours In Scouting,

Bill Determan, District Chairman

815-541-5914, billdeterman@tds.net

Cub Scout Day Camp is Coming!

Save the Date!

July 27-30, 2015

Canyon Camp

\$35.00

Theme – Space

Times: 8:30 a.m. – Registration

9:00 a.m. – Activities begin

3:30 p.m. – Closing

Cub Scout Day Camp is for all Cub Scouts – Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos Scouts. New Tigers just recruited out of kindergarten can also attend.

The Cub Scouts will have a great time. Four days full of fun and exciting activities – BB gun, archery, sports, games, crafts, plus much more.

Staff is needed to help with the activities. If you can help, please contact Bob Boyer.

Arrowhead District

**Serving Grant, Lafayette, and Green Counties in
Wisconsin**

Web Site: www.arrowheadbsa.org

Arrowhead District Key Three

District Chairman:

Jim Bussan, 608-568-3177
bussanja@chorus.net

District Commissioner:

(Open)

District Director

Matt Ohms, 815-397-0210
matt.ohms@scouting.org



Venturing Blast

It's time to register for Blackhawk Area Council's Venturing Blast set for Friday-Sunday, February. 20-22, at Camp Lowden near Oregon, Illinois. It is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts age 14 and older.

This year participants will compete as groups in various activities including pistol shooting, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, geocaching, snow sculpting, Dutch-oven cooking, and much more. Other activities include a dance, night hike, and evening cracker barrels.

If there's no snow, non-snow activities will be offered. Participants will sleep in heated cabins, so there's no need to bring a tent! Water is limited, though, so there are no showers.

Registration is \$25 before February 13 and \$30 afterward. This includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Participants are asked to bring food to share at the cracker barrels, and adult leaders are asked to escort group and man some of the competition stations during the day Saturday.

More information, including what to bring, will be sent upon registration.

Questions? Contact Heather Lisser at 608-214-0970 or venturingblast@scouting.org.

See page 24 for registration form.

Arrowhead District Calendar

February

- 20-22 Venturing Blast -- Camp Lowden
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 Scouting for Food information distribution

March

- 4 District Committee meeting
- 7 Scouting for Food pick-up
- 7 Trainer's EDGE
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 11 District Commissioners meeting 6:30
- 11 Roundtable 7:00 p.m.
- 13-15 Lord Baden-Powell University of Scouting
- 15 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 28 BALOO outdoor training

April

- 1 District Committee meeting
- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 4 Popcorn orders due
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon -- for April Internet edition
- 8 District Awards Banquet
- 11 Cub Scout Leader Training and Chartered Organization Representative Training
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 19 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena



Roundtables

March 11 Topics

Group: Spring popcorn kick-off

Spring recruiting

Transportation Safety

Boy Scouts: Getting ready for summer camp

Gear needed for summer camping

Webelos transition

Cub Scouts: New program - Bear

Day Camp

April 8

District Awards Banquet

**KEEP
CALM
AND
PREPARE
FOR ZOMBIES**



Argyle, Wisconsin
September 18-20, 2015

If I cannot do great things,
I can do small things
in a great way.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cub Scout Leadership Training Chartered Organization Representative Training

Saturday, April 11

8:30 sign-in – training 9:00 a.m. to noon

Darlington (Wisconsin) United Methodist Church

Arrowhead District will be conducting a Cub Scout Leader / Cubmaster Training on Saturday April 11, 2014 in Darlington, Wisconsin, at the United Methodist Church, 546 Park Place, Darlington, Wisconsin.

At this training, you will learn all of the ins and outs of the new Cub Scout program. We will have a group training on the new program, with breakouts for Cub Scout den leaders, Webelos den leaders, and Cubmasters. We will also be offering Chartered Organization Representative training at the same time.

The training will begin at 9:00 a.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. Training will conclude at 12:00 Noon.

Plan to bring a pen and notebook, and lots of enthusiasm!

The lead instructor for program changes will be Mary Anne Rounds, who received training on the new program from national staff at Philmont Training Center. We strongly encourage every Cub Scout den leader, Cubmaster, and Cub Scout parent to attend this training!

There is no cost for the training. Coffee and donuts will be provided. All handouts and materials will be provided.

To help us prepare, please let us know you're coming.

If you have any questions, please contact Nichole Wiest, Training Chair, ahscouting@tds.net

Arrowhead District Training Event Registration Form April 11, 2015

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-mail _____
District: _____ Unit #: _____
Position in the Cub Scout Program:
(Circle one) Cub Scout Parent Den Leader
Webelos Den Leader Cubmaster
Chartered Organization Representative
Mail registration form to Nichole Wiest, PO Box 185, Lancaster WI 53813 Or email form to ahscouting@tds.net



Boy Scout Leadership Training

March 28-29

Kiwanis Youth Cabin, Monroe, Wisconsin

Arrowhead District will be conducting a Boy Scout Leadership Training on Saturday, March 28, to Sunday, March 29,, at the Kiwanis Youth Cabin, N2997 Youth Cabin Road in Monroe, Wisconsin.

The course will provide Scoutmasters with the basic information and tools they need to lead successful Boy Scout troops. Working as patrols, this hands-on course provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to be successful Boy Scouts.

Plan to arrive at the Youth Cabin on Friday evening, March 27, after 7:00 p.m. to set up your campsite. Training will conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.

Plan to bring your personal camping gear, a pen and notebook, and lots of enthusiasm! A complete "What to Bring" list and "Medical Form" will be forwarded to you after you register.

We strongly encourage every adult involved in the Boy Scouting program, along with Cub Scout Webelos den ILeaders, to attend this training!

The cost for the training will be \$25.00, which will cover all food, handouts and materials. A meal will not be provided Friday evening. We encourage all participants to bring along something to share for an evening cracker barrel.

Please make sure that your Youth Protection Training is up-to-date before attending the training. If you are not sure if it is, contact Nichole and she can let you know.

To help us prepare, please let us know you're coming.

If you have any questions, please contact Nichole Wiest, Training Chair, ahscouting@tds.net

Arrowhead District Boy Scout Leader Training Registration Form March 28-29, 2015

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-mail _____
District: _____ Unit #: _____

Mail registration form and check payable to Blackhawk Area Council to Nichole Wiest, PO Box 185, Lancaster WI 53813 Or email form to ahscouting@tds.net

Cub Scout Day Camp Lancaster, Wisconsin

The planning for the 2015 Lancaster Day Camp are starting. We would like to come and do a presentation at your blue and gold banquets.

Please contact Vicki at lanastercsdaycamp@yahoo.com with your dates or go to our facebook page Lancaster Cub Scout Day Camp. This is a closed page so you will have to ask to be added. We will be putting information on there.

If you would be interested in being on staff, also contact Vicki.

Remember our theme in 2015 is Space. We have some great ideas that we are working on and hope to see your Cub Scout and parents at camp.

Scoutreach District

Serving Youth in Inner-City Rockford
Web Site: www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Scoutreach

Scoutreach District Directory

District Chairman: Honorable K. Patrick Yarbrough

Scoutreach Coordinator: Terry Nichols

District Director: Everett L. Sherrod

815-397-0210

Everett.Sherrod@scouting.org

Scoutreach District Calendar

February

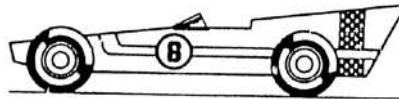
- 21 Blue and Gold Banquet
- 25 Pinewood Derby at St. Elizabeth Community Center
- 28 Popcorn Sales start
- 28 -- March 14 Scouting for Food

March

- 3 Lathrop Pinewood Derby
- 5 McIntosh Pinewood Derby
- 8 Council Recognition Dinner
- 9 All Markets Committee meeting
- 10 *Courier* deadline, noon for April-May printed edition
- 11 Circles of Learning North Pinewood Derby
- 14 District Pinewood Derby – Patriot's Gateway Community Center – 1:00 p.m.

April

- 3 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 6 All Markets Committee meeting
- 7 *Courier* deadline, noon – for April Internet edition
- 11-12 Council Pinewood Derby
- 23 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 24-26 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
- 25 Galena bus trip



Pinewood Derby Race March 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Our Pinewood Derby Race will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. This event will be held at Patriots' Gateway Community Center, located at 615 S. 5th Street in Rockford.

If your son wishes to participate in the race, it is very important that he get started early. Pinewood Derby kits must be bought from the Boy Scout Shop or it will not be eligible to participate. Cars cost \$3.99 per kit (does not include weights, glue, paint, decals or tools).

If your son raced in a previous year, he may not race the same car again, and will be disqualified if he tries.

Please make sure that you follow the rules and regulations for the Pinewood Derby Race. Please check the council Website at blackhawkscouting.org (Events). It is the

parent's responsibility to make sure that those rules are followed.

If your son needs help cutting out his car, please call us.

We will have a concession stand open for this event. We are looking for parents to help out with this event as well, so if you would like to donate some of your time to this event to help out, please let us know.

Feel free to come to the race whether or not your son has made a car to race and cheer on the racers.

NOTE: Scouts who are racing at McIntosh, St. Bridget's, Circles of Learning North, Lathrop, and St. Elizabeth are not eligible to race again. However, if you did not get the opportunity to race at those sites, you may enter in the District Derby on March 7.

Swim and Gym

The ScoutReach District held its annual Swim & Gym at the Millennium Center on Saturday, January 24. Eighty people came to the Center, and many of them enjoyed the warm pool.

Fifteen of the Scouts earned the Swimming belt loop and 5 Webelos Scouts earned their Aquanaut activity badge.



Blue and Gold Banquet

February 21, at 1:00 p.m.

We will have our Annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Saturday, February 21, at Patriots' Gateway Community Center, starting at 1:00 p.m. The center is located at 615 S. 5th St., Rockford.

This is a celebration of Cub Scouting. Cub Scouts will earn recognition for all of their hard work in Scouting thus far.

We are asking that each family bring one hot or one cold dish (enough to feed 10 people) to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. All family members are welcome to join us in celebrating with all of our Scouts for their hard work and efforts to "Do Your Best."

We are asking that parents also sign up to help with set-up, clean-up, etc.